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NEW ORLEANS:
WEDNESDAY MORNING, APRIL 16, 1862.

SUBSCRIPTIONS BY THE WEEK.

The carriers of the BEE are authorised to receive subscriptions to our paper at the rate of 25 cents a week, payable in advance to the carriers themselves.

Sales at Auction To-Day.

By G. Leaumont, Blache & Co., at 10 o'clock, at No. 69 Chartres street, sundries.

DEFEND THE RIVER.

The defense of our seacoast against the assaults of the enemy, who are bringing to their aid all the latest improvements in maritime warfare, is justly regarded as a subject of vital magnitude, and one which should occupy the serious attention of the Confederate Government, and of State and Municipal administrations. Upon land the Federals are only formidable when they assail our troops in overwhelming numbers, or when they attack towns and cities built on the shores of rivers where their gunboats can penetrate, and render resistance unavailing. But the moment they pass beyond the power of their vessels, and afford us an opportunity of coping with them upon equal terms, experience shows that in most cases they are defeated and compelled to retreat. Even considerable numerical odds in their favor do not always save them from disaster—witness Manassas, Leesburg, Belmont and Shiloh.

It is, however, indubitable—and it would be folly either to deny the truth or to disparage its importance—that the superiority of the Federal Government in all the enginery of naval warfare is what chiefly renders it redoubtable. Without their ships-of-war and gunboats, our coasts could never have been harassed and devastated, nor could they have ascended our river and reduced our fortifications. But for these, Forts Henry and Donelson would have escaped capture, and Nashville would have been spared the terrible disgrace of Federal occupation. Herein lies the manifest advantage of the enemy, and herein must we strain every nerve to compete with him. It is impossible to employ zeal, energy and patriotism to a better purpose, and to expend money for a more laudable object than this. We have already seen what a single iron-clad vessel, thoroughly equipped, can accomplish, and the exploits of the Virginia should admonish us of the urgent and stringent necessity of constructing invulnerable ships in every harbor menaced by the Yankees.

Our foes are by no means insensible to the value and importance of the city of New Orleans, and they fondly, though foolishly hope that if once held by them, the war would inevitably be brought to a close. Hence their exertions for many weeks have been directed towards an assault upon the Crescent City. They threaten us by way of the Balize, from the Mississippi Sound, and up the river. They indulge in the expectation that if they fail at one point, they may succeed at another. They are working with all possible vigor just at this time, because they know that unless they prevail very soon, the summer heats and diseases of the South would prove more effectual barriers to their progress than even our strongest batteries. The hour of trial with us cannot be far distant, and if by all the aids and appliances which ingenuity sharpened by devotion and patriotism may devise, we can keep the Yankees away for a month or six weeks, the campaign against New Orleans will be virtually over, for your Northern and Western men will never confront the hideous perils of a New Orleans epidemic.

How best and most thoroughly to defend the Mississippi may be considered the paramount question of the day. Upon this point our contemporary, the Algerine *Newsboy*, in its last number, has an article so thoughtful, suggestive and appropriate, that we unhesitatingly transfer a material portion of it to our columns. Says the *Newsboy*:

The Mississippi river, with its immense volume, its restless, varying, but perpetual current, and its sandy, shifting bottom, is not to be bridged and dammed as will Mr. Calhoun happily styled it an inland ocean. In its irresistibility as well as its extent it is an ocean. The futile attempts which have so often been made to dredge its mouths or to confine them, and others equally futile to obstruct its course, establish this.

What must be done? We can see but three modes of resistance. In the first place, gunboats must be built with all speed and clothed with iron six less than four inches in thickness. As heavier guns are invented, thicker armor will be required, but this thickness will answer now. All the available workmen must be put on them, and this labor should be concentrated so as to bring them out, one by one, as fast as possible. These gunboats can only hold back an equal number of those of the enemy, and if he has a preponderating force, he will be able to pass them. We must, next, therefore, prepare to prevent this. Shots forts will be useless except as supports to obstructions in the stream. As we cannot dam the river, as we cannot chain it, what can we do? Only one practicable plan suggests itself to us. Let pontoons, twelve or more in number, be built, iron-clad and impregnable to shot, and be chained at intervals across the stream, the chains to be across their decks and run through iron pipes, so as not to chafe. Upon these pontoons then build iron-clad batteries, casemated, and as impregnable as the boat they are to repel. The water and drift wood will pass these pontoons and between them, and thus they will remain unhurt by the flood which would otherwise tear them away.

We cannot defend our city from destruction by batteries in front of it, still less by batteries above or below it, which can only ward off attacks upon themselves. We must have batteries to extend across the river both above and below the city.

If these fail, what then? We can think now of nothing but fire. Pine wood should be brought out of Red river and on the railroad through East Mississippi to Vicksburg. Rosin, tar and other combustibles should also be collected, and these should be placed at suitable points on the river, secluded from sight and in boats of little value.

When the irresistable enemy comes down, some brave man or men must take these boats to his side, and with chains and grappling irons fasten themselves to him. Then the fire must heat his iron until he is either burned or smoked out. Surely men will be found who will risk life in an attempt to do this—men who will prefer a martyr's crown to the chains of slavery.

We would not despair of independence should all our sea coasts and water courses fall into the hands of our enemies, but the war for our emancipation would outlast the lives of those of us who have passed the meridian, and would waste our property, private and public, utterly and beyond recovery. By timely and energetic measures we may prevent this and secure our children and our children's children against degradation and want.

We are much indebted to an unknown friend for Memphis papers of Sunday.

The mails are in a shocking condition. We have not seen a Richmond paper later than the 7th, nor a Charleston paper since three days. Yesterday up to the hour of the closing of the Postoffice, the mail had not arrived. With so scanty and precarious a supply of newspaper exchanges, our readers may to some extent appreciate the difficulties of journalism.

"LES DEUX DRAPEAUX."—This is the title of a charming melody dedicated to Col. Numa Augustin; the words by Mr. Omar Gaillard, and the music by Louis Fortin. The morceau may be found at A. Elie's, No. 66 Royal street.

We are requested by Messrs. Roman, Olivier & Co., No. 2 Front Levee, to state that they have received for the families of Company A, Orleans Guards, Capt. Roman, various packages, which are at the disposition of those families.

A YANKEE LIFE-PRESERVER.—A gentleman exhibited to us yesterday a steel-lined vest, taken from a Federal officer who was killed in the late battle. It is an excellent specimen of Yankee ingenuity, and admirably adapted for the purpose intended—a bullet, sword, or bayonet-proof protection to the upper portion of the body in battle. Although of considerable weight, padded springs reaching over the shoulders ease it to sit easy upon the person, and it does not in the least impede the movements of the wearer. A ball had struck the plate on the right breast of its owner during the battle, causing him to fall backward in confusion, and falling, literally, dead. He was afterwards killed by a Texan. The Texans had run down numbers of the enemy, and in their first moments of the chase, had taken no articles. We are advised that a son of the prisoners captured yesterday, was one of those on which fact he claims that humanity all captives be treated well.

The fancy of these articles was made manifest by the use of any arm from the battle-field, and the ingenuity of a Texan enemy close to him, in adapting the vest and applied to for the purpose of the conversation. A few months ago, the idea of such a vest being all the rage would have been ridiculed as a Yankee invention, being all the rage now, it is a Yankee invention.

Tuesday, April 15, 1862.

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BY TELEGRAPH.

[TRANSMITTED TO THE NEW ORLEANS BEE.]

From Augusta.

Augusta, April 14.—The Savannah *News* of this morning, learns that Jacksonville, Florida, has been evacuated by the Federals since Tuesday last, and is now in possession of the Confederates. The Federals reported they were going to Tybee.

[NIGHT DISPATCHES.]

From Memphis.

Memphis, April 15.—Northern papers received here to-day state that the Federal loss at the battle of Shiloh was 20,000. Many field officers were killed. Gen. Buell was mortally wounded. Gen. Thomas Crittenden, Gen. Sherman and the two Wallaces were killed. Two regiments from Kentucky and two from Wisconsin laid down their arms at Nashville, and refused to fight for Lincoln any more.

From Richmond.

Richmond, April 15.—The Conscription bill passed the House yesterday, it had previously passed the Senate. It is believed Congress will adjourn next Monday.

No news here.

From Ship Island.

Boston papers contain some intelligence from Ship Island, though not very recent. A letter of the 13th ult., to the Boston *Journal*, says:

It will be seen that the transport ship Idaho, from Boston, with the Thirtieth Massachusetts Regiment, had arrived at that place on the 12th. The Idaho had the misfortune to run ashore on Cat Island on the 8th, and although several steamers were at hand to pull her off, they were unsuccessful in their attempts, and she was not floated until the 12th. We learn from private letters that before the ship could be moved, nearly eight hundred barrels of provisions were thrown overboard to lighten her, at a loss of about $15,000. All the troops from the Idaho were safely landed at Ship Island in good health, and at last accounts the soldiers had pitched their tents.

The fleet in port were preparing for a fight, and all the troops were in fine spirits. The following named vessels were in port: Frigate Mississippi, sloops of war Pensacola and Hartford, gunboats Harriet Lane, Wissahickon, Kineo, Kennebec, Calhoun, Pinola, and Sciota, supply ship Fearnaught, schooner gunboat Kittatinny, and the mortar fleet, besides a large number of transports.

There were about 10,000 troops at Ship Island, and they were all anxiously awaiting the arrival of Gen. Butler, to inaugurate active movements.

The New York *Evening Post* has the following:

A reconnoissance was made by our forces, about two weeks ago, as far as Mississippi City, two companies went over to the mainland in a steamer. This small force was attacked by about two thousand rebels, whose presence at this point had not been known to the Federal officers. The two companies of Union troops of course retreated, the rebels firing upon them. One man only was seriously injured, and the casualties were few. The re-embarkation was safely accomplished.

The war vessels lying in the vicinity of Ship Island were undergoing some important alterations. Workmen were dismantling them and taking out all available bulk and weight, including the rigging and as much coals as could be spared. They were thus to be transformed into floating batteries, and made light so as to enter harbors which otherwise would have been inaccessible.

The troops at Ship Island were in good condition, and are constantly drilling. They hold themselves constantly in readiness for either defensive or offensive operations. They are in excellent spirits, and anxious to be led against the Secessionists. News of the Federal successes up to the fall of Columbus had reached them, and occasioned much rejoicing.

GEN McCLELLAN'S SISTER AND NEPHEW.—A Mobile letter states that "a few days since Mrs. English, sister of General McClellan, the Yankee commander in-chief, was in this city, and of course attracted some attention. Her husband is a wealthy planter, and lives just above this on the Alabama river. Young English, the general's nephew, has gone up to Corinth to fight for the South. He seems to desire nothing so much as to meet in hostile combat his distinguished kinsmen.

Louisiana Items.

The Assumption *Pioneer* states that Fort Guion, on Bayou Lafourche, about to be demolished, and its guns removed to a fortification better situated higher up the bayou.

The Lafourche Union furnishes the annexed paragraphs

CHYAVASSE.—We have been informed that the crevasse at Mr Mathew's plantation continues to run. The men who were engaged in trying to stop it were just finishing filling up the embankment when, the work proving defective, suddenly gave way. Preparations have been entirely suspended, all hopes of succeeding having been given up. The water, we are glad to hear, is doing comparatively little damage, the sloping character of the lands thereabouts causing it to take its course to the direction of the neighboring lakes into which it finally flows.

WEATHER AND CROPS.—With the exception of Monday, the weather has been uncomfortably cool this week. A light shower fell on Tuesday night, but not enough to do any good. The ground is becoming very dry and needs water. Many of our planters and farmers complain that if there be no heavy pour of rain soon, corn planting will be considerably retarded, and the prospects of a large crop of grain possibly injured. The first of May may find many with their corn scarcely in the ground.

Since writing the above we have had a glorious rain, commencing yesterday afternoon and lasting all night. It was a hard rain and extended over a considerable space. Much corn will be planted during the coming week.

NORTHERN ITEMS.—The steamer Citizen passed Louisville, loaded down the Ohio, on the 3d, having on board two 15-inch columbiads, each weighing over 15,000 pounds. Destination not stated.

It is published in the North that Gen Halleck will soon take personal command on the Tennessee river.

Sixty Confederate prisoners left Louisville for Camp Chase on the 3d.

The opinion is expressed in the North that there will be almost unprecedented high water in the Mississippi in a few weeks, as the snow in the Northwest has been of greater depth during the past winter than it has been for several years previous.

A special from Cairo to the Chicago *Tribune* says: Col. Buford's capture of Union City amounted to only seven prisoners and about forty horses and mules.

Gov. Sprague, and the rest of the present Rhode Island State officers, were re-elected without opposition on the 24 inst.

At the municipal election in Milwaukie on the 1st inst., Horace Chase, Democrat, was elected Mayor, and nearly all the Democratic ticket elected.

FEDERALS CAPTURED IN VIRGINIA.—From the Fredericksburg *News* of the 9th we take the following:

On Saturday last Capt. Morgan's Cavalry crossed the Rappahannock and surprised a large number of the enemy, camping on Dr. King's land, below Weaversville, two and a half miles from Catlett's Station. He surrounded them, took prisoners and plunder, which sold for about $6000. On Monday the enemy approached Elk Run in what force is not known. The prisoners referred to are probably the same who arrived here on Sunday last.

The Lynchburg *Virginian* of yesterday says that Lieut. Thompson, of Franklin, who arrived in that city Wednesday reports that Stewart's Cavalry captured 71 Yankees the evening previous at a place where the Orange and Alexandria Railroad crosses the Rappahannock. The prisoners were surrounded and captured without bloodshed. Lieut. Thompson saw the prisoners, and this report may be relied upon.

The *News* also has the annexed:

On Friday, near Dumfries, two Texas scouts, old Indian fighters, of the Fourth Texas Regiment, saw three Yankees and pursued them until they came unexpectedly upon about twenty; but getting behind a fish-house the two killed three Yankees and wounded five. The rest ran and escaped in a boat. This is the true method of fighting our invaders—always kill them whenever you see them.

The Richmond *Examiner* of the 7th instant has the following allusion to the skirmishes near Yorktown:

On Saturday the enemy advanced on Magruder's lines in great force both by land and by the river. A considerable combat of artillery ensued, in which the Confederates gained a decided advantage, sunk one of their vessels and killed a number of men, with small loss to themselves. On Sunday more important events were expected, but nothing happened but some skirmishes. All that has taken place up to the present moment is probably intended as a feint. But if Magruder's position is assailed in force, there will be, doubtless, a battle of the largest kind will be immediately fought, which promises fair to have a serious effect on the fortunes of the war.

GREAT NAVY TOMPTON.—The whereabouts of the Confederate gunboat General Jeff. Thompson is thus given in the *Mobile Advertiser*:

We learn from a Memphis letter that the Gen. Thompson is anchored in the Yazoo River, in the rear of the enemy's fleet, and is ready to co-operate with our land forces in the attempt to recapture Vicksburg.

[From the London Post, March 31.]

President Davis's Message in Europe.—Views of the English Press.

The message of the President of the Southern Confederation is firm in spirit without being defiant, and candid without betraying apprehension for the result of the late disasters of his country. It is readily acknowledges that for once fortune has deserted the Southern arms; and it refers their double misfortune to the extension of the national line of defense over too long a tract of country to be in keeping with the resources at the command of the Confederacy. It holds that it was impossible for the Southern legions to be at once strong on the Cumberland river in Tennessee, strong on the Potomac, and strong upon the whole of their vast seaboard. There is no doubt that this is but the truth. Armies on the offensive and armies on the defensive each have their advantages. It requires greater strength to subjugate a country than it requires to defend it; and, so far, the position has been in favor of the South; but, on the other hand, the attacking party has, so far as geography will allow, its own choice of the quarter to which it shall direct its assault; and there the advantage lies with the North. These circumstances explain why President Davis is still able to declare with probability that the Gulf States can never be trampled down by the enemy, and why the North has been almost invariably victorious on the seaboard. In penetrating the far interior of the Southern Confederacy, the Northern armies would be subjected to almost every conceivable disadvantage. But, in the South, the former has its choice of nearly the whole hostile seaboard, from the coast of Virginia to the mouth of the Mississippi. It was needful, therefore, for the South to be as strong at every point on the seaboard as the North could render itself at any one point. President Davis, however, takes no comfort from this reasoning; he acknowledges the fall of Roanoke Island to be extremely humiliating to the South. But he looks, nevertheless, upon this disaster and that of Fort Donelson as merely exceptional defeats, and speaks only the language of encouragement and confidence.

The financial side of the Southern President's picture is certainly the most cheerful. He shows that the annual expenditure of the Southern Confederation has not exceeded $175,000,000. Mr. Davis may boast with reason that this does not amount to *one-third of the annual expenditure of the Northern Government*. He points out also that it is inferior to the annual value of the cotton crop. But, unfortunately, the cotton crop yields no profits, owing to the desperate policy on which the Southerners resolved at the outset of the war. It is quite true, however, that the relation of the expenditure to the value of the cotton crop, if calculated, has a direct bearing on the capacity of the South to defray the interest, in years of peace, upon the public debt that they may accumulate during war. Mr. Davis appeals, also, to the increasing production of the implements of war in the Southern States as evidence of the increasing capacity of the South to continue its resistance. He observes, with unquestionable truth, that, when hostilities begin, the advantage in respect of attainable *material* of war was greatly on the side of his adversaries. The North had nearly a monopoly on the artisans and work shops required for warlike purposes. It was therefore, left with the South either to make bricks without straw or to rely upon import from abroad. But the blockade deprived them of all but an incidental supply from other countries.

The great part of the Southern army has since taken the field with equipments of native manufacture. Mr Davis has, therefore, reason to maintain the position asserted in his former message, that his country was becoming more and more independent of the blockade, and that it was gradually producing all that was required both for peace and for war.

Nevertheless, it appears impossible that the contest can continue very long. It is quite sufficient for one of the two Confederacies to be unable to fight further in order to ensure its termination. Whether the South can continue hostilities for an indefinite period or not, *it seems very clear that the North cannot*. Victorious in Tennessee, great prospects open before the more ambitious politicians in Boston and New York, who think they see in these successes the fall of the South. But public men at Washington, let them say what they will, probably know better. They know that the further they go the more they will be extending their operations from the base of them; and the greater, also, will be the opposition they will receive. They are in a fair way to repossess the border States. But they see that nothing can be more different than reclaiming Tennessee and reclaiming the Gulf States. Tennessee, like Kentucky, has been lukewarm and divided. From their own uncontested territory they have made at last something approaching to an acquisition of these two waverers. But in penetrating the Gulf States from Tennessee they would not only have a more serious opposition to encounter—they would also run the danger of Tennessee rising against them in their rear. There is no doubt that it makes an immense difference in the North whether Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee belong to their confederacy or that of the South. The impression is said to be gaining ground in the North, also, that this is the utmost limit of Federal acquisitions that is possible. The recent successes moreover, appear to have been popularly construed in the North as implying the close of the war. They could only imply this on the supposition of a compromise being imminent, for they certainly do not shake the Gulf States. The Washington Government might now close the struggle with credit to themselves, if they chose, on the basis of a *status quo*, or at any rate after a few fresh encounters should have more clearly established the extent of the territory they held. But there cannot be much doubt that if they do not, *the struggle must, before long, close of itself by the collapse of Northern resources and the impracticability of Northern conquest.*

THE INDIAN COUNTRY.—We (Richmond *Enquirer*) have been favored with the following extract from the report of Hon. S. S. Scott, acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs of the Confederate States Government. The whole report is said to be very complete and interesting. The part which we give is an exposition of the territorial area, geographical features, tribes, population, &c., which will be very acceptable to our readers:

The Indian Territory (not including the Osage country—its extent being unknown—or the 800,000 acres belonging to the Cherokees, which lie between Missouri and Kansas) embraces an area of 82,073 square miles—more than fifty-two and a half millions of acres, to wit

The land of the Cherokees, Osages, Quapaws, Senecas, and Senecas and Shawnees, 36,105 square miles, or 240,288,000 acres.

That of the Creeks and Seminoles, 20,531 square miles, or 13,140,000 acres.

That of the Reserve Indians, and the Choctaws and Chickasaws, 25,437 square miles or 15,000,000 acres.

Total 82,073 square miles, or 52,528,000 acres.

Its population consists of Cherokees, 21,000; Osages, 7,000; Quapaws, 320; Creeks, 13,500; Seminoles, 2,500; Reserve Indians, 5,000; Choctaws, 17,500, and Chickasaws, 4,000, making an aggregate of 71,820 souls.

This Indian country is, in many respects, really a magnificent one. It is one of the brightest and fairest spots of the great West. By the hand of nature it has been blessed with advantages in great profusion, and of the high est and rarest character. Diversified by mountains filled with iron, coal and other mineral treasures, and broad reaching plains capable of grazing, for a large portion of the year, innumerable herds of cattle—with the Red river running along its southern border, the Arkansas river almost through its center, and their tributaries reticulating its entire surface—possessed of a climate generally mild and genial, and a soil unsurpassed for depth and fertility, adapted to the growth of cotton, hemp, and all kinds of grain, it is certainly the equal naturally of the most favored lands on this continent, and only needs the development of its resources to become an invaluable adjunct of the Confederate States.

THE SKIRMISHING NEAR YORKTOWN.—*Narrow Escape of General Magruder.*—The Richmond *Whig* of the 7th has the following in reference to the skirmishing near Yorktown

Matters grow interesting. After an interval of nearly ten months another battle is impending on the Peninsula. A heavy force of the enemy landed Friday at Ship Point, a few miles below Yorktown. The point had been occupied by a small Confederate force for observation, but had been evacuated. Nevertheless it was duly cannonaded before the landing. Gen. Magruder, with his staff, was at the time at the Lee House, below the point of landing, and had to run a gauntlet not entirely free from danger, in getting back to Yorktown, as was proven by the fact that one of his staff, Major J. B. Cary, had his horse shot. From 10 to 12 o'clock Saturday there was heavy skirmishing, with very inconsiderable damage to us. To the enemy, it is believed to be somewhat serious. Cannonading was resumed yesterday, and continued till 4 P. M., but we have no information as to results farther than two gunboats that attacked the battery at Yorktown were driven off damaged. The impression prevails that a general engagement will come on to-day, to-morrow, or during the week. We have every confidence that the gallant Magruder will give the invaders another Bethel lesson.

THE LADY POLK.—We heard yesterday from the Lady Polk, Captain Carter commanding, and are glad to learn that the damage done to her cabin and upper works by the enemy's battery is very trifling.

The Lady Polk ran over a dozen times the gauntlet of the Federal batteries above and below Point Pleasant, and although struck frequently, her unarmed no injury of any importance. What balls struck her iron covering, glanced off, and she is now, as she, true as ever. Any one who has seen her can testify to the quickness with a Federal battery opposite Tiptonville and silenced it, and would have captured it, had she not been recalled by order of the commanding commodore. At another time she came very near capturing one of their transports.

Her officers feel confident of doing their part of the work to recapture the enemy's gunboats on the river, and that confidence is not a vain one, for the experience the boat has had in her hitherto unprecedented with the enemy.

Rear Admiral Farragut, with the fleet in front of New Orleans, on the 12th, exchanged a few shots with the Chalmette batteries, and then proceeded up the river to Carrollton, where he anchored. The Rear Admiral has taken possession of the Carrollton Railroad, and has placed his men upon it, and has commenced using it for the purpose of transporting his provisions and munitions of war from the river to the city. The Rear Admiral has also taken possession of the Jefferson City