The Press.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 1861.

Forever float that standard sheet!
Where breathes the foe but falls before us?
With Freedom's soil beneath our feet,
And Freedom's banner streaming o'er us!

FIRST PAGE.—"North British Review" on the American Crisis; Letter from "Asa Trenchard;" Letter from Camp Scott; Colonel Ellsworth's Last Letter; The Bradford Volunteers; Pulpit Portraits—No xv; Inspection of Army Provisions. FOURTH PAGE—English Impressions of America; Marine Intelligence.

Queen Victoria's Proclamation.

The Proclamation issued by the British Government, in the name of Queen VICTORIA, which we published yesterday, does not exactly meet our idea of what such a State document should be. It can scarcely be accepted as satisfactory by the United States, and in adequately represents the feelings and the wishes of the British people. We have repeatedly stated that these feelings and wishes are altogether with the North, and against the South. In Lancashire alone, the seat of the Cotton Manufactures, there may be a leaning towards the Secessionists—a leaning, not from any conviction that truth and justice are with them, but from selfish and interested motives. It must be borne in mind that, even though 2,500,000 people are more or less dependent on the Cotton Manufactory, these are not a large number in a population of about thirty-one millions. Lancashire, were its wealth six times what it nominally stands at, is not England—especially in sympathy with the South.

The Proclamation, as we read it, virtually recognizes the Southern Confederation, even while professing a desire to maintain "a strict and impartial neutrality in the contest between the said contending parties." This is a very early, indeed an unusually early, stage for the revolted States to be acknowledged. When the Proclamation was issued, the British Government knew nothing more than Fort Sumpter had fallen. Does *that* establish the National Independence of the rebel States? *That* triumph, such as it is, seems likely to stand alone, now that the gallant and loyal troops, volunteer and regular, of the United States are in action. The contest now in progress is simply rebellion on one side, while, on the other, it is an attempt, which *must* prove successful, to suppress and punish revolt. It is not like the "Mutiny" in India, where oppressed Provinces, which once had been great Kingdoms, sought to throw off the yoke of a foreign Power. It took England several months to put down that "Mutiny," in which Revolt gained some great victories—but the South, with the exception of its bloodless triumph at Fort Sumpter, has yet gained nothing by Secession. It is sheer absurdity to acknowledge the South, as the Proclamation really seems to do.

The institutions of the United States, directly democratic, are not liked by the British Aristocracy. Almost every member of the Palmerston Cabinet has expressed antagonism to the Ballot, and to other American institutions. But the British people have respect and regard for their American friends and brethren, and this, added to their strong anti-slavery convictions, will make them averse to alliance with the South.

It is probable that the apparent meaning of the expression "contending parties," (which places the United States on a level with the revolted States,) is capable of being explained away. As it is, however, the Proclamation will not give satisfaction here—because, even while professing neutrality, it is not strictly neutral. At the very least, the British people would not side with the South. On the contrary, if called upon to make a demonstration, it would certainly be in favor of the North. Heavy is the responsibility of a Cabinet pledging the people to a policy which they strongly dislike.

How Secession Works.

The *ostensible* purpose of the Southern conspirators against the Federal Union is, the better *protection* of slave property, although no reflecting mind can, for a moment, believe that this is the *real* object. How completely such purpose, however, would be defeated, in case of the actual and permanent separation of the North and South, may be deduced from the following circumstance, which occurred in this vicinity within the last fortnight:

In one of the townships of Montgomery county, within ten miles of Philadelphia, resides a prominent and influential citizen, of unimpeachable probity and high intelligence. For more than thirty years he has taken an active part in the politics of Pennsylvania, and has been elected to important civil trusts, municipal and legislative. During all this time, too, he has been a consistent Democrat, and an *unwavering friend of the South*, battling manfully for all her vested constitutional rights.

On a recent Sabbath afternoon, this well-tried and devoted friend of the South met, in the immediate vicinity of his residence, a colored man and his wife, both young and athletic, clad in coarse homespun, and weary with dust and travel. He interrogated them as to whence they had come, when they frankly admitted that they were *fugitive slaves*, from the county of Prince George's, in Maryland, and that the intense war excitement had afforded them an opportunity to escape, which they had gladly embraced.

"Was not your master *kind* to you," asked the Montgomery county Democrat.

"O, yes;" responded one of the sable strangers, with a tear of gladness starting to his eye, "but we thought we had worked *for nothing* long enough, and, as freedom is sweet, we took the first chance to get *ours*, and God in Heaven be praised, we *have* it! But for the *war*, we would still be slaves. Bless God for the war!

Six months ago the upright and conscientious Montgomery farmer, as he himself religiously affirms, would have lost not a moment's time in imparting to the United States Marshal intelligence of these fugitives from labor, and had them returned to their master. But *now*, since the South is engaged in an unholy crusade against the Union and the Government, he could not find it in his heart to do anything of the sort. On the contrary, he "took them in," cared for them hospitably, and then sent them rejoicing on their way to a farmer close by, where they would be sure of receiving both work and *wages*, and the "Prince George's" Secessionist may now whistle for his "property." His two valuable slaves have afforded him a practical exhibition of the right of "secession" which he, most likely, will not soon forget.

And this is the way, forsooth, in which Southern demagogues, at the point of the bayonet, are "*protecting*" their slave *property!* What infatuation! The most arrant Abolitionist in the country is JEFFERSON DAVIS!

WE ARE pleased to announce that Col. MAX EINSTEIN's regiment of Light Artillery has just been accepted by President LINCOLN and the Secretary of WAR for the term of three years. This regiment is composed mainly of Germans, and it has been in a state of efficient organization since the commencement of the contest. There are many reasons why this action on the part of the President is extremely proper. Col. EINSTEIN has suffered large pecuniary losses to be enabled to keep his men together. He is an officer of experience and bravery, and his ranks contain some of the finest-looking men we have yet seen among our soldiery. His regiment is also, we believe, the only one from Philadelphia in which the German element of nationality largely prevails. These people make good citizens and brave soldiers, and their recognition by the President is a high compliment to their courage and patriotism.

Railroad Accomodations.

EDITOR PRESS: Why is it that we cannot have excursion trains to run on the Baltimore and Wilmington Railroad to Suffolk Park, to accommodate the thousands who daily wish to visit the camp? Do stir the company up. "CAMP."

The Population of the South—Bond and Free.

The sparseness of the population in the Secession district will detract greatly from their military strength, and render the concentration of large armies within their borders exceedingly difficult. The eleven States of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia, which have positively or conditionally allied themselves with the Southern conspiracy, have a free population of 5,672,155, and their area is 567,848 square miles, which is an average of not quite ten free persons to each square mile of territory. The free States, exclusive of Oregon, California, and Kansas, have a population of 18,364,778, and the area of territory they possess is 542,144 square miles, indicating a population of nearly thirty-four to every square mile. While our territory is even less than that of the rebellious States, our population is nearly four times as great, and our facilities for concentrating troops are infinitely superior to those of our antagonists.

We have not included, in this calculation, California and Oregon upon the Pacific coast, which will not only be able to protect themselves against any assaults from the traitors, but, if necessary, to render important assistance to the National cause. Nor have we referred to Kansas, nor the State of Delaware, with its free population of 110,548, which is undoubtedly loyal, nor to Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri, which, we trust, contain a sufficient number of Union men to more than neutralize the Secessionists who reside within their borders.

In the eleven rebel States to which we have referred, about three-fifths of the whole population consists of slaves, and in two of them, South Carolina and Mississippi, the number of slaves actually exceeds the number of freemen. The most common dictates of prudence will demand that a considerable white population should be constantly employed in keeping in check this dangerous elements of the social organization of the South; and in this way their effective military strength will be very materially reduced. They will be singularly fortunate if they are enabled to prevent servile insurrections and the stampede of thousands of those upon whose labor they have hitherto relied for support.

Whatever may be the result of a few isolated battles in the impending contest, it is evident that the institution of slavery will necessarily be seriously endangered, not so much perhaps by any instigations to revolt on the part of Northern troops or Northern enticements to escape, as on account of the natural and inevitable results of the disorders which the traitors have themselves created, and the opportunities for escape and devastation which their rash and foolish revolt has given to their slaves. Despite all the precautions that may be used, the negroes are still nearly as well informed about the progress of events as their masters, and the teachings of the ultra Southern politicians have widely disseminated false notions, which are doubly destructive to the peace and happiness of the people of the South, because, while they have incited the whites to revolt by the unfounded allegation that if they did not secede a Republican administration would pave the way for the abolition of slavery, the publicity they have given to that doctrine has filled the breasts of the slaves with hopes that, however unfounded they may be, will constantly render them restless and discontented, and thus tend largely to bring about the very result which it was the avowed object of the rebellion to prevent. The struggle for a dissolution of the Union, instead of strengthening the institution of slavery, is the most effective and dangerous scheme that its worst enemy could have invented for weakening and destroying it. If the slaveholders could conquer the prejudices which mislead them, and clearly contemplate their own interests, they would see that no portion of the American people have a deeper stake in the perpetuation of the Union than themselves, and that even if they had no higher or better interest at stake than the protection of the institution to which they cling with so much tenacity, their first and highest duty would be to crush out and overthrow the demagogues and traitors who have precipitated a conflict against the National Government.

It is no part of the business of those who are now in arms for the preservation of the Union, and the enforcement of the laws, to make a special war against slavery, nor have they, up to this time, in any manner, attempted to do so, but the worst foes it has are those who assume to be its special champions and defenders, for they have inaugurated a condition of affairs utterly incompatible with its security. Involuntary labor is a poor dependence in time of actual conflict, and States which harbor within them a large population, that by their position are necessarily rendered covert, if not open enemies, are in the worst possible position to encounter the shock of arms, and resist the march of hostile forces. A little more reason, and a little less passion, would have saved the South from what, if she persists in this rebellious movement, will be little short of absolute destruction. The sooner she returns to a sense of her folly, and the infamy of her leading traitors, the better will it be for her future welfare.

Coming to Philadelphia.

Some of the more enthusiastic of the Secession Rebels, it seems, are still indulging the pleasing and somewhat fanciful prospect, that they will be able, before long, *to capture Philadelphia!* When they do come, no doubt, it will be by way of the Blockley Almshouse! It is even asserted that the notorious WIGFALL has publicly declared that a company of "Texas Rangers" have it in contemplation, on the coming 4th of July, to celebrate their triumphal march Northward by a grand ovation at the "*Continental*."

A friend at our elbow suggests, that with the immense defensive resources of our city, it would be decidedly cruel, when WIGFALL and his "*Rangers*" shall appear, either to shoot, stab, hang, or drown a solitary one of them. He proposes as a much more humane method of disposing of them, that they be *smothered!* And how? Under the ten thousand flags, large and small, that are waving so majestically over our city. There are enough of them, in all conscience, judiciously applied, to obstruct the respiratory organs of the entire Southern army, most seriously.

CLASSICAL SOIRÉE AT THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC—To-morrow afternoon, Carl Wolfsohn and Theodore Thomas give their sixth and last classical soirée, at the Academy of Music. They will be assisted by Mr. Kammerer, violin; Mr. Simon Hassler, viola; Mr. G. Muller, viola; and Mr. Ch. Schmitz, violoncello. The great features of the performance will be Beethoven's "Sonata Appassionata," (F minor, Op. 57,) by Mr. Wolfsohn; a duet from "Les Huguenots," by Wolfsohn and Thomas, and Mozart's quintet, (D major,) by Messrs. Thomas, Kammerer, Hassler, Muller, and Schmitz. The concert will be given, as usual, in the *foyer* of the Academy.

The Merriman Habeas Corpus Case.

BALTIMORE, May 28.—St. Paul's street, fronting the United States Court-house, was crowded today, as was also the court-room, at noon, to learn the proceedings in the habeas corpus case of John Merriman.

General Cadwalader having, as was stated yesterday, declined to accede to the demand until he could hear from Washington, a writ of attachment was issued against him for contempt. To-day, the United States marshal reported that, in going to Fort McHenry to serve the writ, he was refused admittance.

Chief Justice Taney then read the following statement:

"I ordered the attachment yesterday, because upon the face of the return the detention of the prisoner was unlawfully upon two grounds.

"First—The President, under the Constitution and laws of the United States, cannot suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, nor authorize any military officer to do so.

"Second—A military officer has no right to arrest and detain a person not subject to the rules and articles of war, for an offence against the laws of the United States, except in aid of the judicial authority and subject to its control.

"If the party is arrested by the military, it is the duty of the officer to deliver him over immediately to the civil authority, to be dealt with according to law.

"I forbore yesterday to state orally the provisions of the Constitution of the United States which make these principles the fundamental law of the Union, because an oral statement might be misunderstood in some portions of it, and I shall, therefore, put my opinion in writing, and file it in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court in the course of the week."

Military Movements in Western Virginia.

WASHINGTON, May 28.—Information has been received here that over 2 000 Ohio troops from Camp Dennison yesterday took possession of the Northwestern Virginia Railroad from Parkersburg to Grafton, a distance of eighty miles intervening, and proceeded in the latter direction.

A larger number also crossed below Ohio, three miles from Wheeling, for the same destination. This is indicative of events at Harper's Ferry.

LATEST NEWS.

By Telegraph to The Press.

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, May 28, 1861.

Acceptance of Col. Einstein's Regiment.

Col. MAX EINSTEIN's Philadelphia Light Artillery Regiment has just been accepted by President LINCOLN and Secretary CAMERON. It will consist of one thousand men, and is ordered to report for service in Washington in ten days from to-morrow.

Cabinet Session.

The Cabinet met early, and continued long in session, to-day. An expression of approbation at the prompt response of the troops, when the order was issued to march into Virginia, was made by a member of the Cabinet, and responded to by the Cabinet generally.

Mr. LINCOLN has been informed by the officers of the army in Virginia that both Union men and Secessionists were totally ignorant of the movement, until the troops of the Federal Government were moving to their doors. Nothing could have surprised the officers of the Secession forces more than the march into Virginia.

The Pennsylvania Regiments.

The Fourth and Fifth Pennsylvania regiments, encamped about two miles north of the Capitol building, have had GOV. CURTIN's letter read to them by the special agent sent on to examine and report upon their condition. They are already receiving new outfits, and every deficiency will be most scrupulously supplied.

Policy to be Hung.

The unfortunate man FOLEY, a private, who shot a sergeant in the United States army here, is sentenced to be hung on the 2d day of June.

Receptions.

President LINCOLN's reception will come off this afternoon. Secretary SEWARD's third entertainment will be held on Friday evening.

Havelocks.

No regiment should be without those light and useful head coverings. They cost little, are easily made by any lady accustomed to use the needle, and are an excellent protection against the rays of the sun in hot weather. Ladies at home, in each State, can make them up and have them forwarded through Adams Express to the quartermaster of the regiment to which they wish to have them distributed.

The New York Second Regiment.

The Second (N. Y.) Regiment are encamped at Anacostia, two miles and a half northeast of the Capitol building. On Monday morning, they were sworn in as regular United States infantry, for three years, or continuation of the war, and placed on a war footing as such.

On Friday they had a surprise, that, for the time, created no little commotion, and threw the camp into a warlike aspect. It was at nine in the evening. A party of troops were observed approaching from the river. The drummers were summoned, and drums beat, and in three minutes the regiment was advancing to meet the approaching column of troops. A picket was sent forward, and challenged the new comers. They gave the countersign, and stated that they were a party of United States regulars, just landed from a steamer.

Two Men Shot near Alexandria.

Two citizens of Alexandria, who on their word of honor declared that they were loyal to the United States, were recently granted passes with permission to return to that city at pleasure. They went beyond the outside guards to-day, got into the bushes, and fired upon the guards of the United States Artillery. They were immediately pursued and shot. The passes referred to were found in their pockets.

The N. Y. Seventy-first Regiment.

At four o'clock this morning the Seventy-first New York Regiment was ordered from the navy yard to Alexandria, and taken there in three steamers. That city is now held by the New York Seventy-first, Michigan, and Zouaves Regiments, one company U. S. cavalry, and one company U. S. artillery, with six guns. Three hundred of its families are suffering for want of food, their heads, being poor, and having no work, had enlisted on account of the wages promised them, and had gone off to the Southern army.

The First and Second Ohio Regiments.

These two regiments are in excellent spirits at their encampment, near Anacostia. They are strictly temperate, and there is not a sick man on the list, in either camp. They are called the Temperance Brigade—not having a single case of drunkenness among them.

Sunday evening, as one of the officer's servants (colored) was approaching the camp at a late hour, he was challenged by the picket, when he immediately turned round and took to his heels. It is supposed that he is still running, for he has not yet returned.

Two privates went off Saturday and have not since returned. They have been seen in the city, and will be arrested.

A man in Company E, while bathing, stepped on a broken bottle in the water, nearly severing the ball of the foot and great toe.

The President in Camp

Yesterday afternoon the President visited seven encampments, and personally inspected the men. Nothing is more gratifying to a regiment than the friendly visits of those in superior positions; and these frequent visits from the President, while they manifest his regard for the men, and personal interest in their welfare, stimulate and animate every man in the ranks, and fill them with new emotions. The President was accompanied by members of his Cabinet.

From Alexandria—A Fight!

Yesterday thirty Zouaves met a party of thirty or forty Secessionists a few miles from Alexandria, with whom they had a skirmish, resulting in the death of one and capture of six of the rebel party.

The Fifth Massachusetts Regiment Capture two Rebels.

Yesterday the Fifth Massachusetts Regiment extended their pickets four or five miles into the country. They captured two of JEFF DAVIS' men—one of them, disguised in a ministerial garb, proved to be a colonel!

The 69th Regiment—A Skirmish.

The enormous entrenchments made, and breastworks thrown up by Col. CORCORAN's regiment are truly surprising. They are beyond Georgetown, and near the aqueduct. The Colonel has sent out pickets fifteen miles, and will deploy sections of his regiments along the route. The scouts from the regiment had an encounter with those from the rebel camp, yesterday, in which they captured and killed one each of the enemy.

Arrests in Washington.

Arrests are made every day. Three or four occurred yesterday. One is accused of poisoning the sugar barrel in a camp.

Another was arrested—BROWN, a market man, for rebellious language and acts; he was imprisoned in the common jail.

Another was arrested on the Avenue, opposite the *Chronicle* office, for the too free utterance of seditious sentiments.

Impressive Scene.

An impressive scene was witnessed at the railway depot yesterday. The body of Sergeant KNIPE, of the Fourth Pennsylvania regiment, was brought there under a guard of honor, with inverted arms, and while surrounded with the fellow-soldiers of the deceased, Chaplain MCDANIEL made appropriate remarks, befitting the sad event. A large audience was extemporized for the occasion from among the passengers going North.

New Hampshire Heard From.

The New Hampshire regiment arrived at 12 o'clock last night, headed by a magnificent band, whose music reverberated through the sleeping chambers of our citizens, and brought thousands in night attire to the windows. The regiment is under the command of Colonel TAPPAN, M. C., and is composed of Republicans and Democrats, half-and-half. They are uniformed in gray coats, pants, and caps. They are fully armed and equipped, and provisioned for thirty days. They bring one hundred and sixteen horses and fifteen baggage wagons with tents and stores, and two hospital wagons. So completely are they equipped and prepared for the war, that if an order had been handed to Colonel TAPPAN as his regiment stepped from the cars they could have marched to the battle-field prepared for immediate service. If there is any fighting to be done Colonel TAPPAN will be there. The regiment go into camp to-day, subject to orders for a march.

Appointments of Postmasters.

The President to-day made the following appointments of postmasters:

John S. Allen, Williamsburg, N. Y; Richard H. Winter, Whitehall, N. Y.; Wm. H. Vosburgh, West Troy, N. Y.; Wm. Knox, Waterloo, N. Y.; Edward H. Shelley, Rome, N. Y.; Wm. H. Southwich, Palmyra, N. Y; Daniel S. Parker, Kankakee, Ill.; James McDermott, Washington, Pa.; A. F. Russell, Danville, Pa.; Wm. Lindsay, Woonsocket Falls, R. I.; Charles E. Chickering, Pawtucket, R. I.; Charles L. Parker, Astoria, Oregon; Curlis M. Fyle, Ureka, Cal.: C. O. Burton, Stockton, Cal.

Correction.

A special despatch from Washington, published in *The Press* a few days ago, stating that Mrs. COOLEY, from *West* Tennessee, had visited Washington to see the President, is misprinted "East" Tennessee, and copied into the *Republican* of yesterday, and commented upon in the *Intelligencer* to-day. As the state of feeling differs materially in the two sections of that State, a correction of this misprint is rendered necessary. Mrs. COOLEY resides near Dresden, the residence of the Hon. EMERSON ETHERIDGE.

Hon. G. R. Smith, of Philadelphia.

This gentleman has been offered a major's commission in the United States army. It is not known whether the commission will be accepted, but the offer, and the handsome manner in which it has been made by Secretary CAMERON, is a high compliment paid to one in every respect worthy of it.

A Soldier Shot.

WILLIAM ANGUS, a native of Enfield, Connecticut, private in the New York Second regiment, was accidentally shot yesterday afternoon. In company with two of his comrades, he was on his way to the encampment of one of the Connecticut regiments, to see his brother, and in crossing a fence, near the Rhode Island regiment, he attempted to crawl between the rails, when his pistol went off, discharging the contents of one barrel in his breast, and killing him instantly. He was a single man, aged about twenty-seven years.

Philadelphia Steam Fire Engine.

ADAM WARTHMAN, Esq., of our city, is now here, offering to the Government, on behalf of the Northern Liberty Hose and Steam Fire Engine Company, "a steam fire engine, horses, and hose carriage, with 500 feet of 10-inch forcing hose, complete and in good condition, with the requisite number of equipped members, as may be determined upon by the proper authorities."

The Government will no doubt appreciate this well-timed evidence of the patriotism and liberality of the Fire Department of Philadelphia.

Secretary Cameron.

The Secretary of War, accompanied by the Hon. GEORGE RUSH SMITH and D. THOMAS, Esq., of our State Legislature, visited Colonel PATTERSON's regiment last evening, and was received with immense enthusiasm. Directly Mr. CAMERON was observed entering the camp, the men were formed into line, and several hearty cheers were given. This enthusiastic reception of General CAMERON by the Pennsylvania Volunteers, is but an earnest of the high regard entertained for him by the citizens of his State.

Messrs. SMITH and THOMAS also receive a hearty welcome.

Judge Casey.

The appointment of Jos. CASEY, Esq., of Harrisburg, by the President to the high position of Judge of the Court of Claims, is conceded to be an excellent one. Eminent as a lawyer, a citizen of unquestioned integrity and high moral worth, his appointment cannot fail to give very general satisfaction.

Benjamin Haywood, Esq.

Who, as I despatched on Monday, was sent on by Governor CURTIN to attend to the wants and wishes of the Pennsylvania troops now here, returned to Harrisburg last evening to consult with the Governor, and to report the actual state of the volunteers. Mr. H. will probably return here tomorrow, and it is hoped the evils now justly complained of will be remedied.

The Fifth Pennsylvania Regiment.

The Fifth on Friday arrested a rebel who has been rather free in his threats and denunciations. He will have a hearing immediately.

On Friday a private accidentally shot off a finger with his pistol.

Arrest of an Ex-Clerk of the State Department.

FRANCIS MARKOE, a recently-removed clerk from the State Department, was arrested this afternoon by the military authorities, and committed to jail to await examination.

Markoe was released on bail till to-morrow.

Military Affairs.

While Brigadier General MCDOWELL is charged with the command of the division of the forces recently thrown across the Potomac, General MANSFIELD, in command of the Military Department of Washington, will for the present be retained here. This is regarded in military circles as an indication of the Government's determination that his services are required in commanding in person the column that may not long hence close down on Harper's Ferry from this side of the Potomac.

The following officers have been ordered to duty as members of the staff of General McDowell: Colonel Charles P. Stone, of the Fourteenth Infantry; Captain R. O. Tyler, assistant quartermaster; Brevet Captain James B. Fry, assistant adjutant general, and Lieut. Putnam, of the Topographical Engineers.

The boundaries of the Northeastern Virginia Military Department, to the command of which General McDowell has been assigned, comprise all that part of Virginia east of the Allegheny mountains, and north of the James river, excepting Fortress Monroe and sixty miles around that point.

Additional troops are being daily despatched across the river from this point, and as fast as the ten additional regiments which are expected to arrive here very shortly reach Washington, the troops now here will be sent over by regiments.

Caleb Lyon, of Lyondale, N. Y., Col. E. G. Parker, late Gen. Butler's aid, Col. Mix, and S. P. Hanscom, of the New York *Herald*, made a tour through Virginia to-day. They dashed out five miles beyond the Federal pickets and suddenly came upon the Secession pickets, and were nearly captured, but fortunately escaped by aid of a pair of good horses. They were hotly but unsuccessfully pursued.

[Reported for the Associated Press.]

WASHINGTON, May 28.—The commissioners in diplomatic circles, recently reported, to the effect that the Confederate Commissioners had an interview with Lord John Russell and M. Thouvenel, and had been told that they could not be recognized, are manifestly overrated.

There has been no arrival here later than the one which brought advices that the Commissioners of the Confederate States had not yet been received in London, and had not yet applied to be admitted in Paris.

Of the same character is the report that the Seward proposition to accede to the Paris declaration abolishing privateering has been rejected.

It is understood that these instructions were sent to Mr. Adams and Mr. Dayton, and there has been no arrival from Europe so late as the day of their arrival there. Indeed, it is not yet officially known that they have arrived there. Of all the foreign ministers who have left this country, it is only known that Mr. Sanford has arrived in Belgium.

Passengers from Alexandria to-night state that nothing of especial importance occurred there today. The outposts, however, were being extended farther into Virginia.

Frederick Hecker's Illinois regiment will, it is thought, be accepted by the Government. The probability is that the brigade of Carl Shurz, minister to Spain, who is now here, will be sent to Fortress Monroe.

On inquiry of several New York guests at Willard's Hotel, it is ascertained that Van Valkenburg parted with them at noon on a visit to Alexandria, therefore, the distant report of his arrest as a spy, cannot be true.

The belief that the President has determined to tender Colonel Fremont a major generalship excites much gratification.

Ex-Governor Banks is here by invitation of the Secretary of War.

The Washington City Councils have passed resolutions of respect to Ellsworth.

Hon. John C. Fremont has been appointed a major general in the army.

It is believed that an important and imposing movement of Federal troops on Western Virginia is now in progress, or will be made immediately. The Union men there need protection.

Henry T. Dixon, the new collector at Alexandria, is a thorough-going Union man, and gave the only vote for Lincoln in Fauquier county, last fall. A Union man will also be appointed postmaster.

It is understood that Hon. N. P. Banks will be made a brigadier general, and then be assigned the Quartermaster's Department. He will fill any post with honor and ability.

Col. Wilcox is in command in Alexandria, with his fine Michigan regiment and the Massachusetts Fifth. He is perfectly confident of holding the place.

Some of the captured rebel cavalry, now at the Navy Yard, on a steamer, want to join the United States service. They say they did not understand the feeling of the North, or they would not have taken arms against the Government.

Lewis R. Broomall has been appointed chief coiner of the United States Mint, at Philadelphia.

The War Department has been offered a battalion and battery of four twelve-pounders by a gentleman from Baltimore.

The First German Rifle and Ninth Regiments of New York arrived to-day. Their appearance elicited general encomiums of praise.

Allen A. Burton, of Kentucky, has been appointed minister resident to New Granada, in the place of General Jones, of Iowa.

As there seems to be some sensitiveness in business circles about the seizure of the telegraphic despatches in all the principal Northern towns and cities, and a general apprehension that private business transactions may be exposed, it may not be improper to assure the public that there is no danger of any such expose. The War Department has instituted a commission, composed of highly respectable gentlemen, whose business it is made to examine all the despatches, under strict injunctions of secrecy, and after having selected those of a treasonable character, to reseal and return those relating to mere business transactions.

All the despatches seized at the various telegraph offices will be brought on to Washington, and be thus examined. The business of this commission assumes somewhat that of the dead-letter office, in the Post Office Department, and will be conducted with the same secrecy and rigid regard to private rights and interests.

Departure of the Garibaldi Guard for Washington.

NEW YORK, May 28—The Garibaldi Guard, over 1,000 strong, left this evening, by rail, for Washington.

More Troops for Fortress Monroe.

NEW YORK, May 28—The steamer *Coatzacoalcos* has anchored in the Quarantine to take aboard Bartlett's Naval Brigade for Fortress Monroe.

The steamer *State of Georgia*, with Col. Allen's regiment, has sailed for Fortress Monroe

From Cairo.

CAIRO, May 28.—Three 33-pounders, and carriages for the three 24-pounders, arrived here this evening.

No reliable information has been received regarding the movements of General Pillow and the Confederate troops.

Important from Fortress Monroe.

The Mouth of the James River Commanded by United States Troops.

WASHINGTON, May 28.—Col. Butler, and Hon. Messrs. Ashley, of Ohio, and Dunn, of Indiana, arrived to day from Fortress Monroe on the Government transport *City of Richmond*.

All was quiet at the fortress.

Five hundred troops, conveyed by the *Harriet Lane*, went up Hampton Roads toward the mouth of the James river and took possession of Newport News Point, and there entrenched themselves. The position is one of importance, as it mands the mouth of the James river, about six miles from Hampton.

The transport accompanying the *Harriet Lane* was fired at by the Sewell's Point rifled cannon, but the range was too great to be effective.

The steamer *Yankee* arrived to-day, bringing three prizes. At least one of the vessels is loaded with tobacco.

IMPORTANT FROM MISSOURI.

OCCUPATION OF BIRD'S POINT.

ST. LOUIS, May 28.—It having been decided to occupy Bird's Point, in Missouri, opposite Cairo, orders were received yesterday for the transfer of one regiment of General Lyons' Brigade to that place.

The Ninth Regiment, under the command of Colonel Schuttner, has been selected, and will probably embark this morning in the Government steamer *Satari*.

The encampments in the suburbs of the city will be broken up to-day, and the troops be quartered in the Arsenal and Jefferson barracks.

The American Zouave Regiment, to be commanded by Col. Morgan L. Smith, is forming here. An Irish brigade is also filling up.

It is understood that Gen. Harney has authorized the immediate formation of Union Home Guards at Hannibal, St. Joseph, Kansas City, and Springfield. These companies will be mustered into the United States service and furnished with arms. All the State troops have left Jefferson City except two companies, who remain as a body guard to the Governor.

The *habeas corpus* in the case of Captain McDonald is still being argued before Judge Treat.

LETTER OF LORD LYONS RECOGNIZING THE BLOCKADE.

ST. LOUIS, May 28.—The Pensacola correspondent of the Mobile *Advertiser* says that Lord Lyons has written to the British consul at Pensacola, recognizing the blockade in the name of the British Government, and warning English vessels of its effect.

No movements indicative of hostilities had taken place at Pensacola.

The Virginia Troops.

THE CAMP AT WILLIAMSPORT.

BALTIMORE, May 28—A special despatch from Williamsport to the *American* says the Virginia camp opposite that place was reinforced by two pieces of cannon and two additional companies on Sunday.

Mysterious movements have been going on in the camp for the past two days. The ferryman was warned to permit nothing except the mail to pass after 11 o'clock to day.

The camp is guarded with great care, neither friend nor foe being permitted to visit it. Only two companies have been on parade since Friday.

All this may be only a mask to cover a retreat to Falling Waters, or it may be with a view of preparing to cross the river into Williamsport. Our Home Guards keep a perpetual watch, and stand ready at any hour to dispute their passage over the river. The camp is in a very unsafe position, being in the toe of a horse-shoe-shaped piece of ground, where its provisions and all possibility of retreat might be easily cut off, and it is evident that this is what Col. Allen fears.

CHAMBERSBURG, May 28.—The Virginia camp opposite Williamsport was reinforced by 500 men on Monday night and four field pieces. They are without regular army supplies, and are fed by the Secessionists in the neighborhood.

On Sunday about fifty of them, under the pretence of bathing, sounded the bottom of the river for a considerable distance. It is now believed that they contemplate fording it.

It is known that the Secessionists at Williamsport and Hagerstown are concocting a plan to enable the Virginians to invade Washington county, Maryland. This move is supposed to indicate an attempt to interfere with the election of Frank Thomas to Congress, which is deemed an overwhelming certainty. The Union men of Hagerstown have nearly completed the formation of a Union Guard, under command of Captain Ayres.

The Second and Third regiments of Pennsylvania volunteers, commanded by Colonels Slocum and Jackson, arrived here this morning, and are comfortably quartered in the public buildings.

LATER FROM CALIFORNIA.

[By Pony Express.]

FORT KEARNEY, May 28.—The pony express passed here this morning, with San Francisco dates to the 18th inst.

The United States sloop of war *St. Mary* arrived at San Francisco, from Panama, on the 15th.

The *St. Louis* is anxiously expected from Panama, being now twenty days overdue.

Sight exchange on New York for to-day's pony express is 6@10 per cent premium with those who draw at sill. The agent of the Rothschilds refuses to sell exchange.

A large auction sale of real estate, to settle an estate, took place yesterday, when some 100 000 worth of property in mixed quantities brought better prices than have been before realized this season.

The municipal election will take place on Thursday next. It engrosses principal attention in San Francisco.

The People's American party and the Republican Union party are the only parties having candidates in the field. The prospects are in favor of the former.

Both Houses of the Legislature have decided to adjourn on the 20th, and are rushing through unfinished business.

The most important measure of State policy that has been adopted, is the passage of a law offering six million acres of the school lands belonging to the State for sale, in limited quantities, at $1.25 per acre, on liberal credit. A system for reclaiming and bringing into market vast tracts of swamp and overflowed lands, belonging to the State, has also been entered upon.

A series of Union resolutions, pledging the State fealty to the General Government and her readiness to comply with any requisitions for aid to suppress rebellion, have passed both Houses by large majorities.

The attempt to expunge the resolutions of censure against the late Senator Broderick, for refusing to obey the instructions of the Legislature in regard to the admission of Kansas with the Lecompton Constitution, has failed; but a series of complimentary resolutions eulogistic of his memory have passed the Senate.

There is scarcely the ghost of a chance of the passage of a bill providing for the special election of members of Congress. This inaction is attributable to the schemes of aspirants for Congressional honors, who think that the chances for their election will be better next fall than now.

The Legislature has proposed for adoption or rejection by the people several amendments to the State Constitution. One amendment proposes biennial sessions of the Legislature. Another authorizes the election of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, State Comptroller, State Treasurer, Attorney General, and Surveyor General for four years.

Both Houses have adopted a resolution calling on the Federal Congress to afford protection to the overland mail and telegraph route.

The laying of the corner-stone of the new Capitol was the occasion of an imposing demonstration on the 15th.

As an evidence of the military spirit pervading the State, the San Francisco woolen factory, has within ten days, turned out one thousand uniforms completely made, and blankets for that number of men, to fill orders from the city, and Marysville.

At a Union meeting held in Almeda county on Thursday evening, Senator McDougal said, in the course of an address, that treasonable organizations now existed in this State who were endeavoring to get possession of the Government. The meeting passed resolutions distrusting the fidelity of several officers of the State militia, and expressing a reluctance to serving under them.

Lieutenant John Tipton, of the Third Artillery, U. S. A., died at Benecia on the 1st of April.

The Humboldt *Times*, of the 11th, states that J. B Collins arrived there on the 10th from the mountains, and reports that two engagements have been had since the last advices, resulting in the death of fifteen Indians.

The troops are still hunting straggling parties of the savages who have not fled beyond their reach.

Major Armitage, who has been in command of the military post at San Diego, has resigned on account of his sympathy with the Secessionists. He has left for the East.

The Overland Mail Company have sent a detachment of men from Los Angeles with eight six-horse teams and fifty horses to Salt Lake. The company are moving their stock to the central line as fast as possible

General Johnston, late commanding the Pacific division United States army, is spending a few weeks in Los Angeles, prior to his departure for his home in Texas.

Company K, 62 men, of the First Dragoons, Major Coulter commander, who were recently stationed at Fort Tejon, arrived at Los Angeles on Wednesday last, and pitched their tents about half a mile from the city, where they will remain for the present. The company is in fine health and spirits, and sound to a man in the defence of the Union.

Dr. Gould, of Fort Humboldt, has resigned his position of assistant surgeon in the United States army, and left for Alabama, his native State, his sympathies being with the rebels.

Arrival of the Steamer New York.

NEW YORK May 28—The steamer *New York* has arrived. Her advices have been anticipated by the steamer *Etna*, arrived yesterday.

Death of the Rev. Hosea Ballou.

BOSTON, May 28—The Rev Hosea Ballou, President of Tuft's College, died yesterday.

Sailing of the Mississippi.

BOSTON, May 28—The U. S steam frigate *Mississippi* went to sea yesterday. Her destination is supposed to be Fortress Monroe.

The Charlestown Navy Yard.

BOSTON, May 28—It is probably true that two of the new sloops-of-war ordered by Congress will be built at the Charlestown Navy Yard.

The Border State Convention.

FRANKFORT, May 28.—The Border State Convention met at noon.

Mr. Wickliffe offered a resolution, which was adopted, for the appointment of a committee to consider the subjects for which the Convention was called, and also the original Crittenden amendment, proposed to the Senate of the United States, with such amendments as will secure the slave States their just and equal rights under the Constitution.

Gov. Magoffin was present, and invited to take a seat in the Convention during its session.

Full delegates are accredited from Kentucky and Missouri, but from no other States.

Mr. John Caldwell appeared from McMinn and Bevier counties, Tennessee, and was received as an adviser and consulting friend.

LOUISVILLE, May 28.—Ex Governor Morehead publishes a letter in the *Journal*, in which he says: "Should Mr. Lincoln hereafter assume the aspect of war for overrunning and subjugating the seceded States, Kentucky, without counting the cost, ought to take up arms at once against the Government of the United States. She could compel both sides to respect the inviolability of her soil."

New Jersey.

TRENTON, May 28.