

# THE HERALD OF THE UNION.

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## THE HERALD OF THE UNION.

WILMINGTON, MARCH 25.

### LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

For interesting reading matter, see third and fourth pages.

**THE MAILS.**—The mild rebuke we were compelled yesterday to administer to the quartermaster in charge of water transportation we are very glad to see did not fail of its due effect. At an early hour yesterday we received the following note:

QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE,  
WILMINGTON, March 24th, 1865.  
To the Editor of The Herald of the Union.

The severe censure which appeared in this morning's paper has had the effect of bringing to port or "en route" from Fort Fisher a steamer with mail for Wilmington. Presuming that your scissors are dull, I would recommend that they be ground and ready for service immediately, as the papers from the north will be delivered this afternoon.

**QUARTERMASTER.**  
It is gratifying to us to thus receive palpable assurance that our labors for the public good are not in vain. Instead of one steamer two arrived yesterday, with dates to the 19th. Captain Lamb has our sincere thanks for his favors to us, and so long as he continues to respond thus promptly when we feel called upon to complain, our complaints will be very mild and few.

**A SPECK OF WAR.**—Last evening there was small effect of war in close proximity to the city, that for a time caused some palpating in the hearts of the good people of Wilmington. One or two gun boats run up the river a few miles to see what the Ishm elites that infest Brunswick county were about, and discovering the trace of a few of them on the river, pitched a few shells into the woods. The booming of the cannons, though not a novel sound to our people, was something of a surprise, and for a short time created a little alarm. But so soon as it was known that nobody was hurt, and that there was nobody near to hurt, the alarm subsided, and the city reposed as calmly as ever. There need be no fear in this vicinity. Though General Hawley makes no parade of his forces and no bluster of what he is doing, and Captain Young, of the navy, keeps equally cool and undisturbed, we can assure our citizens that the city is amply defended, and it will go very hard with any force that should have the temerity to attempt an attack. No such attempt is likely to be made.

**THEATRE.**—It was very gratifying to see so large and such a brilliant audience present at Mrs. Watkins' benefit last night. The play, Buckstone's dramatization of the Daughter of the Regiment, was played most successfully. Mrs. Watkins made a most natural and charming heroine, singing in her superior style all the principal solos of the opera of the same name. At the conclusion of the piece she was called for, and appeared in the beautiful tableau with which the piece closes. The afterpiece, Where's my Wife, was the most amusing farce we remember to have seen for many days. Watkins, as Simon Skeptic, was truly an original character and a grand success. The part fitted him infinitely better than any other in which he has appeared.

To-night we are to have the comic drama of The Charming Widow and a repetition of last night's farce. Everybody who likes good, sensible, pure fun should be sure to be there.

**Fire.**—A fire at midnight last night was caused by the discovery of flames issuing from the basement of Dr. McLean's drug store, corner of Front and Market streets. As we go to press the fire is still raging with a prospect of destroying the building. The citizens seem afraid to turn out at so late an hour.

**PERSONAL.**—Mr. George Z. French, of the firm Cutter & French, Purveyors for this Department, returned on yesterday from a business trip to the north. We understand that a very large and well selected stock of goods is following close on his wake.

**LATE PAPERS.**—Tuffy, at Cutter & French's, opposite this office, has the latest northern papers.

**TO THE LADIES OF WILMINGTON.**  
Mrs. Gen. Hawley respectfully invited the benevolent ladies of Wilmington to meet with her for consultation and labor, at 3 o'clock this afternoon at the "DeLany House," corner 5th and Market streets.

Applications of bed-clothing for the sick in the New Market are much needed, and it is earnestly hoped the ladies will give their valuable assistance in supplying the material now furnished by the Department.

Wilmington, March 25th, 1865.

## FROM WASHINGTON.

### RUMORED RESIGNATION OF JEFF. DAVIS.

#### A Speech by President Lincoln.

#### Appointment of Hon. John Bigelow Minister to France.

WASHINGTON, March 17, 1865.  
RUMORED RESIGNATION OF JEFF. DAVIS.  
A report has been in circulation here all day that Jeff. Davis had resigned. These rash sympathizers pretend to have received information by their underground line, and confidently assert its truth. It may be that he has declared his intention of resigning in case the rebel Congress should refuse to accede to the extreme and impracticable measures proposed in his message. The statement of his resignation comes through the mysterious sources by which information from rebellion is often received here in advance, and they seldom report anything unfavorable to the Confederate cause that is not true.

**THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH.**  
The President, though still in feeble health, is annoyed by the pressure of importunate office seekers.

**FLAG PRESENTATION.—SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT.**  
A rebel flag, captured at Anderson by the One Hundred and Fortieth Indiana Volunteers, was presented to-day by Gov. Morton, in front of the National Hotel. A large crowd was in attendance. Governor Morton made a brief speech in which he congratulated his auditors on the speedy end of the rebellion, and concluded by introducing President Lincoln, whose purity and patriotism were confessed, he said, by all, even among the most violent agitators. (Applause.) His administration would be recognized as the most important epoch of history. It had struck the death blow to slavery—(applause)—and built up the republic with a power it never before possessed. If he had done nothing more than put his name to the emancipation proclamation, that alone would have made his name immortal. (Applause.)

The President addressed the assembly substantially as follows:—  
**FELLOW CITIZENS.**—It will be but a very few words that I shall undertake to say. I was born in Kentucky, raised in Indiana and lived in Illinois. (Laughter.) And now I am here, where it is my business to care equally for the good people of all the States. I am glad to see an Indiana regiment on this day able to present the captured flag to the Governor of Indiana. (Applause.) I am not disposed, in saying this, to make a distinction between the States, for all have done equally well. (Applause.) There are but few views or aspects of this great war upon which I have not said or written something whereby my own opinions might be known. But there is one—the recent attempt of our erring brethren, as they are sometimes called—(laughter)—to employ the negro to fight for them. I have neither written nor made a speech on that subject, because that was their business, not mine; and if I had a wish upon the subject I had not the power to introduce it or make it effective. The great question with them was, whether the negro, being put into the army, would fight for them. I do not know, and therefore cannot decide. (Laughter.) They ought to know better than we. I have in my life heard many arguments why the negro ought to be slaves; but if they fight for those who would keep them in slavery it will be a better argument than any I have yet heard. (Laughter and applause.) He who will fight for that ought to be a slave. (Applause.) They have concluded at last to take one out of four of the slaves, and put them in the army, and that one out of the four who will fight to keep the others in slavery ought to be a slave himself unless he is killed in a fight. (Applause.) While I have often said that all men ought to be free, yet I would allow those colored persons to be slaves who want to be; and next to them those who would not argue in favor of making other people slaves. (Applause.) I am in favor of giving an opportunity to such white men to try it on for themselves. (Applause.) I will say one thing in regard to the negro being employed to fight for them. I do know he cannot fight and stay at home and make bread and butter and (laughter and applause) and as one is about as important as the other to them, I don't care which they do. (Renewed applause.) I am rather in favor of having them try them as soldiers. (Applause.) They lack one vote of doing that, and I wish I could send my vote over the river, so that I might cast it in favor of allowing the negro to fight. (Applause.) But they cannot fight and work both. We must now see the bottom of the enemy's resources. They will stand out as long as they can, and if the negro will fight for them, they must allow him to be a slave. They have drawn upon their last branch of resources. (Applause.) And we will see the bottom. (Applause.) I am glad to see the end so near at hand. (Applause.) I have said now more than I intended, and will therefore bid you good-bye.

The President then retired, while the crowd below cheered him with loud and noisy cheers, and the band played a lively tune.

**BLOCKADE OF THE REBEL SHIP STONEWALL.**  
The Government has received information

from Madrid to-day that the "Sacramento" has reached Ferrol, Spain, and joined the "Niagara" in watching the rebel gun "Stonewall." This ensures the blockade of this redoubtable rebel cruiser, which the "Niagara" alone might not have been a match for.

**OUR NEW MINISTER TO FRANCE.**  
The President has appointed John Bigelow, our present Charge d'Affaires at Paris, to be Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at that court. He has also appointed the Hon. Ambrose W. Clark, late Representative in Congress from the Twentieth district of New York, to be Consul at Valparaiso, Chili.

**MILITARY AFFAIRS.**  
Additional arrests have been made here for violation of the military regulation against recruiting for distant States and for attempts at fraudulent enlistments.

**LORD LYONS' ILLNESS.**  
The departure of Lord Lyons from the United States in December last was on a leave of absence, he having been a great sufferer from neuralgia, and believing a change of climate would restore his health.

**IMPORTANT TO BLOCKADE RUNNERS.**  
The Navy Department claims the right to capture any merchant vessel returning from a blockaded port, after violating the blockade, such right to exist at any time during the return voyage.

**ARRIVAL OF DESERTERS.**  
One hundred and eighteen deserters, mostly North Carolinians, arrived here to-day from the Army of the Potomac.

## SHERIDAN.

### Important Operations North of Richmond.

#### ENORMOUS DESTRUCTION OF REBEL PROPERTY.

#### More Railroads, Bridges and Canals Destroyed.

#### More Artillery Captured.

WAR DEPARTMENT.  
WASHINGTON, March 17—3 P. M.

Major General JOHN A. DIX, New York:—Major General Sheridan reports, on the 15th inst., from the bridge of the Richmond and Fredericksburg railroad, across the South Anna river, that, having destroyed the James river canal as far to the east as Gooseland, he marched up to the Virginia Central railroad at Toolsville, and destroyed it down to Beaver Dam station, totally destroying fifteen miles of the road.

General Ouster was then sent to Ashland, and General Devin to the South Anna bridges, all of which have been destroyed.

General Sheridan says the amount of property destroyed in his march is enormous. The enemy attempted to prevent his burning the Central railroad bridge over the South Anna; but the Fifth United States cavalry charged up to the bridge, and about thirty men dashed across on foot, driving off the enemy, and capturing three pieces of artillery, twenty-pounder Parrots.

C. A. DANA, Assistant Secretary of War.

**Rebel Accounts.**  
[From the Richmond papers, March 18.]  
The Lynchburg papers of the 13th and 14th inst. bring us some details of the raid through the upper country, which in view of the fact that Sheridan has communicated with Gen. Grant from Columbia, we conceive to be pretty well withheld, and therefore lay them before our readers. The Virginian says that the Yankee division sent in that direction, followed the Orange and Alexandria railroad as far as Buffalo river, burning the railroad bridge at that point. Every bridge between Charlottesville and Buffalo, a distance of more than 40 miles, has been destroyed, and much of the track torn up, though the extent of the damage done has not yet been ascertained. The nearest approach they make to Lynchburg was New Glasgow, seventeen miles distant, where a small party of them burnt the railroad depot. On Wednesday a party estimated at from two to three thousand, appeared at Bent creek, supposed to be making for the south side of James river. The fine bridge over the river being burst on their approach, they contented themselves with loud curses upon our reserves, who were stationed on the other side of the river. They burned the boat of the James river canal company at Bent creek. They had captured three of our scouts that were left in the hands of an equal number of their troops, who being cut off from the main force by the burning of the river bridge, gave themselves up to their prisoners, and were brought to this city. The raiders burned every mill they could find along the James river, destroyed all the tobacco and cotton houses, and carried away all the horses and negroes they could lay their hands upon. They shot about 300 of their broken-down horses on the plantation of Mr. W. B. Cabell, near New Market, and of course took all the horses belonging to that gentleman they could find.

It is said that about three hundred yankees

crossed the river opposite Columbia, on Friday but recrossed immediately.

The *Republican* of Tuesday, says, that the raiders commenced at Bent Creek their work of destruction to the canal, which is reported to be very badly damaged from about 25 miles below here to Columbia, and possibly further down toward Richmond. Every lock on the canal is said to have been destroyed, and in several places, the banks have been blown away.

The aqueduct at Columbia is said to be badly damaged. The destruction of private property along the route is represented to be immense. The people were stripped of horses, negroes and meat, and bread, and many were left without a morsel of food.

## LATE SOUTHERN NEWS.

### Richmond Dates to the 19th Inst.

### Mobile Strongly Menaced.

### The Situation in North Carolina.

### The Newspapers of the South, &c., &c., &c.

WAR DEPARTMENT.  
WASHINGTON, March 18.

Maj. Gen. John A. Dix, of John Harner, New York.—The subjoined dispatches have been received at this Department:

C. A. DANA, Ass't Secretary of War.  
CITY POINT, VA., March 18.

Mon. C. A. Dana, Assistant Secretary of War.—The Richmond papers of to-day are received. The Confederate Congress adjourned *sine die* at 3 o'clock to-day.

The president of the James River Canal calls on the farmers of Virginia to aid in repairing the canal.

The Augusta papers say that A. H. Stephens has been in Georgia for ten days or more, that he has not yet been heard from, and that they hope this silence will not continue.

Vigorous efforts are making at Richmond for the organization of colored troops.

The following paragraphs are taken from the Richmond Whig:

MOBILE, March 4.  
This city is strongly menaced. Gen. Maury has issued a circular advising the people to prepare for the expected attack. He urges the non-combatants to leave.

The exchange commissioners yesterday evening received information of the arrival in the bay of a large number of prisoners from Ship Island and New Orleans. They are expected up to-day. Major Correll will effect such arrangements as will embrace all prisoners captured in this department.

MOBILE, March 5.  
One hundred and seventy-six navy and army exchanged prisoners arrived in the city last night.

MOBILE, March 9.  
A transport containing 2,000 troops entered the bay yesterday through Grant's Pass.

MOBILE, March 11.  
Fourteen vessels more were added to the fleet to-day, making twenty-one in sight of the city. Great activity prevails with the enemy in the lower bay. There is every indication of an early attack. The enemy have fired a few shots at both shores.

FROM GEORGIA.—ACTION OF THE LEGISLATURE ON THE MILITARY QUESTION.  
Macon, March 4.

The House of Delegates has adopted a resolution requesting congress to repeal the conscript law, and accept men from the states under banners of their own choice—yets 61, pages 46.

THE SITUATION IN NORTH CAROLINA.  
Our Danville and North Carolina exchanges, received yesterday, throw some light upon the situation of affairs in North Carolina. We venture to copy some of their statements to relieve the solicitude of our own deeply interested people, without, we believe, conveying more information to the enemy than their most intelligent leaders have already inferred from previous developments, or may now be in possession of.

The *anville Legister* says:

Our forces have probably withdrawn and may be preparing to evacuate Goldsboro. Goldsboro was all right yesterday afternoon.

The *Raleigh Standard* of the same date (14th) says:—Fayetteville was occupied several days since by the enemy in force. It is reported that the cotton factories were burned, but we have heard nothing as to the arsenal, or as to the treatment of the people of that place.

Kimston is now in possession of the enemy and Goldsboro is seriously threatened. Our troops have contested the ground at various points with their accustomed courage and endurance. We believe the forces of the enemy will be met at some point south of Raleigh.

The *Goldensboro State Journal* of Sunday contains the following significant paragraph:—

The editor of this paper is about to leave. His readers know why. In the course of a short time he hopes to meet them again. He feels he has been somewhat odious to the enemy, and he does not regret his course, as they can't hurt him. He lives in hopes of being as well as ever.

THE NEWSPAPER PRESS OF THE SOUTH.  
The Danville *Register* of Wednesday remarks that the recent movements of Sheridan and Sheridan have greatly decreased the number of newspapers published in the country.

In Virginia we have daily papers issued from

[Continued on the 4th page.]