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Our flag is flying to the wild winds from the top of the mast of the ship.

THE WAR COMMENCED. Our readers will perceive from the dispatches published in another column, that some 10 or 12,000 U. S. troops crossed the Potomac river on Friday morning last, and took possession of Arlington Heights and the town of Alexandria, but with the loss of Col. Ellsworth, of the New York Zouaves, who was killed in the town. His assassin was promptly dispatched on the spot.

This movement of the Government—the invasion of Virginia—will doubtless at once bring on the crisis, as the Virginians all along have been threatening that they would do in the event of their Commonwealth being invaded by United States troops.

REPORTED CAPTURE OF SEWELL'S POINT. Reports were current on Saturday evening and on Sunday that Sewell's Point had been captured by Gen. Butler, with a loss of 84 men killed and wounded, while the enemy's loss was 400 killed and 600 prisoners.

THE RETURN OF VIRGINIA. The returns of the election in Virginia on Thursday last on the question of secession were in favor of the Union.

DISGRACEFUL. It is a burning shame upon this State, which has been proud to be honored as the Keystone State, that she is not better clothed and equipped for soldiers.

MILITARY APPOINTMENTS. Hon. Andrew H. Reeder, of this State, has been appointed a Brigadier General under the new call for troops to serve for three years.

GEN. SICKLES' BRIGADE. A correspondent of Forney's Press writes thus of the brigade which Hon. DANIEL E. SICKLES, of New York, has organized and commanded.

A SCREW LOOSE. We find the annexed brief but significant letter in the Harrisburg Telegraph of Friday Mr. FURVANCE has the reputation of being an honorable, high-minded gentleman, and we presume could no longer shut his eyes to the terrible system of plundering and peouling which is believed to be going on at Harrisburg.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE. Harrisburg, May 24, 1861. To ANDREW G. CURTIN, Governor of Pennsylvania: I cannot consent to continue any longer in connection with your administration.

According to the census of 1860, the number of males in all the free States, between the ages of 18 and 45, was 4,778,000, and the number in all the slave States was 1,665,000.

THE CHIEF OF THE WAR.

The Chicago Times says, a gentleman from Washington, whose opportunities for obtaining information are said to be ample, and who is deemed to be reliable authority, furnishes the Cincinnati Enquirer with the programme which the Government will pursue in the conduct of the war.

The Administration designs to reveal their policy as fast as they develop it, the programme, as published by the Enquirer, seems to have the warrant of the far probability of success.

The operations in the West will be delayed somewhat, for want of water material to operate with. The design of the Government is to have gun boats on the Mississippi, and occupy its west bank as they progress.

Northwestern Texas is to be invaded from Kansas, and the Union element said to exist in that portion of the State brought into sympathy and cooperation with the Federal Government.

Arkansas may also be troubled by the Southwest army, and by the fire thus kept up, the secessionists will be harassed and weakened.

Montgomery, it is said, will be Jim Lane and Montgomery, of Kansas notoriety. All this will be a blockade, from the Chesapeake to the Rio Grande, will be kept up, and all prisoners under the Confederate Government will be summarily dealt with.

When a notorious criminal is screened from the incarceration or death which the law intends for such a person, a gross wrong has been done to the community in which he is left at liberty to commit new crimes, and if trials were conducted in a more common sense way than usually are managed, crafty lawyers would not be able to procure the escape of undoubted offenders.

GEN. BUTLER IN WASHINGTON. Gen. BENJAMIN F. BUTLER, of Massachusetts, who is on command of the forces at Annapolis and Baltimore, arrived in Washington on Thursday night, and took apartments at the National Hotel.

HEAVY BLOWS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. The Chicago Evening Journal, a Republican paper, makes the following charge upon the "vultures" that are now following the army for the purpose of exhausting the treasury of the Government.

THE RELIGIOUS REASONER. This is the title of a new monthly, published in New York, and edited by Rev. J. S. Foster, of New York.

A MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR. About 5 o'clock, on Thursday morning last, a man was found lying on the sidewalk in front of the Orange street, with his throat cut, and the blood oozing from his wounds.

DEATH FROM MANIA PUTO. On Wednesday morning last, a man named James M. Putnam, of New York, was found dead in a room at the Hotel de la Ville, in New York.

BEWARE OF IMPOSTORS. We have just been informed, says Thursday's Express, that there are persons in the city who are offering to sell a new kind of paper, which they claim will be of great service to the Government.

WHAT WE FIGHT FOR.—The New York Times says:—The struggle is not, on the part of the North, for the overthrow of slavery. It is not an attack upon the institution of the South.

THE FIRST REGIMENT IN WASHINGTON. The First Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, which was organized at Harrisburg, has just arrived in Washington.

DEPARTURE OF TRAINS, AND CLOSING OF THE MAIL AT THE CITY POST OFFICE. The following are the times of the departure of the trains and the closing of the mail at the City Post Office.

U. S. HOTEL.—We paid a flying visit to Philadelphia last week and made our home with our old friend H. W. Kanaga, who is now at the U. S. Hotel, in Philadelphia.

GEN. WOOL AT FORT MONROE.—We learn from Hampton, that Major General Wool, who, under orders from the War Department, was directed to proceed to Fort Monroe to conduct operations there, arrived at Fort Monroe on Friday, and assumed the command under a salute from the fort.

A FEARFUL RETRIBUTION.

The account of a double murder and suicide has passed the rounds of the press, with scarcely a comment, although it contains matter which should engage the attention of every one who desires the security of life and property, and would wish to see criminal justice something more than the mockery which it appears to be; it is sometimes administered in our courts.

DEATH OF SOLDIER.—Private CHARLES H. WITTE, of Company K, 2nd Regiment, Maine Infantry, was killed in action at the battle of Bull Run, on August 31, 1861.

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LOCAL DEPARTMENT.

A SOLDIER SHOT.—On Saturday night last about 12 o'clock, a soldier belonging to Capt. Wainwright's company, 2nd Regiment, Maine Infantry, was shot by a young man named John P. Deane, who was a member of the same company.

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HIGHLY IMPORTANT!

INVASION OF VIRGINIA BY FEDERAL TROOPS! A passenger from Annapolis states that the Union's steam gun was brought there last night, and will probably be sent to New York.

Alexander, Arlington Heights and Fairfax County, Virginia, Occupied by Government Troops. The Washington National Rifle Club, Capt. Smead, at about two o'clock last night passed over Long Bridge, which is about a mile in length, and connects Washington with Arlington.

The Washington City National Rifle Club, Capt. Smead, at about two o'clock last night passed over Long Bridge, which is about a mile in length, and connects Washington with Arlington.

The Virginia pickets having been driven in by the advance guard, one of the regiments took the road leading to Fairfax Court House, about twenty miles from Washington, which another one of the New Jersey regiments stopped at the Forks, a mile from Long Bridge, to await further orders.

An advance into Alexandria was also made from another point, namely, the Potomac accented Georgetown.

The 7th New York regiment was among these troops, and after several hours march occupied a point between the bridge and Columbia Springs, on the Washington and Alexandria railroad.

It is understood that orders were issued yesterday for two regiments to proceed to occupy Alexandria, and it is stated at this time that Col. Ellsworth's Zouaves have crossed over in boats, and are en route to Alexandria.

THE PALATINE GUARDS.—This is an organization composed of about one hundred of the students of the Palatine Academy, in the city of Alexandria, who are organized for the purpose of defending the city in case of an invasion.

THE WASHINGTON GUARDS.—This is an organization composed of about one hundred of the students of the Washington Academy, in the city of Washington, who are organized for the purpose of defending the city in case of an invasion.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA MILITARY DISTRICT.—The District of Columbia military district did not return to Washington until half past six o'clock this morning.

THE ACCOUNTS FROM ALEXANDRIA.—The accounts from Alexandria are somewhat confused, but there is no doubt of the fact that a man named Jackson, who shot Col. Ellsworth, was instantly put to death; so says a reliable source.

THE DEPARTURE OF COL. ELLSWORTH'S REMAINS.—The remains of Col. Ellsworth were taken to Washington on Saturday last, and will be buried in the city.

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THE SPAY LAW.

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UPON ALL JUDGMENTS NOW REMAINING UNSATISFIED, OR WHICH MAY BE OBTAINED WITHIN SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF SUCH JUDGMENT, THERE SHALL BE A STAY OF EXECUTION FOR ONE YEAR.

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