The American Sentinel.

WESTMINSTER:

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 1862.

Flag of the free heart's hope and home!
By angel hands to Valor given!
Thy stars have lit the welkin dome,
And all thy hues were born in Heaven.
Forever float that standard sheet! [us,
Where breathe the foe but falls before
With freedom's soil beneath our feet,
And Freedom's banner streaming o'er us?

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WOOD!

Those of our Patrons who wish to pay their Subscription or Advertising Bills in WOOD, will confer a special favor by sending us a few loads immediately, as a glance at our small stock on hand is quite sufficient to induce an attack chills, without the means of raising a fever.

Improvements in Business.

The Newspapers in different parts of the country speak cheerfully of the prospects of business. Manufacturing in the New England States is starting up vigorously. At Lowell, more is promised in the way of building and enlarging mills than for several years. In Rhode Island the same activity is noticeable.—At Pawtucket, according to the Providence Press, nearly, all the manufacturing establishments are running on full time—one, at least, has been obliged to run extra hours. All the lake ports are anticipating a revival immediately on the opening of navigation. Large numbers of vessels are fitting up for service at Toledo, Chicago, &c., and some of them will sail in a few days. A few small craft have already vetured out from Chicago. The opening of the Connecticut and Hudson rivers, which can be delayed only a few days, will release large quantities of freight accumulated at various points. In the West, at Cincinnati and St. Louis, a perceptible though not very decided improvement is noticed within the last few days.

The Union Victories.

For some time past victory has followed victory with admirable regularity. The people have come to discuss a new success every morning over their coffee and toast, and to descant on the incidents of a splunded victory in the chit-chat of the teatable. The actions of Pea Ridge, Newbern, and Winchester, the details of which have transpired during the past few days, possess an unusual degree of importance. Following at the heels of the affairs of Roanoke Island, Fort Henry and Fort Donelson, they will be likely to produce a most salutary effect not only on the minds of the rebels, but in Europe. They are victories which display the power of the North; and above all, they exhibit fighting qualities in our soldiers which will satisfy European powers that the magnitude of our armies is not greater than the individual intrepidity of the soldiers composing them. Our troops, though comparatively unaccustomed to war, and of brief experience, and imperfect training, have manifested a courage never surpassed by the Life Guards of Wellington, or the veterans led by the first Napoleon. At the capture of Fort Donelson, there were some Western troops not more than a month under arms, who performed bayonet charges which would reflect lustre on any veterans who ever scaled a fortress or headed a forlorn hope. At Newbern, the Union troops encountered a line of very strong earthworks, in front of which the rebels had felled a large number of trees, forming an almost impenetrable abattis. Yet the place was taken against superior numbers in two hours and a half. The battle of Pea Ridge exhibited still greater bravery on the part of the United States troops.

The test to which the troops led by Gen. Sigel were put was one which only personal courage of the highest order could successfully encounter. Hemmed in by cavalry, and surrounded on all sides, they were compelled to carve their way out of the desperate situation at the point of the bayonet. Three days of hard fighting against superior numbers resulted in one of the most splendid victories that has yet crowned the arms of the Union.—*Lanc. Examiner.*

Rebel Prisoners.

On Wednesday last we paid a visit to the Baltimore city jail, now under the superintendance of our friend Thomas C. James, Esq., where we found about two hundred and thirty-six Rebel prisoners confined, being a part of those taken on Sunday last, at the battle of Winchester; and whilst we may be prejudiced to a certain extent, we hope we may be pardoned by our secession friends for saying that a more miserable, ragged, delapidated, puny, filthy, God-forsaken set of men and boys have never been presented to our sight. They are mere *pigmies*, so far as size is concerned, being boys and young men from 15 to 25 years of age, with half a dozen exceptions, and not one appeared to be over thirty-five years old. We are not disposed to speak harshly of *fallen humanity*, but will take this occasion to say to our secesh friends in Baltimore county—Visit your Rebel friends, and if you are not at once convinced of the fallacy of rebellion, when you see the material that composes the Rebel army, taking into consideration their dress and general appearance and bearing, we can then only say that you are not only blind, but cowardly blind; and if you expect your cause to prosper, you must yourselves take hold. Your sympathy shown here is of no avail; you must do something substantial, and you can do no better than by contributing something in the way of clean shirts or a wagon load of soap.—*Balt. County American.*

A Rebel Captain Bagged.

While the Federal forces were making a reconnoisance up the Tennessee lately, a rebel Captain was taken by a Yankee ruse that must have struck him as exceedingly unchivalric. He was out on picket duty. One of our scouts came suddenly on him at a point where two of his pickets were posted. Fortunately the scout was quick witted, or the capture might have been on the other side. "Who are you?" he boldly inquired of the first rebel whom he reached. "I am a picket." "Well, so am I, too, but a little off my post, looking around for the Yankees." "Where is your post?" asked the Captain; "you've no business to be away from it." "Come this way and I'll show you," responded the scout. The moment he got out of sight of the two privates he quietly informed the officer that he was a picket on the other side, and would have to take him along!—And he actually marched the Captain in, sword, pistols, shoulder-straps and all.

The Truth Fitly Spoken.

The following article which we find in the editorial columns of the Sunbury Gazette, (Dem.,) contains so much truth, so much good sense, and so justly rebukes a certain class of rebel sympathizers and dishonest politicians, we transfer it to our columns. Coming as it does, too, from the pen of a life long Democrat, it should have double weight and influence with all thinking and honest readers. But to the article:—

"Had it not been for the frauds committed in the army contracts, by speculators who rushed to the fleecing of the government from all quarters and from all parties, our Breckinridge contemporaries would have very little to put in their columns. They will publish no articles supporting the government; they will insert nothing that may encourage the President in the performance of his duty; they can find no room for anything that looks like a denunciation of the rebellion; they have too great a regard for Floyd to pitch into him; too much respect for Davis, an old party leader, to give him his deserts; and too tender a feeling for Breckinridge, their late standard bearer, to publish his proper pedigree; the Union victories appear to be distasteful, so they say as little about them as possible; but the army frauds, the army frauds!—what would they do without them?

It seems to be the special business of these newspapers now to prove that the present Administration is as rascally as was the last, and by proving that they think they can establish their claim to reinstatement in power. But they appear not to comprehend the fact that the reputation of an Administration is not materially damaged by the misconduct of those under it. It is the encouragement or concealment of such misconduct, as was the case in the Buchanan Administration, that produces the damaging effect. Any principal may be unfortunate enough to employ a dishonest agent; but the principal can be considered as bad as the agent only when he conceals or approves of his dishonesty.

In the present war a most extraordinary opportunity was presented for the commission of frauds. A great army and navy had to be created, equipped, and supplied, in a hurry, to meet an emergency. The necessity of the government compelled it to employ untried men, of whose character they had no means of judging; and of whose politics, no questions were asked, as men of all political parties were allowed to participate in furnishing supplies.—Frauds were the result. But what then? Why if then the government had concealed these frauds, through fear that it might be damaged by their development, or through dishonest collusion between the heads of the Administration and the delinquents, it would now be as culpable as its dishonest agents. But we see that this was not the case. The frauds were brought to light by the Republican Congressmen, with the aid and countenance of the Republican President. The party in power might have followed the example of the Buchanan Administration, and used its influence to keep the frauds from public view, leaving the drain on the Treasury continue unchecked, until the country was brought to bankruptcy and ruin. Under the Buchanan Administration the fact of immense frauds and other reprehensible practices, in the passage of the Lecompton Bill, in the army in Utah, in army and navy contracts, and in influencing elections and Members by money, was dragged to light *by the opposition*, with those in power making the most determined and malignant resistance against investigation.—This is not the case now, yet the Breckinridge press can give no credit to a party which does not wait for an opposition to expose the dishonesty of its agents, but makes the exposition itself. This venal press sees a chance of making votes by crying "frauds, frauds!" and with that cry, in connection with "taxes!" they hope to carry the next election."

A Loyal Judge.

Hon. Judge Brewer, of the 8th Judicial Circuit, lately delivered a very pertinent and patriotic charge to the Grand Jury of Montgomery county, from which we extract the following:

I will refer only to one other matter.—Our court house, I have been informed, was desecrated last year by the erection over it of a rebel flag. It should not have been done if I had been here. It was not attempted in the county where I resided, nor in the loyal county of Howard. Only in the remote and disloyal county of Calvert and in this village. That in many places seems to have been a temporary ebullition; but here, as I have been informed the greatest exultation was always displayed, and the most turbulent and traitorous feelings exhibited in every reverse of the Government troops, real or supposed; and the same traitorous feelings is still shown though happily it is now powerless for harm. It is time these fooleries, for I can in the present state of affairs give them no other designation, were ended.

I have also been informed that a quantity of fixed ammunition and some arms were found concealed in this village, intended, as their concealment proves, for some unlawful purpose. Treason against the United States is more properly punishable in the courts of the United States, but, as their distant location renders it difficult for them to make the necessary inquisition, it may be proper also for you to make inquiries on this subject, more especially as treason against the State is recognized and punishable with great severity by our Code. Art. Sec. There are laws now pending before our Legislature, punishing acts, which may possibly not come within the legal definition of treason, by specific penalties proportioned to the offence in your State courts. If these laws should be passed, it would be well for the proper authorities of the country, and all loyal citizens, to keep a watchful eye on offenders.

Novel Payment of a Bet.

A letter from an officer of a Massachusetts regiment, now in Virginia, relates the following facts concerning the payment of a wager under singular circumstances:

When the national forces were compelled to leave Centreville, last summer, Mr. S., the representative of the New York *World*, made a wager of a good dinner with Dr. G., of Centreville, that the Union troops would return to that place in less than a year. When our forces reached that town, last week, Mr. S. was among them, and called at the house of his friend, the doctor, where he found a note addressed to him, stating that he would find the dinner prepared, with four servants to wait upon him. Sure enough, the table was spread with roast turkey, sweet potatoes, and the luxuries of the season, and four negroes guarding it to prevent any person partaking but the person intended. The black left to guard the feast, said, "Massa gone into the country, but gave special order that no one else should eat but you who had won the bet of him!"

Fruit Prospects.

For once we see that the fruit prospects are almost everywhere pronounced good.—In Delaware the prospect for peaches is much better than usual. Many who own large orchards are represented to be fearful of such a large crop as to reduce prices below a remunerative point. In Pennsylvania, according to the Harrisburg Patriot, all other kinds of fruit promise well. This is indicated by the healthful condition of the lands, which have been remarkably favored. The Newburyport Herald says, in Massachusetts the fruit crops all promise well, the mercury not having descended below zero at any time this winter.

News of the Week.

The two powder mills on the opposite side of the river from New Orleans were blown up on the 10th inst., with 3,000 pounds of powder. Five of the workmen were killed.

By way of Ship Island we learn that nearly all of Porter's mortar fleet have crossed the bar at the Southwest Pass of the Mississippi, and stirring news is expected from that quarter.

Five car loads of implements of war, consisting of eight Dahlgren guns, weighing 3,500 pounds each, with gun carriages, shells and ammunition to match, consigned to Flag Officer Foote, passed through Cincinnati on Thursday for Island No. 10, from New York.

The intelligence from the southwest is interesting. The Confederate army under General Van Dorn is reported to have retreated across the Boston mountains to Van Buren and Fort Smith, about fifty miles south of the Missouri line and near the borders of Kansas, where reinforcements and supplies were reaching them. The army was only thirty-five hundred strong, and it is believed that it will be six weeks before five thousand fresh troops can join it. The Texas troops are said to be much disheartened by the death of Gen. Ben. McCulloch. Albert Pike's Indians have returned to their homes. The Federal forces under Gen. Curtis had retired to a point in Missouri to secure a good supply of water and forage. Their pickets extend to the Arkansas line, and the Confederate outposts are stationed on the summit of the Boston mountains. But little Union sentiment has been manifested in Arkansas.

A guerilla band of two hundred Confederates attacked a regiment of Missouri militia at Warrensburg on Wednesday week, and were repulsed, but again attacked the place on the following day, the result of which is not known. Warrensburg is about ninety miles west of Jefferson city.

On the same day a body of Confederates attacked four companies of militia at Hammersville, but were defeated with a loss of fifteen killed and many wounded.—The Federals had none killed but a number were wounded.

The battle at Island No. 10 was vigorously renewed on Friday. The Confederates opened from a new battery mounting very heavy guns. They are pushing forward various works of defence, and are daily getting more guns in position. It is reported that four iron clad gunboats had appeared below, but it is not believed that they can force a passage.

An arrival from Port Royal brings important intelligence from the Florida coast. Pensacola, including Forts Barancas and McRea have been evacuated by the Confederates. In East Florida the Union sentiment is represented to be very strong. A Federal gunboat ascended the St. John's river one hundred and twenty miles without meeting with opposition. General Sherman has issued a proclamation assuring the people that the occupation of the State by the Federal forces is for the sole purpose of restoring the authority of the government. A meetiag of the loyal citizens of Jacksonville was held on the 20th. Resolutions were adopted declaring that no State has a constitutional right to separate from the United States, and that the ordinance of secession adopted by the State convention is void being in conflict with the constitution, never having been submitted to the people.

By an arrival at New York late advices from the Gulf coast have been received.—Southern papers report that heavy firing had been heard at the head of the Passes of the Mississippi, where several Federal vessels had been sent. All of Commodore Porter's fleet had left Key West. It is reported that great preparations are making at New Orleans to resist the apprehended attack of the Federal forces. Considerable amount of cotton is said to be at Appalachicola, Florida, and that the place is defended by thirteen guns and about three thousand Confederate troops.

Intelligence has been received from the Lower Potomac that the Confederate batteries at Shipping Point were occupied by Federal troops on Friday. Warrenton Junction, on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, where the recent skirmish occurred, has also been occupied, and it was ascertained that the Confederates burned the bridge over the Rappahannock river near that point on Friday, indicating that all their forces in the vicinity have crossed the river.

Reports from Fredericksburg state that the people there are greatly alarmed by the apprehension of an early advance of the Federal army on the place. It is believed there that the Confederate army will fall back towards Richmond and give battle.

The military authority of General Dix has been extended by the creation of a new department, consisting of the States of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Virginia, and also of Maryland, with the counties of Cecil, Harford, Baltimore and Anne Arundel, the headquarters to be continued in that city.

Re-Opening of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

The first bill of lading for freight shipped directly through from Ohio to Baltimore was a consignment of flour, received Saturday, to the house of John Henderson & Co., of this city. It may be mentioned as indicative of the immense importance of the railroad, and the necessity for keeping it open and in full working order throughout, that a reduction of no less than sixty cents per barrel will be realized upon through shipments, as compared with the freight formerly charged on the same class of merchandise. A similar reduction is announced on all other freight; and the result from the re-opening of the road, as above, and the reduction of freight charges, must tend to give a new impetus to business in Baltimore, and bring about something like a restoration of the state of things in the commercial and other interests of our city which obtained prior to the unfortunate nineteenth of April last, from the sad scenes of which day Baltimore has suffered so much, but from which it is now happily, though slowly, emerging.—*Balt. American.*

Wheat and Fruit Crops in Illinois.

We hear the most encouraging reports from the growing wheat crops. A gentleman from the east part of the county informs us that he never saw winter wheat so promising at this season of the year as it is now. He thinks there will be more than an average crop raised this year, if no unforseen circumstances prevent it.

The prospect for peaches, the same gentleman informs us, is very poor. It has been a bad winter for peaches, and it is exceedingly doubtful if a third crop is raised this year. Apples, however, have not been injured to any great extent, if any. So we shall have to luxuriate on apples this year instead of peaches.—*Alton Dem.*

Rebel Generals.

The loss of the rebels in general officers, since the war begun, has been remarkable. There must have been some twenty in all, who are lost to their service, by death in the field, resignations, suicide, suspensions and other causes. In addition to the four killed, and one or two others wounded in the Arkansas battle, we just hear of the resignation of Gen's. M. L. Bonham, of S. C., and S. Jackson. The proportion in the Union service has been extremely small. We think there have been but two, except those whose time expired with the three months' men.

Parson Brownlow's Speech.

The following speech of Parson Brownlow was delivered in front of the St. Cloud Hotel, Nashville, on the evening of the 17th:

GENTLEMEN: I am in a sad plight to say much of interest; too thoroughly incapacitated to do justice to you or myself.—My throat has been disordered for the past three years, and I have been compelled to almost abandon public speaking. Last December I was thrust into an uncomfortable and disagreeable jail—for what?—*Treason!* Treason to the bogus confederacy; and the proofs of that treason were articles which appeared in the Knoxville Whig in May last, when the State of Tennessee was a member of the imperishable Union. At the expiration of four weeks I became a victim of the typhoid fever and was removed to a room in a decent dwelling, and a guard of seven men kept me company. I subsequently became so weak that I could not turn over in my bed, and the guard was increased to twelve men, for fear I should suddenly recover and run away to Kentucky. Becoming convalescent in a measure, I was removed to my former place of confinement. One day I was visited by some Confederate officers, who remarked, "Brownlow, you should not be here. Take the oath of allegiance to the Confederate Government, which will not only entitle you to a speedy release, but insure your protection." "Sir!" said I, "before I would take the oath to support such a hell forsaken institution, I would suffer myself to rot or die of old age."

Why, my friends, these demagogues actually boast that the Lord is upon their side, and declares that God Almighty is assisting them in the furtherance of their nefarious project. In Knoxville and surrounding localities, a short time since, daily prayer meetings were held, wherein the Almighty was beseeched to raise Lincoln's blockade, and to hurl destruction against the Burnside expedition. Their prayers were partly answered—the blockade at Roanoke Island was most effectually raised; a reciprocal of their sacrilege divinely tendered.

Gentlemen, I am no Abolitionist: I applaud no sectional doctrines; I am a Southern man and all my relatives and interests are thoroughly identified with the South, and Southern institutions. I was born in the Old Dominion, my parents were born in Virginia, and they and their antecedents were all slaveholders. Let me assure you that the South has suffered no infringement upon her institution; the slavery question was actually *no* pretext for this unholy, unrighteous conflict.—Twelve Senators from the cotton States, who had sworn to preserve inviolate the Constitution framed by our forefathers, plotted treason at night—a fit time for such a crime—and telegraphed to their State despatches advising them to pass ordinances of Secession. Yes, gentlemen, twelve Senators swore allegiance in the day time; and unsworn it at night. A short time since, I was called upon by a little Jew, who, I believe, is the Secretary of War of the bogus Confederacy. He threatened to hang me, and I expected no more mercy from him than was shown by his illustrious predecessors toward Jesus Christ. I entered into a long correspondence with this specimen of humanity, but from mercy or forgetfulness on their part, I was permitted to depart with all my documents in my little valise, which I hope to publish at no distant day. Gentlemen, when I started on my perilous journey, I was sore distressed in mind, and exceedingly sorrowful. But the moment my eyes encountered the pickets of the Federal army my depression decreased and returning health seemed suddenly to invigorate my physical constitution.

Gentlemen, Secession is played out, the dog is dead; the child is born, and his name is Jeff Davis, Jr.

My throat distresses me to such an extent that I must decline further remarks this evening, but shall make myself heard upon the next convenient occasion, which will probably be are the terminus of the present week.

The Nashville papers publish this speech on successive days, the demand for it being such that they could not supply it in one day.

The Confederate Cause in England.

The late result witnessed in the British House of Commons when Mr. Gregory made his motion relative to the blockade, on which he was signally floored, shows better than anything that has occurred on that side of the water that England is at length coming to her senses in relation to American affairs. The last hope of Rebeldom is ruthlessly overthrown; all their labors in that direction have come to naught and it would be an instructive exhibit now could we arrive at the amount of funds appropriated there and on the Continent by the "Commissioners" in "greasing the palms" of corrupt Members of Parliament and sordid and grasping journalists.—Fruitless indeed has been the mission there of the Confederate leaders.

But how splendidly do these results prove the all-pervading influence of strength demonstrated on the part of a State or people? What better in any of its aspects is our cause now, so far as its justice is concerned? How vain was the attempt to make politicians there comprehend a few months ago that a Government had the right to defend itself, and how the scales have commenced falling from their eyes when brought face to face with late events? Not right, not justice, not even the claims of humanity or of liberty in any of its beneficent aspects, can these legitimists recognize, but they have an absolute reverence for power; they make a deity of might. This may do to smile over now, but the nation should not let the great lesson be lost upon it. And now where will James M. Mason hide his diminished head? With the old Dominion slipping from under him, and so fortune transferred to the other side, in imitation of his friend Slidell, to enable him to keep up a showing of importance, a cheerless exile from the land he sought to betray seems to be his lot—the infamy and the fate of Arnold his only chance.

It is all right; for what can atone for so great guilt; the crime of betraying the trusting thousands of his own gallant State to premature and bloody graves, her interests to bankruptcy and ruin, and his country to civil war in all her borders.—Even an eternity of infamy and suffering would not make amends on the part of one worthless life for all these woes, and so whoever deserves sympathy, he does not. Had there been any fairness in the method by which Virginia was led to cast in her lot with South Carolina, the case would have been different; but when we know that it was essentially the work of a set of corrupt politicians, men devoured with fierce pride, who cared nothing for the people, we may well exult at the fate that is now overtaking them.—*Baltimore American.*

What's in the Wind?

Jeff Davis Sending Money to Havana.—The New York correspondent of the Philadelphia Inquirer says:

A letter just received from a very intelligent American merchant, resident in Havana, confirms the statement made by the Buffalo Courier (whose editor is just now in Havana) that Jeff Davis, within the past six weeks, has had a large amount of money deposited in the banks of that city. If this is reliable (as it undoubtedly is) it is important. It would seem to indicate that the rebel chieftain is looking forward to an early "immigration movement," and is sending on his "valuables" in advance.

Mock "Desperation" of the Confederate Leaders

Whatever may be thought of the people of the South in the extremities to which they have been driven, and of their purpose to defy the worst storms of fate, or whatever may be thought of their readiness to succumb in presence of an overwhelming force of National troops, it is plainly evident that their leaders are perfectly desperate. Not desperate enough to die, indeed, but desperate enough to run away, like Floyd, and in their desperation to burn and destroy what does not belong to themselves.

The latest evidence or manifestation of this spirit—expressed and comprised in small compass by the homely adage which speaks of a man's "biting off his nose to spite his face"—is exhibited in the declared purpose to burn not only what cotton there is on hand, but, in order to "spite" England, they purpose to plant no crop of that staple the present season! Yancey, it appears, especially, has come back from his abortive mission abroad sore and savage from his great disappointment and would, doubtless, if he could, sink the whole Continent, if thereby he might bury beneath it himself and the memory of the burning mortifications he has experienced. And that Butler King, or Rost, or Mann, or Rhett, or any other of the villainous set stirred into fatal action by the consuming canker of ambition, feel any better is not at all likely. And so, as they will find the destruction of their crops or houses all that will be left them soon by which to demonstrate their wrath, it is not impossible but that a good deal of mischief may be accomplished before the National troops advance fast enough to protect the dupes thousands against such needless and wondrous folly.

But it becomes a curious problem in political economy as to what will be the value of "Confederate bonds" when all this destruction takes place of the very staple on which they were ostensibly issued?—If they are already worth in the most favored localities there, and amongst the most stupid and least posted in public affairs, only sixty cents in the dollar—perhaps not that—what will they be worth when all the cotton is destroyed? Angry at England and determined to ruin her at all events, it would not be surprising if, after the present war is over, they should be clamorous for their old Uncle Sam to turn in and give her a sound whipping, by way of finding thus some "cordial for their woes."

But even Mr. Yancey's demonstrations are not by any means original; neither are those of the Confederate Congress in these mad projects. Let us quote ex-Governor Hammond, of South Carolina, when, long ago, he was contemplating this very revolt:

"They will rend this Union into fragments and *plunge the world in ruin.* It is in their power to do both, for the world cannot get on without them; and if ruthless fanaticism and brute force combined, under whatever names, and with whatever authority, to ride them down, *they will carry with them the pillars of the temple of civilization, and force a common fate on all mankind.*"

Now, what is this declaration but the old story of "the scorpion surrounded by fire and stinging itself to death?" and what an insignificant insect has the pluck to do has no great merit in it, even if attempted—to say nothing of being threatened—by Secession on its last legs.

But the funny part of all this is that the very men who have been most violent—on the stump—have invariably succeeded in taking their precious selves out of harm's way with the most activity whenever the pinch came. Glancing back over the whole list of those who have figured in the various fights, and how many of them have "saved the world a nuisance" by hunting with good sober earnest for the fate of their poor followers perishing by hundreds? In the field at present to get a character for desperation by the easy expedient of burning cotton, or property of other descriptions belonging to other people, it is possible that the people themselves may at length turn upon these miserable leaders and teach them the lesson they need.

The truth is that as politicians they are desperate—as miserable blunderers in military matters, abortive Generals, they are desperate. Floyd is desperate, and Wise and all such are desperate; but the people there, if clear of such wretches, would come back gladly to that safe asylum they have been constrained to leave by the wicked arts of these base leaders; and we hope ere long to see this fact demonstrated with a further advance amongst them of the National forces.—*Balt. Amer.*

Battle of Winchester.

The Victory at Winchester proves to have been of far greater importance than was at first supposed. The dispatch of Gen. Shields shows that the rout of the rebels was decisive and complete, and their loss immense. The forces employed on both sides were very unequal—that of the rebels amounting to some 15,000, with a large amount of cavalry and artillery, whilst our Union army consisted of 8,000! The bravery of our soldiers, and their great superiority over the "chivalry," in every respect, was here displayed in the most unmistakable manner,—and proves that whenever the rebels are brought from behind their masked or other batteries, and are even two to one against the Union troops, they are sure to be captured, if they do not escape by flight. Of this the Secessionists may rest assured, that unless there is some decided blunder of an officer in command of our troops, at any time, it may be set down as a certain rule that our boys, with the use of the "cold steel," will beat them in every open field battle.

The conduct of the rebels in this engagement, towards a battalion of Irishmen, who had no doubt been pressed or forced by circumstances into their ranks, *and who refused to fire on our troops,* is thus alluded to by a cotemporary:

"The flag of their adopted land, though long despised and insulted, was still dearer in their sight than life or fortune. With an impulse of true chivalry (that should put to shame the boasted chivalry of traitors,) they dare not fire on the emblem of the nation that had been to them and theirs a haven and a shelter from oppression. Its honor was still sacred, and worthy to be cherished, though death should be the recompense of their devotion. And so, one fourth of them were, most probably, shot down by rebel balls. All honor to the chivalry of Erin, whose noble sons have been among the first to lend our cause their aid and sympathy, and foremost to encounter death in its defence.

A Patriotic Movement.

We learn from prominent members of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, that a number of lodges of this city, who heretofore had money invested in stocks and mortgages, have withdrawn from these securities and invested them in the United States seven three-tenths per cent. loan, a movement which is not only patriotic but which will ultimately be very remunerative. About $100,000 have been invested in this way.—*Philadelphia Inquirer.*

Terrible Accident in Philadelphia.

At Philadelphia, on Saturday morning, between eight and nine o'clock, a terrible explosion took place in the cartridge manufactory of Prof. Samuel Jackson, on the corner of Tenth and Reed streets, causing a sad loss of life. The Bulletin, of Saturday evening, furnishes the following particulars:

The edifice was scattered in ruins; at least four or five of the work people were killed instantly and two or three of them were blown to minute fragments. The adjacent property also suffered. Nearly every window-pane for a square around was broken, fences were demolished and fragments of human flesh were flung on top of high roofs and smeared over walls. A policeman gathered up nearly a barrel full of arms, entrails, legs and other pieces of bodies, just after the explosion. One or two females were blown into Tenth street, with their clothes all in a blaze. The police and citizens immediately rendered all the aid possible, and the ruins were examined at once. The dead and wounded were carried out and placed in various neighboring dwellings, drug stores, &c., while some of the injured were taken to the Pennsylvania Hospital.

One or two of the injured died while being conveyed away from the scene, or immediately after being placed in neighboring houses. An immense crowd of curious and horror-stricken people thronged around the spot, gazing at the bloody testimonies to the force of the explosion.—We saw a policeman lift from the roof of a three-story house in Tenth street a horrible mass of flesh and blood, which had been blown to that elevation. Other sights as horrible we forbear to speak of in detail.

There were about 50,000 cartridges in the moulding and girls' finishing room, about 50 pounds of loose powder in the mixing room, and several kegs and one small barrel in the magazine, making all told, about 200 pounds of powder, beside the cartridges

These cartridges were on trays to dry, while some were in the hands of the females, to have the bullets fastened to them. Therefore there was a perfect train leading from one room to another.

About 75,000 cartridges were turned out in a day.

Most of the persons in the moulding room are so badly hurt as to be unable to give any account of the origin of the disaster. One of them, named Charles Griffin, informed the Fire Marshal that he saw the first flash from a mould at which one of the men was at work, and the general explosion at once followed.

The Politicians and the Rebellion.

The Nashville Banner, in an excellent editorial upon the subject of the rebellion, comes to the conclusion which the people, we hope, in time to come, will give due heed unto, that—

"The people of this country, despite the honesty in their hearts, have devoted themselves too much to party politics.—Aspiring men—corrupt men, taking advantage of the well-meaning masses, North and South, in a moment when they had gained public confidence and entwined around them the public hope, have chosen to sacrifice them both upon the altar of their own ambition. Thus were set to work the elements of the wild storm now raging around us. Who does not feel in his heart that this is the unvarnished truth?

"The people of America have been well nigh deranged for twelve months past. Sober thinking men tell us this every day. But they will finally regain their reason. They are going to think about the welfare of this great country, whether divided or united, as they have never thought of it before. This revolution, if our conviction be right, will sift and purify American politics. A day of terrible reckoning is coming, when the judgment of an enlightened people, sensible of their rights and their power, will be pronounced upon all political corruption!

"Every battle fought, whether resulting in a Federal or Confederate victory, and every soldier's bier, whether it be the remains of a Northern or Southern volunteer, is teaching the honest public mind a lesson whose fruit will be fully seen when the dim of this conflict shall have died away. Mark what we say: the people of this country will yet demonstrate their perfect capacity to govern it. Let this sad period pass away, and, you may rest assured, it will not be governed by *politicians* again."

Skirmish Near the Chain Bridge.

On Saturday afternoon a detachment of Stewart's Virginia Cavalry made a dash at the residence of a Union lady named Tenant, who lives about a mile and a half from Difficult creek, and about six miles from the Chain Bridge.

While engaged in ransacking and pillaging the residence of Mrs. Tenant, they were discovered by a portion of Colonel Bayard's Pennsylvania Cavalry, who at once charged down upon them, when quite a smart engagement ensued, which resulted in the hasty flight of the Rebel cavalry, but not before they had secured Mrs. Tennant and her daughter, whom they conveyed away in Mr. Tennant's buggy, into which they had previously harnessed the horse for that purpose.

The only causuality to Colonel Bayard's Cavalry in the skirmish was the wounding of one soldier who was conveyed to the city the same night. The loss of the Rebels could not be ascertained, although it is supposed some of them must have been hit.

Mrs. Tenant has lost a husband and son, who died fighting for our flag, and now herself and daughter will have to suffer the horrors of Richmond's loathsome prisons and the insults of Rebel soldiers, while their remaining property is exposed to all the devastations of war.

"Buyers from New Orleans."

The New York World of Saturday last, says:

We learn that representatives of New Orleans houses have made their appearance in our dry goods markets. This is a significant fact, indicating that the cause of the rebellion is about to be abandoned by common consent by the people of the commercial centres of the South. The early destruction of the Rebel forces is regarded as absolutely certain by those who are well qualified to judge. The restoration of the Union, in spirit as well as in fact, is near at hand when the business men of the South give such an indication of their feeling that resistance to the Union arms has became futile and must cease. We may also note that a Georgia dealer has made his way to this city and paid up the indebtedness that he had incurred before the war. These facts are in themselves as valuable as a victory.

Dangerous Counterfeit.

Thompson's Bank Note Reporter, for March, warns the public against the ingenious and very dangerous counterfeit of ten dollar gold pieces, which are circulated extensively, and almost defy detection from an expert. The genuine coin is opened, fully one half of the gold takes out, then filled in with platina, or some other equally heavy substance, and then closed up; the coin itself to all appearances, remaining the same.

Local Items.

Our Circuit Court.—

On Monday next commences the April Term of our Circuit Court, and a large number of persons, no doubt, will be in attendance, we would remind those who are in arrears to the estate of the late Editor, that it would be a most convenient time to drop in and adjust their indebtedness. There are many whose accounts have been standing a long time, and such we are extremely anxious to have closed. We are sorry to be thus persistent, but the circumstances allow us no choice in the premises.

Moving Day.—

Tuesday last, the 1st of April, (commonly known as Moving Day) was all that the name indicates, in Westminster, for never, since we have known the place, have we seen so great a commotion in the moving community. From our Office we could count some eleven families changing residences, and the streets in some places was almost impassable by pedestrians in consequence of the jam of wagons passing, loading and unloading. However, all have pretty well settled down at last, and we hope all are satisfied with their changes.—Yet we have one regret, several families have been compelled to remove to other places, who would have preferred staying here, for want of houses, while others would have came could that want have been supplied. We hope our property holders will profit by this fact, and render such a regret useless by next Spring.

Our Railroad Operators.—

We have heretofore entertained the impression that the operators of our Railroad were sagacious business men, but must confess that such confidence is considerably shaken of late. In all other sections it is an admitted fact that courtesies and civilities to the Press has more materially contributed to the success of such enterprises than any other means, but this fact seems to be entirely overlooked here at present. Yet by references to our files it will be seen it was not always so, when column after column and page after page of gratuitous communications, and pleading Editorials sufficient to melt the heart of a miser, or craze the brain of an Editor, was necessary to secure its success, and maintain its vitality, promises, the most flattering was showered upon us. But how have they been kept? No sooner was the Road completed than they assume airs of independence, take all their printing of a remunerative character to the City, while everything gratuitous in *kindly* tendered to the country Press, at the same time the City Editors are receiving pressing invitations to pass over the Road *free*, Country Editors are charged full fare. Now we cannot conceive that our road is too poor to extend the usual civilities, and therefore must conclude that a selfish narrow-heartedness is alone the cause.

Books and Periodicals.

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE.—The March number of this interesting Journal is on hand, and has, as usual, an elegant table of contents. This may be regarded as one of the standard publications of the day, containing as it does the most choice English literature, from contributors of acknowledged eminence.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY.—We are already in receipt of the April number, and are highly gratified to learn that this Magazine has not shared the unfavorable influence which the war has had upon literature generally. Since the beginning of the year more than 10,000 copies have been added to its circulation. The diligent labor of the conductors cannot fail to merit and receive a just appreciation.

HARPER'S MONTHLY.—The April number of Harper is before us, and a prime number it is. The only regret being, we have not time to finish it. We have long regarded Harper as a household necessity, and so say to our readers, and would advise all our young lady friends to marry no man who would not subscribe for Harper's Magazine.

We will procure any of the above works on application to us.

California News.

The San Francisco papers of the 1st inst. state that the farmers of California consider their prospects for a large yield during the coming season to be better than ever. The great floods have in most cases proved beneficial to the land, and losses have been mostly incurred by the drowning of live stock and the destruction of buildings. At Sacramento, on the 25th ult., another rain had set in, and another flood was anticipated by advices from the mountains.

The question of imposing a prohibitory tax upon Chinese labor in the mines is still warmly discussed, and there is a strong probability that such a policy will be adopted.

Tuesday night, February 11th, says the Mariposa Gazette, was the coldest ever experienced there by white men.—The thermometer showed the temperature to be twelve degrees below freezing point. Ice was formed in many places about town to the thickness of an inch.

The Legislature was sitting in San Francisco, instead of Sacramento, and would probably make San Francisco the permanent capital of the State.

Fresh provisions and vegetables had advanced rapidly in price, potatoes selling at 32a34 cents per lb., and onions 15a20 cts. per pound.

☞ Floating Hospitals have been introduced on the waters of the Western rivers, under the auspices of the Western Sanitary Commission. These boats are fitted up in all respects equal to the best hospitals on shore, and designed for the removal of the sick and wounded, and also to attend the operations of the gunboat fleets on the same waters. We regard this whole enterprise as one of thoughtful and wise philanthropy. War is terrible, at the best; but such agencies as this lessen, if they cannot remove, its horrors. Let it be remembered, too, that these floating hospitals are under orders, in case of battle, to treat friend and foe alike. What a contrast to that savage weapon of rebeldom, *which scalps the dying!* By so doing "coals of fire" are heaped upon their heads. The General who thus employs the sword of conquest, and the ministrations of mercy, at one and the same time, is the true "man of the people." He is proving himself to be one of the conservatives of the republic.

☞ DIARRHŒA & DYSENTERY will decimate the Volunteers far more than the Bullets of the enemy, therefore let every man see to it that he carries with him a full supply of HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Their use in India and the Crimea saved thousands of British Soldiers, only 25 cts. per Box. 213

Furore Among the Ladies.

There is just now a sensation among the fair sex, especially those who delight to make their sweet faces more fascinating. The want of an article devoid of pernicious ingredients, for clearing and beautifying the skin, has long been felt. Certain members of the *Ton* recognized as leaders of the *beau monde*, have at length discovered this great desideratum in Dr. Holloway's balsamic Ointment, which they have unanimously adopted and recommended to their numerous circle of friends. This *unique* preparation premeates the vesicles of the skin, and imparts a freshness and bloom to the complexion unequalled by any of the pernicious cosmetics which are advertised to effect the most extravagant alterations, little short of changing the Ethiopian's Skin. Dr. Holloway's Ointment is entirely composed of simple vegetable extracts, innocent of all mineral ingredients, yet certain in its operation on all eruptive disorders. It relieves the pain and smarting, and allays the inflammation of scalds, burns, &c. For chilblains, frost-bites, cracked lips, chapped hands, and rough skin it has no equal.—It soothes the irritation, and cools the itching and burning anguish which attend these disorders.