The Altoona Tribune.

ALTOONA, PA.

THURSDAY MAY 9, 1861.

☞ Where parties are unknown to us, our rule for advertising is to require payment in advance, or a guarantee from known persons. It is therefore useless for all such to send us advertisements offering to pay at the end of three or six months. Where advertisements are accompanied with the money, whether one, five or ten dollars, we will give the advertiser the full benefit of cash rates.

S. M. PETTINGILL & CO.,

Advertising Agents, 119 Nassau street, New York, and 10 State street, Boston, are the Agents for the *Altoona Tribune*, and the most influential and largest circulating Newspapers in the United States and the Canadas. They are authorized to contract for us at our *lowest rates*.

PRICE OF PROVISIONS.—We hear many persons predicting that the price of the necessaries of life is likely to be increased by reason of the difficulties between the North and the South. Such predictions we think correct, so far as the South is concerned, since that part of the country does not produce as much as its people consume, and they consequently depend, to a certain extent, upon the productions of the North. But why provisions should increase in price, with us, we cannot exactly understand. There will be no more demand for it at home than there would have been had war not been inaugurated. The war has not decreased the home supply, nor are there any more mouths to feed than if we were at peace. It might be alleged, that should the difficulty not be speedily settled there will be less grain raised next year, for want of help to put in crops. This cannot reasonably be argued, since it is known that the great majority of those who have enlisted are from the towns and manufacturing districts. Our farmers can find sufficient help to put in as large crops as usual, unless a great many men be called out hereafter.

We imagine that the price will only be increased in one way, and that will be by speculators. They have the power to do it, but would not such action on their part merit the highest censure? If ever there was a time when men should be liberal it is now, while many are to be fed and clothed at the expense of others. Many of the families of those who have enlisted in the service of their country will have to be maintained by the citizens of the community in which they reside. In almost every county and town in the country the patriotic and liberal men who have remained at home have subscribed of their means for the sustenance of these families; and would it not be the rankest injustice for speculators to take advantage of this state of affairs, and run up the price of the necessaries of life. Such need only be the case when we are compelled to import from abroad, and in that case alone will it be excusable. Therefore we say, keep down the price of provisions until an increase is really necessary.

MILITARY FORCE OF PENNSYLVANIA.—From the statement of Adjutant General Biddle, published in the Harrisburg *Telegraph* of Monday last, we learn that 283 companies, the names of which are given, had tendered their services but were not accepted, owing to the fact that the requisition for troops had been filled before any of these companies had tendered their services. This force of 283 companies, containing some 22,000 men, it will be remembered, is additional to the number accepted and sworn into the service. Those companies which have tendered their services, but could not be accepted, are to keep up their organization and be prepared to respond immediately, should they be called upon. This large surplus force is an illustration of the devotion of the people of Pennsylvania to the cause of the Union, and may be taken as an earnest of what they intend to do when the conflict for law and order is once fully organized. It must be borne in mind that the tender of so large a force was made in the short space of two weeks, and that the peremptory order to receive no more troops, alone put an end to the contribution of soldiers from Pennsylvania.

☞ It is said that the oil regions in Virginia, lately inhabited by northerners, some of whom were from this part of the country, have become very unhealthy—the secessionists of that locality having informed the oil-diggers that it would be conducive to their health to vacate immediately. We notice that some of the companies have called upon the people in the north-western counties of Virginia and the Ohio border, to come to their assistance, and help them protect their wells. Should they respond, there may be a hot time in the oil-diggings ere long.

THE "PATRIOT DAUGHTERS."—The association of "Patriot Daughters," of this place, have performed a good work within the past week. They have manufactured an amount of lint and bandages which it is hoped will far exceed the wants of those who have gone from among us. They have also made some 120 towels, a number of undershirts and drawers, and other useful articles, and bought and collected some 75 cakes of soap, a lot of combs and brushes, knives and forks, plates, and numerous other little articles which are almost indispensable to a soldier, but which ladies alone would think of—all of which have been forwarded to Camp Scott, at York, and our boys are now, no doubt, in return, showering blessings upon their heads. We learn that the "Daughters" are still busy in manufacturing serviceable underclothes, and intend to continue until all our boys are supplied.—Speed the good work, ladies; your labor of love will be rewarded, and the name of your association well merited.

We learn that several boxes of provisions have also been forwarded by the ladies, to the different companies from this place, but whether directly under the management of the "Daughters" we are not informed. It makes no difference, however, so they reached their destination in good order.

☞ From all sections of the country we have information of the appearance of colored men not heretofore seen or known in those localities. It is generally supposed that they are runaway slaves, who, taking advantage of the present state of our national affairs, are making good their escape. Now is certainly an opportune time for such a stampede, but we protest against their being allowed to stop in this part of the country. There are now as many, if not more, here than can make a decent living, and it would be infinitely better for slaves to stay where they are, if they can, or travel for more congenial climes. This conflict is not intended to liberate the slaves, nor has it anything to do with changing their condition, either for better or worse. It is a contest for the supremacy of the laws, and should not be used as a pretext to bring ruin upon both master and slave by inducing or encouraging the elopement of the latter. This course can only be justified when the aggressions of the secessionists shall render it necessary as a means of retaliation.—We hope that cause for such action may not be given. For the present we hope our citizens will act as those of other places have done, and refuse to let runaway slaves be harbored in this locality.

OFFICERS OF THE GAS AND WATER COMPANY.—At the election for officers of the Altoona Gas and Water Company, held on Monday last, the following gentlemen were elected to the offices named:

President—Wm. H. Wilson.
Treasurer—Benj. F. Rose.
Managers—Wm. M. Lloyd, Geo. B. Cramer, Chas. J. Mann, William Domer, John F. Bowman.

In another column our readers will find the Annual Report of the Board of Managers, from which it will be seen that the Company is in a healthy state, financially. The stock will be worth ten per cent. per annum in less than a year, should no accidents occur to the works. This result is due to the able manner in which the officers of the Company have managed affairs, and they deserve credit.

THE WAR.—We have but little that is definite in relation to the movements of the Army. The Cabinet and commanding officers keep their own secrets, and only make movements when their plans are fully matured. Baltimore city is to be occupied this week, and troops are now advancing upon it. Harper's Ferry, it is evident, is also to be re-taken. An unobstructed passage for troops, through Baltimore, has been promised. Missouri has furnished her four regiments in response with the President's call. Kentucky has also furnished a number of men for the Union. By next week we expect to have important news either of war or peace.

☞ During the past week, a number of our townsmen who enlisted in the companies which went from this place, have paid flying visits to their families. They report the men all in good health and spirits, although some complain a little that they do not have all they should have and are entitled to. They receive plenty of provisions, but do not have such luxuries as plates and knives and forks with which to serve it up. It would be almost impossible for the State to have supplied everything in the short space of time in which the companies have been collected together, but we doubt not they will soon receive all the outfit necessary for a campaign.

☞ Latest advices indicate that Tennessee and Arkansas have both gone out of the Union, so far as their Legislatures are concerned. The former leaves it to a vote of the people some time in June.

☞ The great number of men from town and country, who have rushed to arms at their country's call, will decrease the help of our farmers, but there are enough left to secure the harvest and fully attend to our agricultural interests, if they but apply themselves. The probable scarcity of hands should not induce any of our farmers to decrease the size of their crops, but on the contrary, they should increase them, as, in all probability, larger crops will be demanded for exportation in view of the fact that Europe is preparing for war, and, in the event of an outbreak, will look to this country for breadstuffs, thereby causing prices rule higher for field products, but we hope this may not soon be the case for reasons given in article in another column. Let every spare acre be planted in corn, and give every one work that wants it. Other interests may be neglected for a time, but the agricultural interests of the country must be attended to and advanced. On this, to a great extent, we now depend. Be industrious, farmers, and you will be well repaid.

SHARP SHOOTERS, ATTEND.—We have been requested to give notice that a meeting will be held in Lowther's Hall on Saturday evening next, for the purpose of forming a company of Sharp-Shooters.—All persons in the town and county, who have had considerable experience in rifle shooting, and consider themselves "good shots," are requested to be present at the meeting. It is the intention to form a company of experienced riflemen, to be ready for any emergency. We are of the opinion that there are enough old hunters and "crack marksmen" in this neighborhood to form a large company. It is understood that each man is to use his own rifle. This is also a good idea, as every man will know exactly what he can depend upon. We hope to see the company formed.

THE HOME GUARDS.—Under the drill of the officers of the different companies, our Home Guards are making improvement in military tactics, and from the spirit with which they enter into the affair, we think the movement will result in the formation of several good military companies, whether they are ever needed or not. Company B has decided upon uniforming after the following fashion, viz:—black glazed Zouave cap, red shirt with blue collar, and black pants. This suit, although not exactly military in style, will give uniformity to the appearance of the company, and will cost but a trifle.

FLAGS RAISED.—Within the past two weeks a considerable amount of bunting has been thrown to the breeze from different places in town. Recently a beautiful flag, some 20 feet long, was run up on a staff over the reporting office of the R. R. Co. On Thursday evening last, a large and beautiful flag was unfurled from a staff erected over the Superintendent's office; also, one 16 feet long from a staff on the Masonic Temple. On yesterday morning a very handsome emblem of our nationality was run up on a staff placed on one of the buildings connected with the gas works.

☞ We always thought the Huntingdon ladies had about as much patriotism in their composition as any others to be found between sunrise and sundown, and their treatment of the soldiers which have passed over the railroad on their way East, fully confirms our previous opinions. They have won for themselves much praise from, and the promise of a lasting place in the memories of, the soldiers.—Every train that passed was supplied with provisions of all kinds. Miss Narcissa Benedict, daughter of A. W. Benedict, Esq., of that place, tendered her services and was accepted as a member of the Philadelphia Union Nurse corps.

PORKERS, BEWARE.—Constable Ely has just finished a building, in the centre of the vacant lots in the rear of our office, which, from appearances, we would call a town pound. It is altogether probable that Joe is about to enforce the ordinance relating to hogs found running at large in our streets, and those who have porkers should look after them, or they may have to pay Joe for attending to that business for them.

☞ We have no official report from the committee appointed to take charge of the sustentation fund, but learn that the contributions and subscriptions are very liberal and, it is believed, sufficient to meet all demands, and place the families of our volunteers far beyond the reach of want. Our friends in the army may rest assured that their families will be well cared for.

☞ It is feared that the entire fruit crop in this section of the country has been nipped in the bud by the streak of winter weather which visited us last week. We hope that all is not yet lost

☞ Those of our citizens who have played standing guard, during the past week, have obtained an inkling of a soldier's life. With a few exceptions, the members of the different companies readily respond to the call to take their turn on guard. We think all should bear their part in this matter, since by so doing the burden would fall more lightly on those who are willing to forego their own convenience to secure the public welfare and security.

RIGHT.—We are informed that a number of the men in the shops in this place, recently clubbed together and bought an excellent revolver and presented it to Capt. Szink, of the Logan Rifle Rangers. No better present could have been made, should the Captain ever get into close quarters with the enemy. Whether he may ever have occasion to use it or not, it is a substantial evidence of the good will and thoughtfulness of his fellow workmen.

☞ We understand that the bishop of Pittsburgh will administer the sacrament of confirmation in the Catholic Church in this place, on the morning of the 14th inst, at 8½ o'clock. At 2½ in the afternoon of the same day, he will lay the corner-stone of the new building, and preach on the occasion. The bishop will be assisted in both ceremonies by a number of the clergymen of the diocese.

AUCTION—ATTEND!—Charley Caughling will sell off his entire stock of miscellaneous Books, Sheet Music, Toys, and everything in his store, at auction, on Saturday and Monday next. He will sell to the highest bidder, for cash. He reserves nothing, being determined to sell out his entire stock and close business. Call on Saturday afternoon, ladies, if you wish cheap piano music.

MILITARY BOOKS.—In another column our readers will find an advertisement of different military books, published by Lippincott & Co., of Philadelphia. As military manœuvres are now the study of a great portion of our citizens, those who desire to be correctly informed should secure authorized works and study them.

CORRECTION.—In publishing the list of members of the Logan Rifle Rangers, in our last issue, the name of Geo. Reeves was inserted *Patrick* Reeves. The mistake was not ours, as we published the names exactly as they were furnished us.

THE SOLDIER'S GUIDE.—We have received from the publishers, T. B. Peterson & Brothers, 306 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, a copy of a work bearing the above title, being a complete manual and drill book for the use of all volunteers, militia and the Home Guard. The Philadelphia *Ledger* speaks of the work as follows:

NEW MILITARY PUBLICATION.—T. B. Peterson & Brothers, to-day, publish a cheap work for the instruction of all volunteer recruits. It is called The Soldiers' Guide, a complete Manual and Drill Book, for the use of all Volunteers, Militia, and the Home Guard, adapted to the discipline and drill of the soldier of the present day in the United States Army, by an U. S. Officer. The instructions are plain and full, with a dictionary of all military terms, to make their explanations intelligible. As the work is published for the sum of twenty-five cents, every soldier and volunteer can have one of the best kind of instructors to read and study in his leisure moments. It is sent by the publishers to any place, to any one, free of postage, on receipt of twenty-five cents in a letter.

We have examined the work and think it well adapted to the purpose intended. The low price at which it is furnished places it within the reach of every person. We will order it for all who desire it. If 100 copies be ordered we can get it for 15 cents per copy.

☞ We find in the Hollidaysburg papers the following proceedings of a meeting of the Antes township Home Guards:—

At a meeting of the Homes Gurds, after being duly organized by electing the following officers:—

Captain—Samuel Milliken.
1st Lieut.—Matthew Wilson.
2d " —Flemming Holliday.

The following resolutions were unanimously adoped:

WHEREAS, It is known that several citizens of Antes township who enlisted in one or more of the volunteer companies, that have gone at the call of their country, from Blair county, have *returned home* and are spreading evil reports calculated to discourage and do an injury to the cause of our beloved country, and as there may be *traitors* among us,

1st. Be it resolved that a committee of six persons (two in the lower end, two in the centre, and two in the upper end of the township,) be and are hereby appointed to see that the laws of the *United States* and of our own State, in regard to *desertion* and *treason* be *faithfully* and *promptly* enforced against all such persons.

2d. That we will encourage, sustain, and assist said committee in all lawful means used to carry out and enforce the laws referred to in the foregoing resolutions. Committee:—John Elliott, W. P Dysart, A. Myers, John Henshy, Lemuel Ale, Martin Bell.

ST. LOUIS, May 6.—Four full regiments of volunteers have been mustered into the United States service, and the Fifth Brigade, formed of the Third and Fourth Regiments, and a part of the Second Regiment, are encamped on the arsenal grounds. The First Regiment is quartered at Jefferson Barracks, twelve miles below the city, and a part of the Second stationed at the Marine Hospital, about a mile below the arsenal.

Several buildings outside of the arsenal walls are occupied by United States troops, and heavy turf breastworks, pierced for four cannon, have been erected, commanding the vicinity.

General Luget has been elected colonel of the Third Regiment, and Gen. Sculter colonel of the Fourth Regiment.

WASHINGTON, May 6.—To-day Gen. Scott again, for the third time, voluntarily took the oath of allegiance to the Constitution and the laws of the United States. The members of his staff who are here followed his example.

OUR ARMY CORRESPONDENCE.

CAMP SCOTT,
YORK PA., May 7, 1861.

MESSRS. MCCRUM & DERN—A line from the Altoona boys, in Company B, 3d Regiment, Capt. Wayne, may not prove unacceptable to your readers. We arrived here this day two weeks since, from Cockeysville, Md., from whence we returned, owing to the attack on the Massachusetts troops in the city of Baltimore, and the want of artillery to force our way through that city. There are now some 9,000 troops and ten peices of artillery here, and all, if properly equipped, are able, in connection with Fort McHenry, to march through Baltimore or over its ruins. This is the universal feeling among the troops concentrated here.

This is one of the most beautiful towns in the interior of the State. The citizens of the town and surrounding country are thoroughly imbued with the patriotic spirit that animates the North. To every soldier that bears the characteristic of a gentleman, the citizens of York have been very kind and liberal. But their kindness has been abused by men connected with the camp who have no other reputation than that of rowdies. Be it said to the credit of our company that all the men have behaved themselves respectfully, and none of them have, as yet, been confined in the guard-house for disorderly conduct. It is very doubtful whether as much can be said of any other company composing Camp Scott.

There has been a number of affrays among the soldiers here. On Saturday a man received a cut across the eye from one of the Johnstown Zouaves, and one of the Washington Infantry, of Pittsburgh, shot a soldier, belonging to a Schuylkill company, in the mouth. Fortunately the shot was crosswise, else the consequences might have been fatal. The Zouave who committed the assault has been confined in the lock up, beneath the market house, in the borough of York.

There has been and yet are a great many of our troops sick, and some have died. The diseases have been brought on by imprudence and neglect, rather than the hardships of camp life. However, the Altoona boys enjoy good health, and are in good spirits.

The weather since Friday night, excepting Sunday, has been very disagreeable. The rain and snow has rendered the camp ground unfit for either drill or parade. Most all the companies have left the ground and are quartered in town, but we have remained and faced the state of the weather.

How long we shall remain here I cannot say. Every day we have rumors of immediate removal, but so long as we are not fully equipped we place but little reliance upon Madame Rumor. We had one trial under imperfect equipments, and when we march again we desire to be placed upon thorough war footing. We go to kill, not to be killed by the enemies of our country.

You should visit Camp Scott before the troops are all moved away. It would be the grandest sight you have ever witnessed To see from 8,000 to 9,000 troops marching and countermarching, with bristling bayonets, gold and tinsel, and all the paraphernalia of war, is a scene that could not fail to thrill your hearts with patriotic emotions.

Our boys would like to have the *Tribune* visit them occasionally. As our company is composed of citizens of Blair county, our home papers would be interesting. We have four from Juniata county: viz:—Wm. Rees, A. J. Greer, Wm. Charters, Benj. Gushard. We have in our mess an original Irishman, from Columbia, named Delainey, whose sharp sallies of wit and humor, enlivens the dull hours, and puts a broad grin upon the most desponding countenance. For your country, can you not afford to send a half-dozen copies of the *Tribune* to our company?* It would be a treat to hear from home through your columns.

We received yesterday four boxes of provisions, for our use, the gift of the good citizens of Altoona. They were opportune as well as acceptable. The rations received are nothing superior, and *extras* from home, are gratefully received, as they fill up a vacancy not provided for in the U. S. Army. There has been several citizens from your town, on a visit here, and they were welcomed most freely. But enough for the present.

J. A. B.

*We have sent our paper to several members of the company, directed to the Captain. Hope they were received.

CAMP SCOTT,
York, Pa., May 6, 1861.

MESSRS. MCCRUM & DERN—Allow me, thro' the columns of your paper, to return the sincere thanks of the membership of company B, (Altoona Guards,) 3d Reg, to the patriotic ladies of North Ward, Altoona, and vicinity, for the kindness they have manifested toward us by forwarding us five boxes filled with the good things of this life, such as bread, cakes, pies, &c; and also to Messrs. H. Orr and P. T. Keys who superintended the transportation of the boxes until they arrived safely at our quarters. Each article was nicely labelled, and while being unpacked was watched with eager eye by every soldier to see what lady had remembered him. But patriotic ladies remember every soldier, as was proven by their sending one large box for general distribution, containing bread, cakes, pies, &c., which I defy the State to beat for richness and flavor. Ladies, may the Star Spangled Banner ever wave over your pathway through life, without one star being erased from its azure field, and may He who doeth all things well be your protector, is the wish of our brave little band of soldiers. Yours, truly,

HENRY WAYNE,
Capt. Company B, 3d Reg., P. V.
A. C. GWIN, *Sec'y.*

A Word of Warning.

In a sermon delivered at Charleston, by Rev. C. C. Pinckney, and just published by request, with the suggestive title of "Nebuchadnezzar's Fault and Fall," this striking passage occurs: "Let us not rest our hopes upon identity of institutions in the Southern States. *Slavery is itself no bond of union.* It has become so with us simply as the result of outward pressure. The Chaldean monarchy, the Roman empire, the Greek republics, the South American States, were all slaveholding countries. But they have fallen to pieces notwithstanding. Of itself it is a mere rope of sand, with no more power politically than any other recognized relationship. Let us not repose on our agricultural staples.—Cotton is the king whom commerce now worships. *But its reign may pass away* like other human sceptres. It is not now more firmly established in its supremacy than Nebuchadnezzar's was in his. Suddenly as the ancient monarch was hurled from his seat, the dominant staple may be from its commercial throne.—Sixty or seventy years since indigo was the produce of Southern fields, and cotton scarcely known. Seventy years hence some other culture may supplant this as it has supplanted the former production, and more remunerative labor may fill its place. These are the two human props upon which the Southern mind is now tempted to lean, instead of upon the eternal God. They are the arches upon which pride is resting our political house But they will sink beneath the superincumbent weight, like the arches in the walls of Babylon."

FEMALE VOLUNTEERS.—The Cincinnati *Gazette* gives the following: The clerk of one of the steamers which came up the river yesterday reports being hailed from the shore at Leavenworth, Indiana, to land and take on a couple of passengers for Cincinnati. While at the landing, a company of volunteer women, armed with rifles, marched down from the commons, where they had been drilling, and fired a salute. They seemed to handle the arms with ease, and presented a very creditable appearance.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Altoona Gas and Water Company.

OFFICE OF THE ALTOONA GAS & WATER CO.
May 4, 1861.

To the Stockholders of the Altoona Gas & Water Company:

One year since, we had the satisfaction of reporting to you that the gas and water works were in successful operation, and that there was every reasonable probability of such an increase in the annual revenue as to make your investment profitable and satisfactory.

We take pleasure now in announcing to you that the expectations then held out have been fully realized.

The number of consumers of gas has increased within the year from 133 to 174; and of water, from 65 to 90. In addition to which, the Pennsylvania Rail Road Company has introduced the use of gas into their passenger cars, and constructed the necessary apparatus for obtaining their supply from our works.

Some additional expenditure has been incurred in completing the improvements at the gas works, and in raising the heighth of the water reservoir, which was considered important in view of the increased head, and of the better protection of the walls from the wash of the hill. Nothing further will now be required to keep the works in an efficient condition, unless we except a cover for the reservoir, which can be constructed at an expense of from $300 to $400 Your Board of Directors consider this a matter of some importance, in order to preserve the freshness and purity of the water, and have only delayed the construction until the requisite expenditure could be made without interference with the regular payment of dividends. There is no doubt that the expenditure can be made during the present season.

The receipts for the year ending May 1st, are, for gas $6,625.78, for water $628.87, and for coke, tar, &c., $172 18, making a total of $7,426.83. The expenses during the same time, amount to $2,150.11, leaving a clear profit of $4,276.72, or more than 8 per cent. on the entire cost of the works. Deducting the interest due on loans which is at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, the balance would be equal to 9½ per cent. on the capital stock. On the first of January last, a dividend of 3 per cent. was paid to the stockholders, and it is expected that dividends at an increased rate can hereafter be paid regularly in January and July of each year.—The floating debt of the Company has been settled, with the exception of our note of $866.80 due in December next, to meet which, funds will be in readiness. The only liabilities then remaining will be the mortgage loan of $10,000 and $400 due for land, which is payable in annual instalments of $100 each. Owing to circumstances beyond our control, we are not enabled to lay before you, at present, a detailed statement of the accounts, but we can state that there is in the hands of the Treasurer a balance in favor of the Company, amounting to $1,993 36, and no arrearages due, with the exceptions above stated.

Some further extensions of gas and water pipes have been applied for, by owners of property beyond the present lines of pipe. Some, if not all, of the extensions asked for would, no doubt, pay a good interest on the investment, but the Board of Directors has not considered it advisable to incur any expense that could be avoided, until all outstanding obligations are disposed of It has been decided, therefore, not to make any extensions, unless stock to a sufficient amount to cover the cost shall be subscribed for. This will probably be done in some cases.

Previous to the expiration of the term for which the first Superintendent of the works was engaged, the most efficient and economical mode of management became a subject of consideration. The conclusion was finally adopted, that the interests of the Company would be promoted by employing a Superintendent at a fixed salary, which should include all expenses for labor. Proposals were invited, and offers received from several individuals of known capacity. Upon examination of the propositions that of Mr. Robt. Beacham, formerly connected with the Harrisburg gas works, was accepted, and he was placed in charge in the month of July last. The satisfactory manner in which the duties have been performed, have proved that the Board of Directors did not err in their choice.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board, by

W. H. WILSON, Pres't.

From Fort Pickens.

We extract the following from a letter from a United States officer:

U. S. SHIP ST. LOUIS,
Off Pensacola, April 18, 1861.

* * * * * DEAR SIR: On account of treachery being discovered among some of the garrison at Fort Pickens, and other reasons, we reinforced the fort from the ship on the night of the 12th inst., and the boats passed close under the guns of Fort McRae, which is in the hands of the rebels. After all their threats and bullying, they did not fire a gun, though why, is more than any one in our fleet can conjecture. Perhaps, finding that all their chivalric boasting had no effect in preventing the reinforcement, they concluded to grin and bear it, like sensible men. But imagine our surprise and disgust at the attempted deception of Brigadier General Bragg, who, when officially informed of the fort's having been reinforced, declared that "he wished it to be understood that this information was the first news he had of the fact!" Of course, he knew all about it at the time. The rebels may now make the best of it, as there is no longer any fear for Fort Pickens, which is now manned by few short of a thousand good men—it having been thought imprudent, to say the least, to attack it with a garrison of only seventy men, as long as these men were not tampered with by our honorable, chivalric rebels, during what they called a truce. The steamer Atlantic arrived here two days ago, and the steam frigate Powhattan yesterday, both with reinforcements of flying artillery, sappers and miners, artillery, &c., in command of Col. Brown, who takes charge of the department of Florida, assisted by that celebrated engineer officer, Col. Meigs. The squadron has been busy for the last two days, with the boats, landing soldiers, horses, and munitions of war generally from the Atlantic. * * * * * We have not heard anything of the Southern Confederacy loan since it has been offered to the public, and some think the South must be wanting for the "sinews." We had a distressing report yesterday that Fort Sumpter had fallen, and Virginia seceded, but do not know what reliance to place on the report, as it may have been gotten up by the rebels to dishearten some of the Southern officers. * * * * * *

The rebels have about five thousand men on shore.

☞ Gen. Pillow, Gen. Ely, and three prominent officers of the Confederate army and a large number of Mississippi, Arkansas, and Tennessee troops are at Memphis, and heavy guns are arriving there daily. Col. Prentiss, the commanding officer at Cairo, has just received the following dispatch from three of the most prominent citizens of Cincinnati: "Gen. Pillow has several steamers ready at Memphis. He meditates an immediate attack on Cairo."—Col. Prentiss replied: "Let him come—he will learn to dig a ditch on the right side. I am ready."

WASHINGTON, May 3.—Captain Meigs returned here to-day from his recent expedition to Fort Pickens, which, he says, is so reinforced, and otherwise strengthened, as to make its reduction utterly impossible for six months, for which time it is well provisioned.

The Pay of the Army.

[From the New York Tribune.]

SIR: I have seen in some of the city papers what I esteem an erroneous statement in regard to the pay of the officers and soldiers of the volunteers. As these volunteers are to be entered into the service of the United States, and become, for the time being, a part of the regular army, it is fair to presume that their pay in addition will be the same as in the other—or in other words, that the volunteer soldier, while in the service of the Government, will be entitled to the same pay, and no more, as the soldier of the regular army.

Now, let us see what the pay is, of such officer and soldier. What I here state in reference to that matter is FACT, and cannot be contradicted. In stating the pay, subsistence, forage, &c., of the officer, my facts are based upon the time of war, which differs, in some respects from what he is now entitled to in time of peace.

Lieutenant Colonel, $270 per month, four rations per day, seven horses, and four servants. It may be well here to state that officers' subsistence is commuted at thirty cents per ration; forage, $8 per month for each horse actually owned and kept in service.

Major General, $220 per month, fifteen rations per day, seven horses, and four servants.

Brigadier General, $124 per month, twenty rations per day, five horses and three servants.

Colonel of engineers, topographical engineers, ordnance, dragoons, cavalry, or mounted riflemen, $110 per month, six rations per day, six horses, and two servants.

Lieut. Colonel, of the same corps, $95 per month, five rations per day, four horses, and two servants.

Major, of the same corps, $80 per month, four rations per day, four horses, and two servants.

Captain, of the same corps, $70 per month, four rations per day, four horses, and one servant.

Lieutenant, (first and second,) of the same corps, $53.33½ per month, four rations per day, two horses and one servant.

Adjutant of dragoons, cavalry, or mounted riflemen, in addition to pay, &c., of lieutenant, $10 per month.

Regimental quartermaster of ditto, in addition to pay, &c., of lieutenant, $10 per month.

Sergeant-major of ditto, $21 per month.

Quartermaster of ditto, $21 per month.

Chief bugler of ditto, $21 per month.

First sergeant of ditto, $20 per month; sergeant $17; corporal 14; bugler, $13; farrier and blacksmith, $15; privates 12.

Master armorer, master carringe-maker, master blacksmith of ordnance, $30 per month; armorer, carriage-maker, or blacksmith of ordnance, $16; artificer, 13; laborer, $9.

ARTILLERY AND INFANTRY.

Colonel, $95 per month, six rations per day, four horses, and two servants.

Lieutenant colonel, $80 per month, five rations per day, three horses, and two servants.

Major, $70 per month, four rations per day, three horses, and two servants.

Adjutant and regimental quartermaster receive, each, in addition to pay, &c., of lieutenant, $10 per month, and two horses.

Captain, $60 per month, four rations per day and one servant.

First lieutenant, $50 per month, for rations per day, and one servant.

Second lieutenant, $50 per month, four rations per day, and one servant.

Sergeant major, $21 per month; quartermaster serjeant, $21; principal musician of infantry $21; first sergeant, $20: ordnance serjeant, in addition to pay of sergeant $5; serjeant, $17; corporal $13; artificer of artillery, $15; musician, $12; private, $11.

SAPPERS, MINERS, AND PONTONNIERS.

Sergeant, $34 per month; corporal, $20; musicians, 12; private of the first class, $17; private of the second class, $13.

The above is the pay of the officers, &c., of the regular army of the United States; and, as the publications referred to are calculated to mislead the public mind in regard to this matter, I doubt not a correct statement in regard to it will be acceptable at the present time.

More of Massachusetts Shrewdness.

Readers have all, doubtless, seen the anecdote of the Massachusetts soldier, who stepped from the ranks, and repaired the locomotive which *he himself had made.* Also of the two butcher volunteers, who, when their company was nearly starving, bought a cow from a Maryland countryman, slaughtered it, hung it on a tree, and dressed it for their fellows. Here is another anecdote which they may not have seen. On the same day that the engine was repaired, the whole road which it was to run on, and which had been torn up by traitors, had been repaired and complete save a single rail. It was sought for in vain; every nook and corner was scanned, but still that one remaining link was wanting, without which the work was incomplete. It was a Massachusetts man who rose to the emergency. With eyes and faculties sharpened by use, and the habit of overcoming obstacles, he surveyed the ground, considered probabilities, and weighed chances.—Then, with an instinct as unerring as that of an Indian who reads in the turning of a leaf the passage of a foe, he made his way to a deep stream, at some distance, examined its banks, and stripped. Three times he plunged to the bottom, and the third time brought up the missing rail! "I am working for my country, not for pay," he said, when, amid the cheers of the North's men, one of them offered him a piece of gold.

RAILROAD ITEMS.—The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company have come down from their pedestal since the Government has laid its heavy hand upon their line between Washington and Annapolis. Most of the directors are among the extremest of the Disunion set, and refused to let the War Department have the use of locomotives and cars for Government purposes. The Secretary, however, promptly sent for the best railroad talent on the Pennsylvania Central and Reading Railroads, and took into his counsel such loyal men as Felton of the Philadelphia and Baltimore Road, J. Edgar Thomson and Thos. A. Scott of the Pennsylvania Central, and Nichols and Milholland of the Reading Road. He was soon independent of Mr. Garrett and the Baltimore capitalists and railroad chiefs. To-day I learn that they have volunteered the use of their machinery, an act of grace that would have been more graceful if it had been a little less tardy.

TROUBLES OF THE VIRGINIA MUTINEERS.—The Virginians under arms against the government find three things to disgust them: First, the hard life of a camp; secondly, the bad quality of their victuals; thirdly, the consciousness that the men who command them are getting out of secession. The Richmond *Examiner* of May 1st, after speaking in full as to the former two grievances, thus concludes: "But there is another and greater grief in the hearts of our men, which the whole State shares with them—those are set to "inspect" and rule over men who were bitterly opposed to the act of secession, and who now abhor that just war which is one of its inevitable consequences.—What can be hoped of leaders who believe in their hearts that they are working treason and merit the halter."

MINIE RIFLES FROM CANADA.—The New York *Tribune* says: "Twenty-five thousand Minie Rifles have been purchased in Canada for the United States Government, and more can be obtained, it is said." Of course, the United States can obtain, for cash, every spare Minie rifle in Canada. About 40,000 can be spared in all, we are informed.