Miners' Journal.

POTTSVILLE, PA.

SATURDAY, MAY 25, 1861.

Letter From Fort Washington.

(WRITTEN BY OUR ASSOCIATE.)

FORT WASHINGTON, MD., *May 19, 1861.*

DEAR JOURNAL: The world wags on with us this bright Spring Sabbath day, pretty much as it did a week since, when I sat down to record for you what was worth mentioning in connection with the Company. We have succeeded in getting nearly all of the cannon which were brought here, mounted, and work of the severe order, is nearly finished, no doubt to the satisfaction of the commandant at this post, and unquestionably to ours.

One man since they have donned the United States fatigue uniform, rest to the Company from Washington, present a very neat and comfortable appearance. The suit consists of a blouse, heavy dark blue pantaloons and blue fatigue cap. When their belts are in order and mugbeck bright as they were this morning for inspection, the company looks well. Notwithstanding the amount of work and guard duty which the men have done since they have been here, they are improving in their drill, and a little more time devoted to this indispensable requisite, will enable them to make a very creditable appearance in the regiment. The infantry drill in the army, is altogether the Hardee, which differs somewhat in the manual of arms, to that with which we have been accustomed. It can however, be readily adopted. Our non-commissioned officers will to-day receive instructions from a drill sergeant of the army, two hours every day, and they in turn will drill the company in squads. With this arrangement, the new tactics will soon become familiar to every man.

The duties which up to this time, devolved upon the company may be classed as follows: At reveille, 5 o'clock, the men turn out of their bunks, made of the softest planks, wash, and clean up their quarters. At 6¼ o'clock, they eat breakfast. At 7¼ o'clock, the Surgeon's call is played with drum and fife, and the sick are reported. At 8, guard-mounting takes place. The new guard goes on, and remains on duty until 8 next morning. For this guard we detail sixteen men daily. Others are also detailed for police and fatigue duty, which embraces work within the Fort, such as unloading carts, storing provisions, mounting cannon, etc., and without the Fort, such as loading carts, clearing land in the vicinity, of trees, leveling inequalities in the earth at the base of the walls of the Fort, etc. At 9 o'clock at night, tattle is beaten, ten minutes after, taps, when every light in camp must be extinguished. This in brief, gives you an idea of daily duty in this fort.

In the course of my duty as officer of the Guard, whenever detailed, I have met an officer of the Day, Lieutenant Perkins of the Artillery. In the still watches of the night, before the flickering light of the guard room fire, we have met and conversed for hours. He is a fine Artillerist, and has seen much service in Florida, and on the frontier. His descriptions of Indian life are very interesting. He lived among them for years, and speaks fluently, the Sioux language. The Lieutenant is one of the most agreeable men I ever met. His sayvity of manner, and the cheerfulness with which he imparts information in reference to military points, render him popular with one and all.

On Thursday last we had another surprise party of Pottsville faces, and still another yesterday. The Thursday party was composed of Benj. Haywood, Esq., Samuel Huntzinger, Esq., Judge Helfenstein, Mr. Millholland of the Reading Railroad, Judge Leib, and Mr. George Staley. We had a premonition of Mr. Haywood's visit, the previous afternoon, in the shape of twenty-five bushels of fine potatoes, which arrived from Washington for the Artillerists. It was suggested to him by Mr. Leib that the potatoes would be a treat to the boys. No sooner said than done. Mr. Haywood immediately purchased fifty bushels of potatoes at $1 10 per bushel, and sent half to the Infantry, and half to us. These "anti-scorbutics" in connection with the butter and eggs sent by the Messrs. Morris and other generous merchants, unquestionably saved some of the men from an attack of the scurvy, of which they had premonitory symptoms. While acknowledging the receipt of acceptable presents, I would state that the Company is indebted to Mrs. J. H. Campbell for her kindness in sending it two large pound cakes. They were discussed on Friday with great gusto.

The party which reached here yesterday in company with sundry boxes for individual members of the company, was composed of Messrs. William Patterson, Dr. Woodnut, L. Garrigues and L. Thompson. They are still with us as I write, knocking around our quarters, sleeping and messing with us. Before they leave, they will have a good idea of a soldier's life in garrison.

It would have interested the many friends of Mr. Haywood to have seen him among the boys. With his umbrella under his arm, and his hands crossed in front, he was surrounded by familiar faces. He good naturedly answered scores of questions, and was not slow in asking. No sooner was he introduced to Major Haskins, that they became sociable, the Major perceiving at once that he was conversing with one of Nature's noblemen. Mr. Haywood and the gentlemen with him, passed a very pleasant two hours here, examining the Fort, and talking with the men. The manner in which Mr. H. succeeded in getting here was characteristic of the energy of that gentleman. It seems that he was resolved to get down here, and remarked to the Secretary of War that he would charter a steamer for the purpose if it was necessary. The Secretary to save him that trouble and expense, placed a steamer at his disposal, and of course, for the trip he was commander. Should the "Star of authority with dignity and grace, with no idea of having them turned upon, as was proved, when he peremptorily refused to start before he had finished taking a sociable potato, and some bean soup with us.

I was glad that Mr. Haywood visited us for one reason. Some misapprehension has existed I learn, in Pottsville, in reference to the Captaincy. Capt. Wren resigned for the purpose of running for Lieutenant-Colonel of the Advance Regiment, and was defeated. He fully intended resigning, and it was not caused by any difficulty with the Company, all reports to the contrary notwithstanding. The Captain himself has written home in reference to the matter; and Mr. Haywood thoroughly understands it, so that no further misapprehension need exist in reference to it. I allude to this, because our company at this moment is just as harmonious as when it left home.

To-day heavy cannonading was heard down the river. It is reported that the Virginians have erected a sand battery at Aquia Creek, about forty miles below this point, for the purpose of commanding the river at that point. The Government will undoubtedly, attend to that battery and silence it, for it is important to keep this stream open, connecting as it does, the Federal Capital with the ocean. We are not aware of the movements of the rebel troops. So far they have not appeared in this vicinity. There is no question however, that they are concentrating in considerable numbers at different points in Virginia, to be ready for offensive or defensive operations, as their military authorities may decide.

There is considerable amusement among the men after their day's work is finished, which is at 5 o'clock. Some pitch quoits, others wheel barrows blindfolded, while a well known and highly appreciated mimic, often keeps a crowd in a roar by his artistic delineation of Dr. Bobbs, and other home characters of note. Drake, known under the euphonious cognomen of "Snapper," is full of natural humor. He yesterday informed an outside querist, that the largest gun in the Fort threw a seven ton ball. He stated that it had been fired the day before across the river; that the ball entered an embankment, and made a tunnel (large enough to drive in a team and wagon) four miles long. The querist elevated his eyebrows, but seemed satisfied with the answer, while "Snapper" watched to see how the bait took. He too seemed satisfied at the result. There are stories innumerable, of "Snapper's" humorous sayings. He is decidedly our funny man.

It is not improbable that we may be moved soon from here. Washington may be our destination, to join the regiment, and then it may be forward into the heart of the enemy's country. If the campaign should be settled upon soon, it may be that the first requisition will be sent to open the ball in Virginia. However, it is problematical. The War Department keeps its business close and secret. No person knows its intentions in advance, and newspaper correspondents are in despair thereat. As soon as we are moved, I will let you know.

The health of the men is excellent. They are getting brown with exposure to the sun, but I think that rather improves their appearance than otherwise. We have but one man on the sick list.

The Company feels under constant obligation to Major James H. Campbell, who has been unwearied in his attentions, and who is solicitous for the welfare of each member. He keeps us well supplied with paper and franked envelopes. Major Campbell's action in entering on the campaign, as a volunteer, is worthy of the highest commendation, and must command the admiration of his constituency.

Dr. J. B. Brandt, of Llewellyn, a private of this company, has been appointed Assistant Surgeon of this Regiment.

All the men are delighted at the intelligence that Dr. John T. Carpenter, will be Surgeon of the Regiment. It is a satisfaction to be attended by a Surgeon one knows, and I believe facilitates recovery.

I am informed by Dr Woodnut, that Dr. Halberstadt and John W. Roseberry, Esq., were at the Washington Navy Yard during Friday and part of Saturday, waiting for an opportunity to come down. At last wearied with waiting, they returned to the City, and finally left for home, without succeeding in reaching us. I am informed that Dr. H. was intensely anxious to visit the Fort, and that Mr. R. suffered considerably in flesh from the rapidity of action necessary to keep up with the Doctor, in his efforts to devise ways and means of reaching us. I regret that they did not succeed. We would have been delighted to have seen them. Better luck next time.

As I have given you in the main, the contents of my little news budget at this point, I must close, by stating that we attended Divine service in one of the messrooms of the Fort, Mr. Harris, the clergyman, 60 years of age, read the Episcopal service, and preached a good sermon.

The singing was led by his niece, the congregation of males joining in.

Till I write again, I am Yours,

F. B. W.

May 21, 1861.

The company was divided yesterday, the Artillerists retaining all the Pottsville boys. It was done by order of Col. Cake. The company is completed now of 79 members, instead of 120. A third company has been formed out of what is left from the Infantry and Artillerists, of which James Wren has been elected Captain. D. A. Smith was yesterday elected Captain of the Artillerists. F. B. Wallace 1st Lieutenant; Philip Hagle 2d; and Henry Russel 3d. Until the commissions are received, and the election recognized by the War Department, we still continue as we were.—ED. J'RN'L.

WHAT WILL ENGLAND DO?

The recent declaration made in Parliament by Lord John Russel, that her majesty's Government would be likely to acknowledge the Southern Rebels as a "belligerent power," which would, in effect, be an acknowledgment of their right of rebellion against our Government, has caused considerable discussion among the people, and is freely commented upon in the press. These remarks were made, however, when only the *first impressions* were received from this country, and it must be evident to all who have read the debate, that both Lord John Russell and Lord Palmerston, were very cautious in committing either themselves or the Government fully on this subject, evidently with the view of gaining time, until further intelligence could be received from the United States. We do not believe that either England or France will favor the rebels, when they become fully acquainted with the policy of our Government toward these rebels, and the sublime uprising of the People in the support of the Union, which is unparalleled in the annals of any nation—and may be very appropriately termed, *terrific*.

The following article from the New York *Courier and Enquirer*, of Wednesday, discusses the subject fully, and the sentiments therein expressed, will receive a response from every loyal heart in the country:

We cannot easily conceive of anything more contrary to the dictates of common sense, than the apprehensions by some of our people and Press, in regard to the course of European Powers relative to the action of this Government in putting down rebellion. A very little reflection on the subject however, and upon the absolute necessity, based on self-preservation, which compels European Powers to guard and protect in every possible manner, the right of dealing with Traitors and Rebels without interference from outsiders, should remove all such apprehensions, from the minds of the most timid. But says the grumbler, "England and France must have our cotton!" And if so, is it not palpable to both Governments, and to all sensible people on both sides of the Atlantic, that it must be with the full assent of this Government of the United States? Let us alone, and we will insure a regular but diminished supply after six or nine months; but presume to meddle or interfere with our domestic quarrel, and you shall not receive a bale of cotton for years to come. In this connection, the following well settled principles must not be lost sight of:

It is the right of this and every other Government, to maintain its sovereignty over its people; and to that end purpose to adopt such measures as in its wisdom, may be deemed expedient.

It is the inherent right of every Government, to put down Rebellion, and to punish Traitors in such manner as it may elect.

It is the right of every Government to open to Foreign Commerce such of its Ports as it may think proper; and at its pleasure, to close them.

It is the right of every Government to publish Traitors in rebellion against its lawful authority, whether on the land or on the water, with *death*; and to confiscate their property for the benefit of the State.

Any interference with any of those rights by any other Power, is a *Casus Belli*; and as certainly as such interference is attempted by *England, France*[1] or any of the nations of the earth, such attempt will be met by the United States with a declaration of war against the party thus intermeddling with what does not concern them.

By act of Congress, we have made the seaports of our Southern Coast, "Ports of Entry" *and while they continue to be such*, we have given to all the civilized nations of the world, the right to trade with them according to Treaty stipulations. But whenever in the exercise of a sound discretion, or for the purpose of putting down Rebellion, we deem it expedient or necessary to close any of the ports, whether entered or cleared, and whoever attempts to interfere with such right, is guilty of the gravest offence against our Sovereignty; and the punishment for such offence, is the immediate confiscation of the property of the party offending, and the punishment of the offender.

The closing of *our own Ports*, or their blockade against the ingress or egress of all commerce, inflicted by us as a punishment for *our own subjects* in Rebellion against our Government, is a very different affair from the Blockade of the Ports of a Foreign Power against the commerce of Nations. In the latter case, a Nation is compelled to make good its *ability* to prevent such commerce between two Sovereign Powers, in order to have its blockade respected; or a weak Power like Spain, might, by what is called a "Paper Blockade," close the Ports of France against England, and *vice versa*. Hence, when one Sovereign and Independent Power blockades the Ports of a Sister Sovereign Power, against all the other Powers of the World, the Law of Nations requires that it should keep up before such Port or Ports, a sufficient force to render efficient its Blockade. Otherwise the interests of neutrals and third parties, might be improperly trifled with. But not so in regard to a nation's closing its own Ports or blockading them to the exclusion of all Foreign Powers. If instead of the President ordering a Blockade of our own Southern Ports, he had simply issued his Proclamation closing their Ports against the vessels of all other Nations, there exists not a legal tribunal in the World which could justly have questioned the legality of such an act as against Foreign Nations. True, we might have some trouble at home, and if not, then he cannot too soon put an end to all impertinent interference on their part, and apprise them at once, that it is none of their business what force we propose to employ to render our Blockade efficient. Being against our own people, the notice of Blockade by Proclamation, is all they have any right to demand.

In regard to Privateers sailing under the authority of our Rebel States, that is one of the simplest questions which ever presented itself to the consideration of Statesmen. Suppose Jeff. Davis as Chief Traitor and acknowledged Leader of this infamous Rebellion, were to grant authority in writing, *to rob the Banks in Philadelphia; and offer a reward of twenty dollars per head for and offer a reward of twenty dollars per head for the citizens of the United States murdered in the perpetration of such Robbery!* Would any sane man, doubt our right to punish summarily by hanging, such Land Pirates, when taken with such authority in their possession? Most assuredly not. And so with Privateers in time of war, with *authority from the Rebel Chief, to capture our property on the ocean, and a promise of twenty dollars per head for every citizen of the United States murdered in the perpetration of the Robbery!* Can any sane man in Europe or America, question the fact, that men so employed, order such authority, and with such inducements to rob and murder, would be "Pirates in the words of the statute, and merit instant hanging at the yard arm by their captors? Other Nations may or may not, look upon them as Pirates and hunt them down accordingly. So long as those Pirates do not prey upon English commerce, Lord John Russell is of opinion that it is not his duty to treat them as Pirates, and punish them accordingly. This is a matter of taste, and depends not more or less upon the friendly or unfriendly feeling which the present Government of England may feel towards the United States.—Undoubtedly, it may, if unfriendly to us, shut its eyes to the acts of these *Pirates*, and refuse to punish them so long as they do not practice their Piracy upon British Commerce; or, if disposed to act a friendly part, and inclined to sustain the Government of a friendly Power against a most causeless and unjustifiable rebellion, it may and should, recognise these Privateers as *Pirates*, and treat them accordingly, whenever met with. The people of England will, however, take this matter at their own leasing. They know that our Government is waging against Traitors, Robbers, and Pirates who are in rebellion against its authority for no other earthly purpose, than to extend and perpetuate the institution of African Slavery, and in time to legalize the African Slave trade; and we venture the prediction, that no Government can sustain itself in Great Britain, which countenances the Robbers and Pirates who have embarked in this nefarious work. Let Lord John look to it in time, or the people of England will rally to him from all trouble in the premises.

As to our being deserted from pursuing the even tenor of our way, in dealing with our own Rebels after our own fashion, by any action of one or all of the Powers of Europe combined, the very idea of it, is an absurdity. Intelligence with us, will be held in good repute *for ever*; and in the present temper both our people, we will not brook intermeddling from any quarter. We intend to close our Ports whenever, and in the mode and manner, we deem expedient; and we intend to put down Rebellion, and Traitors and confiscate both their land and their negroes, and punish as Pirates by hanging at the yard-arm all who are caught at sea, with letters of marque from the Rebel Government; let the Powers of Europe think or do whatever they please. And if our Representatives abroad, have not already been instructed to make this fact patent to the European Governments, we are greatly mistaken in the character of our Secretary of State. On this subject however, we have no fears. He has distinctly charged his whole duty; and there need be no fear that either England or France will interfere with our dealing with the Rebels and Robbers of the South, as they so richly merit. The People of England will compel their Government to do its duty; and we have it in our power to state *upon good authority*, that Napoleon III. after taking the necessary steps as early as January last, to make himself familiar with the whole subject of Secession and Rebellion, and the probable consequences of the existing civil war upon the interests of the manufacturers of Europe, has definitely resolved, that *"he will not countenance interference from any quarter, with the right of the American Government, to deal with the Rebellion in a manner satisfactory to itself."*

This country was never in a better condition than it is now for a brush with England. We have our hands in, and another war would make but little difference to our people, it would give some employment to our blockading fleet. Declaration of war by this country against England, would unquestionably set all Europe in a blaze.

RETURN OF TEXAN U. S. OFFICERS.—Among the officers captured in Texas, by order of Jeff. Davis, were Major WM. A. NICHOLS and Lieut. E. L. HARTZ, of this borough. Major NICHOLS and family, arrived on Tuesday last, and Lieut. HARTZ is expected daily. Major NICHOLS feels very indignant at the treachery of, and treatment they received at the hands of the rebels—and desires us to publish the following statement which gives all the particulars of their arrest, and the reasons which induced these officers to give their parole:

TREACHERY TOWARDS THE U. S. ARMY IN TEXAS.

When the Traitor Twiggs surrendered the U. S. Soldiers, under his command to the Texian Rebels,—it was solemnly agreed between Twiggs and the commissioners of the State of Texas, that the troops of the United States shall leave the soil of the State by the way of the coast; that they shall take with them the armies of the respective corps, including the battery of light artillery at Fort Duncan, and the battery of the same character at Fort Brown; and shall be allowed the necessary means for regular and comfortable movement, provisions, tents, etc., etc., and transportation.

Upon this, General Twiggs published to the army the following order:

HEADQUARTER DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
SAN ANTONIO, Feb. 16, 1861.

GENERAL ORDERS NO. 5.

The State of Texas having demanded, through the commissioners, the delivery of the military post and public property within the limits of this command, and the commanding general desiring to avoid even a possibility of a collision between the Federal and State troops, the posts will be evacuated by their garrisons, and the line will take up as soon as the necessary preparations can be made, the line of march out of Texas, by way of the coast, marching out with their arms (the light batteries with their guns), clothing, camp and garrison equipage, quartermaster's stores, subsistence, medical, hospital stores, and such means of transportation of every kind as may be necessary for the prompt and orderly movement of the troops, prepared for attack or defence against aggressions from any source.

The troops will carry with them provisions as far as the coast. By order of

Brevet Major Gen. TWIGGS.

Every effort was then made, to corrupt the troops, by offering them increased rank and higher pay—but finding that all their offers were rejected, and the men determined to remain true to their colors, and leave the State as rapidly as possible, the President of the Piratical Government, in defiance of the Agreement, ordered those remaining in the State to be disarmed and taken as prisoners of war. The following memorandum is the manner in which Colonel Waite, commanding the Department of Texas, together with his officers on duty in San Antonio, without troops, were captured and made prisoners of war.

MEMORANDUM

Relating to the arrest of Colonel C. A. Waite, U. S. Army, and the officers of the U. S. Army on duty at San Antonio, Texas without Troops. Also of Colonel Waite's quarters, Colonel Waite and Major McClellan's property.

SAN ANTONIO, Texas,
Tuesday, April 23, 1861.

Captain Wilcox with his sword, commanding Texas troops—Good morning, Colonel.

Colonel Waite—Good morning, sir.

Captain Wilcox—I have come to request you to go over to Maj'r Mac'lin's office.

Colonel Waite—For what purpose, sir?

Captain Wilcox—As a prisoner of war!

Colonel Waite—What authority have you?

Captain Wilcox—I have authority from Major Maclin?

Colonel Waite—Who is Major Maclin?

Captain Wilcox—An officer of the Confederate States.

Colonel Waite—I do not, sir, recognize any such authority. Have you the authority? I should like to see it.

Captain Wilcox then took from his pocket an order from Major Maclin, which Colonel Waite read, directing him, Wilcox, to proceed with his company and arrest the officers of the United States Government on duty in San Antonio, Texas.

Colonel Waite: I protest against any such act, and will not obey the order except by force. Have I committed any offence? To which to plead guilty? I know of none. It is then, said Colonel Waite, "a most unwarranted act of usurpation, and in violation of the modes and customs of civilized warfare, and a gross country generally. It is indeed, "Piratical, and is unjustifiable in the name of my country. Your authority I do not recognize, nor will I obey any order from you; nothing but the presence of force, a force greater than I can command, will cause me to relinquish my personal freedom. There is nothing in history to equal this usurpation." Thereupon Captain Wilcox said: "I have the honor, Colonel Waite, to demand your parole." Immediately returned with thirty-six footmen, Texas troops, armed with rifles and sabre bayonets. The command was halted in front of Colonel Waite's quarters, when Captain Wilcox entered the house. Colonel Waite then walked to the door, when upon looking out, remarked: "Is that your guard, sir?" "Yes, sir," replied Captain Wilcox; "I have come to receive your parole." "Never, sir," remarked Colonel Waite, "than I can resist, and I again protest in the name of my country against this gross and unwarranted act of usurpation, and in violation of my personal rights." "Then you wish me to go, sir?" "To the ordinance office, sir," said Captain Wilcox. Colonel Waite then took his hat and passed to the front of the house, where arms were shouldered, and the crowd proceeded through the public street. As Colonel Waite was passing into the custody of the guard, Major Sprague remarked to Captain Wilcox: "Do you consider your prisoner safe?" he replied, "come along." "Then," said Major Sprague, "I concur fully in every word uttered by Colonel Waite in regard to this outrage." Major Sprague then joined Colonel Waite, and proceeded amid a crowd of boys.

Arriving at the building where the public offices are, the command was halted, and Capt. Wilcox ordered the other officers to fall in. Major Wm. A. Nichols, Assistant Adjutant General; Major Daniel McClure, Pay Department; Brevet Lieutenant Colonel D. T. Chandler, Third Infantry; Capt. C. Hill, Second Cavalry; Surgeon E. A. Abadie, Medical Department; Assistant Surgeon J. R. Smith, Medical Department; Surgeon S. P. Langworthy, Medical Department; Capt. A. T. Lee, Eighth Infantry; Lieutenant E. L. Harts, Eighth Infantry; Lieutenant E. W. H. Read, Eighth Infantry; Captain R. M. Potter, Military Storekeeper, who had been previously arrested, and with within the building in charge of a sentinel, to proceed. The officers in a body, in charge of the guard, were conducted to the office of Major Maclin. After a few moments' silence, Major Maclin said: "Colonel Waite, it becomes my duty to arrest you, and the other officers, as prisoners of war." "By what authority, sir?" "That is my business, sir, not yours," responded Major Maclin. "But," said Colonel Waite, "I should like to know by what power I am deprived of my personal rights?" "I have the power from the President of the Confederate States," said Major Maclin. "Such authority I do not know, nor shall I obey it," said Colonel Waite. "Have I, or my officers, committed any offence? Did we not come here as friends, and have we not been such to all the interests of Texas? More than that, is there not an agreement with the Texas commissioners guaranteeing to the men and officers, my entire command, to be free from molestation?" That, sir, has been carried out faithfully, on our part, in every respect. By what right, then, am I to be restricted of my liberty? and by what authority am I and my officers to be made prisoners of war? I protest against it!" "There is no use of protesting," said Major Maclin, "I do not wish to hear any protest." "It is unwarranted, sir, and unjustifiable." "I will protest," replied Colonel Waite, "in the name of my country and Government, I protest." "I denounce it as an act of unwarranted usurpation, and against the customs of civilized warfare, in violation of my rights. I suppose you intend to regard the rights and customs of civilization?" I know no war; we have been acting as friends; we are not here in a hostile attitude; we came into the country as friends, and are going out as such." "Yes," responded Major Maclin, "I have my duty to perform, and shall do it." "I repeat," said Colonel Waite, "it is gross, unheard of, unwarranted, and treacherous; nothing but the presence of a force requires me to listen to such measures, much more to obey them.—Had I the means, I would quickly dispute it. I would resist to the last death." "I am aware of that," answered Major Maclin; "I have as much confidence in the courage of your officers as you have."

"What do you propose?" inquired Colonel Waite. "I am obliged to consider myself a prisoner, and should like to know the future." "I have here, sir," replied Major Maclin, "orders to parole all officers who will be paroled, which the officers are at liberty to avail themselves of."

One of these was then read by Colonel Waite. "Such a paper I shall not sign," said Colonel Waite indignantly. "It is highly objectionable, and I shall remain a prisoner." "Very well!" answered Major Maclin, "these paroles will not be presented to you without your request." "What rank do you hold, sir?" inquired Colonel Waite. "I am a Major!" replied Major M. "In the Provisional or regular army?" inquired Colonel Waite. "In the regular army, sir, of the Confederate States," responded the Major.

A general conversation ensued among all parties, in which there was much excitement, when Major Sprague improved the first opportunity to speak, and remarked that "he should send the officers to Victoria, one hundred miles distant, to Col. Van Dorn's head quarters," and declared to know how soon Col. Waite could be ready, and suggested to-morrow, even intimated to-day, whereupon Col. Waite, and the officers present, said "it was impossible to arrange their family affairs to start at a time." "How long is time then," asked he, "do you require—one, two, or three days?" "I presume we can have transportation!" suggested Colonel Waite. *There will be transportation for you, sir,"* replied Major Maclin, with emphasis and anger. Again a general conversation took place; still much excitement was evinced among all parties. The inquiry was made of Maj'r Maclin if he had any discretion in the matter? He replied that he had none. The character of parties and the rights of prisoners then became a general subject of conversation. Colonel Waite remarked that "he would twenty days hence to consider the subject, as it was of great importance.

Colonel Waite called to one of the unarmed Texian privates, who was in a very offensive manner, displayed, saying, "he had one for them." This again caused much excitement, and indignant feeling. "If it be my desire," said Colonel Waite, "to put some of the charges of our command to be left here (the Eighth Infantry band and clerks at headquarters,) as prisoners, should I accept a parole, to attend to their personal rights, police and comfort," "if you need have no concern about them, sir," responded Major Maclin, "we will save you that trouble, we will attend to that; no officer will be permitted to leave anything to do with them." You will not be allowed to give any orders here." Colonel Waite, in answer, said, "it is your wish and object to corrupt them, and to force them into your service, but they will see they will die sooner." "Your language, sir," said Major Maclin, "is offensive; I cannot permit it." Colonel Waite replied: "The *facts, sir, are doubtless offensive*. My language is not intended to be offensive. I utilize, and state the facts. I also claim the right to send an officer to my Government with sealed despatches, on parole." "That, sir," replied Major Maclin, "will not be allowed." "Well," said Colonel Waite "can I not make any official report? To send an officer to headquarters, after important events, is the custom of all armies and troops among civilized people." "Perhaps it is," responded Major Maclin. After a long conversation, and the excitement somewhat abated, Major Maclin was asked if he would grant to each officer twenty-four hours to consider upon the subject, when they would report to him, in person, their determination. To this he agreed, and permitted each officer to take one of the manuscript paroles for consideration. The guard at the door was then dismissed, and the officers retired.

WEDNESDAY, April 24, 1861.

The officers met at 12 M. to-day at the office of the commanding officer, Major Maclin, as agreed upon yesterday, excepting a provision for exchange as prisoners of war, and the privilege granted to Col. Waite to send his own and past transactions to his Government. Maclin turns now over the command of the parol s, or to be treated as close prisoners of war. There was no alternative, but to be subjected to the rabble, to crowds of unprincipled troops, regardless of authority or control, to the vindictive and active prejudices of men in authority, who had already stipulated terms, or take the paroles offered, and act safe conduct out of the State. The latter was determined upon, as the only method which could secure safe egress, or escape, and place the officers within reach of the authorities of the United States Government. Each officer took his parole under the protest made by Colonel Waite the day previous.

This transaction places these officers in a very unpleasant situation. If the Government recognises these paroles, it would be recognizing the Rebels to a certain extent. To require them to enter into service at exposed points, they would, if taken, unquestionably be shot, by order of the Chief Pirate Jeff. Davis. To have refused to have given their paroles, they would have been held as prisoners and exposed to the mercy of a barbarous foe, for refusing to enter into the service of the rebels. Of course all these circumstances will be taken into consideration by the Government.

This outrage, says the *Tribune*, is only another proof among many that are accumulating daily that in the contest on which we have entered with the South, we are to encounter a people as treacherous as savages, and as cruel as they are treacherous. All the defects of character which belong naturally to men corrupted by association with Slavery and slaves, are brought out and intensified by hatred of a more prosperous people, whom they hope to ruin and then rule.

THE TRUTH BOLDLY SPOKEN.—A clergyman relates the following conversation as having occurred in Alabama not long since. The probabilities of the conflict were being discussed in a country hotel, and one and another expressed his views pretty freely when an appeal was made to the old settler, as follows; "Well old horse, what do you think of it?" "I think we are to be confoundedly whipped," said he. "The North have a Constitution, a united feeling, plenty of money, and God on their side, and we have only a few cursed Spaniards in Cuba, no credit and the devil on our side. Now I own slaves, and am with the South, but let me tell you we are to be confoundedly whipped."

Letter from Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, May 23, 1861.

MR. EDITOR: As no doubt many of the readers of the JOURNAL will be interested by an account of the condition of the Schuylkill Co. Volunteers, I would request your perusal of the letter published in the Philadelphia *Inquirer* of this A. M.

I have been for some days past brought frequently in contact with those connected in friendship or association with the Volunteers from this City, and Pennsylvania generally, and find from all the same sad tale of neglect, mismanagement and peculation. But in no case have I found anything to equal the case of the 5th and more particularly Co. C. from Glen Carbon, they were the first men to go along the line, during which time raw pork and crackers was their only food. With the aid of Mr. Dennison, a member of the House of Stuart & Bro., I succeeded in procuring sufficient funds from a few personal friends to purchase and forward to the Schuylkill Co's, sixteen dozen underclothing, and fourteen dozen half hose of a good substantial character, also some smoking tobacco, and have the promise of receiving in a few days 100 good flannel shirts from the ladies here. Had it not been for these kind and noble "Women," it would have fared much harder with those Philadelphia regiments now in the field, the officers of most, if not all having had to return and collect their pay.

Having in advance a premium of position here, I made a presentment to the Secretary of the Board of Trade, and also to the District Attorney that it may be brought before the Grand Jury, and such action taken as will explain how such shameless conduct has been practiced on the Pennsylvania Volunteers. I had almost omitted to mention the fact of the most generous and manly generosity of our friend R. A. WILDER. Having met him casually on the street this A. M., and in referring to my Washington experience, he at once proposed to give one hundred dollars, which was immediately expended in procuring some necessary food, and sent forward by express. Of our boys would not appear much, were they seen in Broad alongside the troops of New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Jersey, and even far off Michigan, all of whom are well provided for, not only with necessaries, but some comparative luxuries, such as Gum Blankets, in addition to woolen, and other little matters to which our poor fellows are strangers.

I send the little accompanying as a "Havelock" made of white muslin or linen, used in covering the cap is looked upon as not only a luxury but an absolute necessity, to protect the exposed head and neck from the effect of the sun. "Query"—if you suggested the want, would not the ladies of Pottsville and the region generally, set to work and supply the few thousand necessary for the Schuylkill boys. [Our correspondent will perceive that they have already attended to this matter.] A number of prominent citizens of Lebanon went up to Washington last evening to look after the company from that locality, they previously sent forward a good supply of provisions to meet them on the route. Marching orders were received the 6th Regiment are much better provided for (although far behind the standard of the other States,) in which the Pottsville companies form a part, and doubt not the pressure now being brought to bear on public opinion by letters from the sufferers to friends here and elsewhere, will in a short time compel the lovers of truth to find it necessary to change the epithet of dirty Pennsylvanians, now so commonly used in referring to the soldiers of our State.

Yours Truly,

JOHN S. GRAHAM.

Local Affairs.

Thermometrical Record for the Week.

		P. R. & P. Pennsylvania	Telegraph Office, Hall, Pottsville.	
		8	2	7
		A.M.	P.M.	P.M.
May.	18—Saturday,	58°	82°	clear.
"	20—Monday,	45	51	45
"	21—Tuesday,	60	89	64 clear.
"	22—Wednesday,	65	71	67 "
"	23—Thursday,	57	69	67 "
"	24—Friday,	62	70	"

☞ *Dealers in Old Iron.*—Those persons dealing in old iron, must obtain a license from Court for so doing hereafter, otherwise they are liable to a heavy fine. See notice in our advertising column's.

☞ *Taxes.*—The County Commissioners are authorised to levy a tax of 2½ mills. This will be an increase. The State tax is also increased a half a mill for war purposes—making three mills increase. As an offset, we learn that the Borough authorities have decreased their tax two mills, and the School Board one mill. This will make the taxation of our Borough the same as last year.

Postponement.—The proposed Musical Concert, to be given for the benefit of the families of the Volunteers, at the Court House, has been postponed until Monday, June 17th. All the Musical Associations in the County are invited to participate. They will please report in the mean time, to Christopher, Lewis, Alfred Sower and Edwin Brasier, Committee of Arrangement, Pottsville. A more extended notice will be published next week.

☞ *Settled.*—Many of our readers are aware that there was some misunderstanding with regard to the Captaincy of the Washington Artillerists, growing out of the election of Regimental Officers.—We are happy to state that it has all been settled, by the formation of three companies out of the Artillerists and Infantry, and Capt. Wren will command the third company. The Advance, or the 25th Regiment, as the Adjutant General of the State styles it, and of which Gen. Henry L. Cake was elected Colonel, is not yet organized.

☞ *The Ladies at Work—Havelocks, &c., for the Volunteers.*—We understand that the ladies of this Borough have undertaken to manufacture five hundred of those articles for our volunteers, and also five hundred needle cases, a description of which we published about two weeks ago.—There are *two thousand soldiers* in the field from Schuylkill County, and our ladies have undertaken one-fourth of the supply, and no doubt will furnish more if necessary. We therefore urge upon the ladies of the surrounding towns, where no association exists, to organize at once, and make up those indispensable articles for the protection of our volunteers. The shabby and rotten uniforms furnished them render the needle case a absolute necessity.

The ladies have procured the materials, and depend upon the contributions of our citizens to defray a portion of the expenses. We have not been made acquainted with the name of the Treasurer, but any funds left at this office will be handed over to the Association forthwith.

☞ *Public Examination.*—The classes in the High School, Female Grammar School, and those of the Male Grammar School not examined at the regular examination, will be examined next week, commencing on Tuesday, May 28, 1861. The examinations will be held in the basement of the Second Presbyterian Church, Market St.

All the classes in the following studies will be examined in order as follows:

ON TUESDAY

The classes in Reading, Spelling, Etymology, Oral and Written Arithmetic.

ON WEDNESDAY

The classes in Geography, English Grammar, History of the United States, and Constitution of Pennsylvania.

ON THURSDAY

The classes in Algebra, Physiology, Physical Geography and Botany.

ON FRIDAY

The classes in Geometry, Natural Philosophy, Ancient History, Virgil, and Constitution of the United States, including "an outline of the Origin and Progress of Government; the Nature of Liberty; the Law of Nations; the Duties and Responsibilities of Voters and Jurors, &c."

By order of the Board of Directors,

J. P. SHERMAN, *Supt.*

SCHUYLKILL HAVEN AFFAIRS.

At a meeting of the citizens of Schuylkill Haven, convened at the house of R. Schuck & Son, on Tuesday evening, May 21, 1861, pursuant to public notice, for the purpose of hearing the Report of their Finance Committee of the citizens of Schuylkill Haven, and transacting such other business as might be brought before it. G. EAST, Esq., was appointed President, and HENRY VOUTE Secretary.

Thomas C. Zollich, Esq., the Treasurer of the Finance Committee, exhibited his accounts of the monies received and how expended, from which it was ascertained that there had been paid into the Relief Fund $467 62, and $396 89 paid out, leaving a balance of $70 93 in his hands.

On motion, *Resolved*, That those persons, who have not yet paid the first instalment of their subscription, be requested either to call on the Treasurer, and pay the same, or else to either of the Committee men when called upon, who are hereby instructed to collect the same.

Resolved, That the balance in hands of the Treasurer, and the amounts to be collected, remain in his hands until otherwise ordered by the subscribers of the Relief Fund.

Resolved, That the Treasurer be authorised to pay the sum of $15 to the parents of GEORGE SCHREck, a member of the Scott Artillery, towards defraying the funeral expenses of said deceased, who died at Washington City.

Resolved, That Wm. B. Rudy and Wm. Genseimer be a Committee to inform the family of the deceased of the action taken by the citizens, and that he be buried with military honors, and that the business men be requested to close their places of business during the passage of the funeral cortege.

Resolved, That Dr. James P. Palm, Wm. H. Levan and Isaac Paxton be appointed a Committee to draw up Resolutions of Condolence, and present the same to the family of our deceased volunteer.

The above appointed Committee offered the following preamble and resolutions which were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, We the citizens of Schuylkill Haven have learned with profound regret that Mr. GEO. SCHRECK, one of the volunteers from Schuylkill Haven, died at Washington City on the 19th inst., while there in defence of our glorious Flag, And,

WHEREAS, The fellow-soldiers of Mr. SCHRECK have in their generosity provided at their own expense a metallic coffin to convey his remains to his bereaved friends for interment. Therefore,

Resolved, That the kindness and liberality displayed by the volunteers from Schuylkill Haven, on this occasion, as a token of respect to the memory of their departed fellow-soldier is but another proof of that kindness of heart which has always characterized them.

Resolved, That whilst we humbly bow in submission to Him, who is the "God of Battles," we do sincerely regret the demise of Mr. SCHRECK, who only a short time ago left us in full vigor and manhood.

Resolved, That we, as citizens of Schuylkill Haven tender to the friends of the