"If any man attempts to haul down the American Flag, shoot him on the spot!"
—*Gen. Dix.*

The Oregon Argus.

W. L. Adams, - - - Editor.

OREGON CITY:

SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 1863.

The Pirate Scheme.

The pirate schooner *J. W. Chapman*, which was recently seized in San Francisco, was, in addition to her large supply of arms and ammunition, freighted with some precious items of information regarding the designs of the pirates or "*peace* democrats" in California. The Federal officers, in overhauling the vessel found a large number of letters and papers, which revealed the fact that the vessel was to be used as a pirate to prey upon our commerce on this coast. Papers were also found revealing the plans of the rebels already matured for annexing California to the Southern Confederacy. Associations of true secessionists or "*peace* democrats" were to be formed all over the State. These "*peace*" men were secretly to supply themselves with *guns, swords, bowie-knives, powder and lead*, and such other deadly weapons as they could lay their hands on, that would serve to cut Union men's throats, and carry out the "*peace*" project of this band of outlaws and treason-loving villains. When they became sufficiently numerous, they were to slyly sneak into Sacramento, in a *peaceful* manner, all crying of course over Lincoln's "violation of the Constitution," and while their confederates cut the telegraph wires, a large body of them was to seize a steamer, drop down to Benecia, and secure the U. S. Arsenal, then proceed down the bay and take Alcatraz Island and Fort Point, after which they would issue a proclamation declaring California out of the Union and a member of the Southern Confederacy. Among other papers found on board of the *Chapman* was a copy of an oath to be taken by these "peace democrats," in which they were to swear inviolable secrecy and good faith to one another, that they were by every possible means to act for the benefit of the Southern Confederacy, and in case any one of the number should prove recreant, that all the rest individually should feel bound to assassinate him. In one of the trunks was found three certificates, showing that one of the gang had already taken the oath of allegiance to the United States at three different times. The whole outfit on board the *Chapman* must have cost fifty thousand dollars. Is it possible that "Dr. Brown" furnished the money?

By taking this vessel, we have discovered that the traitors on this coast are active. They are crying "*peace*," when they are fitting out pirate vessels to prey upon our commerce, and murder our mariners. They are making great pretensions to loyalty, and taking oaths of allegiance to the Government, when at the same time they are swearing among themselves to *destroy* the Government and help build up the rebellion. They are deprecating war, when they are secretly packing arms and ammunition to their headquarters, with which to cut the throats of unoffending citizens, lay the country in ruins, and inaugurate a cruel, bloody civil war on our shores. If these secession villains, who are hiding their stilettoes under their cloaks, blazoned all over with "*peace*," had the necessary numerical numbers, they would not be long in defying the authority of the Government, and introducing the same scenes of anarchy, bloody violence, and outlawry, with which their brethren have already laid in smoking ruins sections of Tennessee, Missouri, Virginia, and other States where here and there a mountain watch-fire has been kept burning by loyal neighborhoods, to glare out upon the impenetrable night of this modern conspiracy against liberty, justice, and heaven.

☞Talk about ending the war! The Southern rebels will not let you end it, if you would. Listen to their Northern allies, lay down your arms and disband your armies, and Jeff's minions will invade the North, and carry war to your own thresholds. Cry peace, and wage war on the Administration, if you will, but the time is not far distant when these cut-throat villains who are now aiding the rebels most effectually by building up a rebel party under the name of "*peace* democrats," will be knocking at your doors at the dead hour of midnight, demanding your money, and marching you at the point of the bayonet into the back yard, shivering in your shirt-tail, to mount the wood-pile and swear allegiance to Jeff Davis. In all the rebel States where the traitors have a majority they *will have no peace*—they are determined to exterminate the Union element of society, and just so sure as the Federal army is withdrawn, and the independence of the Confederacy acknowledged, the remnant of Union men left behind will be followed by the blood-hounds of the Confederacy, till the last one of them perishes by the knife of the assassin. War, and war to the knife, is their motto, so long as a lover of the Stars and Stripes and an admirer of free institutions treads slave-breeding soil. If ever they think they stand any chance in the North, the same pirate flag will be run up, and the traitors that now cry "*peace!*" will rally under it, and whet their razors to cut the throats of their own Union offspring. The history of this rebellion has shown that a traitor is not to be trusted. He will swear to support his own Government, and take the oath of allegiance to Jeff in the same hour—he will sacrifice his manhood, his honor, and his friends, in his mad crusade to prop up this devilish revolt of the slave power. A traitor is either a fool, who, from blind passion and besotted ignorance, becomes such a tool of rebels that he would cut his own father's throat, for the same reason that a Hindoo would murder his offspring, or else he is a cold-blooded, hell-deserving fiend, who would inaugurate civil war to gratify his revenge and overturn the Government, hoping to reconstruct it on a partisan basis, that would place the patronage in the hands of tories. The rebels have invaded Kentucky, Missouri, and Maryland, claiming their soil as Confederate territory, when they hadn't the slightest reason for believing any of these States wished to secede. They did this protesting all the time great veneration for "State rights," and not a secession scoundrel in Oregon or California ever raised the faintest whine of dissent at it. They have now conspired together to introduce civil war on this coast, and inaugurate piracy on the Pacific ocean, to rob and burn our vessels, and murder our citizens—and do you suppose that there is one of the hell deserving Judases now running the Jo Lane organs of "*peace*" here, but what will chuckle over it?

The times point most unmistakably to a near approach of the time when these "peace" cut-throats will break out all over the North. The devil is in them, and he will urge them on to do one overt act after another, till Union men will be forced to give them their desserts. When that day comes, as come we believe it will, and our brave soldiers turn their swords, as the Illinois regiments are threatening to do, upon worse than Southern rebels, we shall then see whether the heroic descendants of our Revolutionary heroes will be compelled to surrender to a despotism inaugurated by the offspring of the Arnolds in the North, and the ragamuffin tories of South Carolina.

The truth is, the loyal North has never yet got its eyes fully open to the magnitude and malignity of the rebel element. If the North had been wise enough, humane enough, and Christian enough to have adopted Dickinson's policy of rigorous dealing with traitors *at first*, the rebels in Cottondom might have been conquered or killed six months ago, and Northern cut-throats, such as have been fitting out pirate expeditions to murder and rob by the wholesale, or publishing lying treason, discouraging enlistments, inducing desertions from the army, encouraging the rebellion, and stabbing our Union soldiers in the back, would before this have been in dungeons, or hung and sent to hell. These Northern Judases, from Vallandigham down to Czapkay's Agent, may whine, fret, and froth as much as they will about the "rigors of Lincoln's Administration," but either Lincoln, or some such man as Dickinson who will come after him, has yet got to provide for the Union armies while they take the "Knights of the Golden Circle," "peace democrats," or Northern traitors, by the throat. The longer the forbearance, stupidity, and forbearance of loyal Northern men are operated upon to lull them to sleep, the more terrible will be the conflict when it comes. We advised long ago to arm every loyal man on the continent, and prepare for the "irrepressible conflict," which we knew was coming. If we don't get ready for it, traitors will—in fact, they are now getting ready, and the 'Knights of the Golden Circle,' or 'peace democrats,' are, like their brethren in California, now whetting their butcher-knives all over the North. They whine "*peace! peace!*" while they are preparing to bring civil, fratricidal, bloody war to our own hearthstones. If these Northern traitors succeed in so dividing the North, and crippling the Government, as to force us to submit to a dissolution of the Union, we believe these lickspittles of the slave power have got to emigrate to Cottondom, and live with the rest of the niggers. They will have to go there, or go to a *hotter* place—that is pretty certain.

FOREIGN.—The marriage of the Prince of Wales and the attendant rejoicings had absorbed public attention. The ceremony came off at Windsor on the 10th, with great pomp and brilliancy. It was a holiday throughout England.

It was rumored that France contemplates the resumption of negotiations with Mexico after the capture of Puebla.

Polish affairs continue threatening. Larciewitz had been proclaimed Dictator, and had issued a stirring manifesto, calling the Poles to arms.

TELEGRAPH.—The wires have been stretched a few miles south of this place toward Salem. This city is now in telegraphic communication with Portland. The office is at the store of Charman, Warner & Co., where we learn Mr. Fred Charman will act as operator.

☞ J. Cannan, postmaster at Empire City, Oregon, has been arrested and held to bail, to answer the charge of detaining letters in his office. The trial will take place at the May term of the U. S. District Court, sitting in Portland.

Commissioner to the Islands.

The Jeff Davis understrapper at Salem tries to be excruciatingly severe on the appointment of Dr. M'Bride as Commissioner to the Sandwich Islands. Czapkay's Agent says—

"Dr. M'Bride is a conceited, weak-minded, illiterate, old man, whose life has been spent in the interior of Missouri, and in Oregon. * * * He is as innocent of commercial experience, or diplomatic studies as the wild Indian that roams the Plains. * * * He is as unfit for the post to which he has been appointed as would be Kit Carson, if Carson added to his ignorance of letters and total want of commercial experience and diplomatic study, a lack of good hard common sense. * * * Dr. M'Bride has a consumb vanity and a peacock strut which makes him ridiculous, and which would make any Oregonian ashamed to have him pointed to in San Francisco as a representative of Oregon mediocrity. Those acquainted with James M'Bride know that we speak the words of sober truth, and that *the President has been imposed upon*. He adds another to the list of ignoramuses appointed to office in this quarter."

The next issue of the *Czapkaresco* has the following announcement:

"Senator Nesmith writes that he had no hand in procuring the appointment of Dr. M'Bride—We have no hesitation in declaring that it reflects disgrace on whoever was concerned in it."

Now the raving of the *Czapkaresco* over the appointment of Dr. M'Bride may be a little unaccountable to those who are acquainted with the Doctor and know him to be a man of a high order of intellect, commanding appearance, strict temperance, unimpeachable integrity, and undoubted loyalty. The Doctor was originally from Tennessee, resided a few years in Missouri, and emigrated to Oregon in 1846—never having seen a free State till Oregon was admitted into the Union. There are no better Republicans or truer Union men in Oregon than such as have been raised in slave States, and no dirtier tools of Jeff than a few soulless, unprincipled, and dishonorable dogs who found their way out here from Massachusetts. We have traveled through fifteen of the Western and Southern States, but have never been as far east as the western boundary of York State, consequently have no idea of Eastern society, only as we learn about it in publications and see it partially represented in such as we occasionally meet loafing from there, but we have never seen a lower and more degraded type of humanity, morally speaking, than the medicine-selling, lecherous upart at Salem, who is said to have been born in Massachusetts. Nature under the hill has no representation of his species; for a hummer for one of the low dens there would be kicked out of society when detected in such treacherous conduct as taking pay for humming for other establishments than the one to which he belonged. Hanging around parties in order to get all the money possible out of them, and then going over to their enemies to manipulate them in the same way, is a species of moral depravity that is not tolerated among the democratic dens resorted to by the free niggers of the Fire Points. Yet this lowest type of Massachusetts society essays to stick up its nose at real manhood because it came from a Western State.

Now for the secret of the *Czapkaresco's* wrath. *He was himself an applicant for the place at the Islands.* As strange as it may appear, it is an absolute fact that this limping "fool," as Wesley Shannon rightly calls him, who, in addition to his ignorance, his penchant for square society and nigger weddings—his chronic sores, and peeling scabs—his stomach burnt out with "rot gut," and his marrow bones scorched and dried with the fires of lust and treason—☞ *without a Lucas ancestry*—and with only a pirate's purpose as a rule of conduct—added to the other qualification of having in a mean and malicious way beat Pat Malone in lying about Union men, and meanly slandering the Administration in a way that the Richmond papers would be ashamed of—*all done at the very time when he was down on all fours before President Lincoln begging for Dryer's place at the Islands!!* There is an exhibition of cool impudence for you that will be new in the history of confidence men.

Don't fret so that it will set your old "sore" to running, young man, for we intend to elect some such man as Daniel S. Dickinson as the next President (that is, if Lincoln declines to run), and then you will be sent to a cooler latitude than the Islands—a healthier locality for your "*rheumatism*."

☞ The Albany *Democrat* reiterates the statement often made before by the secession press that Dr. M'Bride is our "father-in-law." Incorrect, James—our father-in-law died on Burnt River, whilst crossing the Plains, in 1852. Dr. Mc Bride is no relation of ours, though we shouldn't be ashamed of it if he was. We lived a close neighbor to him for ten years, a part of the time in the same house, and whatever his enemies may say, we know him to be one of earth's noblemen. He is just such a man as a President who respects virtue, honesty, and purity, would select for position, in preference to such mercenary, drunken, unprincipled locofocos as Buchanan generally sought out, and which the Salem *Czapkaresco* is still weeping to have promoted.

By the way, "Jeems," why is it that you and your kind are fretting so much about the Dr's appointment through the influence of his son? Oregon has no more *claim* on the appointment than any other State. If Jo Lane had been in Washington and Buchanan President, Oregon wouldn't have got it, but some rum-drinking, cock-fighting, nigger-whipping son of one of the "first families of Virginia" would have had it—*probably a son of "Faulkner, our firm friend."* Jo would have stopped the mouths of your gang here with a keg of whisky each and a promise of some "god-blessed" thing *by and by*.—You would then all have puff'd Jo.'s choice as an "*exceedingly happy selection*"—but *now*, as we have got men in Washington City who are successfully attending to *our* interests (Didn't we promise you they would do it, Jeems?) you think of course you must *whine*. *You* whine because the father was recommended by a son. The limping rebel at Salem whines because Harding and M'Bride didn't get the place for *him*. The sore-heads generally whine because the appointment was confined to "the family." Now the truth is, *all* of these snivelers would have preferred to have the place given to some other State, unless *he* or some one *he* could designate should get it. The appointment of Dr. M'Bride was a victory achieved *by the State*, through Harding and John R. M'Bride, over all the other States. In that view, it reflects credit on Harding and M'Bride *as efficient workers for Oregon interests*. The appointment of Dr M'Bride gives fully as general satisfaction to Oregon as would have been given by the choice of any other man in the State. This we know. For this reason, the appointment was a judicious one, politically speaking. That Dr. M'Bride's claims should have been ignored by our delegation in Congress because he was the *father of* J. R. M'Bride, or the *friend* of Harding, will not be urged by any candid man of sense. The successful politician, in the long run, must stick to his friends. Conciliating dishonest enemies by favors, is sure to ruin the man who resorts to it. Now look here, Jeems!—*There isn't a solitary vote in the State who was opposed to M'Bride and Harding but yell who would have brought fire rates to their support hereafter, if they had got any other man than Dr. M'Bride appointed to the Islands.*

A few sore heads but fall shed tears as big as walnuts over Harding's election, because, as they said ☞ "*The Federal officers here would all be removed by Nix and Rex, and Salem democrats would be put in their places.*" "M'Bride," they said, "would be overruled by our Senators, and Republicans would all be laid on the shelf in a very short time." But now, after the appointment of Huntington to an important office in the State, and of Dr. M'Bride and Daniels to important places *out of the State*, has been secured, *all Republicans* and bedrock Union men, the sore-heads are terribly exercised *because somebody else wasn't appointed*. These grumblers would have preferred most anybody—even Jeff Hamph—to one of these gentlemen. It is as impossible for these fellows to stop grumbling till they are all in positions themselves, as it is for an Indian to stop scratching while he has the itch. They feel good under the grumbling operation—and if the *people* cannot see through their game, we can.

MAIL LOST.—On the arrival of the stage at the post office in this city last Monday, it was discovered by the driver that the mailing for this place was missing, and it was supposed that it had fallen out of the wagon about daylight just after leaving Salem. Dr Pavlice, our P. M., addressed a letter by the next morning's mail to the postmaster at Salem, and on Wednesday received the following reply, which contains all the information we have in regard to the matter. The bag contained the letter mail for Oregon City, Rickreall, Champoeg, Milwaukie, and Glad Tidings!

SALEM, Oregon, March 31, 1863.

P. M. Oregon City—Dear Sir: I have greatly the following facts concerning the lost mail bag sent from here to your office on the morning of the 25th.—Viz:

Between 10 and 11 o'clock p.m. (March 24) one of the clerks of the W—don hotel called at my office, and stated that in the morning about daylight he saw a man pick up a bag in the street, which he supposed was a mail bag, then it was several times, and deliberately throw it on his shoulder and walk off—going north. The clerk described the man as being of rough appearance (probably a sailor), but by no a pair of white duck overalls, blue flannel shirt, and black hat. The next morning I commenced the farce in the Stage Agent, Mr. G. G. ——.

Tuesday, on the arrival of the driver who went down on the morning, I learn that he did not miss the bag until he arrived at your office, and says that he was told afterwards by one of the passengers that a boy (also a passenger) threw the bag out of the window when opposite the Salem Woolen Mills. The boy's name is Gilbert Rosenstock, is about 15 years old, well known here, and no doubt is a graceless scamp.

We will do all we can to secure the bag. Nothing more has been heard from it.

Yours truly, J. T. HAMILTON, P. M.

RETURNED.—Thomas Charman, Esq., the senior of the enterprising firm of Charman, Warner & Co., of our city, returned on the last steamer from San Francisco, bringing with him one of the largest, finest, and best assorted stocks of goods ever brought to Oregon City, and which will be sold as low as the same quality of goods can be bought at any other place in the State. No use to go to Portland any more for cheap goods. All, especially the Ladies, are invited to call and examine their stock.

NEW BOAT.—We learn that Capt. J. W. Cushman, who has so long commanded the "Relief" on the upper Willamette, is about to build a new boat for the trade, the keel of which will be laid in a short time at Canemah.

HEMP SEED.—Mr. Thos. Charman brought from San Francisco a lot of hemp seed, which will be distributed freely to those wishing any, on application at the store of Charman, Warner & Co.

Girls' School.—Miss ADELAINE LOREY will open a Select School for Girls, on Monday, April 6th, in the building formerly used by the Sisters, near the Catholic Church. Terms, $5.00 per quarter.

☞ Prof. Myers, the "wonderful American Wizard," gave two entertainments in our city this week, to full houses.

☞ Legal Tender Notes in San Francisco, at latest dates, were worth 68 to 70 cents.

OREGON CITY MARKET.—Wheat 87½; Flour $6; Oats 62½; Butter 20; Eggs 20.

Details of Eastern News.

Headquarters Army of the Potomac, March 18.—A most brilliant cavalry fight occurred on the Rappahannock yesterday, beyond Kelly's Ford. A reconnoissance under Gen. Averill, forced a passage over the river in face of a determined resistance by a considerable body of rebel sharpshooters who were covered by houses, rifle pits and a dry mill-race, with an abattis front. Arriving on the south side of the river our cavalry charged the rebels in their intrenchments, killing and capturing nearly the entire force, besides securing a large number of horses.

A short distance from the shore Averill's command encountered the rebel cavalry, under Stuart and Fitzhugh Lee, who had hastened from Culpepper to prevent our passage. They made some dashing charges on our troops, who repulsed them, and in turn charged them with fatal effect, using sabres only in the conflict. Wherever the enemy made a stand they were immediately charged on, and routed from their position with great loss.

The battle lasted five hours, and was a serious hand-to-hand conflict, the charges resulting in the falling back of the enemy. The forces were about 2000 on each side. The enemy at last took refuge behind an entrenched battery, 4 miles from the fort, flanked by rifle pits and abattis. Averill having accomplished his object, secured the prisoners and the wounded on both sides, with a large number of horses, and recrossed the river without an attack or demonstration on the part of the rebels.

An item is to be added to the Department of California until Gen. Wright's troops can be sent from California to defend the new Territory. A regular mail through Mesilla Valley to Tucson will soon be established.

The Government last week selecting officers under the Conscription Law. They will probably all be appointed at once.—The list will be kept open until it is complete.

The President and Cabinet, we understand on good authority, have concluded to issue no letters of marque and reprisal, but will receive into the Navy any vessels that may be fitted out by private parties for the capture of rebel privateers.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue states that stamps hereafter will not be received in exchange for revenue stamps of other kinds and denominations, except at a discount of 1 per cent. on the amount exchanged.

It is said and believed that the object of the Government will probably be to call an extra session of Congress immediately on the news of the departure of the next pirate from British ports, to recommend that vessels under the British flag shall either be interdicted entirely from trading in American ports or subjected to a tonnage duty of about $3 per ton.

New York, March 20.—The Times has a Newbern letter giving an account of recent movements in that vicinity. On the 13 the rebels appeared in heavy force between Trent and the Neuse rivers and drove in our picket, but were held in check by our cavalry. Gen. Palmer advanced a portion of his command, when the rebels fell back. On the 14, they made a demonstration upon Fort Andrew, an unfinished earthwork, and demanded the surrender, but were refused. The rebels opened battteries on it at short range, and about a dozen commenced upon demanded the surrender, which was refused. The rebels then made an assault, but were met with such a murderous fire from our gunboats that they were forced to fall back, and finally retired, losing heavily in killed and wounded.

Washington, March 20.—Gen. Hooker says that the army shall make a prompt record for itself within 30 days.

A party of 200 country prisoners, mostly civilians, arrived to-night. They left Richmond on the 18 inst. They report that the general inclinations were that the rebels felt uneasy about the safety of Richmond. They are moving all the heavy machinery for manufacturing ordnance, powder, etc., to Northern Georgia. They represent the feeling of the privates of the rebel army as overwhelmingly in favor of abandoning the contest. The people admit, should Vicksburg fall, that they could not hold out another year for want of provisions.

Franklin, Tenn., March 20.—A considerable force of the enemy's cavalry crossed Duck river and advanced towards Franklin, yesterday, and were driven back. The bridge at Columbia has been rebuilt. Van Dorn is said to be largely reinforced. Cavalry skirmishes occur daily.

Hilton Head, March 16.—The latest intelligence from the Black Brigade now marching into Florida, is that it has taken several important points, many prisoners, captured large quantities of munitions and supplies, and is still driving the enemy before it.

March 20.—Washington letters say that it is impossible to draft before June, and perhaps July. Meantime Government is preparing beforehand for their equipment.

A loan of $100,000,000 has been tendered to the Government by a distinguished German banking house.

Syracuse, N. Y., March 21.—Maj.-Gen. Edwin V. Sumner, recently appointed to the command of the Department of the West and the Mississippi, died in this city this morning, after a sickness of a few days of congestion of the lungs.

Washington, March 21.—The Secretary of the Treasury has placed in the hands of the Paymaster-General sufficient money to pay the entire army to the 1 of March.

After a review of the 12th army corps by Gen. Hooker he addressed his officers, expressing satisfaction at their soldierly appearance. He relied on them for assistance and hearty co-operation in the coming campaign. So far as he himself was concerned, he meant that there should be no more mistakes and doubtful results, if the enemy did not run.

Memphis, March 20.—Advices from the fleet at Greenwood have been received up to Monday morning. On Saturday and Sunday the Chillicothe kept up a cannonade on the rebel battery, which was so situated that the rear could not be assailed on account of high water. The guns were taken off the De Kalb, and a battery constructed on land within a short distance of the rebel works, which was intended to assist the gunboats to reduce that place.—The rebel force at Greenwood is estimated at 6,000 men. When our fleet passes that point there will be no obstructions until it reaches Yazoo City, where the rebels are said to be strongly fortified. The damage to the Chillicothe is not so great as previously reported.

Affairs at Lake Providence are entirely at a standstill, owing to the high stage of the water. The gunboat Lafayette on Saturday evening passed up the mouth of the Yazoo river, and is supposed would approach Haines' Bluff, to be in readiness to co-operate with the boats entering by the way of Yazoo Pass.

Washington, March 21.—An Amsterdam agent, now in this city, has made a proposition to the Secretary of the Treasury to loan $50,000,000 in gold, to be deposited in Amsterdam subject to the draft of the Treasury Department. No definite answer will be given to the proposition until next week.

Murfreesboro, March 21.—The expedition which went out in the direction of Liberty, on Wednesday last, was attacked yesterday morning, by 2,500 mounted rebels, commanded by the guerrilla John Morgan, at Wilton, 10 miles this side of Liberty, while on their return. Col. Hall, commanding the expedition, had his rear guard driven in. Soon after resuming his march, perceiving the enemy outnumbered him two to one, he fell back to the crest of a hill, where his men would have the advantage of position, to prevent being surrounded.—The rebels opened a fierce fire of shot and shell, and their battery was also advanced in strength, and both flanks made most stubborn attempts on our right and left, but were repeatedly driven back with fearful slaughter. Morgan, failing to accomplish anything on our flanks, attacked our rear, but was met and repulsed. At half past 2, Morgan withdrew his command, and in about half an hour returned, having received reinforcements, and made another attack equally unsuccessful. He withdrew in great confusion, leaving his stores, and the dead and wounded on the battle-field. Our loss was 7 killed and 50 wounded.—Our troops consisted of men from Ohio, Indiana and Illinois regiments.

The Port Royal New South, of the 14, says that Jacksonville, Florida, was taken on the 10, by the negro brigade. The negroes behaved with propriety. On the 11, Col. Montgomery, with 200 men, had a sharp skirmish three miles from the town, 200 rebels under Baldwin, were at the junction of the Jacksonville, Tallahassee and Cedar Mills railroad, which is supposed to be the point arrived at by the expedition.

Washington, March 22.—Information received by the Government leads to the belief that the rebels are abandoning the Rappahannock, and falling back towards Richmond. News has been brought by citizens that Longstreet is moving towards Lynchburg. Trains are coming into Richmond from Fredericksburg, heavily loaded, which confirms the news.

Cincinnati, March 23.—A special despatch from Lake Providence the 16th, says: Contrary to general belief the authorities decided to let the water in at that point this evening, and the water is pouring in, threatening friend, and foe alike, through an aperture 20 feet wide, and visibly widening at the mouth. By morning the greater part of the town of Lake Providence will be under water.

The Wasp, on special despatch to the Times and Tribune states that the rebels are preparing to fall back towards Richmond. Apprehensions are felt that the Davis Government will be attacked via Jones river. Refugees confirm this theory, and add that Lee's army is much reduced by the withdrawal of Longstreet, the two Hills, and other rebel generals with their commands, who have gone to other parts of the Confederacy.

The War Department has received the rolls of all regiments comprising the Army of the United States, which shows the number of absentees and deserters to be 125,000.

Cincinnati, March 23.—Gen. Burnside will arrive to-morrow, and it is said he is taken the command of the Department of the Ohio.

Advices from Yazoo Pass affirm the prospect of our getting through successfully. Our forces are besieging Fort Pemberton.

A special despatch from Paris, Ky., says that the rebel cavalry under Duke surrounded Mount Sterling this morning.—Our force, amounting to 200, fought four hours, and were finally compelled to surrender. The rebels then burned the town. It is thought that Duke intends attacking Paris to-night.

Washington, March 23.—The following has been received by Col. Stager, per steamer to New York:

Southwest Pass, March 15.—By Telegraph from Baton Rouge.—Commodore Farragut leading in the Hartford, attacked the Port Hudson batteries last night at 11 o'clock, with his fleet. The steamer Mississippi ran aground and was burned. The firing on both sides was rapid and severe. The army is within five miles of the enemy's works, and are in good spirits and bound to win. Cavalry skirmishing is the only fighting as yet.

CHAS. BANTLEY,
Assistant Sup't Military Telegraph.

New York, March 23.—The Commercial's Washington special despatch of this afternoon says that encouraging and glorious news has been received from Farragut's fleet on the Mississippi, which created lively satisfaction at the White House and departments of the Government. The Secretary of the Navy is warmly congratulated. The information received by Secretary Welles is that Com. Farragut has safely made a passage in the frigate Hartford (the flag ship,) with the whole fleet, the steamer Mississippi expected, which vessel got aground and was by the Admiral's orders abandoned and destroyed.

Washington, March 23.—A letter from Admiral Porter, dated March 14, has been received. It speaks of difficulties in navigating Yazoo Pass with safety to vessels. The natural impediments are similar to those heretofore reported. He says nothing as to any engagement with the enemy up to that date.

New York, March 23.—The World states that on the 9th a small rebel force was captured 6 miles below Port Hudson with a signal book of the rebel army.

Gen. Sherman commands at New Orleans in the absence of Gen. Banks.

A private despatch received here confirms the statement that Farragut has passed Port Hudson.

On the night of the 14, Col. Clark, chief of Gen. Bank's staff was wounded, from which it is evident that there had been severe skirmishing.

Washington, March 23.—Government received subscriptions to the 5-20 loan of