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SHORT PARAGRAPHS.—Hon. Wm. B. Reed, of Penn., late U. S. Minister to China, has made a speech in Philadelphia, in favor of State rights, and for Peace.—The reported destitution in Ireland is attracting much attention in this country.—Gen. Tyler has been found guilty by court martial of conduct prejudicial to discipline, and sentenced to be reprimanded.—Solomon R. Jackson, of Clarke county, Va., has been arrested on a charge of disloyal practices.—Hemp is about to be used for paper making.—Gold in New York, yesterday, 153.—It is said that the Confederate agents are collecting all the supplies that they can in Loudoun and Fauquier counties, Va.; and also all the negro blacksmiths.—The Confederate force on the Blackwater is said to be 30,000.—It is said that a considerable number of refugees from the South continue to come into the Federal lines.—The business of paying off the Army of the Potomac will be finished this week.—The will of the late Com. Levy, bequeathing Monticello to the U. S., has been declared null and void by the Supreme Court of New York.—It is said that President Lincoln is to take up his summer quarters, early this season, at Soldiers' Rest, near Washington.—It is said that the New York banks have decreased their circulation to the amount of forty-nine millions of dollars.—There are rumors, but contradicted, that Stonewall Jackson, with a considerable force, is in the neighborhood of Aldie.

Major Clarence Prentice, of the Confederate army, son of Geo. D. Prentice, came into Louisville, yesterday, and was captured.

A difficulty is reported between the employees at the Chemical Works, in Jersey City, in consequence of some of the men refusing to become naturalized citizens, in order to escape the draft.

The Rhode Island State election takes place to-day.

The limits fixed by the proclamation of the President for the voluntary return, without punishment, of all absentees from the armies of the Union expired yesterday. These men number over one hundred thousand. They hereafter will be classed and punished as deserters.

From Fortress Monroe we have a reiteration of the reports that the Confederates are preparing to evacuate Richmond. We do not deem the rumor worthy of any credence.

Mexican advices received by telegraph via San Francisco, say that the French army had advanced on the 10th ult. to within eight miles of Puebla, and that an attack was expected in a few days.

It is said that a camp is soon to be established at Harper's Ferry for the reception of negro troops, where they will be organized and drilled.

WAR NEWS.

A telegram to Gov. Peirpoint says, on Monday 700 Confederates, under Gen. Jenkins, captured Point Pleasant, Va. The town was subsequently recaptured, and the Confederates driven back with a loss of twelve killed and fourteen prisoners. The Federal loss was one killed and one wounded.

Information has been received stating that an expedition from General Hooker's army, under Colonel Fairchild, which was recently sent out to Northern Neck, had returned to Belle Plain, after a successful forage. They captured several prisoners, and broke up the ferries at Union Wharf and the Rappahannock. Colonel Fairchild also burned a schooner engaged smuggling contraband goods into Virginia.

A Hilton Head letter states that a steamer from Jacksonville had a report of the arrival of the 6th Connecticut and the 8th Maine regiments to reinforce the negro troops. The Confederate force had been driven from their original position five or six miles. Skirmishes are of frequent occurrence. Three regiments of Georgians are known to be marching on the town, and heavy firing was heard as the steamer left.

A Hilton Head letter, of the 27th ult., reports that heavy firing was heard in the direction of Charleston on Thursday last, supposed to have proceeded from an attack on the Confederate batteries at Stono Inlet.

A Cairo dispatch confirms the Confederate report of the attempt of two of the Federal gunboats to run the Vicksburg batteries on Wednesday last. The Lancaster was sunk and the Switzerland disabled, but floated past the batteries and was towed to the lower mouth of the canal by the Albatross.

The Hartford and the Albatross when reaching Grand Gulf, after passing Fort Hudson encountered more formidable batteries than at the latter place. Both vessels were more or less injured. The Hartford was struck fourteen times, and had three men killed.

It is stated that the expedition in the rear of Haine's Bluff, by the way of Sunflower river, has returned to Young's Point. There is nothing definite from the Yazoo Pass expedition.

Late Southern papers corroborate the accounts of the attempt of the Federal gunboats to pass the Vicksburg batteries. They also contain dispatches stating that the Federal forces have again appeared before Fort Pemberton. Gen. Morgan had a fight at Wilton on the 20th, lasting five hours, in which his loss in officers is said to have been heavy. Gen. Forrest, it is claimed, captured eight hundred Federal prisoners at Brentwood.

It is stated that the Confederates are retreating from Kentucky. Gen. Pegram, at last accounts, was south of Stamford, and it is said had abandoned his cattle and baggage train.

A Murfreesboro' dispatch reports that the Confederates, comprising Gen. Polk's army corps, have advanced to within nineteen miles of the town.

A train of cars was captured by the Confederates near Grand Junction, Tennessee, on Saturday last, and forty persons taken prisoners.

An arrival from Europe reports two American vessels burnt by the Alabama, and two by the Florida.

A letter from Stafford Court House, dated March 29, says:—"Intelligence has just been received here of an attack on our cavalry patrol on the telegraph road, between Dumfries and the Occoquan, this morning. The attack-

ing party consisted of about one hundred rebel cavalry. Eight of our men were captured.—One man of the First Virginia rebel cavalry was captured by our men; but he represented himself as a deserter."

The Richmond Dispatch says: "On the morning of the 25th four Federal boats were advancing toward our upper batteries at Vicksburg. A vigorous fire was opened upon them and two were driven back, whilst two passed, under a raking fire. One received a shot, from which she sunk; part of her crew escaped to the opposite shore. The Benton was disabled, and the Albatross towed her out of danger from our guns.

The London correspondent of the N. Y. Times, says:—"There are indications that very troublesome times are coming in Lancashire. The people are growing irritated at their compulsory idleness and pauperism. They are shut up, and indeed locked up, in schools; even old men of 70 or 80. The relief is doled out to them as if they were common paupers—the clothes contributed to them are stamped as "lent," so that they cannot sell or pawn them. They are beginning to hold meetings, and express themselves strongly upon their grievances. Mr. Cobden told the Government the other day in the House of Commons that much harder times were coming to them than they expected. I think he is right."

The N. O. Picayune says that the fortifications at Port Hudson consist of seven batteries, which commence at the town and extend down the river three and a half miles. Most of them are on the face of the bluff, half way up, and one or two of them are on the river bank.—The guns are generally thirty-two pounders, and in one of the lower batteries there is a one-hundred and twenty-eight pound rifled gun. The entire rear of the batteries and the approaches to the town are covered by rifle pits and entrenchments, and the Confederate force inside the works is estimated at thirty thousand men.

It appears that politicians are already preparing for the next Presidential election. The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Press writes:—"I stated in a recent letter that the "campaign for the Presidency in 1864 has been opened by the Union men." I made that statement deliberately—I repeat it now. The Union men—in such organizations as Union Leagues or in what capacity they may please to act—have opened the campaign, and intend to support the President in 1863, and, if possible, to control the election of a President in 1864."

Some troops passing through Columbus, Ohio, yesterday became intoxicated, and attempted to pass the provost guard. Being resisted, they commenced throwing stones, clubs, &c., at the guard, who fired on them, first with blank cartridges and then with ball.—Private Quinlan, of Pennsylvania, was mortally wounded. Wright and Alexandre, of Massachusetts, slightly.

A letter to the Worcester Spy, from Beaufort, N. C., says: "The rebels have succeeded in burning the turpentine forests in every direction, and spare the tar and turpentine in casks no more than they do cotton in the bales."