THE DAILY BEE

PUBLISHED DAILY (SUNDAYS EXCEPTED) AT

No. 73 Chartres street.

☞ Subscriptions taken by the week, at the rate of Twenty-five Cents for the six numbers, payable to the Carriers

Daily Bee, one year (in advance)..... $12
Country Paper, same weekly..... 5

In all cases, subscribers must give one week's notice in writing before they can be allowed a discontinue.

Any person receiving the paper through error of the carrier, or otherwise, will be considered as a subscriber, and expected to pay, unless the notice is given of the fact to the office.

NEW ORLEANS:

TUESDAY MORNING, FEB. 17, 1863.

Sales at Auction To-Day.

By I. B. Croast, at 11 o'clock, at No. 96 Royal street, furniture and piano.

By E. R. Sykes, at 10 o'clock, at No. 59 Magazine street, sundries.

By R. T. Montgomery, at 11 o'clock, at post 25, Second District, hams, cheese, potatoes, &c.; at 12 o'clock, at No. 83 Camp street, Fulton market beef, bundles, whisky, &c.

By D. E. Morphy, at 10 o'clock, at No. 47 Magazine street, sundries; at 11 o'clock, at No. 55 Common street, wrapping paper; at 11½ o'clock, at No. 98 Gravier street, hams.

By the Sheriff, at 12 o'clock, at the Merchants and Auctioneers' Exchange, property in the Third District.

The purser of the steamship Bio-Bio will please accept our thanks for acceptable favors.

THE VARIETIES THEATRE.—The crowded state of our columns prevents us from giving the extended notice of the second performance of the "Merchant of Venice" as we had designed. In our evening edition, however, we will refer to the superior rendition of this piece. The bill for to-night is a brilliant one, composed of "Rob Roy" and the laughable farce "A Thumping Legacy."

THE CONCERT AT THE OPERA HOUSE.—Want of space compels us to refer briefly to the charity concert at the Opera House last night. The concert, we were glad to perceive, was a great success. The dress-circle, *loges* and *parterre* were brilliant with many of our old *habitues* of the Opera, and the scene, altogether, recalled us to the ga s nights of other days—to the "glory that was Greece, and the grandeur that was Rome." We will refer, in our edition of to-morrow, to the more noticeable features of the concert.

LOSS OF THE SHIP PLANTER.—By the arrival of the United States transport ship Jennie Beals, from Key West, 17th instant, we learn that the United States transport ship Planter, Capt. A. F. Daly, from New York, 34 January, bound to Ship Island, with sixty three United States soldiers, one surgeon, two reverend gentlemen, forty mechanics, two hundred and seventy-five horses, and a large amount of quartermaster's and commissary's stores, went ashore on the 14th January on Stranger's Key, Little Bahama Banks. The ship is a total loss. A number of wreckers were around the wreck endeavoring to save what they could. There were no lives lost. The soldiers and others were taken off the Island by a boat sent by the United States Consul at Nassau, with the assistance of a wrecking schooner, whence they embarked on the ship Jennie Beals for this port. All the horses were lost, and only a small portion of the stores will be saved.

By the same arrival we learn that the tug-boat Swan, from Key West for this port, foundered at sea, and fourteen lives were lost. The survivers had just arrived at Key West when the Jennie Beals sailed. Further particulars could not be obtained.

A LEGAL TENDER.—We refer to the card of Samuel F. Gleun, Esq., which tenders his legal services in the courts of the Crescent City to the litigating portion of the people. He is so well known as clerk of the Provost Court from its opening, that it is proper to mention the fact that he has withdrawn from that position for an exclusive devotion to the practice of his profession.

M. BARNETT, JR.—Mr. M. Barnett, Jr., resumes the auction business. He has rented the large store in the ground floor of the Verandah Hotel, on Conti street, Nos 23 and 25. Mr. Barnett is too well known in our community to need a special recommendation at our hands. His old and numerous customers will doubtless again extend their patronage to our venerable fellow townsman.

R. T. Montgomery's sale this day (Tuesday,) the 17th instant, will be made up of the following hours, and should attract a full attendance of those in want of new and fresh articles: At 11 o'clock, Post 25, Second District, will be sold, a large portion of the cargo of the bark Bently, consisting of choice beef, lard, jousinee, apples, hams and beans. All the above articles are re home and beans. All the above articles are re presented as very choice, new and fresh, and all positively sold without reserve. At 12 o'clock, at salesroom, 83 Camp street, choice lots of sides, lard, butter, ride, whisky and brandies, and other staple groceries. At 11 o'clock, at old auction mart, 87 Camp street, the usual sale of furniture and sundry goods.

The Sheriff sells at auction this day, at noon, at the Merchants and Auctioneers' Exchange, Royal street, between Canal and Customhouse streets, Second District, eight valuable lots of ground, fronting on St. Bernard, La Harpe and Robertson streets, Third District. For particulars see advertisement.

D. E. Morphy, auctioneer, calls the attention of buyers to the various sales advertised for this day by him.

The Army of the Potomac.

The following is the latest dispatch from the army of the Potomac, telegraphed to the *Herald*:

EXPEDITION UNDER COL. WYNDHAM TO WARRENTON, SULPHUR SPRINGS AND WATERLOO—NO REBELS TO BE FOUND, ETC.

Fairfax Court House, Feb. 3, 1863.—Last night a detachment from the Fifth and First Virginia cavalry, under command of Col. Percy Wyndham, left Centreville for Warrenton, via the main pike, reaching that place at one o'clock A. M. The cavalry surrounded the Warren Green Hotel, but found it deserted. They brought back eighty good muskets. In some of the houses examined the beds were still warm, the rebel officers who had previously occupied them having left in hot haste. In some cases watches and overcoats were left behind.

He surprised the town last night, and while there sent strong patrols to the Rappahannock, at Sulphur Springs and Waterloo.

These patrols found no enemy at either place. Some forty or fifty rifles, which could not be brought off, were destroyed.

The object of the expedition was to capture a force of cavalry, said to be near the town.

Major Hammond, of the Fifth New York cavalry, having received information that sutlers were in the habit of rendezvousing near Herndon Station with contraband goods intended for the rebels, sent Lieut. Foley, with twelve men of his regiment, to inquire into the matter. They captured near Herndon Station, and outside of our lines, four sutlers's teams loaded with merchandise, consisting of silks, boots, phosphorous, &c.; also a rebel mail, forty-eight thousand dollars in due bills, and six thousand in Treasury notes were also found upon them. The driver of three of the teams is in the employ of a man in Washington who has since been arrested.

From Washington.

COUNT MERCIER AND THE PROPOSED MEDIATION.

The N. Y. *Tribune* of the 31st contains the following dispatch from Washington:

Count Mercier gives public and explicit denial to the published fabrication that he has been a party to any scheme or proposal to bring about intervention or mediation in the war or suppress the rebellion, and further denies that any proposal to that effect has ever been made to him.

THE FORTIFICATION APPROPRIATIONS.

Among the items in the Fortification bill, reported by Mr. Stevens to-day, are the following, viz: $300,000 for Fort Carroll in Baltimore harbor; $50,000 for Fort Monroe; $200,000 for Fort Wool in Hampton Roads; $150,000 for Fort Church, Florida; $300,000 for Fort Taylor, Key West; $300,000 for Fort Jefferson, Garden Key; $175,000 for Fort Jefferson, Ship Island; $100,000 for the new depot at Dry Tortugas; $100,000 for Fort St. Philip; $100,000 for Fort Jackson.

Speaking of the passage of the negro soldier's bill, the Washington correspondent of the *Herald*, under date of the 2d, says

PASSAGE OF THE NEGRO SOLDIER'S BILL BY THE HOUSE.

The bill to raise black soldiers and sailors for the United States service was modified in some important particulars before it passed the House to-day. The border States members had given warning that recruiting officers for that purpose would be sent by the citizens if they should attempt to raise recruits in Kentucky and Tennessee, and an amendment was adopted to receive no African recruits from loyal slave States and districts specified in the emancipation proclamation, and prohibiting recruiting offices in the border States. This will certai materially the constituents of the character contemplated in the bill.

Operations near Suffolk.

The *Herald* of the 3d contains the following particulars of operations on the Blackwater:

The latest news from Suffolk represents that the enemy was last night in force between six teen and seventeen miles from here this side of the Blackwater. Our troops had taken every precaution to attack him again should he advance further towards Suffolk. There is no evidence that an engagement will ensue immediately.

The *Herald* of the 4th, contains the following latest intelligence from the Blackwater:

[Telegram to the Richmond Dispatch.]

THE FIGHT NEAR SUFFOLK.

Petersburg, February 1, 1863.—The enemy attacked General Pryor's command about four o'clock on Friday morning at Kelly's, in Nansemond county, eight miles from Suffolk.

The fight lasted four hours. The enemy was repulsed at every point. General Prior's official dispatches say that our loss is killed and wounded was less than fifty. The enemy is reported to have suffered severely.

Among the killed is Colonel Poage, of Pulaski, 4th Virginia, and Captain Dubbies, of Floyd county, Twenty-seventh Virginia battalion.

New Orleans Bee.

Office, 73 Chartres street. NEW ORLEANS, TUESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 17, 1863. Vol. XVII—New Series. Vol. XXXVI—Whole No. 12,614.

Still Later from Southern Sources.

The *Picayune*, in a second edition last evening, published additional news from Southern sources, copied from a Jackson *Appeal* of the 13th, from which we condense the following:

A Mobile dispatch, of the 12th, says that the tone of the Northern papers of the 5th strengthens the belief that Charleston will be attacked before Savannah. The New York *Times* says an attack on Charleston is momentarily expected. A Richmond dispatch, of the 11th, says that the fight at Vicksburg will occur as soon as pontoons are ready. The water was running in the canal six feet deep, without deepening the canal, which was demonstrated to be a failure. Col. Stewart, McClernand's chief of staff, was killed on the 24th ult. by Confederate sharpshooters, while reconnoitering near Vicksburg.

Northern dates of the 9th had been received at Richmond. The *Herald* says the Confederates were successfully deceived in Hooker's rates were successfully deceived in Hooker's plans, thinking that the Mercedita had been sunk. We have already given the particulars of the damage done to the Mercedita!

The Montauk was not at all disabled in the attack on Fort McAllister.

Mr. Sumner has introduced a resolution in the Senate directing the committee on the Conduct of the War to inquire into the condition of the army of the Potomac, of both officers and men, and consider what measures are necessary to secure from all unswerving and soldierlike devotion to the declared policy of the Government.

The following European news is contained in the *Appeal's* bulletin of news. As in the market items we find the date of Jan. 21st, we infer that this summary of news is three days later than that contained in the Australasian's mails.

FOREIGN NEWS.

From Europe, it is stated that Milner Gibson, M. P., in an address to his constituents, alleged that slavery was the main cause of the war, by inducing even secession for its defence. He urges England to adhere to her neutral course. Beresford Hope, M. P., showed himself a decided Southerner in opinion. He eulogized Davis and Jackson, censured Lincoln's proclamation, and advised recognition.

Napoleon's letter to Forey produced great sensation in England. It was spoken of as alike dangerous to the North and South.

Consols, January 21, 92¾ to 92⅝ for money; 93⅜ to 92¾ for account. Cotton from a fourth to a half cent lower, and dull.

Says the *Picayune*:

THE ENGAGEMENT OFF SABINE.

In addition to the official dispatch of Major Watkins, given in our first edition, we also stated in the Houston *Telegraph*, of January 23, that the brig of war Morning Light, and a schooner, name not given, were also captured by the Confederates.

Rumored Destruction of the Florida.

We find in the *Herald* of the 2d the following condensed account of the reported loss of the Florida, better known as the Oreto:

An important rumor was prevalent in Havana when the latest mail left there on the 28th, that the rebel steamer Florida had been destroyed. The facts of the case appear to be these: On Tuesday, January 27, it was reported in Havana that heavy firing had been heard at Matanzas and Cardenas, and that coming from vessels of war engaged in a sea fight or contest at sea. It was also stated that the Florida or some other rebel vessel, had been chased by several Union gunboats; but with what result had not been learned. It was then believed at Matanzas that the firing and chase were connected with the same vessel. This rumor was strengthened by the arrival of the Creole, from New York, on the following day, which reported that she had been spoken by the Union gunboat Sonoma, which vessel reported that she also had observed a steamer on fire, supposed to be the Florida, and steamer on fire, supposed to be the Florida, and that three other vessels were firing into her with great rapidity. The locality of the engagement was not definitely stated, but that it was in the vicinity of the Cayes, off Cardenas and Matanzas.

The excitement in Havana was very great on the receipt of this news. Our correspondent there gives us some succeeding news from that city, and details the particulars of the firing of a Spanish war steamer into a Federal gunvessel.

The *Herald* of the 4th has the following additional news with regard to the Oreto:

In addition to the news we gave yesterday relative to the report of the destruction of the Oreto or Florida, we have since learned that a leading mercantile house of Havana sent word of it to the Columbia, as she was about leaving that port, that the rebel vessel had been destroyed.

Important from Tennessee.

FEDERAL OCCUPATION OF FRANKLIN, TENN.

Nashville, Tenn., February 3, 1863.—Colonel Robert Campbell, with a small body of men from Franklin, Tennessee, on the 30th inst., captured and took as prisoners fifty-seven rebels, with Forrest and his seventeen men escaped. A rebel Captain and two men were captured. We lost one man killed.

APPAIRS IN THE SOUTHWEST—MOVEMENTS OF THE CONFEDERATES.

The *Herald*, of the 3d, has the following dispatch from Memphis:

Memphis, Tenn., January 28, 1863.—General Van Dorn, with eight brigades, left Grenada last Saturday, and is moving toward Memphis the most part by railroad to Collierville and then strike North.

There were no rebels at Grenada on the day mentioned, consisting of cavalry, artillery and infantry. We are expecting raids in all directions.

We have been living in Holly Springs to Sunday afternoon. There were two brigades of infantry there, under Tilghman and Whitefield. They are not stationed at Holly Springs, but run in and out at pleasure.

Last Sunday four federal soldiers discovered a guerrilla near Lagrange, and pursued him until he led them into the midst of one hundred Confederates, who killed three of his pursuers and captured the other.

Fifteen thousand rebels are reported fifteen miles south of the Charleston Railroad, marching north.

European Intelligence.

The New York *Herald* of the 2d publishes interesting news from Europe, brought over by the Australasian, from Liverpool on the 17th and Queenstown on the afternoon of the 18th. We present below a full summary of the Australasian's mails.

The most important feature of the intelligence in the letter transmitted by the Emperor Napoleon to Gen. Forey, in Mexico, which we publish at length below. The following is an extract from Napoleon's letter:

There will not be wanting people who will ask you why we go to levy men and money for the establishment of a regular government in Mexico. In the present state of the civilization of the world the prosperity of America is not a matter of indifference to Europe; for it is she who feeds our manufactories and gives life to our commerce. We have an interest in that the republic of the United States be powerful and prosperous, but we have none in this—that she should seize possession of all the Mexican Gulf, dominate from thence the Antilles, as well as South America, and be the dispenser of the products of the New World. We see how, by sad experience, how precarious is the fate of an industry which is reduced to seeking its chief raw material in one market alone, to all the vicissitudes of which it has to submit. It, on the other hand, Mexico regains her independence and maintains the integrity of its territory, if a stable Government is constituted with the assistance of France, we shall have restored to the Latin race on the other side of the ocean its strength and prestige; we shall have established for ourselves beneficial influence in the centre of America, and this influence, by presenting immense openings for our commerce, will procure us the materials indispensable to our industry. Mexico thus regenerated will always be favorable to us, not only from gratitude, but also because its interests will be in harmony with ours, and she will find a powerful support in her good relations with the European Powers. To-day, then, our pledged military honor, the exigency of our policy, the interest of our industry, all call on our commerce, all make us direct our march upon Mexico, and boldly plant there our flag, to establish either a monarchy, if it is not incompatible with the national sentiments of the country, or at all events a Government which promises some stability.

The French "Yellow Book," also shows that the expeditionary force in Mexico is made up of twenty-seven thousand men and five thousand horses.

The Executive Committee of the British Emancipation Society had presented an address to the American Minister, in London, expressing the confidence of that body in Mr. Lincoln's policy of negro freedom, and its sympathy with his Government in the war. Mr. Adams, in his reply, declared Mr. Lincoln's election, his position, and the emancipation proclamation.

The British ship Oregon, of Newcastle, at London, reported that on the 16th of December, in latitude 13 degrees north, longitude 30 degrees west, she spoke the Alabama; bark degrees west, she spoke the Alabama; bark rigged, which hoisted the Confederate flag, saluted her, and then sailed off in an opposite direction.

Some of the London journals express the opinion that the war in America will continue during the whole period of Mr. Lincoln's administration.

The Protestant Archbishop of Dublin, in a letter to Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, expresses his doubts as to the sincerity of the American Abolitionists in their professions of friendship for the negro.

The Liverpool cotton market closed quiet, with quotations unchanged, on the 15th of January. Breadstuffs were quiet and steady. Provisions remained very dull. Consols closed in London on the 17th of January at 92⅜ to 92⅝ for money.

All the Ministers of the Queen of Spain's Cabinet had resigned, and Marshal O'Donnell had formed a new Government. The usual military conscription of recruits in Poland had been completed very quietly. The recent offer of England to shelter the Pope at Malta was not at all relished by the French Government. The matter is treated officially in a correspondence between M. Drouyn de L'Lays and Prince La Tour d'Auvergne, the French Minister in Rome. The Prince endeavors to prove that the Pope himself alluded "playfully pully," when bidding farewell to Mr. Odo Russell, to the probability of his being forced to seek an asylum in England. Mr. Russell reported the subject seriously to the Cabinet, and in consequence Earl Russell made the proposition of Malta as a refuge to his Holiness, or the British Mediterranean fleet would be placed at his disposal to convey him to Malta, France, or Spain.

The News in Petersburg.

Petersburg, Va., February 1, 1863.

The news from Charleston created great joy here.

The News in Fredericksburg.

Headquarters Army of the Potomac,
February 2, 1863.

Parties who crossed the river yesterday, under flag of truce, state that the rebels in Fredericksburg were very jubilant over the news from Charleston, among which was the official proclamation of General Beauregard and Commodore Ingraham, declaring the blockade at Charleston raised.

Great cheering was heard among the rebel soldiers in town, and a brass band was playing in the court-house. Our pickets on this side of the river were hailed by those on the opposite bank and assured that the war would be closed within a month. "The game is up with you now," said they.

The Engagement at Fort McAllister.

The New York *Herald* publishes the following:

IRON-CLAD COMBAT—ANOTHER FIGHT AT THE OGEECHEE.

The Richmond *Dispatch* of the 2d inst. contains the following telegram reporting the renewal of the bombardment of Fort McAllister at the Ogeechee by the Montauk:

ANOTHER UNSUCCESSFUL BOMBARDMENT OF FORT M'ALLISTER.

Savannah, February 1, 1863.—The abolition fleet, consisting of one iron-clad turret, four gunboats and one mortar boat, again attacked Fort McAllister at Genesis Point this morning. The firing continued until half-past 2 o'clock this afternoon, when the enemy retired, whipped again. The bombardment was more furious than the last.

The only person killed on our side was Major John B. Gaike, commander of the fort, a shell striking him in the head.

Important from the Southwest—Gunboat and Guerrilla Fight near Island No. 10.

A Cairo dispatch of the 3d inst., to the New York *Herald*, states the following:

The gunboat New Era was attacked on Sunday night at eleven o'clock, near Island No. 10, by guerrillas with three pieces of cannon. The boat returned the fire with shell. The conflict lasted till near daylight, when the rebels retired. Their force was believed to be between two thousand and three thousand.

The operator at Paducah reports that the command at Fort Donelson was attacked at an early hour this morning. At four o'clock this afternoon the engagement was going on. Reinforcements have gone forward.

N. Y. LEGISLATURE.—In the *Herald* of the 4th, we find the following with regard to the proceedings of the N. Y. Legislature:

In the Senate a minority report, sustaining the action of the Governor, was made from the committee appointed to confer with him in reference to the recent disorderly proceedings in the Assembly. A resolution in favor of sustaining President Lincoln's emancipation proclamation was introduced and discussed, but received no final action.

The Missouri United States Senatorship.

Jefferson City, Mo., February 1 1863.—In the joint session to-day a few changes were made in voting for Senator, but no result was reached. The last ballot stood Brown, 39; Phelps, 41; Glover, 29; Breckinridge, 30; scattering, 6.

The Latest News from Southern Sources.

The *Picayune* published last evening the following late intelligence, obtained from Southern sources:

Latest News from Texas, Sabine Pass, Vicksburg and Richmond, &c.—Interesting General News.

We take the following interesting intelligence from the Memphis *Appeal* of the 12th instant:

ENGAGEMENT AT SABINE PASS

[From the Houston Telegraph, January 23.]

The following official dispatch was received here last night:

Sabine Pass, January 21.
Via Liberty, 22, 7 P. M.

To Capt. F. P. Tobin, A. A. G.

I engaged the enemy to-day, and captured 13 guns, about $1,000,000 worth of property, and 100 prisoners.

D. M. WASHINGTON,
Major Com. anding.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.

Richmond, February 11.—Mason & Hanman's extensive distillery at Rocket's, formerly Stearn's, was destroyed by fire last night. Loss heavy.

GEN. BUTLER'S REMOVAL.

Richmond, February 11.—The Washington correspondent of the New York *Tribune* says a yellow book in the possession of M. Mercier, the French Minister, contains evidence that the removal of Butler was known to Drouyn de l'Huys, in Paris, long before it was known to prominent members of Congress from this city.

LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE.

The Caddo *Gazette* of January 24 says:

Opposite this place the river has risen within ten feet of the top of the alluvial bank, and is still rising. The reports of high water above indicate that we may expect an additional rise of three feet.

SOLDIERS DECEASED.

The following is a list of deaths in Silliman's hospital, Clinton, La., from December 8, 1862, to February 8, 1863, and is furnished by the post chaplain:

Matthew Griffin, Company B, 30th Louisiana; John W. Harvey, 9th Louisiana; Thomas Flynn, Company G, Miles Legion; O Clement, Company B, 30th Louisiana; L. M. Poole, Company G, 4th Louisiana; B. Burgess, Company B, 30th Louisiana; Paul Cucullu, Company F, 30th Louisiana.

The *Appeal* says:

We learn from the Alexandria *Democrat* that the Military Board of this State adjourned last week after a session of four days, a majority being present, viz: the Governor and Brig. Gens. Pratt and Vick. The law does not authorize the Governor to supply the vacancy occasioned by Gen. Randolph's resignation, and there will therefore be two brigader generals. The Legislature did not contemplate that the brigadiers would either be killed in battle or decline the honor conferred by their election. Gen. Pratt makes Opelousas his headquarters and Gen. Vick goes to Monroe.

Latest from Vicksburg.

No hostile demonstrations were made by the enemy up to 9 o'clock last night. Our batteries below the city were engaged in shelling all day, the object of which was unknown in the city.

A telegram of the 10th, to the *Mississippian*, says:

Col. Higgins, who has been placed in immediate command of the heavy batteries, has been to-day testing the capacity and accertaining the range of all of our guns.

We are looking for and prepared to receive an attack any moment.

The Federal steamer Queen of the West, accompanied by the Vicksburg ferry boat, Dolphin, ran again on a cruise down the river. They passed Rodney about 4 o'clock this morning. At 12 M. they were lying a short distance above Natchez.

From Galveston.

[Correspondence of the Houston News.]

Galveston, Jan. 23.—Last evening the enemy's vessels lay in position to command our batteries from the point to the South of Tremont street, and this morning we were on the tiptoe of anxiety, expecting an attack at daybreak. Bustle and commotion every where prevailed, people moving about in mysterious haste, dressed with the idea that something monstrous was about to happen, women, with children trotting at their heels, were seen directing their steps toward the beach or convent for safety; the lookouts were filled with spectators, and every one was momentarily waiting to see a loud roar the guns belch forth flame and thunder, but still they continue silent.

As the morning advanced it was discovered that the enemy had other business on hand; the three propellers, which the previous evening were within range of the point, were making off down the coast seaward, while the Brooklyn, with one of the gunboats, steamed out to intercept a large transport coming up from the west, and which continued on her way.

This is most precious to us as particular as to the particular period. Major Kellenberg is said to be indefatigable in hurrying forward the defenses of the city; to-morrow some more new guns will be in position, and our means of resistance increased in like proportion.

The mark of esteem lately paid by the good people of Houston and Galveston, now residing there, to Gen. Magruder, has afforded the greatest satisfaction here. May the day not be far distant when, with a return of peace and prosperity, we shall be able to give him a warm reception in this our fair land.

January 24.—The Lucy Gwin arrived this morning from up the Bay, where she has lately been employed upon an important engineering survey.

The Brooklyn has been out to speak with a steamer from the northeast, and has since returned at her anchorage.

People here are busy packing up, some moving down on the Island, and some elsewhere, to get out of the way of bomb shells, in case the enemy shall attempt another bombardment without notice. Some have constructed bomb-proof casements under ground for their security, as soon as any trouble commences. The stores were all closed yesterday at 3 P. M.

Two houses, one of which was occupied by Ben. Crone, in the east part of the city, were burned this morning. One belonged to Fort Sears. They were on Mechanic street, two doors east of Mr. Westerlage's residence. Furniture and everything destroyed.

The English sloop-of-war Rinaldo is off the Bar. She has just seen in Light. Turtan under flag of truce, to communicate with Mr. Flint, the English Consul, who has returned with the officer on board the vessel.

One of the officers states that the British fleet in the Gulf is now greater than it has ever before been, having in all six thousand heavy guns, which can be brought to bear on any given point in the Gulf in a few days. The Rinaldo was only two days from New Orleans. In company with the lieutenant commanding the launch which came ashore, was young Lord Queensboro', son of the Marquis of Queensboro', who is midshipman on the Rinaldo. He is about sixteen or seventeen years of age, and will inherit the title of marquis on the death of his father. He appears very intelligent for his age, and was occupied most of the time in making observations in the city and harbor. They remained on shore about two hours, when they returned to the Rinaldo with the British Consul.

THE TRANS MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT.

As the public has already been advised of the fact by publication in our cotemporaries of this city, we presume it will no longer be considered contraband to announce that a new and independent command has probably been assigned to Major General Sterling Price. The *Grizzi* states that "a telegraph from the Secretary of War to a high official in this department announces that a new appointment has been made for Gen. Holmes's district, and that Major-General Price will be placed in the active command of all the troops in that department, taking with him the Missouri regiments now in the army of the West."

TAKING ALL THE COTTON.

Senator Phelan, of Mississippi, on the 29th ult., introduced into Congress the following bill for the impressment and condemnation of all the cotton in the country. It is a stringent bill, and was referred to a special committee of five:

1. That all cotton now within the limits of this Confederacy, except so much as shall be required for domestic use, shall be condemned and appropriated by the Government.

2. That the sale, purchase, or concealment of cotton, intended to frustrate the operations of this act, shall be a felony, punishable with fine and imprisonment, and the offender, if the owner of the cotton, to forfeit all claim to compensation for the same.

3. That the sale or transfer of cotton to a citizen of the United States shall be misprision of treason, and the offender, on conviction shall, suffer death.

4. That all cotton shall be delivered by the owner at such time and place and under such regulations as the President shall direct, and refusal or failure to comply shall be punishable by fine and imprisonment.

5. That bonds of the Confederate States shall be delivered to the owners of the cotton at the rate of fifteen cents per pound, with interest from the date of delivery.

6. That all cotton liable to fall into the hands of the public enemy shall be destroyed by direction of the military commanders above the rank of colonel, the owners to be compensated in the same manner as owners delivering it to the Government.

7. That no cotton shall be exported beyond the Confederacy, except by the Government, and that any person violating this section shall suffer death.

8. That all laws, or parts of laws, inconsistent with the act, shall be repealed.

Vicksburg Intelligence.

The *White* of the 10th instant says:

A gentleman from Issaquena county informs us that up to the middle of last week no mortar boats had passed Tullula coming down. Seven rat transports loaded with troops and light artillery had passed up, for the purpose, it is reported, of attacking some of our troops near Greenville.

The water is rapidly gaining ground on the peninsula. It has commenced pushing in at the old break in White's levee, and westward of the union the turtled water from the river has become so much increased as to run from DeSoto to the levee. There appears, however, to be no diminution as yet in the camps south of the canal.

On Tuesday last the upper end of the canal was then closed, and a large force engaged in removing the drifted wood that had floated in during the week.

Everything appeared to be comparatively quiet across the river yesterday. A heavy gun boat came down about 11 o'clock and took up her position in the river opposite to the fleet and just below the counter-part of the Essex, which has been guarding the transports since their arrival. A small ferry boat was maneuvering about the fleet in the forenoon, with a long, narrow flatboat in tow, which she finally dropped down to the mouth of the canal. Several transports arrived during the day, some towing barges and others apparently loaded with provisions.

Quite a number of Federals were visible on the levee at White's old place, and some were of the opinion that the levee was undergoing repairs, to prevent the water running in but we could not, with a glass, see that any of them were at work. They appeared to be sitting about in squads, looking at the much coveted city.

The *Appeal's* correspondent, under date of the 10th, says:

Since Saturday last the movements of the enemy on the peninsula have been of a character sufficiently puzzling to the outsiders to create almost any amount of conjectures as to their probable meaning. Nothing yet transpired that can in any way throw any light upon the subject. It having been observed that troops were being taken on board the transports on Saturday and moved up the river out of seeing distance, the impression obtained prevalence that the present campaign ground was being evacuated and the troops moved further up to a more favorable and dryer ground. But nothing further being known about it, and the motion of the boats being still the same, the conviction is gaining strength that such is really the case.

The gunboats having been seen going up, has given rise to the talk that they were leaving the river, for the present, at least. The camp opposite the city is still being maintained, and how many of the troops have been taken away is not known. Nothing further has been heard of the Federal camp lately established opposite Warrenton, though it is supposed that such a camp exists in that vicinity. No indications yet of any intentions for an early assault upon our works.

The water can now be distinctly seen encroaching upon the peninsula in the direction of the Federal camps, and, if they are not now engaged in evacuating, they will be driven to it very shortly.

They are not working much on the ditch, on account of the high water. In order to conduct their labor with success, they have constructed dams at both extremities to keep out the water while they are deepening it.

Since the defence of the city has been turned over to Brigadier General Lee, there is a decided and encouraging improvement in the management and efficiency of affairs about the works. It is not at all likely that another boat could succeed in running right up to the guns before being discovered. Daily practice is now given to the men at the guns, and the range and effect is being ascertained, in order to be in readiness for another adventure, such as occurred a week ago. Even if the whole fleet were to come now the batteries would be prepared for it.

The talk still continues about works being thrown up by the enemy behind the timber, for the purpose of placing mortars there to shell the city. The only point where such a work was practicable at this time would be on the levee, and no place can be found that would be beyond the reach of our guns. Anywhere behind the levee would soon make it a water basin, and it would become entirely untenable, both by reason of the flood and from range of our batteries. But in spite of these objections, such a work might be in progress of erection by the enemy for the purpose of annoying the city.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Distressing Accident.—We have just heard the particulars of a most harrowing occurrence, which it becomes us to publish, in order that our readers may take warning against the imprudent use of coal oil. A lady of the Third District, Mrs. Charles Daniels, residing on Spain street, between Urquhart and Girod, attempted to light the kitchen fire by throwing coal oil upon the wood, when the oil ignited and communicated with the can in which it was contained, causing a fearful explosion, as loud as the report of a gun. The lady's clothes caught fire, and in an instant she was entirely enveloped by the flames, which wrapped around her like a pyre. The neighbors, hearing the noise of the explosion, rushed to the house, and soon found out the harrowing reality. They made every effort to smother the flames, but unfortunately they did not succeed before the poor sufferer had been severely burned. It is feared that she has been internally injured by swallowing the flames. As it is she is horribly burned externally, so that her body presents, from head to foot, large charred blotches, and fears for her recovery are entertained. She is a married lady, but we understand she has no children.

We warn our readers against the careless use of coal oil, a large portion of which, as is used in this market, is certainly inflammable, and too much care cannot be taken in the use of it.

Before writing the above we learn that Mrs. Daniels died of her injuries last night. A sad end, the deplorable consequences of which cannot be too seriously meditated.

Fire at the Barracks.—About half-past 10 o'clock last night, fire broke out at the Barracks, which resulted in the destruction of the interior of the back buildings. It is strongly believed to have been the work of an incendiary.

Provost Court—Judge Peabody.—This morning two colored boys were examined on the charge of breaking open Dr. Adler's safe and robbing him of the sum of $200. One of the boys belonged to Dr. Adler, and is about 15 years old, while the other boy is about three years older. They took the safe out of the office and broke it open with an axe. A part of the money was found with them, and their guilt was clearly proved. The youngest was sent to the Workhouse four months, the elder for six months.

Colonel, who grabbed three watches from the ships of Mr. Meers, on Esplanade street, and made a race in trying to get off with them, was convicted and Workhoused for six months. He was carrying a loaded revolver also.

George Jackson, who was dismissed on Sunday, after paying a fine of $5 for being drunk and "inspected of being a rebel," was up again this morning, charged with being found in a yard at a very unreasonable hour of the night. As he had lost the $270 which had been restored to him on his first release, and had gone into the yard because he was homeless and penniless, the Judge told him to go, and try to take better care of himself.

Daniel Block was arraigned on the grave charge of selling for $2 a nanny goat, the purchaser being under the impression he was buying a billy goat. It seems that the goat with a slight variation is not of as high value in Poydras Market as the masculine: so Mr. Block had to refund.

Two white boys, one twelve and the other fifteen years of age, were convicted of stealing about $25 in silver from Mr. Charles Clark's store. The oldest boy was sent to the House of Refuge, and the younger was consigned to the care of his parents.

Richard Smith, charged with being a deserter, was remanded to prison for thirty days.

Black Joe Marshall, whose "sport" propensities were so great that he could not resist a little game on the street corner, had to pay $10.

Colonel Field read the petition of Samuel F. Gleun, asking a rule from this Court citing Laurent Millaudon and Judge E. R. Howell to show cause why an injunction should not be made absolute and perpetual against any further proceedings towards the petitioner under the decision recently given in the Sixth District Court in the case of Millaudon vs. Hunnewell and Glenn.

The Court took the application under advisement, and then it adjourned.

COMMERCIAL.

OFFICE OF THE BEE,
MONDAY EVENING, February 16, 1863.

COTTON.—The reported sales to-day comprise 2 bales Low Middling at 58c. and 7 do. at 57c. ₱ lb. Receipts 73 bales, and 1 bale reshipped, at 57c. and 1 at 54c. ₱ lb.

SUGAR.—There was some inquiry to-day but the supply which is very light is generally withheld from the market, awaiting additional favorable advices from the North, now momentarily expected. To-day's sales are confined to about 250 hhds, in several lots, at 5c. for Inferior, 7¾c. for fair new crop, and 8c. for Good Fair old crop. By auction 27 hhds. sold at 6¾c. and 47 at 8¾.

MOLASSES.—There was an increased inquiry to-day owing to anti-lipated favorable advices from the North, new duds, and the sales embrace about 1,000 barrels, at 3 c. for dark Prime and 31 cts. for good Prime new crop. By auction 150 bbls. sold at 33c., 171 at 24¾c. and 99 at 25c.

CORN.—To-day's sales embrace about 1600 sacks yellow, taken in several lots for export, at $1 15 @ $1 25 ₱ bushel.

OATS.—About 900 sacks sold at 75 @ 80c. ₱ bushel.

BACON.—9 cask dry salted Shoulders sold at 5¾c. ₱ lb.

FLOUR.—Sales are confined to small lots to the city trade at $10 25 @ $10 50 for Superfine, and — @ $11 ₱ bbl. for Extra.

FREIGHTS.—The rates by merchant sailing vessels for Northern ports are $1 50 @ 2 ₱ hhd. for Sugar, and $3 @ 3 50 ₱ bbl. for Molasses.

MISCELLANEOUS.—The following sales were made at auction to-day: 40 boxes Soda Crackers at 8½c.; 12 bbls. Boston Crackers at 8½c.; 8 bbls. Sugar at 11½c.; 36 bbls. Whisky and Brandy at $1 15 @ 1 20; 50 bbls and bags Louisiana Rice at 6 25c. and 7c.; 40 bags Lard at 11 @ 12c. and 13c.; 15 tierces do at 11½; 12 bbls. Mess Pork at 24 @ 27½c.; 10 bbls Mess Beef at 7c.; 10 bbls Butter at 24 @ 27½c.; 10 bbls Mess Pork at 26 @ 28c., 30 bags at 17½ @ 20c., and 50 bundles Wrapping Paper at 2 25; 1 bale Sheeting at 20½c.; 2 tierces large Virginia Leaf Tobacco at 35 @ 37c.; 200 sacks White Corn at $1 24; 81 boxes Adamantine Candles at 21½ @ 22c.; 40 bbls Potatoes at $2 25; 1 bale Blankets at $2 75; 50 boxes Starch at 5½c.; 5 half bbls. Pork at $10; 10 bbls Mess Beef at $10 50; 5 half bbls. Pig Pork at $10; 10 bbls Ground Coffee at 17½c.; and 500 bbls. Flour at $8 50 @ $9 25 for superfine, according to quality and condition, and $10 50 @ $10 87 for extra.

Nothing else reported.

Cattle Market.

JEFFERSON CITY, February 17, 1863.

Arrived yesterday 51 Beeves and 1 Veals. Amount of sales sold as follows: 20 Beeves 25 Hogs and 20 Veals. Stock remaining on sale 85 Beeves and 31 Veals. We quote:

Beeves, 1st quality, ₱ lb net	$00 25
Beeves, 2d quality, ₱ lb net	00 20
Beeves, 3d quality, ₱ lb net	00 15
Veals, 1st quality, ₱ head	25@30
Veals, 2d quality, ₱ head	20@25
Hogs, ₱ lb, gross	12½@13
Milch Cows, ₱ head	nominal.
Sheep, according to quality, ₱ head	00@00

MARINE NEWS.

Port of New Orleans, Feb. 17, 1863.

CLEARED YESTERDAY.

Ship Aquitia, Oliver for New York, J Workman & co