THE MONTROSE DEMOCRAT
TERMS—$1.50 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE.

A. J. GERRITSON,
EDITOR, PUBLISHER, AND PROPRIETOR.

MONTROSE, THURSDAY, MAY 2nd, 1861.

By the President of the United States.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS, The laws of the United States have been for some time past, and are now opposed, and the execution thereof obstructed, in the States of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, by combinations too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings, or by the powers vested in the marshals by law.

Now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, in virtue of the power in me vested by the Constitution and the laws, have thought fit to call forth, and hereby do call forth, the militia of the several States of the Union, to the aggregate number of 75000 in order to suppress the said combinations, and to cause the laws to be duly executed. The details for this object will be immediately communicated to the State authorities through the War Department.

I appeal to all loyal citizens to favor, facilitate, and aid this effort to maintain the honor, the integrity, and the existence of our National Union, and the perpetuity of the popular Government, and to redress the wrongs already long enough endured.

I deem it proper to say that the first service assigned to the forces hereby called forth will probably be to repossess the the forts, places, and property, which have been seized from the Union, and, in every event, the utmost care will be observed consistently with the objects aforesaid, to avoid any devastation, any destruction of or interferance with property, or any disturbance of peaceful citizens in any part of the country.

And I hereby command the persons composing the combinations aforesaid to disperse and retire peaceably to their respective abodes, within twenty days from this date.

Deeming that the present condition of public affairs presents an extraordinary occasion, I do hereby, in virtue of the power in me vested by the Constitution, convene both Houses of Congress. The Senators and Representative are therefore summoned to assemble at their respective chambers at 12 o'clock noon on Thursday, the 4th of July next, then and there to consider and determine such measures as, in their wisdom, the public safety and interest may seem to demand.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this 15th day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, and of the independence of the United States the eighty-fifth.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President.
WM. H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

[COMMUNICATED.]

MR. EDITOR:—I was greatly rejoiced to witness, in Montrose, yesterday, such a unanimity of sentiment touching the awful crisis that is upon us. I was glad to hear men who have heretofore differed upon questions of national policy, uniting their voices in favor of maintaining the honor of the American Flag, and in support of the Constitution and the Union. I was proud to look upon so many brave men, who, in this hour of their country's peril, have sundered the ties that bound them to home and friends, and have volunteered to aid in preserving our nationality, and vindicating the majesty of the law. They are treading in the footsteps of our fore-fathers, who chose to "die free men rather than to live slaves." If they are called to the field of battle, may they unflinchingly face the foe, and all the wounds they receive be in front. Several of our townships are doing nobly in the way of volunteers; but as I saw the column marching to the fair ground, I confess I was surprised, to see in the ranks so few men of your Borough. Men, strong, able-bodied men of Montrose, for several days past have been over our county soliciting recruits; but several of these same persons were not among those who have so patriotically responded to their country's call. Do they imagine they have done their *whole* duty when they have incited others to arms? Doctor Warren labored with tongue and pen, to prepare the minds of the Colonists for the struggle that was coming upon them; but the thunder of cannon, from the heights of Bunker wooed him to the field. *His* patriotism ceased not to glow when he had induced his countrymen to buckle on the sword, but he, himself was in the van. The heroic example of Judge Jessup, yesterday, should cause a blush of shame to mantle the cheeks of many of his fellow townsmen. With his weight of years upon him, he offered himself as a volunteer!* His example should be followed by many of his neighbors. When men talk loudly, and urge others on to the fight, but refuse themselves to enlist, their auditors are apt to suspect their patriotism all flies out of their mouth. Come, gentlemen of our county seat—come you young and volcanic lawyers, you active and well-fed merchants, you "gentlemen of leisure," (doctors ought not all to go—some of them might perhaps be spared; come, I again repeat, enter the ranks and be ready to uphold your country's insulted flag! You, fathers, do as the gallant McCauley of Susquehanna, has done—first lay yourselves, and then your sons upon the altar. I suppose you have not, I pray you do not have, any fastidious disinclination to mingle with the masses, the commonality. These are not the times for men with brave hearts and strong arms to be very particular who stands at their elbow,—whether high or low, rich or poor, learned or illiterate. Young professional men, you, doubtless, are looking forward to the day when you shall arrive at eminence in your calling, when wealth and honor shall be yours; but if our Constitution is in danger—if Washington is invested by the foe, put in practice the declaration some of you so recently made, that "this is the time for action, not for words." May the God of battles protect us all, and Right speedily triumph.

April 23, 1861.

*Lest a wrong impression be received from the above, we explain that it is not to be understood that the Judge expected to shoulder a musket—his age would prevent that; but he volunteers his services, and proposes to go with the Montrose Company at least to Harrisburg, and render them such aid as may be needed.

Unity of Sentiment.

There seems to be a general desire for a unity of sentiment at the North, and the Administration organs clamor for it vigorously. Let us suggest to them the means of obtaining it. Stop the political guillotine; cease your unfounded allegations that Democrats are, or have been, individually or collectively, traitors to their country; and let your conduct in other respects comport with these ideas. Do this, and a desirable unity of sentiment will pervade the country. Fail, or falter, in these duties, and you must expect that an outraged people, will, while adhering firmly, as in the past, to the interests of their country, wage a justified and unavoidable political war of annihilation, against an administration that attempts, under cover of the cry of "stand by your country," to establish a political despotism. We must not suffer ourselves to be misled into the idea that the administration is the country. Will Republicanism meet us on the square? Let us see.

☞ Gov. Curtin called our legislature together in extra session, on Tuesday last, to take such steps as the times seem to demand. If that corrupt body will undo the base acts of the past session, and instead of presenting railroad companies with hundreds of thousands of dollars, and granting them additional millions in the prospective, at the expense of the people, we could pay all the probable war bills, and still be taxed but lightly, in comparison.

☞ A requisition has been made upon this State for twenty-one regiments, in addition to the sixteen already filled. These will, altogether, number about 30,000;—and it is thought the State will organize a reserve force of 10,000. All these will be more than filled by prompt offers of volunteers. In no possible event will drafts be resorted to.

☞ The public should guard against being deceived by false reports concerning the terrible evils which have come upon our country. A very large portion of the "news" is utterly unfounded—manufactured to gratify a spirit of revenge, and to operate upon public sentiment.

☞ The reports about what England and France are doing or are about to do, are founded on some letter writer's conjecture; and the danger of any inroads upon our State from the South, are of the same character.

☞ By late papers from Georgia, we learn that Welcome G. Clemons, formerly of this place, is now 2d Lieut. in the Columbus Guards, which have marched to Savannah, in the rebel service.

☞ It is about time that the nonsensical reports which have been circulated about the county, in regard to this office, should cease to attract the attention of even the gullible portion of the people. The truth is that no person has said a word to us that could be construed into a threat; nor has any offensive or threatening message been sent us. In our leader of the 18th ultimo, we defended our party from the unjust charge of being responsible for this war, and we argued to show that all Northern responsibility belonged to abolitionism and abolitionized Republicanism. We quoted some articles to sustain the same points. This gave offence to our opponents—"the hit birds fluttered." One "professional *gentleman* hastily remarked that "the d—d press ought to be thrown into the street." A bystander quietly hinted at the probable consequence, and certainty of the failure of his proposition, if attempted. Further than this we know of no threat being made. From this *small* beginning, a multitude of yarns seem to have been manufactured; and we only condescend to refer to the matter in order to satisfy our friends that the stories have no respectable origin.

As the public have already been abundantly assured, we penned that article as embodying our deliberate convictions; and such matters as relate to those points, which were once only our belief, have been verified as historical facts. We, of course, then, can but adhere to it; and we have had abundant and unanimous assurance that our friends are with us heart and HAND. As a party, we always have been, now are, and always will be, the very best friends of our country, and if forced to it, always fight to the death for our rights under the Constitution and Flag of the Republic. When the integrity of the country was assailed by those marching under a sectional flag with 17 stars, we defended it at the ballot-box; and when the country is attacked by those who have only 7 stars we meet it on the tented field. If these, or any who have no flag, attack our National, State, or individual rights, we meet them unflinchingly. Meantime, we march, as in the past, under the banner of the whole union.

"We join ourselves to no party that does not carry the Flag and keep step to the music of the WHOLE UNION."

—John Bell other leading men of Tennessee have issued an address, wherein they propose that Tennessee shall maintain a neutral position in this conflict between lawful government and armed rebellion. That is, they offer to remain neutral and maintain the "sanctity of her soil from the hostile tread of any party," so long as the Government refrains from striking a blow at the seceded States; but the moment the Government dares to attack the conspirators who are now assembling for the assault upon Washington, these "neutral" gentlemen of Tennessee are in favor of resisting, at all hazards, an any cost, *and by arms*, any such purpose or attempt. Curious sort of neutrality.

—Mr. Randolph, the Secession delegate from Richmond to the Virginia Convention is a grandson of Thomas Jefferson.

☞ Maryland won'nt secede, but waver.

Reasons,

Entered upon the Journal of the Senate of Pennsylvania, of the Democratic Members of that Body, for voting against the act passed on Friday, April 12th, 1861, entitled "An Act for the better organization of the Militia of the Commonwealth."

The undersigned, members of the Senate, desire to place upon the journal their reasons for voting against the bill in this body on Friday, April 12th, A. D., 1861, entitled "An Act for the better organization of the Militia of the Commonwealth."

The act provides for the appointment, by the Governor of Pennsylvania, of a military commission, clothed with full and extraordinary powers to re-organize the militia of the Commonwealth. The nature and character of the organization proposed is not set forth in the act, and is, therefore, entirely unknown to the Senate and House of Representatives. The Constitution expressly declares, that "the freemen of this Commonwealth shall be armed, organized and disciplined for its defence, when, in such manner as may be directed by law;" and further, that "the military shall, in all cases and at all times, be in strict subordination to the civil power." Under the provisions of the act aforesaid, unlimited authority is vested in a military commission, whose members are to act independently of the Legislature; and thus the law-making power, which alone should control and direct the organization desired in the present and in all emergencies, is deprived of the privilvge of acting upon the details of a system which is of the most vital importance to the citizens of Pennsylvania. If the "civil power" must blindly yield to a military supremacy, it will be an easy transition to pass from known and existing laws to a military despotism sustained and upheld by a standing army. Since the opening of the present session no attempt has been made by the majority in this body to re-organize the militia in a proper and constitutional manner, and the representatives of the people have not been permitted to deliberate upon any measure to remedy the evils in our military system, which this act now proposes to cure. Before the undersigned could give their sanction to any system of re-organization they must know its details—this is clearly their constitutional right—and they should not be called upon to place this important subject entirely and unreservedly in the hands of an unknown military commission.

The heavy burthens resting upon the people demand that all expenditures from the public treasury should be made with caution, and, when made, should be guarded with proper and necessary restrictions. While the peculiar system of re-organization is closely veiled from the public eye the manner of disposing of the enormous sum appropriated in the act aforesaid is equally vague and undefined. This act, in effect, makes the Governor of the Commonwealth the disburser of half a million dollars, if so much be needed, and contains no provisions for a proper discretionary power on the part of the accounting officers of the Government in the allowance and settlement of the accounts. The sum appropriated may be used well—it may just as readily be expended improperly—this will depend in a great measure upon the character of the military commission appointed by the Governor, the names of which have not yet been presented to the Senate for its approval.

It is our unquestioned duty as legislators to put this State in a condition to repel invasion, to suppress insurrection, and to defend our borders in time of war. For these purposes, by the second section of the eleventh article of the Constitution, we are authorized to contract debts. Had the evidence been furnished to us that either of these causes existed, we would most cheerfully have joined in supporting any proper and constitutional measure demanded by the exigencies of the times. Again, it is our manifest duty as a State, willingly to respond to any requisition made upon us by the President of the United States to support the General Government, to protect the public property, and to enforce the laws. At the time the bill was under consideration no such requisition had been made, either directly or indirectly, to the knowledge of the undersigned. But in order clearly to evince our desire and intention to respond to any such requisition, we asked the privilege of voting for the last clause of the third section of the act aforesaid.—This privilege was not granted, and we were, therefore, compelled, by a strict sense of duty, and for the reasons hereinbefore stated, to cast our votes against the entire bill.

That the citizens of this State will never fail to respond to such a requisition, is attested by the eagerness with which her patriotic sons rushed to the support of our National Flag in the war with Mexico. That they will do so again in obedience to a call of the Chief Executive of the Nation, no one will doubt; and in all his constitutional efforts to uphold the Government, to protect its property, to maintain its laws, and to guard the National flag from insult and dishonor, he will receive the cordial, enthusiastic and determined support of the united people of this Commonwealth.

WM. H. WELSH,
E. D. CRAWFORD,
HEISTER CLYMER,
JER. SCHINDEL,
K. L. BLOOD,
HENRY S. MOTT.

TREASON!—We copy the following from the yesterday's issue of the New York Times, a Republican journal, which to our mind, is the rankest kind of treason. We ask our readers to see by it whither we are tending. Those who sow the wind are very apt to reap the whirlwind.

A STARTLING REPORT.

It is stated on the authority of Mayor Brown, of Baltimore, that the President has consented that no more troops shall pass through Maryland, and that a regiment from Pennsylvania has been turned back pursuant to to this arrangement. Our correspondent gives a very different account of the decision of the President. It is possible the Mayor's account may not be entirely reliable.

Under this belief we abstain from such comments as such an agreement on the part of the President would naturally provoke. We will simply remark that the President runs no small risk of being superseded in his office if he undertakes to thwart the clear and manifest determination of the people to maintain the authority of the Government of the United States, and to protect its honor. We are in the midst of a Revolution, and in such emergencies the people are very apt to find some representative leader, if the forms of law do not happen to have given them one. It would be well for Mr. Lincoln to bear in mind the possibility of such an event.

Letter from Scranton.

SCRANTON, April 18, 1861.

MR. EDITOR:—Thinking that your readers would be pleased to hear from this active part of old Luzerne County, I send you the following:—

Everything is busy in and around Scranton. Several new coal shafts are being sunk, which gives employment to many new hands, and a quickening impulse to business. Many large and commodious buildings are being erected in this place and Hyde Park, adding much to the appearance of these towns. The sale of coal and the manufacture of iron are the all-absorbing topics of the day here. Some of the most extensive iron mills in the State are in this place. Scranton already contains 12000 population; Hyde Park, on the opposite side of the Lackawanna, 5000; Providence, situated 2 miles further North, 2000 population. It is conjectured that these places will yet be connected, forming one grand and populous city. They are certainly in a propitious situation, being near the centre of a great coal field, almost exhaustless in its nature. Each of these places is supplied with a good Graded School, under the supervision of very efficient principals. They are conducted entirely on the *graded system*. The death of Col. Scranton cast a gloom over all;—on the day of his burial all business stopped. Lackawanna Avenue was draped in mourning; every engine for the time held its breath; and all was as silent as "midnight's holy hour." The procession moved in perfect order. It was estimated that 15000 people were in attendance. A few days since we visited the Hyde Park Graded School, witnessed the examination at the close of the Winter term, Annual Exhibition in evening, &c. Everything passed off in a pleasing manner, reflecting great credit on its efficient principal, Mr. U. S. Cook, and the teachers of the school. The people here are pretty well awakened on the subject of education.

Yours truly, L. B.

Unwarranted Impudence.

At the present time, when civil war stares us in the face, when every lover of his country is called upon to stand by the Stars and Stripes and defend the Constitution, there are a few individuals in our village who assume a great deal of responsibility and make it a business to stand about the streets to insult and even threaten those men who have always been true to their country and the Union. They even tap old men upon the shoulder who defended the Constitution while they were spitting upon it—men who never entertained any other sentiment in their lives, but a union sentiment, and tell them that they should be careful what they say. They call men traitors whose sons or friends have already enlisted to fight the battles of their country and venture where they dare not go. Against such arrogant folly and brainless impudence we most decidedly protest. It is not the way to keep the public sentiment of this County consolidated. Such men, if they have any business at home, should attend to it—if they have not, then they should either "dry up" or enlist. We do not believe there is a man in the county of Broome, whose proclivities heretofere have been with the Democratic party, but who is ready and willing to stand by "the flag of our Union" so long as there is one star left, and defend the Constitution as our fathers framed it. And before these men, (who all of a sudden have been seized with a wonderful love for the Constitution,) talk about treason, and caution old and tried Union men about what they shall say, they had better look over the enlistment rolls and see who are really fighting the battles of the Union and the Constitution.

We have forborne making these remarks for some time hoping these men would cease their unwarranted impudence. Modesty, common decency, and true patriotism demand they should do so at once. We want but one feeling, and one sentiment in this crisis.—*Binghamton Democrat.*

STOP PROSCRIPTION!—None come more valorously to the great work of defending the government and the Union from the assaults of conspiring traitors than the loyal Democracy of the North. The Massachusetts troops are commanded by the gallant Gen. Butler, a life-long Democrat, and the most efficient officers of the military force from this State, as of other states, are well known Democrats.—Fletcher Webster, son of the "God-like Daniel," just removd from office because of his political opinions, is heroically exerting himself to organize a regiment which he promises to lead in person to the battles of the Union. The adopted citizens, Democrats almost to a man, are rallying with unexampled ardor to the defence of their adopted country.

In view of these facts shall not the hand of proscription be stayed? Republicans, Democrats, men of all parties, declare that party lines are obliterated. Let the Administration recognize this, and act accordingly, and an undivided North will march trumphantly to the conquest of treason and rebellion.

THE NORTHERN TRAITOR.—The Utica Telegraph says: "The preparations for the relief of Fort Sumter were conducted with the greatest secresy. Even the officers in charge of the reenforcements and supplies sailed with sealed orders. The Government perfected its plans with a reticence worthy of the highest praise. It even defied the investigations of the ferrets of the New York newspapers. But all these precautions proved unavailing.—The New York Tribune, having obtained intormation confidentially though its political friends in Washington, 'blabbed,' and the whole scheme of reinforcement was published on Thursday, and was, of course, telegraphed to Charleston at once. The Tribune, not content with plunging the country in war, aids the enemy merely to make a few dollars by selling newspapers."

COUNTRY FIRST.—The first troops on the march for the defence of the Capital, and Old Abe, were under the charge of Gen. B. F. Butler, a Breckinridge Democrat, and late candidate for Governor of Massachusetts, and Gov. Sprague, of R. Island, who was elected by the Democrats in opposition to Lincoln's war party.

—Cassius Clay has put forth a circular offering his house, farm and stock for sale, in which occurs the following: "I will hire out for a term of years my colored servants." It would, no doubt, sound a little harsh to say "*my slaves*." at the time of taking office under an abolition administration.

—At Hartford, Conn, on Tuesday, 2,000 mustard boxes, with four ball cartridges in each box, destined for the South, were seized by the authorities.

The Situation of Affairs.

The conflicting reports of the last few days, relative to the situation of affairs at and around Washington have received a somewhat satisfactory solution, at least as far as the movements of the regiments dispatched from the North are concerned. It is certain now that the Seventh regiment of New York and the Massachusetts regiment have arrived safely in Washington. The Seventh and a part of the Massachusetts regiment took the line of march from Annapolis early on Wednesday and reached the junction at ten o'clock on Thursday morning. From this point they took the train for Washington, where they arrived in the afternoon and marched through Pennsylvania avenue to the President's house, and thence to the War Department. The trains which took them on returned to the junction at four o'clock in the afternoon, and carried the remainder of the Massachusetts regiment to the junction, where they were ordered to remain and guard the road. The Seventh, it is said, rebuilt the bridges and repaired the road on their rout.

The steam transport Baltic, which arrived here yesterday from Annapolis which port she left on Thursday morning, reports that the Twelfth regiment had started for Washington, and were then twelve miles on their march to the junction, and, as the road was open, the gallant Seventh had already passed safely over. There is no doubt that the Twelfth reached Washington in a few hours. In all probability the Seventy-first and Sixth regiments, which left New York on the same day (Sunday last), also arrived at the capital in the wake of the Twelfth.

The steamer Wyoming, which arrived at Perryville, Maryland, yesterday, reports that when she left Annapolis, at ten o'clock yesterday morning, two steamers of the New York fleet had just arrived there—the Marion and Montgomery—with the brig of war Perry as convoy, and that the Sixty-ninth regiment were then disembarking. As the Sixty-ninth went on the James Adger, however, it may be that the officers of the Wyoming were mistaken either as to the names of the New York steamers, or of the regiment then disembarking at Annapolis; but as the whole fleet which left here on Tuesday, comprising the Alabama with the Eighth on board, the James Adger with the Sixty-ninth, the Marion with the Thirteenth (Brooklyn regiment), and the Montgomery with the cavalry troops of the Eighth, together with the Brig Perry as convoy, were seen at anchor in the Chespeake, by the Keystone State, which arrived here from Washington yesterday, near the mouth of the Potomac, and were passed by the Baltic farther up the bay, there can be very little doubt that the whole arrived at Annapolis, and the three regiments are in Washington by this time.

We learn on the authority of Captain Sherman, of the Vermont Arsenal, who came from Washington in the Keystone State, that the Potomac was open, no obstructing batterries, and the hights of Georgetown and Arlington being both held by the government. And it is to be regretted that the government did not send the Pawnee to the mouth of the river with this intelligence, so that the vessels from New York might have gone direct to Washington, and thus save the troops a tedious march of sixteen miles from Annapolis to the junction besides enabling them to reach Washington one day earlier.

As to the movements of the rebel troops, we have also some reliable information. One of our special correspondents at Pensacola Florida, was compelled to leave there very hurriedly by the secessionists on the 21st inst. He reached Montgomery on the 29th, and with considerable difficulty got safely as far North as Cincinnati, from which point he telegraphed to us yesterday. He reports the condition of things at Fort Pickens to be in *statu quo*. The rebels have given up the idea of attacking it for the present until they get reinforcements and are supplied with columbians, the small forty-two pounders they have not being sufficient to do any damage to the fort. Six thousand rebel volunteers are said to be ready for service at Richmond, which number, it is calculated, will be increased to 25,000 at the close of the week. There seems to be very little doubt that both Mr. Davis and Mr. Stephens are there now; Gen. Beauregard is, in all probability, still in Charleston. A State battery has been erected at Yorktown, and another at a point three miles above Richmond. At Harper's Ferry 4,000 men were stationed; but it is supposed that they are under orders to move at once to a location nearer the federal capital. Twent-five hundred secession troops are at Norfork.

Such are the movements up to the last accounts of troops of both hostile parties. Other events, however, appear to be transpiring in Maryland which bear somewhat on the course of events. It is reported from Harrisburg that a considerable flight of negroes into Pennsylvania is taking place, and that an attack has been made by a body of Marylanders on the village of Hanover York county, Pennsylvania in consequence. It is said that whole families are leaving Maryland and flying into the counties of Adams, York and Franklin, Pennsylvania, and that the fear has become general in the border counties of Maryland that the departure of the whole slave population is imminent. Over five hundred slaves have already ran off.

Rumors reach us from Baltimore that a remarkable change of sentiment in favor of the Union has taken place there, which is indicated in a measure by the tone of some portions of the press, and other circumstances; but the reports need confirmation. Our latest intelligence from that quarter represents that city as still under the control of the secessionist mob though quiet.

Washington may be considered safe for the present. It is stated that there is no want of provisions there, and that the government has made ample arrangments for all necessary supplies.—*New York Herald, Apr. 27th.*

THE LAWYERS.—The legal gentlemen have nobly responded. Indeed, there are scarcely one left. Julius Sherwood, H. W. Williams, J. N. Bashe, Thomas Allen, Stephen F. Wilson, and R. Pratt, have volunteered, and will soon take up the line of march. Men of all grades and positions have "fallen in the ranks."—*Wellsboro Democrat.*

Burning of Harper's Ferry.

CARLISLE, April 19.—Lieut. Jones, late in command at Harper's Ferry, arrived here this afternoon with his command, consisting of 43 men. Lieut. Jones having been advised that a force of 2500 troops had been ordered by Gov. Letcher, of Virginia, to take possession of Harper's Ferry, and finding his position to be untenable, under directions of the War Department, he destroyed all the munitions of war, the armory, arsenal, and all the buildings. He withdrew his command, under cover of the night, almost in the presence of 2500 men. He lost three men. Fifteen thousand stand of arms were destroyed. They made a forced march of thirty miles last night, to Hagerstown, Md. They have undergone great fatigue, and accomplished a great work in preventing the public property from falling into the hands of the rebels.

Lieut. Jones says that he learned yesterday that the Virginians were approaching to seize the arsenal. He immediately placed piles of powder and straw in all buildings, and waited patiently the approach of the enemy. The picket guard having given the alarm, the garrison set fire to the out houses and carpenter shop; the fuses beginning to burn, he commenced his retreat. The citizens of Harper's Ferry were evidently in league with the party advancing to seize the arsenal, and were instantly in arms and followed the soldiers. Two of the regulars were killed by their fire, and two others deserted before the troops reached Hagerstown. They marched all night, and missing the train at Hagerstown took omnibuses to Chambersburg today, and much exhausted by their night's march.—They were entertained by the people of Chambersburg, and received with loud cheers along the route.

He further says that as the Federal troops rushed across the Potomac bridge, the Harper's Ferry people dashed into the Arsenal. He believes that a large number must have perished, as repeated explosions were heard. He saw the light of the burning building for many miles.

Abuses at Camp Curtin.

It was our intention some days ago to offer a few remarks on the loose and apparent reckless and careless manner in which things are conducted at Camp Curtin, but fearing that any strictures of the kind would be attributed to political bias by people abroad, we have waited until complaint and censure would come from some other quarter. This we find in the letter of the intelligent correspondent of the North American, dated at this place on Thursday, from which we extract the following:

This Miscellaneous, disorderly condition of things brings me to a point where the sharp criticism of the public press can alone remedy an accumulating and crying evil. The discipline of the soldiery is not nearly severe enough. Too many strangers are admitted to the camp ground.—Women of all classes in life are admitted without even the formality of a pass from a military officer. Passes are granted promiscuously to their friends by officers of inferior grade. Thus there is a total want of system. The result is that squads of men get out every night into the town and drink, and are exposed to every chance for the contraction of disease, which not only render them unfit for duty, but in many instances destroy the the force and vigor of the constitution, and bring them prematurely to the grave. I understand from a visitor to the camp at York, where there are now more than 4,000 men concentrated, the same case of access and exit prevails there.

Not only will such indulgence prevent any rigidity, and, therefore, excellence of drill, but it will tend to make the soldiery idle, listless, unambitious of any achievement beyond the mere momentary pleasures of the hour. This is the fault of the general commanding; he has abundant power not only to control but to check these evils most effectually.

Again, the *debris* of meats, bread and vegetables thrown away from the rude tables of the soldiery, are exposed upon an open lot to the fierce hot rays of the sun. The work of decomposition at once begins, noxious exhalations arise, malaria is rapidly engendered, and fatal diseases break out. The conditions of camp life, even with the most rigid attention to hygiene, are never favorable to health. But if such causes are added to the want of sufficient abolution of the person to promote a healthy condition of the skin, if unclean underclothes are worn for many days consecutively, and an unusual amount of exercise taken under a scorching sun, there is a hundred per cent, chance in favor of the procreation and dissemination of all kinds of disease peculiar to this form of life. Nothing but the high airy location of the camp, swept as it is by the bracing breezes from the mountains, will prevent the fulfillment of a forewarning as sad as this is.

Let but midsummer be reached, when these breezes shall have lost their oxygenized inspiration, and disease and death in every form, will overtake those who came hither to die, if at all, at the cannon's mouth and the bayonet, amid the blazing glory of the battle field, and not to waste life away in a lothsome and sickening hospital. It is the right, as it is eminently the duty of the public press, to compel the proper enforcement of discipline, and proper attention to hygienic regulations.

THE MINIE RIFLE.—The first rifle in vogue in France was the so called pillar rifle of Thorvenin, but the invention of M. Minie is the one which has practically revolutionized the firearmies of the present day. The improvements made by M Minie are confined almost wholly to the form of the projectile, and have very little reference to that of the gun out of which it is fired. The ball is of an oblong conical form, something like an acorn without its cup; but instead of being solid, this cone is hollowed out at the base into a cup like form. The advantages of this form of projectile are that it offers less resistance to the air than a round ball would, and that having its centre of gravity in its foremost part, it has no tendency to turn over in its flight; but its chief merit in a military point of view, is that with it the rifle can be loaded as easily as the ordinary smoothbore gun, the forcing of the ball into the grooves of the barrel being effected by the ramrod. The form of the rifle proper to those conical missiles differs very little from those used with the old spherical bullets, except that a three grooved gun, and it is still an unsettled question whether four grooves would not be better than three. With this weapon the soldiers can make far better practice at five hundred, or even one thousand yards, than he could with the old musket at one hundred or two hundred yards.

☞ Our National Capital IS SAFE.

THE LATEST NEWS.

CAIRO, Ill., April 29th, 1861.

One thousand additional troops arrived here at 2 o'clock, p. m., yesterday. All is quiet.

The people of Helena, Ark., seized the steamer Mars, and a Cincinnati packet on Friday, and took from her 400 bbls. of molasses, a large quantity of sugar, resin and turpentine, all for Cincinnati. The boat is tied up there, with a cannon placed on the shore directly opposite her. The Helena folks say the Cincinnati people can have the boat when they take her, and not until then.

A most unjustifiable attack was made on the steamer Westmoreland, a New Orleans packet, at Napoleon, Ark., on Thursday night. It appears from the statement of the captain that he rounded to at that place for the purpose of taking in freight. As soon as the boat was tied up the clerk went ashore. In a moment he returned, and said the wharf master informed him that the mob was going to take the boat. This information was followed by a volley from the guns and pistols of a crowd of fifty or sixty persons.

The boat was crowded with passengers, many of whom were ladies. A passenger named Henry Hammer, of Memphis, was shot through the heart and died instantly. One fireman was wounded. The captain had the wheels set going, breaking the line, and got off. A straggling fire was kept up for some time.

The boat arrived here last night. The holes in her look as if made by grapeshot fired from a cannon.

BALTIMORE, April 29, 1861.

A spontaneous Union meeting was held to night in East Baltimore; 1,500 to 2,000 persons were present, and great enthusiasm was manifested.

Strong straight-out Union resolutions were adopted, and the national banner was unfurled.

Regular daily communication with Philadelphia is now established. Steamers will run regularly between this city and Perryville, connecting with all trains on the Philadelbhia Railroad.

HARRISBURG, April 29, 1861.

Full preparations are being made here to put up the bridges on the Nothern Central Railroad. The Pennsylania Central has loaned or presented to the Government a number of farmes for iron bridges which they have always ready to replace bridges destroyed or burnt on their road. Two hundred and fifty carpenters and other working men of approved skill, have been quietly concentrated at York since Saturday.

They will be protected by the troops as they advance. Sill and heavy beams of timber have been forwarded. The whole of the civil engineering is under Thos. J. Power.

Five regiments are now being organized at Camp Curtin, and they will probably move to-morrow to York. The intention is to guard every bridge with troops, clear to Baltimore. When troops reach that point they will attempt to pass round Baltimore and reach the Relay House at the junction of the Washington and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroads. That point, should they reach it, will be held permanently.

HARRISBURG, Pa., April 29, 1861.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Vermont arrived here to day. He has been residing in North Carolina in consequence of bad health, for two months past. He called on the Governor. He had passes from Governors Ellis and Letcher. He says the Union sentiment prevailed largely two months since in North Carolina; now it is almost unanimous for secession.

He called at the house of the Hon. George E. Badger, Ex-Senator from North Carolina, and found his wife and daughters scraping lint. One of his sons had enlisted. Mr. Badger, until recently, was a leading Union man from North Carolina.

A Maryland planter who left Fredrick yesterday reports that he had a full conference with the members of the Legislature of that State, and that they will not pass a secession ordinance, but submit that question to the people. He saw no flags flying at Fredrick but secession.

A STANDING ARMY!

WASHINGTON, April 29, 1861.

The Government to-day formally decided to receive 40,000 of the 75,000 volunteers recently called for by proclamation for the term of three years, twenty-five thousand regulars for five years, and 18,600 sailors for the same period. Orders to carry this measure into effect will be at once issued.

An armory in place of that of Harper's Ferry is to be established at Rock Island, Illinois.

There is good reason for stating that the Naval Academy is to be removed, at least temporarily, from Annapolis to Newport, R. I.

The troops called out by the order of to-day are all additional to the 75,000 already required, so that the whole number called for by the Government thus far is: Volunteers by proclamation 75,000; volunteers for three years service 40,000; regulars for 5 years service 25,000; seamen do. 18,000, being a total of 158,000 men, that is, 75,000 the week before last, and 85,000 to-day. Even this falls short of the real number, as several States send double the number of regiments asked for.

A large number of additional volunteers arrived from Annapolis yesterday and to-day.

☞ It is expected that our troops will soon be called for; we shall publish a full list of the volunteers who finally march to the battle field. They leave TO-DAY