The American Sentinel.
WESTMINSTER:
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1862.

Flag of the free heart's hope and home!
By angel hands to Valor given!
Thy stars have lit the welkin dome,
And all thy hues were born in Heaven.
Forever float that standard sheet!
Where breathes the foe but falls before
With freedom's soil beneath our feet,
And Freedom's banner streaming o'er us!

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WOOD!

Those of our Patrons who wish to pay their Subscription or Advertising Bills in WOOD, will confer a special favor by sending us a few loads immediately, as a glance at our small stock on hand is quite sufficient to induce an attack chills, without the means of raising a fever.

PLAIN TALK.

We are in the midst of a rebellion, one so gigantic in its proportions, so formidable in its array of armed upholders, that it not only astonished the whole world, but well nigh overwhelmed the government and crushed us in its fearful grasp; a rebellion that has been fostered and fed, cherished and upheld by the worst passions of which the human heart is capable, conceived by wicked and designing men for the overthrow of one of the noblest as well as the most liberal governments which has ever existed upon the earth.—We say the fact stares us in the face, that a hellish, devilish attempt is being made to wrest from us by force of arms, our nationality; that too, by men whom the people have pampered and fed, whom they have raised from their obscure and low positions, to exalted places of power and responsibility.

Treason by words, acts, and deeds, has stalked through the land with a boldness and fearlessness unheard of in the annals of time, so rampant had it become that patriotism was the exception and treason the general rule. Society caught up the bud, watered it with its tears, and warmed it with its sunshine of smiles, until our fair young ladies (not women, and fast young beaux (not men,) had christened it a full blown *fashionable* rose, whose fragrance could alone be felt and appreciated under the cooling shade of the Palmetto tree. We say this *fashionable mania* for treason, this fearlessness of men in its promulgation had gone so far, that the poor unsuspecting person who dared to express in words the feelings which prompted him to *love, honor* and *cherish the old flag* baptised and glorified by the blood of our fathers in an hundred battles, was prescribed and rifled out of this select circle which conceived and proclaimed "Secession" to be the talismanic word or passport, within its charmed portals. Society—fashionable society—great in show, loud in bluster, dressed out in gaudy colors with streamers flying, heralding in too many instances the *wealth* which backed its pretensions, lacking in *sense* as much as it excelled and surpassed in *boldness* and *audacity*, set *its* seal of condemnation upon the poor *Northerner* (so termed in its vocabulary of vet phrases,) which was sought to be made respectable as a new word in our political Dictionary, awaiting as it were upon the threshold of public opinion for admission into the charmed companionship of other words whose existence and daily use, as well as necessity and correct meaning, is established by the good sense and profound learning of a higher order of human beings than the miserable galvanized, misguided persons who find in the single repetition of *Northerner* and its application to their superiors a balm for every wound, a sarcastic thrust for every *poor Union* man who may come within the reach of their stale *satire*. This was the mode prescribed by the leaders, the bon tons of aristocracy, to hurl with incessant persistency upon the head of a Union man the appellation of "Northerners" no matter where born, no matter how many slaves they might own, no matter how far South they might point to relatives basking within its sunny borders and to whom they are linked by the dearest ties of affection and *blood*, no matter how many of their ancestors are laid beneath its soil, no matter how fiercely and determinately they opposed black republicanism upon principle, no matter how dear to them may be the State which gave them birth, and how fondly their hearts clings to its past history, or how solicitous they may be for her future prosperity and greatness—*fashionable* society had prescribed them and placed in letters of burning *shame* upon their brows the word "*Northerner*," because, forsooth, they dared to raise their voices against, or express an opinion adverse to the pretensions put forth by Jefferson Davis or his twin brother, and unmitigated scoundrel and thief, Jno. B. Floyd.

We say, that *in our midst are traitors deeper dyed* than those who with arms in their hands are fighting for rights which they conceive they are entitled to, but which these men here too cowardly to contend for in the same way, undertake to sustain and uphold by a two-fold character, that of professing (outwardly) passive obedience to the government of the Union, while at the same time they are secretly plotting to throw a fire brand into its councils, and thereby add new life and vigor to the waning rebellion being carried on by the rebels and traitors in the seceded States. We say there *are words spoken here, acts committed every day*, of such a character as calls most grievously, aye, with a voice of vengeance upon the government to assert its dignity, by using its power to suppress. We call upon our Legislature to go to work at once and pass a law with all possible despatch, so plain that all may understand, yet a law so strong that it will make *these men in our midst*, as well as their kith and kin throughout the State, who are adding *treachery to treason*, pause for a moment in their mad career, and consider whither they are drifting, a law that will compel those who live, breathe, and move in the air of secession, to do, (*and that speedily*) one of three things—either to take up arms and thereby become open traitors, fighting against their country because of wrongs which they believe it has committed against them—migrate to the South and back in the embrace of defiance Davis to their hearts content—or submit to the powers that be, and become, (what latterly they have not been but what they always should be,) law abiding, Union loving citizens.

We proposed at the commencement of this article to be *plain and we mean to be emphatic as well as plain*. We have long since been convinced of the overwhelming, overbearing character of secession, we have had abundant proof of what it has done in other localities, as professedly Union as this, we have witnessed its tyrannical acts, the force it did not hesitate to apply and use against those who differed from them; now what we want is, that every secessionist here be made to feel and to know that for past offences, so heinous in their character, there is and can be no forgiveness, save by an humble and contrite repentance in sack-cloth and ashes, and then we want the evidence of a whole life time (well spent, and not very short,) to convince us that their professions are sincere. We want them to know and to understand, that like the tories of the Revolution, their attempt to destroy this government, to dissolve this Union, to wipe out our nationality will not be passed by, as an idle tale, forgotten as soon as told, but that like their progenitors, it will be remembered against them, that like Lot's wife, they will stand as monuments to remind us of the wickedness which conceived this diabolical plan, and the elements which were vile enough to beat a responsive throb to it. We want the righteous indignation of a justly incensed people, to rise up in judgment against them, in the present day and generation, and future ages will not be slow in doing them justice, by pointing to their children and childless children and trace their lineage back to fathers who aspired by aiding and abetting rebellion to overthrow the only free government then existing upon the globe. We want them to remember now as well as then, we want them visited with the full measure of contumely they so richly merit and deserve, and we will hail with joy the hour which proclaims in the unmistakable tones of a loyal sentiment, a loyal society everywhere that traitorous words, as well as acts, must be suppressed and put down, if possible by the moral power of a virtuous, loyal, national sentiment, which will not permit the air it breathes to be tainted, much less polluted, by the foul breath of treason however disguised, under whatever pretences it may mask itself, and when this fails we shall invoke the strong arm of power to arrest its blighting influence and to crush down with its iron heel, the clay tenements in which it exists.

Have we been plain, has this article fulfilled with the heading? If not, we will sum up in a few words, what we think is necessary to a perfect and complete regeneration politically—we want a good sound loyal sentiment cultivated everywhere, a sentiment which knows no north, no south, no east, no west, but which is co-extensive with the whole country, a sentiment so national, that it will lop off by force of its patriotism the incubus of secession that hangs upon the side of the body politic like a foul ulcerous sincer. We want society to see its seal of condemnation upon this blighting doctrine and shut out with loathing and contempt the man who would sacrifice their nationality for any cause, upon the altar of secession, or at the feet of the crowned heads of Europe. We want our public Schools presided over by teachers competent to educate the youths of our land to a higher and more holy estimate of the privileges they enjoy, and with a deeper reverence for the assign of the republic. We want our ministers as the Ambassadors of Christ upon Earth to teach and to impress upon the minds of their flocks that it is right and proper as well as christian and religious to submit to the constituted powers placed over us. We want loyalty to be the test for every position, however trivial within the gift of the people, as well as in the departments of business in which the people are interested, and we want no hypocritical, whining Maryland secessionist claiming protection from a government which they refuse to sustain. And lastly we want this rebellion crushed out most effectually and the flag of the republic again wave over every fort, from every harbor and upon every lake and river in the land. When this shall be accomplished our prayers will be answered and society will do its part towards commemorating with eternal infamy the would-be (but cowardly) rebels and traitors in our midst.

Democracy, and its Modern Expounders.

Some weeks since, an editorial appeared in the Carroll County Democrat which led us to reflect a little on the purity of modern Democracy as set forth by some of its assumed expounders. We could not but think that if the old Apostles of the pure faith could behold what is now going on here below in that much abused name, they would groan in spirit at the great departure from the very first principles of Democracy, by many of their pretended followers.

The foundation of true Democratic doctrine is based on the faith that man is capable of self-government; that the ballot box is the palladium of our liberties, and, in the hands of an enlightened people, fully competent to settle all political difficulties. These principles the modern Breckinridge Democracy have criminally ignored and have rendered it incumbent on every *true* Democrat, who would vindicate the pure faith taught by Jefferson and Jackson, to *rise up* and condemn the treason committed by many of the *modern* party leaders against Democratic principles. If this be not done, we have a right to conclude that their boasted faith in the popular masses is the veriest fiction.

The sorest blow aimed by modern secession is against the doctrine of self government, as they have raised their violent hands to prevent the honest masses from having a chance to vindicate popular supremacy at the ballot box; and have appealed to the arbitrament of civil war—thus giving to foreign aristocrats strong hopes to see the speedy downfall of our democratic form of government. Every arrival from Europe shows that the despots of the old world are gloating over our expected downfall, and preparing to interfere shortly in our affairs—perhaps to establish a monarchy here, which is believed they contemplate in the case of ill-fated Mexico, as their only panacea for popular misrule.—We know that their belief is a delusion, and point with pride to the proof of our magnificent army which has *voluntarily* rallied in defence of our Union, and the principles of self-government. Nevertheless, what punishment is adequate for the traitors who have wantonly jeopardised these sacred political principles; and have invited the interference of foreign despots to assist in their overthrow!

It is well known that the Southern press in the interest of the conspirators have advocated aristocratic doctrines, and expressed contempt for popular majorities, based, as they say, on "the quicksills of society." They would fain curtail the right of suffrage, and place the power of government in the hands of those only who own wealth and negroes. What care they for majorities? From the time the seceding Breckinridge minority left the Democratic Convention, and set up impudently to be the party itself, to the time when the aristocratic Mason told the people of Virginia that they had to vote for secession or flee the State, they have shown no disposition to abide by the popular will, or allow it to be expressed.

We commenced, however, with an intention to refer to our neighbor of the Democrat, and we will not entirely forget it. The article alluded to was one in which the editor denounced the proposed law to exact an oath from Jurors to support the Constitution and government of the United States. He thought it might do to swear to support the Constitution, but to swear to support the government of the U. States was too much for a patriot of his calibre to stand. He would just as soon swear to support the government of *Spain*, as that of his own country with Lincoln in the chair. But there is no use to dispute about tastes.

He seems to think the government is a very distant thing from the constitution; and that he can *obey the one* and resist the other. What an idea for a professed expounder of Democracy! Does he not know that the constitution and form of government are identical; and that the very object of the constitution is to set up a government which all are bound to support and obey. It prescribes that the people, following sundry forms, shall elect a President, who is one of the three distinct branches of the government. The oath to support the government includes the three branches, Executive, Legislative and Judiciary. These being all filled at present strictly according to the letter of the Constitution, it must follow that any one who refuses to support the government violates the constitution; and yet this editor tells us that to take an oath to support the government may do for "*souls*" and not for freemen?

To his mind it seems to amount to this—that if you can have men of your own party to fill the offices of government you may support them; but if a party succeeds which you do not like, then you may separate the government from the constitution, and suspend your allegiance until your party again succeeds, or the country is divided between the contending parties. Now we ask what kind of Democracy is this, which rebels against the government whenever it is in the minority; and can play fast or loose whenever it suits its convenience? That is the democracy of the seceders from the Charleston and Baltimore Convention; that is the democracy of the traitors of the Southern Confederacy; and that appears to be the democracy of the Carroll County Democrat, judging from its own language. From such democracy, good Lord deliver us! If such is true democracy, well may the monarchists of Europe gaz ready to confer on as a prince of the royal blood; for the system of popular government founded by the Patriots of Seventy Six is a humbug and the people cannot rule themselves.

We will be so merciful, however, to our neighbor as to suppose that he does not discriminate well—not distinguishing between the government itself, and the men who fill the offices; and that if summoned on the jury, he might possibly take the oath, if he knew that it did not bind him to vote for a Black Republican, or support the measures of that party. The oath is not intended to affect mere political differences; but is intended to reach the secret consciences of those who are at heart disloyal to their country. A loyal man may dissent to measures which he believes to be wrong, and try in the right way to effect a change; but when the government has adopted any policy or law, in the regular discharge of its duty, every citizen is bound to obey or be a traitor.

With regard to the true principles of democracy, we have only to add, that we still have abiding confidence in their permanence. They are not confined to the safe keeping of any one political party; and though those who assume to be their exclusive expounders may fail utterly to understand or appreciate them, yet in the hearts of the uncorrupted American people they will ever endure, and shine forth to the discomfiture of false supporters.

Important from Richmond.

Mr. George W. Walker, of Waynesboro', Pa., one of the released prisoners, who was taken some seven months since, has arrived at home, and relates much of interest that is transpiring in and around Richmond.

He brings with him many unmistakable evidences of the fact that there exists in Richmond and the vicinity a strong and gallant band of Union men, who are willing and anxious at the proper moment to welcome the old flag, and fight, if necessary, to sustain its supremacy. They requested him to make the fact known to the Government that they claim to be three thousand strong, and that a full regiment of drilled volunteers can be raised at an hour's notice. The Union ladies are also very numerous, and have freely expended their means in succoring and comforting the sick and wounded Federal prisoners. Mr. Walker brings with him a beautiful gold and enamel chain, which was presented to him by a party of ladies on the eve of his departure.

The Union men of Richmond are daily becoming more bold and earnest, and have, for mutual protection against Rebel espionage, formed a league, with grips, signals and passwords. They style themselves prisoners on parole, and have long and anxiously looked for an advance on Richmond, by way of the Rappahannock which they are confident could be taken and held at any time with a force of three thousand men.

There is eleven earthworks in the vicinity of the railroad, only one of which is garrisoned and has guns mounted. So also in the Rappahannock, the defences are said to be very slight.

The news of the Federal victories at Somerset, Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, and the invasion of Tennessee and Alabama coming on their great disaster at Roanoke, has had a most depressing influence on Rebel enthusiasm. They no longer vaunt of the superior prowess and bravery of the South and the cowardice of the North—a change has come over the spirit of their dream, and they now admit the probability of being overcome, but declare they will kill their wives and children and die to the last man before they will yield.

The depression of the Rebels had of course caused the Union men much joy, and they were looking forward to their early deliverance with hope and confidence.

The levy for troops was progressing, and all able to bear arms, between the ages of 18 and 60, were being forced to enroll their names and attend drill. The Union men were thus being forced into the service, and were learning the manual with the determination never to use the knowledge unless for an entirely different purpose from that intended by their instructors. The Rebels admit that unless every man capable of bearing arms is immediately brought into the service, Virginia will have to surrender within the next thirty days.

The Government has very little even of its own paper money, the difficulty to supply the Treasury blanks being so great that many of the public offices are closed, with a label on the door, "out of funds." The Federal Treasury notes received by the prisoners of war were readily sold at 25 per cent. premium two months ago, and since the recent Rebel defeats had advanced to 35 per cent.

Mr. Walker informs us that he learned from the very best authority that an order had been issued for the withdrawal of all but thirty thousand troops from Manassas. The railroads leading to Kentucky, North Carolina and Tennessee were thronged with troops, and the number leaving Manassas had been about five regiments per day for some time past. Troops were also being sent to North Carolina to resist the advance of Burnside, mostly the North Carolina regiments from Manassas.

Mr. Walker assures us that the statement frequently made is true that the people of Manchester, a small town opposite Richmond, had for a long time persisted in keeping the Union flag flying, and that it was only taken down when the town was threatened by Jeff. Davis with being shelled. The Union sentiment of Manchester is still preserved, and its population of mechanics will prove most dangerous men to muster into the Rebel service under compulsion, as is now being done.

Everybody Satisfied.

To see who have recommended a delay in the advance of our armies, regard recent successes as confirming the wisdom of the policy of prudence and preparation. Those, on the contrary, who have been impatient for an advance, insist that it is now demonstrated that it was only necessary to attack the rebellion, to put it down.—Thus, everybody is satisfied and complacent.

The Fate of the South.

Each passing hour brings more strikingly the conviction that the suppression of the Southern rebellion is near at hand.—The McClellan anaconda is winding its folds about it. The heart of Tennessee has been restored to Federal authority. Liberated people hail with joyous acclamation the return among them of the glorious old flag that treason had for many months banished from their sight. The bombastic Wise has been compelled, in North Carolina, as in Virginia, to show the white feather. The rebel armies have ceased to pollute the soil of Kentucky with their impious feet. Hindman and Hardee are flying before Buell. The re-awakened and emboldened Union spirit in Tennessee is making their quarters there peculiarly uncomfortable. Price has been chased out of Missouri. The rebel army of the Potomac is already shut up and surrounded on all sides. Savannah, and Mobile and New Orleans will before many days be re-opened under Federal authority. The resources of the rebel leaders are confessedly exhausted. Their long cherished hopes of foreign interference are utterly crushed. The reduction of the rebellion is inevitable.

The South has gained only a great loss, a loss of reputation, a loss of blood and treasure, a loss of public confidence, a loss of prosperity, a loss of the security enjoyed in the Union and under the Constitution, and a death-blow to the peculiar institution, which reckless and unscrupulous political adventurers made the pretext for civil war and all the horrors and calamities it has entailed.

The Constitution was the Ark of Safety to the South, but it was repudiated and trodden under foot by the very men who depended upon it for protection. In the Union and under the Constitution, they might have continued for years, perhaps for centuries, to enjoy the fancied benefits of slave labor, and excluded Northern enterprise and energy from the Southern States, but in their mad desire to rule they have exposed their weakness physically and politically, and invited upon their own soil a contest between free and slave labor, in which the former will always, and under all circumstances, gain the advantage.

This Southern rebellion has not only greatly impaired the value of slave property in all the Southern States, but it has opened to the greedy eye of Northern enterprise and energy the riches of the Southern soil, and invited thither an immigration of free laborers, who will enjoy political rights and will be distinguished as slaveers from the Susquehanna to the Gulf of Mexico. If the war should be long continued the forcible and universal abolition of slavery will be inevitable. If it should speedily be brought to a close, gradual emancipation in State after State by the introduction of free labor with political rights will be the natural consequence of the rebellion.

These are solemn truths which time will verify. The crazy leaders of the Southern rebellion have done more in one single year to destroy and root out the institution of slavery than all that Northern abolitionism had effected in half a century of agitation, or could have accomplished in a century more to come. The Davises, and Toombses and Wigfalls, and Floyds and Wises, and Keitts and Breckinridges and Lowes of the South have been the artificers of the destruction of the institution the South had so closely cherished. They and they alone have brought trouble upon the whole country and ruin upon the slave-holding States. The annals of crime since the murder of Abel contain no record of deeds so black and heinous as this rebellion, or of criminals so desperate and hell-begotten as its leaders. Humanity can conceive no punishment so dreadful as they deserve.

Every hour that this rebellion is prolonged only makes it worse for the people of the South and deepens their misfortunes. The Past cannot now be remedied, but the Future is their own. The evils they have suffered cannot be cured, but the ills to result from a continuation of the war may be avoided by a return to their rightful allegiance and obedience to the Constitution. It is idle for them to attempt to combat destiny and lift their puny hands against the irresistible progress of a great nation. They have been warned again and again, but they would not heed the warning.—They are now undergoing the penalty of the inexorable justice they have invoked. Will the South learn wisdom at last, and cease to trust the desperadoes who are leading it to destruction, or will it profit by the terrible lesson of the present and seek safety under the protecting aegis of the Constitution and the Union which it had madly and miserably abandoned? This will soon be seen. A few weeks more will decide the fate of the South.

English Neutrality.

In its issue of the 5th, the London Times is emphatic in favor of non-intervention in the American question, or with the blockade. It says in regard to the latter:

"If we ask the Federal States to let cotton come out of the Southern ports, it must be on the ground that the blockades are no longer tolerable, and ought to be abolished, like privateering. The partisans of this change by the law of war assert that the restriction on trade ought to relate only to goods contraband of war, and that at all times the ports of a belligerent State out to be left open to neutrals, who should be free to trade just as in time of peace. To such a doctrine we must give a firm opposition. The idea of abolishing blockades seems to us one that can only keep its place in a mind incapable of logical reasoning. That two nations should struggle to overcome each other, and that yet each should bind itself to interfere in no way with the trade which makes its enemy capable of resistance, seems to us an absurdity too great for serious discussion. The right of putting a stop to all the commerce of the enemy, whether by land or sea, is necessary to the carrying on of war, and can never be relinquished. Mr. Cobden and those who think with him seem to imagine that there is a great difference between the practice in the two cases; but it is certainly not so. All trade is prohibited to an enemy, whether by land or sea, and it would be as reasonable for our merchants to expect the Federals to allow their passage to use the Charleston and Savannah Railroad for the purpose of internal traffic as to use the ports which it connects for the purpose of shipping cotton. We, as a great naval Power, should be the last to Demand what would be not only contrary to reason and justice, but to our own dearest interests."

What to do with our Prisoners.

The disposition of the great number of Confederate prisoners now on the hands of the Government is a subject of serious consideration. Some are in favor of following the example of the Rebel Government, and release them all on parole, for exchange, in case an equal number of our men are taken prisoners in future engagements. Others insist that this proceeding should be carried out with reference to private gains, and that we should retain every officer until the rebellion is crushed. It is, therefore, doubtful what course the Administration will adopt in the matter.

The United States soldiers who were surrendered and released on parole in Texas will be relieved of their parole by exchanges, and again mustered into the Federal service. This project meets with general favor.

Ignored.

The Southern commissioners have been denied any space in the World's Fair at London, on the ground that the allotment of space to them might be constructed into an implied recognition of the Confederacy.

News of the Week.

A Cairo dispatch states that the whole number of prisoners taken at Fort Donelson is thirteen thousand three hundred, this number not including one thousand captured since the surrender of the fort.

Information was received at St. Louis that the Union men of North Alabama had destroyed a portion of the railroad bridge across the Tennessee river, at Decatur, on Saturday, and it was also reported that a bridge at Bridgeport had been damaged.

A warrant was issued by Judge Catron at Louisville, on Wednesday, and placed in the hands of a United States marshal to be served, ordering Gen. Buckner to be brought to Louisville to stand trial on the charge of treason.

Advices have been received in New York that five of Com. Porter's mortar fleet have arrived at Ship Island, and that two more were spoken off Havana on the 11th instant.

Scouting parties reported at Washington on Friday that the Confederates had fallen back from Centreville. It is supposed that this movement is caused by the apprehensions that their supplies would be cut off.

General Halleck has issued an order mitigating the punishment of the bridge-burners from sentence of death to confinement in the military prisons at Alton, on condition that no more bridges or telegraphs be destroyed in Missouri. If such should happen, the original sentence will be carried into execution. It is also ordered that no further assessment be levied or collected from any one who subscribes to the oath of allegiance.

A dispatch also from St. Louis states that General Price, reinforced by General McCulloch's command, made a stand at Sugar Creek, Arkansas, on Wednesday, and was defeated after a short engagement. Many prisoners were taken.

The steamer Stepping Stones had a short engagement with a Confederate battery on Cypress creek, on Thursday, but no damage was done.

The Southern news received by the steamer from Old Point on Friday is important. The papers have no particulars of the fall of Fort Donelson, but one of the leading Richmond journals admits its loss to be a heavy disaster. The report of the occupation of Clarksville is confirmed, and a telegram from Augusta, Ga. dated the 15th, reports that Gen. Johnson commanding at Nashville, had offered to surrender the place on condition that private property should be respected. One of our special Washington correspondents states however, that other accounts have been received at the Navy Department, which indicate that the Confederate forces concentrating at Nashville will make a formidable stand.

The Confederate Congress assembled at Richmond on the 18th and organized by electing Hon. R. M. T. Hunter, of Virginia, as President of the Senate temporarily, and Hon. Thomas S. Bocock, also of Virginia, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The Rebel Major General Earl Van Dorn has turned up in Arkansas, from whence he publishes an order announcing himself—by appointment of Jeff. Davis—the Commander of the "Trans Mississippi District Department." He has arrived just in time to find the army he was to command demoralized and destroyed.

From Missouri we have the glorious news that the State has been entirely cleared of armed Rebel Forces. General Price has been driven over the Arkansas line, numbers of his troops captured, and his army apparently pretty effectually broken up and disorganized. An official dispatch to General McClellan also announces that Brigadier General Pillow, a Major General, has been captured with several officers of his staff. General Halleck rightly says that "the Army of the Southwest is doing its duty nobly."

Foreign Commerce in New York.

The foreign imports at New York for the month of January have been larger than for any previous month for nearly a year, the total of produce and merchandise being $12,620,829. The Journal of Commerce says:

The corresponding total for last year was the largest, including specie, ever landed here during the first month of the year, the amount being $26,287,411. Of the January receipts, $710,447 86 were in treasury notes bearing interest, and the remainder were in demand notes. The receipts of treasury notes for the whole seven months were $6,617,796 12, or nearly half the entire amount; and if we add the demand notes received, it will leave only five millions as the specie receipts since the 1st of July.

The exports of produce for the month of January have been less than for either of the previous three months, but are upwards of one million of dollars in excess of the corresponding month of last year, amounting in value to $14,888,437, including specie.

The shipments of breadstuffs have decreased, but there is a very large export of provisions, the quantity of bacon, lard, &c., going forward being altogether without precedent in the history of the trade.

Direct Tax Bill.

The following is the bill relating to direct tax imposed on the assessable property of the State, reported by Mr Donaldson on Wednesday:

Section 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That the twenty-third section of the eighty-first article of the Code of Public General Laws, relating to the direct tax imposed on the assessable property of the State, be and the same is hereby repealed, and the following section enacted in lieu thereof:

23. The County Commissioners in the several counties, and the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, shall in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-two, and annually thereafter, impose a tax, for the use of the State, of twenty-five cents on every hundred dollars worth of assessable property within their respective jurisdictions, according to the valuation thereof.

Section 2. *And be it enacted*, That this act shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Maryland Legislature.

The House has passed the bill providing for licensing merchandise brokers. An important bill was reported to provide ways and means for the defense of the State of Maryland by raising an amount sufficient to pay the State's proportion of the United States direct tax. It proposes to issue $2,500,000 of State stock, for a loan to be called "The Maryland Defence Loan," bearing six per cent. interest, payable semi-annually, and redeemable at the pleasure of the State; one million and a quarter of said stock to be reserved for the investment of the interest accruing on the sinking fund of the State. The bill proposes to lay an additional direct tax of fifteen cents on every hundred dollars' worth of assessable property in the State, to be pledged for the payment of the loan.

A Deserved Promotion.

Honors follow swift on the heels of victory. Immediately on receipt of the telegraphic news announcing the capture of Fort Donelson, the Secretary of War sent the name of General Grant to the President for nomination as major general, as a reward for his gallant services.

The Criminal Teachings of the Rebel Leaders.

The result already proclaimed of a "fraternization" of the Rebels captured at Fort Donelson—many of them—with their brave captors, and their reported confessions of their errors in allowing themselves to be duped by the arch-traitors, who have proved themselves doubly so in their betrayal of them to their fate, instead of sharing the fortunes of war with them, is indicative of a good result, inasmuch as it will make them acquainted with facts which within the Rebel lines would never have been permitted to reach them. They have found before this that the war is a war to restore the Union, to vindicate the Constitution, and not, as charged, a war of subjugation or of emancipation; and that so far from any needless cruelty being chargeable to the National forces, the latter are advancing merely as liberators from a tyranny which is now crushing the South, and from which there can be no other mode of deliverance.

And if ever a people were grossly deceived the masses in the Rebel States are to-day. With their leaders exhausting every cruel devise to inflame their hearts to madness, preaching the necessity of giving "no quarter," of bearing with them "black flags," as against those who contemplated every base crime known to the catalogue of evil, the people thus cheated are led to expect the worst treatment, and of course are loth to surrender to those they consider as little better than fiends. It is horrible.

That they have everywhere succeeded in producing these false impressions is evident from one end of the hostile frontier to the other. In the defeats suffered by the Rebels in the outset from the army in the Cheat Mountain region, the exclamations of young lads left helplessly at the mercy of the Federal troops proved that they expected to be murdered where they lay; and from that period to the defeat of Zollicoffer, especially, the same false impression has prevailed—an impression produced by a degree of reckless falsehood and imposition such as should shame the vilest agencies on earth. The motive is plain enough. It is to make the defence desperate, the restoration of the Union utterly hopeless; and it would not be so utterly disgraceful were the smaller fry there alone engaged in it. But when we find the leaders most honored by them leading themselves to such mad, giant baseness, we are constrained to believe that all manhood of sentiment has vanished with the chief Rebels, and that nothing is to be expected from them but what may be accomplished by the extremest measures.

Who has forgotten in this connection Beauregard's famous, or rather infamous, proclamation to the Rebel army on the Potomac in the first instance, in which he belied utterly the character of an honorable man, in his charge that the National forces were instigated by "beauty & booty?" Who can forget that the dastard Pillow followed in the same track, adding his ultimatum of "no quarter?" Then we have Toombs imitating the same horrors, when he tells his trusting constituents that the National troops come with "lust in their eyes, hell in their hearts, and poverty in their purses," and counselling a suicidal course rather than submission. Even the chief traitor of all, Jefferson Davis, joins in, or rather sets the example, in this inexcusable baseness and wickedness, as culpable as the lowest ruffian who wins upon his teachings to slander a great nationality, which all his unworthy life had been his constant benefactor. Who was forgotten his calumny, his base slander, uttered no larger since than last June? He said in a public speech at Richmond:

"In the enemy we have the base acts of the *incendiary* and the *incendiary*, to them we leave it *to insult helpless women; to us belongs vengeance as our*."

We hope the time is fast approaching when the great masses of the deceived States will learn the errors into which they have been led; and we hope to see the time arrive when they themselves will turn upon the wretches who have so grossly deceived them and punish them in the way they so richly deserve.

To-day the mands there can be reached only through the slaughter of the battlefield. A brief period to come and the purposes of the Federal Government will be manifested by the more peaceful methods. Yet meanwhile, what added suffering and sorrow must be endured as the direct fruits of criminal teachings, such as might shame the agencies of the bottomless pit could they emulate them. Can the leaders there escape the worst consequences of such acts?—*Balto. Amer.*

The Heroism of Fort Donelson.

The details of the brilliant victory at Fort Donelson afford the most striking illustrations of the valor and bravery of our troops. No men, not even the tried veterans of bloody and victorious fields, fought with more undaunted courage. The nature of the ground was such that only one regiment could be brought into action at a time. Each such regiment would fight till its ammunition gave out, then would retire leaving numbers of its members dead on the field. The thirty-first Illinois regiment defended a battery under the most galling fire till every horse attached to it was killed, and all the officers in charge of the guns had fallen. Of this same thirty-first Illinois regiment, the lieutenant colonel, the acting major, seven captains, and a number of lieutenants were slain, while the colonel was wounded.

Several regiments, when out of ammunition, rushed forward, and, although exposed to the full fire of the rebel artillery, gallantly drove their foes back with the bayonet, and captured their guns.

During the fight on the last day, Colonels Oglesby, Marsh, and Logan, dashed along the ranks, waving their hats and cheering their men to the conflict. "Suffer death, men," cried Logan, "but disgrace never; stand firm!" and well they heeded him, even after the gallant Logan fell, and their own ranks were mowed down by the terrific fire of the rebels.

The rebels fought with desperation, the artillerists using their pieces with most fearful effect. On either side could be heard the voices of those in command cheering on their men. The four Illinois regiments held their ground full three hours. Nearly one third had been killed or wounded, yet the balance stood firm.

Never, perhaps, on the American continent, has a more bloody battle been fought. An officer who participated, and was wounded in the fight, says, the scene beggars description. So thickly was the battle field strewn with dead and wounded, that he could have traversed acres of it treading at almost every step, upon a prostrate body.

The scene within the captured fort, after the surrender, showed how terribly the rebel garrison had suffered. Everywhere were lying fragments of shells, and round shot, half buried in the earth; tents were torn to pieces, gun-carriages broken, and blood scattered around. In the left redoubt, where the assaults had taken place the dead bodies lay thickly, and abundant evidence of stern resistance and gallant attack was visible. On the extreme right, half a mile distant, where the desperate sortie was made by the garrison, similar scenes were visible.

The gallantry and bravery of our troops was severely tested in this contest, and both sides demonstrated the fact that Americans have not degenerated, but that the boys of '62 are as brave as those who fought in '76.

Soldiers' Attention!

Pain, disease and exposure, with a hot climate, muddy water and bad diet will be unavoidable, but armed with HOLLOWAY'S PURIFYING & STRENGTHENING PILLS you can endure all these and still retain good health. Only 25 cents per Box.

Books and Periodicals.

Westminster Review for January.—We have received the January number of this excellent periodical and find its contents varied and highly interesting. The contributors of this Review are from the pens of the most learned and philosophical men in Great Britain; and are profound in thought and eminently instructive. At the present time five dollars per annum is unusually interesting. The Review may be obtained for $5 per annum, by addressing Leonard Scott & Co., 54 Gold Street, New York.

The Genesee Farmer.—The February number of this excellent Agricultural journal is received, and we take pleasure in recommending it to our readers as the best and cheapest agricultural paper now published, and indeed we regard it as indispensable to every practical farmer. Its cost is but Fifty Cents a year, and we see from this number that the publisher offers some exceedingly liberal premiums to all who subscribe for the paper at this time. Specimen copies of the paper are sent *free* to all applicants. Address Joseph Harris, Rochester, N. Y.

Harper's Monthly.—This interesting and excellent Magazine for March is already on hand, and is as usual filled to repletion with a brilliant array of attractive articles. We never feel more comfortable than while perusing Harper, and can scarcely imagine how any one who has once been a reader of the Magazine, can content themselves without it. We advise all our friends who want a first class Magazine to send in their names and we will procure Harper for them.

Peterson for March.—This popular Magazine with the Ladies, is already on our table, it contains 40 engravings and 60 Embellishments. The fashion plates, samples of work, and music, render this Magazine a particular favorite among the ladies, while its literary productions are refined and elegant, justly entitling them to a high rank. Price $2 per annum.

Mourning in Richmond.

The city of Richmond is reported to be "*in mourning*" over what has happened at Roanoke Island, and especially at the disaster as affecting the "Richmond Blues," the corps commanded by O. J. Wise, and containing the representatives of many wealthy families.—The same city was reported to be "*in mourning*" under the blow of similar losses at Bull Run. But the measure of its iniquities was overflowing, and its retribution has only commenced. For long years the greatest slave mart in the world, and waxing rich upon the buying and selling of, men, women, and children, it debauched itself, and everything within its influence, into a condition of moral insanity, of which it is only wonderful that the consequences were so long postponed. The yells and murderous threats with which the mob in Richmond precipitated a hesitating convention into revolution, were only a manifestation of the intrinsic ruffianism which constituted both the commerce and the politics of the city. This whole war, with all its consequences to Richmond of material ruin and of her youth slain in battle, is the direct result of the violations of moral law which are systematized in an institution well styled "the sum of all villainies."

Stiffening of Union Men.

The Wheeling Intelligencer, in noticing the effect of the news from Tennessee in that city, says:

It has had a more stiffening effect than any piece of news received since the war. The class of men who do not really know whether they are Union men or not were greatly stiffened, and some seemed even cheerful. They talked about "our troops" and "our generals," and expressed the belief that the backbone of Secession was broken. The Union men could hardly restrain their joy, and some good citizens, we regret to say, sought relief in the flowing bowl.—The Secesh looked awful blue, and, as usual, met in little knots upon the street corners and in the well known dens of Secession, to condole with one another.

Sword for General Banks.

A beautiful sword, to be presented to Maj. Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks, has just been completed in Philadelphia. The blade is of very fine quality, and the scabbard of silver, plated with gold, and handsomely wrought. The hilt of the sword bears the initials "N. P. B.," and the scabbard the following inscription: "Presented to Maj. Gen. N. P. Banks by Col. J. K. Murphy, Maj. M. Scott and Capt. N. C. Kinsler, of the 29th regiment, Pennsylvania volunteers."—A steel scabbard, bronzed for field service, accompanies the sword The case enclosing the present also contains a buff sash for Major General, sword-belt, etc. The presentation will take place this week at Frederick, Md.

☞Every item of intelligence which we receive from the South contributes fresh evidence of the hopelessness of the Rebel cause. At a supper given by the citizens of Martinsburg, Virginia, to Mr. Faulkner, late United States Minister to France, but now a prominent Rebel, that gentleman stated that he considered it was useless for the South to contend any longer; that the Southern Confederacy could not possibly stand, and that the sooner the existing war was ended the better it would be for the people of the South. This declaration is said to have created great excitement, as well it might, coming from a person of Mr. Faulkner's influence; and General Banks has intimated his belief that Mr. Faulkner used these expressions.

Paying Dearly for Their Whistle.

The London Times says that the release of Mason and Slidell and their two Secretaries cost the British Government (in its preparations for hostilities, we presume,) £1,000,000 apiece, or in all about $25,000,000. No wonder that the people of England are somewhat dissatisfied with their bargain and disposed to believe that they have paid too dearly for their whistle.

Queen Victoria's Health.

Letters from London, written by parties in communication with Court circles, state that the opinion gains ground there that the Queen has become so much mentally affected that her abdication in favor of the Prince of Wales is confidently looked for, when he shall have come of age, in November next. Of late she has become quite unequal to the discharge of public business, and passes her time in the closest seclusion.

Threatening to Sink the Sumter.

The Naples correspondent of the London Times, writing on the 28th of January, states that the Italian government has given orders to its officers to sink the Sumter if met with in