Miners' Journal.

POTTSVILLE, PA.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1862.

☞ Copies of the Miners' Journal can be obtained every Saturday, at the following places:
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COMMODORE Pendegrast is dead.

THE rebels fear an attack on the Wilmington and Weldon railroad.

THE "Vanderbilt," one of our swiftest war steamers, is after the pirate "290."

THE Assembly of New York will stand 65 Union to 63 Democrats.

DR. ALLEN has resigned the Presidency of Girard College, and will retire from the institution at the close of this year.

READ an interesting article on "The Currency," published on the First Page of today's paper.

THE Northumberland County Bank has declared a semi-annual dividend of 4 per cent., clear of United States taxes.

IMPORTANT.—We advertise, in another column, a valuable Furnace property, including 8,000 acres of land, in Ohio, at private sale.

A NATIONAL convention of the loyal people of the United States, in favor of a vigorous prosecution of the war, has been called to meet at Pittsburg, Pa., on Tuesday, November 25th inst.

IN GEN. McCLELLAN'S brief farewell address on leaving the Army of the Potomac, he says to the brave boys: "We shall ever be comrades in supporting the Constitution of our country and the nationality of its people."

THE political complexion of the next United States House of Representatives, so far as elected, will be as follows: Administration, 77; Opposition, 69; Doubtful, 5. The Pennsylvania delegation will stand 12 and 12.

IN the new Legislature of Missouri, on joint ballot, there will be a majority of ten members, who are in favor of emancipation. The people there demand immediate action in the matter.

POSTAL CURRENCY.—Owing to a deficiency in the expected supply of postal currency, the Treasury Department will not be able to perfect the arrangement for furnishing railroad companies with the much needed small change until next week.

THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC STILL SERVIVES.—Since Gen. McClellan's removal just two Captains and two Lieutenants have tendered their resignations. It is thought that the advance of the Army will not be checked by this dis-ass-trous occurrence.

THE Exports from the port of New York, show a gratifying increase this year over those of the two previous years. The comparative statement for the week ending Nov. 11, and since Jan. 1, is as follows:

	1860.	1861.	1862.
For the week,	$3,477,351	$4,252,119	$3,215,610
Previously reported,	81,418,617	111,175,383	128,332,795
Since Jan. 1,	$84,895,968	$115,427,502	$131,548,405

THE Richmond *Dispatch*, speaking of the recent elections, ridicules the idea of a restoration of the Union, but says the Democrats would cheerfully vote to establish slavery all over the Free States to accomplish such an object. It considers the result of the late elections as an advantage to the South just so far as it may restrain President Lincoln.

OF COURSE.—The Richmond papers are expressing their delight with the result of the recent elections in the Northern States. This is not unexpected by the Breckinridge leaders, North. But how do the loyal masses who voted that ticket, with the idea of infusing more energy into the prosecution of the war, like the Southern interpretation of their course? Not much, we take it.

GEN. WOOL is censured by the Military Commission, now sitting, for placing Col. Miles in command at Harper's Ferry, which was not done by him, but for retaining him there. A clerical error in the report drew from Gen. Wool a card, in which he relies for defense on a mere mistake of phraseology, an error which Major Don Piatt of the Commission, in the hurry of business, failed to correct, although instructed to do so by that body.

NORTHERN SYMPATHIZERS.—*What the Rebel Press says.*—Papers in the South state that the result of the elections in the North show *that the Democrats are willing to make peace on the condition that slavery should be extended over the whole country*; but unfortunately they do not hold the Government. We have not the least doubt but that a large portion of the leading Democrats of the North would accept of such or any other disreputable terms, if they could obtain power by so doing.

THE NATIONAL FINANCES.—The New York *Economist* states that Commissioner Boutwell gives it as his opinion that the revenue coming through his department will average thirty millions per month, or, at the rate of three hundred and sixty millions a year. If to this income of internal taxes we add the sixty millions anticipated from customs' duties we shall then have a total revenue of four hundred and twenty million dollars, an amount exceeding the revenue of any other nation in the world. If this will be so, our national debt has reached its maximum, and during the remaining time the war is carried on, the income of the Government will about equal its expenditures.

It seems that the recent apparent Democratic triumphs in the North, are hailed by the Rebels as a sign of peace to be made by admitting their independence. *The Richmond Examiner* of the 8th says: "The Northern papers attempt to lessen the value of the results of the elections in the eyes of the South. The value, however, is determined by the circumstance that the principal idea on which the recent canvass in the North was conducted was that the Democrats were a peace party in disguise, and with this issue thrust in their faces the people of the three most powerful States of the North have given unprecedented majorities to the Democratic candidates, and a blow to the abolitionists [Beauregard's term for all Union men] at the ballot-boxes, that will stagger them into the background."

THE question, "will negroes fight?" is answered in the affirmative. They not only fight, but gallantly and successfully. Intelligence from Leavenworth, under date of 3d inst., brings an account of a fight between a portion of Lane's colored brigade, of Kansas, and a much superior force of rebel guerillas, at the head of the Osage river. The blacks were sent to drive away the rebels from an island in the river. Fortifying themselves in a house on the main land, they made a gallant fight against the guerillas, which lasted for two days. They maintained their position against numerous attempted assaults, until reinforcements came, and the rebels fled to the island, where they were to be attacked the next day. The report of the action says that the negroes fought very well, losing eight killed and a larger number wounded, while the loss they inflicted on the rebels was much heavier. The Government is not we are sure, slow to appreciate the capacity of these dark-skinned men who have as keen an appreciation of freedom as white men, and who will fight as desperately for it. There is much useful service these men can perform, and thus assist in crushing the Rebellion. We hope they will be put at it.

THE SURRENDER OF HARPER'S FERRY.

The report of the Military Commission appointed to examine into the recent surrender of Harpers' Ferry, is before the public. It is a document of great importance, exposing as it does, the authors of that national disgrace. The Commission consisted of the following officers: Major-Gen. D. Hunter, U. S. A. of Vols., Pres't.; Major-Gen. G. Cadwalader, U. S. A. of Vols.; Brig.-Gen. C. C. Augur, U. S. A. of Vols.; Major Don Piatt, A. A. G. of Vols.; Capt. F. Ball, A. D. C. of Vols.; Col. G. Holt, Judge Advocate Gen. They have evidently, performed their work with pains and impartial justice.

The material facts of the first part of the report are as follows: Col. Miles was in command at Harper's Ferry. Gen. White was present from Sept. 12 till the surrender, but did not assume command. Col. Ford took command of Maryland Hights Sept. 5. Gen. McClellan left Washington for Rockville, Sept. 7, most of his forces having preceded him.

The enemy attacked Maryland Hights on the morning of Sept. 13. The 126th New York broke and fled disgracefully, and the breastwork on the hill was lost. Col. Miles was on Maryland Hights that evening for some hours, consulting with Col. Ford. He left between 11 and 12 o'clock, without directly ordering Col. Ford to evacuate the Hights, but with instructions to spike his guns if compelled to abandon. About 2 o'clock Col. Ford abandoned the Hights.—The enemy did not occupy them, and the next day Col. D'Utassy sent over four companies, who brought away four guns and a wagon load of ammunition.

After the evacuation of Maryland Hights, Col. Miles sent word to Gen. McClellan, then at Frederick City, that unless reinforced he could not hold out 48 hours. Gen. McClellan thereupon dispatched a messenger to Gen. Franklin, who was engaged with the enemy at Crampton's Gap, wholly unable to give the needed assistance, or to give it in time. Gen. McClellan appears to have made no other effort to relieve the beleaguered stronghold.

The enemy attacked Harper's Ferry itself on the morning of the 15th, and at 8 A. M., the surrender was agreed on, Col. Miles representing to the brigade commanders whom he consulted that his ammunition was nearly exhausted, and they concurring in his decision to surrender.

The Commission acquits Gen. White, Col. D'Utassy and Col. Trimble of all blame for the surrender, and praise the capacity and courage of the former. They find that Col. Ford was given, by Col. Miles, discretionary power to abandon Maryland Hights, but that the exercise of this discretion was premature; that he conducted the defence with no ability, and that his exhibition of lack of capacity was such as to disqualify him for a command.

The conclusion of the report is as follows:

Col. D. S. Miles.

The Commission has approached a consideration of this part of the subject in connection with the surrender of Harper's Ferry with extreme reluctance. An officer who cannot appear before any earthly tribunal to answer or explain charges greatly affecting his character who has met his death at the hands of the enemy, even upon the spot he disgracefully surrenders, is entitled to the tenderest consideration and most careful investigation. This the Commission has endeavored to give Col. Miles, and in giving a decision only regret that from through our 900 pages of testimony strangely unanimous upon the fact, that Col. Miles's incapacity, amounting almost to imbecility, led to the shameful surrender of this important post.

Early as the 15th of August he disobeys the orders of Major-Gen. Wool to fortify Maryland Hights. When it is surrounded and attacked by the enemy it naturally strong positions are unimproved, and from his criminal neglect, to use the mildest term, the large force of the enemy is almost upon an equality with the small force under his command.

He seems to have understood, and admitted to his officers, that Maryland Hights is the key to this position, and yet he places Col. Ford in command, with a feeble force—makes no effort to strengthen them by fortifications, although between the 5th and 14th of September there was ample time to do so—and to Col. Ford's repeated demands for means to intrench, and additional reinforcements he makes either an inadequate return or no response at all. He gives Col. Ford a discretionary power as to when he shall abandon the Hights—the fact of abandonment, however, seems to have been concluded in his own mind. For, when this unhappy event really occurs, his only exclamation was to the effect that the fear-ed Ford had given up too soon—whereas he must have known that the abandonment of Maryland Hights was the surrender of Harper's Ferry. This leaving the key of the position to the keeping of Col. Ford, with discretionary power to him, after the arrival of that capable and distinguished officer who had waived his rank to serve wherever ordered, is one of the more striking facts illustrating the incapacity of Col. Miles.

Immediately upon coming to and pending the siege of Harper's Ferry, he parcles rebel prisoners and permits, indeed, sends them to the enemy's headquarters. This step, as has been shown, was unknown to, and, in addition, the bad conduct of some of our troops, the entire absence of fortifications, and the abandonment of Maryland Hights, were important facts they could, and undoubtedly did, communicate to the enemy. Sixteen of these prisoners were paroled on the 13th and a pass given them in the handwriting of Col. Miles, while a rebel officer by the name of Bias, after an escape, is retaken, and subsequently has a private interview with Col. Miles, is paroled, and after the surrender appears at the head of his men among the first to enter Harper's Ferry.

It is not necessary to accumulate evidence from the mass that throughout scarcely affords one fact in contradiction to what each one establishes, that Col. Miles was incapable of conducting a defence so important as was this of Harper's Ferry. The Commission would not have dwelled upon this painful subject were it not for the fact that the officer who placed this incapable in command should share in the responsibility, and in the opinion of the Commission Major-Gen. Wool is guilty to this extent of a grave disaster and should be censured for his conduct.

The Commission has remarked freely on Col. Miles, an old officer who has been killed in the service of his country, and it cannot, from any motives of delicacy, refrain from censuring those in high command, when it thinks such censure deserved. The General-in-Chief has testified that Gen. McClellan, after having received Oct. 1 a report of the results of scouting was only one hundred and fifty horses per week for his entire army there and in front of Washington.

I immediately directed the Quartermaster General to inquire into this matter, and report why a larger supply was not furnished to General McClellan.

General Meigs reported to me, on the 14th of October, that the average issue of horses to the entire Union army in the field and in front of Washington, for the previous six weeks, had been 1,159 per week, or 8,764 in all.

In addition, he reported to me that a large number of mules had been supplied, and that the number of these animals with General McClellan's army on the Upper Potomac was over 5,000.

I was also reported to me that he was then sending that army all the horses he could procure.

On the 13th of October, General McClellan stated, in regard to General Meigs' report that he had filed every requisition for shoes and clothing: "General Meigs may have ordered these articles to be forwarded; but they might as well remain in New York or Philadelphia as ever reach my command." I immediately called Gen. Meigs' attention to this apparent neglect of his department.

On the 25th of October, he reported, as the result of his investigation that 4,500 pairs of boots and shoes had been received by the quartermaster of McClellan's army at Harper's Ferry, Frederick, and Hagerstown. Twenty thousand pairs were at Harper's Ferry Depot on 21st, and that ten thousand more had been concluded in his