Soon after Congress met, the House of Re-presentatives addressed an inquiry to the Pre-sident on the motion of Mr. Lyon, desiring to know if he had authorized the seizure and confiscation of private property. The follow-ing response was received:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, Richmond, Feb. 7th, 1863. To the House of Representatives of the Con-

I have this day received the following res-

"Resolved, That the President be requested to inform this House whether private property of citizens not in the army has been and if it has been, for what offence, and up-der what law, such seizure and confiscation have been ordered;" and reply that no private property of citizens either in, or not in, the army has been seized and confiscated by JEFFERSON DAVIS my order.

This was not very satisfactory, as it was notorious, that there were persons all over the country, claiming to hold commissions from the President, who were seizing and confiscating the private property of citisens. But the House, with its accustomed modera-tion, seeing the President's indisposition to communicativeness, forebore to subject him to further catechism; and choosing to consider the outrages on private rights as the irregularities of unauthorised subordinates, proceeded to pass a bill to prevent their repeti-

A writer in the Enquirer, who signs himchampion of the Secretary of War, seems to imply that that officer is the author of this m of oppression of folly, which tramples system of oppression of folly, which tramples under foot every principle of civil liberty.—
Mr. Sedden may, for aught that we know, approve and uphold this system. We suppose he does, as it is continued under his au-thority. But it existed long before he came into office, and the general impression was missariat Department. There, it was supposed, those ingenious tables, averaging prioes for the last five years to determine present values, were concocted. Why did they not take the last fifty years for an average? There had been quite as much logic in them as the last five. And, indeed, if they had gone back to '79, there would have been some show of fitness in the thing.

But whether the Secretary of War, or the starry writer, himself, be the author of this system, which sets aside all law and turns loose upon the country a set of robbers to prey at will upon the people, it is bootless to inquire. Some dodging and obscurity might not be unreasonable in respect to the author-ship of a system so revolting to all the sentiments of a free people, and so well calculated to bring its author to odium, if not to trouble.

That Mr. Seddon, whose antecedents markd him out as the man who, under no possible stress of circumstances would substitute of this system, does excite our especial won-der and surprise. That in the variety of his grave duties, he should have left this to sub-ordinates, and know nothing of it in the be-ginning, might very naturally have occurred. But, when the subject was brought to his attention by the indignant outcries of the whole country, and when he could not fail to see the outrageous invasion of all private rights involved in the proceeding, and when Congress was in the very act of enacting a law on the subject—to have persisted in enforcing it, did imply a foregone conclusion to substitute a Government of force for a Government of law.

His starry advocate alleges that he was informed and believed, that the great mass of producers had reached the point of speculating on their own productions-and refused to sell to an extent sufficient to provide army supplies-and, therefore, he was compelled to impress or see the army famish. Refuse to sell! Of course, the people were unwilling to sell at the arbitrary rates fixed by Messrs. Stars & Co., and by which they would sactifice half the value of their property. But they never have refused to sell at the fair market price—we mean the producers. So this brings back the original question: the right of the War Department or its agents to the law-officer of the Government, twice deliberately given, and to the subversion of all law and all justice.

It cannot be too often repeated, or too strongly impressed on Government and peo-ple, that the strength of our cause springs from the freedom it is designed to uphold. Abandon this-degrade ourselves to the level of our enemies—substitute Tyranny for Liberty-and we fail and will deserve to fail.

Unneighborly and Unjust-Letters from our North Carolina soldiers who have been sent to Charleston and Savannah to defend those places against the common enemy, relate the extraordinary fact that the North Carolina Treasury notes which some of them carried with them were everywhere peremptorily refused in payment for purchases !-What sort of people can they be who thus treat soldiers engaged in defence of their property and their lives and the lives of their families? Suppose the shop-keeper should be put to the expense of one cent on every ar to get current funds for those Treasury notes, would not that be a small contribution to the comfort and convenience of the poor and ill-paid soldier, who exposes his life for the safety of the said shop-keeper? Shame, shame, on such a mean spirited set.

We say nothing of the discourtesy offered

to the State by the refusal of its notes, though that might be commented on with severity.

-Fay. Observer.

## THE ADJUTANT GENERALSHIP.

Gov. Vance has appointed Col. Daniel G. Fowle, of Wake, Adjutant General of this State, in place of Gen. Martin, whose seat was vacated by the Supreme Court.

Raleigh Standard.

MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 25, 1582. SALISBURY, N. C.:

# A FEMALE RAID.

Between 40 and 50 soldiers' wives, followed by a numerous train of curious female observers, made an attack on several of our business men last Wednesday, whom they regarded as speculators in the necessaries of life, for the purpose, as we are informed, of demanding an abatement in prices, or forcithe entire commence of the month, there are quired. The first house visited was Mr. M. Brown's. They demanded he should sell them floor at \$19.50 per barrel. This he declined to do alledging that his flour had cost him more than twice that sum. They then said they were determined to have the flour, and would take it, unless he would sell it to them at the price Government was paving for it; and accordingly went to work with hatchets on his store room door. After some time spent in vain efforts to open the door, a parley was had, and Mr. Brown agreed to give them, free of charge, ten barrels, if that would satisfy them. They accepted the offer, the flour was rolled out and hauled off.

They next visited Mr. John Enniss, of the firm of Henderson & Enniss, and made a similar demand on him. He gave them three barrels of flour.

They next called on Mr. Frankford, who, it is reported, told them he had not been speculating in provisions, and that he now had nothing in his store but himself "so ladies if you take any thing here, you will have to take me-yes, take me. I'll go with you any where you please." They next called on

Mr. H. Sprague Mr. S. received them in his usual calm and courteous manner, and gave them a barrel of molasses.

They also called on Mr. David Weil, whom they charge with having run up flour from \$40 to \$50, and who was supposed to have a large lot at the depot to be shipped. South, It turned out however, that he had note within their convenient reach. He gave them a sack of salt.

They next called on Mr. Thos. Foster, who was advertising salt on consignment. He told them the salt belonged to a man in Wilmington, and that he had no interest in it beyoud that of an agent. That he felt it to be his duty to protect it, &c., and that rather than they should take it, he would give them \$20 out of his own pocket. Some one in the crowd answered-" we will take that, and the salt too," Mr. Foster replied, that he would take the responsibility of also giving them one sack of salt. They accepted this

They also called at the door of a building formerly occupied by Mr. Simmons; but we think they found nothing there.

And finally they visited the North Carolina depot, in search of flour supposed to be ong to Mr. Weil, and other parties believed to be speculators in this and other provision articles. They found, and took forcible possession of, ten barrels flour, belonging to some one in

This completed the day's work. The next morning was spent in settling the question of division-a delicate, and as it proved, a difficult question. There was some disputing, flashing of eyes, and some angry words. It was, however, accomplished, whether satisfactorily to all or to, we cannot say.

This movement was aimed as a blow at the practice of speculating in provisions. Whesense the property of citizens without "just ther or not it fell on proper subjects is not for compensation," in the face of the opinion of us to determine. Indeed, that is a question us to determine. Indeed, that is a question which none should presumptuously decide.

> These proceedings were also caused in part, by pinching want. It is said there are many families in this town and vicinity who have not tasted meat for weeks, and some times, months together. Of course they have had no butter, molasses, or sugar. Many of them have no gardens and consequently no vegetables of their own raising; and the scarcity and high price of potatoes, peas, beans, &c., render it extremely difficult if at all possible, for them to obtain these articles. What, then, have they to support life? Bread and water! Bread is the only thing with their limited means they could provide for themselves; and at present prices, it is not very easy for even the industrious poor to provide this. They certainly cannot afford to buy flour at \$50 per barrel. Fortunately, our soil is peculiarly adapted to cons. which, as a staff of life, is not excelled in the world. And we believe there is enough of this invaluable grain in the country to save us from suffering. The only difficulty about it is in distributing it among the people. Speculators must be prevented from sending it out of the reach of our needy people. Avaricious horders of grain and other provisions, for high prices, must open their eyes to the danger of their selfish and covetous practices. It is impossible for the poor to endure the hardships and privations these two classes have imposed upon them. They cannot, they will not; and it is the part of wisdom to re-

cognise the truth and provide against the dan-

and every one else. Those who have surplus ions must make up their minds to put themselves on short allowance for the sake of the common good, and sell their surplus not to those who can pay the highest prices, but to those whose wants are most pressing. The darkest days of our struggle are coming on. The times which try men's souls are at hand, and cursed be he who is not willing, not only to stake his property, but his life for the sake of our cause.

The Commissioners appointed by the County Court to administer relief to soldiers families, and who were authorised to use me credit or the county is one propose to the amount of \$50,000, will be held accountable in large part for this first demon-stration of lawlessness? How have they sness? How have they discharged their trust? Have they any stores of corn or other provisions to distribute out to the destitute families of soldiers? None whatever. They thought it best to give them the money, and let the heads of families purchase their own supplies where it would suit them best. An honest conviction, no doubt, but the plan has been subject to the grosses abuses for months and has failed in accomplishing the end designed. Many have applied for and obtained money who were not in need, whilst helpless and suffering ones in remote parts of the county have perhaps recrived nothing. If the present Board of Com-missioners continue to hold their office they should immediately lay asid their pride of opinion and judgment and vist Mecklenburg. Davie, Iredell, and other nethboring conties where similar appropriations have been made for the relief of soldiers families, and learn from the Commissioners of these counties how they dispense this public fund for the relief of the needy. Let hem go, all blushing with shame for the seese enacted in our streets on Wednesday last, and sit at the feet of the more successful Commissioners of these counties, and learn practial wisdom and enlarged views on a subject of vital im-portance to the country. They have trifled with the confidence reposed in then until the mob fiend has displayed his hideos form in our midst. Do they suppose they vill escape the fury of the devil their mal-administration has helped to arouse? Men of position are already suspicioned of countenancing if they did not secretly provoke, the proceedings of last Wednesday. It is natural, for one of the immediate and sure results of such out-breaks is the destruction of confidence between man and man, and the correption officials show by extra diligence in the discharge of their duties as Justices of the Peace and as Commissioners, that these suspicions are groundless as to them. They use it to themselves and to the public, and will not

cape the consequences of neglect.

If the ladies who composed the party of last Wednesday will take the trouble to think a little, they will see that although that day's work may not prove hurtful, yet that the experiment of "impressment" is a very danerous one, and must, if persisted in, lead to the gravest consequences imaginable. In the first place, it is unjust to the few whose property is taken. Others who have done as much or more to bring them in trouble, are unfairly permitted to escape. For instance, it was the duty of the Commissioners for reheving soldiers' families to have practiced common foresight and purchased provisions for their use, so that none would be left to suffer by heartless speculators. You passed by these Commissioners on Wednesday and made your demand on those you considered speculators. The latter have been doing what every body loves to do, to wit; making money. The former have proved ineffitheir hands for your benefit. Was your decision just? The Conmissioners are sharp business men in their own affairs, and stood as good a chance to look ahead for you, as the speculators to look ahead and make money for themselves.

Again, many a speculator whom you did not visit, is as guilty as those you did visit. It is not fair that one should be made to answer and another allowed to escape. All should be treated alike. But how will you do this? Some have made thousands of dollars, others only hundreds. How will grade your demands so as to make them bear equally on all? It ought so to bear, for it is manifestly wrong to deal partially with them. What a difficult task it would be to proceed upon this rule! and yet it is the only fair one. In fact, your plan can't be made to work equally unless you could require every man in the community to make a truthful exhibit of his business transactions since the war begun; and without equality, there will be just cause of complaint, there will be bitterness of feeling, and speedily we shall see wrangling, and deadly strifes amongst ourselves; for these are the fruits of lawless proceedings. We shall then destroy each other out-right, and fall an easy prey to the unprincipled and cruel enemy who is seeking to subjugate our

The County of Rowan at the beginning of the war, appropriated \$50,000 for the relief of soldiers families. The Legislature has also made a liberal appropriation of which Rowan will receive some sixteen or seventeen thousand more. This if properly managed, will certainly save the beneficiaries from extreme suffering. But this provision, handsome as it is, will not admit of any considerable number depending on it alone. We must all work. and work hard, to support ourselves by pro-ducing our own food and clothing, as far as possible. This fund is intended as a help, and not as a main dependence. Indeed it would be impossible for the County or State to support the people in idleness. All must work, and make out with as little as possible. Our soldiers in the field are often reduced to half and even quarter rations. Let us at home cheerfully submit to the same hardship, and persevere as they do, hoping in God for a final triumphant issue out of all these our present sore trials. It will surely come if we are faithful to ourselves. But in God's name let us not fall to devouring each other by mobs, ier than the sword.

of the percut, and drawing doublet or the blackness of darkness ther let us sutually associate, and support

The reather was somewhat variable last week. 'uesday and Wednesday were fine slays fo working in the garden, and much of it was done. We had a thunder storm and sunmer shower Wednesday night, and a cold clardy day on Thursday. Friday and friday mght, rain and sleet, and Saturday sold and doudy, with sleet on the trees and covering the earth. The peach tree warejust beginning to blossom. It is not befruit nor that it will. .

ONCERT.-The Military Brase Band of the glorious 4th N. C. Reg't, will give a Musisical Entertainment this evening at Murphy's Hal They are entitled to receive a full house, and we doubt not our citizens will so decide. The Rowan Rifle Guards, one of the first companies to enter the service, Capt. (now Major) James H. Wood's company, and the Iredell Blues, are parts of this Regiment; and this Band was raised out of them. They are dear to us. Let us call and see and hear them to-night.

### FASTING AND PRAYER.

Next Friday is the day designated in the President's Proclamation to be observed as a day of Fusting and Prayer. There will be services in the Methodist Church in the forenoon, at which time notice will be given of other services if any are had.

We have noticed that there are crowds of people in our streets, on these occasions who seem to feel no interest whatever in their proper observance. They never go near the church, and altogether, treat the matter with indifference. This conduct is only consistent with infidelity and atheism-a disbelief in the Christian religion or in the existence of a living and true God. And yet we think ninety-nine out of a hundred of those to whom we allude would promptly deny they are either infidels or atheists. Will they not, next Friday, put this question to themselves: Am I doing right in refusing to humble myself before God, my Creator, when asked to do it as on this day?

The Alunghty has never yet undertaken to bamble pride but he has done it effectually. whether in nations, communities or individu als; and sooner or later every proud thing in his Government will be brought down into.

THREE LEGED CHICKEN.-Mr. M. E. Roese, of this punty, gave us, a few days ago, a hen with three legs. She has about as little use dition. The slo for the third leg as for the seven toes on it .-It is a kind of reserve property, we suppose, which will only come into use when she has lost one or both of the legs which now do her walking and scratching.

ANORER WONDER:-- Mr. Henry Canup has given is a hen's egg which has on it a representation of the sun. The figure is natural. and nodartificial. Whether it is intended to represent The rising sun of the Southern Confederace or the setting sun of the old United States, is a question which would be better decided by a hen convention. We wish they would sold it soon, and give an intelligent explanation of this and other eggs which have been land on editor's tables within the last six

## CONGRESSIONAL.

SLAVES IMPRESSED.

Mr. Phelan offered the following, which was agreed to:

"Resolved, That the Military Committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of paying for slaves impressed by the Government, and who have died or who shall hereafter die whilst in the service of the Confederate States, from causes legitimately attributable to such impressment.

### PUMESHMENT OF DELINQUENT QUARTERNASTERS AND COMMISSABLES.

Mr. Orr, of South Carolina, submitted the ollowing, which was agreed to:

"Resolved, That the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire and report upon the propriety of passing an act provid-ing that, should any Quartermaster or Commissary fail to account for money or public property which has gone into his hands officially for a greater amount than his official bond, shall be liable to indictment, and upon conviction be subjected to infamous punishment, and that said Committee have leave to report by bill otherwise."

Mr. Davis, of North Carolina, introduced the following, which was referred to the Military Committee :

A Bill to be entitled 'An act to provide for the payment of certain North Carolina troops from the time of their collatment.

"The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, that the troops beretofore raised by the State of North Carolina under requisitions made on that State by the Confederate States, shall be paid from the date of their enlistment.

Planters, look to your hog-pens. distinguished author says, "the pen is might-

LATE AND INTERESTING FROM THE

NOETH:

Petersuveno, March 16.—The Hernis of the 12th has been received here. Hooker had a conference on Wednesday with Lincoln, Halleck, Stanton and the Committee on the conduct of the war. Hooker hastened back to the Rappahannock Wednesday night. A reconnoitering party scoured the neck between the Rappahannock and Mattapony last week, breaking up several smuggling, nests and capturing large quantities of medicines and other contraband articles. Several boats destroyed.

The President will call for more troops Wednesday that an engagement was progressing at Port Hodson. A report reached Cincinnati from Jackson, Tennessee, that a portion of Gen. Sullivan's division, composed portion of Gen. Sullivan's division, composed of two hundred men and two pieces of artil-lery had been surrounded by rebels and cap-tured. A new arm has been introduced into the United States service to meet exigencle on the Western rivers, called Mississipp Marine Brigade. It is to operate against the rebel guirrillas on the river banks.

The rumor about the loss of the Florida is

without foundation. She captured and burn the Jacob Bell two weeks after being chased by the Sonoma. The Herald says the people of the loval States are not in a frame of mind to tolerate the repetition in sixty-three of the blunders and military disasters of 1861 and '62. Military success is imperiously demanded and is one thing needful to save the administration and the country from shipwreck—Col. Sefferth, of the New York seventh regiment, has resigned. Lincoln considers the raid at Fairfax Court House a serious matter so far as horses are concerned. Says be can make a Brigadier General in five minutes. but it is not so easy to replace 110 horses. Gold closed at 1571-8; Exchange declined to 174 to 172. Cotton closed at 86 and

86 4. European dates to the 26th received. The European dates to use an exciting topic in American war continues an exciting topic in the question of recognition of the Southern Confederacy, and requested Lord Stratheden to postpone until the 2d instant a motion which he had given notice of for the produc-tion of copies of all dispatches from Mr. Mason to Her Majesty's Government on the claim of the Southern Confederacy to be acknowledged as an independent power by Great Britain, to which request Lord Stratheden

Terrific Engagement between our Batteries and the Yankee Fleet at Port Hudson—The Sloop-of-war Mississippi destroyed, two others crippied, &c.

Four Hupson, March 15-4 p.m., via losses—the bombardment commenced at p. m. yesterday, and continued up p. m. The enemy fired slowly. Our batteries did not reply. At twelve last night a a most desperate engagement took place. The enemy endeavored to pass our batteries under cover of the darkness. The firing was most terrific, and lasted fully two hours. One gun boat succeeded in passing in a damaged conset on fire and Surned to the waters edge in front of our batteries. One large vessel completely riddled and a third badly crippled, and the rest driven back. At two o'clock the enemy withdrew. Our victory is complete and glorious. As far as known, no cashalties on our part. The boat that passed is doubtless so desabled as to render her achievement fruitless. Thirty-six men and one midshipman of the destroyed frigate Mississippi were brought in by our cavalry this morning, several of whom were severely wounded.

## LATER FROM PORT HUDSON.

RICHMOND, March 16.-Official dispatch eached here confirms the victory at Port Hodson, The Mississippi was burnt, and the Richmond, Parragut's flag ship, went back down the river, disabled. Two of the fleet, the Monongahela and Hartford got by our batteries in a crippled condition. The enemy's force advanced on our works but failed to make any attack. No further attack has been made at Fort Pemberton by gun boats but the land batteries have fired some abote

The Mississippi was one of the best steamers in the Yankee Navy. She was built in Philadelphia in 1841, and carried twelve heavy guns. In September last she was commanded by Melanothon Smith, of New York.

### ANOTHER STEAMER WITH V'ALUA-BLE CARGO.

CHARLESTON, March 16,-The steamer Gratifude from Greenock, Scotland, via Nassau, freighted with valuable merchandise arrived at a Confederate port this morning.— This is her first trip to the Confederate coast.

### Confederate Congress Passage in the Senate of the Supreme Court Bill.

RICHMOND, March 18 .- The SENATE TO day resumed the consider ation of the bill to organize a Supreme Court.

Mr. Clay's amendment repealing the 49th and and 46th sections of the Judiciary Act

of the Provisional Congress, was agreed to, and the bill was then passed, after which the Senate went into secret session.

The House was in secret session all day on the Tax Bill. It is understood that the bill will be perfected and passed this week.

### [SECOND DISPATCH.] Passage of the Gurrency Bill.

RICHMOND, March 18.—The Currency Bill was perfected and passed, the Senate having taken final action on the House amendments

The first section provides that all Treasury notes not bearing interest issued previous to the 1st December last, shall be fundable in 8 per cent bonds until the 22d April; thereafter, until the 1st August in 7 per cent, and thereafter no longer fundable at the pleasure