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Pittsburgh Gazette.

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TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

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RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

A correspondent of the *Christian Times*, narrates how Bishop Polk became a general, from which it appears the Bishop went from Louisiana to Richmond, some months after the rebellion was inaugurated, to advise in regard to the defence of that State. In conversation with the rebel chief, Jeff. Davis, on the subject he was startled with the remark: "Bishop Polk, you are the very man to undertake this defence—your military knowledge fits you for it, and your accurate knowledge of the locality marks you as the man. If you will undertake it, I will make out your commission as Major General at once." The Bishop spoke of his sacred calling. Davis urged and advised him to consult with Col. Lee of Va., whom he represented as a good christian man. Col. Lee called upon Bishop Polk voluntarily, without any knowledge of his having had an interview with Davis, to persuade the Bishop to take some command in the South. The Bishop then related his interview with Davis, and said: "I regard this coincidence as providential, that if you advise it, I will accept the commission and enter upon the duties without delay." Thus the Bishop became Major General of the Rebel army.

——During the sittings of the Special Conference of ministers and elders of the National Reformed (Protestant) Church in France, M. Guizot, the great historian and eminent writer, distinguished himself by the firmness of his faith, and by his energetic protests against the new schools. Guizot proposed a declaration of principles which obtained 141 votes against 23. The principal clause of this expression of the Evangelical party declares, "We have full faith, 1st, In the supernatural power of God in the government of the world, and especially in the establishment of the Christian religion; 2d, In the divine and supernatural inspiration of the Holy Word, as well as their sovereign authority in religious matters. 3d, In the eternal divinity and miraculous birth, as well as in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, God-man, Savior, and Redeemer of men. We are convinced that these articles of religion, are also those of the Reformed Church, which has plainly acknowledged them." . . . The speech of Guizot in advocating the declaration, was evangelical, decided, eloquent.

——The *Bibliotheca Sacra* contains an article on "Charles Wesley's Hymns," which begins in the January and is completed in the next (April) number, by Rev. Frederic M. Bird, a Presbyterian clergyman of Philadelphia. Such catholicity of spirit for this great hymn writer of another denomination, is commendable. He says, in terms of rare beauty: "No hymns were ever so autobiographic and historical. They groan under the mortal anguish of repentance; they throb and quiver with the throes of the new birth; they swell with the triumphs of faith, the full glories of a present salvation. The whole vitality, not only of the poet, but of his people and the Lord, is in them. The life-blood of the time flows through them; they are big with the great awakening which turned the world upside down."

——Since our notice of the Presbyterian Book of Common Prayer, some days since we learn the material points in which this edition of this Prayer Book differs from the Episcopal one—1st. The adoption of the English Communion Service, instead of the one in use by the Protestant Episcopal, with a few variations. 2d. The permission of liberty of posture at the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. 3d. The rejection of sponsorship in the Baptismal Service. 4th. The omission of the term "regenerate" in Baptism. 5th. The substitution of the Westminster Shorter Catechism for the one in use by the Episcopal Church in this country. 6th. The substitution of a rite of "admission" to the communion, to be administered by the pastor, for that of confirmation.

——The Emperor of Russia has presented a copy of the Sinaitic Manuscript, found some years ago in the old convent of Mt. Sinai, to the Otterbein University, at Westerville, Franklin Co., Ohio. It is bound in four volumes, large folio, containing the whole of the New Testament, and large portions of the Old, together with other valuable ancient writings. It is the oldest manuscript of the New Testament in existence, and the only one that contains it entire. There are only six copies of it in the United States.

——The *N. Y. Advocate*, in referring to the High Church party in the Church of England, says they are imitating the Roman Catholics, in "Retreats for Meditation and Prayer." The Annual Retreat is to be held at at St. Augustine's College, Canterbury, during four days of the first week of July. The Retreat at Cuddeston will be a little later; that at Ditchingham about Michaelmas. A Retreat is also held for a single day in each month, with some few exceptions, in London. The experiment has been tried during the last six years.

——Recent intelligence from Japan is of an encouraging character, in regard to religious progress in that far off land. Among the significant facts, is the favorable policy of Ichisen No Kami, a powerful Daimio, who argues that if the Christian religion should be excluded, for the same reason the doctrines and teachers of Buddhism should have been banished, as they are equally of foreign origin. Kami is in favor of unrestricted intercourse with foreign nations, and in favor of progress generally.

——The General Assembly of the Established Church of Scotland, after a long discussion on certain inovations—reading of prayers from a printed book, kneeling at prayer, standing at singing, and the using of harmonicum, refused to take action, consequently ministers and congregations are left free to act according to their consciences.

——The late General Conference of the M. E. Church appointed a delegation to the General Conference of the Evangelical Association, to bear its fraternal greetings. The doctrines and economy of the Evangelical Association are said to be not much unlike the M. E. Church.

——A new Presbyterian Church has just been dedicated in Portland, Oregon. On the Monday following the pews were rented for $8,500, leaving some fifteen for future disposal. Mr. Atkinson, of the Congregational Church, preached the dedication sermon.

——The corner stone of the building of Ottawa University was laid sometime since with appropriate exercises. The institution we learn is to be under the control of the Baptist denomination.

——The next annual meeting of the United States Universalist Association will be held in Concord, New Hampshire, about the middle of next September.

London increases at a rate regulating an addition of 500 churches every ten years.

A Word of Caution.

In dark times there are always swarms of enterprises started, which hold out the most extravagant promises of profit, in order to induce people to invest their money in them. Immense sums of money have thus been swallowed up in concerns, very many of which, we fear, are destined to become unfortunate, not altogether through mismanagement, but in consequence of the financial perils of the times. So long as there were no dangers at hand we were content to pass these things by, because then investments of that kind were not perilous, and men could realize by throwing their stocks upon the market, where rates kept steadily rising. But now it is a season of real peril. The financial crisis which is upon us may be put off, but it may not, and in the latter case all new investments must suffer heavily.

The country will be injured by any new batch of speculations, and all good men should frown upon them at once. This expansion must be arrested, or the consequences will be disastrous to all alike. Those who want to know what to do with their money, need only look to the government securities. There is no risk about them. Let them by all means be preferred to any corporation stock that may be started. When the crash comes, as we fear come it must, despite all we can do, those who have their money in U. S. bonds will be safe and sure of their income; but as to the vast multitude of mining and other fancy stocks created during this expansion, who can fail to see that their operations must be arrested by the stringency in the money market? Let their mines be ever so real, (and many of them, we know, are mere moonshine,) it requires money to work them, and all experience in past crises has shown that these very profitable companies go by the board quicker than any other.—*North Amer.*

The Danville Railroad—A Matter of Life or Death.

The following paragraph from the Richmond *Examiner* of July 16, shows that the rebels have not yet restored the Danville Road, which was so thoroughly destroyed by Gen. Wilson:

"We learn from victims that the country people in the vicinity of the *bacon* on the Danville Railroad are deriving a great business by running their old broken-down carryalls and carts for the convenience of passengers between the points on the road not traveled by the trains. Fifty, seventy-five and even one hundred dollars is the charge per head for a distance of less than twenty miles, over a road that is roughest than that which meanders through purgatory."

The "local" column of the *Examiner* furnishes the following facetious item:

"For the first time in our varied experience, we saw, on Tuesday, a barrel of flour hauled up Government street in a hearse! The public, stared but the driver drove on. When we came to recollect that flour was five and six hundred dollars per barrel, and that the struggle for bread was one of life and death, we better appreciated the connection between the hearse and the barrel of flour."

The Drought in New England.

The Springfield (Mass.) *Union* says: "The drought interferes with the railroad men quite as much as it does with the farmers. The wells give out, and the station water tanks, on which the locomotives depend for a supply of water, are filled with difficulty. At Palmer, the tanks are filled from the river by bringing the water in buckets, to water twenty, though one of the city steamers has been out there, and did good service in pumping. This state of affairs exists both East and West. A party from this city, returning from Pittsfield, a few days since, found the brooks so dry that the trout had gathered in the holes, and were caught without much trouble. Fires occurring in greater numbers are not easily stopped. The Western people are quite troubled in this way, for all attempts to burn over land where the wood has been cut off are at the risk of burning crops of grass and grain. The Connecticut river, opposite this city, is lower now than it has been before this season, though still a few inches above low water mark."

A Mandarin Among Us.

The Springfield *Republican* states that Yung Wing, a young Chinese, who graduated some ten years since at Yale, has recently returned to this country with the rank of Mandarin, and a commission from the Imperial Government, empowering him to inspect and purchase machinery of various kinds, with the view of introducing into China, the modern improvements in science and arts made by the Western nations, and especially by our own. The Mandarin is at present the guest of Dr. McLean of Springfield, and is spoken of in high terms as a man remarkably adapted to execute a commission so interesting and important, and which evidently marks an era in Chinese history.

The Number of our Sick.

There are now about fifteen thousand sick and wounded soldiers in the various hospitals around Washington. The total number of patients in all the hospitals throughout the country is about ninety thousand. In the camp hospitals it is estimated there are about fifty thousand, making a total of one hundred and forty thousand soldiers incapacitated for duty.

The disease most prevalent now in the army is diarrhea and dysentery. The Washington hospitals are being cleared of the slightly wounded and convalescents, who will be sent North immediately. Every bed that can possibly be vacated will become so before the end of the week.

MAJOR JAMES H. LANE, of the 51st U. S. colored troops, was recently tried by court martial, at the Ninth Army Corps headquarters, upon the charge of cowardice and conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman, and sentenced "to be cashiered, with the loss of all pay and allowances now due or to become due him, his shoulder straps and buttons to be cut off and his sword broken in the presence of his regiment, he thereafter to be confined at hard labor at the Dry Tortugas until the expiration of his time of service."

THE Troy *Whig* has the following remarkable story: "South Troy is just now agitated by the stories told about a child that talked at birth. It prophesied that a comet was coming in a few weeks, and was going to give us a terrible drought, and that in consequence of its disarrangement of atmospheric laws there would be a five years' famine. The war was to end next year, according to the inspired baby's prophecy. There are numbers who have seen the talking child, and insist upon the truth of these stories."

THE Nashville *Union*, in announcing the arrival of 400 rebel prisoners in that city says: "We saw a large number of young lads, apparently fifteen or sixteen years of age, among them. Many of them were stout, vigorous men, and all as filthy as scavengers. They were the dirtiest fellows we ever saw."

A Curious Story—An Illinois Colonel Visits Jeff. Davis.

The *Times* prints the following story, which is corroborated by a dispatch to the *Tribune*, relating that Col. Jacques and his companion had just returned from Richmond:

"An individual fresh from Richmond, not as a released prisoner, but an honored guest, entertained for three days in the capital of the Southern Confederacy, feasted, by Jeff. Davis, Benjamin and their compeers, having around him the romance and the mystery of an unknown mission, and knowing the secrets of the rebel prison-house, is *rara avis* enough to make a sensation even amid the loafers and languid host of a Washington summer's day. Such a personage, bringing with him all the experiences enumerated, arrived here to-day direct from Richmond, by way of Gen. Grant's headquarters. His name is Col. James F. Jaques, of the Seventy-third Illinois volunteers. Colonel, but parson also, being a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Though neither envoy nor ambassador, Col. Jaques had a mission of his own, clothed with no authority to speak for either President or government, he appears to have had authority enough of some kind to command a hearing from the principalities and powers that sit in Richmond; in fine, without being a plenipotentiary, he seems to be endowed with a certain species of power behind the throne that caused him to be attentively listened to and kindly treated by the chiefs of the rebellion.

CHARACTER OF HIS MISSION.

"Of the real object and end of Colonel Jaques's mission, I am requested by himself not to speak. It is perfectly proper to state, however, that it is no respect official in its character, and that he had no warranty whatsoever to enter into any negotiations between this government and the rebel authorities. A statement that would convey a different impression is false. Secondly, it may be stated that though Colonel Jaques's mission contemplates results of the highest importance, these results are ulterior rather than immediate. Finally, it is warrantable to say that, though his mission was one of peace, it was not a peace mission. Colonel Jaques belongs to the church militant, and believes most heartily in the doctrine of the Hebrew Hudibras calls "apostolic blows and knocks." Yet he has faith that the time will come, and is rapidly coming, when an agency of reconciliation, which he believes to be of immense power, can be used.

"Animated by this sentiment, he succeeded in so impressing his views upon Mr. Lincoln that the President, without according him the special official recognition or authority, was willing, believing his honesty of purpose, that he should try the experiment of a visit to Richmond. Accordingly he gave him a personal recommendation to General Grant, although the time, or otherwise forward his views.

COL. JACQUES GOES TO RICHMOND.

"Thus aided, Col. Jacques, accompanied by Mr. Edward Kirke, made his way from Gen. Grant's headquarters to the north side of the James river, and passing the rebel lines, reached the rebel capitol. Here they remained three days, Saturday, Sunday and Monday last. While in Richmond, Col. Jacques, at his own request, was placed under guard; but he had the entire freedom of the city, and put up during his visit at the Spottswood House, the 'crack' hotel of Richmond.

INTERVIEW WITH THE REBEL PRESIDENT.

"The Colonel, during his three days' stay, visited the various Confederate authorities, as well as the prisons and hospitals in which captives and wounded are confined. He had two prolonged interviews with President Davis in his office in the Custom House; and although the nature of the subject matter of the conversations between himself and the rebel President are not proper for present publication, yet it is understood that Colonel Jaques met with considerable success in impressing his views upon Mr. Davis. When taking his leave, Davis took the Colonel's hand in both his, shook it warmly and cordially, and stated that, leaving out of view the present struggle, he had the highest respect for his character and aims.

HOW THE COLONEL WAS ENTERTAINED.

"The Colonel, while a guest at the Spottswood House, fared sumptuously, being fed on chicken, turkey, mutton, and all the viands of a well-appointed hotel, and entertained with fine brandies and costly wines. His bill would have amounted to more than $500 in Confederate money, but he found it impossible to induce his entertainers to accept any return for the hospitality he had received.

HE VISITS VARIOUS DIGNITARIES.

"Colonel Jacques also had interviews with Mr. Benjamin, Secretary of State, Mr. Ould, Commissioner of Exchange, and other Confederate dignitaries and authorities.

THE REBEL PRISONS.

"The Colonel was permitted to visit the Libby and Belle Isle prisons, and reports that he was agreeably disappointed by the comparatively comfortable condition in which he found our Union captives therein confined. The wounded, also, though only the more desperate cases, are retained in the hospitals of Richmond, he found as well cared for as could be expected.

HOW RICHMOND LOOKS.

"The streets of Richmond are almost deserted, few others being seen than soldiers, women, negroes and cripples. Many of the stores, however, remain open, and there is some business activity.

THE REBEL PRESIDENT.

"Colonel Jaques describes Jeff Davis as hale and hearty in appearance, his health being much better latterly than it had been, and, though thin to face and person, the tough and wiry constitution of the rebel chieftain presents no likelihood of his giving out during the natural life of the rebellion.

CHARACTER OF COL. JACQUES.

"Extraordinary though Colonel Jaques' story, his manner and all belonging thereto may appear, there can be no doubt whatever of his thorough honesty; and with this quality he appears to be credited by our own and the rebel authorities. Of his wisdom there may possibly be more question.

WHO IS COLONEL JAQUES?

The New York *Post* answers this question:

Colonel James F. Jaques, of the Seventy-third regiment Illinois volunteers, was before the war a well known Methodist preacher in the State one of whose regiments he has since commanded. He is a straightforward, honorable and patriotic citizen. The Governor of Illinois suggested to him, at a time when volunteers were not coming in very fast, to use his influence to raise a regiment of troops for the war. The preacher went home, he said, to "try what he could do," having three months to work in. He sat down in his study and wrote a letter to every preacher in his conference, urging each one to help him in the project of obtaining men enough for a regiment, and informing them that he would command it. The result was that in two months he raised not one but two full regiments, and in the one which he commanded, every captain, it is said, was also a Methodist preacher.

Colonel Jacques was sent with his men to the Army of the Cumberland, where he fought under the eye of General Rosecrans, who, as we have reason to know, thought highly of him as an officer, and found him useful in the management of certain religious questions which came up in Tennessee, and in the arrangement of which we believe Colonel Jacques has been for some time engaged.

THE Copperhead papers have been howling for several weeks over the lie that Col. Bowman, Superintendent of West Point Academy, had been dismissed because he permitted Gen. McClellan to deliver an oration there at the dedication of a monument. It is hardly worth while, perhaps, to refute such an absurd calumny, but we are desired by a correspondent to state that over six months ago the removal of Colonel Bowman was determined on, and Gen. Wright received official notification of his appointment as Superintendent of the Point. This appointment was distasteful to Gen. Wright, and the order for him to report at West Point was held in abeyance. The fact of the appointment of General Wright in his place was communicated to Col. Bowman, after which he was in daily expectation of receiving an *order* for him to report elsewhere. On the death of Gen. Sedgwick, Gen. Wright was ordered to take command of his corps, and is now in the field. It therefore became necessary to appoint some other officer as superintendent, and Gen. Tower was so appointed, he being incapable of active service by reason of wounds. And so Gen. McClellan had no more to do with Col. Bowman's superseding than he has with a hundred other trifles into which his foolish friends are constantly dragging him. And while we are about this matter, we may as well add that the next eclipse of the sun will not be owing to the President's removal of Gen. McClellan, notwithstanding the assertions to that effect already agreed upon by the General's admirers. The eclipse was actually arranged before McClellan was born, and without the slightest reference to that prospective event.—*New York Tribune.*

OPINIONS differ as to the nutritive value of sugar as an article of diet. A correspondent says "the experiment has often been tried of feeding sugar to dogs, cats, hogs, sheep, and other animals, but the result has uniformly been—*starvation*. Sugar is not food, but only an element of food. If chemical analysis teaches that we should eat sugar, it also teaches that we should eat gum and starch. If we can do without gum and starch, we can also do without sugar. Only the elements which contain nitrogen are said to be capable of being transformed into the substance of the body. It contains no nitrogen. It cannot be converted into bone or muscle. It is strange that the Almighty should make a mistake in this matter. If the chemists are right, He omitted the proper proportion of sugar in our food. But not so. Wheat, rye, oats, corn, rice, potatoes, beets, grapes, apples, pears, peaches, etc., contain all the lime, iron, sulphur, phosphorus, nitrogen, carbon, oxygen, etc., and all the gluten, gelatin, albumen, fat, starch, sugar, etc., that is necessary—and that, too, in precisely the proper quantities. The natural food of man is just the thing. We have no reason to desire a change in its chemical quality. If we are and prepare it right, its physiological effects will be right.

THE bounty jumpers and the bounty brokers are having a sorry time of it. The military authorities are after the first, and the civil authorities are trying to break up the second class of impostors. The arrangement in this city through which the volunteers are paid their bounties by a committee of reputable citizens entrusted by the city authorities with that duty, works admirably. This committee goes to the camp where the men are sworn in and pays them their bounties directly, as they answer roll call, or pays the money to the wife or other female relative, as the recruit may authorize. No one who can get the money put into his hands two parties. The arrangement is not only an excellent one for the recruit, securing him all his bounty, but it is an economical one for the city. The committee in paying out about $25,000 a few days ago, reported about $1400, as there were no recruits to answer for this amount. When it was customary to send the bounties to the regiment for the officers to distribute, there never was a return of a dollar, though in every regiment there were some of the recruits who failed to keep their engagement at the final call.—*Phil. Ledger.*

UNION PRISONERS IN ANDERSONVILLE, GEORGIA.—The number is now over twenty-seven thousand, and has been almost daily increasing. An addition of five acres has recently been made to the enclosure, but even with this it is already too much crowded, and the commandant is endeavoring to receive no more. The mortality is considerable, being generally from fifty to sixty a day. A change of state of affairs seems to prevail among them, wholly of a domestic character of their own. There has been thieving, fighting and murder, and it seems some of them have damages from the others, about ninety have to be kept outside the walls, under guard. It is said that several will be hung by their comrades for the murders committed.—*Macon Ga. Journal and Messenger.*

MR. AIKEN, the wealthy proprietor of the estate on James River known as Aiken's Landing, which was formerly used as the base of Exchange, who has lately been suspected of violating his parole in favor of the rebels, was recently detected by the following plan: A man on one of the gunboats went to Aiken's house, pretending that he wanted to desert the enemy, and asked Aiken's assistance to help him within their lines. Aiken readily acceded to the offer, and was caught. The arrest was effected by J. W. Sanderson, of the Third Regiment Pennsylvania Artillery, and was successfully carried out. It is believed that Aiken has been in the habit of passing people through our lines.

THE HAY CROP.—The effect of the drought now prevailing in some portions of this State and the East, upon some of the crops remains to be seen. If we do not have rain soon, they will doubtless be injured. The effect upon meadows and second growth of grass is bad. But the hay now being gathered is worth much more than last year. Two loads now will go farther than three then. It seems to then that cattle could not be fed enough, the stalks were so coarse, heavy and hollow. The quality now is superior, and our first dairymen inform us is worth much more than the crop of last year. The effect of the drought upon other crops can be better told when they come to be harvested.—*Alb. Exc. Journal.*

AN English savan argues that a "day in the moon" equals fourteen of our days. It begins with a slow sunshine, followed by a brilliant sunshine and intense heat (about 212 Fahr.); the sky is intensely black, there being no atmosphere like ours, to which blue sky is due. The stars are visible, and the horizon is limited; there is dead silence; the cold in the intensely black shadow is very great; and there is no aerial perspective. Thus the moon is no place for man, or any animals or vegetables that we know of. The "night of the moon" (fourteen of our days) begins with a clear sunset, which is followed by intense cold—about 354 degrees below zero.

PROF. LOOMIS, of Yale College, communicates a table to the New Haven *Palladium*, showing the days in every year since 1788 on which the mercury rose above 93 degrees. From this table it appears that Sunday, the 19th ult., was the hottest day experienced in New Haven for the eighty-five years covered by the record, the thermometer on that day marking 103 degrees in the shade. Only on four other days of that period did the heat reach 100 degrees, viz: July 5th, 1781, 100 degrees; July 22, 1793, 101 degrees; July 3d, 1793, 101 degrees; July 7th, 1850, 100½.

THE number of rebel prisoners now in our hands is semi-officially said to be upward of 62,000, of which about 4000 are officers. The various depots at which prisoners are confined are becoming so crowded as to render the establishment of others necessary. The Commissary General of Prisoners is now at Elmira, New York, superintending the removal of prisoners from Point Lookout to that place. The barracks there are expected to accommodate 13,000 men.

MERCHANT TAILORS.

GENTLEMEN, WISHING FIRST CLASS GARMENTS, made in the MOST FASHIONABLE and LATEST STYLES, would do well to call upon H. G. HALE & CO., MERCHANT TAILORS, CORNER OF PENN AND ST. CLAIR STREETS. Before purchasing elsewhere. ap22

BISSELL'S BLOCK. W. H. McGEE, 10 ST. CLAIR STREET, Would call the attention of buyers to his stock of goods. It has been selected with great care, and contains all the newest styles of goods to be found in first class houses. Gents wishing a suit of clothes made to order, will please call and examine our goods and prices. Also, a full and complete stock of *Furnishing Goods.* W. H. McGEE, Merchant Tailor, No. 10 St. Clair street, Pittsb'h. my27

KEEP COOL! BY WEARING THE BROWN LINEN DUCK PANTS AND VEST, Of which we have just received a large supply. GRAY & LOGAN, jy19 No. 67 ST. CLAIR ST.

REMOVALS.

FINAL REMOVAL. JOHN HALL & CO. Have removed their PLOW WAREHOUSES to Nos. 121 & 123, corner Pitt and Liberty Sts., jy18 3m PITTSBURGH, PA.

REMOVAL.—GULD & SHEPARD, General Commission Merchants, have removed from 84 to 84 LIBERTY STREET. jy18:tf

TELEGRAMS.

THE LATE RAID.

STRAGGLERS STILL COMING IN.

A LARGE PORTION OF THEIR PLUNDER TAKEN.

Wright's Men Burn One of the Rebel Trains.

WASHINGTON, July 21.—A letter received by an officer in Washington from Sandy Hook, Md., states that many stragglers from the retreating rebel forces come into that place daily and surrender themselves. The men are worn down by rapid marching, and many of them are barefoot and their clothes torn in tatters.

The *Evening Star* learns from a former citizen of Madison county, Va., who has for some time been sojourning at Fairfax Court House, that he has reliable information showing that the rebel raiders met with no many mishaps in getting away with their plunder from Maryland, that what they have managed to keep will hardly pay them for their trouble.

NEW YORK, July 22.—The *Herald's* Sniicker's Ferry correspondent of the 20th says: The forces under Gen. Wright pursued the rebels under Early and Breckinridge to that point, skirmishing with their rear guard, which was twenty-four hours behind the main force. When near Purcellville, south of Snicker's Gap, Duffie's cavalry captured eighty-two of their wagons. More fighting was had, when our troops succeeded in reaching the Ferry.

Here they found the enemy in force, and Gen. Wright coming up, he threw several regiments across the stream, who maintained their position. He then commenced massing troops, when Early received reports from Lee, and fearing a thrashing from Wright, packed up and left at double quick for Strasburg. Gen. Wright crossed the stream and proceeded a few miles toward Winchester, but learning to change his mind as to the direction the enemy had taken, he counternarched his forces in obedience to orders from General Averill.

There are reports of the defeat of Early at Winchester, which must have taken place immediately after he slipped away from Gen. Wright.

FIGHT ON JOHNSON'S ISLAND, S. C.

Rebels Defeated with Great Slaughter.

OUR LOSS ONLY EIGHTY-TWO.

NEW YORK, July 22.—The *Herald's* correspondent, from Hilton Head, July 13th, says: Since my last letter there has been severe fighting by our forces on Johnson Island under Gen. Hatch, composing part of a recent expedition.

Gen. Saxton sent out a regiment on Thursday to attack the rebel right, where a battery had been stationed. The men charged at double quick, and so furiously, that the enemy retired in great confusion. They came very near capturing the battery, which had just time to limber up and be off, with considerable loss.

A fight occurred on Saturday morning. The enemy having received their reinforcements an attack was made by the rebels, who advanced about 4 o'clock, and during a heavy fog, drove in our pickets nearly opposite the fort. At a quarter before six o'clock they advanced in force and a fight of fifteen minutes followed in which the rebels were thoroughly repulsed. To strengthen it again the enemy made another advance at half past six o'clock, and attempts were made to carry our position by assault. Our troops were ready for them, and till the rebels were almost upon them, when with double shotted guns they opened with grape and canister, mowing down the advancing columns by the score. The infantry also kept up an accurate and continuous fire with musketry, and at such short range that great havoc was made in five minutes from the time of attack. Their artillery opened on us with great fury, and the infantry took shelter. Our loss in killed, wounded and missing, was only eighty-two, some of the wounded were only slightly injured.

IMPORTANT ORDER FROM STANTON

Clerks Prohibited from Giving Information to Outsiders.

THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS UNSUCCESSFUL.

Semmes Not to be Demanded.

NEW YORK, July 22.—The *Herald's* Washington special says it is almost universally regretted here that Stanton's reported resignation is not confirmed.

Stanton has issued an order prohibiting business to outsiders.

Secretary Fessenden has gone to New York. The *Times* special says the public debt on the 10th, was $1,795,203,365,91 against $1,790,335,693 40 on the 12th.

The report of the official demand for the surrender of Semmes is unfounded.

A *Tribune* Winchester special says: Averill's fight lasted 3 hours, in which the rebels lost four pieces of artillery, two hundred prisoners, and five hundred killed and wounded. Our loss was not over two hundred and fifteen in killed and wounded, and none missing.

NEW YORK, July 22.—The *Tribune* says, in reference to the Niagara Falls negotiations; that its editor has been engaged only in endeavoring to bring face to face the antagonists in a amicable rather than a belligerent attitude, with a view to the initiation of an earnest effort for peace to be prosecuted at Washington. The movement has had no immediate success.

SHERMAN.

Decatur, Ga., Occupied by our Forces.

REBEL COMMUNICATION CUT OFF.

Evacuation of Atlanta

LOUISVILLE, July 22.—Yesterday's National *Union* states that on Monday morning Decatur, Georgia, was occupied by our forces, thus cutting off all rebel communication with South Carolina by way of Macon.

Deserters and stragglers have been coming into our lines since we crossed the Chattahoochie river in considerable numbers. They represent that all hopes of saving Atlanta have disappeared.

Movements of Thornton's Guerrillas.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., July 21.—Thornton's guerrillas turned back from Livingston county last night and occupied Caldwell county after being joined by another band from the West. The combined force, numbering some five hundred, marched on Plattsburg, Clinton county, when the surrender of the garrison, consisting of two companies of militia, was demanded in the name of the Confederate States army. Capt. Turner, commanding the post, refused to surrender, and told his men to escape. A fight ensued, in which Turner was killed. Most of the men escaped.

The militia has arrived here.

Gen. Fisk's appeal is being promptly responded to, and men are sent into the field at once.

One thousand men, under Gen. Ben Loan, will soon be here from Andrew county.

Evacuation of Atlanta.

NEW YORK, July 22.—We have well authenticated reports that the rebels have evacuated Atlanta.

BOY KILLED.—A boy was crushed to death at Dameronville, Blair county, on Wednesday last, by falling in and passing through a pair of metal rolls. He was about sixteen years old, and the only support of a widowed mother.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.

The Twenty-Inch Gun.

The great twenty-inch army gun, recently finished at the Fort Pitt Works, has been placed upon the trucks which were built expressly by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, at their shops in Altoona, to convey it to its destination. We have already described these trucks, which are constructed in the ordinary manner, with the exception that everything about them is of the most substantial material, and a bridge extends over both trucks—the ends resting upon heavy beams across the centre of each truck. Before the immense mass of metal was suffered to rest upon the bridge, strong props were placed under the beams, as a precautionary measure, and so severely are these props taxed that it is now uncertain whether they can be removed at all. It is feared that if they are knocked from under the beams the trucks will break down or become so strained as to render them unsafe. The gun has remained in this awkward position, in front of the works, for twenty-four hours past, and we are not advised as to what course will be pursued. The general impression is that the trucks have proved a failure. One of the reasons alleged is, that they have not been properly hog-chained; but the skilled workmen who designed them will hardly concede this point, unless upon the most satisfactory evidence. In the meantime, the "big gun" is visited by hundreds, who can get a full and satisfactory view of it gratis. It was weighed on the new mammoth scales erected at the works for that purpose, and was found to contain 116,497 pounds, or a fraction over *fifty cwt.* tons. Juveniles, aged from ten to fifteen years, were amusing themselves to-day, in crawling into the bore, on their hands and knees. A good sized family, including pa and ma, could find shelter in the gun—and it would be a capital place to hide in case of a bombardment. Those of our citizens who have not yet seen the biggest of the big guns, can now have a favorable opportunity, as it will remain at present, at least, a few days longer time before it "goes off."

The twenty inch navy gun, recently cast at the Fort Pitt Works, is now in the turning lathe, and is slowly but surely coming into shape.

An Interesting Relic.

Mayor Henry, of Philadelphia, has received from Rev. Dr. Dales, a piece of timber from the prison ship Minden, on which Francis Key composed the Star Spangled Banner on the 12th of September, 1814. The vessel was sold in Canton, in 1862, to the Chinese, who broke her up for her wood, iron and copper. The American in Canton sought pieces of the vessel, and this block was secured by the Rev. J. C. Nevin, Missionary of the United Presbyterian Church. On one side is carved a shield, seven stars and fifteen stripes, and the beginning and closing words of the Star Spangled Banner. The date of the battle is also given. The character of the Minden in 1814, is represented by a pair of manacles and chains. On the other side the Canton date is given, and there is a broken cannon and anchor showing that the ship is not only disabled but destroyed. The design of the carving was made by Mr. Nevin, and the work was executed by a Chinaman, whose name and place of business appear on the end in Chinese characters. The interesting relic will be placed in Independence Hall.

Mill Property Destroyed.

On Monday last, the extensive steam flouring mill of Warwick Miller, two miles west of Uniontown, were entirely destroyed by fire, together with a saw mill and dwelling adjoining. From 800 to 1000 bushels of wheat and 40 barrels of flour belonging to customers of the mill, were destroyed. Part of the furniture in the dwelling house was consumed. Mr. Miller's dwelling, standing some hundred yards from the mill, was several times on fire, but was saved with little injury. The fire was communicated by sparks falling from the stack upon the roof of the mill, which was in operation at the time. The loss is estimated at $12,000, the greater part of which falls upon Mr. Miller, who has no insurance.

HEALTH OF THE ARMIES.—Mr. Stenker, the Auditor General of the Commonwealth, has been lying ill at his home for several weeks past, and we regret to hear that there is but slight prospect of his recovery. A Harrisburg paper say that "until within a week it was believed by his physicians that Mr. Slenker might possibly recover; but it was stated to us this morning, by a gentleman who had a private letter treating of the health of the Auditor General, that all hope of his restoration to health had almost ceased to exist, and that he could not possibly live for many days."

UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK.—The winter session of the New York University (Medical College) will begin on Monday, October 17th, and will continue until the 1st of March. The reputation of this institution is well established, and the faculty embraces such names as Mott, Paine, Draper, Post, Van Buren, Metcalfe, Budd and others. The course of lectures is most thorough and comprehensive, and embraces Military Hygiene and Duties of Surgeons, Examination of Recruits, Diseases of Camps, etc. Circulars can be had on addressing Professor Draper, President of the Faculty, University, New York.

FIFTH WARD TEACHERS.—The following teachers have been elected by the Fifth ward school for the ensuing year:

Principal—Al. Burt; Assistant, Mrs. Lizzie A. Wade.

Grammar Department—Mrs. Emma Hawk, Mrs. Jane I. Yon, and Miss Rebecca Munn.

Intermediate Department—Miss Maggie McCreight, Sarah Fleming, Hester Munn, and Nancy Cromlish.

Primary Department—Miss Anne McClelland, Mrs. Belle Rankin, Miss E. E. Harrison, A. E. Irwin, Jennie Ralston, M. Dickson.

THE WEEK'S PAPERS.—The New York and Boston papers for this week have been received by John P. Hunt, Market Hall, Fifth street. Harper's Weekly has a fine picture of the new Secretary of the Treasury; Frank Leslie is filled with cute illustrative of the late Rebel raid; the Independent has a letter from Dr. Cheever, pitching into the President. The other papers received are, the Weekly Herald, Tribune, Times, World, Street and Smith's Weekly, the National Police Gazette, etc. Sold also by J. T. Sample, Federal street, Allegheny.

DEATHS IN WASHINGTON HOSPITALS.—The following Pennsylvania soldiers died in the Washington hospitals on the 20th:

Joseph Vogus, C, 2d artillery; Joseph McCullough, 100th; Franklin D. Smith, E, 8th cavalry; Henry Betterer, F, 98th; Joseph Orbin, F, 53d; Daniel Ferguson, H, 2d heavy artillery; J. Harvey Burns, A, 139th; John C. Bowers, D, 184th; Augustus Simons, music an, Ambrose Campbell, A, 2d heavy artillery; Emanuel Brubaker, B, 148th; Joshua Armstrong, E, 148th; William A. Searight, I, 116th.

PRESENTATION.—The Steamboat Committee of the Pittsburgh Sanitary Fair yesterday presented to R. L. McGrew, Esq., a splendid goldheaded cane, made from the wood of Shiloh Church. The cane bears the following inscription:—Presented to R. L. McGrew by the Steamboat Committee of the Pittsburgh Sanitary Fair in appreciation of his services as Treasurer." The presentation speech was made by R. Finney, Esq., in his usual happy style, and replied to by Mr. McGrew, in brief but eloquent terms.

NEW POSTOFFICE.—A new postoffice, called "Hooker," has been established at the village of Middletown, Concord township, Butler county, and Wm. Conway appointed postmaster. An office was greatly needed at that point, and will be a great convenience to the neighborhood.

DISSOLUTIONS, &c.

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.—The firm heretofore existing under the style of ROBINSON & McKINNEY, Grocery and Produce Dealers, has been this day dissolved by mutual consent. Mr. ROBINSON is authorized to settle up all the accounts due to the firm, and all claims against the said firm will be settled by him. J. S. ROBINSON, JAMES McKINNEY. Pittsburgh, Feb. 12th, 1864.

CO-PARTNERSHIP NOTICE.—Mr. ROBINSON, late of the firm of Robinson & McKinney, has this day associated with him Mr. J. K. ROBINSON, under the style of ROBINSON & BRO., in the Grocery and Produce Business, No. 63 Ohio street, Allegheny City. July 16th, 1864. jy