THE DESTRUCTION OF THE

No event of the war has on intense excitement, nor a greater outburst of popular indignation, than has the destruction of this formidable iron-clad war vessel. Such were our emotions upon first hearing the startling tidings. find, however, that there are many who justify the act, and as we have conversed with prominent officers who were on board we give their reasons for the deed, and let our readers make their own deductions. These gentlemen say that, since the evacua tion of Norfolk, the course which has been pursued, though a painful one was an imperative necessity. In proof of this assertion we have many reasons, but we have only space to enumerate a few.

It is stated that there are but two rivers in the Confederate States which can accommodate a vessel drawing as much water as did the Merrimac. When she last left the Navy Yard, her draft was 22 feet. Upon going down Thursday, and driving off the bombarding fleet from Sewell's Point, she lay to under the guns of Craney Island, that she might protect the evacuation of both the Island and the Point.-Early Friday morning, the iron-clad vessels Monitor and Galena, moved up in the direction of Newport's News, and lay off at a distance of two miles in shoal water,-The guns of the Merrimac were very powerful, but of short range, and it was out of the question to think of engaging the Fed-eral vessels unless they would come into deep water. All day Friday these vessels maintained their position, and Saturday morning, the Roads was filled with naval vessels of various descriptions. The guns at Cranev Island and Seweil's Point had been dismounted, and the Merrimoe was compelled to keep alose by, to protect the retreat of our troops from those points.-Saturday afternoon the troops all got off from Craney Island, those at Sewell's Point having left in the morning.

A council was now held among the officers, and it was determined to try and get into James River, but upon consultation with the pilots, the commander was assured that the vessel could not be run in James River, unless her draft was reduced to 18 feet. This fact was announced to the crew. who received the information with loud cheers, and went to work with great industry, throwing out coal, ballast, etc., to lighten the vessel. By midnight, she was hightened to the required draft, but here new difficulties interposed. She had come up so high as to expose her hull, thus rendering her as vulnerable as any wooden vessel, and the pilots came to the conclusion, that even with only 18 feet, at the present low stage of the water in James River, caused by the strong westerly winds, they could not carry her any distance be-

yand Newport's News To thick of giving battle in the now exposed condition was out of the question, and to remain in her then condition rendered her capture only a matter of time It was then determined to destroy her, and steps were immediately taken to consummate the deed. Her roof, already covered with tallow and other fatty matter, was saturated with oil, and her decks also received a copious supply of the same material. Her crew, numbering 350, were then safely disembarked in small boats, and ten men detailed to apply the torch. This was accomplished by laying small trains of powder from each port to various parts of the ship, which upon being ignited, spe dily enveloped the noble vessel in a ship of firme. The waters were brilliantly illuminated for miles, but not a boat's crew from any of the Federal vessels dared ap proach the burning mass to extinguish the fire and secure the prize. She continued to burn until 4 o'clock, when the fire reached her magazine and caused an explosion which shook the earth at Suffolk, 32 miles distant, and sent her enormous guns and aine hundred tons of iron plating flying in the air to a beight of three or four hundred feet.

The plates, heated to a cherry red, a are told, presented an awful but magnificent sight. A moment or two more, the Sying fragments fell into the water, and all that remained of the most formidable war vessel ever constructed, was her charr-ed and burning hull. We can well ima-gine the fiendish delight with which our emies chuckled over this annihilation of what had been to them a "rod of terror," since the 6th of March last, and how soundly Gen. Wool must have slept for the first time since the terrible havon of that memorable day.

Her destruction has caused many a beart to throb with painful anxiety for their fate. but if she could not have been made use ful for the purpose desired, then it was fur better she should have been burnt a thousand times than to have fallen into the hands of the enemy. Let us now go senionsly to work and fill our rivers with such obstructions that the Yankee gunbouts cannot possibly reach the cities lying on their banks, - Petersburg Express.

Sait from Smoke Houses,-Mr. James D. Matthews has shown us a specimen of calt procured from the earth in his amoke ise. He procured a half gallon of saltway .- Athens (Ga.) Banner.

LATEST FROM PORTSHOUTS

We have intelligence from Portar as late as Sunday, 10 a. m. Up to that hour our informant states that Confederate flags were flying all over the city, but that the grid-iron banner was no where to be seen. All the cotton and naval stores of every description, were bernt, and the to-bacco was placed beyond the reach of the invaders, by knocking the ends from the boxes, and pitching them into the Elizabeth. The people generally submitted to this execution of the government's orders without a murmur. We heard of but one or two instances where objection was in-terposed, and in these the Provest Marshal quickly settled matters by the aid of an armed force.

The destruction of the Navy Yard and all the buildings, including stores, timber, etc., was complete. The officer's quarters in the Yard were spared, for two or three reasons-the most potent being the dangerous proximity of the buildings near, owned by private citizens. There are con flicting reports relative to the burning of the elegant Naval Hospital, just below Portsmouth. Some say that it has been burned, others say not. One statement is, alry slept in the Naval Hospital Saturday

We have no later reliable information from Norfolk, than that already given, there are many rumors. One is that the Atlantic and National Hotels, Norfolk, have been burnt. Another is that the Confederate flags were fluttering to the breeze there more profusely than in Porta-mouth. And a third is, that one General Ballow, or Barlow, has been proclaimed Military Governor of the city. If the latter, we hope it is not the famous "Billy."

We are again assured by those likely to know, that nothing of value in either the Quartermaster or Commissary's Department at Norfolk was left to the invaders. Here, as in Purtsmouth, the cotton, etc., was all burnt. It is stated by an hundred or more persons that a man in Norfolk, a well known dealer in West India fruit, be ... Who can read of this—and the detail, fore the blockade, was bung by order of running through many pages, is far more the military authorities for his outspoken interesting than we can make it in our sympathy with the Lincoln cause; and that a man recently employed in the Navy Yard named Mahone was shot through ing right on his side is that war, was an the head for a similar offence.

The proprietor of the Day Book, Mr. Hathaway, has determined to remain in Norfolk and publish the Day Book, if the Lincoln authorities will permit. He will now be enabled to procure the late Northern news without trouble,-Pet. Express.

THE SITUATION.

The evacuation of Yorktown and Norfolk opens a new act of the drama in Eastera Virginia. About the wisdom of the first of the above movements, we never had the slightest doubt. It was one of those masterly stragetic operations which show the genius of a commander. If we sustained some loss in heavy guns and in the cost of the fortifications, it is trifling compared with the immense advantages which have been gained by it. We now compel the enemy to fight in open field, or rather in a more open field than we could have gotten him in before, and this is a great point-tor if we can get a tolerable chance at him, without the range of his gundouts, we have no fears of the result. It is possible that the evacuation of Norfolk and the destruction of the Merrimac. the wisdom of which measures we are un-

der the painful necessity of doubting, until we are better enlightened on the subject than we now are, may change the present Peninsular programme of McClellan, and thus lead the new moves on the militar here board. The last tidings we had of McClellan's forces, were, that they were almost in front of Johnston, near the Chickshominy, and that a battle was imminent every hour. It is unfortunate for us that they are still within reach of their shipping, and that therefore, if we win the victory, it cannot be consummated by the capture of their whole army and everything belonging to it. It would be constituted by belonging to it. It would be another Shi-loh affair-"scotching, not killing" the snake. But even this would be an its mense gain to our side. . It would effects ally block the 'on to Richmond' by land and cool down the flory letter writers from the Peninsula to the Lincola war journals. It would effectually clip the wings of these inperent sources, and thus render them domantades .- Petersburg Express.

The Despot's Rule .- We understand that Gen. Wool sent a flag of truce into Norfolk Saturday morning, informing the citizens that they would be allowed 48 hours to take the oath of allegiance to the Lincoln Government. In the event of refusal, they were coolly informed that they would be treated as prisoners of war. We have not heard the reply of the Mayor of that gallant city, whose people have been turned over to the tender mercies of Abe Lincoln. It is thus the tyrant conciliates an unprotected people. Pet. Express.

A man getting out of an omnibus, a few days ago, made use of the two rows of knees as banisters to steady himself, at which the ladies took offence, and one of from two bushels of dirt. Brine can also them said aloud, "A perfect savage!"— be profitably reduced to sait in the same "True said a wag inside, "he belongs to the Paw-nee tribe.

EXAMPLE"

ole of facts There are mounted of facts presented by History is Examples to the Southern Confederacy in this its great struggle for Liberty and Law and Life. History abounds with illustrations of the great deet that a brave people, true to themselves, cannot be subjugated. They may suffer defeat and cluster, and be driven to great strates but ever triumph in the end.

The Charleston Mercury has made amends for some of its assaults upon the Administration—so productive of disaffection and discouragement, when we need and have a right to expect words of confidence and hope—by copying at great length from Macaulay's Review of the Life of Frederic the Great of Prussia, the eloquest detail of the Seven Years' War in which he established not only his own fame as a General but the independence of his country, and laid deep and broad the foundation of its future prosperity and power.— In 1756, when his kingdem contained but five millions of inhabitants, many of them disaffective, he found himself assailed by a confederacy formed by France, Austria, Russia, Saxopy, Sweden and the Germanic body. Six powers, containing a hundred millions of people, against one containing five millions; and a disproportion in wealth at least equally great. This was enough to appal the stoutest heart. Yet Frederic never qualled, but fought on through alternate triumph and disaster for seven long years, and finally conquered a peace, "giving un example, unrivalled in history, of what capacity and resolution can effect against the greatest superiority of power and the utmost spite of fortune. He entered Berlin in triumph, after an absence of more than six years. The streets were brilliantly lighted up, and as he passed along in an open carriage, the multitude saluted him with loud praises and blessings. He was moved by those marks of attachment, and repeatedly exclaimed - and surrendered unconditionally. The Long live my dear people! - Long live my guerrillas took 142 prisoners and all their

brief space-without feeling confident of ultimate success 1 > Frederic, though bayambitious, selfish, and cruel tyrant. In our case, we are contending against the worst tyranny and injustice, perpetrated and meditated by the most fanatical and godiess people on the face of the earth.-We are comparitively weak, but we put our faith in an Almighty arm.

Fayetteville Observer.

THE CONDITION OF MEMPHIS.

The Western correspondent of the Charleston "Courier" gives the following description of the condition of Memphis,

The occupation of New Orleans, of course opens the mouth of the Mississippi, and Federal gunboats have already started up the river to chase of one of our escaping steamers. They are looked for in the vicinity of Memphis within four days-a will sagaciously anticipate by "pegging out." A majority of the residents of the city will remain and take their chances un-der Federal dominion. Those most closely identified with the Southern cause, have already gone, and by the end of this wee that starling paper, the Memphis " Appeal and its hive of workers will have followe in the wake. The "Avalanche" will continue its jublication in Memphia. Confedate money is refused here in dozens of places, and for small articles it is impossible to make use of this class of fueds.— Tennesage money is at a premium of from 15 to 20 per cent. At Nashville it is selling at the same rate. Some of the mer-chants have closed their stores rather than sell their goods for Confederate money which they cannot use, and wherever it is accepted, the surplus cash is being invested in real estate, jewelry, plate and diame Sugar has risen two cents and a half.— Those who will remain in Memphis are generally the financial grey beards, whose roperty and pecuniary interests are at stake, ad they have been the first on the black

and they have been the first on the black list at the approach of danger to sound the sterm, produce passe, and discredit the treasure of the Confederacy.

A large portion of the so called "Home Guard" are among those who will tender their respects to Federal soldiery. The ladits, as over, are true as steel, together dies, as ever, are true as steel, together with hundreds of beave men who cannot leave; but besides these, the fighting population being largely represented in the field, few can be singled out with whom the Almighty Dollar is not of vastly more consequence than the interests of the Con-

A Difference,-The whole world know and will never forget, the conduct of the yankee regiments which left the Manbattle, and after the battle had comu ed, because their three months' term service expired on that day. The 4th Misshelppi regiment acted very differently as Shiloh. Their term of service expired some days before the battle, but they ex-pected it, and stald to take their part in it, which they did most gloriously.—Fay.

retary of State to-day:

Camp Moone, May 13.—To Honorable
J. P. Benjamin: General Butler, on the
11th, took foreible possession of the city.
The office of the Consul of the Netherlands was searched, as also the person of the Gossel and the key of the vault was taken from him. In the vault were eight hundred thousand dollars, transferred by the citizens from the bank of Hopes, of Amsterdam, to pay interest on bonds.— Butler also work possession of the offices of Butler she took possession of the offices of the French and Spanish Consule, in the old Canal Bank, and placed a guard there. The French Consul went on board the teamer Milan, and had not returned on Sunday morning. It is said the guard has been removed from the offices of the French and Spanish Consuls. He has also seized the Canal Bank and Sam, Smith's Banking House. He has issued an inflammatory proclamation to incite the poor against the rich, and promised to distribute among the poor a thousant barrels of beef and sugar captured in New Orleans. He is recuruiting in New Orleans, and the poor will soon be starving. The enemy have sent a force up to Bonnet Grove, and marched through the awamp and destroyed the railroad.

GUERRILLAS AT WORK.

We learn from the Richmond Examiner of the lath inst, that

Our guerrilla bands in Northwestern Virginia have been doing good work. They made, a few day since, a descent on Summerville, the county seat of Nichola county, drove out the Yankees, taking a number of prisoners and capturing their baggage and stores.
They then surrounded the town of Sut-

tonsville, the county seat of Brazion county. The yankees sent out a flag of truce stores and baggage.

Our men then followed up and took the enemy's stronghold on Chest Mountain, capturing a number of prisoners, together with all the baggage, and put the remainder of the Federal force to flight. These latter were met by Milroy's Federal army, who, followed by Jackson, were on their way to Cheat Mountain, and reported that locality to be occupied by ten thousand desperadoes. Milroy thereupon stopped, and was attacked by General Jackson, who captured all his ftrains and artiflery and routed his whole force.

Judge Swayne, of Memphis, Tennessee, few days since, in the case of two men who claimed exemption from military duty on the ground of foreign birth, that for eigners who are transient simply passing through the country, or remaining here temporarily, are exempt from military de-But that persons who remain here. who make this country their hone. to use a technical term, are "domiciled, are entitled to the same protection and subject to the same duties as native born contingency which your correspondent citizens; and it makes no difference whethcountry is their domicil, they may las fully be required to do military duty.

> The reported landing of Yankee fore at Swanboro', in Onslow county, turns out to have been a less important matter than had been supposed. The report probably originated in the landing of a small party from a boat or boats, who however did not remain long, but no doubt returned to the ressel from which they came. - Wil. Jour.

> The evacuation of Norfolk became simply a matter of time, after its chief supplies were cut off by the occupation of Ka tern North Carolina. The fall of Rosnoke Isl-and, which need not have fallen, cost the Confederacy nacounted millions, and un-

> After the back door was opened by the sacrifice of Rosnoka Island, nothing short of a terrible and decisive overthrow of the Federal army of the Potomac could have relieved Norfolk of the coil which was gradually tightening around ber. Thus it is that mismanagement and obtlinacy bear is that mismanagement and obstinacy bea fruits long after their immediate memor has passed away. In the loss of the Mer in the sacrifice of millions of property at Norfolk and Portsmouth, we are resping the fruits of Mr. Secretary Benja-min's conduct in regard to Rosnoke.—16

Mesers. Editors : - Wilmington has pot vet been attacked by the enemy -but is there not offered a strong temptation for him to attack us ! Have we not piled up on our wharves at least 100,000 barrels of rosin! This rosin, in New York market, would bring near one half million of dol-

Cotton Seed Oil .- Messrs, Stephens d Whisnant have got their Oil Mill in operation near this place and are making Oil, though in limited quantity as yet. We have tried the oil on our Press, and find it answers for lubricating purposes very well. It is said that it will not gum as quickly as some other oils that have been used.—Charlotte Democrat.

The Obio Legislature refused to pam a law allowing the troops of that State to vote while at the sent of war.

We man that the agency's gusbont expedi-tion in the river appeared ently yesterday morn-ing in front of the charactions at Drury's Bluff, and about half-past sinc c'clock fired a shell, which fell short, and then a shot, which passed over the batteries, with the intention, it is rep-posed, of determining the range of their fire baster in the day the boats fell down the river. A small squad of men were landed from the boats for the perpose, B is supposed, of recon-noitering.

A small squed of men were inneed from the boats for the propert of an immediate demonstration of the energy's gashoute on the river is not antertained, unless by the distardly creatures who are already in flight from Richmond on account their fears, who are packing their cellurs with manufactured tobacco and supplies of every description, into which they have created their Confederate funds. The sign of yesterday's panic, is the number of fine toxes about the departments ticketed "Columbia, S. C.," and the immense quantity of treats at the railroad depots, are deplorable enough. Yesterday our patriotic brokers were selling gold at one hundred and fifty per cent, and we are informed that some of the dirited of the tradevenes on Broad street were refusing to take the Confederate money. It is not too late to swing traitors by the week, or to put the mark of lasting scorn on every exhibition of selfsh and dustardly spirit shown in this time of trial.

There is no occasion for panic. Let our cit-

ly spirit shown in this time of trial.

There is no occasion for panic. Let our citizens determine with one second to repress the excitement of their feure and in meet the future with spirit and dignity and firmness. It must be weeks before the operations of MecCellan on the South side of the Jameseui put the city in any critical extremity. We are accured that the Confederate authorities have at last the spirit left to have determined not to account the Confederate authorities have at last the spirit left to have determined not to surrender Richmond on any threat of bombard-ment; that this determination is seconded by the Legislature; and that a meeting of citizens is proposed to give exhibitions of their willing-ness to accord to may encribe rather than the humiliation of the surrender of their city to the enemy. In any event, there is to be a fig every hypothesis concludes in a fight; and, al-though gumbon's may humbard Richmond, and many other things may happen or may not happen, we opine that it will be found a diffi-cult conclusion either to drive or seduce our ar-

is an important proposition on foot, to which we are not at liberty to refer without convey. ing information to the enemy, but it shows a desperate valuar on the part of the brave men who have counterest for the task, and an andiminished spirit on the part of our soldiers and wamen that only needs direction to give it of-

It has been suggested to increase the imme disto defences of the city by turning the water out of the ship at the lower oud of the canal, and converting it into a battery commanding the bend of the river in the immediate vicinity of the city. The suggestion comes from an ac-complished officer w'm does not take his ideas of engineering from Hagan's John or the burosu that directs him, and strikes us as practifortification, which, by an easy arrangement of piles and platforms, might, in a few hours, be made ready for mounting guns. We direct attention to a call published in

we direct attention to a call published in another column on the subject of our city defences, and addressed to the many Washing tontine and Marylanders who may desire an opportunity of distinguishing their uttachment to the South by a special corps to undertake a particular task in the defence of Richmond. The call contemplates practical objects, and we hope will secure the attention of those to whom it is addressed. It is under in the secure of M. to tund Walter Lenon, former Mayor of Washington city, a gentleman whose realous and steady fidelity for the South is known to all who ever had any acquaintance with that city.-Bick

More Masked Batteries for the Yankees -Notwithstanding the presence of the Lincoln subdery in Chalastile, Team, they have been unable to squeeze out the patriction of the la-dies of that city. Second girls in Clarksville are conquered, but not subdued. A correspon-dent tells the following of a new "mosked battory" which has been propared there for the

unkeen : The ledies of Clarksville have, right under the very noise of their Yankee oppressors, formed themselves into a bond fide company, well drilled, which they call, very appropriately and doubtles in derision of the well known feate of mid appressors, "The Rebel Masked Batternia for any other transfer and the second for any other transfer and transf ry." They appear on the arceta frequently in complete Confederate uniform, which consists of rather a short gray dress, blue stripes down the sides, cout sleeves, blue cuffs, tight waists, the sides, cost sleeves, blue cuffs, tight waist, with blue lappels, standing collars, second cravats, and the whole trimmed with gold lace and bruss buttons, ad infinitum. Turned up black hals, with a long black feather in front; with a gold star and white buckshin gunutlets. complete the dress; deadly pistel and dagger, there are seventy-five in the company. The Federale are on the que need to find out where the young lades drill, but that they manage to conceal with woman's usual strategy. Hurrsh for the Clurbwills girls! We suggest that the Federals at Curhwille had
"Butter let the girls alone."

We learn that at the built on last Monday week, near Williamsburg, Va., the 5th N. C. Regiment, under command of Cel. D. K. Me-Regiment, under command of Col. D. K. Me-Ran, was among those most holy engaged, and conducted itself spiendidly. Strangely enough, none of the Richmond papers accept the Whig-appears to have referred to this fact. It was stated that the 13th, under Col. Alfred Scales. had been very badly out up.

We understand that three of our Physicians, to wit: Drs. Dickson, Anderson, and Thomas, are to go on to Richmond at the request of Dr. Johnston, Surgeon General of this State. A terrible battle is, of course, apprehended almost immediately. The severe loss of the 5th also appears to be confirmed. - Wil. Journal.

This community was pained a few days ago, in hearing that Capt. H. C. Jones, of this Regiment has been badly wounded in this battle.

A Yankee Thief Killed .- It is stated that a yanker soldier went to the house of a get tleman, just previous to the fight at South Mills, and robbed him of all the money he had and some bonds. The next day he was found dead on the field of battie, and the gentleman examined the body and recovered the stolen property.—Fay-