

BY J. D. PENNINGTON.  
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**FIRST EDITION.**

**FRIDAY, FEB. 6, 1863.**

**LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.**

[ADVANCED SESSION.]

**SENATE.**

**HOUSE OF COMMONS.**

Tuesday, Feb. 3.

Senate met at 10 o'clock. Journal read.  
General committee made their reports through their chairman.

**BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS.**  
Mr. Young, a bill authorizing the sale of certain property belonging to Sharon Church, in Mecklenburg county. Passed several readings.

Mr. Hall, a bill to repeal the 30th Section of 39th Chapter Revised Code. Referred.

Mr. White, a bill authorizing the sale of lands of minors in certain cases. Referred.

By same, a resolution in favor of J. W. Freeman. Referred.

The bill to establish a separate depot for N. C. Troops at Richmond, failed to pass its second reading.

The bill to amend the act of the General Assembly, passed in 1857, relative to the Danville Railroad, was taken up on its third reading.

Mr. Jones opposed it on the ground that it was not necessary in a military point of view.

Messrs. Young and Adams favored it.

Mr. Hall favored the original bill because he believed it a military necessity, but would support the Virginia amendment, raising a read estimated in a secondary manner to benefit Virginia alone in the vital of North Carolina, to drain her very life blood.

Mr. Arndell also opposed the bill.

Mr. Lane was not in favor of the measure.

Mr. Adams spoke at some length in defense of the bill.

The bill then failed to pass by a vote of 21 to 22.

Mr. Arndell moved to reconsider.

Mr. Lindsay moved to lay that motion on the table. Adopted.

The bill to provide for the families of soldiers was passed over informally.

Mr. Merrill presented a resolution giving the pay of military families for one day, for the purchase of wood for the families of soldiers, in this city, the same to be handed to the Mayor for distribution. Adopted.

Mr. Hall, a resolution in favor of the W. and W. R. R. Referred.

On motion of Mr. Wright, the Revenue Bill was taken up with the report of the Committee of Commerce and Finance, relative to the tariff, which was debated at length by Messrs. Hall, Lane, Adams, G. J. Jones, Young, Wright and others.

Mr. Lindsay moved to report. Lost.

The amendments proposed by the committee were then adopted, and the Revenue Bill as amended was passed. On motion the Senate adjourned.

**HOUSE OF COMMONS.**

Tuesday, Feb. 3.

The House met pursuant to adjournment. Journal of Wednesday was read.

A message was read from the Senate transmitting a series of resolutions originating in the House, with an amendment by the Senate, by striking out the first resolution, which authorizes the Governor to supply clothing, &c. to needy and destitute prisoners of the State, and to confine in the military prisons of the State, all persons arrested upon committing in the 3rd article mentioned, participated in by Messrs. Grimes, Fowler, Henry of Bertie, and Lora.

Mr. Lora moved to lay the whole matter on the table. Negatived. Yea 27; Nays 61.

The question recurring upon the amendment in the amendment of Mr. Grimes, Messrs. Grimes and Henry favored, and Mr. Rivers opposed. The amendment was concurred in.

Mr. Shepherd said that he had learned from a source that he thought entirely reliable that the Confederate Government had sent a Commissioner to investigate the charges against the prisoners in Salisbury. For this reason he asked consent of the House to suspend the 3rd article of the resolution, so that his name be recorded in its affirmative. His request was granted.

Mr. Byram introduced the following:

Resolved, That the members of the House of Commons do contribute their pro rata for one day, for the purpose of purchasing wood for the indigent families of soldiers in this city, and that a Committee of three be appointed to receive and pass the same to the Mayor, who shall arrange to have it distributed as herein specified.

The resolution was agreed to by acclamation, and Messrs. Grimes, Williams, and Harris of Chatham, were appointed a Committee to collect and hand the money over.

Mr. Fleeming from the Committee on the Judiciary reported a bill to establish a Court to investigate charges of offenses alleged to have been committed against the Confederate Government. The bill was passed in several readings and sent to the Senate.

A resolution authorizing the Governor to request the General Assembly to provide for the clothing and services of the indigent families of soldiers in the county of Johnston and adjoining counties. War passed its several readings under a suspension of their law.

A resolution in favor of D. J. Dunlap was passed its final reading in the House.

A resolution in favor of J. W. Carmichael, was passed its final reading in the House.

Mr. Sheppard from the Committee of Conference on the Harbors bill, reported the result of the deliberations of the Committee. The amendments proposed were concurred in by the House.

Mr. Grimes from the Committee on Military Affairs reported a bill to authorize the Governor to promote commissioned, non-commissioned officers and privates in the army, for gallant and meritorious services. The rules were suspended and the bill put on its several readings.

Mr. Peck proposed a substitute, giving the election of company officers, which made vacant by the rank and file, and the election of Field Officers in the commissioned officers of companies comprising the Ten Regiments of Heavy Troops. Lost—sent the bill passed in several readings.

**SPECIAL ORDERS.**

Mr. Sherwood moved to strike out the second section of the bill.

A prolonged discussion ensued, participated in by a number of members.

The vote was taken and the second section was stricken out.

Mr. Barton proposed to amend by inserting another in the place of the section stricken out. Agreed to.

Mr. Coville moved to strike out the words "without pay or bounty" and insert "without State bounty."

Mr. Farris moved to amend, by inserting the words "and the entire claims therefor" to the discretion of the Judge to impose the penalty of serving in the army, without pay or bounty. Carried.

The bill passed its second reading.

Upon the third reading Mr. Coville proposed an amendment, which was concurred in.

The bill then passed its third reading.

The House adjourned at 12 o'clock to-morrow.

**PARTICULARS OF THE GREAT NAVAL VICTORY AT CHARLESTON.**

From the Charleston Courier.

The countenance of the dwellers in our ancient city has not beamed with so bright a light as they did on Saturday morning, since the Lyons news was passed from mouth to mouth, that Major Anderson had struck his flag, and Fort Sumter had yielded to Gen. Beauregard. Even the croakers changed their tone and made their voice harmonious with the universal exhilaration. Friend grasped the hand of friend, and with hearty shakes exchanged congratulations on the happy event, and enemies forgot for the time their animosity and smiled benignly upon one another. The rejoicing was deep, loud and hearty.

At about eleven o'clock on Friday night, the *Palmetto State*, in command of Capt. Rutledge, and with the Flag Officer, Commodore D. M. Ingraham on board, together with the *Chicago*, commanded by (Capt. John B. Tucker, cast off from the wharf and with

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their bows turned seaward steamed across the Cooper. The moon was shining brightly, there was not a cloud on the face of the blue sky, and the surface of the water was smooth and glassy as a mill pond. Nature seemed to smile upon the enterprise, and water, sky and wind presented a most delightful manifestation of the divine favor toward our just and noble cause.

The deep silence that brooded over the water was only broken by the gurgle of the screws, as the iron covered vessels moved slowly over the bay. Having reached Fort Sumter, they came to anchor, and there awaited the going down of the moon.

At three o'clock, the report of two guns echoed through the air. That was the signal for their departure, and once more the Gunboats are in motion. Silently they move through the darkness, urging their course with all speed, so as to come upon the unsuspecting vessels before the dawn of day.

The undertaking promised rich rewards, and the nearer the moment drew to the hostile ships, the more impatient and resolved became the gallant men who were beneath their iron roofs. Never did the little vessels seem to move so singly, and most close did the officers and crew scan the clear horizon, fearing that the light would steal over the sea before they reached the blockading fleet.

But deep darkness is still on the deep, and they are near the enemy. Commodore Ingraham describes a black form just ahead, and the sharp bow of the *Palmetto State* is turned upon the object. Nearer and nearer with all steam on moves the iron vessel. A crash is heard, and the rain of the gunboat penetrates the wooden side of one of Lincoln's blockaders. And while the water was washing into the hole, the guns of the *Palmetto State* opened upon the hostile vessel.

The officer in command of the *Mercadia*, seeing it was folly to contend with such an antagonist immediately struck his flag and surrendered. In a short time the vessel went down. All this time Captain Tucker of the *Chicago*, was lying about him vigorously right and left. The shells from his guns set fire to a large ship of war, and she lowered her flag. He sent, it is believed, another, and the two monsters threw shot and shell at the other vessels, that seeing the fate that had befallen their comrades, turned their bows to the sea and were making their best speed to get beyond the reach of danger. Not one of them showed any disposition to continue the fight, but cargoes of the honor of that flag they profess to adore, their cowardly hearts thoroughly possessed by fear, they fled with all the speed their sails and engines enabled them to command. But though they fled so precipitately, we have no doubt that many of the seventeen carried away with them some painful remembrance of that terrible surprise, while it is positively known that several who succeeded in making good their escape were severely injured.

When the morning light broke not one of the fleet was in sight. The gunboats cruised many miles seaward from the bar, but the glasses revealed nothing within the range of vision.

The success of that attack is most gratifying, and coming so soon after the brilliant exploit performed by Magruder, at Galveston, it carries unpeakable joy to the heart of the country.

We cannot speak in too high terms of praise of the judgment, skill and intrepidity that marked the undertaking, and its successful accomplishment. Had it been possible, the entire fleet would have been sunk or disabled.

Commodore Ingraham, Captains Rutledge and Tucker, and the officers under them, as well as their brave crew, deserve our profound and hearty gratitude.

We are indebted to several friends on board the *Palmetto State* for the following account of her operations. We also give the account of our Special Reporter, who was on board one of the tenders. These accounts contain all the particulars of the expedition and engagement, and show that it has been a brilliant and glorious success on our side, limited only by the cowardly action of the blockaders. They flared, small and large, without even making a show of fight, notwithstanding the presence of two forty gun frigates, the *Sagadahoc* and *Cannandauga*. Their loss, however, is known to be severe. Two of their vessels are known to be sunk, while several were fired and went off in a damaged condition.

**THE MOVEMENTS OF THE PALMETTO STATE.**

At eleven o'clock Friday night, the gunboat *Palmetto State*, Captain Rutledge, bearing the flag of Commodore Duncan N. Ingraham, left her moorings and proceeded out the harbor towards Fort Sumter. Aboard of Fort Sumter passed the three steamers acting as tenders, the *Gen. Clinch*, *Edwin* and *Chesterfield*. At 4.30 A. M., the *Palmetto State* crossed the bar, and stood out to sea in the direction of the blockading fleet. At 5.20 A. M., we came up to the United States Steamer *Mercadia*, and was hailed by the watch on deck, when the following colloquy took place:

Watch.—What steamer is that? Drop your anchor—back—back—and be careful, or you will run into us.

Capt. Rutledge.—This is the Confederate States steamer *Palmetto State*.

As the answer was given the *Palmetto State*, with full steam up, ran into the *Mercadia*, the bow striking her right about midships and making an entrance of about three feet. At the same time our bow gun was fired with a seven inch incendiary shell. We immediately backed out, when the *Mercadia* hauled down her flag. They were ordered to send a boat to us, and Lieut. T. Abbot, Commanding, came off with a boat's crew and surrendered his vessel in the name of Gov. Seward, of the *Mercadia*, carrying 7 guns and 168 men. He stated that his vessel was in a sinking condition, and begged our officers to relieve them. A shot pierced her boiler, which had burst and scalded a large number of men. Lieutenant Abbot begged Commodore Ingraham to take the men with him on board the *Palmetto State*, as in their boats he came to us they had neglected to put in the ping, and their small boat was only kept afloat by the strenuous efforts of the men bailing the boat. He also stated that the water in the *Mercadia* had, at the time of his leaving, already risen as high as the engine floors.

Commodore Ingraham regretted that he could not comply with the request as he had no room to accommodate them aboard of his vessels, and no small boats or any other means of affording them relief. Lieut. Abbot then pledged his word of honor for the officers and crew of the *Mercadia* not to serve in any manner against the Confederate States until regularly exchanged, upon which condition he was sent on board his own vessel. The *Mercadia* was taken completely by surprise. They were rescued from their slumbers by the shot. The men not having scarcely time to dress themselves. Lieut. Abbot and the men with him were nearly destitute of clothing.

The *Palmetto State*, leaving the *Mercadia* to her fate, stood out to sea, and engaged several other vessels of the blockading fleet, occasionally exchanging shots. The latter, however, fled at our approach, firing at long distances and leaving us far astern. One or two shots were exchanged with the *U.S. Steamer Chicago*. The latter, however, followed the example of her companions, and fled. We then stood Northward, towards the *Chicago*, which at this time was almost surrounded by the

enemy's vessels. At 8 A. M. the *Palmetto State* was in the vicinity of the *Chicago*, in sight, was stood out to the entrance of Beah Channel, having signalled the *Chicago* to return. On passing we were hailed by Forts Moultrie, Sumter and Ripley, and arrived at the wharf in the city a little before 6 P. M.

**THE MOVEMENTS OF THE CHICAGO.**  
The *Chicago*, John B. Tucker, started from her wharf at half past eleven Friday night, and crossed the bar at 4.30 A. M. We commenced action at 5 O'Clock. The *Palmetto State* engaged an Abolition vessel on the right, while we engaged the one on the left. As we passed the blockaders on the right of the *Chicago*, we were within fifty yards of the vessel on the left, and then gave her a shot from our bow gun, the blockader at the time being under full headway. We rounded to and gave her the full benefit of our broadside guns and after gun. She immediately ran her helm for fire and made signals of distress to the rest of the fleet. The first shot of her bow gun killed one of her crew, and she proceeded to within fifty yards of the vessel on the left, and then gave her a shot from our bow gun, the blockader at the time being under full headway. We rounded to and gave her the full benefit of our broadside guns and after gun. 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