



WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 1861.

The reported attack on Norfolk and its capture, with the loss of 600 men on our side, brought to this place on Saturday evening was without foundation. No attack took place, and no engagement was had. An attack was also reported to have been made by Gen. Butler on Sewall's Point on Saturday, which resulted in its capture with the loss of 84 men killed and wounded; that the enemy lost between three and four hundred killed and wounded; that many prisoners were also taken. This report, which even found its way into the Monday morning's papers, was also untrue.

The following letter of Secretary Cameron is published extensively and has thus far not been contradicted. If genuine it certainly is absurd. Why not let those fight who feel like it, and who will make volunteer soldiers, instead of making so unjust a discrimination?

GEN. SCOTT'S RECOMMENDATION REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS.

WASHINGTON, May 22.—The Secretary of War has sent to the Governors of the different States a circular, of which the following is a copy: WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, May 22, 1861. Dear Sir: By reference to the general orders, No. 15, of the War Department, (a printed copy of which I herewith forward to you, giving the plan of organization of the volunteers or forces called into the service of the United States by the President, you will perceive that all appointments of officers of these volunteers, from colonels down to second lieutenants, inclusive, are appointed by the Governor of the State.

Having that conferred to you the appointment of all these officers for the regiments furnished by your State, you will, I trust, exercise that department for impressing upon you, in advance, the necessity of an absolute adherence, in your appointments, to the following suggestions, which are deemed of the highest importance by the General-in-Chief, under whose advice they are submitted to you: First.—To commission no one of doubtful moral or political character, or of second hand rank.

FROM HARPER'S FERRY.

The Virginia lines of military reconnaissance have been pushed during the past week, from Harper's Ferry to Sheppardstown, ten miles above Harper's Ferry, and Williamsport, twenty-three miles above. At Sheppardstown there are three hundred men and three brass pieces. Pieces of artillery are stationed on the Virginia side of the river commanding the approaches to the town. The Williamsport force counted exactly seven hundred and twenty men. They expect six guns to-night, also tents, and one company of cavalry from Martinsburg; also six hundred Mississippians and Alabamians.

Sentries were stationed along the Virginia shore above and below Harper's Ferry, half a mile each way. There are no troops higher up the Potomac. It is believed by the military authorities that the Sheppardstown and Williamsport movements are feints.

The main movement from Harper's Ferry on southern Pennsylvania will be made as soon as offensive operations begin from Washington South or at Norfolk, along the country road leading from Harper's Ferry along Pleasant Valley, through Rohrer'sville, Boonesboro and Waynesboro.

I deem this opinion correct, as the Confederate leaders desire to avoid operations offensive to the people of Maryland. This is the shortest known road into Pennsylvania from Harper's Ferry.

The question of erecting a National Army to supply the place of the one destroyed at Harper's Ferry, will, it is thought, be disposed of at the approaching session of Congress. The selection of a proper place for it will be one of great importance. We expect that Lebanon, with its advantages superior to any other place in the Union, will make a vigorous push for the location. Let us lay our heads together and see if we cannot capture this great prize.

EDITORIAL SUMMARY.

The editor of the "Cleveland Plaindealer" says he has a "Half-Columbia" Democrat all his life, and proposes to die a "Yankee" in the "Yankee" cause. The "Huntingdon Globe" proposes to the Republicans of that county to ignore the coming fall election, and that party nominations be dispensed with in the selection of persons to fill the several county offices. The London Times says "we are still postponing the loyalists of 1775, when the conquerors in that war are destroying the works of their own hands."

The New York Herald says that several gentlemen who have held commissions in the Army and Navy have recently arrived from Canada, and tendered their services to the Washington Government. Col. Butler and command are now encamped at Fort Monroe. This fortress is the headquarters of the Department of the south, and about 10,000 men are now there. The dwelling of Hon. Asa Packer, at Manassas, was entered one evening last week and jewelry, money, &c., stolen therefrom to the amount of \$400. Gov. Curtin passed through this place last week on his way to Easton to make arrangements for the establishment of the Camp at that place. Last week the U. S. Steamer Monticello, had a skirmish with the battery at Sewall's Point, six miles from old Point Comfort, in Hampton Roads. But little damage was done on either side, and no lives lost.

The Postmaster General has issued an order to cut off all the steamship mails on the coast, and all the mails on river steamships plying to the second States. Mr. Crittenden has declined being a candidate for Congress at the ensuing election in Kentucky. The Confederate States received last week 10,000 stand of arms from Belgium. They were entered at New Orleans. The President has vetoed, and it is said will not, declare war against the Southern rebel States. So says papers that know a good deal. They apparently do not know that a general, as the power to declare war is exclusively vested in Congress by the Constitution.

The prices of flour are much firmer, owing to the large wants of the government, although the Eastern granaries are beginning to pour upon the East the great accumulations of last year's produce. In the European markets the prices are declining. Clement Brooks, Esq., an extensive iron master, died in Philadelphia, last week, aged 77 years. Hon. William A. Graham, of North Carolina, who ran for Vice President in 1852 on the ticket with Gen'l Scott, is delivering stump speeches in the tar, pitch and turpentine State in favor of secession. The Annual Meeting of the State Medical Society, which was to have been held in Pittsburgh, is postponed to the same time and place next year. John G. Steiker, of Reading, has been appointed Master of the Marine Yard at Philadelphia Navy Yard.

The "Light Artillery Company" is offered as follows:—Captain, Henry Nagle; 1st Lieut., E. L. Smith; 2d do., A. Seyfert. The new Company will serve as Infantry. The amount of Coal shipped over the Lebanon Valley Railroad, last week was 3,771 tons. The Berks County Agricultural Society have offered the use of their Fair Ground and Buildings to Government for the purpose of a Camp Ground. Mr. John Rhoads died in Anity tp., Berks county, on the 20th inst., aged 74 years. Pence and order again prevail at St. Louis. Tom Sawyer is coming to America via Havre and Ashing's "United States Circus," to take a tour through the States. Postmaster General Blair has issued an order discontinuing the mails in all the Seeding States, and annulling all the existing contracts for the same. The Pacific States—California, Oregon, and Washington, are unanimous for the Union. Secession can obtain no foothold on the Pacific coast. Late news from Europe contains a reiteration of the statement that England and France will not interfere in our domestic troubles. Large fleets will probably be sent to protect their commerce—but with no hostile intent. The southern Confederacy will not be recognized by any friendly power. North Carolina has formally seceded from the Union. On Tuesday of last week the ordinance of secession passed the Convention by a large majority. Notwithstanding the supposed unanimity of vote at the South, it seems that the Mississippians are mainly armed with bowie knives and Colt's revolvers, as are others from various parts of the South.

They charge six dollars a day at the Hotels in Washington for food and bed. Of the seven Governors of the free States, this side of the Rocky Mountains, who were called upon for troops, only one of them, Governor Sprague, of Rhode Island, put himself at the head of his quota for active service. That Governor is the only Democrat on the list. Thirty women were discovered in Ellsworth's Zouaves after the regiment arrived in Washington. They were sent home. Senator Douglas since his return to Chicago has been greeted by several of his friends with an elegant span of horses worth \$1,000. An exchange suggests that if there is no party now, there will be an "old party" in October. Perhaps Gov. Curtin will bear from it. The Southern papers urge in retaliation for the threatened confiscation of Senator Mason's property in Philadelphia, that the Confederate Government take charge of Senator Douglas' Mississippi plantation. A man was recently hung in Louisiana for expressing Union sentiments. A man was lately hung in Ulster county, N. Y., for expressing secession sentiments. Extremes meet, but neither of the men was hung. A woman in Loh, Ill., wishing to keep her husband from volunteering, cut off two of his fingers while he slept. The man says he will go to the wars anyhow. An old gentleman in Madison county, Indiana, has four sons in a volunteer company of that county. A German, who had deserted from the "Myerstown Rifles," was captured near Reading on Saturday morning. He was ploughing in a field. We do not think it worth while, in these times, to take an unwilling volunteer. A hired man by the name of Ketrer, in the employ of Eli Leinbach, in Bern township fell out of the over-shot of the barn on Saturday morning and broke his neck. It is 130 miles from Washington to Richmond, and 232 from Washington to Norfolk by way of Petersburg.

We scarcely pick up a Republican paper that does not abuse the Democracy as freely as ever, and at the same time threatens hanging to any Democrat that dares say a word about Republicanism. It strikes us that papers so anxious to bury party should be the first to take hold of the shovel to dig the grave. But while the Democracy are patiently submitting to such outrages, the time may come when they will give tit for tat, and if that time is to be postponed until the war now on our hands is settled for the Republicans to say. We desire to bury party at present, but unfortunately, the party-burying business is, like the handle of a jug, all on one side.

The suits of clothing furnished the 4th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers, cost \$17, and are not half as good as those of Rhode Island Regiment, which cost not \$8. The whole Regiment will have to be re-furnished. To say that this is wrong, would be treason in the opinion of many would-be patriots.

THE SWINDLE.

A "Native of York" writing from "Camp Scott" gives the following interesting account of the condition of the clothing furnished the soldiers by the State: I have now in my possession and shall leave at your office, for inspection, a shoe worn by one of our soldiers. It is a shoe of the best quality, and of the size of a large foot. It is a shoe of the best quality, and of the size of a large foot. It is a shoe of the best quality, and of the size of a large foot.

Such material as such a shambler the veriest slop shop in Chatham or South street never saw. With two fingers the cloth can be readily separated, and in many instances, the fibers can be seen protruding from the holes. It is a shoe of the best quality, and of the size of a large foot. It is a shoe of the best quality, and of the size of a large foot.

I saw a pile of blankets thrown outside the sanitary tent of one of the regiments, and one of which could be torn to atoms as readily as a sheet of brown paper. Held by the four corners, an ordinary plighted breeze would split them into shreds. It is a shoe of the best quality, and of the size of a large foot. It is a shoe of the best quality, and of the size of a large foot.

There are far from content with my idea of what a soldier's overcoat should be. The material is flimsy; the workmanship wretched. In some cases, several shades of color appear in the same coat. It is a shoe of the best quality, and of the size of a large foot. It is a shoe of the best quality, and of the size of a large foot.

The subjoined is an extract from a letter written by Senator Douglas to the chairman of the Illinois State Democratic Committee: I know of no mode by which a loyal citizen may so well demonstrate his devotion to his country as by the purchase of a Union uniform.

It is thought that the entire enlistment for three months in the war will be discharged at the expiration of that time. The three years' Regiments by that period will still be full, and the government will not break up the present organization by taking out the men willing to stand the long term. This is a hard arrangement for many. They would like to enlist for three years but cannot do so while their present enlistment lasts and at the expiration of that time their services will probably not be accepted for the reason above given—the Regiments being all full.

It is currently stated that Forney has entered the salt pork business, and lately sold a lot to the Government for \$19 per hundred that the soldiers sold was half rotten, for which Forney paid \$5. It is also said that a man in the employ of the Girard House, named Martin, has been buying blankets at the mills in this county, for \$1.25, and selling them to the Government for \$3. If these rumors are not true, they ought to be corrected. Del. Gazette.

The above in relation to Forney might and it might not be true. It has not yet been contradicted. In relation to the celebrated beef contract of George M. Lauman, the Press steps forward as its defender, and says that Lauman is one of four gentlemen who have it, and that they are going to hold government strictly to the contract, which, in connexion with the above creates a strong suspicion that Forney is also one of the four gentlemen. The beef contract is said to be worth half a dozen independent fortunes.

Lauman & Co.'s contract is for supplying the army with 20,000 beaves at 8 cents per pound, live weight—equal to fourteen cents per pound when slaughtered. The contractors expect to realize a net profit of \$600,000. It seems that in Ohio things are managed not much better than in Pennsylvania, if we may judge from the following article in the Cincinnati Commercial: THE POOLS IN HIGH PLACES. In the name of the people of Ohio, we demand the instant attention of the Governor to this matter. The fuss and circumstance of listening to the chatter of people who have no business to transact must be stopped. A time of war is not a succession of holidays in which the popinjays office are to amuse themselves and rustle their plumage and imagine themselves in discharge of an overwhelming amount of business, because they talk a great deal and assume in their insignificance to be in the pangs of a great performance.

OLD POINT COMFORT, is a Port village and watering place of Elizabeth City County, Virginia, 12 miles north from Norfolk, situated at the entrance of Hampton Roads, on the James river. The entrance is defended by Fortress Monroe.

NORFOLK, a city, and port of entry of Norfolk county, Virginia, is situated on the right or N. bank of Elizabeth river, 8 miles from Hampton Roads, 32 miles from the sea, 160 miles by water or 106 miles by land S. E. from Richmond. The river, which is seven-eighths of a mile wide, separates it from Portsmouth. Next to Richmond, Norfolk is the most populous city of Virginia. It has more foreign commerce than any other place in the state, and together with Portsmouth is the most important harbor in the Union.

ALEXANDRIA, a city port of entry and capital of Alexandria county, Virginia, on the right bank of the Potomac, 7 miles below Washington. The river, here one mile wide, forms a commodious harbor sufficiently deep for the largest ships. The city is pleasantly situated on undulating ground, with a fine view of the capital at Washington, and of the broad Potomac. The streets cross each other at right angles and are generally well paved and lighted with gas.

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