

me to exercise it, and I write in no spirit of a criticism, but simply to explain the full difficulties that surround the enforcing it. If the enforcement of that order becomes the policy of the Government, I as a soldier, shall be bound to enforce it as strictly as I can. I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

In a loyal state I would put down a servile insurrection. In a state of rebellion I would confiscate that which was used to oppress my arms, and take all that property, which constituted the wealth of that state and furnished the means by which the war is prosecuted, beside being the cause of the war; and if, in so doing, it should be objected that human beings were brought to the free enjoyment of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, such objections might not require much consideration.

Pardon me for addressing the Secretary of War directly upon this question, as it involves some political considerations as well as property of military action.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

BENJAMIN F. BUTLER.

Decision of the Government.

Instructions to Gen. Butler regarding "Contrabands."

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11.—The following letter has just been despatched to Gen. Butler by the Secretary of War:—

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8, 1861.

GENERAL:—The important question of the proper disposition to be made of fugitives from service in States in insurrection against the Federal Government, to which you have again directed my attention in your letter of July 30th, has received my most attentive consideration.

It is the desire of the President that all existing rights in all the States be fully respected and maintained. The war now prosecuted on the part of the Federal Government is a war for the Union, and for the preservation of all the constitutional rights of States and the citizens of the States in the Union. Hence no question can arise as to fugitives from service within the States and Territories in which the authority of the Union is fully acknowledged.

The ordinary forms of judicial proceedings, which must be respected by military and civil authorities, will suffice for the enforcement of legal claims. But in States wholly or partially under insurrectionary control, where the laws of the United States are so far opposed and resisted that they cannot be effectually enforced, it is obvious that the rights dependent on the execution of these laws must be regarded as suspended, and it is equally obvious that the rights dependent on the laws of the States within which military operations are conducted, must be necessarily subordinate to the military exigencies created by the insurrection, if not wholly forfeited by the treasonable conduct of the parties owning them.

Under this general rule, the rights to services can form no exception. The act of Congress approved August 6th, 1861, declares that if persons held to service shall be employed in hostility to the United States, the rights to their services shall be forfeited, and such persons shall be liable to be employed in any way necessary to the service of the United States, and it is equally obvious that the rights to services of the military authorities of the Union to the services of such persons when fugitives.

A more difficult question is presented in respect to persons escaping from the service of legal masters. It is quite apparent that if persons held to service shall be employed in hostility to the United States, the rights to their services shall be forfeited, and such persons shall be liable to be employed in any way necessary to the service of the United States, and it is equally obvious that the rights to services of the military authorities of the Union to the services of such persons when fugitives.

Under these circumstances, it seems quite clear that the substantial rights of loyal masters, as well as fugitives from disloyal masters, into the hands of the United States, and employing them under such organizations and in such occupations as circumstances may suggest or require. Of course a record should be kept, showing the name and description of the fugitives, the name and character (as loyal or disloyal) of the master, and such facts as may be necessary to a correct understanding of the circumstances of the case. After tranquility shall have been restored upon the return of peace, Congress will doubtless properly provide for all the persons thus received into the service of the Union, and for a just compensation to the loyal masters. In this connection, it would seem, can the duty and safety of the Government, and the just rights of all, be fully reconciled and harmonized.

You will, therefore, consider yourself instructed to govern your future action, in respect to fugitives from service, by the principles herein stated, and will report from time to time, as the duty of the month, your action in the premises to this department.

You will, however, neither authorize nor permit any interference by the troops under your command with the servants of peaceful citizens in the house or field; nor will you, in any way, encourage such servants to leave the lawful service of their masters; nor will you, except in cases where the public safety may seem to require it, prevent the voluntary return of any fugitive to the service from which he may have escaped.

I am, General, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed.)

Secretary of War.

To Major General B. F. BUTLER, Commanding the Department of Virginia, Fortress Monroe.

Purge Washington.

We lately called attention to the remarkable fact, that while our plans in Missouri and in Western Virginia uniformly succeeded, every thing planned at Washington failed. We see that the same observation has been made in other quarters, and ascribed to the same cause—the prevalence of treason at the Capital.

McClellan has a hard work before him. He is to conduct a campaign in which a large portion of his plans will be divulged to the enemy. Such as he may confide to his own knowledge and that of Gen. Scott and his own staff, may be preserved secret, but such as come from the capture of the case, necessarily go into the departments. He will have to entrust to the hands of the Union men killed, plundered, beggarly, expelled from their homes, forced into the ranks, whose patience with the tolerance of treason to avoid dismissing office holders, who, in fact, deserve imprisonment if not worse.—Inquirer.

The Centre Democrat.

BELLEFONTE, PA.

Thursday Morning, Aug. 15th '61.

J. J. BRISBIN, EDITOR & PUBLISHER.

W. W. BROWN, ASSOCIATE EDITOR.

THE People's Party of Centre county, and those in favor of sustaining the National and State Administrations, the Constitution, the union of the States and the enforcement of the laws. Those who desire to see rebellion punished and our nation's honor vindicated, are requested to meet on Saturday the 24th day of August, in their respective Townships and Boroughs, at the usual places of holding elections, and choose by ballot, three delegates from each Township, whose duty it shall be to meet in County Convention at the Agricultural Room, in the Borough of Bellefonte, on Wednesday evening, the 28th, (Court Week), at 7 o'clock P. M., to nominate candidates for the several offices at the general election. The election for delegates to be opened at 4 o'clock P. M., and to be kept open until 6 o'clock of said day.

EDMUND BLANCHARD, Chairman of County Executive Committee.

Garibaldi.

The great Garibaldi has tendered his services to the Federal Government. The correspondence in which the offer was made and accepted took place between the American Consul at Genoa and Secretary Seward. The offer, of course, was accepted and the rank of Major-General tendered to the noble Italian.

A New Project.

There is a new project on foot for uniting Europe and America by a telegraphic cable by the way of Faroe Islands, Iceland and Greenland. The proposed line is the one originated by Col. Shaffner, who has obtained from the Danish government all the necessary concessions required for carry it into effect. It appears that the greatest depth between Orkney and the Faroe Islands is 255 fathoms, between the Faroe Islands and Iceland 682 fathoms, between Iceland and Greenland 1540 fathoms, and between Greenland and Labrador 2032 fathoms. The aggregate length of submarine telegraph by the proposed route will be about 1750 miles; land lines about 300 miles making a total of about 2050 miles.

Congress.

Congress adjourned on Tuesday the 6th, inst., after having been in session one month. In that short time it has accomplished as much work as is usually done at a regular session. It has authorized the enlistment of a million of men, if necessary; appropriated about \$300,000,000 for war purposes; virtually repealed the sub-treasury law; authorized the issue of treasury notes in sums of \$5, \$10 and \$20; confiscated the property of the rebels; levied a direct tax; modified the tariff; and enacted all the measures asked for the government for the suppression of the rebellion; and enacted a law increasing the pay of the soldiers from eleven to thirteen dollars per month, which comes up to the standard of Justice, and also affords additional inducements to volunteer. It has been an eventful session; its measures are fraught with the highest importance; and their effect upon the country will be felt for generations to come.

Gen. Butler.

We call the attention of our readers to the letter of Gen. Butler published on our first page. Gen. Butler was a Breckinridge Democrat, voted eighty times for Mr. Breckinridge in the Charleston Convention, and was the first man to secede from said Convention after the nomination of Stephen A. Douglas. He then followed the fortunes of Mr. Breckinridge to Baltimore, voted for him seven times more, and adhered to him until after the Presidential election.

If we were to say what Gen. Butler has written, the dough-faces of the North would call us an abolitionist. We care not what they call us, we say that Gen. Butler is right and we call upon the country to prepare for the next step this noble hero will take in favor of Universal Emancipation in the Rebel States. Let the conservative dough-faces of the North keep their eyes steadily fixed upon Gen. Butler.

A Sabbath Assault.

We are pleased to see that there is a general disposition, on the part of the religious press, to speak of the conduct of our army officers, in their desecration of the Lord's day, and that also there is a great degree of unanimity in condemnation of the impious. We would cherish no superstitious feelings, but we know that God's Kingdom ruleth over all, and that man's body needs rest and man's mind needs the influences of religion, and that God will hold man accountable for desecrating the sabbath day. We hope that the officers of the American Army will, hereafter have the fear of God in their hearts and never again, if at all avoidable, lead their men into battle upon God's Holy Day.

The American Presbyterian says of the assault at Bull Run.

"We are not among those disposed to carp at the Government, or to pick flaws in a policy which as a whole, is as wise and as vigorous; but we are compelled to join in the general protest against the initiation of active military movements on the Lord's day. There may have been a reason for the movement on the morning of the day of rest—the 21st of July—but we doubt it. On the contrary, it would seem that the week had been one of severe fatigue to our united volunteers. They had fought a battle and met with severe loss. They had marched thirty miles, through a desolate country, and under excessive heat. The enemy was but imperfectly comprehended, and a days repose would not, for aught we can see, have resulted in anything but advantage to our forces. The result, indeed, might have been unchanged; but the apprehension that we had perhaps offended the God of the Sabbath, would not have mingled a new drop of bitterness in the cup of disaster."

Whether defeat was sent to army of the North because they brought about the battle on the Sabbath, or not; one thing is certain that no attacking army can expect the Divine being to cause victory to perch upon its banners simply because they did fight on Sunday.

The Burning of Hampton.

The burning of Hampton is another of those remarkable 'acts of war' for which the rebels have become so famous. To destroy property appears to be their chief delight, and whether it be the property of friend or foe is a matter of indifference to them. At Martinsburg, on the Kenawha, and now at Hampton, they have incurred the just indignation of those who might otherwise have been their friends, by a wanton destruction of property, from which they cannot expect to realize the least benefit.

It is said that their excuse for burning Hampton is that they desired to prevent Gen. Butler from using it as Winter Quarters; but as there are no decided indications of the rapid approach of cold weather, it is not likely that the General had given them any reason to think that such was his intention. It is more likely that they intended to increase, if possible, the hatred of the South against the Federal troops, by boldly charging them with this act of incendiarism.

Who did it?

It is pitiable to notice the attempts of rival papers and rival parties to fix the blame of the late defeat upon each other. There never was an effect with so many direct causes. It was Greely—it was Scott—it was the President—it was Congress—it was Sunday—it was whiskey—it was hunger and thirst—it was rash valor—it was cowardice—it was volunteers—it was Patterson, McDowell, Miles and newspaper correspondents—it was the teamsters and heaven knows how many other persons and things, all of which allegations are just worthless. This panic is not without precedent. Defeat has endured a thousand times by the best causes without involving dishonor, and so now. The fact is there was a miscalculation of forces. Bull's Run was a great battle upon a large scale, and one of those apparently inevitable disasters from which a people will rise girded with more strength and certain victory.

Let us then abandon these fruitless discussions, thankful that the sacrifice was no greater, and once more rally for the fight with the recollection, (to kindle courage and nerve the arm) of the poor fellows so horribly mutilated by a foe who neither respects law nor indulges compassion. Who did it? will not need to be asked again over a defeat; when next it becomes the question of the nation it will be to ascertain the heroes to whom it owes deliverance, and whose brows are to be crowned with immortal laurels.

There Shall be No Alps.

Napoleon Bonaparte was about twenty-seven years of age, and had been married to Josephine only ten days, when he set out to assume command of the Army of Italy, and repair the reverses of Scherer. "Advance this young man," said Barras to one of his colleagues, "or he will advance himself with you." "In three months," said the young General, "I shall be either at Milan or at Paris." When told that the Alps were impassable, he declared, in the orders of the day, "There shall be no Alps." In less than a month he gained six battles, and before a year had elapsed, he had grown old in victory. We have placed at the head of the armies of the Union a young hero, who has already giving us quite as significant indications of his capability as had the Corsican artilleryman when the Directory sent him to Italy. He has begun to train for the future the material placed in his hands, and we believe the brilliancy of the result will justify the truthfulness of the parallel. He takes up the cause where a mortifying defeat has left it. He is conscious of the difficulties in his path, but by the energy with which he addresses himself to his mission, he proclaims his confidence in overcoming all obstacles, and by his every act declares—

"There shall be no Alps." Not only so, but he has electrified those around him with the same ardor, and it only remains for the Government and people to second his efforts, in order to make them successful. We are confident that masked batteries, incendiarism and murder may be met and overcome, and that though these obstacles may be accumulated in his way, and stand like mountains to oppose his triumphant progress, yet to the Napoleon of the West, as to the Napoleon of the East, "there shall be no Alps." Three months will tell the story, and Virginia must continue to yield to him, as did Italy to his prototype, a harvest of victories.—Phil. Inquirer.

An Important Question.—An exchange asks this question: "Would Gen. Washington have surrendered Maj. Andre to any writ of habeas corpus? The question suggests the answer.—He would not."

We commend these few lines to those tender-hearted secessionists, who are so exercised at the suspension of the habeas corpus to prevent the escape of traitors. They contain more reason than the speeches of both Breckinridge and Valandigham.

KENTUCKY.—Kentucky, in her recent elections, has gone overwhelmingly for the Union.

When this fact was announced by Hon. G. M. Wycliff in the House, tremendous applause broke forth, which was greatly aided by the rapping of the Speaker's hammer.—The recent son of Henry Clay (J. B. Clay) is defeated by his Union competitor, in Fayette county. A nephew of Gen. Anderson, the defender of Sumpter, is elected in Franklin Co., over a Secessionist.

A New York Zouave recently took a horse belonging to a rebel, and ever since has been much elated with his capture. A day or two since, the owner of the animal presented himself to the Zouave, and demanded the horse. "I have taken the oath of allegiance," said he, "and the horse is mine." "You may have taken the oath," answered the New Yorker, "but the horse has not, and I shall keep him till he does." There was no replying to this, and the Zouave kept his horse.

Ten Differences.—When Gen. Garnett was killed by our troops in Western Virginia, his body was taken care of, embalmed and sent home to his friends; but when Colonel Cameron was killed by the rebels the men sent after his body were imprisoned. "Cast not your pearls before swine, lest they turn again and rend you."

THE PRAYING CHRISTIAN SOLDIER.—On the Sabbath morning on which the battle of Lake Champlain was fought, the British Commodore sent a man to the mainmast to see what the Americans were doing on Commodore McDonough's ship. The look out told him that they were gathered about the mainmast, and seemed to be at prayer. "Ah," said Commodore Downie, "that looks well for them, but bad for us." And so it proved, for at the very first shot from the American ship, which was a chain-shot, the British Commodore was out in two and killed in a moment. Commodore McDonough was a man of prayer, and a brave as a lion in battle. He died as he lived, a simple hearted, earnest Christian.

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Movements of the Rebels.

WASHINGTON, August 11, 1861.

Intelligence was received here this morning, which explains the apparent inactivity of the Rebels since the battle of Bull Run.—According to these accounts, no sooner was it known at Richmond that Gen. McClellan had been withdrawn from Western Virginia, than it was determined to take advantage of that circumstance, to recover all that had been lost through the wonderful celerity and military genius of that remarkable man.

Accordingly, when the extent of our defeat was known to them, and when it became apparent that no forward movement from Washington would be made for some weeks, orders were issued for the recovery of their supremacy in Western Virginia. It was deemed advisable to take Gen. Joseph E. Johnston from his post near Winchester, and Gen. Lee was at once despatched towards Lee, with orders to make his headquarters at Staunton or Covington, and to operate in the direction of Cheat Mountain Pass and Beverly. A force of fifteen thousand men had been placed at his command, drawn principally from Charlottesville, Gordonsville and Staunton. It is said that he will be followed by Gen. Albert E. Johnston, with an army of twenty-five thousand men, more taken from Lynchburg. It is believed at Richmond that these forty thousand men, led by Johnston and Lee, will be able to drive the Union forces out of the whole of Northwestern Virginia, and to re-occupy that territory once more; but most woefully will they be mistaken. In order to prevent Gen. Banks from marching to the aid of Gen. Rosecranz and the Union men in that part of the State, Gen. Joseph E. Johnston will be kept near Charlottesville and Harper's Ferry and will, from time to time, make demonstrations as if about to cross the Potomac.

Such is an outline of the plan that the Rebels have framed to conceive.

The first intimations of this plan were received here some days ago, and it was stated at that time that the force under Gen. Lee had been taken from the troops at Manassas, and that Gen. Joseph E. Johnston had been detailed to co-operate with him. Later intelligence, however, shows that this is not so, and that the facts are as above stated.

The War Department is also in possession of intelligence, showing a design on the part of the Rebels, to bring up a strong body of troops on the railroad leading from Lynchburg, Petersburg and Richmond, land them at the terminus of that road, at the mouth of Aquia Creek, and then, in case an attack on Washington is resolved on, cross the Potomac at that point, and march on Washington from the South, while two other columns attack it, one from the direction of Fairfax and Arlington Heights, and the other from the North, along the left bank of the Potomac. I refrain from mentioning what disposition of troops have been made to meet this new move, should it be made. It is enough to say that Gen. McClellan is fully awake to all the vulnerable points at and near the capital, and has given his attention to them all. If the Rebels are confident enough to make the attack, they will be repulsed with heavy loss, no matter at what point the attack may be directed.

ANOTHER FIGHT IN MISSOURI.

THE REBELS ROUTED AND PURSUED.

QUINCY, Ill., August 8.—A band of Rebels, numbering from one thousand to twelve hundred, made an attack upon the cannon of the Union men at Athens Missouri, on Monday morning last, at five o'clock.

There was a considerable amount of arms and ammunition for the United States troops stored in this place, under guard of the troops composing this camp. United States volunteers, numbering about eight hundred and fifty, under command of Capt. Moore, the fighting lasted about an hour, when the Rebels retreated. In the meantime, Capt. Moore having been reinforced by about 150 men from Centralia, Iowa, the Rebels were driven back to the river, where they were killed for about a mile and a half, killing one of their number, taking eighteen prisoners, and capturing thirty-one horses and two Secession flags.

Several of the Rebels were wounded in the chase after the battle, and eight or eight Rebels were found dead on the field.

In the afternoon, the bearer of a Rebel flag of truce to the Union camp admitted that they carried off fourteen killed, and that as many were wounded and missing.

The Rebels were led by Martin Green, a brother of ex-Senator Iowa, and the Rebels were found dead on the field.

The Union men had three killed and eight wounded.

Athens is a small town on the extreme northeast of Missouri, on the Des Moines river, twenty-five of thirty miles west of Keokuk.

It is reported that the Union troops, having been further reinforced by two or three hundred troops from Iowa, marched in pursuit of the Rebels on Monday night, who were encamped eight miles from Athens. A fight has no doubt taken place at Athens, unless the Rebels ran.

LATEST FROM GEN. LYON'S COMMAND.

SPRINGFIELD, Mo., August 5th.—Our advices from Gen. Lyon's army are to Sunday last. The cavalry charge, heretofore reported, was made by a scouting party sent out to ascertain if the enemy were approaching after our troops had encamped for the night at Dag Springs.

Seeing a regiment of infantry coming along the road, the Lieutenant of the cavalry ordered a charge, which resulted in killing 30 of the Rebels and wounding 40.

The charge was not intended by General Lyon, and probably prevented the Rebels from attacking his main body, when they would have undoubtedly been routed with severe loss.

A large body of the enemy's cavalry, which had taken a position on the high ground to observe our position and strengthen their forces, were dispersed by a few shells from Totten's battery, wounding some thirty of them.

On Saturday morning our forces moved forward cautiously, and on approaching Caran, the Rebels, to the number of 3000, were seen posted on the hill side, southwest of that place. General Lyon immediately formed his army in battle array, and gave the order to advance.

As our army was approaching a piece of timber land to flank the enemy, Capt. Dubois's battery opened fire on the Rebels and they retreated in haste.

It is not known whether any of the enemy were killed by this fire. We did not lose a man.

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Important from Washington.

PRINCE NAPOLEON GONE TO RICHMOND.

WASHINGTON, August 9th 1861.

MOVEMENTS OF PRINCE NAPOLEON.

The departure of Prince Napoleon for Richmond has caused intense excitement here. It is said that his intention to go to Richmond was not expressed until after the cortege had started. It is known that he intended to go to Fairfax, and it was supposed that, once there, he might desire to visit the battle field at Bull Run. But it was thought that the enemy would not permit the Prince and his suite to penetrate the mysterious labyrinth of the masked batteries of Manassas, and that he would return, as usual in the evening; therefore, when the Prince intimated his wish to visit Fairfax, two companies of cavalry were detailed by Gen. McDowell to escort him out of our lines.

The companies were for some time in front of the Presidential mansion early in the morning, and were reviewed by the President. They then proceeded to the French Minister, and the Prince's party being in readiness, the cortege at once started. As the Prince entered the carriage he remarked, in a jocular manner, in reply to some observation of a member of the corps diplomatique, "that he might possibly go as far as Richmond." The carriages were preceded and followed by the cavalry, whose clanking sabres, dancing plumes and shining accoutrements were seen flashing in the sunlight miles ahead.

When the cabinet met for matters in reference to and discussed. It is understood that more than one member of that body expressed, in strong terms, his regret that the Prince and his suite had been thus allowed to visit the enemy.

It must be remembered that, for the last ten days, the most important military movements have been made here: the Prince and all the members of his suite have been allowed to examine all the defensive works on the other side of the river, and are well informed as regards the plans and disposition of our army, and that during all that time the utmost vigilance has been exercised by Gen. McClellan and his staff, in preventing any intimation of these movements from being conveyed to the enemy. Of what avail, it is now asked is it to exercise this care, and to refrain from publishing army news, if a party of Frenchmen are allowed to carry the whole particulars into the enemy's camp?

TRUENESS WITH FOREIGN POWERS.

I telegraphed to you last night that Lord Lyons had laid before the President a written statement of the number and names of the vessels that had passed the blockade of the Southern ports, with the declaration that England could not regard such a blockade as conducted in such a manner. I now learn that the French Minister joined with Lord Lyons in the communication; and that it was, indeed, a joint paper, in the nature of a protest, on the part of the representatives of France and England, against such an effectual attempt to blockade the Southern States. It cannot be denied that this matter has now assumed a very grave aspect.

The presence on our coast of a powerful English and French fleet, shows that these nations are in earnest in this matter; and it is in itself an insult that we would not submit to in ordinary times. It is idle to doubt any longer the hostile intentions of these two powers.

England sees in the present distracted condition of the country, the opportunity she has long waited for to humble our national pride; and the French Emperor will join hands with her in the attempt for the reasons indicated in a former letter of mine.

The facts contained in the communication of the English Minister cannot be denied. The blockade has been notoriously ineffective, and therefore no blockade at all. In my letters of July 24 and 25th, I stated that I had then learned to be the designs of the English and French Governments, in the premises; and the event shows that those statements were correct. But you are aware that within a few days past new life and energy has been infused into the Navy Department by the promotion of Captain Fox to be Assistant Secretary of the Navy. I am informed to-day that it is his intention to make the blockade effective, if he is to charter a thousand vessels to do it with.

The Pirates of the Petrel.

The Rebel vessel, in this case, was the private Petrel, for the purpose of the General Aiken. The captor was the United States frigate St. Lawrence, and the remainder of the pirate crew is safely ensconced in the country prison, on Passapatan road.

The vessels came within speaking distance and a man in uniform was seen mounted upon the pirate's deck, and through a splinter in the St. Lawrence's side, and by swimming a couple of streams reached the Petrel.

On Tuesday night they advanced towards Hampton, and at noon yesterday took up a position on Back river, some three miles from town, where Mayhew managed to escape through a corbelled and by swimming a couple of streams reached the Petrel.

He says the object was to draw out the federal forces to attack Camp Hamilton, near Newport News, if practicable, and at least destroy Hampton, so as to prevent us from using it as winter quarters.

Gen. Butler at once repaired to the end of Hampton bridge, where he remained until 11 o'clock.

Col. Weber erected a barricade at the Hampton side of the bridge, and placed a strong guard at various points on this side of the creek.

A few minutes past midnight, General Magruder