msa_sc2901_scm1621-0280 copyright Maryland State Archives

The Kent News.

CHESTERTOWN:

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 29, 1862.

THE LATEST NEWS.

Affairs at Island No. 10 are unchanged. The mortar boats are firing regularly, but very moderately, about once an hour. The rebels do not reply, and it is reported that they are evacuating the place. The St. Louis Republican's Cairo despatch says persons who left Memphis recently report that Gens. Beauregard, Polk, Cheatham, and Clark were at or near Corinth, Mississippi, where it is expected a great battle would soon be fought. The latest despatches from Island No. 10 report that the enemy's principal works on the mainland are overflown. The whole of the Mississippi valley in that vicinity is under water. The flood also delays effective operations by our forces at present.

In another column we give an account of the reported occupation of Beaufort, N. C., by the Federal forces, and the destruction of the privateer Nashville. The steamer Cambridge, which arrived at Old Point from the blockading station off Beaufort, reports that the Nashville was neither captured by our forces nor burnt by the Rebels, but ran the blockade on the night of the 20th inst., loaded with a valuable cargo. She was seen and fired upon by the Cambridge and the bark Gemsbok, but the superior speed of the Nashville enabled her to escape. The result is a most unfortunate one, and must occasion a serious investigation of the neglect which left a possibility of the escape of a vessel capable of doing so much damage to our commerce. The officers of the Cambridge also report that Beaufort and Fort Macon still remained in possession of the Rebels up to Sunday night.

We have additional particulars of the battle at Winchester on Sunday last. The rebels had in the attack eleven regiments of infantry, fifteen hundred cavalry, and twenty-eight pieces of artillery, and at 10 o'clock on Sunday morning received reinforcements, amounting to five thousand more. The Union forces did not exceed ten thousand men, and, with the exception of about five hundred, were of General Shields' division exclusively. It appears that the Rebels designed to attack Winchester with thirty thousand men, but Gen. Jackson hearing that most of our forces had left there, ventured the attack with his own division and got thoroughly whipped. Two hundred and three of their dead have already been found and buried. Gen. Shields in a despatch to Senator Rice states the Rebel loss at 500 killed and 1,000 wounded, and the Federal loss at 150 killed and 300 wounded.

It is reported at Fortress Monroe that the repairs on the rebel steamer Merrimac having been completed, she was brought out of the dry-dock on Monday, and that her crew were placed on board ready for action. Several guns of heavier calibre than before used had been placed on board of her. The steamers Jamestown and Yorktown are also said to have been repaired and greatly strengthened, and now ready to accompany the Merrimac. The preparations for her reception, should she again venture into Hampton Roads, are believed to be such as will ensure her capture or destruction.

Advices from Tennessee are favorable to the gradually returning sense of loyalty to the Union. Gov. Johnson had arrived at the seat of the Tennessee Government, and after addressing the people of Nashville from the steps of his hotel, in a most feeling and effective style, was conducted to the capitol, where he took formal possession of the State Government. The tone of Gov. Johnson's proclamation is conciliatory but firm. The stores in Nashville had been opened and business resumed. Parson Brownlow was there and had made a speech, a report of which we give in another column.

The Secretary of War has ordered the stoppage of the release or parolling of the Rebel prisoners, the Rebel authorities not having fulfilled the agreement for the release of Col. Corcoran and other Federal prisoners in their hands.

At a meeting of the officers of the Associated Banks of Baltimore, held a few days since, a resolution was adopted to receive on deposit, without limit, the U. S. Treasury demand notes. This action of the banks will place that paper on a par with their own issues.

A military commission, of which Gen. D. S. Stanley was President, has found the notorious Colonel Magoffin guilty of violating his parole, and he has accordingly been sentenced to death. The time of his execution has not yet been fixed by General Halleck.

THE PEA RIDGE BATTLE.

The battle of Pea Ridge, fought on the 5th, 6th and 7th of March, was, without doubt, the most desperate engagement which has taken place during the war.—The precise number engaged on each side is not stated, but it is conceded that the Rebel force was much the greater. The Southern accounts admit a loss of 2,000, including many prominent officers, among whom are named Generals McCullogh, McIntosh, Slack, and Col McRea, killed, and Gens. Price and Herbert wounded. The Federal loss was also heavy; no officer however higher than the rank of Lieutenant Colonel was among the slain.

A field engagement of three days' duration rarely occurs in the history of wars, and attests the determined obstinacy and valor of the combatants. The accounts state that at the close of the second day's fighting the odds were against the Federal troops—*but the brave and gallant Sigel was there to plan*, and his brilliant manœuvering on the morning of the third day gained for the Union arms a complete and decided victory over Indians, Texan Rangers, and *id omne genus* of the grand Rebel army. Some interesting particulars of the battle, from both Southern and and Federal sources, may be found on our first page.

Philadelphia M. E. Conference.

The Philadelphia Annual Conference of the M. E. Church commenced its session in the city of Philadelphia on Wednesday of last week, Bishop Morris presiding.—As was expected, the "state of the country" has engaged the attention of the body, in connection with its ordinary routine of business, and a resolution is pending, and will doubtless pass, requesting the marshal of that judicial district to administer the oath of allegiance to the entire Conference. On Tuesday the following resolution was adopted by ayes 225, noes none, two members asking to be excused from voting, but the Conference refusing, voting aye:

"That while we disclaim all connection with political parties, yet as loyal ministers in Conference assembled, we do hereby express our utter abhorrence and opposition to the present rebellion, as being treason, and designed for the destruction of the best Government of the world."

TWO IMPORTANT LAWS.—We publish today the Treason bill passed by the Legislature, and to go into effect on the 15th of April. Its provisions are ample and its penalties severe, and it would be well for all who feel an inclination to dabble in treasonable practises, "to count the cost" before they incur the fearful responsibility.

We also publish that most objectionable and unpopular law of the whole session—the act extending the Stay Law. It will be observed, however, that its benefits are *conditional*, and a failure on the part of the debtor to comply promptly with its provisions and meet a certain proportion of his indebtedness at *stated* intervals, works a forfeiture of all claim to its immunities.

IN ITS RIGHT PLACE—FOR *that* PAPER.—The *Centreville State Rights* very properly publishes immediately under its editorial head the Act of the last Legislature defining and punishing treason. We doubt whether there is a paper in the State whose readers are more deeply interested in the provisions of the bill, or who stand in greater danger of the infliction of its penalties. As "*pocket law*" is quite popular in that section, here is one which they may *carry* with great propriety.

☞ We give in another column, the particulars of the battle at Winchester, on Sunday, in which the rebels were worsted, and are now "advancing backwards" in double quick time. Gen. Jackson has tried the mettle of the Union troops, and his backward movements "are only for strategetic purposes," of course! He will probably find, however, rather a "hard road to travel" before he gets to Richmond to join the mournful train in that direction, in making their last grand backward movement for "strategetic purposes."

☞ The *National American* (Bell Air) published last week, as its leading editorial, our recent article on "Martial Law and Habeas Corpus," but *forgot* to give the proper credit. We have no objection to all the papers copying freely from us, provided due acknowledgment is made; but to suffer the abstraction of an entire article, and its appropriation as a *leader*, is rather more than we can yet afford.

☞ On our first page will be found an interesting letter from our correspondent in the Fifth Maryland Regiment (Colonel Schley's), recently removed to Newport News. The writer is confident, from the fact that all the women have been directed to leave the place, and other indicative signs, that an advance is speedily to be made from that position.

It is stated that a new projectile, adapted to the 11-inch Dahlgren guns of the Monitor, has been made at the Cold Spring Foundry, at West point. One of them was driven through a solid plate of wrought iron eight inches thick, placed at an angle of forty-five degrees.

Southern Threats against England.

If England does not take care she will get into trouble with the South, in evidence of which risk we quote the following from the Richmond Examiner:

"It is known that for some days past Congress has been discussing in secret session the propriety of sending additional commissioners to Europe to negotiate a sale of the entire cotton crop on foreign account, assuming its purchase by this Government. The discussion in secret session took a very different direction from what was primarily intended, it being moved that our present embassies to Europe should be recalled, and that our diplomatic relations with England and France should *be terminated for the present*. This proposition has been renewed in open session of Congress, and is understood to be chiefly intended as an exhibition of spirit and resentment at the shuffling and selfish policy, especially of the English Government, on the question of our recognition."

The joke of the above is that "diplomatic relations," which have never begun, should be terminated. We think "the Confederacy" had better let England alone till she gets through with the United States. "One at a time," particularly of great nations, is about as much as she can manage; and besides it will *last longer!!*

Local Matters.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.—*Incendiarism.*—We regret to record the burning, early on Thursday morning last, of the barn and stables of Mr. ELIAS WALRAVEN, residing three miles from Chestertown, on the Worton road, together with four horses, three mules, a considerable quantity of grain, agricultural implements, corn blades, &c. Two of the horses belonged to Dr. T. H. Whaland, but were in the temporary use of Mr. Walraven. The value of the entire property destroyed is estimated at from fifteen hundred to two thousand dollars, upon which there was no insurance. Mr. Isaac Parsons, to whom the buildings belonged, suffers perhaps one-third of the loss. We deeply sympathize with Mr. W. in his truly heavy loss. He is a worthy and industrious young farmer, and by this application of the torch of the incendiary has been stripped of nearly the entire accumulations of several years' hard labor.

An unruly negro boy, hired by Mr. Walraven, has been arrested on suspicion of the incendiarism, and from all the circumstances there can be little doubt of his guilt.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—William Howard, an apprentice to Messrs. John T. Dodd & Son, house carpenters, Chestertown, was killed on Tuesday by falling from the scaffold of a house being built for John N. Usilton, Esq., near the Masonic Hall.—It seems that in passing from the rafters to the scaffolding, he made a misstep and was precipitated to the ground, a distance of some twenty feet, falling upon the pavement and fracturing his skull bone and breaking both wrists. He lived but a few minutes, and of course never spoke, the violent concussion of the brain rendering him immediately speechless and insensible. The parents of the deceased have been dead several years, and his only near relative is a brother, (John), who belongs to Colonel Wilkins' regiment. He was in his nineteenth year.

LAMENTABLE DEATH.—Sarah Elizabeth, aged three years and three months, daughter of Mr. William H. Lambert, residing in Quaker Neck, died on Thursday morning from injuries received from a burn the previous day. She was playing near a pile of burning brush, when her clothes took fire, and before assistance could be rendered her garments were nearly consumed, and her person greatly disfigured. The dear little sufferer lingered until the following morning, when she was kindly released from her misery and taken to rest with the Lover of children in Heaven.

THE BISHOP'S PRAYER.—In our comments last week on Bishop Whittingham's prayer, some persons may have thought that the clergyman alluded to was the Reverend gentlemen at the head of Washington College. We beg to say that we had not that gentleman in our mind in writing the article, for we have no reason to charge him with entertaining such improper views and sentiments.

AGRICULTURAL.—Our farmers have been considerably retarded this spring in seeding oats and in the preparation of the ground for their corn crop, in consequence of the wet weather. The latter part of winter and early weeks of the present month were unusually rainy, and the ground is yet in many places too watery to plow. It is contemplated to cultivate more than an average quantity of land this season, in anticipation of an increased demand for grain the coming year.

THE FISHERIES.—The fishermen on our river have not been very successful so far this spring. Only a few shad have been taken, and they readily command fifty cts. a pair on the shore. Herring, however, are becoming more abundant, and the price has been recently reduced to twelve and a half cents per dozen.

REV. DR. RILEY'S LECTURE.

On Tuesday evening last the citizens of Chestertown and vicinity were delightfully regaled by a lecture on "American Statesmen," by the Rev. Dr. J. MCKENDREE RILEY, of the city of Baltimore.

As the lecturer had to deal with the characters and abilities of the departed, the most fastidious could not by any constrained inference connect the past with the present, nor except to any expression used by him. The chief characters introduced were Randolph, Benton, Jackson, J. Q. Adams, Calhoun, Webster, and Clay. His delineations, discriminations, and comparisons of character by contrasts, were admirably managed, exhibiting the power of description and analysis, a familiarity with the prominent features of the subject, and taste and cultivation of thought and language. His delineation of the character of Randolph was the most graphic of anything we ever heard of that great anomaly. He seemed to have gathered the different elements, examined them closely, arrayed them before the mind of the hearer as a cabinet of curiosities, and by comparing and contrasting him with the others, furnished a life-like embodiment of the man.

His other portraits were skilfully drawn and touched by a master hand. Intellectually, or as a statesman, we thought he endorsed too liberally General Jackson, but as a man of will, force of character, and determination, he may have done him only justice. His illustrations were apt and impressive, and a few interesting anecdotes added to the interest of the subject, while they favored the idea the speaker was presenting. Upon the whole we thought his character of Clay the most favored of the group. All those great men, but Randolph and Calhoun, were made so by the necessities of their condition. They were giants in their day, and the memory of them lingers with melancholy pleasure, inspiring the wish that they could live and fight their battles over again. But, alas, they are gone!

The lecture was highly creditable to the Doctor and gave great pleasure to the entire audience. The proceeds were by arrangement to be distributed, in provisions, &c., to the poor.

The recitation by the Doctor, after the termination of the lecture, of Tennyson's Poem descriptive of the "Charge of the Six Hundred" of the light brigade at Balaklava in the Crimea, on the whole Russian batteries, was beautifully done, and with dramatic power and effect.

The thanks of the community are due to the Reverend Doctor, and are cheerfully accorded.

INCENDIARISM.—An attempt was made on Thursday night of last week to burn the dwelling of Mr. Wm. Bacchus, contiguous to his grist and saw mills, at the head of Fairlee creek, in this county.—It is supposed that the combustibles for igniting the fire were carried from the saw mill, which shows that injury to person rather than property was meditated, as the mills could have been fired with much better chance of success, and with far greater destruction of property. It was raining very hard at the time, by which means the fire was fortunately extinguished before much damage was done to the dwelling. The discovery was not made until the morning.

CHOKED TO DEATH.—A free negro, named Emory Richardson, living in Still Pond, met his death on Tuesday in a singular manner. He was walking alongside of a loaded cart, when his neck was caught between the shaft and a tree, and being unable to stop the horse, his neck was crushed in such a manner as to cause instant death. He is represented as having been sober and industrious, and had acquired some property. The same negro was nearly killed a short time since by a bucket falling on his head while cleaning out a well.

SENATOR PEARCE.—The National Intelligencer says:

We are glad to learn that Mr. Senator Pearce, who for several days past has been detained at his lodgings by sickness, was somewhat better on Monday, though not sufficiently recovered to resume his place in the Senate. We understand that his medical adviser imposes upon him the necessity of taking a brief respite from public cares until his health is more perfectly reestablished.

JEFF ON "HIS WINDING WAY."—It is authoritatively announced by some of the bogus Congressmen at Richmond, that Jeff Davis is going South, and a call is made on the people to rally around him. Jeff snuffs danger in the wind, knowing that McClellan will soon be down upon him like a thousand of brick, and as "discretion is the better part of valor," he wishes to be as near Mexico as possible, through which he will finally slip, on his way to Havana, where he has recently sent his treasures in advance. His dupes will find that Jeff and the leaders of the rebellion, following Floyd and Pillow's plan, will look out for No. 1, and leave their followers in the lurch.

STATE OF AFFAIRS IN NEW ORLEANS.—The New Orleans *Delta*, since the recent victories in the West, has contained several articles in favor of a restoration of the Union. It is reported that the state of things in that city threatens open riot.

Parson Brownlow's Speech.

The following speech of Parson Brownlow was delivered in front of the St. Cloud Hotel, Nashville, on the evening of the 17th instant:

Gentlemen: I am in a sad plight to say much of interest; too thoroughly incapacitated to do justice to you or myself. My throat has been disordered for the past three years, and I have been compelled to almost abandon public speaking. Last December I was thrust into an uncomfortable and disagreeable jail for what? *Treason!* Treason to the bogus Confederacy; and the proofs of that treason were articles which appeared in the Knoxville Whig in May last, when the State of Tennessee was a member of the imperishable Union. At the expiration of four weeks I became a victim of the typhoid fever, and was removed to a room in a decent dwelling, and a guard of seven men kept me company. I subsequently became so weak that I could not turn over in my bed, and the guard was increased to twelve men, for fear I should suddenly recover and run away to Kentucky. Becoming convalescent, in a measure, I was removed to my former place of confinement. One day I was visited by some Confederate officers, who remarked, "Brownlow, you should not be here. Take the oath of allegiance to the Confederate Government, which will not only entitle you to a speedy release, but insure your protection." "Sir!" said I, "before I would take the oath to support such a hell forsaken institution, I would suffer myself to rot or die of old age."

Gentlemen, I am no Abolitionist; I applaud no sectional doctrines; I am a Southern man, and all my relatives and interests are thoroughly identified with the South, and Southern institutions. I was born in the Old Dominion, my parents were born in Virginia, and they and their antecedents were all slaveholders. Let me assure you that the South has suffered no infringement upon her institutions; the slavery question was actually no pretext for this unholy, unrighteous conflict—Twelve Senators from the cotton States, who had sworn to preserve inviolate the Constitution framed by our forefathers, plotted treason at night—a fit time for such a crime—and telegraphed to their States despatches advising them to pass ordinances of Secession.

Yes, gentlemen, twelve Senators swore allegiance in the day time, and unswore it at night. A short time since, I was called upon by a little Jew, who, I believe, is the Secretary of War of the bogus Confederacy. He threatened to hang me, and I expected no more mercy from him than was shown by his illustrious predecessors toward Jesus Christ. I entered into a long correspondence with this specimen of expiring humanity, but from mercy or forgetfulness, on their part, I was permitted to depart with all my documents in my little valise, which I hope to publish at no distant day. Gentlemen, when I started on my perilous journey, I was sore distressed in mind, and exceedingly so in body. But the moment my eyes encountered the pickets of the Federal army my depression decreased and returning health seemed suddenly to invigorate my physical constitution.

Gentlemen, secession is played out; the dog is dead; the child is born, and his name is Jeff Davis, Jr.

A PATRIOT MOTHER AND A REBEL SON.—A few days since Mrs Tilghman visited Gen. Tilghman, the rebel prisoner at Fort Warren. There was some difficulty in obtaining the required permission, but on Saturday, says the Gazette, the mother and sister were allowed to visit the Fort and have an interview with the prisoner. The first exclamation on meeting him was, "Oh, my rebel son!" and during the conversation she said, "When I heard you were taken, I thanked God that you had been rescued from secession influences, and were I to hear there was any chance of your being exchanged, I would go on my knees to the President to prevent you from again joining the rebels, for I had rather have you remain here during your life than to know you were among the traitors of the country."

JOHN BULL'S OPINION OF YANKEE COURAGE.—The last number of Blackwood's Magazine in an article upon the defences of Canada, after expressing the opinion that a war between Great Britain and the United States will occur by 1863, says:

"Our British North American Colonies stand face to face with a power, which in the appliance of modern science, and in the courage and endurance of its people, is a match for the most military of European nations. An American army, when it first takes the field, may be little better than a rabble; but give it the experience of a year or two and it becomes able to hold its own against the best troops in the world. So our people found half a century ago, and so, if the storm which we are now contemplating do not burst until 1863, our people may find again."

CHIVALRY.—At Savannah, last week, although the Union army was constantly looked for at that place, and our ships already in sight, the Republican, in alluding to a draft remarks: "The Mitchell Guards promptly volunteered," and adds: "The crowd was very large on the ground, but few others were added to the voluntary list. There were many aliens, not subject, *and a regiment or so of invalids*, who double-quicked manfully to the officer's stand when excuses were called for. We had no idea of the *sanitary* condition of our population before."

AN IMPORTANT CAUCUS—A NEW PARTY TO BE FORMED.—The Washington correspondent of the Phila. Inquirer says:

A caucus was held this evening of the Democratic and conservative Republican members, to consider the National questions now before Congress, and to unite against the extreme measures of the radical Republicans. The idea is beginning to be seriously discussed of forming a new conservative party to support the Administration.

The Battle of Winchester.

RETREAT OF THE REBELS—DISASTROUS ROUT—THE LOSS VERY HEAVY—GEN. BANKS' ARMY AT STRASBURG.

A Severe Fight—Bold Charge of the Union Troops.

WINCHESTER, March 25.—The following are the main facts relative to the battle fought near this place on Sunday:

On Saturday, about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, the enemy showed themselves about a mile and a half from Winchester. They drove in our pickets and then skirmished with the Michigan cavalry and a portion of the First Maryland regiment.

General Shields brought up his forces and fired several rounds of shell and drove them back and took several prisoners.—Gen. Shields was wounded in the left arm by the first fire of the enemy.

It appeared that Jackson had been informed by some of the inhabitants that the town was deserted by the Union troops, and he advanced to retake it.

Gen. Shield's force slept on their arms on Saturday night, and on Sunday morning at sunrise Jackson, being reinforced, attacked our army near Keamstown, three miles from Winchester.

The enemy's force, as near as can be ascertained, was 500 of Ashby's cavalry, 5,000 infantry, and 9 pieces of artillery, with a reserve of 18 pieces of artillery.

The fight was kept up till noon, when a charge was made by the Ohio Infantry, First Michigan and First Virginia Cavalry, on the enemy's right, and drove them back half a mile, when the enemy got his guns again in position in a dense woods, flanked by his infantry and drove us back. A short artillery engagement ensued, when General Shields ordered Col. Tyler to turn their left flank, which was executed by our troops, but with terrible loss, the enemy being protected by a stone ledge. The Eighty-fourth Pennsylvania and Thirteenth Indiana charged their centre, and the fight now became general, with a terrible havoc on both sides. Col. Murray of the 84th Pa., was among the killed in this charge.

The enemy retired slowly bringing their guns to bear at every opportunity. Our men rushed upon the foe with yells, when the enemy broke and fled panic stricken. Our troops followed and drove them till dark, capturing three guns and three caissons, and muskets, equipments, etc., almost innumerable.

The Irish battalion of 150 men, it is said, were ordered to fire upon the Federals, but refused, and were driven forward by a Rebel regiment, but they could not compel them to fire upon the Union troops. Forty corpses of this battalion afterwards strewed the field.

The Rebels finally gave way before the indomitable courage of our troops. Their loss is estimated at as high as 700 killed and wounded, besides prisoners.

A youthful Rebel soldier who had received two wounds in the breast, when approached by one of our officers inquired if the officer knew General Banks, and receiving an affirmative reply, he said, "Tell him I want to take the oath of allegiance, for I have three brothers in the Federal service, and I want them to know I die true to the Union."

The Federal Army in Hot Pursuit Beyond Strasburg.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—Information received here to-day shows that our army was at Strasburg this morning, and that the retreat of the enemy is a flight.

WINCHESTER, March 25.—Gen. Shields has received a despatch from Major Gen. Banks, dated five miles beyond Strasburg. The enemy are still in retreat, and our forces are in hot pursuit.

The loss of the rebels must have been enormous. They have abandoned wagons along the road filled with dead and dying, and the houses on the route of their retreat are found crowded with the wounded and dead. Our artillery makes terrible havoc among the enemy in their flight and the rout bids fair to be one of the most dreadful of the war.

EUROPEN NEWS.

PORTLAND, March 25.—The steamer Nova Scotian, from Liverpool on the 13th, and Londonderry on the 14th, has arrived.

The London Times has another article on American affairs, speaking of the present as a favorable opportunity for negotiation between the North and South.

Under the influences of the recent successes of the Federal arms, cotton has declined ½d.

In the French Corps Legislatif, Jules Farre denounced the Mexican expedition, but the paragraph in the address to the Emperor in reference to the matter was adopted.

The rebel steamer Sumter still remained at Gibraltar on the 7th, and the United States gunboat Tuscarora still watching her.

The London Times has an article against any revision of the Maritime law, and argues that if England gives up her right to capture merchant ships she would surrender the only arm which gained all she has gained and defends all she has gained. The Times thinks the Federal victories will lead to separation and peace!

Affairs at Nashville.

NASHVILLE, March 25.—Gov. Johnson has put the newspapers under the military rules of the War Department, and has suppressed one or two. He has issued a proclamation of a conciliatory character, saying that he desired to win the people back to the Union, but should deal rigorously with treason.

The new government will go into operation this week. Warning has been given that any one uttering treason will be arrested. All the stores are again open, and prices are much reduced.

GOVERNMENT CREDIT.—We have been informed, says the Phila. Press, by one of our largest brokers, that large amounts of the government loan have been taken in this city by English subjects. A letter was recently received to negotiate for five millions of the government six per cent. loan, payable in 1880. This order was for parties in Europe, where it is said, money is a drug, loaning in some instances at rates as low as one and a half per cent.