

Letters from the Army.

FROM THE 151st P. V.

NEAR UNION MILLS,
FAIRFAX CO. VA., Dec. 17, 1862.

Mr. Editor:—Dear Sir: In compliance with the wishes of many of my friends in your county, I take the liberty of venturing to intrude myself upon your attention, and through the columns of your valuable sheet, upon that of the public.

You are doubtless aware that the 151st Reg. P. V. is composed in part of two companies from Susquehanna county, under the command of Capt. Stone and Grandall; and that it is encamped on the "sacred soil" of the Old Dominion; and I will further state, that its tents are pitched on ground occupied by the southern troops last winter under Jackson and Hill, of the road leading from Centreville to Union Mills, and the impression seems to be very general that we have taken up winter quarters. However that may be, one thing is certain—the regiment has been very assiduously employed since we came here in constructing and re-constructing all manner of edifices for the comfort and convenience of its members. Many log-huts which sheltered one year ago the forces here gathered together to give battle to the North, now protect from the inclemency of the weather many sons of the old Keystone, stopped to take a breathing spell on their way forward to Richmond. Thinking thus, I am reminded that only a few miles from us in northerly direction, is the celebrated running ground where the speed of our northern troops was most signally exhibited, and their bottom tested, one fine summer day in the month of June, 1861; and where also, on a later occasion, their heroic defence and obstinate resistance to superior numbers, has contributed to render it memorable in the annals of the great rebellion; and hard by is the ground occupied by Banks when the engagement took place between his forces and those of Jackson and Longstreet, which resulted in the masterly retreat of the former to Leesburg; while farther off in the distance lies Fairfax C. H. and its surroundings; suggestive of our civil brawl; and nearer by are the ruins of Centreville, and the long line of forts forming defiance to the armed legions of the sunny south.

I visited the ground a few days ago where the engagement took place between the detachment of McDowell's brigade under Hughes, and that of Beauregard under Hill, which resulted in the shelling of the town, its consequent burning, and the retreat of the southern forces from Centreville to Manassas Junction; and I could not restrain an emotion of tenderness at the thought, that I was standing upon consecrated soil—upon ground nurtured with heroic blood, and sprinkled with heroic bones, while the very atmosphere itself seemed redolent with the spirit and fire of patriotic devotion. I only wish that I had the imagination of some "reliable historian"—for instance, the Tribune's "special war correspondent," in which to dip my pen; I would try to reproduce some of the most stirring acts in the drama of which Fairfax co. has been the theatre; but my brain is too dull, and I shall therefore wander out of the realms where the

"Heroic fancy tunes its lays," and enter upon a prosaic review of men and things in general.

In the first place, then, our regiment belongs to the first provisional brigade, commanded by B. S. d'Utassy, a Hungarian by birth and education, who served under Garibaldi in the wars of Italy. Those best acquainted with him say that he unites with his soldierly bearing the attributes of kindness, condescension, and social intercourse, with the men under his command.

The 151st regiment is commanded by Col. Harrison Allen, of Beaver co. Pa.—He is a lawyer by profession, and has distinguished himself by zeal and energy in the sacred cause of upholding the Union. The Lieut.-Col. is G. T. McFarland, a teacher, from Juniata co., and a brave and efficient officer. Major John W. Young, of Susquehanna county, is a native of Scotland. He joined the English army in the year 1847; served in that capacity in England, Ireland and Scotland, for a period of six years; was then ordered to the West Indies, where he served on the Islands of Grenada and Trinidad, for two years, when he was ordered back to Londonderry, (Ireland,) on the Recruiting service; and retired therefrom in March 1854, after a period of 8 years service under the British flag. Major Young has brought from Susquehanna county as fine a body of men as the regiment can boast of, and if his military deportment toward them, and those under him, as well as those associated with him in command, is a fair criterion by which to judge the man, he could not have failed in centering in himself the prayers for his individual safety of every man associated with him on military fields in foreign climes, as he most unquestionably has here. His appointment to the rank of Major is a high tribute to his military qualifications, his patriotism, and his untiring energies in the cause which has brought him into the field.

Considerable sickness is prevailing in camp. Capt. Crandall's company has lost two men, one in Harrisburg and one in Washington, and our hospital tents here shelter 10 or 12 victims to the small-pox; but the extraordinary exertions made for their recovery by Drs. Blakesley, of Luzerne county, and Underwood, of York co., gentlemen of unquestioned attainments in their profession, are a sufficient guaranty that if scientific and medical skill is of any avail, deaths from like causes will be few here. All, in fact, are doing well, with one exception.

We have had, and are still having some very cold weather here.

P. HAYWARD.

DEC. 31, 1862.

Mr. Editor: I perceive you misunderstood me in my former letter in relation to "10 or 12 cases of small-pox in Capt. Crandall's company." To relieve the anxiety of friends and relatives, I will state, that I meant to convey the idea that there were about that number of cases in the regiment.

Four of our company have died with it, and since I last wrote you, Capt. Stone has lost a man with it.

M. H. Dowd, of Lenoxville, belonging to our company, died the 29th ult., of typhoid fever, making 6 already lost but of our company by disease, while we have invalids left in hospital at every place where we have stopped over night since we left Susq. co., except at Scranton.

Nothing new has transpired worthy of note except the rebel raid to Dumfries. Four companies of the 151st (Capt. Stone's among them) and 4 companies of the 126th N. Y. under Major Young, marched down to intercept them, but came back without the smell of gunpowder on their garments.

P. H.

From Hugh McCredie.

FORTRESS MONROE,
Dec. 12th.

Dear Margaret:—I write you a few lines to let you know that I am not very well, and a prisoner. That morning I left home very low in spirits; my head ached all the way to the Depot. I was arrested in Harrisburg for being a deserter, and with 100 more, put in the guard house—kept there 3 days—sent to Baltimore, staid there one night, sent to Washington—staid four days, sent from there to Fortress Monroe, Virginia—landed here this morning. Came in the steam boat, 13 hours passage, was put in the guard house, where I have seen more sorrow and trouble than I ever did in all my life.—This guard house is full of thieves and vagabonds from all parts of the country. A great many from New York city.

I believe this war is nothing but a speculation; the provost guard has \$5 a head for arresting persons. I am sure the rebels cannot use us any worse than our own men do. I do not know how long they will keep me here; it is a nasty, lousy hole. I heard to day that my regiment is lying at Manassas Junction, twenty miles from Washington. If that is the case they will send me back when they have punished me sufficient. I do hate to be a prisoner. If I had known that they were going to use me so, I never should have gone back. I have not had my clothes off since I left home. I write this to let you know how I am situated. I could not tell you all that I have endured if I was to write for one week.—Give my respects to all and write soon.

HUGH MCCREDIE.

[Mr. McCredie had been home on furlough; was too ill to return until his furlough had overrun two or three days, and was therefore arrested.]—Ed. Dem.

Letter from a Montrose Volunteer.

CAMP NEAR FREDERICKSBURG,
VA. Dec. 18th.

Dear Mother:—I now seat myself to write to let you know how I get along.—I am not very well, as I have had the Fever and Ague for about three months; but I am getting better now, and I hope that I will get well before long, as the Doctor has broken the chills; but I am weak. I suppose you have heard of the battle that has been going on here for the last few days, when our troops could not whip the Rebels, but were obliged to fall back across to this side of the river. The Rebels have strong breastworks and our troops tried to take them, but the Rebels had a cross fire on them, and they had to fall back out of range of their guns. They killed and wounded about five thousand of our men. I am tired of this war; it is a sickening sight to see men shot to pieces as I have seen them. I have seen legs shot off close to a man's body, and arms too; but thank God I have come out very well so far, and have got but one scratch. In the battle of Chantilly, a ball hit me on the leg and made me lame for a few days, but I got over that pretty soon, so I was on duty; and if the Lord spares my life, I hope soon to meet my friends and those dear ones that I left at home when I came at my country's call to uphold that dear old flag that we were all born under, and to save our glorious Union from being dissolved by those Southern Traitors.—And if we had hold of some of the Leading Politicians of the North we would settle them very soon. It is easy enough for them to set back on their dignity and say "go ahead boys;" but they are the

last pups to come out in the field and say "come on boys." There is Mr. * * * * * when he was asked why he did not enlist, he replied that he had a wife and children at home, and he could not leave.—Is it any worse for him to leave his wife and children than it is for hundreds of other men that have left their families and all that was dear to them and came like men at their country's call? I say the better it is off. It makes me mad to think of it; and they were so afraid that they would be drafted they must get up a subscription paper and have the citizens contribute something to hire some poor man's son to go and face the bullets! It would be much more to their credit to have given it to some poor woman whose husband has gone and left her with a family to support. Such men as they have proved themselves Cowards, and I am not afraid to tell them so. But enough of this. Just wait until I come home, and then I can talk with them face to face.—We have not got our pay yet, nor do we know when we will get it; but as soon as we get it, I will send you some money. They owe us almost six months pay, and I do not know the reason that we do not get it. If Uncle Sam has got so poor that he can't pay his soldiers, he had better discharge them and send them home to take care of their Families, which was promised to be done before we left home. I am anxious to have this war brought to a close, so I can get home and tell the Northern Abolitionists what I think of them. There is not much more to write; we still live in our shelter tents. There are three of us in one, and we have four blankets so we keep very comfortable.—We have drawn our winter clothing; we drew colored over shirts, knit under shirts, cotton Flannel drawers, and boots; so we keep warm. This is all for this time. My love to all, and write soon.

From your affectionate son.

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PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION.

Whereas, On the twenty-second day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, a Proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing, among other things, the following, to wit:—

"That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in Rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward and forever free, and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act to repress such persons, or any of them, in any effort they may make for their active freedom.

"That the Executive will, on the first day of January aforesaid, by proclamation designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people therein, respectively, shall then be in Rebellion against the United States, and the fact that any State and the people thereof shall, on that day, be in good faith represented in the Congress of the United States, by members chosen thereto at elections wherein a majority of the qualified voters of such States shall have participated, shall, in the absence of strong countervailing testimony, be deemed conclusive evidence that such State and the people thereof are not then in Rebellion against the United States."

Now, therefore, I, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States in time of actual armed rebellion against the authority and Government of the United States, and as a fit and necessary measure for suppressing the said rebellion, do on this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and, in accordance with my purpose so to do, publicly proclaim, for the full period of one hundred days from the day first above mentioned, order and designate as the States and parts of States wherein the people thereof respectively are this day in rebellion against the United States, the following, to wit:—

Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana (except the parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemine, Jefferson, St. James, Ascension, Assumption, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Martin and Orleans, including the city of New Orleans), Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia (except the forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkeley, Accomac, Northampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Ann and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth), and which excepted parts are for the present left precisely as if the proclamation were not issued.

And by virtue of the power and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within the said designated States and parts of said States, are and henceforward shall be free; and that the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons.

And I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free to abstain from all violence, unless in necessary self-defence, and I recommend to them that in all cases, when allowed, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages. And I further declare and make known that such persons, of suitable condition, will be received into the armed service of the United States, to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in the said service. And upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind and the gracious favor of Almighty God.

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

[L. S.] Done at the city of Washington, this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the independence of the United States of America the eighty-seventh.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President,
Wm. H. Seward, Secretary of State.
Washington Jan. 1, 1863.

"When Shall We Have Peace?"

The Portland Advertiser, the leading Republican paper in Maine, asks this important and interesting question, and answers it as follows:

"We answer, when Congress shall be persuaded that history furnishes no example of six millions of people educated, free, and independent, being subjugated to captivity, and ruled against their consent.—When Congress shall be persuaded that no nation on earth has proved themselves powerful enough in arms, or in wealth, to establish, and maintain, indefinitely, a military despotism over six millions of white men accustomed to freedom, and to a representative government. When Congress shall be persuaded that every bayonet that carries a demand for obedience to law, and to the Federal Government, should also carry the announcement of a religious respect for the political rights out of which this war has arisen, and a willingness to confer amicably upon the terms of a readjustment of those rights.

"Fight on, ye men of the North! and fight on will be the cry of the men of the South, until, substantially, these conditions we have named shall come to pass. But fewer of each side shall live to enjoy the result, as day by day passes away, and all of each will be poorer in purse, until the result that gives peace shall be attained. Peace is the child of reason and reciprocal interests. War is the heathen and soulless Moloch that devours, without remorse, every life and interest that stands in the way of its imagined or proclaimed necessities. Cold, pitiless, inhuman, is war in its best aspect. It makes children fatherless, wives widows, the rich poor, the poor miserable, the powerful feeble, the feeble despairing, and the world itself everything that it ought not to be, to every citizen and to every interest."

"But fight on, fight on, will be the impulsive cry of politicians, of aspirants to office, of Government jobbers, and contractors, and of financial, one-day men, both of the North and at the South. Fight on will be the cry of standard loyalty, until the still, small, and yet sublime, voice of the ballot-box shall bid battles to cease, and reason to resume its sway over the councils of the nation. Then no broken nationality—no invidious titles to superior righteousness in the frame-work of institutions and of society—will be recognized, but a reunited people, with one flag of national glory and strength, and one Constitution, one government, and one supremacy, shall become the inheritance of all our people, East, West, North and South. If there be treason in these sentiments, 'make the most of it.'"

We commend the answer to the careful attention of those who are so free with their charges of treason against every Democrat who speaks of peace.

CAUGHT A TARTER.—An attempt was made recently to arrest the editor of the Democratic Union, at Jerseyville, Illinois, for alleged disloyalty. As usual, the parties undertaking to arrest had no warrant, and the editor accordingly "presented arms" in the shape of a revolver, at which the agents of STANTON concluded not to make the arrest just then. They had better abandon such attempts altogether, if they desire to escape future trouble.

THREATENED RUPTION OF NEGROES.—The dens of poverty and misery in the north are about to be reinforced by a large surplus of unfortunate negroes now on the hands of the government. In its kindness, the Government will try to employ the men in good health, but the women and children must be sent North. That's the way to do it, of course, and by the time the four millions have been started on their way to earthly glory, what a beautiful time we shall have in the Northern States!

A GOLD DOLLAR or a silver quarter has become a great curiosity. Ragged shipplasters have taken their place. Had such a condition of affairs occurred under a Democratic administration what a howling world would have been raised by the Abolitionists.

ITEMS.

Had General McClellan stolen a nigger or two, and boasted of it, the Abolitionists would to a man have been his supporters.

The Boston papers, which have previously raised their price, now reduce their size by one column on each page.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has decided that slaughtered hogs weighing more than 150 pounds each, shall be estimated by the assessors as exceeding six months old.

The Provost Marshal of Mass., in an official notice, says the deserters from Mass. regiments are sufficient in number to form a respectable brigade. Returns from seven regiments show that twelve hundred and fifty have skeddaddled. Patriotic Massachusetts!

A memorial, signed by Governor Johnson and numerous other influential loyal Tennesseans, has been presented to the President by Hon. Emerson Ethridge, asking that the proclamation for emancipating the slaves may not be applied to that state.

The President has approved the sentence of the court-martial held at Norfolk, for the hanging of Frank Letz, a teamster, who killed a colored man at Camp Hamilton.

The Senate has confirmed the nomination of Caleb B. Smith, for District Judge of the District Court of Indiana. No nomination has as yet been made to supply the vacancy thus occasioned in the department of the Interior.

At an election held in Bridgeport, Connecticut, on the 22d, the entire Democratic ticket was elected. The Democratic Selectmen had 237 majority. Last spring the majority was between two and three hundred for the abolition Republicans.

"WE ARE COMING, FATHER ABRAHAM."—Over twelve hundred soldiers have deserted from seven Massachusetts regiments. Such is the announcement of the Provost Guard of that State.

Is this the way Gov. Andrew crowds the highways and by-ways with his troops, to assist the President in putting his emancipation proclamation in operation?

It is noticeable that the clamor for peace is confined as yet to the radical Republicans. So far no conservative organ of public opinion has said one word in favor of peace unless it brought with it a restoration of the Union. Mr. Conway, of Kansas, in the House, wishes to stop the war and define boundaries, while nearly all the radical papers favor a final separation unless slavery goes by the board.

By a recent report of the Commissioners of Emigration it appears, from the 1st of December, 69,499 emigrants arrived in this country, which, strange to say, is 5,104 above the number for the same period in 1861.

What necessity can there be for indemnifying the Administration for its arbitrary arrests, if, as the Republicans claim, they were all legal and proper?

Congress adjourned over the holidays, when we may expect the African gentleman to engage its attention again.

Hon. Thomas H. Hicks has been appointed U. S. Senator from Maryland, vice James A. Pearce, deceased.

The California steamer Ariel was captured by the privateer Alabama on the 7th ult., while the former was on her route to Aspinwall. The privateer first made her appearance off the eastern point of Cuba, and the Ariel vainly endeavored to escape from her. After detaining her a prisoner for two days, with an armed prize crew of twenty men on board, Captain Semmes released her, having received bonds amounting to \$260,000 as a ransom for her, to be paid "six months after the recognition of the Southern Confederacy by the United States." The pirates took \$9,000 from the Ariel, and were having sharp look-out for her consort, the Champion, which they expected would have a large amount of treasure on board.

Jeff. Davis has issued a proclamation, dated Richmond, December 23, embracing the following points: First, Gen. Butler and his officers, if captured by the confederates, are to be hung, in retaliation for the hanging of Wm. B. Mumford, at New Orleans. Second, The privateers under his command, not being free agents, are to be paroled according to the usages of war. Third, That all slaves captured in arms shall be delivered to the authorities of the states to which they belong, to be dealt with according to law. Fourth, A like course shall be taken with all commissioned officers found serving with slaves.

For the first time since the Fredericksburg defeat, we have palpable news from the army of the Potomac. On Tuesday, Gen. Burnside sent out a heavy reconnoitering force, which, it is expected will accomplish important results within the next few days. An impression prevails that Lee has detached a large portion of his army and sent it up the Rappahannock, but to what destination is unknown. A large force of rebel cavalry has been seen making its way northward from Occoquan. Telegraph communication between Gen. Burnside and the War Office has been cut off.

LATEST FROM THE ARMY!

GREAT BATTLE IN TENNESSEE!
CAPTURE OF MURFREESBORO!

HEAVY LOSS ON BOTH SIDES!

NASHVILLE, Jan. 2d.

The Federals encountered the rebels on the 30th ult., near Stewart's Creek. After heavy skirmishing the rebels were driven back. We captured one hundred prisoners, and killed and wounded a large number of rebels. Our loss was 70 killed and wounded.

At day-break on the 31st the fight was renewed with great fury. McCook's corps was opposed to Hardee. After desperate fighting with heavy loss on both sides McCook retreated two miles. He soon rallied and was driven back. At night he was four miles this side of the ground occupied in the morning. The fight continued until 10 o'clock P. M., at which time we had maintained our position.

The Federal loss is very heavy—estimated at 2,500. The rebel loss exceeds ours.

Gen. J. E. Rains was killed. Gen. Cheatham was wounded and taken prisoner.

We have captured 500 prisoners. The fight was renewed at 3 A. M. on January 1st. The cannonading was heard at Nashville. At 10 A. M. Wood's and Van Cleve's divisions were in Murfreesboro driving the enemy, who were in full retreat.

Three hundred prisoners reached Nashville at 6 P. M. on January 1st.

Many buildings have been taken for hospital purposes. Great numbers of wounded are being brought in now.

The river has fallen 18 inches on the shoals.

Four regiments of regulars lost half their men and all their commanding officers. General Anderson's troops suffered severely.

Majors Rosengarten and Ward are killed. Two o'clock P. M.—General Thomas has just broken the rebel centre and driven the enemy a mile.

General Rosecrans is personally superintending the movements. One shot killed two of his staff officers.

General Crittenden's left wing has taken the entrenchments at Murfreesboro.

The Mansfield Classical Seminary to be a State Normal School.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMON SCHOOLS,
HARRISBURG, Dec. 11, 1862.

Whereas, the Board of Trustees of the Mansfield Classical Seminary, located at Mansfield in the county of Tioga, by resolution, adopted at a meeting of the Board on the twenty-fourth day of October, 1862, on file in this Department, made formal application to the State Superintendent for the privilege of "An Act to provide for the training of teachers for the common schools of the State," approved the 20th day of May, 1857, and the supplement thereto, approved the 14th day of April, 1859; and Whereas, in pursuance of said application, the State Superintendent of common schools, together with Hon. Geo. Smith, of the county of Delaware; Hon. A. L. Hays, of the county of Lancaster; Samuel Calvin, esq., of the county of Blair; Dr. C. T. Bliss, of the county of Bradford; a competent and disinterested persons," appointed by him, with the consent of the Governor, as Inspectors, and C. R. Coburn, Superintendent of Bradford county; A. N. Bullard, superintendent of Susquehanna county; Hughes Castles, superintendent of Lycoming county; and H. C. Johns, superintendent of Tioga county—did, on Thursday, the eleventh day of December, 1862, personally, and at the same time, visit and carefully inspect said school, and upon thorough examination thereof, and of its by laws, rules and regulations, and of its general arrangement and facilities for instruction, by written report, on file in this Department, approve the same, and find that they fully come up to the provision of said Act, and its supplement, and did certify the same to the Department of Common Schools, with their opinion that said school has fully complied with the provisions of said Act, and its supplement, as far as can be done before going into operation under them.

Now, THEREFORE, in pursuance of the requirements of the seventh section of the Act aforesaid, I do hereby give public notice, that I have officially recognized the Mansfield Classical Seminary, as a State Normal School for the Fifth Normal School District, composed of the counties of Bradford, Susquehanna, Wyoming, Sullivan, Lycoming, and Tioga, and that said school shall hereafter enjoy the privileges and immunities, and be subject to all the liabilities and restrictions contained in said Act and supplement.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Department of Common Schools, at Harrisburg, this 11th day of December, 1862.

THO. H. BURROWES,
Supt. Common Schools.

N. B.—The next Term will commence January 5, 1863.