THE OREGON ARGUS.

BY D. W. CRAIG.

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OFFICIAL.

LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Passed at the Third Session of the Thirty-seventh Congress.

[Public—No. 1.]

An act authorizing the holding of a special session of the United States District Court for the district of Indiana.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That a special session of the United States District Court for the district of Indiana shall be holden, at the usual place of holding said court, on the first Monday in February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and to continue in session so long as the business thereof may require.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That all suits and proceedings of a civil or criminal nature now pending in or returnable to said court shall be proceeded in, heard, tried, and determined by said court at said special session in the same manner as at a regular term of said court.

Approved, December 15, 1862.

[Public—No. 2.]

An act to adjust appropriations heretofore made for the civil service of the Navy Department to the present organization of that Department.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury be and he is hereby authorized and directed to transfer the amounts heretofore appropriated for the pay of chiefs of bureaus, clerks, messengers, and laborers connected with the Navy Department, so that they will correspond with the present organization and pay as authorized by the act of Congress of July fifth, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, viz:

For the Bureau of Equipment and Recruiting, three thousand eight hundred and seventy-four dollars.

For the Bureau of Yards and Docks, ten thousand six hundred and forty-three dollars.

For the Bureau of Navigation, three thousand and fifty-seven dollars.

For the Bureau of Ordnance, six thousand nine hundred and fifty-four dollars.

For the Bureau of Construction and Repairs, nine thousand five hundred and thirty-four dollars.

For the Bureau of Steam Engineering, four thousand two hundred and twenty-four dollars.

For the Bureau of Provisions and Clothing, five thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight dollars.

For the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, five thousand eight hundred dollars.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That all remaining balances shall attach to the office of the Secretary of the Navy, and may be expended by him for such clerical services as he shall judge the interests of the Department require.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the sum of one thousand dollars, heretofore appropriated for the contingent expenses of the Bureau of Construction, Equipment, and Repair, be transferred to the Bureau of Steam Engineering, and the sum of one thousand dollars to the Bureau of Equipment and Recruiting. And also that the sum of one thousand dollars, heretofore appropriated for the contingent expenses of the Bureau of Ordnance, be transferred to the Bureau of Navigation.

Approved, December 19, 1862.

[Public—No. 3.]

An act to amend an act entitled "An act to provide internal revenue to support the Government and to pay interest on the public debt," approved July 1st, eighteen hundred and sixty-two.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the assessors, assistant assessors, collectors and deputy collectors, appointed, or who may be appointed, under the provisions of an act entitled "An act to provide internal revenue to support the Government and to pay interest on the public debt," approved July first, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, and all subsequent acts in relation thereto which have been or may be enacted, are hereby authorized and empowered to administer oaths or affirmations in all cases where the same are or may be required by the acts as aforesaid: *Provided*, That no fees shall be charged or allowed therefor.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the Commissioner of Internal Revenue shall be authorized and empowered, and hereby is authorized and empowered, to furnish and supply the assistant treasurers or collectors of the United States at San Francisco, State of California, and Portland, State of Oregon, with adhesive stamps, or stamped paper, vellum, or parchment, according to the provisions of the internal revenue laws referred to in the preceding section, under such regulations and conditions as he may from time to time prescribe, and without requiring payment in advance therefor, any thing in existing laws to the contrary notwithstanding: *Provided*, That no greater commission shall be allowed than is now provided for by law.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That no instrument, document, writing, or paper of any description, required by law to be stamped, shall be deemed or held invalid and of no effect for the want of the particular kind or description of stamp designated for and denoting the duty charged on any such instrument, document, writing, or paper, provided a legal stamp, or stamps, denoting a duty of equal amount shall have been duly affixed and used thereon: *Provided*, That the provisions of this section shall not apply to any stamp appropriated to denote the duty charged on proprietary articles.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That all official instruments, documents, and papers, issued or used by the officers of the United States Government shall be, and hereby are, exempt from duty.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That the ninety-fifth section of an act entitled "An act to provide internal revenue to support the Government and to pay interest on the public debt," approved July first, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, be so amended that no instrument, document, or paper made, signed, or issued prior to the first day of March, Anno Domini eighteen hundred and sixty-three, without being duly stamped, or having thereon an adhesive stamp to denote the duty imposed thereon, shall, for that cause, be deemed invalid and of no effect: *Provided*, That no instrument, document, writing, or paper, required by law to be stamped, signed, or issued, without being duly stamped prior to the day aforesaid, or any copy thereof, shall be admitted or used as evidence in any court until a legal stamp or stamps, denoting the amount of duty charged thereon, shall have been affixed thereto, or used thereon, and the initials of the person using or affixing the same, together with the date when the same is so used or affixed, shall have been placed thereon by such person. And the person desiring to use any such instrument, document, writing, or paper, as evidence, or his agent or attorney, is authorized in the presence of the court to stamp the same as hereinbefore provided. And section twenty-four of an act entitled "An act increasing, temporarily, the duties on imports, and for other purposes," approved July fourteen, Anno Domini eighteen hundred and sixty-two, is hereby repealed.

Approved, Dec. 25, 1862.

[Public—No. 4.]

An act for the admission of the State of "West Virginia" into the Union and for other purposes.

Whereas The people inhabiting that portion of Virginia known as West Virginia did, by a convention assembled in the city of Wheeling on the twenty-sixth of November, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, frame for themselves a Constitution with a view of becoming a separate and independent State; and whereas at a general election held in the counties composing the territory aforesaid on the third day of May last, the said Constitution was approved and adopted by the qualified voters of the proposed State; and whereas the Legislature of Virginia, by an act passed on the thirteenth day of May, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, did give its consent to the formation of a new State within the jurisdiction of the said State of Virginia, to be known by the name of West Virginia, and to embrace the following named counties, to wit: Hancock, Brooke, Ohio, Marshall, Wetzel, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, Taylor, Tyler, Pleasants, Ritchie, Doddridge, Harrison, Wood, Jackson, Wirt, Roane, Calhoun, Gilmer, Barbour, Tucker, Lewis, Braxton, Upshur, Randolph, Mason, Putnam, Kanawha, Clay, Nicholas, Cabell, Wayne, Boone, Logan, Wyoming, Mercer, McDowell, Webster, Pocahontas, Fayette, Raleigh, Greenbrier, Monroe, Pendleton, Hardy, Hampshire, and Morgan; and whereas both the Convention and the Legislature aforesaid have requested that the new State should be admitted into the Union, and the Constitution aforesaid being republican in form, Congress doth hereby consent that the said forty-eight counties may be formed into a separate and independent State. Therefore—

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the State of West Virginia be and is hereby declared to be one of the United States of America, and admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original States in all respects whatever, and until the next general census shall be entitled to three members in the House of Representatives of the United States: *Provided, always*, That this act shall not take effect until after the proclamation of the President of the United States hereinafter provided for.

It being represented to Congress that since the Convention of the twenty-sixth of November, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, that framed and proposed the Constitution for the said State of West Virginia, people thereof have expressed a wish to change the seventh section of the eleventh article of said Constitution by striking out the same and inserting the following in its place, viz: "The children of slaves born within the limit of this State after the fourth day of July, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, shall be free; and that all slaves within the said State who shall, at the time aforesaid, be under age of ten years, shall be free when they arrive at the age of twenty one years; and all slaves over ten and under twenty one years shall be free when they arrive at the age of twenty-five years; and no slave shall be permitted to come into the State for permanent residence therein:" Therefore

Sec. 2. Be it further enacted, That whenever the people of West Virginia shall, through their said Convention, and by a vote to be taken at an election to be held within the limits of the said State, at such time as the Convention may provide, make and ratify the change aforesaid, and properly certify the same under the hand of the President of the Convention, it shall be lawful for the President of the United States to issue his proclamation stating the fact, and thereupon this act shall take effect and be in force from and after sixty days from the date of said proclamation.

Approved, December 31, 1862.

[Public—No. 5.]

An Act to facilitate the discharge of disabled soldiers from the army, and the inspection of convalescent camps and hospitals.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there shall be added to the present medical corps of the army eight medical inspectors, who shall, immediately after the passage of this act, be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, without regard to qualifications, and who shall have the rank, pay, and emoluments now authorized by law to officers of that grade.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the officers of the medical inspector's department shall be charged, in addition to the duties now assigned to them by existing laws, with the duties of making regular and frequent inspections of all military general hospitals and convalescent camps, and shall, upon each such inspection, designate to the surgeon in charge of such hospitals or camps, all soldiers who may be, in their opinion, fit subjects for discharge from the service, on surgeon's certificate of disability, or sufficiently recovered to be returned to their regiments for duty, and shall see that such soldiers are discharged or so returned. And the medical inspecting officers are hereby empowered, under such regulations as may be hereafter established, to direct the return to duty, or the discharge from service, as the case may be, of all soldiers designated by them.

Approved, December 27, 1862.

[Public—No. 6.]

An Act to improve the organization of the cavalry forces.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That hereafter each regiment of cavalry organized in the United States service may have two assistant surgeons, and each company or troop of cavalry shall have from sixty to seventy-eight privates.

Approved, January 6, 1863.

[Public—No. 8]

An Act to provide for the imprisonment of persons convicted of crimes by the Criminal Court of the District of Columbia.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all persons who shall hereafter be convicted by the Criminal Court of the District of Columbia of any offence, the punishment of which by law shall be confinement in the penitentiary, shall be confined during the term for which they shall be sentenced by said court in some suitable prison in a convenient State, where they can be employed at suitable labor, to be designated by the Secretary of the Interior.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Interior to contract with the managers or superintendent of a suitable prison in some convenient State for the imprisonment and subsistence and proper employment of all prisoners who shall be convicted in said court of such offences, on the best terms that he can; and he shall, on or before the first day of each term of the Criminal Court of the District of Columbia, inform said court in writing of the designation and location of the prison in which he shall have made provision for the confinement and support of prisoners; and said court shall sentence all persons who shall, during said term, be convicted of such offences, to confinement at hard labor in the prison so designated.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Interior to make suitable provision for the safe transportation of all prisoners to the prison to which they shall be sentenced by the court, and until they shall be so transported they shall be confined in the jail of Washington City.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That the action of the Secretary of the Interior, in transferring the prisoners confined in the penitentiary of the District of Columbia to the penitentiary in the city of Albany, in the State of New York, in the month of September last, by direction of the President, is hereby legalized and declared valid, and the said prisoners shall continue in confinement in said prison until the expiration of their several terms of imprisonment, or until they shall be legally discharged.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That all appropriations heretofore made for the support of the prisoners in the penitentiary of the District of Columbia, or for the payment of watchmen, laborers, and officers connected with said penitentiary, and all appropriations which shall hereafter be made for the expenses and support of the prisoners convicted in the District of Columbia, shall be applied, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, to defray the expenses of transporting to and subsisting prisoners in any prison selected by him, as before provided for their confinement. The Secretary of the Interior shall also cause to be paid from such appropriations the sum of ten dollars to each prisoner when he or she shall be legally discharged, to enable such prisoner to reach the point he or she may wish to go.

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That whenever a suitable penitentiary shall be erected in the District of Columbia, and completed for the reception of prisoners, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Interior to cause to be transferred to such penitentiary all persons who shall then be imprisoned outside of the District of Columbia, under sentence of the Criminal Court of said District.

Approved, January 16, 1863.

[Public Resolution—No. 1.]

A resolution for increasing the bond of the Superintendent of Public Printing.

Whereas the amount of money which can be advanced to the Superintendent of the Public Printing, under existing laws, is not sufficient to enable him to meet the current expenditures of his office: Therefore—

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the said Superintendent be required to furnish a new bond in the penal sum of forty thousand dollars.

Approved, December 18, 1862.

[Public Resolution—No. 2.]

A resolution in relation to certain maps.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, with a view of expediting the issue of the annual report of the General Land Office, the Public Printer is hereby authorized to contract for the lithographing of the maps of the several States and Territories which may accompany the same, except in regard to the connected map accompanying the last annual report of the public lands east and west of the Mississippi, in regard to which the Commissioner of the General Land Office is hereby authorized to procure an engraved plate thereof, to be perfected by adding from time to time the further surveys that may be made.

Approved, January 6, 1863.

[Public Resolution—No. 4]

Joint resolution to provide for the immediate payment of the army and navy of the United States.

Whereas it is deemed expedient to make immediate provision for the payment of the army and navy; therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury be and he is hereby authorized, if required by the exigencies of the public service, to issue on the credit of the United States the sum of one hundred millions of dollars of United States notes, in such form as he may deem expedient, not bearing interest, payable to bearer on demand, and of such denominations not less than one dollar as he may prescribe, which notes so issued shall be lawful money and a legal tender, like the similar notes heretofore authorized, in payment of all debts, public and private, within the United States, except for duties on imports and interest on the public debt; and the notes so issued shall be part of the amount provided for in any bill now pending for the issue of Treasury notes, or that may be passed hereafter by this Congress.

Approved, January 17, 1863.

John Bright on the American Question.—Late English papers bring a full report of a speech of John Bright, the leader of the English Liberals, made on the 16th of December, to his constituents at Birmingham. He takes a comprehensive view of the American question, and attributes the cause of the war to slavery. In reference to the Lancashire operatives, who have suffered so terribly by the war, he says:

We have had every effort made that money and malice could devise to stimulate in Lancashire, among the suffering people, an opinion in favor of the Slave States. They have not been able to get it, and I honor that population for their fidelity to their principles and to freedom, and I say the conduct they have pursued ought to atone in the minds of the people in the United States for miles of leading articles written by the London press, by men who would barter every human right to serve the party with which they are associated.

General Rosecrans.—There has been some little speculation floating about through the newspapers in relation to the place of birth of the hero of Murfreesboro. "Buckeye," a correspondent of the Sacramento Bee, of the 12th inst., thus speaks of the matter:

Permit me through your paper to say that General Rosecrans—the fighting General of the West—is aged forty-three years and was born in Delaware county, Ohio, at a place called Kingston Corners. His father's name is Crandle. He is not a Dutchman, neither is he a Catholic. His father and grandfathers, for generations, were Pennsylvania Dutchmen, and lived in Wyoming Valley, since the massacre of Indians, memorable in history. These facts are reliable, as I am a relative of the General, and was born and lived for years within a mile of his father's residence. The true orthography of his name is Rosecrans—not Rosekrans.

Causes of the War in America.—Mr. Cobden, in his great speech to his constituent at Rochdale, England, on the American war used the following memorable words:

Three-fourths of the whole population of America are now contending against disunion; they are following the instruction which is impelling the Italian, the German and the other populations of Europe; and I have no doubt that one great and dominant motive on their part is that they are afraid that if they become disunited they will be treated as the Italians were when they were disunited—viz: that the foreigner will come and set his intrusive foot among them, and play off one against another, to the degradation and possible subjection of the whole.

True Patriotism.—Wright, a Democratic Member of Congress from Pennsylvania, talks to the modern Democracy in the following patriotic style:

Great God! is it to be supposed that because a campaign has not come up to public expectation, we must lay down our arms and sue to traitors, like spaniels, for peace. As God lives there shall be a day of reckoning. The man who is on the side of his country and on the side of liberty now, his name and reputation shall live forever, and that man who says, "Down with your arms, and let the enemy prosper and take possession of your capital," shall have a reputation and memory as infamous and damnable as that of the Cowboys of the Revolution.

Confirmation of the Death of Chas. F. Jackson.—The Little Rock True Democrat of the 17th of December, 1862, contains a notice of the death of this notorious rebel. He died on the 6th day of December. His disease was cancer of the stomach.

Details of Eastern News.

Washington, Feb. 16.—A foraging party of a Michigan regiment, camped at Nolansville, had a severe skirmish with two companies of Forrest's command yesterday, in which we were successful.

Immediate supplies are being forwarded to the army by railroad, which is heavily guarded the whole distance to Murfreesboro.

New York, Feb. 17.—We have nothing of importance regarding the reported military movements of the Army of the Potomac, later than contained in yesterday's dispatch.

The Herald's Port Royal correspondent says a difficulty occurred as to the right to command the troops in Foster's division, at Port Royal. Foster insisted that within the jurisdiction of Hunter's department the supreme command of his men was still vested in himself, they being the 18th army command. However, Hunter has assumed the command of the troops, regarding them as reinforcements to the 10th army corps, of which he is chief, and has requested the division commanders to report to him.

The World's Washington special dispatch says that Fremont goes to Texas with a command independent of the Department of the Gulf.

Richmond papers of the 17 contain the following:—Charleston, Feb. 14.—A French steamer passed yesterday from Baltimore. The frigate Ironsides maintained her position permanently with the blockade, aiding the squadron of this port.

A Yankee picket captured yesterday evening thinks there will be an immediate attack on Charleston.

Washington, Feb. 17.—The President sent a Message to the House yesterday with a statement by the officers of the Department of the Interior regarding the causes of the outbreak of the Indian troubles in the North-West. They give no adequate cause for the outrages. The evidence of the premeditated designs of the Indians is not satisfactory.

The officers accompanying the various vessels of the blockading squadron deem it their duty to say that the reports published in the Charleston papers in regard to the late relic raid are entirely false. After the attack was ended the blockade went on as before. No vessels have run in or out of the port since that day, that they know of, nor were any attempts made to run the blockade.

Cairo, Feb. 17.—On Wednesday a scouting party met a body of rebels five miles back of Lake Providence. An engagement ensued, in which many were killed, and 31 captured, among who was a General and a Colonel. Wagons and horses were also captured.

Louisville, Feb 17.—Gen. Davidson has received a letter from a scouting party to Batesville, saying that Hindman's army was entirely demoralized and totally inefficient. A majority of the people of Batesville are in favor of the permanent occupation by the Federal army. The letter adds that Hindman had been ordered to evacuate but his men refused to go. Three hundred of his troops were frozen to death in the route from Van Buren, and a number of deserters escaped in the cane brakes in the vicinity of Vicksburg. Marmaduke has stripped the country of horses and mules.

New York, Feb. 18.—A special dispatch from Washington says Secretary Chase has just written a letter to the Sub Treasurer of California, declaring that the direct tax of that State can be paid in legal tenders.

Memphis, Feb. 17.—The new gunboat Indianola followed the example of the Queen of the West, and ran the blockade of Vicksburg.

New York, Feb. 18.—The Times special dispatch says Gen. Lyman, from Charleston, states that large numbers of troops were recently collected there to defend the city. The citizens, generally, left in anticipation of an attack from Federals. He thinks the city cannot be captured without a severe struggle. A mutiny recently took place between some North Carolina regiments. Three regiments were in it. The ring leaders were shot by order of Gen. Beauregard.

Advices from New Orleans say that on January 28 the gunboat Owasco was dispatched to Galveston with orders to run into the harbor and examine carefully, without drawing out any batteries that might have been erected or in progress of erection. She has returned; and reports that the Harriet Lane is still there, and is certain that she is disabled, as they saw her being towed by a small steamer.

Vicksburg, Feb. 11.—There are many indications to-day of an immediate movement, which seems independent of the army. Perhaps Hayne's Bluff batteries are to be attacked. There seems to be no reason why such a movement should not be inaugurated.

The army is quiet; considerable sickness seems to exist. Small-pox being the principal disease.

New York, Feb. 21.—Four hundred sailors left yesterday for Admiral Porter's Mississippi Fleet. New Orleans advices state that Col. Payne, Acting Brigadier General, left Baton Rouge on the 7th with three transports, conveying four regiments of troops, disembarked at Plaquimine Bayou, and marched inland, seven miles, to an Indian village composed of about six miserable cabins; arriving at sundown, the troops camped for the night. The steamer *Iberville* followed with the stores and tents and a guard of cavalry, by the way of Plaquimine Bayou. Sixty-three regiments of our troops are encamped at no great distance from a crevasse, which has already submerged some adjacent woods. Two weeks ago this village was occupied by a band of guerrillas, who were driven off by a company of U. S. cavalry. The Iberville took on board upwards of $50,000 worth of sugar and molasses from the neighboring plantations, the proprietors of which were rejoiced at the opportunity of sending it to New Orleans. It now lies at the levee of that city.

Washington, Feb. 20.—Simon Cameron has addressed a letter to President Lincoln, declining the Russian mission, and intimating that he may serve his country in a military capacity. Gen. Clay therefore returns to St. Petersburg.

Three days ago a secret interview was said to have taken place between President Lincoln and Mons. Mercier, in which, if I can trust my informant, questions of the greatest moment were discussed. It is reported in diplomatic circles that the President denies having any share in the framing of the document written in reply to Mr. Drouyn de l'Huys' proposition, further than to have expressed in Cabinet Council that the time for listening to the kind suggestion of France had not yet arrived.

Scouts report Gen. Fitzhugh Lee to be at Culpepper with 2,000 cavalry. His pickets extend nine miles to Hazel river and on the road to Warrenton and Rappahannock. No rebels are now north of these two points except White's guerrillas, near Leesburg. Col. Baker's detectives have returned with twelve persons engaged in running the lines, upon one of whom was found $9,000 in notes on Southern banks and $5,000 in gold. They had papers from Gen. Wilder to go beyond the lines, but not beyond Lee's army.

Gen Rosecrans telegraphed to the War Department, a day or two ago, that rebel officers, under a flag of truce, remarked: "You have got Vicksburg at last!" No confirmation is had, and the report is doubted.

New York, Feb. 21.—The Chamber of Commerce adopted resolutions in favor of letters of marque against the Alabama and Florida, and other piratical vessels, and a memorial to the Secretary of the Navy whether the defenses of New York are sufficient.

St. Paul, Feb. 17.—A messenger sent to the Red Lake and Pembina tribes of the Chippewas has returned. He reports 1,500 Sioux warriors at Devil's Lake, who were to move on Fort Abercrombie shortly. The officers of that post are aware of their danger, and have strongly fortified the place.

Chicago, Feb. 18.—Southern newspapers all manifest a realizing sense of coming danger. The Richmond Dispatch of the 9th, in an article as to dangers impending, says that tremendous efforts are making by the Lincoln despotism East, West, South, and North, which indicate a determination to throw all on the die of battles to be fought within the next three months. If there ever was a moment the Confederate Government needed to develop and concentrate all its energies and when its generals should at once exercise the greatest circumspection and the highest resolves, now is the hour.

New York, Feb. 23.—The Herald's Washington dispatches say that it is understood that as soon as the conscription bill shall have passed the House, there will be a call made for from 600,000 to 800,000 volunteers.

The Times says: We have advices from a private source confirming to some extent rumors of troubles in Gen. Banks' command, growing out of the introduction of negro troops. Some of the officers of the 133d New York volunteers had resigned.

The Richmond Enquirer says there are rumors of the advance of Yankees upon Middle Tennessee. Cannonading was heard on Wednesday last in front. Gen. Forrest has crossed the river with cavalry and artillery. The Texas Flag has accounts of the invasion of rebel soil by Mexican banditti who were stealing horses and cattle. About 500 Mexicans have been raised for the purpose of plundering our frontier. Their acts are approved by the Mexican authorities.

Memphis, Feb. 21.—Advices from the fleet at Vicksburg to the 18th furnish the agreeable information that steps have been taken for the inauguration of hostilities.—On that day our mortar boats were towed to the pass above the city and opened fire, with what effect is not yet known. The firing was responded to by the Confederate batteries. Our position was soon found to be too much exposed for effectual operations. It was changed, and the bombardment renewed. The gunboat Indianola, which ran the blockade, had 3 months' provisions and coaling.

The "Grey-beard Regiment."—The Thirty-seventh Regiment Iowa Volunteers, that reached this city last week from Keokuk, marched from Benton Barracks, this morning, to the Levee, *en route* for the South. A striking peculiarity of this regiment is that nearly all its members, officers and men, are old men, over forty-five years of age. Three-fourths of them are gray-headed, and many of them have long, white beards, giving them a venerable appearance. They are hale, hearty and stout, however, and erect and vigorous as if only twenty summers had passed over their heads. Many of them have sent their sons to the field, and are now following them.—Iowa evidently don't stand on the point of military age.—*St. Louis News.*

P. P. P. P.—Printing Presses, Pulpits and Petticoats.—These are the great levers that govern the world. Without them the bottom would fall out, and society would become a chaos again. The press makes people patriotic, the pulpit religious, but woman sways all things. There would be no going to church if there were no girls there; neither would there be any going to war were the soldiers to meet with no applause but from the masculines. Without the sunshine shed by woman, the rose of affection would never grow, nor the flowers of eloquence germinate. In short, she is the engine of life, the great motive power to love, valor, civilization. In proof of this truth all history speaks trumpet-tongued.