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THE NEWS. There is no doubt that the Yankees are advancing in the direction of Kingston. They have occupied Trenton. Whether they design an attack on Goldsboro' or are merely making a feint to cover an attack on Wilmington, remains to be seen.

MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT DAVIS. According to promise we lay before our readers to day the message of President Davis to the Confederate Congress. We are very sure that after perusing the Message our readers will agree with us that we could not have made a more profitable disposition of our space.

ELECTION OF SENATOR IN VIRGINIA. After a protracted struggle, the Legislature of Virginia on Saturday last elected Allen T. Caperton, of Monroe county, a Senator of the Confederate States, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Wm. Ballard Preston.

LECTURE. Our readers will no doubt have a rich treat in listening to the Lecture of Judge Shepherd this (Wednesday) evening. The subject of the lecture is "The times of the Apostle Paul and his character as a Christian soldier and Moral Hero."

ILLINOIS AGAINST LINCOLN. The Hon. W. A. Richardson, the recently elected Senator from Illinois, made a speech in the U. S. House of Representatives about two weeks since, in which he exoriated old Lincoln, and denounced his emancipation proclamation in the bitterest terms.

THE TEN REGIMENT BILL. The passage of this bill, the proper title of which is the Nullification Bill, has been heretofore urged on the ground that the necessities of the Eastern part of the State imperiously demanded the presence and protection of the men which it proposes to raise.

THE U. S. STEAMER COLUMBIA, commander Couthney, 12 officers and 28 men, ashore at Masonboro Inlet, surrendered to Col. Lamb yesterday. Col. Lamb kept off four blockaders that had come up to the Columbia's assistance.

Fort Fisher, Jan. 17th, 1863. The U. S. Steamer "Columbia," carrying 7 guns, Commander Couthney, grounded off Masonboro Sound on Wednesday night last. On Thursday the Commanding Officer of Fisher carried one gun and a detachment of cavalry and infantry to capture her.

General Viole's lady is going to govern us as well as her husband. She was coming over on the boat from Norfolk in a carriage on the 27th ult., and Mrs. Mercer and some other ladies were in the cabin, and Mrs. General Viole thought that Mrs. Mercer was laughing at her, and so she ordered the guard to arrest her.

Confederate States as having an independent existence. It soon became known that these as abettors were not considered abroad as such, nor had they any right to be placed in Europe yet learned what remained to be done on the official statement of power granted by the States to the Federal Government to represent them in foreign intercourse, had led Europe into the grave error of supposing that their separate sovereignty and independence had been merged into one common sovereignty, and had ceased to have a distinct existence.

PRESIDENT JEFF. DAVIS.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Confederate States.

At the date of your last adjournment the preparations for meeting an further hostilities had been so managed as to afford to some minds apprehension of our ability to meet them with sufficient promptness to avoid serious reverses. These preparations were completed shortly after your departure from the seat of Government, and the armies of the United States made simultaneous advances on our frontiers, on the western coast and on the Atlantic coast in overwhelming numbers.

There are other matters in which less than justice has been rendered to this people by neutral Europe, and undue advantage conferred on the aggressors in a wicked war. In the inception of this war, the blockade of our ports was almost exclusively agricultural; those of the United States, to a great extent, mechanics and merchants. We had no commercial marine, while their merchant vessels covered the ocean.

Four of the States now members of the Confederacy were recognized by name as independent States in 1783, with one of the two great maritime powers of Western Europe, and had been, prior to that period, allies in war of the other. In the year 1778 they formed a Union with nine other States under articles of Confederation.

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