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NEW ORLEANS:
THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 25, 1861

Office, 73 Chartres street.

The New Orleans Bee.

NEW ORLEANS, THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 25, 1861. Vol. XVII—New Series. Vol. XXXIII.—Whole No. 11,967.

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The privilege of Annual Advertisers is limited to advertisements relating solely within the line of their business and to without in one square every other day.
No subscription taken for less than one year. No an notice to be inserted until the money is paid. All letters upon business, unless at the option of the proprietors.

SUBSCRIPTIONS BY THE WEEK

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

Sales at Auction To-Day.

By E. Roger & Co., at 10 o'clock, at Nos. 65 and 67 Old Levee street, boots, shoes, trunks, shirts and seasonable clothing.

By Francis Fernandez, at 10 o'clock, at his auction rooms, corner Chartres and St. Louis streets, No. 114, jewelry, black silk mantillas, &c.

By E. M. Sachs, at 10 o'clock, corner Toulouse and Marais streets, new furniture.

The Sheriff will sell at auction, this day, at noon, at the City Hotel, Common street, the shop Bright, of Galveston.

ESTATE OF THE LATE J. Y. DE ROJAS.—Mr. N Vignie will sell this day, at public auction, at the Merchants and Auctioneers' Exchange, Royal street—

A very large and fine tract of land situated at Grand Isle, Barataria, and fronting both on the Mexican Gulf and Cantonade Bay. Said tract is divided into fifty-four smaller tracts of one arpent each, to suit the convenience of those looking for delightful summer retreats. Plats of all descriptions are plenty.

Also, twenty-two likely field hands, accustomed to the labor of a sugar and cotton plantation.

Also, a good saddler, perfectly guaranteed, and a few young boys.

For particulars, see advertisement.

THE PUBLIC DEFENSE.

We perceive with great satisfaction that the City Council has appropriated the sum of $30,000 for the defense of New Orleans, and has requested the Mayor to demand of the Governor arms for six thousand men. Militia companies and home guards are organizing with a zeal and rapidity which render it certain that if New Orleans were menaced with attack, twenty thousand men would be ready to defend her. The various benevolent and other associations, the trade unions and societies, and the Turners have all offered their services to the Mayor When once the military organization of the city is completed, there will be no difficulty in dividing it into the militia and the volunteers, the latter being usually composed of young men accustomed to drill and discipline. We hold it not be well for the Mayor and the Common Council to appoint a military commission charged expressly with the labor of placing New Orleans in a complete state of defense, and of distributing among the different companies clear and precise instructions as to the duty assigned to them in case of invasion! We have hardly begun here to prepare properly for eventualities, and need a watchful eye and experienced head to provide all that may be required in a city which circumstances may soon convert into a camp, and its purpose in season, and can we say be sure that in the day of trial we shall not be found wanting.

The Confederate Government, doubtless, does all that it possibly can, and is animated by the most ardent zeal and the most unswerving patriotism, but its responsibilities and labors are such as to preclude the possibility of bestowing minute attention upon every point which may be exposed to danger. Under these circumstances it is the bounden duty of the State and city authorities to display a wise foresight and vigorous policy in facilitating the transport of troops and their provision and equipment. Louisiana is required to furnish 8000 men to the Confederate army. There is no trouble in finding them. Volunteers swarm in our streets, and almost every able bodied citizen proffers his services for the defense of the country. But we understand that, in consequence of some misconception of duty, the officers of the various companies are compelled to enrol and equip the privates composing them at their own expense, subject to be reimbursed by the State only in the event of the acceptance of such companies after complete equipment. It is evident that this is an injudicious rule and a vicious system, since, unless the officers possess considerable private means, and are willing to risk a large expenditure, it will be next to impossible to make up the State's contingent. We should imagine that the State should in the first instance provide barracks and quarters where recruits may be sheltered and drilled, and in the next place the officers themselves should be exempt from the necessity of advancing considerable amounts, the repayment of which is made dependent upon the acceptance of their companies. The State is bound in the end to meet the expense, and it is far better that the policy adopted should be liberal from the start.

Above all, a certain number of military men of skill, sagacity and experience should be appointed to supervise the various complicated operations by which bodies of troops are supplied with arms and munitions of war, the means of transportation, &c. If these things are done the enrolment of the soldiers, their proper organization, &c., will proceed in a regular and orderly manner, and we shall soon be in a condition not only to protect ourselves, but to furnish aid and succor to our brethren of other States, if absolutely needed. The militia of Louisiana are estimated at not less than fifty thousand. With such a force, ought there to be the least embarrassment in raising less than one sixth for active service? We think not. There is no lack of devotion, zeal, courage or numbers, and if money be wanting, it is the duty of the wealthy, who trust to the stalwart arms of the young, for defense of their property, to aid in providing it. These are times in which none should hesitate, and when the Government, acting through its legitimate authority, should raise whatever it requires to conduct hostilities upon an efficient basis, and to a successful issue.

OPERA HOUSE.—We again remind our readers that Gentiel, the excellent base of the French Opera troupe, takes his benefit to-night Mehul's sterling composition, "Joseph Sold by His Brethren, will be performed for the first time in many years, and will be followed by the fourth and fifth acts of Meyerbeer's "Huguenots." If justice is awarded to Mr. Gentiel, he will have an overflowing house.

The "Davis Guards, from Louisville, K., arrived here this morning. The following is a list of the officers:

Captain, B. M Anderson; First Lieutenant, Robt VanAustin; Second Lieutenant, J Berthe; Third Lieutenant, A. Duncan; First Sergeant, W E Jones; Second Sergeant, J H McAllister; Third Sergeant, G Appleby; Fourth Sergeant, J W Winters; First Corporal, ——; Second Corporal, J J White; Third Corporal, W Prother; Fourth Corporal, J. Redford; and 50 men.

SOUTHERN CADETS.—This elegant company, commanded by Capt. Cornish, which has been under the efficient drill of Col. Blanchard, is now ready for active service. See notice.

Captain Hare, of the ship Monsoon, reports that on the 19th inst., off Tortugas, steering northwest, saw a United States steamship with passengers or troops on board.

The steamer Mary E. Keene, which arrived here yesterday evening, brought down from the arsenal at Baton Rouge two 24-pounders and 200 balls.

The steamship Cahawba, Capt. Smith, sails at 8 o'clock this morning for New York, via Havana, with the following passengers:

For New York—F Singer and Lady, Nelson and lady, Capt Lansland, lady and child, J Claudon, J Pidgeon, A Revoul, Jackson, Drake, Olivier, B Goecke, E Goecke, A H Williams, Rev Mr Fleming, Mrs. L Matels, T E Hazard and child, G A Vonond, J B Lamarque and lady, Miss Mary Lamarque, Mr Beclamin, child and servant, Mrs Larkin and child, R Jarlet, lady and daughter, B B Salomon, Mr Thomas, J E Rice, Mr Lindsay, Miss Hettie Sullivan, Miss Lorsky, Mrs Lindsay, L Adams, lady, child and servant, Mr Livingston and servant, Miss Hawkins, Miss Lockett Mrs A Hamilton, Mr Schwartz, lady and child, G W Nolan, J F Wade, J B Hayes and servant, W Quented and lady, Miss Elliott, H Broad well, lady, servant and four children, Mrs Seymour and child, Mrs Loring, Capt F Dunes, and 10 Mrs Mrs Robinson and servant.

For Havana—Mrs J B Beckwith, Madame De Planche two children and servant, Miss A De Planche, J B Dumas, M Guerra, J Sellon, T Carlton, J F Reding, Pilkinson, F Leder, D Valles, Mrs McCollum, E S Bridge and servant, J W Peck, D J S Mall, G R Gosse, H Shaw, S Lyons.

CROPS.—The cane and corn crop looks exceedingly well in this section of country, and by their living green and thrifty appearance promise an abundant yield and harvest. The weather continues mild and pleasant.—*Lafourche Union.*

"Abraham, sonny, now stand up straight and read distinct and loud a lesson from this book, called the 'Declaration of Independence.'" Abram read:

"That governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such forms as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness

There, Abraham, now put up that naughty sword, and stay at home and be a good boy.

A FRENCH CONFESSION.—The New York *Times* must receive credit, at least, for a frank and full confession of the objects with which its party undertakes war on us. It says (the italics are its own):

"*War, moreover, liberates the slave.* The North has been most reluctantly forced into this contest, in which, in the already declared value of its property, has cost it a greater sum than the value of every negro in Virginia. We are not going to end it till we have gained a decisive advantage. Such is our national temper. This is the task of the men of business, the manufacturer and the merchant, who in the outset were so very unanimous against any step that threatened a hostile issue, and sympathized to a great extent with the South. All now call for *a final settlement.*

CONVENIENCE FIRE.—A number of vessels which arrived at the port of New York, on Tuesday, from accidental causes, not having proper clearances, were fired one hundred guns each. Quite a pile of protests from vessels thus fired have been accumulated at the Custom-house. These fires may be considered justifiable, but the Secretary of the Treasury has not signified any intention of giving them back at present. The effect of this policy will, of course, be to break up coastwise commerce with the Confederate States.—*Journal of Commerce.*

The occupation of Cairo by a body of Federal troops is evidently designed to take possession of and retain the mouth of the Ohio, and thus to cut off navigation and commerce between the Western States and New Orleans. We agree entirely with our cotemporary of the *Delta* in the high estimate it places on the strategical importance of Cairo. That journal says: "Geography has made Cairo a strategical position of the very utmost consequence. It is the key to the upper, as New Orleans and the Lake and Balize are the key to the lower Mississippi. It can blockade St. Louis on the one hand, and Louisville on the other, while, if in possession of a considerable force, possessing heavy ordnance, and commanding the railroad leading south of that point, it would menace the city of Memphis, and open the way for an invading army to make that an advanced post of occupation."

With respect to Memphis, we believe that the suggestions of Gen. Pillow, if carried out, will suffice for the protection of that town. The construction of batteries of 24 and 32 pounders at Randolph and other points, will provide the requisite defenses But Cairo should not be suffered to remain under the control of a hostile force, because, even if Memphis is safe, every vessel passing down from Louisville, Cincinnati or St. Louis, can be stopped, sent back, or plundered at the will of the enemy. Doubtless the Confederate Government has been furnished with the necessary information on the subject, and will, we trust, act with promptitude and vigor in the premises. Meanwhile, Kentucky and Missouri, which are more immediately interested in the interruption of their trade, should look to this audacious effort to control the mouth of the Ohio.

The moment it was known in Petersburg that Virginia had seceded, the citizens of the Cockade City commenced a series of vigorous and energetic operations. Besides immediately forming sundry military companies, they performed the following exploits, as related by the *Express* of that place:

VESSELS SEIZED AT CITY POINT.—A brave little band of fifteen men from this city, headed by Col. Brockett, and a company of twenty men from Richmond, commanded by Capt. Albert Aiken, of Henrico county, conceived the exploit of proceeding to City Point, and capturing the vessels stationed there that night, had from the North, and accordingly faithfully executed and carried out their concerted plan of action yesterday. The first seizure made was that of the tow ship Argo, Capt. Owen, from Bath, now fifteen days at the Point, waiting for a cargo of tobacco. She is a first-class ship of 1,078 tons, and is capable, with a little alteration and strengthening, of doing valuable service. Col. Brockett drew up his command in line, and marched aboard the vessel. No resistance being offered to the seizure, the crew, he was allowed to take entire command. She was securely fastened to her moorings, and Major Machir, with a sufficient force, was left in command. Eighteen negroes, constituting the large portion of the crew, were marched off to the cars, and brought up to the city and lodged in jail. The Mayor will dispose of them this morning. They appeared very much frightened, and evidently feared summary punishment here, until Col. Brockett assured them that they should not be harmed.

Immediately after the seizure of the Argo, the company proceeded to a revenue cutter, now in the service of the United States Government, which was stationed not far from the place, and of doing much service, and when called into action will prove undoubtedly that she was a prize worth taking.

But the jubilee of Roman of them all was yet to be taken. About three o'clock, the splendid steamship Jamestown, Capt. Skinner, now in sight, with her flags floating gaily in the breeze As preparations were made for her reception, a new bands appeared upon her deck, and in as quick a time as it takes us to relate it, the strength of claims bound her by most effectual ties and now, beyond all hazard, she was safely fixed.

Col. Brockett then informed Capt. Skinner that he would be relieved of his command, as the Jamestown now belonged to the State of Virginia. Capt. S demurred, and said he would put back to New York, but was induced to forego his intention, as he was warned that he should not be allowed to leave the wharf. It was finally arranged, however, that the Jamestown should be allowed to proceed to Richmond in charge of Col Brockett and twenty men had added him. She will be detained there until a proper disposal is made of her. Thus ended a work which will tell for good or evil, and which caused the most intense excitement in our midst it has been our fortune ever to witness.

War or Peace.

The Boston *Courier* says: We shall soon have to make up our minds, upon full consideration of the rights we have at stake, and of whatever consequences are pending, as to whether we will fight, or have any reason to fight, or are to gain any thing for the country by fighting the Cotton States of the South. The Republican papers are using every means at their command to put those men, who would be united with us if they could be, into a state of hostility towards us, which would preclude every hope of peace and happiness for the country The spirit evinced by them is more that of bloodthirsty savages than of men living in the light of a Christian dispensation and civilization. And too many of the clergy in concert with them manifest a spirit no whit better, and just as in the night of darkness and error of old, a monstrance and appeal made to them in time past, to refrain from their insane career. We cannot yet believe that the North and the Southern people are now so wrought up as to be willing to take issue of battle—to win nothing—to settle nothing—and after the loss of perhaps hundreds of thousands of lives—either to adjust their differences by pacific means as our fathers usual now, or, perhaps, only to pause for breath and then renewing strife and condemn themselves and their posterity to interminable conflict.

We earnestly pray that the war may be averted. If the border States, upon the action of which the whole question hinges, determine to remain in the Union, we believe it doubtful they will require a pacific policy to be pursued If they join the already seceded States, then, as the point to be determined will be, whether upon a national issue the North will fight with the South—the whole question will be presented in a new aspect, and we cannot but believe the sober second thought of the country will constrate the necessity of a pacific policy. We leave the question at present, for the development of future events.

North Carolina Forts.

The Newbern (N. C) *Progress* of the 17th inst says:

The committee, of which we were a member, having performed the commission they were sent to do, returned by a special train last night. There are, now about 150 to 200 men under arms at Fort Macon, and every thing is being put in order. Should a Government vessel attempt to enter the harbor it will receive a warm reception certain.

The ladies of Newbern were busily engaged yesterday making bedding and other things necessary for the comfort of the military companies who went down to Fort Macon last night.

Yesterday, when our military companies were beating up for recruits, about sixty free negroes volunteered and went down to Fort Macon to be battle for their country, while another gave twenty dollars to help support the war. And still another, who is a poor man, having just arrived at our wharf with a load of wood for sale, delivered it up to the town auctioneer, with a request to sell it and appropriate it in the same way.

The Wilmington *Journal* of Wednesday says:

On Monday and yesterday (Tuesday) our whole community was deeply excited on the subject of the taking of the outer harbor, and it was finally decided to occupy them in pursuance of orders. The flag of North Carolina now floats over Fort Johnson and Caswell. It was desirable that the seizure of the latter place should be as quietly taken as possible, and therefore no reference was made to the matter in yesterday's or Monday's issue of the town papers, nor did any dispatches go off on the subject none, at least, to the North.

As, however, the matter has got into the Charleston papers, and further, as we now learn, that Col. Gardner, former commander at Charleston, but who has been staying here during the winter on furlough, posted from here to Washington City on yesterday's afternoon train, having indicated a determination to report to the Lincoln Administration all that had been done, and no doubt all that it is proposed to do, so far as he could ascertain, we feel that there is no longer any reason for further reticence on our part It was only after Col. G left that the fact of his indicated intention became known.

WHAT IS A BLOCKADE.—The following is a tolerably clear definition of a blockade:

Blockade is the interception by one belligerent of communication with a place occupied by another. National sovereignty confers the right of declaring war, and the right which nations at war have of destroying or capturing each other's subjects or property implies mutual nations the obligation not to interfere with the exercise of this right within the rules and limits prescribed by the law of nations.

In order to render the communication with a place unlawful to a neutral, a blockading or besieging force must be actually present, investing it, and sufficiently powerful to render a communication with it dangerous to a neutral, and expose him to seizure by the blockading or besieging force. A declaration of siege or blockade is an act of sovereignty, but does not require, in all cases, a direct exercise by the sovereign authority of the besieging belligerent; for its officers may be invested, either expressly or by implication, with authority to institute such siege or blockade. It must, however, in order to be lawful and obligatory on neutrals, be declared, or sanctioned, either expressly or by implication, by the sovereign power. It must also be declared or made public, so that neutrals may have notice of it If a blockade is instituted by a sufficient authority, and maintained by a sufficient force, neutral is so far affected by it, that it attempts to trade with the place invested, either by carrying goods to it or bringing them away, the property so attempted to be carried to or from the place is liable to be seized by the investing party, and, in case of being seized, is forfeited.

RECOGNITION OF VIRGINIA'S INDEPENDENCE. The first official act of the representative of a foreign government indicating a recognition of the independence of the Old Dominion was performed yesterday, by Hon Mr. Morey, the British Majesty's Consul at Norfolk. In presenting his official credentials, papers for a British brig from Halifax, N S, he addressed the principal words "United States of America," and wrote "Common wealth of Virginia." When pompilmended for this significant omission of his official pen, he replied that he believed he had only done his *duty*. The Consuls of the British Government are generally clearsighted gentlemen, and are not likely to do any thing at variance with the wishes of their Government.

BY TELEGRAPH.

(TRANSMITTED TO THE NEW ORLEANS BEE.)

Affairs at the National Capital—Works for the Defense of the City—Strong Secession Feeling in Alexandria—Martial Law in Baltimore.

Washington, Sunday Night, April 21.—Defensive works are being thrown up for the protection of the Capitol and other buildings.

Barracks have been constructed surrounding the Treasury Department.

The secession feeling is strong in Alexandria. Business is entirely suspended. Provisions are scarce. Flour has advanced.

Colonel May and other Marylanders have resigned their respective commissions.

Mail Communication South of Philadelphia.

Philadelphia, April 24.—Mail communication with the South has been resumed, in wagons, between Baltimore and Havre de Grace.

Martial law has been proclaimed in Baltimore. All places of amusement and the taverns are closed.

Destruction of the Norfolk Navy Yard—All Vessels Scuttled except the Cumberland.

New York, April 23.—The steamship Yankee, from Norfolk, brings details of the destruction of the navy yard, and all the vessels of war except the Cumberland, which is now at Fortress Monroe.

It is reported that the Government has ordered Commodore Breese to charge twenty steamers of light draught, for three months, and to fit them out for sea. They are to be armed with large bore pivot guns.

The Secession Feeling in Missouri—Meeting in Lexington, Mo.

Lexington, Mo., April 23.—A meeting of the friends of the Union was held to-day, but was slimly attended.

An enthusiastic secession meeting was held on Saturday, at which resolutions were passed thanking Governor Jackson for his reply to Lincoln.

Six military companies are formed.

The Union flag was hoisted to-day, but torn down.

Difficulty in Omaha City—Four Persons Killed—Several Wounded.

Omaha, April 23—A party of Nebraskans boarded the steamer Omaha to-day, declaring that the boat should not remove the troops from Fort Kendall.

A difficulty ensued, in which four persons were killed, and several received injuries.

The boat was compelled to return without accomplishing her object.

Defensive Preparations in Missouri.

Independence, April 23—It is reported that upper Missouri is soon to have 20,000 men to defend it against any invasion which may be attempted.

Senator Douglas in Indianapolis.

Indianapolis, April 23.—Senator Douglas delivered an address here to-day, in which he counselled the audience not to infringe on the rights of the South, but to fight for their constitutional rights.

Union Sentiment in Western Virginia.

Wheeling, Va., April 23.—The population here is calm, and awaiting the denouement of events.

The Union sentiment is buoyant throughout Western Virginia.

Alabama Troops for Virginia.

Montgomery, April 24.—Two regiments of Alabama troops will leave here the coming week for Virginia.

Among them will be three companies from Mobile.

Excitement in Louisville Pork Market.

Louisville, April 24.—There was great excitement to-day in the Pork market.

Leading purchasers of this city says he could not get provisions shipped from Cincinnati, nor telegrams explaining the reasons therefor.

Supply of Provisions Cut Off.

Havre de Grace, April 24.—No provisions are allowed to be transferred from Baltimore.

Virginians on Arlington Heights.

Harrisburg, April 24.—It is reported that no Virginians are encamped on Arlington Heights.

Movements of United States War Vessels.

Boston, April 24.—The United States frigates of war Mississippi and Colorado will be ready to proceed to sea in a very few days.

Later from Panama—Arrival of the Steamer Champion.

New York, April 24.—The United States mail steamship Champion arrived here from Aspinwall, bringing $880,000 in treasure.

The California news by this arrival has been anticipated by the Pony Express.

Seizures by the New York Authorities.

New York, April 24.—A pair of rifles was seized upon yesterday, by order of the city authorities, in the premises of Mr. Daniel Fisk.

The surveying steamer Marine was put out of commission because her captain attempted to carry her South.

Martial Law in Washington—Disappearance of Lieut. Maury.

Philadelphia, April 24.—It is rumored that martial law will soon be proclaimed at Washington.

Lieut. Maury suddenly disappeared from Washington on Friday last. Captain Scott replaces him.

The Philadelphia Banks have taken the $500,000 war loan at par. $1,000,000 was offered.

Speech of Daniel S. Dickinson in New York—Chartered Vessels Leaving, &c.

New York, April 24.—The Hon. Daniel S Dickinson, in addressing a meeting on Monday night said he hoped, if war came, it would wipe the South from the face of the earth.

The bark Grapeshot is in the basin under suspicion.

Several steamers have sailed with troops from various points.

The Seventh Regiment has arrived at Washington.

Progress of the Southern Troops—Erection of Batteries near Mount Vernon.

New York, April 24—It is stated that the Secessionists have erected batteries two miles and twenty miles below Mount Vernon, on the Potomac.

General Scott has ordered the volunteers from Pennsylvania all along the railway from Wilmington, Del., to Washington, to protect the rails and the telegraph lines.

The Telegraphic Union.

Chicago, April 24—The President of the Typographical Union reiterates the call for a meeting in New York on the 6th of May.

Orders to Destroy the Southern Batteries.

New York, April 24—A letter from Washington states that Gen. Scott has ordered Fort Washington to destroy the Secession batteries planted below Mount Vernon at all hazards.

Movements of Troops in Virginia—Major Ben McCullough in Alexandria—Seizure of Goods Southward Bound.

New York, April 24—The steamer Yankee, which arrived here yesterday, reports having towed the Fort Morris into the Lower Cumberland.

The Pawnee had arrived there, destined for Norfolk.

Major Ben McCullough, at the head of 2,000 Virginians, was at Alexandria on Monday.

It is reported the President told the Baltimore Delegation if the troops again obstructed the roads, he would burn their city.

Four thousand barrels of flour bound to Richmond were seized at Georgetown on Sunday.

Resignation of U. S. Officers.

New York, April 24—A Washington letter says that Colonel Magruder, Lieutenants Buttler, Jenkins, Crosby, Hood, Mudford, Latrobe and Captain Jordan have all resigned their respective commissions.

It is reported that resigning officers will now be kept prisoners or paroled.

Southern Cadets Leaving West Point, Another Prize to the Southern Confederacy.

New York, April 24—Twenty-three Southern cadets left the West Point Academy, having refused to renew the oath of allegiance.

The ship Lalla Rookh, lying in Lynnhaven Roads, has probably been seized as a prize for the Southern Confederacy.

Arrest for Treason.

Robert Sabo and Daniel Fisk were arrested to-day for treason.

Northern Regiments at Annapolis—Seizure of Vessels by the Government.

New York, April 24.—Annapolis advices up to 4 P. M. yesterday are received, which say the Seventh New York and the Eighth Massachusetts regiments are there.

A large Secession force is stationed between Annapolis and Washington.

Communication is perfect to Annapolis.

The Government has seized all vessels between there and Havre de Grace.

Further from Annapolis—Gen. Butler to March on Washington—Scarcity of Provisions at the Capital—Whereabouts of Gen. Beauregard.

Annapolis, April 24—Gen. Butler has said that as soon as the New York troops arrived he would march to Washington.

The frigate Constitution is manned by Massachusetts troops, and can level Annapolis with her guns.

Provisions are scarce at Washington.

Gen. Beauregard will be at Richmond on Tuesday next.

Gen. Scott's pickets are extending towards Annapolis junction.

Families in Washington continue to leave as fast as possible by every convenient route.

Seizure of Fort Smith, Ark.

Van Buren, Ark., April 24.—The United States troops have evacuated Fort Smith, leaving it in possession of the Arkansas troops.

The Federal Troops at Cairo—Navigation Not Obstructed.

St. Louis, April 24—The reports that troops are stationed at Cairo to obstruct navigation are denied on the authority of the Governor of Illinois.

The troops there are merely precautionary.

Cincinnati Markets.

Cincinnati, April 24.—Whisky is quoted at 12 to 12½c in the hands of jobbers. The Sugar market closed steady, with sales of 200 hhds. at 6 to 6¾c the pound. Molasses is worth 30 to 33c the gallon.

River Intelligence.

Louisville, April 24—The Ohio river at this point was still falling this evening, with 12 feet water in the pools on the falls.

TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY YARDS IN A DRESS.—The last notch of extravagance has been sagged by a Russian lady, for whom a Parisian contairiere has just built a dress containing two hundred and fifty yards of silk and lace! Price, ten thousand francs.

RHEUMATISM AND DIARRHŒA.—We invite particular attention to the certificates in our advertising columns attesting the efficacy of the remedies for rheumatism and diarrhœa to be obtained at No. 117 St. Ann street.

Our Commissioners and the Cabinet.

Although the official correspondence between the Commissioners of the Confederate States and the Lincoln Cabinet has been published, there are many circumstances showing the duplicity of the latter, which can only be known from the parties themselves. Mr. Forsyth, one of the Commissioners, made a speech in Mobile on Saturday, in which he revealed some interesting facts. We copy from the *Advertiser* the annexed summary of his remarks:

The proceedings of the Commissioners on arriving at Washington were regulated by the consideration that their object was peace, and that that was not to be secured by assuming a tone which the Lincoln Cabinet would regard as arrogant. A demand for an official interview with the President or Mr Seward would, they knew, be met by a refusal, and they therefore sought an unofficial one. With this object they endeavored to approach Mr. Seward through the medium of gentlemen of high standing, having access to him; but the first official action of the Commission was a note addressed to Mr. Seward, and carried to the Department of State, on the 12th of March, by Col. John T. Pickett, of Kentucky, the Secretary of the Commission. In this note was set forth the character and purpose of their mission. It was handed to the Assistant Secretary of State by Col. Pickett, who said he would call the next day for an answer.

He called the next day, and was received with an apology for the want of an answer on the ground of preoccupation, but was promised that the note of the Commissioners should receive the earliest possible attention, and the answer should be sent. the Assistant Secretary at the same time taking the address of the Commissioners. The next day brought no answer, but a messenger—Hon John A. Campbell, who represented that if they pressed for an answer it might be unfavorable, that Mr. Seward's policy was pacific, but he had a severe pressure to contend with, &c. They were, however, promised an answer in a reasonable time, for which time they agreed to wait, after stipulating that in the meantime Forts Sumter and Pickens should neither be reinforced nor victualed.

These stipulations were renewed from time to time, the Commissioners feeling that all this time (whether the United States Government were acting in good faith or not) our Government would be completing military preparations. At one time during this period, Mr. Seward's own contrivance, an *accidental* interview between himself and Gov. Rousset had been arranged, to take place at the tea-table of Sebron Rousset, the Russian Ambassador, who as well as the French Ambassador, is heartily our friend, while the Commissioners have reason to believe that the British Minister is favorably disposed. This interview, however, did not take place, Mr. Seward having backed out on the afternoon of the day which had been fixed upon.

About the 6th of April, further delay being requested, the same stipulations were offered to be renewed as regarded Fort Sumter, but not as regarded Fort Pickens. The Commissioners then demanded an answer to their note, and on the 8th received a "memorandum," dated on the 15th March, with a note attached, the purport of which was to inform them that it was the duty in communicating it had been at the Commissioners request. To this they sent a reply, embodying the substance of the facts of the case, and thus terminated their mission.

The change in the plans of the Administration Mr. Forsyth attributed to the arrival of Lesley and Lord Lyons, the latter of whom represented to Lincoln that any but the most vigorous policy would cause the ruin of the Republican party What may be Lincoln's policy now is impossible to tell, but certainly it is such that his movements cannot be anticipated. As an illustration of his stolid ignorance, he openly said after the force was dispatched for the relief of Fort Sumter, that they would be no collision, and he believed what he said.

Mr. Forsyth gives Mr Seward alone, of all the men about Lincoln, the credit of having some sense; but even him he classes as a crafty politician, not a wise statesman.

Northern Conservatives Caving In.

Under this head the Richmond *Whig* of the 20th has the annexed pertinent and sensible remarks:

An address from Philadelphia to Mr Abraham Lincoln, signed by *Horace Binney, Jas. R. Ingersoll, Wm. M. Meredith*, and men of that stamp, declares their "unalterable determination to sustain the Government, and to put down "treason and rebellion against our country and union." We published yesterday a speech of Mr. Ex-President Fillmore, which hearkens to the same cry. In Boston, Everett and Winthrop have not yet committed treason. The Boston *Courier* suggests as the most *merciful* mode of proceeding with the rebel States to overrun and crush them at once. The conservative papers in New York have been equally patriotic, and forced to laud the despotic Government at Washington.

We may infer from these demonstrations what will be the probable course of most of the so called conservatives of the North. They have been assuring us for months that they constituted a large, and, in fact, the Republicanism was in a hopeless minority with the country, and that all that was necessary to exterminate it forever was an appeal to the people at the polls. These present adhesions are most instructive commentary on these assurances. The first decisive movement of the Black Republican President to carry out his long cherished ends, is subverting the Constitution and laws, and marshaling his armies against half the States, brings these high toned gentlemen, like whipped curs, crouching at his feet. To vary Mr Fillmore's Greek, lang language, it would be a crime and a contempt we feel for such a dastardly surrender of principle and manhood If they had never set up for any thing better than the carpet bag gentry, by whom they are surrounded, their conduct would have passed without observation, and without censure. But they once so to judge them by the higher standard themselves have chosen.

The acknowledged intelligence of the gentlemen whose names are given above precludes the supposition that they have acted in the effect of Lincoln's usurping the war making power. They know his proclamation is an usurpation—that that usurpation subverts the republic. They know the object and aim of the Black Republican party are to deprive the Southern States of self government, and subject them to the absolute dominion of the North They know that this infamous policy is inherent to every sentiment of freedom; that it annihilates the great and inestimable principles, established by the Revolution, that government is only by the consent, and for the benefit of the governed They know that, if successful, it converts the States of the South into vassal provinces, and that the Northern Government into a hideous military despotism. And with the knowledge of the design and effect of the Lincoln policy, they deliberately proclaim themselves its champions and pledge their lives and fortunes to its support.

It may be alleged by way of apology, that they are constrained by fear for their personal safety. But this cannot be. Lincoln's direct assurances so often given, that the conservatives constitute the majority in the North. Both the supposition of fear and the assurances of a majority may be tested. We will test them when they are. We are rather disposed to refer the shameful defection to a general cause—the demoralizing tendency of Northern society. Moral courage is a rare and precious quality, and consequently not valued. We believe the North has produced no really great man since the days of the Revolution. We do not mean intellectually, but morally *and* intellectually. Their society tends to sharpen the intellect, and they have exhibited some very remarkable specimens of intellectual power. But no truly great character—grand in all its phases—such as Washington or Marshall, it is utterly impossible for its social *status* to produce. All attempts of that sort result in miserable failures and abortions. But for money getting and money-holding, and for dexterous devices for turning sharp corners and for passing for something better than they really are, they can beat the world.

In this view of the matter, Messrs Fillmore, Ingersoll & Co. are not free agents. They are the creatures of circumstances, which mould their moral being in spite of themselves. It would be something monstrous, or look like a war upon nature, if they were to exhibit moral courage and oppose the prevailing sentiment of the masses around them. They therefore naturally and without an effort fall into the current; and as that current at present leads to despotism, they gladly float upon its surface.

But in taking the plunge—in casting their fortunes with despotism—we suppose they have made up their minds to a sacrifice of whatever respect may have heretofore been entertained for them in this quarter of the world. They have long, deservedly, held a respectable, fair-weather friends; and, for one and all of us, we bid them an eternal adieu!

THE MILITARY FORCE IN WASHINGTON.—The Washington correspondent of the Petersburg *Express* says:

Certain it is, that there are over 10,000 secretly well equipped gentlemen in the city, and the surrounding cities and country, ready, at a moment's call, to be sworn in and become a certain military man whose name I had rather omission This is no surmise, but certain knowledge. When to expect the call to be made, or what will be deemed sufficient cause for calling it, I do not know. But should this secret force be called out, there is danger of there not being much bloodshed, for the city force will make a show of resistance, sufficient to meet required previous to the enlistment of volunteers has occasioned much difficulty. Not only have two of the finest companies in the District been completely broken up, but there is scarcely a company whose number has not been greatly reduced by this requirement. Besides this fact, there is a good dissatisfaction manifested in the ranks of the Federal troops. Scarcely a day passes without an instance of desertion Over 200 men, from the 900 that have been stationed in the city since the inauguration of the revolution, have deserted. A day or two ago 29 marines left at once for the South, and the officers privately assure the citizens of their real intentions and determination as to carrying out Lincoln's policy.

A SECESSION FLAG IN BOSTON.—The bark Manhattan, Captain Davis, of and from Savannah, arrived at Boston on Tuesday morning, and hauled in at Clapp's wharf, No. 573 Commercial street. As soon as Capt. Davis heard of the condition of affairs at the South he hoisted a beautiful silk flag, bearing pine stars and a rattlesnake, at his mainmast head. It soon attracted attention from a number of people in the vicinity, and presently there was quite a gathering. The flag was a fine novel and the excitement continued to increase, and several men on the wharf demanded who hoisted it. The captain, who was then walking up and down the deck, replied "I did, and mean it shall stay there." The cries and movements of the crowd became every moment more menacing, and the captain, fearing violence, retreated to the lower deck. Finally, the crew hauled the flag down to save the ship from being damaged, and passed it to the crowd on the wharf. It was immediately seized and torn into a thousand pieces.—*Boston Courier.*

STAUF FROM WATERMELONS.—*Eighteen Barrels to the Acre.*—A man in Ross county, Ohio, states that he had made last season, from watermelons grown on one acre of ground, eighteen barrels of syrup, which sold for eighty cents a gallon, giving $960 to the acre of land and the labor. The process is as follows: Take only the soft part of the melon, rub it through a wire sieve into a kettle, then strain out the juice into a copper kettle, just as you would cider or maple sugar water, and be careful not to scorch it in boiling.

Four boxes of earth, alike in quality and exposure to light and heat, were planted at the same time with corn from a single ear and placed recently in a physician's office. In one box dry corn was planted; in another the seed was soaked in clean warm water; in the third the seed was soaked in a solution of lime water; in the fourth the seed was soaked in the chloride of lime and copperas water; equal parts. One week afterwards the box planted with dry corn had not germinated, the second box had just commenced to germinate, the third box was just showing its green blades, and in the fourth box the blades were nearly three inches high. Copperas will keep birds and worms from eating the seed, and one pound will soak enough for twenty acres.—*Exchange paper.*

EXTRAVAGANCE.—Investing in champagne at two dollars a bottle—an acre of good Government land costs one dollar and twenty-five cents. Investing in tobacco and cigars, daily, one year, eighty dollars—seven barrels of good flour will cost forty dollars Investing in "drinks" one year, one hundred dollars—one hundred dollars will pay for a lot daily and fifteen monthly periodicals. Investing in theatrical amusements, one year, two hundred dollars—two hundred dollars will purchase an excellent library. Investing in a lot worth five hundred dollars—four hundred acres of good land costs five hundred dollars. Investing in a yacht, including betings and drinkings for the season, five thousand dollars—five thousand dollars will buy a good country farm. Pastes, hard times, loss of time, red faces, bad temper, headaches, and a long bill of doctors' bills, mortgages, death, and a terrible future may be avoided by looking at the above, square in the face. A majority of "financiers," in making calculations for the future, watch the importations, exports of specie, the ups and downs of stock, and the movements of the Wall street bulls and bears. All that is very well—but let them, at the same time, estimate the loss of gold in the maelstrom of extravagance.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Public Meeting Postponed.—The public meeting which was announced to be held in Lafayette Square last night, and to be addressed by Lieut. Hogan, of the Davis Guards, of Louisville, whose arrival is noticed in another paragraph, was postponed until this evening.

By the way, the Guards came down unprovided with uniform. As they relate to have their brothers of Kentucky aid them to procure what they