Miners' Journal.

POTTSVILLE, PA.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 1861.

Letter From Fort Washington.

(WRITTEN BY OUR AMOCLITE.)

FORT WASHINGTON, MD., June 2, 1861.

DEAR JOURNAL:—Although we had intimation some days since, that our company would speedily be removed from this post, we are here yet, as we expective by the date of this letter. Captain Wickliffe arrived at the Fort however, on Friday night, and stated that Gen. Mansfield said to him that the company would be transferred in a day or two. We are therefore, on the qui vive for a start at short notice, and will not be caught so suddenly as we were in Washington. I presume that we will be ordered to join the Regiment at the Chain Bridge, where there are all. Whatever the company is ready and willing to obey any order, which emanates through or from the War Department. I think that its wish is to remain here to defend the place it has assisted so materially to put in a defensive condition. However, where the Government needs our services, we will cheerfully go. I only express what the Company prefers, in consequence of the location, which is healthy and pleasant. It is far preferable to being quartered in a hot and dirty city, which Washington certainly is, at this time. If we are sent off on a march, it will not be objectionable, as it is well known that service in the open field is more conducive to the health of troops than quartering in the close atmosphere of a city. Should we be removed from her, then troops must be sent to supply the vacancy, and guard against a sudden surprise. No smaller force than is here now, can with safety, be maintained at this post.

We have been much interested during the past two days, in the progress of events at Arquia Creek, a Virginia stream, thirty-five miles below this point. Of course you have all the particulars in the papers before this. Our only means of information of what is going on below us, is the temporary stopping of an upward bound boat, and often the intelligence is meagre enough in details. It seems that there are a couple of land batteries at the Creek, removed however, some distance from the Potomac. Upon these the Government received its first shots. Upon the Government received in return, to make a demonstration, and on Friday and Saturday, there were the Pawnee, eight guns, Anacostia, two guns, and Thomas Freeborn, two guns, poured in broadsides upon the rebels. The fire was returned with considerable vigor by the enemy, but the distance, over two thousand yards, caused their balls to fall short. The shots fired by the vessels are said to have done considerable damage, and finally at 4 o'clock yesterday, when the vessels hauled off to repair damages, all the rebels' guns were silenced, except one, a 32 pounder. From the decks of the vessels, during the action, by using a glass, the officers could see bodies carried off from the batteries. It is probable therefore, that the rebels suffered severely by the bombardment. There was but one man of the Government forces wounded. On the Freeborn one of the men had the top of his cap shot off by a cannon ball, he escaping uninjured. The Pawnee and Anacostia escaping entirely. The Freeborn arrived here this morning from below, bound up to Washington for repairs. The firing was kept up yesterday for eight hours continuously, and at 8 o'clock in the morning. This is all in the fighting line I have to record in this budget. We have within twenty miles of us, on the Virginia side, thousands of the enemy, but they will not venture within our lines. So we at this post, have so far, seen nothing of them.

Picket guards from the Federal forces now occupying Alexandria, have been thrown out to within three miles of this post, on the Virginia side. Yesterday one of the sentinels, a Zouave, was shot on his beat, and killed. He was out far advanced towards the enemy, and was shot by the rebels. The latter appear determined to carry on a guerilla style of warfare. Their first victim was Ellsworth.

I have but few arrivals of Pottsville folks, to note. Andrew Russel, Esq., reached here early this morning, and remained until the afternoon, when he took advantage of a fishing smack going up to Washington, to get on board. The Company was much pleased to see Mr. R., and did all in its power to render his brief sojourn here pleasant. He brought with him for the Company, a box containing one hundred and twenty pieces of Porcelain, a present from himself. They were from the manufactory of P. P. & W. C. Taylor, the celebrated Perfumers of Philadelphia. It was a thought done the Messrs. Taylor good, as it certainly did Mr. Russel, to see the rest with which the men caused the Potomac and the Porcine to commingle yesterday, and they washed the Sunday. Mr. Thomas Riley, son of the Judge, reached here yesterday afternoon, and is now quartered with us. He was delighted apparently to meet so many of his Pottsville friends, and complimented them on their fine, healthy appearance. I am not sure it was in honor of Mr. Riley's advent, or because they had the "fodder" on hand, but it is certain that F. W. Pearce, Esq., and twelve invited guests, gave a magnificent dinner to-day. It was decidedly the "spread" of the season, and considered a success, in every respect. For that some of the leaders of the JOURNAL may deem what I say, an exaggeration, after being impressed with the idea that we subsist solely on pork and beans, and that it is impossible to get anything else, while in the service, I append the Bill of Fare on the occasion, premising that everything therein enumerated, was on the table.

BILL OF FARE:

Soup—Bean.		*Anti-Scorbutics*—Pommes de terre,	
Fish—Anchovy,		Potatoes,	
Roast—Chicken,		Tomatoes,	
Boil d—Beef,		Green Corn.	
Side Dishes—		*Relishes*—	
	Pate de foies gras,		Mustard (French,)
	Scrambled Eggs,		Pepper,
	Dried Beef,		Salt,
	Dried Tongue,		Pickles,
	Bread and Butter,		Molasses (Syrup),
			Catsup (Tomato),
			Cucumber Sauce.
Dessert—			
Cookies—			
	Mince Pie,	Crystal Mint Drops,	
	Peaches,	Ginger Drops.	
Cake—		*Fruit*—	
	Pound,	Pineapples, dried,	
	Scotch,	Apples,	
	Ginger and Rice,	Oranges,	
		Lemons.	

Coffee—Tea—Leaf Sugar,
Sugars—Elegancies.
Liquors—Whisky, Malt, Wine, Blackberry Wine, and other Wines too numerous to mention.

There, that would be difficult to beat, at short notice, even in Pottsville, which is proverbial for its ability in getting up a splendid supper and magnificent dinner.

I observe a statement published to the effect, that the number of Federal troops in the field is now, ninety-five thousand men. This is well, I might say astonishing, for one month's work. It proves that the heart of the great North is in this work, and that it is resolved to crush this hideous rebellion against the peace, dignity and power of the Government. The force is sufficient, but the Administration should not cease enrollments, until there is an army of two hundred and fifty thousand men at its command. The campaign against the rebels can thus be made short and decisive, at an economy of life and money, much to be desired. To fight the rebels with equal numbers, on their own soil, would be to prolong the struggle, possibly for years, when the same result could be arrived at, in months, if an overwhelming force is thrown at once into the field. Humanity, policy, and the prosperity of the country, require that this point should receive the serious consideration of the Government. The more desperate the condition of the rebels becomes from lack of provisions, the more desperately will they fight. By a much superior force they can be held in check, and the sober, second thought coming to the Southern people, they will return to their allegiance. This can be effected, and the crisis speedily, of course the better.

I am sometimes pained to hear remarks from army officers, in connection with the causes of the present difficulties, which to me, are inexplicable. Not in regard to them, are to my the least loose. Now, I contend that an officer who remains in the service of the Government, receives its pay for the discharge of certain duties, is bound in honor, not only to be faithful, but to cast no reflections on the people who now rally around the glorious banner of the Union. The Government should keep its eye on such men; for he who in this contest is not heartily with us, is against us. I trust that I shall not be complained again to refer to this subject, or duty will dictate plainer talk.

Major Haskins, the commandant at this post; Lieut. Perkins; Lieut. Reynolds, and Lieut. Edwards, are all good officers. In the Major we have every confidence. He is unquestionably an able man; one who has seen much active service, and one who would defend what is entrusted to him, well and bravely. I do not think the Major withdrew apart with us, and I am sure the feeling is reciprocal.

Work having stood up at this point, we devote more time than we had to drill. We have adopted the Light Infantry manual of arms, and marching movements, formerly known as Hardee's, but now deprived of that cognomen, by order of the Government. The Company is improving rapidly, Capt. Smith being unremitting in his effort to bring it up to an A. 1 point of efficiency. The Captain is in my opinion, one of the most industrious men in the Fort, and has the interest and welfare of each member of his command, earns tly at heart. He is unquestionably a fine officer, and the men have great confidence in his judgment.

On Friday regular monthly inspection of the troops in this garrison, took place, within the Fort, on the parade ground. I am happy to say that some looked better; some were cleaner; some had brighter muskets, or nearer equipments, than the Pottsville boys, in their Government blouses. The regular dress coat in the army, is somewhat similar to that which was worn by the Artillerists at home. We have not received the regular coat, and I presume, will not.

The weather here is becoming very warm, rendering active exertion in the sun, the reverse of agreeable.

The copies of the JOURNAL which you send weekly to the Company, are very acceptable, and are eagerly looked for about the time their arrival is due.

Ever Yours, F. R. W.

THE U. S. OFFICERS CAPTURED IN TEXAS.—We learn that while the War Department do not acknowledge the parcles of the United States Officers captured in Texas, in consideration of the circumstances, they have placed them in positions which do not come in conflict with what they hold to be a principle of honor. Two of these officers are residents of Pottsville, Maj. Wm. A. Nichols, and Lieut. E. L. Hartz. They immediately reported themselves at the War Department on their return, and Maj. Nichols has since been assigned to the Department of the East, under the command of Gen. Wool, and Lieut. Hartz, to the Quarter Master's Department, and promoted to the full rank of Captain. Maj. Nichols left our Borough on Thursday morning for his new post. Captain Hartz is still in town awaiting orders.

THE FIFTH REGIMENT AND THE BALTIMORE *Sun*.—We have received several letters from members of the 5th Pennsylvania Regiment, now stationed in Alexandria, declaring the charge of insubordination on receiving orders to march to Alexandria, as made in the Baltimore *Sun*, is untrue in every particular. The *Sun* shows its teeth on all occasions and is just as traitorous now as ever it was, but it dare not come out openly. We look upon it as one of the *meanest, sneaking* papers published in the mob city of Baltimore.

TENNESSEE.—On the 8th of June, to-day, Tennessee will vote on the Ordinance of Secession. The terrorism inaugurated there of course will secure its success, although a determined opposition will be made against it; but we feel confident that its adoption, will be immediately followed by an invasion of its "sacred soil," and in all probability the Stars and Stripes will wave over both Memphis and Nashville on the 4th of July.

WASHINGTON A FREE CITY, SLAVERY, AND WHAT IS TO BE DONE WITH THE NEGRO?

—Mr. Redpath, the Agent of the Haytien Government for the encouragement of the emigration of Negroes to that country, from the United States, now issues the *Pen and the Palm*, a weekly newspaper devoted to the interest of the Negro. The Editor says that he will advocate the following policy:

"The building up of Hayti, by an enlightened and enlargened policy, is into the mind of a great American Power. We hold this measure to be now essential for the dignity of the African race and its demonstrated capacity for self-rule. The foundation of respect is poured in. Hayti and the negro is ever before a civilized nation, he will now here be treated as the equal of race which are "lords of human kind." Right or wrong, this is the fact; and practical minds must act in view of it. What, then, is to be done? We must create a great *Negro Nation*.

Where? Hayti alone stands as a foundation near enough to influence Slavery and its hold of prejudices here, broad enough to establish a nationality of the necessary importance and dignity.

Let us not be misunderstood. We do not believe in a distinctive Nationality, founded on the preservation of any race, as a *leading* principle. We believe in humanity, not in Black men or White men; for the fusion of the human races is the destiny of the future. We stand by man as man, and by the Saxon because we are Saxon; nor by the Negro because we are an Abolitionist. What we assert, as our belief, is this only—that, at this stage of the world's progress, the fact of a powerful Negro Nation is a necessity, imperatively needed in order that the African race, wherever it exists, may be respected as the actual equal of other families of mankind. We do not believe that Slavery is practicable in the doctrine of fraternity alone will accomplish this result; for without a physical basis, this class of truths require centuries for their universal acceptance.

The rapid physical development of our tropical regions, (which includes the West Indies and Central America) is necessary for the same reason; because these elements are to form later be brought into competition with the slave systems of our Southern States. As long as the Cotton States supply England, Oil and Nassau with their great manufacturing staples, just so long will they hold a mortgage on the votes, the presses and the consciences of Englishmen and Yankees. Thus the shadow of the whipping post of Charleston is often seen in the streets of London—other still in the factories of Manchester and the counting rooms of Liverpool. In our North, alas! it forms everywhere the sable cloud which obscures from our souls the sun of fraternal truth.

The recognition of the Confederate States might partly, but it would never wholly, drive this cloud away. *We must create other Southern Confederacies to serve as from the cotton growing and conscience-eating conspiracy of our botanical Gulf States.* Let us colonize the Bay West India Islands and the Irish regions of Central America, and make Cotton, not a tyrannical King, but a democratic Priest; let us call up, from their exhaustless fertility, cotton enough to clothe all the world in the robes of freedom, and sugar enough to sweeten the other products of the earth, without clarifying it in the blood of the Negro, or drying it with the sighs of the broken-hearted bond-mother.

This policy, of course, involves the expulsion of the Spaniards from America. They have long enough cursed and blood-besmeared our soil—sacred so I say, in the Divine Father for Democracy and Fraternity. At any cost of blood and treasure, this pitiless people should be banished.

To carry out this programme, we elect Fraternity as our Representative Idea. Henceforth, as equals, in harmonious union, the white and black races must work together, regardless of their origin only to provoke emulation in effort, and in willing self-abnegation.

Yet we will not forget that, while the creation of a great Negro Commonwealth is a necessity, it is necessary for the preservation of the African race here, and while the formation, also, of free tropical Confederacies is indispensable for the swaying of the physical forces of the Western Hemisphere, Slavery, there is a higher possibility for humanity still—to which the world is tending, which America must inaugurate—a Congress of Nations, which shall, in the Divine Future, which, superseding political distinctions and rendering war unnecessary, shall establish and secure fraternity, the reign of peace on earth and good will to men."

The policy, therefore, is Continental in its scope—it embraces both the North and the South—the Arctic regions and the Torrid Zone—the land of THE PINE AND PALM.

Here is an outlet for the Negro within a short distance, and emigration ought to be encouraged by the Government and the people.

The *N. Y. Tribune* says:

EMIGRATION TO HAYTI.—The fine schooner Joseph Grice, of 200 tons burden, sailed from this port, under the British flag, on Saturday afternoon, 18th ult., with 58 emigrants and two cabin passengers, for Hayti. The emigrants, comprising 26 adults, and 12 children, are chiefly from Rochester, in this State. They go out under the auspices of the Haytian Government, whose Commissioner, Julien Redpath, Esq., has been indefatigable in his efforts to promote the benevolent views and wise policy of President Geffrard and his Government. Within the year, nearly 300 have embarked for Hayti, from this place, and our people seem forever against the repetition of such losses. Our commerce would be paralyzed with such risks hanging over it. As a people living by honest commerce, we cannot afford to let our Government aid to establish a foreign nation and a tyrannous government on one half of this continent. We cannot afford to embarrass our commerce, to give free course to filibusters, to make ourselves mutiny righteous, and treason honorable.

"The Union, now and forever," is the watchword under which we prosper. Our flag is a nation the most intelligent, the most enterprising, the most prosperous the world ever saw. We have the right to do all that safety demands and justice permits to preserve our liberties unimpaired for the generations who shall come after us.

"Self-preservation is the first law of nature," with nations as with individuals. We have been forced into a war to defend the best form of government the world ever saw. We shall be wise enough not to waste our millions in merely patting a evil day. We shall be just enough to make no loyal citizen, North or South, suffer by any necessary act of the nation. Let traitors look out for themselves.

DEATH OF SENATOR DOUGLAS.

Our readers are generally aware that the Hon. STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS expired at his residence in Chicago, on the morning of the 3d inst., at 9 o'clock, after a severe illness of about two weeks, in the 49th year of his age. The news of his death at this trying period caused a great sensation throughout the whole country, and everywhere the flags were displayed at half mast. The President and Cabinet at Washington all united in rendering honor to the dead, and the State Department was draped in mourning. The Secretary of War issued an appropriate order, which we append below, to be read to all the Regiments in the service of the country.

In speaking of his life and career, the following extract from the *North American*, fully accords with our own views:

Stephen A. Douglas.

The era which brought civil war completed the political career of STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS, and with remarkable concurrence of events, his life has ended at the same time. His death can be regarded only as a great calamity, and yet he had filled his function in the history of the Republic, had served the exact purpose for which Providence destined him, and had involved in and aided to carry his country through a series of struggles which he could not have foreseen, and which have led to the foreshadowing of a new national existence. How effectually the Supreme Being who guides our destinies seems to be cutting us off from all that has been, and moulding afresh the fabrics of the Union. We may lament the death of one so eminently patriotic, and so thoroughly American as Senator Douglas; we may deplore the loss of a statesman whose grasp of intellect carried us back to the day of Clay and Webster; we may feel that that one who had shown himself decidedly the ablest and most courageous of the Democratic leaders should meet his fate in the lovely prime of life, with all his honors still upon him, and just at the moment when his overshadowing influence with the Democrats of the north, had unit d them as one man in sustaining the Administration in its slightly effort to preserve the Union; but we cannot question the superior wisdom of that Providence which has sealed forever the lips of him who had conjured up the terrible storm he was so utterly powerless to allay.

Looking back at the history of the last seven years, we view things somewhat differently from what we once did, although our convictions of the principles concerned remain the same. We have ceased to grieve that the long peace was disturbed by the repeal of the Missouri compromise, for the issues with which we are now struggling should have been met and mastered long ago. The danger has grown greater by delay, and we are suffering for the impunity previously allowed to treason, and, indeed, very greatly encouraged by the manner in which compromises were forced from us upon threats of civil war. Mr. Douglas no doubt saw, when too late, the fatal error he had committed. We will not refer to the dark episode in his life which relates to his endeavors to plaster up the breach in the Democratic party, at any sacrifice of principle or dignity, for we believe that grieved as he was the moral obliquity, the motive was a patriotic one. He knew the Southern treason-mongers better than we did, because his intimate association with them had unsettled him in his early faith in a civilized, humane, and Christian Republic. He knew that the Southern people were evidently forced the dread risk of a civil war, and he knew that the Southern people would not, in the end, submit to the overthrow of the Government. Secured by this belief, he ventured on the compromise measures, which, at the time, we thought were unnecessary and dangerous. We were wrong, and he was right. We were for the Union, at all hazards, and he was for the Union, at the hazard of a civil war. We were for the Constitution, as it was, and he was for the Constitution, as it would be when the South, by its treason, had lost all the guarantees for its security which it had in the past. We were for the Union, as it was, and he was for the Union