



BEDFORD, Pa.

Friday Morning, May 24, 1861.

"FEARLESS AND FREE."

D. OVER—Editor and Proprietor.

The Gazette of last week publishes the message of the traitor, Jeff. Davis, to the so-called Confederate Congress, and it states in an editorial article calling attention to it, that "this document sets forth in a terse and succinct history, the wrongs and grievances complained of by the people of the South," and in another part of the article the editor says, "Mr. Davis justly complains of the wrongs and insults experienced by the South." Why did the editor of this secession and disunion journal publish the message of that arch traitor, Jeff. Davis, unless it was for the purpose of giving encouragement and argument to the twenty other disunionists in Bedford County? Does not his editorial article establish the truth of our supposition? Why does the editor not publish the speeches and letters of Cass, Douglas, Wood, Dickinson, Dix, Butler, and other leading Democrats, on this war, which his brother disunionists of the South and their Northern apologists, have forced upon us? Is it not because he fears to let his readers have the light? Why did he not publish the speech of Douglas before the Illinois Legislature, and especially after being requested to do so by his long Democratic? Are we wrong in our opinion that had the editor of that paper the courage, provided he lived in the South, he would be in the secession army? But as he lacks that quality, he would only preach up secession and treason to others, and not risk his own life to powder or rope.

The Maryland Legislature has passed a resolution calling upon the President "in the name of God" to cease making war upon the South.—Bedford Gazette.

The President is "not making war upon the South." He and the Cabinet, and patriotic men in all the loyal States, are only defending the Union against the war made upon it by the disunionists and traitors, who are encouraged by just such persons as the editor of the Gazette, who is weekly publishing lying articles and evasions like this. Why has not the fellow the manliness to come right straight out, either for his country, or against it? An open enemy is better than a secret foe, or one who sometimes pretends to be a friend, but is all the time playing into the hands of the enemy.

The wheat, rye and oat crops in Bedford County, look remarkably well, and promise a fine harvest. Our farmers, on account of the wet weather, have been late in getting in their corn. As it is not too late to plant, we hope they will put in all the ground they possibly can spare in corn, potatoes, &c. If the war goes on, produce will bring good prices during the fall and winter.

The Military Bill.—The new military bill which passed the Legislature, has received the signature of the Governor. By its provisions the Associate Judges and Commissioners of the several Counties, are required to afford relief to the families of volunteers in the service, who may need relief.—We will try and publish the most important provisions of the law next week.

A few days ago, in common with a number of our citizens, we were presented with a nice fresh shawl, by our friend, Samuel L. Crenshaw, Brig. of Philadelphia, for which we are under obligations.

It is supposed that England will acknowledge the Confederate States, as a belligerent power. This is quite different from acknowledging them as an independent power.

The report that John C. Breckinridge was going to join Col. Anderson, and fight for the Union, turns out to be true.

SARSA.—We have long supposed that this celebrated drug, had come to be an exploded bubble, but we are assured by those skilled in the healing art, that not the Sarsaparilla itself is to be blamed for this conclusion, but the miserable worthless preparations of it that have been palmed off upon the community—preparations which contain about as much of its virtues as they do of gold dust. It is a commercial fact that almost all of the Sarsaparilla gathered in the world, is consumed in the old continent of Europe, where the science of medicine, has reached its highest perfection, and where they know the best way to employ for the mastery of disease. Hence we are glad to find that we are now to have a compound of this excellent alternative, which can be relied on, and our community will not need be assured, that any thing Decr. Ayer makes, is worthy of their confidence. He has been for years engaged in eliminating this remedy (see adv's col.) designing to make it his chief article which should add the crowning glory to his already enviable reputation.—American Cells, New York.

A COMPANY OF MONKS.—The Rev. B. Wiemery, Abbot of the Monastery of St. Vincent, Westmoreland county, has organized a company of eighty men, made up principally from among the members of this community. His company has not yet been accepted, but he expects to get into service ere long in which event, it will no doubt be shown that men can be good churchmen and good soldiers at one and the same time.—Chronicle.

Letters from Camp Scott.

We had the pleasure of receiving the following letter from our friend, Capt. John H. Filler, of the Taylor Guards. Though the letter was not intended for publication, and private, yet we take the liberty of laying the greater portion of it before readers, and we believe the Captain will excuse us when he learns that everything coming from our "boys" at Camp Scott, is read with avidity by all classes of the community:

CAMP SCOTT, York, Pa., May 16, 1861.

Dear Sir:—You will excuse my delay in writing. I did not intend writing strictly private letters to you, but some memoranda for publication. But I have really no time to write anything for the public, and having come to that conclusion, I determined to enter upon my private and friendly correspondence with you.

There was great disappointment among our men yesterday afternoon, when they saw the first regiment, fully armed and equipped, march out of camp for Baltimore. We felt sorry to be left behind. The 12th and 13th Regiments will march together when we do go hence. We are not yet fully equipped, but everything to put us in marching condition will be here to-morrow. We had a dispatch from Philadelphia to-day, that they had shipped enough to "arm, clothe and equip" all the men in Camp Scott, and from the hurry that is manifested on all sides, I am of opinion that we will soon move, either to Baltimore or Washington.

The Captains of companies of the 13th Regiment, have all put themselves down for the war, and have through Col. Rowley so notified the Governor. There has been a strong expression in favor of continuing for the war in my company, there being when Gen. Nagley addressed us the other day, not a dissenting voice. Among the men, ours was the only company that was unanimous on the subject. Of course, at the end of three months, some will want to go home, and that, too, at the very moment when their services are urgently needed. But Col. Rowley has assured us that before the time is up every company will be fully recruited. So you need not look to see me at home for a good while to come. I like the military life—that is to say, I anticipate that I will like it when we get into active service. Col. Rowley is a fine officer and an excellent gentleman. He served with distinction in the Mexican war. He, as well as our Adjutant, Kinkead, who is an excellent soldier, served with Lieut. Wm. Dudley Mann in Mexico, at least in the same regiment.—Adj. Kinkead was in the same company with him.

Our regiment is out on drill for about three hours every day, and although we are green as yet, our drills on the common west of York, attract great crowds of citizens every morning.

The boys were considerably out of humor when they first came here, not being used to cook their own food, and look out for themselves generally, but they are quite good humored now and anxious for a fight. The weather was very bad, and one or two nights we were in the water slightly. When I got up in the morning the water had run in under me, and my head was wet with the water that had poured through the roof of my shanty. I am at camp every night, and we share all the evil and good that comes in the same degree. My health has been excellent, and I have gained three pounds avoirdupois in the flesh. "Soggerin'" suits me very well. I don't know now it will be in the end.

John Helm and Alex. Mower, make good soldiers. Alick Mower, in particular, is attentive to his duties. Alex. Boor is doing finely. Wash. Mullin is all right, but not greatly in love with the musket. He would rather draw the sword. Will Filler is a gay soldier boy, and young Elliott is getting along finely. John Boehr was sick yesterday, and had him in the hospital, where he was attended by a hand-some young lady. Under her treatment he is better to-day.

I will speak of the rest of the boys in my next. But I must say that Jerry Brown never behaved so well in his life as he does now. He is always well dressed, and neat in his appearance. Write me soon, and I will answer. Very Truly Your Friend, JNO. H. FILLER.

From a subsequent letter from Capt. Filler to a friend in Bedford, we have been permitted to make the following extracts:

CAMP SCOTT, York, Pa., May 18, 1861.

DEAR — Our Company were all out in full uniform this evening in dress regimental parade, and were much complimented for their fine appearance. They got their uniforms this morning, and I am of opinion that there is not a finer company on the ground, so far as the material is concerned. A little more drill is all that is required.

We are in for the war you may depend upon that. In a few days we may be off for Washington or Baltimore. Some of our men will want to go home at the end of the three months, but we will open in Pittsburgh a Recruiting Office for all the Companies in our Regiment, and fill up the places of all who may desire to be discharged. In the meantime you may give notice to any of our Bedford boys that there will be a fine chance for them. All lands here are in fine spirits. Tell Simon Cook that Frank is well and likes his new blue uniform except that it is a little too small for him.—The liveliest soldiers in camp are Will Filler, Elliott, Nelson and Clem Miller.

Frank Pourman, whom you enlisted in Schuylburg, you remember, is a treasure. He is Company Cook, and occupies his spare time in foraging about the farm houses and hen coops in the neighborhood of York, and levies contributions on the market men and shop keepers in the town. There is hardly a day that Frank don't come in with poultry, butter and eggs from the country, or an occasional ham or shoulder, and he never returns from town to camp without packing in sundry small but convenient articles, like tin plates, knives and forks, shoe blacking, whiskey and tobacco. Two "warted dodger" himself is nothing to Frank Pourman, for which see Dickens' Oliver Twist. In an enemy's country Frank would be invaluable, but the danger is that in his foraging expeditions he would be cut off. It is not that the boys need anything here. They

have plenty of good bread, fine beef, ham, rice, beans, sugar, and coffee, with occasionally potatoes in their regular army rations. They have plenty of clothing and a splendidly organized medical department; and when any one of them is sick he is sent in there, and gets his broiled steak, his toasted bread, and every other nice little luxury that a sick man covets. Above all he is nursed by a beautiful lady from Pittsburgh, the "Florence Nightingale" of the "Gay 13th Regiment."

My health is very good. I have not had a day's sickness, and weigh over one hundred and seventy-eight pounds. Our Regiment is fully equipped and is under marching orders. But letters will be sent after us, and I hope to hear from you soon and will answer, giving all I can of camp life. I must now close.—The tattoo has beat, and lights must out.—Yours Very Truly, JNO. H. FILLER.

AN AGGRESSIVE EXPEDITION.

Two Virginia Batteries Destroyed.

A Summary Check to the Rebels—They are Scattered in all Directions—Capture of Two Schooners—Thirty Rebels Taken Prisoners.

WASHINGTON, May 20.

On Saturday afternoon, the Steamboat Star, formerly the Monticello, discovered a partially-armed battery at Sewall's Point. Two guns from the Norfolk Navy-Yard had been mounted, and embrasures had been prepared for about a dozen others. The Star opened fire and had dismounted one gun, when the Thomas Freeman, Capt. Cash, attracted by the firing, ran down from Fort Washington, and getting nearer shore than the Star's draught permitted, speedily overtook the second.—The Freeman then sent a shot toward a body of 20 or 30 secessionists, who stood near the ruined battery, which cut clean through them, and scattered them in all directions, and then steamed away.

Last night the Freeman, while cruising in the Potomac below Fort Washington, overhauled and captured a couple of suspicious schooners. The first was the Virginia from Alexandria. The second was the Isabel, which on being hailed, declared herself to be laden with flour for Alexandria. Until threatened with a shot, she refused to stop, but on being boarded, was found to contain thirty of the oddest kind of secession fish, all well armed. There was no cargo as had been declared. The Isabel was towed up to the Navy-Yard, where she now lies under guard, with her thirty prisoners on board.

Naval Action at the Mouth of the Potomac.

A Const Guard Steamer Attacked by a Rebel Propeller—Repulse of the Rebels—Loss Unknown—Four United States Soldiers Killed—Five Wounded.

NEW YORK, May 20.

Special despatches to the Evening Post and Commercial report that one of the Government Const steamers got ashore last night at the mouth of the Potomac and was attacked by an armed propeller, from Richmond, with a large force of Rebels. After a brisk contest the Rebels were repulsed.—Their loss is unknown.

Four United States soldiers were killed and five wounded. The latter were landed at Fort Washington to-day.

Another steamer, with fifty soldiers, has gone in pursuit of the pirates.

[The above has since been contradicted.]

Edward Everett on the War.

At a meeting held in Roxbury, Mass., to collect funds in aid of the families of volunteers who have enlisted for the war, Edward Everett made an eloquent address, of which the following extract is the conclusion:

My friends, I deprecate war—no man more so; and, of all wars, I most deprecate a civil war. And this, if prosecuted by the South, in the spirit in which she has commenced it, will be what the stern poet of civil wars of Rome called a bellum plusquam civile—a more than civil war. I deprecate, more than I can express, a war with the South. You know my political course. Logan, the Indian chief, mournfully exclaimed: "Such was my love for the whites, that my countrymen pointed at me as they passed, and said, Logan is the friend of white men!" I have been pointed at for many years as the friend of the South. For maintaining what I deemed her constitutional rights, I have suffered no small share of obloquy, and sacrificed the favor of a large portion of the community in which I was born, and which, from my youth up, had endeavored to serve laboriously, dutifully, and affectionately. I was willing, while this ill-starred movement was confined to the States of the extreme South, and they abstained from further aggression, that they should go in peace.

This course, I thought, would retain the Border States, and bring back the seceders in a year or two, wearied and disgusted with burdensome and perilous experiment. Such I understood to have been, in substance, the programme of the administration. But the South has willed it otherwise. She has struck a mortal blow at the heart of the Union; and to sustain her in this unnatural and unrighteous war, is what my conscience forbids. Neither will I remain silent, and see this majestic framework of government, the noblest political fabric ever reared by human wisdom, prostrated in the dust to gratify the disappointed ambition of a few aspiring men (for that Mr. Vice-President Stephens bravely told his fellow citizens last November was the cause of "a great part of our troubles"), and this under cover of a sophistical interpretation of the Constitution at war alike with common sense, with contemporary history and the traditions of the government, unsupported by a single authority among the framers of the Constitution, and emphatically denounced by Mr. Madison, their leader and chief.

What then remains, fellow citizens, but that we should, without unchristian bitterness towards our misguided countrymen, meet calmly and resolutely the demands of the crisis; that we should perform the duties of good citizens with resolution and steadiness; that we should cordially support the government of the country in the difficult position in which it is placed; that we should cheer and encourage the brave men who have obeyed its call by a generous care of their families; and to sum it all in one word, come weal or woe; that we should stand by the flag of the Union!

A late arrival from California brings intelligence of the prevalence of a strong Union sentiment in that State. The few sympathizers with secession are quite under the powerful Union feeling. It is expected that the State will be represented in the lower House as well as in the Senate during the Extra Session of Congress.

THE STAY LAW.

HARRISBURG, May 16.—The following is a true copy of the bill offered by Mr. Duffield, and which has passed both branches of the Legislature, relative to judgments and executions:

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That upon all judgments now remaining unsatisfied, or which may be obtained within six months from the passage of this act, there shall be a stay of execution for one year from the passage hereof as regards judgments now existing, and from their date as regards judgments obtained after the date hereof. Provided that the defendant is possessed of real estate within the respective county or counties in which such judgments shall have been obtained, or in any other county within this Commonwealth, to which the said judgment shall have been transferred, subject to be sold for the payment of such judgment, worth in the opinion of any court or judge in vacation, or alderman having jurisdiction of such judgments, at a fair valuation, a sum sufficient to pay or satisfy the same, over and above other incumbrances, and the amount exempted from levy and sale on execution, or said defendant shall give security for the payment of the same, to be approved by the court, or a judge thereof in vacation, or the justice or alderman before whom the same was obtained or may be depending, within sixty days from the date of the judgment, or from the passage of this act, which security shall consist of one or more persons, who shall satisfy the court, judge or justice, by oath or affirmation, and such other evidence as may be required, that they are the bona fide owners of real or personal estate within the county where such judgment has been entered, worth at a fair valuation double the amount of such judgment, over and above all other debts and incumbrances, to which security the plaintiff may file exceptions as now provided by law. And that in all actions now pending, or instituted within twelve months after the passage of this act, in any of the courts of this Commonwealth, on notes, bills, bonds, or other instruments, for the payment of money, or for the recovery of book debts, wherein the defendant or defendants of any stage of the proceedings before actual sale by the sheriff, shall have filed an affidavit setting forth that the majority of his or their creditors, whose demands exceed two thirds of his or their entire indebtedness, have agreed in writing to extend the time of payment of the debts due them respectively, the court shall direct the prothonotary to report the terms of the said extension, upon even evidence submitted to him by the defendant or defendants, and thereupon the court shall enter an order in the case, that no execution shall issue, except at the periods when, and in the proportions which it shall appear by the report of the prothonotary of the majority of the creditors of the defendant or defendants, whose demands exceed two-thirds of his or their entire indebtedness, have agreed, as aforesaid, to extend the time of payment of the debts due them respectively, and no person or firm, bank or broker, holding collateral securities for debts due or to become due, shall within one year from the taking effect of this act sell at public or private sale any such collateral, whether the same consist of mortgage, bond, note, or other security, commercial or otherwise, and any party selling such collateral securities within such time shall become responsible for the same at double the amount for which it was pledged to the owner of such collateral. And provided further, That the provisions of this act shall extend to judgments entered or to be entered, as well upon land and warrant of attorney as upon mortgages to secure the same, and to any subsequent grantee or owner of the premises so bound, as well as to the original obligor or mortgagee, and also to all judgments or debts upon which stay of execution has been or may be waived by the debtor in any obligation or contract upon which such judgment has been or may hereafter be obtained or by any stipulation entered into at any time separate from said obligation or contract.—And provided, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to stay an execution that may be issued after the expiration of sixty days from the passage of this act for the purpose of collecting interest due, or to become due, upon any judgment for any sum, not less than \$500, heretofore obtained; but no such execution shall be issued for less than six months arrears of interest. Provided, That this act shall not apply so as to stay the collection of interest on judgment entered for the security of the payment of money to widows, orphans, or minors. Provided further, That this act shall not apply to any judgment obtained for the wages of labor, or debts contracted after the passage of this act, but shall apply to all corporations, whether defendants or holders of collaterals.

SECTION 2. That in all cases in which a defendant shall be entitled to a stay of execution under the provisions of this act, and shall neglect or refuse to claim the benefit thereof, any mortgage of the premises levied upon, or other lien creditor, whose estate or interest therein would be affected by sale of the said premises, shall have the like right with the defendant to claim such stay of execution.

SECTION 3. That upon all judgments heretofore entered, or which may hereafter be entered, upon conditional verdicts in actions of ejectment, a like stay of executions shall be had upon the same terms and conditions provided in the first section of this act.

SECTION 4. That the provisions of this act shall be considered to apply to all judgments on which a sale by judicial process has not been actually made.

FROM BALTIMORE.

BALTIMORE, May 17.—It is very quiet here to-day. One company of artillery, regulars, passed through Washington. The Eighth New York Regiment have been ordered back to Washington. They seem loath to leave their pleasant camp at the Relay House. The men there are in good health, very few being on the sick list in either of the three regiments.

Major Mulligan's Irish Brigade.

WASHINGTON, May 17.—The Irish Brigade, over 1,000 strong, tendered by Major Mulligan, was to-day accepted by Secretary Cameron for service during the war. It is probable that their destination is Washington.

Major Anderson has been promoted to a Colonelcy in the U. S. Army.

From the St. Louis Republican, of May 15th. Interesting from St. Louis.

GEN. HARNEY AND THE VOLUNTEERS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT OF THE WEST. ST. LOUIS, May 15, 1861.

My attention has been called to publications in several of the city papers, to the effect that the volunteers under my command at this post were disorderly, and they were acting, to some extent, in the defiance of the discipline of the army.

I deem it my duty, and it affords me great pleasure to say, that these publications are wholly unfounded, and do great injustice to the volunteers. These troops have submitted cheerfully and with alacrity to the discipline of the service, and nothing has under my observation, or been reported to me, that should subject them to the injurious publications to which I have alluded.

I beg to express my entire disapproval of such unfounded publications, as they are calculated to injure the public service, and create disquiet and ill-feeling in the community. W. S. HARNEY, Brig. Gen. U. S. Army, Commanding.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND SLAVERY IN MISSOURI.

GENERAL WM. S. HARNEY, COMMANDING THE MILITARY DEPARTMENT OF THE WEST, ST. LOUIS, Mo.—Sir: In common with thousands who have perused your admirable proclamation of this morning I return you the thanks of a citizen of Missouri for its patriotic tone and tranquilizing assurances.

There is nothing in this paper which, in my opinion, needs explanation; yet I wish to be able to answer, with the authority of your name, a question which I have already replied to on my own judgment. Last evening, a gentleman of the highest respectability and intelligence, from Green county, Missouri, asked me whether I supposed it was the intention of the United States Government to interfere with the institution of negro slavery in Missouri or any slave State, or impair the security of that description of property. Of course, my answer was most unqualifiedly, and almost indignantly, in the negative. I told him that I had no means of forming an opinion which were not open to every other private citizen; but that I felt certain that the force of the United States would, if necessary, be exerted for the protection of this, as well as any other kind of property. Will you be good enough to spare from your engrossing military duties so much time as may be required to say whether I answered correctly?

I have the honor to be, with the highest respect, your most obedient servant, THOMAS T. GANNETT.

ST. LOUIS, May 14, 1861.

THOMAS T. GANNETT, Esq., St. Louis, Mo.: Sir: I have just received your note of this date, inquiring whether, in my opinion, you were correct in replying to a citizen of southwestern Missouri as to the purpose of the United States Government respecting the protection of negro property.

I must promise by saying that I have no special instructions on this head from the War Department. But I should as soon expect to hear that the orders of the Government were directed towards the overt brow of any other kind of property as of this in negro slaves. I entertain no doubt whatever that you answered the question you mention correctly. I should certainly have answered it in the same manner, and I think, with the very feelings you describe. I am not a little astonished that such a question could be seriously put. Already since the commencement of these unhappy disturbances, slaves have escaped from their owners, and have sought refuge in the camps of the United States troops from Northern States, and commanded by a Northern general. They were carefully sent back to their owner. An insurrection of slaves was reported to have taken place in Maryland; a Northern general offered to the Executive of that State the aid of Northern troops under his own command, to suppress it. Insurrections have asked of the President permission to invade the Southern States, and have been warned that any attempt to do this will be punished as a crime. I repeat it, I have no special means of knowledge on this subject, but what I have cited, and my general acquaintance with the statesmanlike views of the President, makes me confident in expressing the opinion above given.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant, Wm. S. HARNEY, Brigadier General commanding Military Department of the West.

REGIMENT OF FREE COLORED MEN.—Governor Moore, we have heard, has authorized the organization of a regiment of free colored men. We have always relied upon the fidelity of the free colored men who were born in New Orleans—the descendants of those who fought upon the plains of Chalmette. And we expect that when the regiment is fully organized, and if the mean, false, dastardly Black Republicans of the North and east to make a hostile approach to New Orleans, our free colored regiment will help to teach them, by a bloody lesson, that they know their true from their false friends. We heard it said that Felix Labatut, Esq., an old, esteemed and wealthy citizen, would be requested to become Colonel of the regiment.—New Orleans Delta, April 30.

HOW WARS ARE DECIDED.—Successful wars are usually decided on a given point and single day. It is the greatest error to suppose a campaign extends to every village in a State, and is composed of a series of combats. Russia was overwhelmed at Austerlitz and Friedland by troops that had never seen her soil; Napoleon was hurled from his throne at Waterloo; Austria was humbled at Solferino and the victory of Wulff at Quebec, was Canada for England. In the Crimea, the legions of Nicholas were exhausted in Sebastopol.

SECESSION.—THE THIRTY YEARS CONSPIRACY.—Every American citizen should be familiar with those words of Rhet, of South Carolina: "The secession of South Carolina is not an event of a day. It is nothing produced by Mr. Lincoln's election, or by the non execution of the fugitive slave law. It has been a matter which has been gathering head for thirty years."

At least 300,000 volunteers have tendered their services to the government.

From the National Intelligencer, May 17.

The Point of Honor.

The subjoined letter from Ex-President BUCHANAN was received at the office of the National Intelligencer a few days ago. A friend of the Ex-President's who happened to read the letter, and who feels much interested in the question of honor and duty, which the letter incidentally but very strongly states, and thinking that the opinion of one who has served the country so conspicuously and so long might exert a salutary influence on the opinions of others, asked and obtained the consent of the distinguished writer to its publication, and it is published accordingly: WHEATLAND, May 6, 1861.

To the Editors of the National Intelligencer: GENTLEMEN: In the conclusion of the times I have not received your tri-weekly numbers 9,157 and 9,158 of April 27 and April 30, I believe. As yours is the only paper of which I preserve a file, I should feel greatly obliged if you would send me these numbers.

Several items in the Intelligencer have awakened my attention to the facility with which military gentlemen relieve themselves from their oaths and change their allegiance. A military oath has ever been held sacred in all ages and in all countries. Besides the solemn sanctions of religion, there is superadded the highest appeal to personal honor. Each military officer swears that he will bear true allegiance to the United States, and serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies and opposers whatsoever. They do not swear to support the Constitution of any State. Elected by the United States, they belong to the Federal Government in a peculiar sense. Whilst I can imagine why an officer might resign rather than shed the blood of citizens of his native State in war, yet it is difficult to excuse or palliate the next step, which is to go over to the enemy, and make war upon the time-honored flag of the country. Major Beuregard, when he discharged the first gun against Fort Sumpter, lighted a flame which it will require a long time to extinguish. The people of the North at present are enthusiastically unanimous. They never were aroused until that shot was fired. I often warned Southern gentlemen that this would be the inevitable result.

I enjoy good health, and as tranquil a spirit as the evils impending over my country will permit.

Your friend, very respectfully, JAMES BUCHANAN.

THE LEGISLATURE.—The final adjournment of the extra session of the State, took place on Thursday week. The last act done by the members was the formation of a military company, and the tender of its services to the general government, the Speaker of the House, Mr. Davis, acting as Captain. The bill authorizing a loan of three millions of dollars and providing for arming and equipping fifteen regiments for the defence of the State, passed the House on Thursday, and on Saturday passed to a third reading in the Senate. It was somewhat amended in the House. The main contest over the bill had reference to the appointment of a Major General and two Brigadier Generals for the new regiments to be raised; and those who were not willing to entrust to the Governor the responsibility of the selection of officers for positions so important, desired, first, to make those officers elective by the commissioned officers of the force, and falling in this, to give an advisory power in their appointment to the two Houses of the Legislature. But all efforts in this direction failed, and the Governor is empowered to make the appointments.

The stay law has passed both Houses, as also have various acts authorizing different counties to appropriate money for the support of families of volunteers. The time for the resumption of specie payment by the banks has been extended until the second Tuesday in February next, and various other minor acts passed that have been deemed called for by the present exigency in our State affairs.

REPORTS FROM CHAMBERSBURG.

CHAMBERSBURG, Pa., May 20.—Seven hundred Virginia troops have arrived opposite Williamsport, on the Potomac river, twenty-six miles south of this point. It is believed here that they intend to make an incursion into the southern borders of this State. Affairs grow interesting here.

Several gentlemen have arrived here this morning from Hagerstown. They state that about seven hundred men have ascended the river from Harper's Ferry to a point opposite Williamsport, a town in Maryland of five hundred inhabitants.

A secessionist, named Abraham Lighter, in Williamsport, has two thousand barrels of flour, and it is believed that on account of the scarcity of provisions the troops seized this flour.

A gentleman who passed them on their way from Martinsburg, says there were Indians in the ranks, believed to be Cherokees, from North Carolina.

Williamsport is twenty eight miles from this place. The people of the whole Cumberland valley, particularly at this point, are very much excited, fearing an invasion by a strong corps of ten thousand men. They do not fear permanent conquest, but they exhaust their resources. There are three thousand troops at this point. Maryland has no troops to resist an advance of Virginians.

A Union man living in Maryland, who was elected for an entirely reliable, says he was at Harper's Ferry on Friday night, and saw thirteen Indians in one squad, but did not see more. He says small pox is known to exist among the troops at Harper's Ferry, but to what extent it prevails is not known. He believes the troops are for the present being scattered over Berkeley, Jefferson, Loudon, Frederick and Clarke counties, to carry them for secession on Thursday next. The legitimate voters of these counties are largely for the Union.

Passengers this afternoon from Hagerstown say fifteen hundred more secession troops are expected at Williamsport to night. They were sent over the river for boats to construct tents, indicating the purpose of forming a regular encampment.

The flour alluded to above is being removed from Williamsport to Hagerstown rapidly.

The question is often asked, what is a "stand of arms"? Properly speaking, it is a complete set of arms for one soldier, which would include the bayonet, musket, and its appurtenances.