COLUMBIA PHŒNIX.

"Let our just censure
Attend the true event."—*Shakspeare.*

BY J. A. SELBY. COLUMBIA, S. C., TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 1865. VOL. 1. NO. [illegible]

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Latest Northern News.

RICHMOND, March 26.—The New York *Herald*, of the 24th, says Gen. Lew Wallace has left New Orleans on a special mission to Matamoras, for the purpose of inquiring into the arrangement of Mejia, Maximilian's commander there, with Gen. Slaughter, for the delivery to the latter of the train of refugees who escaped into Mexico.

Admiral Porter's flag ship arrived in James River on Tuesday, and anchored off Aiken's Landing. President and Mrs. Lincoln visited Gen. Grant on Thursday.

Gold closed on the 23d at 150½.

Latest from Europe.

RICHMOND, March 26.—European advices of the 12th have been received. The capture of Wilmington caused a slight improvement in United States stocks. The Confederate cotton loan experienced only a slight change—having fallen heavily in anticipation of the event.

It is officially stated that the English Government has forwarded to Washington numerous claims for damages growing out of the war.

The Confederate steamer Shenandoah had arrived at Melbourne. She is reported as having burned eleven ships during the voyage from the Cape of Good Hope.

The Duke DeMornay, President of the French Senate, and a half brother of the Emperor Napoleon, died in Paris on the 10th.

The Yankees Surprised Before Petersburg.

PETERSBURG, March 25.—About 4 o'clock this morning, Gen. Lee attacked the enemy on our left, in the vicinity of the Appomattox River, assaulting and capturing two lines of works and one or more heavy forts. Our men advanced well into action, but the enemy massed his artillery so heavily in the neighboring forts and was enabled to pour such a terrible enfilading fire through our ranks, that it was deemed best to withdraw; the captured works were therefore abandoned and our troops re-occupied their original position. Gens. Gordon and Bushrod Johnson's divisions were the troops engaged on our side. Our loss was several hundred. 500 prisoners were captured, among them Gen. McLauchlin and a number of officers. Maj. Gen. Warren is reported killed. Brig. Gen. Terry on our side wounded. Many pieces of artillery and mortars were captured; the former were abandoned and some of the latter brought off. The attack was a surprise to the enemy

Recruiting of the Negroes, &c.

RICHMOND, March 25.—The order from the Adjutant General relative to recruiting colored troops in the Confederacy, says an officer will be assigned or appointed in each State, charged with the enrollment and disposition of all recruits. No slave will be acceptod as a recruit unless with the owner's consent, by a written instrument conferring, as far as he may, the rights of a freeman. The appointment of officers to companies to be formed of recruits will be made by the President. The officers employed in recruiting are enjoined to be provident, considerate, humane and attentive to whatever concerns the health, comfort and discipline of the troops, to uniform them and to observe the greatest kindness and forbearance in their treatment of them, and especially to protect them from injustice and oppression.

Wm. B. Allegre, of the *Enquirer*, has been appointed postmaster of this city, vice Steger resigned.

Official Despatch from Gen. Lee.

RICHMOND, March 26.—The following despatch was received last night:

HEADQUARTERS, March 25—11.20 p. m.—*Hon. J. C. Breckinridge, Secretary of War:* At daylight, this morning Gen. Gordon assaulted and carried the enemy's works at Hare's Hill, capturing nine pieces of artillery, eight mortars and between five [illegible] ers—among them one [illegible] number of officers of [illegible] were swept for a distance of [illegible] to the right and left [illegible] recove the captured [illegible] repulsed; but it was [illegible] works in the rear, [illegible] main line, could not be [illegible] sacrifice, and the troops [illegible] their original position [illegible] to bring off the [illegible] nature of the ground [illegible] left. Our loss is [illegible] the wounded are [illegible] and Brig. Gen. Phil. Cook, [illegible] troops engaged, including [illegible] Brig. Gen. Ransom, behaved [illegible] The conduct of the sharp shoo[illegible] corps, who led the assault, deserves [illegible] commendation.

This afternoon, there was skirmishing on the right, below Pickett's lines, with varied success. At dark, the enemy held a considerable portion of the line farthest in advance of our main works.

R. E. LEE.

THE BILL TO BORROW AND TAX COIN.—Congress passed in secret session, and the President approved it, an act to raise coin for the purpose of furnishing the necessary supplies for the army. The first section authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to borrow from any bank, corporation, or individuals, any amount in coin not to exceed three million in the aggregate, and secure repayment at such time as may be agreed upon, not to exceed two years after the conclusion of a treaty of peace, by the issue of bonds payable in coin and bearing six per cent. interest, payable semi annually in specie. The Secretary is empowered to pledge the cotton and tobacco by the Government to the extent of its value for the loan obtained, or convey the same for the payment of such loan, with its export to London free of duty, except to the extent of one-eighth per cent. as now imposed by law. The second section provides furthermore, that there shall be levied and collected a tax of twenty five per cent. upon all gold and silver coin, bullion and foreign exchange in the Confederate States, payable in kind on the first of April, or as soon thereafter as practicable. Amounts not exceeding three hundred dollars' value, excused from the tax, and all amounts loaned to the Government under the first section.