

The Watchman.

WELLESVILLE, TUESDAY, JULY 2.



Unswayed by party or unbribed by gain; Pledged but to truth to liberty and law, No favor sought nor any fear shall own.

ALEXANDER & MEEK, Editors and Publishers.

The Wonder of the Age.

Genle reader will you bear with us while we devote a brief space to the Central Press. Reader, have you seen its last issue? If not we advise you to procure a copy at once. It is one of the wonders of the age. When you get it, read that article in the editorial column, which is made up of such conflicting theories, antagonistic sentiments, perversions of the truth and assertions of falsehoods that the editor himself could not find a single word or sentence in the whole vocabulary of the English language suitable for a heading.

The Watchman complains that men's loyalty should be doubted who view the decisions of Judge Taney as the highest legal authority of the land.

The Watchman does no such thing. It says that those men who suppose the binding force of the decisions of the Supreme Court array themselves against the authority of the Government, and that according to the reasoning of the man who penned that article which appeared in the Press, and headed "Loyalty," they are traitors.

This part of the article we suggest to the editor of the Press, should be headed "Perversion of the Truth." To show the position we took on this subject, we refer our readers to No. 23 of the Watchman, article headed "Merchant's Opinion of Loyalty." After having made this dishonorable perversion of our language and sentiments, the Press proceeds thus:

"Judge Taney is so old that, like all other aged persons of high intellectual attainments, he is liable to commit serious blunders." We suggest, Mr. Editor, that you have him "moved" and yourself substituted, as your judgment (in your own estimation, at least) is far superior to his—you are not too old.

This portion of the article we would call egotism, arrogance or conceit, either will do. Then, again: "We confront them with the decision of the same Judge Taney, delivered during the rebellion in Rhode Island."

We have read that decision, and we utterly deny that there is a single sentence, word or syllable in it that in any way conflicts with his recent decision of the habeas corpus case. Eminent jurists have read and studied the two decisions, and all have failed to discover the conflicting theories that the editor of the Press has seen with such astounding clearness. This part of the article we would call an unfounded assertion.

Next, they say, "The Watchman claims to be loyal." You are mistaken here. We claim to be true to our Government, but not loyal. We refer you again to our ideas on loyalty in No. 23 of the Watchman.

"And, yet, the senior editor of that sheet has declared that the Constitution of the rebels is as good as ours and in some instances better." This part of the article we would head, "an unmitigated, malicious, premeditated lie."

The Senior editor has said, and says now, that the Rebel Constitution is copied after the Constitution of the United States, and that with a few exceptions, it contains nearly the same provisions. This was said in a discussion upon the merits of the two Constitutions, and not (as the Press endeavors to leave the impression) because the senior believes in secession. No, sir, we have the most implicit confidence in our good old Constitution, if carried out according to its letter and spirit, and believe that the only way of permanently settling our national difficulties is, in a strict adherence to its every provision. Besides this we believe it to be the bounden duty of every American citizen to support not only the Constitution, but every law made in pursuance thereof, until it is constitutionally repealed, and when Judge Taney, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, whose duty it is to pass upon the Constitution and the laws made in pursuance thereof, decides what that Constitution means, or how the laws are to be construed, made by Congress under it, we believe it to be the duty of every man to acknowledge the binding force of that decision.

We do not, like the editor of the Press, set up our decision in opposition to his, and denounce him as a traitor, because he dares in the discharge of his sworn duty to utter a sentiment that may conflict with ours. No, verily, did we do this, we would acknowledge ourselves to be traitors of the deepest dye, and would ourselves knot the rope that would seal a traitor's doom. The man who openly opposes

the decision of the Supreme Court opposes the Government, because it is part of it, and attempts, to the utmost of his ability, to weaken it in its most vital part. The editor of the Press does this, notwithstanding he has heretofore said, "that to be loyal is to refrain from throwing anything in the way to mar the harmonious action of all the departments of the Government." Now while it is true that such sentiments as these of the Press, and coming from that source, uttered in opposition to this branch of the Government have but little weight, as no sane man can be so silly as to be misled by them, yet they show a willingness on his part, to subvert the Government under which we live by these underhanded blows at its supremacy, which is some evidence that were he not afraid of lead and gun powder would induce him to join the Southern army under "King Jeff."

Now while it is true that such sentiments as these of the Press, and coming from that source, uttered in opposition to this branch of the Government have but little weight, as no sane man can be so silly as to be misled by them, yet they show a willingness on his part, to subvert the Government under which we live by these underhanded blows at its supremacy, which is some evidence that were he not afraid of lead and gun powder would induce him to join the Southern army under "King Jeff."

"The Watchman is first for Taney, and Taney is first for the rebels and consequently it is for them both" says the Press which we wish to amend as follows, and then we are willing to let our readers judge which is the most logical. The Watchman is first for the Government, and therefore necessarily for Taney, because part of the Government. The Press is against Taney who is part of the Government and being against the Government is for the rebels.

The Press again says: "They attempt to enlighten upon the points at issue in the (the difference between an Administration and the Government) but we must confess they have totally failed."

We might have known this, to convince a man of even the most simple truth who has not three ideas of his own per day is a most foolish task. This part of the article we would call "ignorance" and we advise the editor to stop printing newspapers and go to school. Again the Press says:

"Our friends down in the Iron Front, are in favor of the Constitution and the laws, but opposed to executing them." Who ever said we were opposed to executing the laws except the Central Press?—We are confident we never did, and challenge the Press to produce a single word or sentence uttered by us to that effect. This for the sake of variety, we would head,—"Perversion."

But we can tell you who is opposed to executing the laws. It is the man who opposes Judge Taney's decision in the Habeas Corpus case, and therefore opposes the execution of that most sacred law—and by that man we mean the editor of the Press. "They say the Government is founded upon the eternal principles of justice; if so, why is the carrying out of those principles so objectionable to our friends of the Watchman? Is there no inconsistency here?"

Again we say we never opposed the carrying out of the principles of eternal justice, but insist that the Administration carry out the Constitution in letter and spirit, and also insist that the editor of the Press give us the proof that we did. This part of the article we would simply head, "Lie."

The balance of the article in the Press, we would call "jumble of words and silly nonsensical trash." Now let us sum up all these different heads and see what we have got:

"PERVERSION OF TRUTH,"—"EGOTISM, ARROGANCE, CONCEIT,"—"UNFOUNDED ASSERTION,"—"AN UNSUBSTITUTED, MALICIOUS, PREMEDITATED LIE,"—"IGNORANCE,"—"PREVARICATION,"—"LIE,"—"SILLY, NON-SENSICAL TRASH."

The editor of the Press might have put several heads at the top of his article after the style of the news column in the Inquirer—or should that not please his fancy, we would suggest as it partakes more of the (lie) than anything else, that he just simply head it "Lie." Now, if the editor of the Press is desirous of making a fortune, we suggest that he make this article more concise by striking from it all the silly nonsensical trash, and leave just the pure lie (lie)—then publish one hundred thousand copies of it, put them up nicely in little tin boxes and label them "JOHN GEORGE KURTZ CONCENTRATED LIE (LIE)." We will guarantee a ready sale, and insure it to make a very good quality of soap.

Republican Disunionists.

Col. Brown, of the Democrat, notwithstanding our friendly warning of week before last, still continues to deny the truth, and persists as arrogantly as ever in the assertion of falsehood. We have long hoped that the Colonel, having arrived at a mature age, would at least be able to distinguish truth from falsehood, and that, therefore, a reformation might be confidently looked for; but it appears, by the last Democrat, that our friendly advice had been set at naught, and our fondest hopes, for his future, have vanished in the air. A few weeks ago, in reply to an article in the Democrat, in which it was confidently asserted that no man living could point to a single Republican, either North or South, who was a secessionist, we called the Colonel's attention to the fact that SAM HOUSTON, of Texas, his favorite candidate for President, previous to the nomination of 1860, was a Republican secessionist. The Colonel now denies this, and says he never was a Republican. Why did he support him? Was it because he, HOUSTON, voted for "BOCHANAN'S Lecompton outrage," as the Colonel calls it? Will he answer? He also denies that J. M. BOTT, of Virginia, ANDREW JACKSON DONALDSON and JAMES HARVEY were Republicans. Can he believe, as he says, that the people read and think for themselves? If so, he insults their understanding, by persisting in enforcing upon them such palpable falsehoods.

JAMES HARVEY is an appointee of President Lincoln. No person believes him to be anything else than a Republican, yet the Colonel denies that he is. Ain't this decidedly cool? After this we will not be surprised to find him capable of denying even his own existence whenever it serves his purpose to do so. Why he, JUDAS like, will deny even his God and Master for thirty pieces of silver. He denies his old master, SAM HOUSTON, whom he once almost worshipped, and at the next change of the moon he will not be surprised to hear him deny that President LINCOLN is a Republican. But these Southern Republican secessionists are not the only members of that party that have believed in the doctrine of secession. They are not the only Republican traitors that there are in the country. There are not only a few, but a great many of them in the North in high positions that have advocated the right of secession, of whose speeches we can produce abundant extracts to prove what we say. But what is the use, if we would bring even holy writ to prove it, the Colonel will deny it, and insultingly appeal to the intelligence of the people to bear him out in it. Now, we hope to end this contest with the Colonel by making a statement ourselves, and asking him a question. First, then, secession is not Democratic. The principles of Democracy have ever been opposed to it, and, therefore, when those men in the South who once were Democrats seceded, they ceased to be Democrats, and we ignore all party connection with them. They may call themselves Democrats, but according to the modern meaning of Republicanism, as interpreted by the Colonel, this would be more appropriate to them, because it now means rule or ruin. Now for the interrogative. First, did you not thank God, in a speech made in the Court House, that JOSHUA R. GIDDINGS, "God bless his old gray head," (your own words) had taught you Republicanism? If so, you believe the teachings and sayings of that venerable old man. If you do, has the following been, and is it your sentiment now:

"I look forward to the day when there shall be a civil insurrection in the South, when the black man, armed with British bayonets and led by British officers, shall assert his freedom, and wage a war of extermination against his master—when the torch of the incendiary shall light up the towns and cities of the South, and blot out the last vestige of Slavery, and though I may not mock at the prayers of those who pray for their fear cometh, yet will I hail it as the dawn of the political millennium."

Now for the interrogative. First, did you not thank God, in a speech made in the Court House, that JOSHUA R. GIDDINGS, "God bless his old gray head," (your own words) had taught you Republicanism? If so, you believe the teachings and sayings of that venerable old man. If you do, has the following been, and is it your sentiment now:

"I look forward to the day when there shall be a civil insurrection in the South, when the black man, armed with British bayonets and led by British officers, shall assert his freedom, and wage a war of extermination against his master—when the torch of the incendiary shall light up the towns and cities of the South, and blot out the last vestige of Slavery, and though I may not mock at the prayers of those who pray for their fear cometh, yet will I hail it as the dawn of the political millennium."

If you endorse this, and all that JOSHUA R. GIDDINGS has said on this subject, then we presume you endorse the sentiments of GAMBRIEL BURLINGAME and the rest of his fellow workers. Such sentiments as these, for instance, "the Constitution, an agreement with death and a covenant with hell," "Let the Union slide." Whatever stands in the way of this sacred cause put it down. If it is a party let the party be abandoned. If it is the church, let it be anathematized. If it is the Government, let the Government be repudiated. Is this what you understand Republicanism to mean? If so, let the people know it, and they will judge whether there are not a few Republican disunionists in the North.

THE PROPOSITION OF PRESIDENT DAVIS.—There have been various statements in the papers in regard to the propositions of President Davis. It has been positively denied by some that he ever made any. Below is another statement, taken from the New York Herald, which we give in its own words:

"The various rumors as to the propositions made by the leaders of the Southern Confederacy for peace and a reconstruction of the two sections of the country, appear to resolve themselves into the simple fact that, as we learn, Jefferson Davis has addressed a communication to President Lincoln, proposing peace, on the grounds merely that, as the United States Government must be convinced of the impossibility of conquering the South, it should do what it must eventually do after a long and bloody war—namely, recognize the independence of the Southern Confederacy. He does not propose to slavery, nor does he refer to the payment of the expenses of the war, or the withdrawal of troops, as reported in other quarters, but simply that, as the sanction of Congress will be necessary to ratify the recognition of the Southern Government, he suggests that no progress be made on either side until Congress meets; and he pledges himself that no aggressive act on the part of the South shall take place if his proposition is favorably considered, until it is ascertained how Congress will act in the premises. He gives a succinct state of the strength and resources of the South, and compliments the United States Government for the activity with which it is pouring troops into the field, and he concludes his letter by saying that 'the spectacle of four hundred thousand men—let me say brothers—thus arrayed against each other, with the most destructive weapons of modern warfare in their hands, is a sight from which the patriot turns away appalled. In Heaven's name let us not drive them into actual conflict. If possible, let us avert a collision, the horrors of which will have no parallel.' No answer has yet been returned to this communication, nor has the Administration the slightest intention of making any compromise, or entering into any negotiation with the rebels, upon the basis of Mr. Davis' proposition."

We issue our paper earlier than usual this week, to give the "boys" a chance to enjoy themselves during the "fourth." Hope our readers will not censure us for sending them a half sheet as "all hands" from devil up want to get on a while the holidays last.

Inconsistencies of the Revengful War Party.

The different spirit with which parties support the Government in its efforts to put down rebellion is evidently the result of their respective antecedents. Men whose animosity against the South was worked up to the highest pitch before war was deemed probable are now as a matter of course, extremely ferocious and blood thirsty, breathing desolation and slaughter in every sentence, and urging the Government to make the war cruel and merciless. Because their patriotism is more intense or their love for the Union more profound than that of their less sanguinary fellow citizens? Not at all; but simply because the Government is striking at a section and at a people whom they hate with intense hatred, and the prospect of their severe punishment and humiliation is a source of gratification.

On the other hand, those who have hitherto endeavored to cultivate and perpetuate friendly relations between the North and the South as the means of averting the dreadful calamity of civil war, which they foresaw as the result of sectional hatreds, and were ridiculous and derided for their forecast—those who are not stimulated to ferocity by antecedent antipathy, deplore the terrible necessity of war, and trust that the rightful authority of the Government may be re-established without unnecessary cruelty, and with as few of the horrors of war as the nature of the struggle will admit of. This class of persons—in which the Democratic party is included—had no part in originating the war. They would have averted it had the administration of the Government been entrusted to them. They constituted a very large majority of the whole people of the United States. But recognizing their obligations to support the Government without regard to whom administered, forgetting what might have been done, and laying aside past associations they unhesitatingly flocked to the standard of the legitimate Government and drew their swords in defence of the Constitution and the Union—thus giving evidence of self sacrificing patriotism.

Which of these two classes now united in support of the war, and marching side by side in the ranks of the army, are most entitled to praise—those who are willingly fighting against a people they hate, or those who regret the necessity of drawing the sword against a people with whom they would have sacrificed much to perpetuate friendly relations?

The sanguinary war party—just now par excellence the Union party—preach up the liberation of the slaves—the hanging of rebels taken in arms—the confiscation of property—the destruction of private rights—the obliteration of State lines—and every other act of atrocity calculated to alienate the people of the South from the North, and convince them of the truth of the proclamations of the rebel leaders, that this is a way of subjugation or extermination waged against them by the Abolition hordes of Abraham Lincoln. Think you that such counsellors are really solicitous for the preservation of the Union upon terms of former equality?

Again these same men turn every incident to account in inflaming the animosity of the Northern people against the South. Their hatred is deeper than that of Englishmen to Frenchmen, Hungarian to Austrian, Moor to Castilian, Cavalier to Roundhead, and there are unfortunately too many indications that it is reciprocal. If we believe them, the Southern people are a traitorous, inhuman, thieving, desperate and despicable crew of barbarians, without enterprise, without civilization, without honor, destitute alike of truth and virtue, and altogether little above the level of aristocratic brigands and brutal buccaners. Yet notwithstanding this estimate of the Southern people, the extreme war party whose lineaments we are sketching, profess to be in favor of spending hundreds of millions of money and shedding rivers of blood for the privilege of living upon terms of equality under the same Government with a people they utterly despise and hate. Is this not a startling inconsistency? If we believed that the South was all they tell us it is—that Southern society was a compound of aristocrats, monarchists, knaves, thieves and semi barbarians, we should most unhesitatingly that the sooner we dissolve connection with such neighbors the better for us and our Government.

But we entertain no such distorted ideas. We believe that the great mass of the Southern people are as enlightened, as Christian, as law respecting as the North; and, believing so, we desire to rescue them from the despotism now tyrannizing over them. We desire the rebellion to be put down with as little destruction to private property as possible, and to welcome the Southern people as equals and partners in a great Nation.

Exchange.

THE FARMER ENDS.—It will be recollected that just previous to the close of the extra session of the Legislature, a number of the members formed themselves into a military company, and tendered their services to the Governor. Much to the surprise of these patriotic gentlemen, who probably never dreamed that they would be called on, the Governor ordered them to report themselves at Camp Curtin on the 15th inst. About a dozen responded to the call, and held a meeting, at which a committee was appointed to wait upon Gov. Curtin, who reported that the Governor had not formally accepted the services of the company, as it might lead to embarrassment in case another extra session of the Legislature was called. By a resolution of those present the company disbanded and adjourned sine die. Bah!

Peace Movements.

A little light seems occasionally to shine upon our dark National pathway. The legislatures of Iowa and Connecticut have each raised their voices in putting a stop to this unnatural war. Here follows two of the resolutions introduced into the Legislature of Connecticut. Those offered in the Legislature of Iowa express similar sentiments:

Resolved, That we recommend to Congress the calling of a National Convention for the settlement of national difficulties, and that every possible, honorable means shall be first exhausted by the National Government before our prosperous people be plunged into a civil war, the ultimate result of which the wisest cannot foresee.

Resolved, That we are opposed to civil war, prosecuted for the subjugation or destruction of the seceded States, while it is possible amicably to settle the difficulties now existing.

Resolved, That we are opposed to the prosecution of a war against the seceded States, were under any circumstances, for the purpose of emancipating the slaves in the Southern Slave States.

Public feeling is beginning to manifest itself in other quarters. A public meeting was recently held in the city of Newark, N. J., at which the following proceedings were adopted:

WHEREAS, That in view of the present deplorable condition of the country, the members of this meeting deem it their duty, and in accordance with their constitutional rights to petition the Congress of the United States to assemble, to interpose (if in their judgment it is best for them to do) their power to put an end to the present troubles now existing in this our once prosperous and happy land, to be subjugated, and to save us from the ravages of civil war.

Resolved, That a committee of ten be appointed by the chair to prepare and circulate a petition for signature of those persons who may be in favor of permanently restoring peace and prosperity to our unfortunate country.

A letter from New York says: "Notwithstanding the indignation of some of our ultra political journals, wherever the very thought of peace is whispered, I can assure you that an earnest movement is on foot in this city, with a view to memorializing Congress in favor of compromise, on the basis of the Crittenden or Border State resolutions, rejected at the last session."

The New York Tribune, too, is becoming a little more inclined for peace. It says: "Nowhere on earth would a speedy and honorable peace—a real peace be hailed with more heartfelt gladness than by us. If the traitors prove too strong to be subjugated, we are for peace on their terms, rather than a useless continuance of the war."

The white coated sinner-in-chief, who presides over the columns of the Tribune, having contributed so largely to kindle the present revolutionary fire, at length finds it getting too hot, and is now willing to settle "on their terms." Why could not this have been done in the beginning?

Abandoning Party.

The Clinton Democrat has the following remarks upon the no party efforts of the dominant party, which have shipwrecked our Union: "The Democratic party built up this nation and raised it to the highest pinnacle of prosperity and greatness. It only when its principles were departed from, that the country proved too strong to be subjugated, and is most seriously affected by treason, civil war, fanaticism and rebellion, it is the only party that can restore peace, unity, concord, essential affection and prosperity—its continued existence depends upon keeping up its organization, and upon that depends the glory and well being of the nation."

For one, therefore, we will never consent to give it up, while two millions of men and vote tickets; and we know this to be the sentiment of the party generally. We have no doubt the Republicans are convinced that it is necessary for them to change their name—that is certainly true. We are perfectly willing that they shall consult their own tastes and interest in that regard. But that great Democracy that heretofore conducted this nation through all its perils, without wrong to any, to the very summit of human prosperity, can be permitted to die only when the Government of America dies—never while an arm of one of its members can be raised to defend freedom's banner and strike freedom's foes. It is the party of the people, of right, of the Constitution as formed and carried out by the patriots of the Revolution, and 1812, whose existence depends upon the country's history and who were always identified with its glory and its greatness. The interest of the country and the purest patriotism demand its services, and if it has not forgotten its very nature, and will rise again to rescue the nation from all the difficulties that imperil it.

We are for the Constitution—for the Union—for the doctrine and the Government of Jefferson and Jackson—and for the party that is most certain to maintain them."

A PROTEST AGAINST INVASION.—The Bridgeport, Conn., Farmer thus comments on the announcement of the purpose of the Government to invade and subjugate the Southern States: "Lincoln in his last proclamation earnestly invokes the citizens to support the measures of the Government." Every loyal citizen believes in supporting the Constitution and measures of the Government in conformity thereto, and will do so. But when Mr. Lincoln inaugurates an unconstitutional policy upon a portion of our country, no person is bound to support him! The whole North goes in for maintaining Mr. Lincoln in Washington, but in a war of aggression upon the States he will find public sentiment at the North at once divided, and a large body of the Northern people arrayed against him. A peace policy is the policy that ought now to be adopted. Let us have a peace policy at once. Peace and prosperity."

The Democratic Standard published by the editor of ex-President Pierce says: "Those who are urging on war are a set of reckless men who are making an immense fortune out of the wealth of the country. Look to this matter, men of all parties for your property is to be taxed to pay the bills."

THE LATEST NEWS.

WASHINGTON, June 28.—The United States steamer Pawnee arrived at the Navy Yard this morning, bringing interesting, though painful intelligence from Matthias Point.

According to the statements of persons in the Expedition, Captain Ward, of the steamer Freeborn, yesterday obtained from Captain Rowan, of the Pawnee, a reinforcement of about twenty men, and united with others from his own vessel, comprising between thirty and forty in all, and fitted in several cutters for Matthias Point, taking with them about two hundred and fifty bags, which were filled with sand on the shore, and with which breastworks were soon erected, under the direction of Lieutenant Chaplain.

While in the act of returning to the Freeborn for the purpose, it is stated, of obtaining cannon for the battery, a force of rebels estimated at from 800 to 1,200 suddenly emerged from a thick wood in which they had been concealed, and poured a volley of shot into the Federal party, who made a hasty retreat. Several of the men swam off to the Freeborn, Captain Ward, on the Freeborn, protected his men as far as possible with his guns and fired 12 or 15 shot among the rebels, with what effect could not be ascertained.

While in the act of sighting a gun after it is said the gunner had been wounded, Capt. Ward was struck in the breast by a bullet and in the course of an hour thereafter died of internal hemorrhage.

A sailor named William J. Bess, was wounded in four places. Several others were also wounded, among them Jack Williams, the Coxswain, a ball entering his thigh. The flag he carried was completely riddled.

The men all reached the vessel without any further damage. Captain Ward's body was brought here today by the Pawnee. In the funeral procession which accompanied it from the wharf to the place of temporary deposit in the Navy Yard, was displayed the riddled banner.

The gloom which prevailed in this locality was oppressive. The remains will be transported North.

It is said that after the Federal force retreated from Matthias Point, the breastworks were immediately occupied by the rebels. The rebel force at Buchanan is reported to have been increased to 4000.

The Grand Jury, says the Baltimore Exchange of the 25th inst., yesterday found a presentment against John Merryman, Esq., on charge of treason.

LETTERS in the Charleston Mercury comment on paper for having the moral courage to resist the insults offered to South Carolina, by a gentleman named Russel, the correspondent of the London Times.

A SPECIAL DISPATCH to the New Orleans Picayune, dated Richmond, June 20, says that the Convention has adopted an amendment to the Constitution of the Confederate States, giving to Virginia the right to secede on certain contingencies.

THIRTY MEN of the Massachusetts Eighth, stationed at the Relay House, are literally bare footed, the supplies of shoes having failed.

CHARLES H. FOSTER announces himself as an unconditional Union candidate for Congress, from the First District of North Carolina.

SKIRMISH NEAR CUMBERLAND.—Seventeen Killed and a Number Wounded. GRAFTON, VA., June 28.—We learn that Corporal Hayes and twelve men belonging to Col. Wallace's regiment of Zouaves, while scouting on Patterson's Creek, in the southeast of Cumberland, on Tuesday night encountered a party of Rebels, numbering about forty. A sharp engagement ensued. Seven of the enemy are reported killed, and a number wounded. One of Hayes' party was killed and himself badly wounded. They captured a number of horses.

WASHINGTON, June 28.—Gen. Scott today received the following despatch: CUMBERLAND, June 27th, 1861. TO GEN. McCLELLAN:—I have been accustomed to sending my mounted pickets, 13 men in all, to different posts along the several approaches to Cumberland. Finding it next to impossible to get reliable information of the enemy, yesterday I visited the 13, and directed them, if possible, to get to Frankfort, a town midway between this place and Romney, to see if there were any Rebel troops there.

They went within a quarter of a mile of the place and found it full of cavalry. Returning they overtook 41 horsemen, and at once charged them, routing and driving them back more than a mile, killing eight of them, and securing seven horses. Corporal Hayes, in command of my men, was desperately wounded with sabre cuts and bullets. Taking him back, they halted about an hour, and were then attacked by the enemy, who had been reinforced to about 75 men. The attack was so sudden that they abandoned their horses, and crossed to a small island at the mouth of Patterson's Creek.

The charge of the Rebels was bold and confident, yet twenty-three fell under the fire of my pickets, close about and on the island. My fellows finally driven off, scattering each man for himself, and they are all in camp now. One, Corporal HAYS, of Company A, was wounded but is recovering. DUS, JOHN C. HOLDINGBROOK, of Company B, is dead. The last was taken prisoner and brutally murdered.

Three companies went to the ground this morning, and recovered everything belonging to my picket except a few of the horses. The enemy were engaged all night long in boxing up their dead. Two of their officers were killed, and they laid out twenty-three on the porch of a neighboring farm house—I will bury my poor fellow tomorrow. I have positive information, gained today that there are four regiments of Rebels about Romney, under Colonel McDONALD.—What their particular object is, I cannot learn.

The two Union Regiments are encamped at the State line, nine miles from here, awaiting further orders. They have not reported to me. They hesitate about invading Maryland. The reports of the skirmish sounds like fiction, but it is not exaggerated. The fight was really the most desperate one on record, and abounds with instances of wonderful daring and coolness. (Signed) LEWIS WALLACE, Commanding Eleventh Reg't Indiana Volunteers. G. B. McCLELLAN, Maj. General.

Private letters received per Africa say that a large number of privaters are fitting out in England for the rebels. It is reliably reported that several have already left and are now on their way to this country. Our Minister's attention is directed to this.