

The route of the Federal army seemed com-

**A CHECK TO THE RETREAT.**

The sight of Miles' reserve drawn up on the hills at Centerville, supporting a full battery of field pieces, and the efforts of the few officers still faithful to their trust, encouraged many of the fugitive infantry to seek their old camps and go no further. But the majority pushed on to a point near the late site of Germantown, where Lieutenant Brisson had forged a line of Hunt's mules across the road, and repulsed all who attempted to break through. I particularly request attention to service thus rendered by this loyal young officer.

While he was thus engaged a courier arrived with the news that Colonel Montgomery was advancing with a New Jersey brigade from Falls Church, and that the retreat must be stopped, only the wagons being allowed to pass through. Some thousands of the soldiery had already got on their way to Washington. These were those from whom the details of the regulars were gathered this morning. How fell we, who could blame them? Their own Colonels had deserted them, only leaving orders for them to reach Arlington Heights as soon as they could.

A few miles further I met Montgomery pressing to the rescue, and reported the success of Lieut. Deane's efforts. And so I rode along, as well as my weary horse could carry me, past groups of struggling fugitives, to Fairfax, where Col. Woodbury was expected, and guarding against a flank movement of the enemy, and on again to Long Bridge and the Potomac. But the van of the runaway soldiers had made such time that I found a host of them at the ferry stations, begging the sentinels to allow them to cross the bridge. Today we learn of the safe retreat of the main body of the army; that they were tightly followed by the Rebels as far as Fairfax, but are now within the Arlington lines, and that McDowell, a stunned and vanquished general, is overlooking the wreck of his column from his old quarters at the Custis mansion.

**The Columbia Spy.**  
COLUMBIA, PA.  
SATURDAY, AUG. 3, 1861.

The Rev. Mr. Thom will preach in the Presbyterian church to-morrow (Sunday) morning and evening, at the usual hours.

Our locals are almost exclusively military this week. Nothing but the volunteers has been talked of, and we can write of nothing else.

The News.—Since the late disastrous battle at Bull's Run, all my news has been carefully sifted before being sent over the wires. Thus we have the barest accounts of what is transpiring in the military world. Troops are being hastened to Washington as rapidly as possible, and a large force will be concentrated there under General Banks, at the life of the upper Potomac. Little is known of the movements of the main body of rebels, under Beauregard and Johnston. No apprehension is entertained for the safety of the capital.

A NEW COMPANY.—Capt. E. Y. Rambo and Lieut. Kelly, has commenced enlisting a new company to serve for the war, in Col. Welsh's regiment. No doubt they will succeed in gathering together in Columbia and neighborhood a full company. Both are highly spoken of as good and efficient officers in the late three months' service—particularly so. We presume we shall no longer have any "confidence" when we say that some time ago Col. Welsh pronounced, Capt. Rambo one of the very best captains in the Second Regiment. We hope to see the old company stick together as closely as possible, and reorganize under the old title.

MR. WELSH.—We are sincerely gratified to learn that Governor Curtin has signified his intention of commissioning our fellow citizen Lieut. Col. Welsh as Colonel of one of the four new regiments to be raised in Pennsylvania for the war. We are well known as a warm friend of Col. Tom, but we hope this does not preclude sincere expressions of our opinion of his merits in this connection. We think there is no voice in Columbia in regard to Col. Welsh, and that one of cordial regard. We believe him without puffing or newspaper blarney on our part) to be a man entirely fitted by nature for the post to which he has been called. He has had military experience, is a man of tried courage, and during his short command in the Second Regiment has proved by the affection with which his men regard him, that their interests and comfort have been his study. He will certainly take with him a number of his old men, and their friends will feel all the more secure in knowing them in such good and true hands.

REMARKS OF THE SENECA GENERAL.—Our volunteers of the Second Regiment, the Shawnee Guards, as we noted last Saturday, arrived in Harrisburg on the previous Sunday evening, to be quartered out of service and paid off for their three months' faithful services. During the succeeding week the arrival of the western trains were awaited each day by crowds of anxious friends of the absent volunteers, expecting their return. Individual members of the Company came down for a few hours, on several occasions, but disappointment occurred to most who so eagerly expected the coming of the boys. Col. Welsh was among those visiting home, and received the hearty welcome and congratulation of thousands of warm friends. He reported the delay at Harrisburg as being unjust to the soldiers, the blame resting on the paymasters. No day could be fixed for the return of the company, and although preparations for a fitting reception were set on foot, action was paralyzed by this uncertainty. In the meantime painful rumors of disorder in Harrisburg, accompanied by fatal consequences to one or more of our men, were rife, and the town was kept in a state of continued excitement and uneasiness. Finally the Lancaster Companies passing through Columbia

on Saturday afternoon announced the positive approaching arrival of the "Guards" the same evening, by the Mail East.

Notwithstanding the short notice, the friends of the volunteers, and citizens generally, obtained information that the boys might be looked for with certainty, and for a half hour or more before the arrival of the train an immense crowd assembled around Black's Hotel. Frequent disappointment prepared many for a fresh trial of patience, and as car after car filled with volunteers drew up without a sign of the familiar Columbia faces we had about given up once more, when a shout and rush of boys towards one of the rear cars told that our brave fellows were with us again.

They tumbled out and into the arms of expecting friends. We recalled the enthusiasm with which they had gone forth in the defence of our beloved country, one gloomy day of spring more than three months before, and but for the faces filled with joy and satisfaction, would have considered the homecoming the more solemn occasion of the two. The uncertainty attending their coming prevented a formal reception, and the sight of a coffin lifted from the baggage car—suggestive, after the distressing rumors from Harrisburg (false, fortunately) already referred to, of the loss of one of the little band—repressed the spontaneous expression of joy which rose to the lips a shout and died away a prayer. Although the cheering was wanting the heart-felt welcome was not, and as the sun-browned and travel-stained soldiers fell in, they were surrounded and accompanied on their march by a dense crowd of friends. Col. Welsh headed the column, the company officers having remained in Harrisburg. The streets were lined as they passed down Front and up Locust, welcome beaming from every face. The company was marched to the Town Hall and there dismissed, a welcome being fired by the Columbia Engine boys with the same little cannon which shook the windows on the departure in April.

The boys returned with almost full ranks, the vacancies occurring from sickness in two or three instances. They look rugged, and every man is full of ardor and patriotic devotion to our noble cause. A large proportion of the men will re-enlist—indeed some in line so before leaving Harrisburg, the majority, however, desire to go under their beloved old leader, Col. Welsh.

The company left Harrisburg before being paid off, and on Monday returned, received their pay, and again arrived, the same evening, at home, with their hardly earned money in hard gold.

We must here in the name of the shamefully abused troops, and of an indignant community, protest against the outrageous misconduct, to call it by no worse name, of those deputed to disburse the public moneys to the volunteers. By the drunken and criminal neglect of certain paymasters the re-enlistment of hundreds of noble fellows has been rendered a matter of doubt.—There has been much uncalled for cavilling at the appointments of the Secretary of War, we know, but here are charges too well founded, and abuses which demand immediate correction. Serious loss of life from riotous demonstration on the part of the soldiers at Harrisburg—for which they had every excuse too—very nearly befell, during the days of last week when the Cisland volunteers were kept waiting, without pay or ration, subsisting upon the charity of the generous citizens of that city.

We had our boys safely at home, and now what was to be done for them? We were not going to let them march in without proper recognition, settle down and take up the old role of private citizens, without some exhibition of the warm sympathy of every heart eager for a medium of manifestation. Circumstances, as already stated, having prevented a ceremonious reception, what form should this expression of welcome take? Time pressed, as the volunteers would speedily scatter, many to return to the field therefore careful consideration, and deliberate action was precluded. In this dilemma the happy idea suggested itself to some one that the ladies should be asked to take the initiative, or, rather, the entire charge of the movement. Ladies are not deliberative—they are impulsive. They gave an impulse here in the right direction which carried everything through to a successful end. Gentlemen acting with little previous consideration, issued a call for a meeting, on Monday evening, of the ladies of the town, at Odd Fellows' Hall, for the purpose of consultation and extending a more general and formal invitation to all the town to unite in a demonstration in honor of the volunteers. The response was cordial and generous. It was decided that a supper should be tendered to the returned soldiers, and a committee was instructed to make the offer through Col. Welsh, who accepted in the name of the company. Other necessary committees were formed among the ladies, besides one of consultation on the part of the gentlemen. We had thought of giving the names of all actively taking part, but a complete census of the borough would only be satisfactory. Wednesday evening was fixed as the time for the supper, and Odd Fellows' Hall as the place—the Market House being afterward substituted as giving more general accommodation. The ladies were articles, committees in town and country obtaining promise of ample contribution.—Wednesday was devoted to decorating and arranging the scene of the feast, and in spreading the board.

THE ENTREE.—As an invited guest we approached the Market House about dark on Wednesday evening, and found it enveloped by an immense crowd of citizens of every age and sex. It was lighted up inside and almost crowded by the ladies of the borough. Making our way in through the wicket we were greeted by a scene unique and unparalleled in our experience. A broad table the whole length of the Market House and extending some distance beyond the protection of the roof was heaped—yet heaped in order and with exquisite taste—with every good thing the hospitality of woman could contribute or her ingenuity devise, and adorned by plentiful display of the most beautiful flowers. At the upper end of this spacious dining hall one large and

handsome national flag was draped, while the stars and stripes also hung in festoons from each side the arch at the lower. The flag fixtures were decorated with smaller flags and with wreaths. It was beyond comparison the most beautiful table we have ever seen. We need say no word of the hospitable and patriotic hostesses, except that even they looked satisfied with the work of their own hands, as well they might.

In a few minutes the drums of the "Guards" were heard approaching, and the quiet satisfaction of the ladies as their successful preparation was exchanged for a flutter of excitement and anxiety that all should go well. The company marched to the lower end of the table, Col. Welsh commanding, and three dividers advanced in single file on either side to the head.—Company halt! Front face!—and the warriors faced the enemy.

J. H. Millin, Esq., in a brief and appropriate address welcomed the soldiers on behalf of the ladies to the beautiful feast before them.

Rev. Mr. Maddox, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, asked a blessing. The Colonel improvised the order "take seats" and the promittive with which he obeyed spoke volumes for his thorough discipline. It was unnecessary to say fall to, for the eager waiters pressed upon the in-no-wise reluctant guests the substantial and dainties—solid and fluid—which awaited their onslaught. It was a good thing to witness the thorough enjoyment of the boys, as they put away their good things, and we almost realized their hardships as we heard one and another whisper: "If we had had this at Cokeysville!" "If we had had this at Charlestown!" &c. More than one remarked that the Cookman Rangers would know how to dispose of the feast. The civilian guests filled the lower end of the table, and enjoyed the banquet as much as the soldiers.

The only drawback to the general enjoyment was the heat, rendered excessive by the crowding on the benches outside by the eager spectators—principally children.—Every one wanted to participate in the welcome however, and but as it was, the volunteers did not complain of the general desire to take part in a festival that will be remembered as an event in the quiet annals of our town.

According to pre-arrangement there were to have been after-supper addresses of welcome to the volunteers, and replies on the part of the company. This was attempted, and carried out with partial success, but the intense heat dispersed the soldiers as soon as possible after the feast, and the bustle and unavoidable noise attending the continuance of the supper—the wives, children and friends of the soldiers, as well as ladies generally partaking at a second table rendered the speaking almost—at times entirely—inadvisable.

We intended reporting, in our imperfect manner, the substance of each speaker's remarks, but after a few notes, was compelled to abandon the attempt, not one word in five reaching us, though in the immediate vicinity of the orator. We wisely made note of the proceedings.

A space was cleared at the head of the table, and on motion of Col. Myers, Capt. John McClure was called to the chair.

Capt. Theodor Denny Cochran, late of the York Volunteers, now of the regular army, an old Columbian, being present was invited to address the company assembled. He did so in a neat tribute to the bravery and efficiency of our returned volunteers.—He referred feelingly to a former occasion when himself and Col. Welsh with others were welcomed home from the fields of Mexico.

J. H. Millin, Esq., was next called on.—Mr. Millin was listened to respectfully by us, for he was evidently speaking fluently, pleasantly, and we believe, from his antecedents, to the purpose, yet not one sentence complete did we catch, such was the noise and confusion. Mr. Millin had been invited to speak under more favorable circumstances, and it was certainly a sacrifice to the gentility of the occasion or his part in speaking at all, and such turn ill.

Mr. Millin was followed by Col. Myers in an earnest address, warmly received, of which little more was to be heard than of his predecessors.

Sergeant Peart, of the Guards, responded happily, in behalf of the company.

Col. Welsh made a few pertinent remarks in answer to a call, and Captain Rambo and Lieut. Kelly gracefully excused themselves as belonging to the executive arm.

Dr. Hattenstein was called upon, and excused himself, the audience he had been requested to address not being present. (Dr. H. had consented to speak to the volunteers on behalf of the ladies, but the heat and general confusion had driven the men off.)

Rev. Mr. Cronish was called upon, and order being in some measure restored a considerable proportion of the crowd formed a delighted audience, listening attentively to a stirring speech, which was freely applauded.

D. F. Griffith, Esq., fittingly terminated the exercises by singing (and well too) the patriotic song "Know ye the Land."

We must close our record by enumerating the invited guests—other than the "Guards." These were Capt. T. D. Cochran, Regular Infantry; Lieut. Geo. W. Orsib, Regular Artillery; Lieut. J. C. Hoyer, Regular Infantry; strange Volunteers in town; Rev. J. H. Mounce, of York; Clergy of the borough; Soldiers of 1812; Town Council; Relief Committee. They joined in the procession and marched in with the company.

We were happy in recognizing Rev. Mr. Menzes among the guests at the supper.—His kindness to our boys whilst lying at Camp Scott rendered it peculiarly appropriate that he should be invited to participate in their welcome home. His hospitality will never be forgotten by them, nor by the people of Columbia.

We are conscious that we have very lamely performed our task, but find it no pastime to do justice to an event so conspicuous in our wonderful local record. The supper was altogether the most successful feast ever given in our town. If not the most strictly decorous festivity, we think it gave the

greatest possible pleasure to the greatest possible number. Its charm was its spontaneity. Every one contributed, and all were free to take part. The preparations were most ample—so much so that several large boxes were shipped on Thursday to the Cookman Rangers, who arrived at Harrisburg the night previous at 10 o'clock. There was enough provision contributed to feed a regiment.

We are requested by the ladies to return their thanks to the numerous citizens who generously gave time, labor and material in aid of their arrangements. Numerous instances were mentioned to us of gratuitous services which, were they solitary, would call for particular acknowledgement.—Where all have been so kind, however, there must be no invidious distinction.

We are also especially instructed to give hearty thanks to the citizens of West Hempfield township, who, for miles around, sent in provisions by the wagon load. We would add of our own motion that the ladies of the borough and neighborhood have most nobly earned the thanks of the citizens, by their ready and efficient exertions in giving so graceful expression to the feelings of the community towards our brave volunteers. We hereby tender them at least our own grateful acknowledgements.

INDEPENDENT CAVALRY.—Capt. Thomas S. Richards, formerly of this place, recently of Reading, has offered to Government a company of Independent Cavalry, for three years' service, under his command, which has been accepted by the Secretary of War. Capt. Richards is now at Harrisburg—or was on Wednesday last—with nearly a hundred men. His desire was to increase his company to one hundred and twenty-five rank and file, the maximum strength, in which he has probably succeeded before now. Several of Capt. Richards' men took service with Capt. Richards, and if he is not yet filled up he will be glad to obtain a few more of his old Columbia acquaintances. Capt. Tom will make a model cavalry officer and we are mistaken if he does not turn out a crack corps of rough riders. We would not like a squadron under him to ride at us. We had the pleasure of jogging bones with the Captain on Wednesday. He is hale, and strong as a new cart. His quarters at Harrisburg are at the Black Horse Hotel. Success to him and his men at arms.

THE COOKMAN RANGERS.—This company of our boys, under Capt. Collins, in the Fifth Reserve Regiment, which has recently been stationed along the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad between Cumberland and Piedmont where the troops saw some rough service, has returned to Harrisburg. Two Regiments—Biddle's Kane Rifle Regiment and Simmons' Fifth—were ordered hurriedly from Harrisburg to support Col. Wallace's Indiana Zouaves, as our readers will remember. They were armed with inferior weapons, even the Rifle Regiment having old muskets, and had not been mustered out of the State into the U. S. service. After they left, orders were issued to increase each company to 101 men rank and file. Now, to receive new and improved arms, to be mustered into the U. S. service, to recruit their rank to the minimum strength of the regular regiments, and lastly, to receive their pay for services under the State, they have returned to Harrisburg where they are now encamped. The Fifth arrived on Wednesday night at half past ten o'clock, and pitched their tents in a field adjoining and north of Camp Curtin.

A telegram received on Tuesday from Bedford, announced the arrival of the Fifth regiment at Harrisburg on Wednesday night. In company with several Columbians interested in our boys we visited Harrisburg on Wednesday, thinking the regiment might pass through without changing cars. We found, however, Biddle's regiment encamped near Camp Curtin, with a prospect of several days' stay, and were informed that the Fifth would also be halted for at least a day or two. On Thursday morning a number of Columbians took the Mail West to visit the Rangers. They found them encamped, and very tired after a three days' march and a tedious ride over the Broad Top and Pennsylvania Railroad from Hopewell to Harrisburg. The march from Cumberland to Hopewell, over sixty miles, carrying little other food than crackers. They arrived at Huntington, where they were compelled to wait some time, tired and hungry, and pretty well cleaned out of all rations. The officers on walking into town were met on all sides with invitations to dinner, but they asked rather that something might be done for the men, who were very hungry. The entire town poured out whatever provision there was, and the half-famished soldiers were soon enjoying an ample and delicious feast. They were treated with noble hospitality by the people of Huntington.

On Thursday morning, as we have elsewhere stated, the surplus provision from the volunteer supper was sent per express to the Rangers. This arrived in the afternoon, and was landed at Capt. Collins' quarters in camp. When our informant left, the officers were about opening the boxes, and we presume that a second volunteer supper followed. The good things sent from here were doubtless appreciated and enjoyed by the boys. We are sorry that we could not receive some account of their disposal by the hungry ones.

As far as we have heard all the members of the company are in good health—certainly in good spirits and well satisfied with the service. We hope the boys may be delayed in Harrisburg a few days so as to allow all their friends from here to visit them.

Lieut. Col. Eisher we learn, is progressing rapidly in the details of his new profession and commands the confidence of men and officers. He has the stuff in him for service, and opportunity will bring it out. Col. Simmons is a great favorite with the men of his regiment, and his experience gives the men the guarantee that they will be well led.—As one expressed it—"He is an old cook at the business."

The long journey of the Fifth to Harrisburg, and subsequent busy employment has interfered with Ourselves' communications. We regret that we have no letter this week with details of the no doubt interesting events of the past two weeks. We hope he will soon find time to resume his pen in behalf of the Spy. We have received a couple of numbers of a spirited little sheet called the Pennsylvania Reserve, issued by a company of the Fifth Regiment, at Piedmont, from the office of a Union paper, the editor of which had been previously driven out by the rebels. We notice in one number a communication from GERRARD, graphically describing the forced march to the relief of Col. Kane.

THE MAGAZINES.—THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY for August contains a fine variety of delightful reading. Miss Rose Terry has a characteristic story—very homely and life-like in its telling. Rev. T. H. Higginson's article on the "Nat Turner Insurrection," will be read with unusual interest. Mrs. Stowe's serial continues.

KNICKERBOCKER for August has made its appearance. A very good number of old Knick, with its characteristic geniality. FRANK LESLIE'S MONTHLY is rich in illustration, and most entertaining in its literary department. This is certainly one of the very best periodicals issued in this or any country. It has a most pleasing variety, and is always fresh and cheering. HARPER opens with an article on the "Central Park," by T. Addison Richards, with the author's most artistic illustrations. Mr. Richards is a model illustrator in his line, some of the little "bits" in this paper are perfect pictures. The usual variety and excellence characterize the remaining contents. Thackeray's "Philip" and Trollope's "Orley Farm" are continued, well sustaining themselves.

THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST is chief in its peculiar field. The current number is most valuable to every farmer, and not only to the farmer but to the general reader. We consider it beyond comparison the best and most reliable agricultural periodical published in this country. We cordially recommend it to our readers.

LANCASTERIANS PROMOTED.—Of the eight gentlemen recommended to the President of the United States by the Pennsylvania delegation in Congress, for promotion to the rank of Brigadier General in the army, three are natives of Lancaster county. They are Col. S. B. Heintzelman, Andrew Porter and J. F. Reynolds. This is a large proportion and is a high honor bestowed upon our noble county. We are pleased to notice that Col. Wm. B. Franklin, a native of York county, is among the number recommended. They are all officers of the regular army and are worthy the distinction thus conferred.—Lanc. Union, 31st ult.

TAKEN PRISONERS.—H. S. Magraw, Esq., of this city, with two personal friends, who left Washington on Tuesday last for the enemy's lines, to endeavor to recover the body of the late Colonel Cameron, are held as prisoners at Fairfax Court House, where General Johnson commands in person. This fact was communicated to Mrs. Magraw on Friday by dispatch from Washington. Mr. M. was on an errand of mercy purely, but even that did not protect him from the diabolic influence which pervades the Southern heart.

P. S.—Since the above was written, we learn that Mr. Magraw has been sent to Richmond, and that he is now in jail at that place.—Lanc. Union, 31st ult.

THE HALDEMAN WILL CASE.—This case involving the construction of the will of the late Jacob M. Haldean, dec'd., pending for a long time before the Supreme Court, has been finally decided at its late session in Philadelphia. One of the questions raised was, as to the character of the estates devised to the daughters of testator, whether for life only or in fee simple. The court affirming the judgment of Judge Hayes of the Lancaster common pleas has decided, without dissent, that the daughters take equal interests, under the will, with the sons, in fee simple and discharged of any trust.—The decision affirms the celebrated old English rule in Shelly's case, familiar to lawyers as an established rule of property in Pennsylvania, and disposes of a large amount of property. The case was conducted by J. C. Kunkel and H. M. North, Esqs., for the daughters and Thaddeus Stevens and T. E. Franklin, Esqs., for the sons.—Harrisburg Telegraph.

CONGRESSIONAL. THURSDAY, July 25th.—The Senate adopted the resolutions introduced by Mr. Johnson, of Tennessee, identical with those of Mr. Crittenden adopted by the House, declaring that the war was not one of subjugation, but for the maintenance of the Constitution and the Government, and that when this object was accomplished it should end. The circumstances of the destruction of Government property at the Norfolk Navy Yard and Harper's Ferry were referred to a Committee of Investigation. The two Houses have compromised their disagreement upon the bill for the increase of the regular army. The Senate bill authorizing the formation of twenty-three new regiments is adopted, with the House amendment that at the end of the war the army shall be reduced to twenty-five thousand men, without further legislation.

The House resumed the consideration of the bill to lay an annual direct tax of \$30,000,000, but adjourned without coming to any conclusion. The indications are that Congress will continue its present extra session for two or three weeks, as there is an evident indisposition on the part of the majority to hasten its adjournment in the face of the dangers which are supposed to threaten the Capital.

FRIDAY, July 26th.—In the Senate Mr. Kennedy presented the memorial of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, in relation to the military occupation of the city. A protest was presented, signed by nine Senators, against the bill to define and punish conspiracies against the Government. SARRANUS, July 27th.—The Senate passed the bill establishing a Metropolitan Police force for Washington. The resolution enjoining certain acts of the President was then taken up and Senator Johnson, of Tennessee, addressed the Senate.

THE HOUSE discussed and re-committed to the Committee of Ways and Means the direct tax bill. The Senate bill appropriating \$2,000,000 to arm and organize loyal citizens in the Seceded States was passed. The President from motives of public policy declines to communicate the correspondence with foreign powers in relation to maritime rights and other subjects connected with the existing insurrection.

MONDAY, July 29th.—In the Senate a supplementary bill was passed authorizing the issue of \$5 Treasury notes. Mr. Trumbull, from the Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the memorial of the Board of Police Commissioners, and also of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, asked to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject. Mr. Bayard submitted an amendment granting to the memorialists their rights and the delivery of Marshal Kane to the civil authorities. After some debate the subject was postponed until to-day. The bill making provision for the purchase of arms, and also the tariff bill were considered and passed.

The bill laying an annual direct tax, which the House had had under consideration for several days, passed that body in a modified form by a vote of 77 yeas to 60 nays. Under the provisions of the bill as adopted the sum to be derived from direct taxation is reduced from \$30,000,000 as originally designed—to \$20,000,000—this amount to be apportioned among the States according to the population. The States are authorized to collect the money, and each to be allowed 15 per cent. on its quota for so doing. If a State decline to undertake the collection of said tax, then the Federal Government is to put into operation the machinery for the purpose. The Committee also add a tax on carriages of from one to fifty dollars; gold watches, and silver watches, fifty cents; excises on spirituous liquors, five cents per gallon, and on fermented liquors, sixty cents per gallon. All incomes over \$600 per annum, three per cent., including money at interest, &c.—The scope of internal duties has also been enlarged, and the tax on landed estates reduced. Every interest in the country is taxed in its fair proportion, including a tax on the net income of the banks, but not on their currency or bank circulation. Salaries, including members of Congress, are taxed. \$10,000,000 was appropriated for the purchase of arms for the Government service. A Senate bill, providing for the appointment of a Board to reduce the expenses of all officers in the service of the Government was adopted. Mr. Cox, of Ohio, offered a resolution based upon the duty of the Government to keep the door open for a peaceable adjustment of the national troubles, appointing a commission of one from each State to report certain amendments to the Constitution; and proposing the Hon. Edward Everett, Franklin Pierce, Millard Fillmore, T. Erving, James Guthrie, Martin Van Buren, and Beverly Johnson as members of a Special commission, to meet at Louisville in September next an equal number of representatives of the Southern Confederacy, and arrange the terms of an amicable settlement of the pending difficulties. The resolution was rejected.

TUESDAY, July 29th.—In the Senate the resolution legalizing certain acts of the President being under consideration, Mr. Pearce, of Maryland, spoke in opposition thereto.—The bill to suppress insurrection and sedition was taken up, and after some discussion was postponed.

The House passed a bill increasing the number of Cadets at West Point, and requiring the Cadets to take an oath of paramount allegiance to the United States. A bill increasing the number of Midshipmen in the Naval Academy was also passed. A resolution was passed proposing, with the consent of the Senate, an adjournment on Friday next. A bill appropriating \$1,200,000 for the construction of twelve steamers of light draft, to pursue privateers in creeks and rivers, was also passed. In the Oregon contested election case to seat was given to Mr. Shiel.

WEDNESDAY, July 31st.—The Senate laid upon the table the House resolution, proposing an adjournment on Friday. The other proceedings of the day were unimportant. The House passed a bill transferring the control of the United States Marshals and District Attorneys from the Secretary of the Interior to the Attorney General. Mr. May sought to introduce resolutions in relation to the Police Commissioners of Baltimore, but they were ruled out.

**FROM GEN BANKS' COLUMN.**

No Secession Troops in the Vicinity of Harper's Ferry.—Removed Approach of General Johnston.

SANDY HOOK, Md., July 31.—The camp is quiet and orderly to-day, and there are no indications of any Rebel troops in this vicinity. General Banks and staff are busily occupied in forming his army into brigades. The present position chosen shows a great degree of engineering skill by Captains Newton and Simpson. It commands Harper's Ferry, and easily and quickly can be made almost impregnable. Our batteries are all in position.

Some attention is being directed to Leesburg in consequence of the rumored approach of General Johnston with a large force.—Scouting and reconnoissances are actively kept up. The Ferry Railroad Bridge will be immediately rebuilt. [SECOND DISPATCH.] DEPARTMENT OF THE SENECA. SANDY HOOK, Wash'n Co., Md., July 31. The location of General Bank's division is, as before stated, at Pleasant Valley, between the mountain known as the Maryland Heights, abutting opposite Harper's Ferry, and a spur of the Blue Ridge terminating on the Potomac at the village of Knoxville, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, Pleasant Valley is a tall land plateau some two hundred feet above the Potomac, overlooking Harper's Ferry, Sandy Hook and Knoxville, and commanding the county road running from the former place toward Hagerstown and Frederick. The climate is salubrious and healthy, as evidenced by the almost unassailable. The location is nearly unassailable.

The number of troops here is being daily augmented by the arrival of new and well disciplined regiments, and in the meantime the commanding General and staff are busily engaged in organizing the army into Brigades and Divisions. With the exception of occasional music by some of the regimental bands, and the playing of the heavily laden army trains, the camp is apparently as quiet as a country village on a rainy Sunday. Few incidents transpire worthy of notice. Reconnoitering parties and scouts are on the alert at all hours, and it is impossible for the enemy to arrive in any force near enough to threaten us without giving us timely notice. The Commissariat and Quartermaster's Departments are efficiently officered, and active preparations are progressing.

The Rhode Island Artillery, which fought so bravely at Bull Run, arrived here this morning with their full battery, and have just been placed in position. There are but few of the three month men now remaining in this column, but troops for the war continue to arrive in large numbers.

There is no regular Post Office at Sandy Hook. Letters addressed to the officers and men of the regiments now stationed here would reach them with greater certainty by being sent to Knoxville, two miles below us.

The rumor of the approach of General Johnston towards Leesburg has induced General Banks to keep up a sharp lookout in that direction. From indications it is presumed his forces is not of the extraordinary dimensions at first reported.

Although it is presumed that the Confederate pickets range the hills opposite us, they have not yet made their presence manifest.

For the Columbia Spy. The Columbia Gas Company having recently discovered, that several meters have been tampered with—thereby rendering them unfit for use, it is deemed best to publish the following clause in the Charter, which will be hereafter strictly enforced, viz: That if any person shall willfully or maliciously do or cause to be done, a theft or act of violence, whereby any buildings, or any gas pipe, post burners, or reflectors, or any matter or thing pertaining to the same, shall be stopped, obstructed, injured, or destroyed, the person or persons so offending shall be considered guilty of misdemeanor, and being thereof indicted and convicted in the Court of Quarter Sessions, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding One Hundred Dollars, or imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both at the discretion of the Court. Provided such criminal prosecution shall not in any wise impair the right of action for damages by a civil suit, hereby authorized to be brought for any such injury as aforesaid, by and in the name of the said corporation, in any Court in this State, having cognizance of the same.

Wm. F. LLOYD, Sec. & Treas.

Columbia, July 31, 1861.

COLONEL LANDER.—At the battle of Rich Mountain Colonel F. W. Lander is said to have been, after General Rozeranz, the most conspicuous person on the field. He was there without command—yet he is a man that must command whenever there is battle. He saw the disposition of the men to fight single handed, and comprehending the necessity of concentration and the display of warlike skill, he lent his aid to form the troops by appeals, admonitions and vehement imprecations. After his horse was shot he leaped upon the top of a rock, presenting his broad martial form a conspicuous mark for the riflemen of the enemy; but he paid more attention to the burning bullets than if they had been rain. Many have said they constantly expected to see him fall. He wore his battle countenance that day, and it swept away that sad Iliad-like solemnity that mingles his features habitually. But he displayed none of the trappings of the soldier, but stood up a "natural general" in rough overcoat with slouched hat, and breeches stuffed into his boot tops—an excellent picture for Harriet Loric, Colonel Denton in his official report of the battle says—"Colonel Lander led the leaders into the fight."

OPINION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ON THE HABEAS CORPUS QUESTION.—In obedience to a resolution of the House of Representatives, adopted on the 12th inst., requiring a copy of the opinion of the Attorney General, mentioned in the President's Message, in reference to the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, Judge Bates has transmitted to the House a copy of his letter to the President of July 5th. It makes a pamphlet of about twelve pages, and is an able and elaborate argument. These were the questions.

First.—In the present time of a great and dangerous insurrection, has the President the discretionary power to cause to be arrested and held in custody persons known to have criminal intercourse with the insurgents, or persons against whom there is probable cause to suspicion of such criminal complicity?

Second.—In such cases of arrest, is the President justified in refusing to obey a writ of habeas corpus issued by a court or a judge, requiring him or his agent to produce the body of the prisoner, and show the cause of his capture and detention, to be adjudged and disposed of by such court or judge.

To the first question Judge Bates, after preliminary argument upon the relative powers of the several branches of the Government, says: I am clearly of the opinion that, in a time like the present, when the very existence of the nation is assailed by a great and dangerous insurrection, the President has the lawful discretionary power to arrest and hold in custody persons known to have criminal intercourse with the insurgents, or persons against whom there is probable cause for suspicion of such criminal complicity.

After proceeding to prove this position, as to the second question he says:—Having assumed, in answering the first question, that the President has legal discre-

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