

and authorising the banks to issue one and two dollar notes.

Gentlemen from Virginia state that the ordinance of secession would be confirmed by over one hundred thousand majority.

It was reported that two ships had been seized at Rappahannock, and the crews imprisoned and required to take the oath of allegiance to the South.

It was reported that Governor Letcher was about to issue a proclamation, forbidding the passage of Southern troops through the State.

A letter from Fort Monroe states that there was no danger of an attack. Two thousand men were in the fort. They were much annoyed by fugitive slaves seeking refuge there; but in all cases they were returned. No batteries would be allowed to be erected within range.

The Alexandria Gazette says that Gen. Lee had ordered the release of Gen. Harney, who had been arrested at Harper's Ferry.

General Bonham was said to be in command of the "Rebel" troops in Virginia.

ARREST OF SENATOR MASON.

It was stated on undoubted authority that Senator Mason, of Virginia, was arrested in Maryland, on the 28th, by order of General Patterson, and taken to Perryville. He was to be taken to Philadelphia. Another report denies the statement, but a later dispatch to the *Tribune* confirms the arrest of the Senator, and says he was on his way to Philadelphia.

MONTGOMERY.

A Montgomery dispatch to the *Charleston Courier* states that privateers' commissions were being prepared for issue, as soon as Congress declared war, which it would undoubtedly do. The instructions contained a prohibition against the seizure of cotton on either British or American vessels.

The Montgomery mail says a portion of the crew of the *Star of the West*, who were imprisoned, had arrived for trial.

Dispatches from Montgomery to New Orleans state that nothing of a general character had transpired. Congress had been in secret session most of the time.

The First Battalion of the Third Alabama regiment left on the 1st for Virginia. Two companies of dragoons were ready for Pensacola.

WANT IN THE SOUTH.

The Chicago *Evening Journal* learns from a gentleman just returned from Mississippi, that, in many parts of that State, actual famine prevailed. The people were suffering for want of bread. Corn, the chief article of food, was scarce throughout the country. At one station, there were two hundred sacks and that was all there was in that locality.

There was but little money, and those who were able, were fleeing the country to escape starvation. Stations along the Mobile and Ohio railroad were packed with freight, much of which had been there for months. Those to whom it was consigned, being too poor to pay the charges.

FLEEING FROM THE SOUTH.

A Presbyterian clergyman, who recently left East Mississippi, near Mobile, had arrived in New York, coming by the Virginia and Southern railroad, reports one hundred and fifty passengers coming north fleeing from the Gulf States, sacrificing through tickets to avoid coming through Baltimore or Washington, believing both cities were under martial law. He saw troops at every station destined for the North, and heard that their avowed intention was to attack Washington.

PENNSYLVANIA—THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Governor Curtin's message to the legislature recommends a stay law. He says that Pennsylvania will open a route to Washington, whether Maryland stays in or out of the Union. No hostile rail will be permitted to lie between the capital and loyal states. The rebellion must be crushed. Property that had been seized must be retaken, at any expense of blood and treasure. He recommends an appropriation of \$3,000,000 and perhaps \$5,000,000.

He speaks of the unexampled promptness and patriotism with which the States had responded to the call of the President, and says the slaughter of northern troops in Baltimore for the pretended offence of marching, at the call of the Federal Government, peaceably over the soil of a State, admittedly in the Union, with the object of defending the common capital, imposed new duties and new responsibilities on the States and administration. This state of things could not be submitted to, whether Maryland might profess to be loyal to the Union or otherwise. There could be permitted no hostile soil, no obstructed thoroughfares, between the States undoubtedly loyal, and their national seat of government. The Governor thought the road through Baltimore would be kept open, but says the time for temporizing had passed and it was necessary to meet the Southern foe face to face. He recommended a large loan and the raising of fifteen regiments of cavalry and infantry, exclusively of those called into service.

A requisition had been received for twenty-one more regiments, making a total of thirty-eight regiments from that State. The Governor recommends a reserve of ten thousand men.

C. J. Ingersoll, of Philadelphia, had invited ex-presidents Buchanan, Pierce, Fillmore, Van Buren and Tyler, to arbitrate between the sections. Little good was expected to result from it.

WASHINGTON.

Northern troops continued to arrive at Washington without obstruction.

The Kansas company had called on the President, who said that if he had to choose between the maintenance of union and liberty, and the shedding of blood, there need be no doubt which course he would pursue.

Five employees at the Washington navy-yard had been arrested—they were found filling the shells with sand. They were to be tried and if convicted would be shot.

An armory is to be established at Rock Island in the stead of Harper's Ferry. It was also stated that the naval academy would be removed temporarily to Newport, R. I.

No more consular or diplomatic appointments were to be made till every avenue to the capital was opened for the passage of citizens and troops. Col. Mansfield, U. S. engineers, has command of the forces in the capital.

THE NORTHERN ARMY.

Government had finally decided to receive forty thousand, out of the seventy-five thousand volunteers called, for a term of three years, and twenty-five thousand regulars for five years.

A Washington dispatch of the 29th says that the troops called out by the order of that day were all additional to the seventy-five thousand already required. The whole number called for by Government thus far, is volunteers, by proclamation, seventy-five thousand; volunteers for three years service, forty thousand; regulars for five years service, twenty-five thousand; seamen for five years service, eighteen thousand; being a total of one hundred and fifty-eight thousand men, that is, seventy-five thousand two weeks before, and eighty-three thousand that day, and these numbers fall short of the real numbers, as several States would send double the number of regiments asked for.

No fortifications on either side of the Potomac, or Chesapeake Bay were in the hands of the secessionists. The secession flag was floating at Alexandria when the *Bienville* left.

Leave of absence would be granted to Colonel King, minister to Rome, to enable him to command the Wisconsin volunteers; also to Carl Schurz, minister to Spain, who proposed to raise a company of cavalry.

The government had authorized the contradiction of the rumor that the Administration had proposed an armistice for sixty days.

Orders had been issued to commanders of regiments, and to independent companies, to make their reports to head-quarters at Washington, stating, among other things, the strength of their respective commands; character of their arms; supply of ammunition; degree of proficiency in their drills, and the character of the same; if they understand the drill as skirmishers; if they have practised at the target and the range and proficiency thereof, and if they know the manual of the bayonet exercise. They will also state their ability to take the field, as to camp and garrison equipage, and organization of their commissary, quartermaster and medical departments.

Commanders were to be held accountable for the want of good discipline. The articles of war were to be read to the respective commands on the Sabbath, at the inspection, before going to church, and they would be governed by the regulations for the army of the United States.

ANOTHER PROCLAMATION.

A St. Louis dispatch of the 29th, gives the following proclamation without date:

Whereas, For reasons assigned in my proclamation of the 14th inst., a blockade of the ports of the seceding States was established, and,

Whereas, Public property has been seized the collection of the revenue obstructed, and duly commissioned officers, while executing orders, have been arrested, held as prisoners, or impeded in their official duties, without legal process, by persons claiming to act under the authorities of Virginia and North Carolina, an efficient blockade of the ports of those States will be established.

Signed, ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Regular Washington dispatches state that some excitement had been caused in diplomatic circles, in consequence of the above proclamation. It appears that a blockade, to be respected by foreign powers, must not only be effective, but that due notice must be given of such intention to their representatives. With Brazil and all South American governments, a notice of ninety days is required under treaty, but this has not been given by Mr. Lincoln's government.

The foreign ministers will insist that the stipulations shall be respected and observed, otherwise naval forces will be dispatched hither as a means of foreign protection.

The position taken by the government is delicate, and unless well managed, not unlikely to create trouble with foreign governments.

THE GOVERNMENT'S COMPLIMENTS TO THE DEFENDERS OF SUMTER.

To Major Robert Anderson, late commander of Fort Sumter:

I am directed by the President to communicate to you, and through you to the officers and men under your command, at Fort Moultrie and Sumter, the approbation of the government, of your and their judicious and gallant conduct there, and tender you and them the thanks of the government.

The document is without signature.

The light-houses at Capes Henry and Charles showed no lights. Col. Ripley had

been appointed to the head of the ordnance bureau, in place of Craig, ordered to other duty. Lieut. Oglesby had been dismissed from the army, failing to tender his accounts.

Efforts were being made at Washington to have Cassius M. Clay and N. P. Banks appointed major generals in the army.

The Secretary of War had tendered to Gov. Sprague the office of brigadier-general.

Letters received from Paris stated that the French government was fully posted on American affairs, and no sympathy was felt for the Confederate States.

General Scott was expected to soon change his head quarters to Philadelphia.

Thirty thousand troops were being concentrated at the Capital.

ILLINOIS.

A bill for three million dollars loan for war purposes, and another bill to send 10,000 men into the camp, to answer the next call of Government, was before the Illinois Legislature. Both bills would probably pass. A bill was passed to prevent the transmission of telegraphic messages in cypher; they had also passed a bill for sending ten regiments into camp, if instructed, to meet the future calls of the government.

CONNECTICUT.

The legislature convened on the 1st of May. Gov. Buckingham's message recommends an efficient State militia; says forty-one volunteer companies had already been accepted, and the regiments would not leave the State until they were fully equipped with camp and baggage trains, prepared to take care of themselves. The legislature would make liberal appropriations for war purposes. The State was out of debt and owned \$400,000 in bank stock.

NEW YORK.

Colonel Elsworth's Zouaves left New York on the 29th for Washington. They were escorted to the Baltic by the fire department. An immense crowd witnessed the embarkation. Their stand of colors was presented to them previous to their departure.

Adams, minister to England, Cassius M. Clay, minister to Russia, Holdeman, minister to Sweden, left on the Niagara, for Europe, on the 1st.

A special messenger was to sail on the next European steamer, to purchase half a million dollars worth of arms for the State.

A special dispatch to the *New York World* states that arrangements had been made for the resumption of travel by rail, by Baltimore and York, Pennsylvania.

Joseph Tracy, an Irishman, and his family, had recently arrived in the city from Charleston, and claimed to have been tied up and received five hundred lashes for not serving against the stars and stripes; his wife also had been kicked and experienced general bad treatment. This and other reports may be true; but they sound like manufacture.

NEBRASKA.

Dispatches from Omaha state that Governor Black had issued a proclamation, recommending a thorough volunteer organization throughout the Territory. He had already supplied companies with arms and equipments, and seemed determined to place Nebraska in the best possible condition of defence. It was supposed that at least one regiment of Nebraska volunteers would be mustered into the service of the United States for home defence. Nebraska is a unit for the Constitution of the Union.

THE ATTACK ON THE WESTMORELAND.—ROWDYISM AND KILLING.

A Cairo dispatch, of the 29th, states that the steamer *Westmoreland* had arrived there that night. Her commander, in reporting an attack on the boat at Napoleon, says that, as the *Westmoreland* was coming up the river at 9 o'clock on the evening of the 25th, along the Mississippi side, Capt. Evans desired the pilot to cross the river to Napoleon, Ark.; he did so and as they approached the Captain asked if there was any freight, and was answered yes. The line was tied and the clerk went on the wharf-boat, but in a moment returned and said the wharf-master informed him there was that no freight and that a mob was going to take the boat.

This was immediately followed by a volley from the guns and pistols of a crowd of fifty or sixty persons assembled on the shore. There were shouts of shoot the Captain and Pilot—balls flew around the Captain's head and some struck the pilot-house; but the Captain and Pilot escaped without injury. The boat was crowded with passengers who had assembled forward to look at the town, and among them Mr. Hamner, of Memphis. A bullet entered his left breast and passed through his heart. Death was instantaneous. A straggling fire was kept up and a fireman straggled a bullet in the shoulder.

The ladies shrieked with fear. Several shots penetrated the boarding of their cabin. Capt. Evans had the wheels started, broke the line by strain and got away.

The number and size of the holes and indentations made by the shots was astonishing, and gave rise to the suspicion that they must have been fired from a cannon.

FOREIGN.

Mr. Gladstone introduced the budget into the House of Commons, on the 15th, showing a surplus of £1,920,000. He proposed a reduction of one penny on the income tax; a repeal of the paper duty which would amount to £1,500,000, leaving a surplus of £400,000. The tea and sugar duties were to be continued. It was denied in the most positive terms

that Austria intended granting an independent ministry to Hungary.

The Silisian diet demanded self government for that part of Poland.

A fearful inundation had occurred at Java many thousand persons were drowned, whole villages destroyed, and fifty thousand people left destitute.

In the House of Lords it was stated that the government was engaged in no negotiations whatever towards reconciling the King of Italy to the Pope. Their policy was, not to interfere with the Roman Catholic questions. The Italian question in general, was debated, and the French occupation of Rome was deplored, and the prospect of a collision between Austria and Italy deprecated by all the Speakers. In the House of Commons, Lord J. Russell stated that all the foreign ministers, except the American, had left Jeddah, to be protected by ships of war, in consequence of intimidation having been used towards them, which the Japanese government had not endeavored to check.

The report that President Lincoln was dead, was extensively circulated in England. American news was anxiously looked for.

The London *Times* editorially reiterates hopes for the maintenance of peace, and says when the soil and seas of the new world are likely to be stained with blood, foreign nations may surely remonstrate in the cause of humanity.

Russia had informed France that in consequence of events in Warsaw, it would be impossible to join in any measure for the settlement of the Eastern question. It was alleged that Russia had charged France with being an accomplice in the Polish disturbances.

Garibaldi had taken his seat in the Italian Parliament, and business was temporarily suspended by the applause that greeted his appearance. The action of the ministers disbanding the Southern army, and the measures taken for re-organizing were debated. Garibaldi made a speech so violent that it excited a tumult in the Chamber. He made offensive allusions to the ministry, against which Cavour protested. Garibaldi, in resuming spoke with more moderation, and Cavour said he accepted the words of conciliation. Garibaldi designated the French army as the enemy of Italy, because it occupied Rome.

The Spanish official paper says that government would accept the annexation of St. Domingo as soon as it was confirmed by a vote of the people, if no foreign power objected.

The Polish provinces were being divested of Russian troops for concentration at Warsaw.

A writ of execution had been issued against the Great Eastern at the suit of Scott Russell, to satisfy his claims.

It was reported that the conservatives in the British Parliament were preparing a strong opposition to Gladstone's project, in hopes of a ministerial crisis.

All the great mercantile houses in Marseilles had suspended payments in consequence of the failure of the Turkish government to provide for its acceptances, and the refusal of the banks of France to continue advances.

In the Italian Parliament, Garibaldi said he was not satisfied with Cavour's explanations, and that prospects were alarming and insisted on a re-organization of the southern army. The motion was carried one hundred and ninety-seven against seventy-five.

Famine in India.

A most dreadful famine, according to reports, is desolating the North-western Provinces of India, for a thousand miles in extent. The London *Times*, of the 29th of March, in an article on the subject, after alluding to the fact that the famine was created by drought, says:

"It is a drought in a land where the sun bakes up the soil almost to the hardness of pottery, and where the earth, without rain in the accustomed season, is an impenetrable crust. Where the irrigation works exist the scanty waters will suffice to produce scanty crops, but where there are no such works there is no vegetation to be found. Mr. Edmonstone, the Lieutenant Governor of the North-western Provinces, had himself seen that in a march of twenty miles there was not a green blade in any direction. Families were fleeing away from the death which threatened them. Emaciated multitudes were drooping and dying by the way, and all these, we are told, but the beginning of the terrible calamity which threatens to involve a population reckoned, by one of the speakers at the Mansion House, at seven millions and a half. Of these it is stated that two millions and a half are actually starving."

Bombay papers to the 12th of February, contain the following:

"Horrible accounts reach us from the North west Provinces, of human beings dying at the rate of four or five hundred a day; while the desolation is not even limited to the vast expanse of country from Lucknow to Lahore, for tales are now told equally appalling of the extremities to which the population of the native State of Travancore, in the south of India, are reduced by the drouth, which has caused all the fruits of the earth to wither. According to a Cochin newspaper, mothers in Travancore are selling their children as slaves for 6d each, that they may have wherewith to purchase bread, if only for a single day."