THE OREGON ARGUS.

BY D. W. CRAIG.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

The Argus will be furnished at Three Dollars per annum, if paid in advance.

When the money is not paid in advance, Four Dollars will be charged if paid in six months, or Five Dollars at the end of the year.

Two Dollars will be charged for six months—No subscriptions received for a less period.

No paper discontinued until all arrearages are paid, unless at the option of the publisher.

Single copies twenty-five cents.

The Oregon Argus.

—A Weekly Newspaper, devoted to the Interests of the Laboring Classes, and advocating the side of Truth in every issue.—

VOL. VIII. OREGON CITY, OREGON, MAY 10, 1862. No. 4.

RATES OF ADVERTISING:

One square (twelve lines, or less, brevier measure) one insertion..... $3 00
Each subsequent insertion..... 1 00
Business cards one year..... 20 00

A liberal deduction will be made to those who advertise by the year.

☞ The number of insertions should be noted on the margin of an advertisement, otherwise it will be published till forbidden, and charged accordingly.

☞ Obituary notices will be charged half the above rates of advertising.

☞ JOB PRINTING executed with neatness and dispatch.

Payment for Job Printing must be made on delivery of the work.

OREGON CITY, May 1, 1862.

ED ARGUS: The editor of the *Mountaineer*, who was at the secessionist State Convention, in an article on the "proceedings of that body," makes use of the following language: "We by no means charge that all the gentlemen placed in nomination for State officers are secessionists, but we do say that *they are each and all acceptable to those who believe in the secession doctrine.*" And further: "From the first, it was apparent, that the name of Judge Wait was to be used as a make-weight for the balance of the ticket, and this programme was carried out to the end." The editor makes no attempt to conceal his opinion that all the nominees for State officers are of the Jeff Davis school of politics, and yet he calls upon every one to support Judge Wait whose record, he says, is "untarnished." Does the editor of the *Mountaineer* suppose that Judge Wait is ignorant of the real sentiments of his associates on that ticket? if not, how is it that an honest Union man, which Judge Wait is claimed to be, can suffer his name to be used in connection with such an association of sympathizers with treason?—The Judge, *honest* as he is, will support each and all of the candidates on that ticket, notwithstanding their secession sympathies, of which he is well advised. He delivered a brace of speeches to the secession county convention which met in this place a few weeks since. Every one acquainted with the character of that convention, knows that it was composed of the most ultra secession sentiment in this county (and if there are no secessionists in this county, there are none in South Carolina), and Judge Wait was there giving his approving voice to their action. They placed in nomination for county officers and State representatives men who are avowed sympathizers with the rebellion. One of their nominees for representative has been heard to say that he "is proud of the name of rebel," others, that "they believe in the right of secession; all of them are known to sympathize with Jeff Davis and his traitorous hordes: all of them voted for Breckinridge, and not one of them has ever been heard to say aught in disapproval of that arch-traitor's present course. Judge Wait repeatedly addressed that convention; he deplored the existing war, said he believed the southern rebels were honest, but that they were "deceived," they thought this war was waged for "beauty and booty;" he did *not* believe that a *majority* of the people of the north were waging this war for "beauty and booty." He spoke much of "Lincoln's war," "Abolition war;" but not one word about Fort Sumter not one word about the threats and boasts of capturing Washington City and Philadelphia. He had much to say about the suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus;* but not one word about the hosts of rebel spies which infest our country every where: he shed bitter tears over the denial of the mails to certain of "our newspapers," but had no word of disapproval of the traitorous sentiments which characterized those sheets and rendered them a nuisance; he spoke encouragingly to the "Breckinridge democracy," but dared not utter one word in condemnation of their leader, who is now a general in the rebel army. The editor of the *Mountaineer*, in speaking of Lincoln's Administration, says, that "he has had the nerve to successfully throttle armed rebellion;" Judge Wait denounces every act of that administration, and in his speech predicted that it would soon become "a stench in the nostrils of the people."—The sole aim of the present administration, since its inauguration, has been to crush out rebellion and establish the supremacy of the Constitution and laws of the land; and this *Union loving, patriotic* Judge descends from the bench and denounces it as "a stench in the nostrils of the people."—Neither the editor of the *Mountaineer*, nor his nominee for representative to Congress, will be able to convince Union men that Judge Wait is one whit less a secessionist than his associates on the ticket, or not as deeply in the filthy pool of treason as any of them. W.

☞ The Washington correspondent of the Springfield Republican makes the following interesting statement in reference to Gen. McClellan's plan of the campaign:

"How far Gen. McClellan is the author of the general plan of the campaign—how far he may be credited with what has been done at the South and West—is another matter of hot dispute. Some deny him any right of authorship—others grant the fullest credit, and will not allow that a single point has been gained that was not in his programme. Here, however, I have a bit of interesting testimony. The subject was under discussion at a dinner where Gen. Banks was present, and he, who, by the way, stands by Gen. McClellan most loyally, quietly remarked that while in consultation with Gen. McClellan, last November or December, the latter incidentally took down a map, and pointed out to him upon it every movement that has since been made by our armies; and, as to Manassas, said that we should either drive the rebels from it in a successful battle, or they would evacuate it of their own accord."

The so-called "Emancipation" Message of the President.

The President sent the following very important message to Congress, April 7th:

Fellow-citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives.—I recommend the adoption of a joint resolution by your honorable bodies which shall be substatially as follows:

"*Resolved*, That the United States ought to co-operate with any State which may adopt gradual abolishment of slavery, giving to such State pecuniary aid to be used by such State in its discretion, to compensate for the inconveniences, public and private, produced by such change of system."

If the proposition contained in the resolution does not meet the approval of Congress and the country, there is the end; but if it does command such approval, I deem it of importance that the States and people immediately interested should be at once distinctly notified of the fact, so that they may begin to consider whether to accept or reject it. The Federal Government would find its highest interest in such a measure as one of the most efficient means of self preservation. The leaders of the existing insurrection entertain the hope that this Government will be forced to acknowledge the independence of some part of the disaffected region, and that all the slave States North of such parts will then say: The Union for which we have struggled being already gone, we now choose to go with the Southern section.

To deprive them of this hope substantially ends the rebellion, and the initiation of emancipation completely deprives them of it as to all the States initiating it. The point is not that all the States tolerating slavery would very soon, if at all, initiate emancipation; but that while the offer is equally made to all, the more northern shall, by such initiation, make it more certain to the more southern that, in no event, will the former ever join the latter in their proposed confederacy. I say initiation, because, in my judgment, gradual and not sudden emancipation is better for all. In the mere financial or pecuniary view, any member of Congress, with the census tables and treasury reports before him, can readily see for himself how very soon the current expenditures of this war would purchase, at fair valuation, all the slaves in any named State.

Such a proposition on the part of the general Government sets up no claim of a right by Federal authority, to interfere with slavery within State limits, referring, as it does, the absolute control of the subject in each case to the State and its people immediately interested. It is proposed as a matter of perfectly free choice with them. In the annual Message last December, I thought fit to say: The Union must be preserved, and hence all indispensable means must be employed. I said this not hastily, but deliberately. War has been made, and continues to be an indispensable means to this end. A practical reacknowledgment of the national authority would render the war unnecessary, and it would at once cease.

If, however, resistance continues, the war must also continue, and it is impossible to foresee all the incidents which may attend, and all the ruin which may follow it. Such as may seem indispensable, or may obviously promise great efficiency towards ending the struggle, must and will come. The proposition now made is an offer only. I hope it may be esteemed no offence to ask whether the pecuniary consideration tendered would not be of more value to the States and private persons concerned, than are the institutions and property in it, in the present state of affairs. While it is true that the adoption of the proposed resolution would be merely initiatory, and not within itself a practical measure, it is recommended, in the hope that it would soon lead to important practical results. In full view of my great responsibility to my God and to my country, I earnestly beg the attention of Congress and the people to the subject.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

GEORGE F. TRAIN ON THE REBELLION.—This real "live Yankee" not long since addressed an English meeting on American affairs. He spoke thus of the manner in which the rebellion is being crushed:

Yes, Mr. Chairman, it is all up with the South. I have often read descriptions of the wholesale game-hunting on some lands—the sportsman surrounds the woodland for miles and beats steadily up to the centre—when the rattle of rifles deals death and destruction on every side.

Such is now the Federal policy. No better analogy can be found than that of the Bastile prisoner who was placed in an elegant apartment, with light, and fruit, and flowers. His punishment seemed a luxury, till one day he imagined that while the proportions of the apartment were the same, the room had lessened in size.—Again he looked, and sure enough there was a change. Where is the wonderful machinery? Pale with doubt—listening with suspense—each day he noticed the contraction of the walls. Closer and closer they came, shutting out window after window, but no hand was seen, no noise heard—all was still as death. His doom was sealed. An inch to-day, another to-morrow—one grip of the four walls, and all was over! The man was pressed to death foot by foot, inch by inch, and knew not from whence emanated the secret power that crushed him! So it is with that ungodly revolution. Little by little, step by step, battalion by battalion, the camp is being surrounded, and another mail may bring the startling news of the death-knell of treason. They have played all their trumps in the game of death, while all of ours remain.

☞ Advices from the battle-field of Pittsburg Landing state that the work of burying the dead is completed. Returns show over 6,000 killed, of whom 4,100 were rebels.

Names vs Principle.

It is no little matter of surprise to witness the pertinacity with which politicians cling to party names. And even the spirit pervades the masses of the people to a great extent. Even after a party name has been used for the vilest purposes, and degraded to a state of moral turpitude that renders the name not only a synonym of the worst kind of political corruption and baseness, but a stench in the nostrils of all lovers of good government—still, the party name has a charm that will rally around it its votaries, however obnoxious may be the principles it represents. It is an idolatrous worship of *name* instead of *principle*, and an evil, the effects of which are now being experienced by the nation.

Democracy once had a potent influence, the principles it represented were living, important and just principles; under their operations the nation flourished, grew strong, and prospered, until the name was used as a guise for corruption, and a shield for treason; until under the protection of its name conspirators plotted the overthrow of the Government, and traitors sapped the life-blood of the nation; until a series of years of mismanagement, misrule, and imbecility, corruption and robbery, Democracy has become a misnomer, a representative name for disloyalty and treason. The gangrene sore came to head during the last misnamed Democratic Administration.—Its leaders damned the name to all coming time. When such men as Floyd, Jeff Davis, Toombs, Slidell, Yancey, Wigfall, and last, but not least, Breckinridge, wear the ermine of Democracy, and claim to be its exponents, it is time that honest men, and especially loyal men, should discard a name prostituted to such base purposes. Open secessionists and traitors claim that they are the Simon-pure Democracy; those who secretly oppose the Government, and in their hearts pray for the success of the rebellion, though they may not openly and directly do act or deed, yet indirectly further the rebel cause, claim to be pure Democrats. Out upon such Democracy! The country came near being damned by such Democracy! It is time for a change, and a change there will be. Party names are effectually "played out." It is only the politicians and office-seekers who contend for names. The secesh Democracy are ringing the changes with the old party war cry, in order to save their rotten ship from the whirlpool of destruction. Fishy Douglas Democrats would willingly unite with them for the sake of the "loaves and fishes," if they could do so with the least show of consistency, and not get their skirts too badly drabbled in secession filth.

The masses are waiting for a Union of all the Union elements, such as was effected in Rhode Island and other of the Eastern States, and such as has been effected in Oregon, where a State ticket has been nominated by a Union Convention without distinction of party, and every county in the State has made its county nominations on the simple Union platform. Our Oregon neighbors have discarded party names, and taken to principles. Wisdom will teach the Union men of this State to go and do likewise.—*Red Bluff Independent.*

PITTSBURG LANDING.—"This now famous place is a landing on the Tennessee river, in Hardin county, Tennessee, and is south of Savannah and north of Hamburg—places of some little note on the river, and in the same county. Pittsburg Landing cannot be more than two or three miles north of Hamburg, nor more than ten miles south of Savanna. Crumps' Landing lies between Savanna and Pittsburg. Savannah is on the east or right bank of the river, while Hamburg is on the west or left bank, and the term Landing, as used in this case, includes, we think, both banks, but it was on the west bank that the battle took place. Our forces had crossed at this landing, and probably at Crumps' also, and were attacked near to the bank. From Hamburg and from Pittsburg Landing, there is a county road to Farmington, in Tishamingo county, Mississippi, the distance between the two being not twenty miles, and Farmington is near the Memphis and Charleston railroad, on which is Corinth; and in a direct line, Farmington is within three and a half miles of Corinth, while the route by county road and railroad cannot be over five miles.—Corinth, Mississippi, where Beauregard was gathering his great host, is distant from Pittsburg Landing not more than twenty-five miles, and to this place were the defeated and flying host betaking themselves hotly pursued by Federal cavalry."

☞ There is no truth in the report that the war expenses are now $3,000,000 daily. They will not reach $2,000,000, and are as large as they will be, as they are decreasing now instead of increasing. Such statements only tend to injure good credit. No vessels are now running the blockade, except a few diminutive oyster pungies and wood shallops.—*Washington Correspondent Phil. Inquirer.*

Details of Eastern News.

NEW ORLEANS SURRENDERED!

The Maryland Legislature has appropriated $7,000 in behalf of the families of those who were killed and disabled, of the 6th Massachusetts Regiment, in its march through Baltimore about a year since.

A number of refugees from Norfolk arrived here to-day, and report that the *Merrimac* is at the Gosport Navy Yard, having iron shields placed over her port-holes. It was expected that she would be out in a few days.

Four gunboats have been launched at Norfolk, and four more are constructing, some of them to be plated.

The engagement reported to have occurred above Elizabeth City was between 500 Union troops and the 3d Georgia regiment. The rebels lost 15 killed and 35 wounded. They were poorly armed and equipped, and ran on being attacked.

There are but few troops at Richmond of Norfolk; mostly all have gone to Yorktown.

At Memphis, the question of burning the city was still being discussed. Cotton, tobacco, sugar and molasses, are gathered in immense piles on the Levee, ready to be fired on the appearance of the Federal fleet above the city.

Gen. Mitchell's division (Federal) has arrived at Tuscumbia, Ala., and has now possession of 200 miles of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad.

Washington, April 23d.—In the House, the Committee on Military Affairs made a voluminous report to-day. The Committee takes the ground that the old and present systems of fortifications are of little use, being comparatively defenceless against armed ships. Among the conclusions arrived at by the Committee is the necessity for the immediate adoption of adequate means to secure the exclusion from our harbors of iron sheathed ships; the erection of forts on Lakes Ontario and Erie; constructions for the protection of the Pacific Coast; a first class military channel of communication between Missouri and San Francisco, and the construction and permanent maintenance of the army and navy in sufficient numbers to command respect at home and abroad.

Washington, April 24.—The Senate Military Committee have passed upon several nominations. Among those reported for confirmation was Gen. Shields as Major General.

Mr. Maynard returned from Tennessee, took his seat to-day, and declared himself in favor of a stringent confiscation act.—Several other Border State members will support one.

The Senate Committee on Territories has instructed its Chairman to report a bill identical with that reported to the House, organizing the Territory of Arizona. One section extends the Wilmot Proviso over every Territory now organized.

It is reported that Gen. Burnside has received proposals from the Governor of North Carolina for the surrender of that State.

An officer of the army, who arrived in town to-night from Warrenton Junction, reports the rebels in strong force on the south bank of the Rappahannock, in the direction of Gordonsville.

Gen. Ewall (rebel) is said to be at the crossing of the river, where the railroad bridge was burnt, with 5,000 men.

Gen. G. W. Smith (rebel) is at Gordonsville, strongly entrenched, with 30,000 men.

Gen. Jackson (rebel) is crossing over from the Shenandoah Valley to unite 8,000 men to the force—making the total of the column 43,000 men.

If figures are reliable, we (Federals) are in sufficient force in front of Manassas to manage the rebel army.

Washington, April 24.—At the Republican caucas last night there were 50 members present. A general debate ensued on the confiscation bills, and the sense of the caucas seemed to be in favor of discriminating against the leaders. In the confiscation of all kinds of property, it was unanimously agreed to refer all the pending bills in the House, to a select committee.

In the House the decision was announced on proposals for carrying the mails on the Pacific coast and in the West. A large number of bidders were present. The proposals for the Pacific coast were much higher than formerly.

The Senate bill recognizing Liberia, and Hayti passed to-day by a vote of 32 to 7. The confiscation bill was considered, and an amendment limiting the confiscation to persons holding offices under the rebel government, was adopted by 27 to 11.

McDougal and Latham voted for the bill recognizing Hayti and Liberia.

The House by a vote of 9 to 31, referred all confiscation, and emancipation bills to a committee.

Capt. Cutting of Burnside's staff, arrived yesterday. On the 17th, Gen. Reno left Newbern, and proceeded to Roanoke Island, from which place he took 2,000 men and proceeded to Elizabeth City, where a strong rebel force were reported to have entrenched themselves.

On Saturday, the advance was made upon the rebels, and the enemy's artillery opened as soon as our troops made their appearance. Our troops formed and at once charged on the enemy, who ran at the first fire. We immediately took possession of the town, and after remaining an hour returned to the main body. Our forces had three boat howitzers. The force of the rebels consisted of a Georgia regiment 1,000 men, and 100 more, a portion of Wise's legion, with batteries of artillery. The enemy were totally routed, with a loss of about 60 men. Our loss was 12 killed, and 48 wounded.

Information has been received from Union sources, that the guns of the National forces under Gen. Burnside, were probably operating on Ft. Macon, Tuesday or Wednesday.

Two deserters came into Yorktown who say the rebel force is 100,000, who are constructing works near the present lines. Jeff Davis is not there.

On Tuesday the rebels came from their rifle-pits in front of Lee's Mills and attacked our pickets. They were repulsed with a loss of several killed and one prisoner.—Our loss was two killed and one mortally wounded.

A skirmish took place on Wednesday, April 25th, between an advance of our cavalry at Pittsburg Landing and a strong detachment of rebel cavalry. After fighting an hour, both parties retired. The loss was not large. A Union man from West Tennessee says the woods are full of Union men, fleeing from the provisions of the Conscription act.

The Mississippi is very high.

At the battle of Apache Canon, New Mexico, we crippled the enemy more than we at first supposed. They had over 100 killed, including six officers—and more than 200 wounded, and we have 21 officers and 82 privates prisoners at Ft. Union. The enemy has fallen back to Santa Fe. Col. Canby is 50 miles south, getting ready to drive them out.

Sufficient troops to amply defend and re-open the Overland Mail Route are on their way to the scene of reported difficulties, and there need be no apprehensions for the safety of the mail and telegraph.

The Sec'y of War has ordered troops to be sent forward by every stage, until all the stations on the mail route are fully protected.

The passage of the Confiscation bill, reaching those holding office in the civil, military, and naval service of the rebels, is now considered probable.

According to rebel authority, the bombardment of the forts [Jackson and St. Philip] below New Orleans commenced on the 19th.

The Atlanta (Ga.) Confederacy acknowledges that Northern Alabama and Western Georgia are completely at the mercy of Gen. Mitchell, and says that his present position is such that he can easily cut off reinforcements and means of retreat. Gen. Kirby Smith (rebel) is alleged to be marching toward Huntsville.

The flotilla on the Rappahannock has captured 16 rebel schooners.

Our forces at Yorktown have greatly the advantage of the enemy. Our sharpshooters are a terror to the rebel Generals.

On Monday, April 21, there was firing between two rebel regiments inside of the rebel works at Yorktown, which was continued a long time. Our forces could distinctly see them carrying off the dead and wounded. It is thought to have been a mutiny and the measures to quell it.

The Richmond Examiner says the rebels have cut a canal between the York and Warwick rivers, which gives them a water front across the whole stretch of country, and must contribute materially to the strength of their position.

Our gunboats have effected a passage over the Muscle Shoals at Florence, Ala., gone as far as Decatur, and taken a quantity of rebel commissary stores.

March 25.—The bill for a line of steamships from San Francisco to Shanghae was taken up and passed—26 to 16.

Capt. Wyman commanding the Potomac flotilla, has returned from Fredericksburg, and says the inhabitants report the rebels in force near Milford, thirty miles on the railroad to Richmond.

Notwithstanding the secrecy of Gen. McDowell's movements, the rebels knew them, and retreated from Fredericksburg three days before his arrival.

The Sanitary Commission will to-morrow dispatch the steamship Daniel Webster to Ft. Monroe, to serve as a floating hospital. She is to carry a large supply of hospital stores, medicines, clothing and ice, with a corps of surgeons, nurses, and hospital dresses.

It is reported here, that the rebels at Norfolk, fearing an attack upon the city, have obstructed the channel of the Elizabeth river, with vessels which will be sunk on the approach of our gunboats.

Reliable information places Gen. Lee in command of the rebels at Yorktown, as Gen. Johnston did not remain. All the rebel stores, ammunition, etc. have been removed, three miles to the rear of Yorktown.

Contrabands say that the rebels had 200 killed and wounded in the recent affair at Lee's Mills. A gang of 3,000 negroes who were at work on the dam had a dozen killed, and were stampeded by our shells, so that they had to be forced back with bayonets.

Cairo April 26.—A reconnoisance in force was made from Pittsburg Landing on Thursday, the 24th. Nine miles out a rebel camp was surprised, and 27 prisoners taken. They advanced within 6 miles of Corinth, and remained four hours. No enemy was seen.

Maj. Gen. C. F. Smith died at Savannah yesterday afternoon, of dysentery.

A gentleman who was at Memphis a few days ago, saw and conversed with several of Price's army, with whom he was acquainted. The whole rebel force, which accounts recently placed at Jacksonport, Arkansas has arrived at Memphis.

In consequence of a wound received by Com. Foote, at Ft. Donelson, he has asked to be relieved fran the command of a western fleet. The Department, not willing to lose his valuable services has ordered Capt. Chas. H. Davis to report to the squadron as second in command, releasing the Commodore from much of the physical labor of his responsible position.

The Herald's correspondent at Fredericksburg, states that Gen. McDowell's force has occupied that city, his headquarters being at the house of Mr. Lacy, an aid to the rebel Gen. Smith.

The flotilla reached Fredericksburg on Saturday, the 19th. The rebel army is reported greatly demoralized by the Union victories, news of which the rebel authorities in vain endeavored to suppress. The principal event yesterday, the 24th, worth mentioning, was the shelling of Yorktown by our gunboats who were moved from the mouth of Waverly Creek during the morning, and opened a well directed fire on the works, which was promptly answered by the rebels. The boats then fell back three miles from Yorktown and again opened fire, the shells exploding within the enemy's works, but obtaining no response. A few shells were fired during the day along the whole line, to keep the rebels from strengthening their works. No one was injured on the Union side.

The new gunboat Port Royal, was put into commission this afternoon. The new iron clad vessel Galena, has reached Ft. Monroe, and is considered as formidable as the Monitor.

The steamer Kangaroo for Liverpool, carried out $57,000 in specie.

The Navy Department have received official dispatches from Com. Foote, confirming previous reports of the destruction of bridges on the Memphis and Charleston railroad, over Bear Creek, executed by Gen. Grant's order.

The Chamber of Commerce has adopted a memorial to Congress, proposing to raise the sum of $260,000,000 by taxation as follows. From salts, goods, merchandize, and other property, at wholesale or retail, one per cent, yielding $115,000,000; from the tax on cotton, two cents per pound—yielding $24,000,000; excise on tobacco, twenty cents, yielding $30,000,000; twenty-five cents tax on whisky, yielding $25,000,000; on malt liquors, five cents per gallon, yielding $8,000,000; and a direct tax on personal property of $12,000,000.

Since Jackson (rebel) has retired from this valley, large numbers of refugees and deserters are daily coming into our lines and delivering themselves up. It is stated that hundreds are now hiding themselves in the mountains from Ashby's (rebel) scouting parties, awaiting an opportunity to seek the protection of Gen. Banks' column.

Portions of Ashby's cavalry are scouting on both sides of the mountains near Harrisburg, watching our movements, and endeavoring to catch some of their deserters. The main body of the army is believed to have gone with Jackson.

St. Louis, April 26.—A special dispatch to the St. Louis *Democrat* from Cairo, states that passengers who arrived there that day from Pittsburg Landing, report that an engagement took place on Thursday, between the advance guards of the National and Rebel armies, and the latter were driven back towards Corinth. Gen. Halleck was pushing his whole army forward vigorously.

Chicago, April 27.—A dispatch from Cairo says that deserters from the rebel army are coming into our line at Pittsburg Landing. They assert that Beauregard has withdrawn a considerable portion of his forces from Corinth for the defence of Memphis. The report is doubted.

FORTRESS MONROE, April 27.—The Petersburg (Va.) *Express* of Saturday (26th April) contains the following dispatch:—"Mobile, April 25.—The enemy passed Ft. Jackson at 4 o'clock yesterday morning. When the news reached New Orleans the excitement was boundless. Martial law was put in full force. Business was suspended. All the cotton and the steamboats, except those necessary for the transportation of ammunition and corn, were destroyed. At 1 o'clock the operator bade good bye by telegraph, saying that the enemy had appeared before the city."

The Richmond *Examiner* of the 26th has the same news.

Washington, April 28.—The House adopted a resolution that the Judiciary Committee inquire into the expediency of punishing contractors guilty of defrauding the Government; the penalty to be the same as grand larcency.

Mr. Ashley reported back from the Committee on Territories a bill to prevent the practice of polygamy, and to amend certain acts of the Territory of Utah establishing the same.

Cairo, April 27.—The steamer *Platte Valley*, from Pittsburg Landing, arrived to-day. Gen. Halleck is pushing forward his force as rapidly as the condition of the roads will permit. On the 26th, Gen. McCook's division made a reconnoissance as far as Monterey on the road to Corinth. The rebels appeared in great numbers.—The impetuosity of our forces carried everything before them, and they instantly put the rebels to flight. Our advance pickets are now near enough to hear the locomotives' whistle at Corinth.

Ft. Monroe, 26th.—Our gunboats shelled the works near Yorktown, for an hour yesterday morning. One company of the 1st Massachusetts, carried by assault an advance work guarded by a body of rebels, said to be defended by two companies of infantry. The rebels broke and ran. Our loss was three killed and thirteen wounded. We took 24 prisoners and destroyed the work.

The Sunday Mercury states, on the authority of the steamer Boston, that Fort Jackson, six miles below Savannah, is in our possession, and our pickets are within four miles of Savannah.

The Memphis Avalanche of the 23d, states that on the 11th, the Federals took possession of Pocahontas Arkansas.

10,000 Federal troops are at Doniphan Missouri, engaged in building flat boats on the Currant river with which to descend the Black and White rivers.

Gen. Milroy's scouts, on the 23d, attacked the rear guard of the enemy ten miles east of Shenandoah Mountain, and killed three rebels.

Conscripts are deserting in large numbers, swearing Unionism, and returning home.

Harrisonburg, Va., April 27.—Our advance pickets, near the Gordonsville road,