

# The Altoona Tribune.

McCRUM & DERN.

[INDEPENDENT IN EVERYTHING.]

EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

VOL. 7.

ALTOONA, PA., THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1862.

NO. 25.

## THE ALTOONA TRIBUNE.

E. McCRUM, H. C. DERN, PUBLISHERS AND PROPRIETORS.

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## Choice Poetry.

### COURTING NOW-A-DAYS.

We've always had a great dislike  
For all the follies we  
The silly-follies which folks have got  
For courting now-a-days.  
They've cast aside the good old style  
Of "hug me if you can,"  
And imitate, like senseless apes,  
Some foolish foreign plan.  
O how it makes our dander raise  
To see them courting now-a-days!  
O times aint as they used to was,  
As one can easily tell,  
For when a fellow sees a gal  
That suits him pretty well,  
He's got to be first "introduced,"  
And then he pines her down,  
And pretty soon he comes around,  
To see the kid old fellow.  
By jinks, we don't believe it pays,  
The way the boys court the gals now-a-days.  
His "addresses" then he goes to pay,  
(They don't spark any more.)  
And every night you see him pull  
The white nub at the door,  
And soon a "servant" ushers him  
Into the parlor gloom.  
Then comes his duck and takes a seat  
On 't'other side the room!  
And there they sit and sigh and gaze!  
They call that courting now-a-days!  
Sometimes they talk "boon story books,"  
Sometimes the "lady" sings:  
Sometimes she plays the organ, too,  
To show her finger rings.  
Sometimes they take a pleasure walk,  
Sometimes they take a ride,  
And by-and-by the fellow groans—  
"Oh! won't you be my bride!"  
To bow and scrape a courting now-a-days!  
They think that's a thousand ways!  
They set a day and hire a priest,  
And rent a church or two,  
So every body about the town  
Can have a separate eye;  
And when the hour at last arrives,  
In gorgeous array,  
Who "ties the knot" straightway:  
Congratulations, words of praise,  
Wind up the courting now-a-days!  
O give us back the good old style  
Of merry days gone by,  
When we could "go" with any gal,  
That we couldn't take our eye;  
Still took her home from spilling school,  
"Boon nine o'clock at night,"  
Then by the old stone hearth's warm side,  
We sparked till broad daylight!  
We hugged and kissed, and laugh'd 'till break of day,  
Never heard the old clock toll the hours away!  
We tell you, chum, such courting pays,  
It went ahead of courting now-a-days!

## Army Correspondence.

HEAD-QUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,  
Camp near Harrison's Landing, Va.,  
July 14th, 1862.

Messrs. Editors:—I resume my seat

this evening, to again inform you as to

our doings here in "the land of Dixie."

Our little army still remains in statu quo,

improving each day in preparing ourselves

for the great struggle, which I pray God

may prove the last grand conflict of the

war. That the enemy are determined to

offer desperate resistance is evinced by

their continued labors at fortifying and

variously strengthening their position.—

That we are equally so is apparent and

conclusive, and when all is in readiness

and the two great armies array themselves

in deadly opposition to each other, what a

grand and imposing spectacle it will be to

behold! But the die is cast. The ene-

my of our country have struck the blow

at our free institutions, and it is not for

the descendants of Revolutionary sires to

tamely submit to so flagrant an outrage.

The blood of those noble old heroes of the

Revolution courses freely through our

veins, and to pause when the great corner-

stone of Liberty is menaced is not consis-

tent with our noble ancestry. We must

strike freely, fearlessly and promptly, for

our dearly bought privileges, and each one

vie with the other in beating back the

hordes of miscreants, the chivalrous (?)

Southerners who so menacingly threaten us.

And we will most assuredly succeed.

Our army, notwithstanding the recent

reverses it has met with, continues in firm

and exuberant spirits. Not one in a million

of our brave and fearless hearts is well

worship to be led on by so brave a Gen-

eral; and well and truly apparent is it to

both. The day we encamped at this Land-

ing was the most disagreeable one I ever

experienced; the rain fell continually dur-

ing the entire day, and as we pitched our

tents in a newly plowed field, you may

imagine the depth and consistency of the

mud on such an occasion. Boots to the

knees were but poor refuge from the mud.

Horses and men, sick and wounded, fared

alike; all went plodding along, men to the

knees, and horses, being the heaviest and

strongest, up to their bodies in the mire.

My own poor soldier, sick, wounded, and

worn out with fatigue, made his bed in a

shallow mud-hole that night, and slept

soundly too. And the next day, as the

General passed by, cheering and encourag-

ing, I saw many a poor fellow stand, up

to his knees in mud, and, scarcely able

to extricate himself, throw up his cap and

utter cheer after cheer with perfect joy

and exultation as he passed along. And

quint skirmishes in the early history of

the present war. And on either side,

somewhat elevated in commanding posi-

tions, are two very large fortifications,

garrisoned by Union troops, with several

very large guns, facing on all sides, ready

and willing to pour death and destruction

among the rebel soldiery if they choose

again to occupy this valley, but, from

present appearances it is not likely they

will be used for that purpose. A few

miles further on, to the right and left, is

the location of several camps of Union

troops, among the number the 69th, 84th,

91st and 110th Pennsylvania Volunteers,

and the 1st, 2d and 6th Pennsylvania

Cavalry, with several regiments from other

loyal States—in all about 15,000 soldiers.

The first station we arrive at, of any im-

portance, is Fairfax. About this time

one year ago, this place was quite lively—

it being the point to which troops of one

wing of the army were transported when

the grand army commenced moving upon

Manassas. About three-and-a-half miles

North-West is Fairfax Court-House; and

within sight, on the hill, is the Church of

that name—a wooden building, looking as

if it had not been in use since the days

when Washington was wont to offer up

his devotions there. The road from this

place to Alexandria is guarded by the 7th

Maine and 12th Virginia Volunteers.—

Between this station and Manassas Jun-

ction, which is next in importance, we

crossed the famous creek known as Bull

Run—the battle-field of which is situated

some miles North-West from the railroad.

A short distance from the Run, and on the

road, commences the line of rebel forti-

fications, extending to Centreville, some ten

miles distant, and said by them to be im-

pregnable, but from which they so inglor-

iously retreated when they thought that

"Little Mac" was about to "play sharp"

on them! The cars having come to a

halt, upon inquiry we are informed that

this is Manassas Junction. A vast plain

is presented to our view, differing in many

respects from what we had expected to find.

A few rough board sheds, with a camp or

two of Union troops, demolished forti-

fications, not a fence nor scarcely a tenement

visible, and you have the present famous

Manassas. In fact, along the whole line

of this railroad, devastation and ruin seem

to have been the general order. Nearly

all the former inhabitants have left their

houses tenanted and "skedaddled" to

some more congenial climes:

Some to the North, whose slaves had gone before.

Some to the Southward went their way.

And but few have considered

it was best for them to stay.

There is not a bridge, however small, but

what has been destroyed. Railroad tracks

have been torn up, and the rails placed in

fire and burnt in all shapes, thus rendering

them useless. Not a station-house nor a

water reservoir but was burnt down or

demolished. Cars and locomotive engines

taken away or destroyed, whose wrecks

lay scattered along the line in every direc-

tion. Such was the condition of this road

when the U. S. Government came into

possession of it. They have now several

very fine new locomotive engines built for

their own use, and a good supply of freight

and passenger cars, from other roads—

a goodly number marked "P. R. R.," and

all labelled "U. S. M. R. R." The road

is in good running order as far as War-

renton Junction, and the branch to War-

renton to Gordonsville—that is, the graded

portion of it, for the rails have all been

taken up or destroyed, but Uncle Sam is

busily engaged in repairing it as far out

as the pickets extend. We arrived at

Warrenton about 5 o'clock P. M. The

country from the Junction to this place

seems to have escaped that attention which

the rebels so diligently bestowed upon

the main line of the road. You would not

wish to look upon a finer country, or a

superior in beauty to the far famed valleys

of the old Keystone State, while the town

itself excels anything of its size, in mag-

nificence of buildings, that I have ever

beheld. Some of its public and private

buildings are truly grand—equal in point

of beauty to the finest in our large cities.

But then they have bestowed all their

taste upon their buildings. The streets

and pavements (with the exception of the

well and beautifully shaded, which is a

work of nature), are far worse than the

road leading from Altoona to Sinking Val-

ley, through the Kettle. This is a strong

Secession village—not a Union family re-

siding in it. I was informed that a Union

widow woman resided some two miles West

of this, and if I had not felt so weary I

should have walked out to see her; it

would have done a person's soul good.

This place and the country immediately

surrounding, is occupied by General Pope's

corps d'armes. He is organizing a grand

army composed of the Divisions of Banks,

McDonnell, Sigel and King, to proceed

to Richmond. The stores and shops

are now mostly occupied by sutlers of the

army, and when I got a peep at an old-

established store-room and its contents, it

looked as if the merchant had been selling

out for about three years, to close up—

just as you see this hastily written letter.

More anon.

INVISIBLE GREEN, JR.

## Select Miscellany.

### NARRATIVE OF GEN. REYNOLDS, GEN. McCALL'S WORTHY SUCCESSOR.

Below Richmond, Night of July 1, 1862.

MY DEAR:—You will be glad

to get even this line from me, though I

don't know how you will get it. We are

on the James River, and a gunboat can

carry a mail. The evening is clear, and

the distant sound of heavy cannonading

has just ceased, in pursuit of a flying

Reynolds and after a magnificent battle scene.