The Press.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 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!

The Home Guard and the Gray Reserves.

Philadelphia and Pennsylvania enjoy in common an unfortunate taste for dissensions and partisan hostilities at all times, and, unfortunately, this proclivity is now steadily sapping the military demonstration of this city. Instead of a ready and successful establishment of a real Home Guard, we see the unfortunate spectacle of two bodies of citizens, actuated by the same zealous anxiety for the defence of the city, put in an attitude of partial opposition to each another.

The two laws under which the Home Guard and the Gray Reserves now act might, by a little common sense and kindly feeling, be so interpreted as to enable both organizations to work together in entire harmony. The provision for arming and equipping a force of ten thousand men at the expense of the city is judicious and well-intended. By means of its existing departments, and by the addition of a commanding officer, with a working staff, the city could arm and equip more than half the force now rapidly growing to the number fixed by law, and its supplies will keep pace with the demands of the new accessions, until the force is entirely completed.

The Gray Reserves are intended to replace the volunteer regiments called to the seat of war itself, by men who have hitherto been, in some way or another, connected with these regiments. They look to the State for arms and equipments, and it was right and proper that Philadelphia should say to the State, "Give us only our fair share of your military resources, we will make up the balance from our own funds." This is the whole gist of the difference between the two brigades, and nothing but the most ingenious casuistry could torture the laws creating this force for the defence of the city of Philadelphia into anything else, by any verbal interpretation of this clause or that. Independent of the sense and meaning of the two laws, in the face of the solemn assurance from our best authorities—municipal, legal, and military—in the teeth of the strong fact that the General Government never has, and never will, need the services of any but volunteers, there are men of sufficient talent in splitting hairs to find a means of escaping duty with the Home Guard, call it by either name, under the pretence that they fear, in joining the one, not to be able to leave the city, and in the other that they may be called upon to assist in the capture of New Orleans, or the reduction of some distant State.

In every volunteer organization such as this, made for a specific purpose, and urged forward to such a state of efficiency as will serve of itself to give warning that Philadelphia is able to protect itself in all contingencies, it ought to be the single aim of all persons to bring their energies to one common purpose. By a plain understanding and clear exposition of views from the brigadier generals commanding these two new forces; by a simple statement from the Committee of Public Safety; by an authoritative announcement on the part of the Mayor and the Committee on Defence and Protection, of the City Councils—by all or any of these expedients we should be spared the necessity of listening to and reading endless arguments and discussions on the real or fanciful views of different members of the two organizations, who speak without authority. This, or some other, perhaps simple, expedient, may serve to persuade our citizens that a straightforward course, in spite of logical crudities or legal technicalities, will bring them to the only result that fair men can want—namely, the chance of joining the force that is arming and drilling for the defence of the city. As matters now stand, men are going over from one to the other in about equal numbers, and, of course, in the end the companies that thus shift their ground are the real losers, for they give up a position chosen by themselves for some post that may neither suit themselves nor their new neighbors nearly so well. This uncertainty and show of opposition ought to be quickly cleared away.

Tone of Southern Merchants.

It would be unjust in all cases to judge men by the company they keep. This is especially true of the loyal merchants in the seceded States. That many of our business men will be materially crippled, and even reduced to utter bankruptcy, through the bad faith of their Southern customers, is highly probable; but it must not be overlooked that among those who have long patronized this market from that section there are many honorable exceptions to this rule. They may be in a minority, but their course is thereby rendered the more creditable, and deserves recognition. From a number of letters that have been shown to us by merchants, received from their debtors in the South within the last few days, we are convinced that by high-minded men in the rebel States the course recommended by Governor BROWN, of Georgia, and his sympathisers, is as heartily despised as it is by men of integrity at the North. One firm, writing to a well known Market-street house, from Morgantown, Va., under date of May 27, says: "We are sorry that we cannot respond to your request. The war panic has created such a state of things here that it is utterly out of our power to collect one dollar or to pay our bills. We are determined, however, at all hazards, to *remain in the Union;* and are assured that the time will soon come when we, and others who are so disposed, can pay all our indebtedness to the North. We have plenty of property and paper, but these are of no avail to us now. By the stay law imposed upon us by our secret, plotting Convention, we are unable to obtain judgments, or to enforce exections. But be assured that your debt is good, and that we will take no advantage of the infernal laws for which Virginia has been made responsible by her false representatives."

The ruinous rates of exchange, of course, interpose another barrier to remittances from the South; yet there are instances in which these are bravely met, rather than incur even the odious appearance of repudiation. A gentleman informed us yesterday that a Kentucky house indebted to his firm had written that the amount of their bill was deposited in one of their banks, subject to draft if they would "stand the exchange." Another firm, at Arbuckle, Va., under date of May 24th, enclosed an order upon a banking-house in this city to a Philadelphia firm, for the full amount of their account, stating: "We want no dividing of the cost upon the check, although the rate is a ruinous one to us. We agreed to pay you so much for your goods, and we think it unjust to saddle you with a heavy discount. We, with thousands of others who are considered such in the South, *are not Secessionists.* We voted the other way yesterday, and do not mean to *repudiate* under any circumstances."

With these and similar indications daily occurring in our Northern marts of trade, it is plainly our duty to discriminate between honorable merchants in the South, who are true to their obligations as honest men and loyal citizens, and the dishonorable men in the seceded States, who, having become infected with the leprosy of treason, are naturally the subjects of every lesser moral taint.

Cruise of the Niagara.

On our first page will be found an interesting letter, from our excellent special correspondent "Maintop," giving details of the voyage of the United States steam frigate *Niagara* from New York to before Charleston, and thence to Havana, under orders for Pensacola, to take part in the tug of war with the rebels which appears inevitable there. This cruise of eleven days is described with spirit and truth, and we hope to receive further accounts of the well-doings of the *Niagara.*

☞ Governor Yates, of Illinois, is in this city, stopping at the Continental Hotel.

The Campaign in Virginia.

The campaign in Virginia is progressing rapidly, and stirring events may soon be expected in that famous Commonwealth. Her right, left, and centre are now threatened, by General BUTLER in the East, Gen. McDOWELL opposite Washington, and General McCLELLAN in the Northwestern section of the State. Important results are evidently near at hand. The movements which are being made to surround Harper's Ferry must result in the capture of that place. And if the traitors in arms there do not speedily retreat, they will be captured. It was rumored in Washington last night that a considerable force would advance immediately upon Fairfax Court House, to which point General LEE was supposed to have sent forward about 1,400 men. The indications are that marches and exciting contests will follow each other as rapidly as in the Italian campaign of LOUIS NAPOLEON, until the traitors are compelled to flee from all their strongholds, or are completely routed and subdued.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from "OCCASIONAL."

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, May 31.

There is no longer any speculation as to the preparations of the Administration. All doubt and hesitation have been removed since the arrival of late foreign advices in regard to the policy of Great Britain in recognising the Southern traitors as "belligerents" and in refusing to treat the privateers with which it is proposed to infest the high seas as pirates. The new evidences of disaffection in Baltimore and Maryland, particularly since Chief Justice Taney's opinion denying to the President the power to declare and enforce martial law, and the gathering of the troops of the Confederacy in and about Richmond, are so many admonitions to the Government here, that vast and unusual as their warlike preparations have been, a still more extensive and stupendous system must be carried out, in order that rebellion may be effectually and wholly crushed, and that we may be ready to meet any contingency should foreign Powers attempt to interpose in behalf of those who have taken up arms against the Union.

Gradually, but resolutely, our camps are advancing upon Harper's Ferry, and in a short time a strong column will advance upon Richmond, under command of Major General Butler. The proclamations of Major General McClellan, who is moving on from Western Virginia, are hailed with much enthusiasm; and Union men are greatly encouraged by the fact that as the treasons his foes in front and flank, he takes care to protect his friends in his rear. General Patterson is concentrating troops at Chambersburg, York, and Gettysburg, and will co-operate with those under McDowell and McClellan. There will, then, shortly be a great battle at Richmond or at Harper's Ferry, or a great Secession surrender. Meanwhile, regiment after regiment is pouring into Washington. The heights around us are thronged with soldiers, and whitened with their tents, while in the city itself there cannot now be less than ten thousand men in arms. From this bird's-eye view you may catch an idea of the magnitude of the military preparations of the Administration, of the vigor of its movements, and of the objects immediately to be accomplished. It will depend upon the Disunionists whether Virginia shall be made a grand battle-field, or the scene of the submission of her traitors to the authority of the Federal Government. No terms but a complete yielding to its authority will be listened to. General McClellan's proclamation to the Virginians, like that of General Butler's to the Marylanders, conveys the whole policy of the campaign, and will be unfalteringly adhered to Look out for startling events within a few days.

General Butler is a fit type of the right kind of soldier. He is a statesman as well as a warrior. His refusal to return the escaped negroes, on the ground that they are the "*property*" of rebels in arms against the country, is a centre shot. The extremists of the South have all along declared that slaves were not persons, but "property;" and, on their own showing, the brave and skillful Butler has caught them in a trap. The negroes themselves like the exchange of masters, and are by no means alarmed. Their readiness to run to the Union flag for shelter is quoted as an evidence against the much-boasted fidelity of the slaves to their owners.

Mr. Seward gave a brilliant reception last evening to the resident citizens, strangers, and the officers of the army. I noticed, among others, the gallant Lieut. Slemmer and lady, Col. Meigs, N. P. Willis, Major General N. P. Banks, Brigadier General Schenck of Ohio, members of the Cabinet, foreign Ministers, and a host of other magnates. The national airs were played by a splendid band, and the large company enjoyed themselves till a very late hour.

The Union men of Tennessee are calling upon the Government for protection against the Disunionists Heroic Andrew Johnson maintains his stand without flinching, though his life is threatened every hour. Emerson Etheridge has had to fly the State, and is now in Chicago. Col. Anderson, of Kentucky, under the banner of the stars, is organising his regiment, and will do his whole duty. Missouri, like Maryland, is held by the strong arm, and will be held, at whatever cost

As I write, the most painful apprehensions as to the safety of Judge Douglas are again revived His loss at this moment would be like tearing away one of the main pillars of our temple of liberty. Even the excitement about the war is forgotten in the intense solicitude and sorrow at his condition. God preserve his life to that suffering country which in this sad hour so greatly needs his counsels. OCCASIONAL.

☞ We are gratified to announce that Governor Curtin has offered the Attorney Generalship of Pennsylvania to Hon. W. M. Meredith, and that Mr. Meredith has accepted the appointment. We are sure the public will join us in regarding this selection as a most fortunate one for the State and the country.

☞ Capt. R. S Fay, military secretary to Gen. Butler, passed through this city on Thursday evening, *en route* to Boston, on a business visit of a few days. Capt. Fay distinguished himself in the waters of the Chesapeake, as the volunteer commander of a force that successfully attacked and beat off the rebels from one of their batteries.

Public Amusements.

McDonough's Olympic Theatre is in full operation, with a military *piece de circonstance* of the present time, and a farce every night. "Beauty and the Beast" is in preparation.

The dramatic season of Walnut-street Theatre closes this evening, with the concluding performance of "The Patriot's Dream," which has filled the house pretty well for the last three weeks.

Notwithstanding the "hard times" the season has been highly remunerative. Mr. Benjamin Young, we believe, will be Stage-manager next season.

THE ANNIE LONSDALE TESTIMONIAL TO-DAY.—Let none of our readers forget that the complimentary testimonial, tendered her by a committee of our most prominent citizens, takes place this afternoon, at 3 o'clock, and this evening at 8 o'clock. On each occasion there will be a truly grand musical entertainment, at which all our leading artists will appear. *For us*, both entertainments will be worthy of the most extended patronage of our citizens. We have given not fifty cents, but a dollar, many a time and oft, for a concert in which not a tithe of the present talent was employed. Apart from this, who does not desire to aid Annie Lonsdale in her patriotic mission, and spread her on her way? Ladies, to your care we commend this day the true and noble-hearted lady, who, with stoical abnegation, has devoted her time and talent to the holy cause of succoring, whilst they need it, the mothers of those who have gone to fight their country's battles. The compliment tendered Miss Lonsdale, by gentlemen each of whose names is a sufficient voucher, is a most graceful one, and we anticipate the "Florence Nightingale" of the lone mothers' cheerless home will have a reception from the ladies of Philadelphia that will unmistakably mark the appreciation in which her exertions are held by them.

STEREOSCOPIC VIEW OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.—On Tuesday afternoon of this week an excellent stereoscopic view of the General Assembly of the Old School Presbyterian Church was taken, while in session, in the Seventh Presbyterian Church, Broad street, above Chestnut. We examined one of these views at Messrs. McAllister & Brother's, 728 Chestnut street, (by whom they are for sale,) yesterday, and found it a life like picture, containing a large group of accurate portraits of prominent participants in the Assembly. The view will no doubt be prized by many as a valuable contribution to the stereoscope.

FIRST PAGE.—A Leading French Journalist; Literary Notices; Round About Washington; "The Niagara on Her Cruise;" Religious; Notes of the Rebellion. FOURTH PAGE.—Weekly Review of the Philadelphia Markets; The Privateer Prizes at New Orleans; General News; Marine Intelligence.

Cecil County, Maryland.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

ELKTON, Md., May 30, 1861.

Cecil county has again spoken in unmistakable terms against Rebels and Traitors. An election took place yesterday, the 29th inst., to fill a vacancy in the Legislature, to assemble on the 4th of June. Although the vote was about 2,000 short of the full strength of the county, it resulted as follows: Andrew McIntire, Union, *2,195*; Secession, 153. SUBSCRIBER.

An Excitement at the Baltimore Camp.

BALTIMORE, May 31.—Shortly after midnight, a party of disorderly men approached the picket guard, at the Federal Hill camp. The guard hailed them, and receiving no reply, fired, resulting in one man being wounded. The balance retreated. A party of one hundred men were sent out, who arrested six men, four of whom were discharged and two retained for further investigation.

LATEST NEWS

By Telegraph to The Press.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Despatches to "The Press."

WASHINGTON, May 31, 1861.

Military Department.

I have obtained this morning from the War Department the changes in the Military Departments, and their geographical divisions up to date. There will be one or two more sub-divisions of the Eastern Department, which I will report when made.

General Department of the East.—Commandant, General WOOL, Headquarters, Troy, New York. Comprises the country east of the Mississippi river, and is sub-divided, and subject to contemplated sub-divisions.

Department of Washington.—Brigadier General MANSFIELD, commanding. Headquarters at Washington. Comprises the State of Maryland, including Bladensburg and Baltimore; the District of Columbia, by original boundary; Fort Washington and the country adjacent.

Department of the South.—Major General BUTLER, commanding. Headquarters Fortress Monroe, Comprises Eastern Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

Department of Virginia.—Brigadier General McDOWELL, commanding. Headquarters not established. Comprises Virginia east of the Alleghany mountains and north of James river, excepting Fortress Monroe and 60 miles around.

Department of Annapolis.—Major General CADWALADER, commanding. Headquarters at Annapolis. Embraces the territory 20 miles on each side of the railroad, from Annapolis to the city of Washington, as far as Bladensburg, Md.

Department of Pennsylvania.—Major General PATTERSON, commanding. Headquarters at Philadelphia. Comprises Pennsylvania, Delaware, and all of Maryland not embraced in the foregoing Department.

Department of the West.—Brigadier General HARNEY. Headquarters, St. Louis, Missouri. Comprises the country west of the Mississippi river and east of the Rocky mountains, except those portions of it included within New Mexico.

Department of Ohio.—Major Gen. McCLELLAN, commanding. Headquarters at Cincinnati.

Department of Kentucky.—Col. ANDERSON to command. Headquarters, Louisville, Kentucky. To include so much of the State of Kentucky as lies within one hundred miles of the Ohio river.

Department of Texas.—(Vacant.) In *statu quo.*

Department of New Mexico.—Col. W. W. LORING, commanding. Headquarters at Santa Fe. Embraces the Territory of New Mexico.

Department of the Pacific.—Gen. SUMNER, commanding. Headquarters at San Francisco. Embraces the country west of the Rocky mountains.

Department of Utah.—Col. P. St. GEORGE COOK. Headquarters at Camp Crittenden (formerly Camp Floyd) Comprises the Territory of Utah, except the portion of it lying west of the 117th degree of west longitude.

Union Demonstration in Alexandria.

The impromptu Union meeting yesterday, in Alexandria, (of which I send you a full report,) was a great success, and evidenced unmistakably that, though there are still not a few Secessionists in that city, the Union sentiment is very strong. Several of the principal business men of the town yesterday expressed themselves averse to all talk of compromise, until after JEFF DAVIS and his minions have been properly and effectually dispossed of.

The Fifth Pennsylvania Regiment.

The men of this regiment were in great glee yesterday because they had learned that new uniforms and proper under clothing were on the way for them The ladies of the Rev. Mr. BUTLER'S church had supplied Company "G" with Havelocks, and the old ones worn by this company were handed over to Company F. The other companies would be glad to be similarly dealt with by their friends at home. The condition of this regiment has been so far very deplorable.

The Sick Cared for.

Just as Miss DIX leaves us for Fortress MONROE, and Miss LANDER returns to her home, on a short visit, their places are abundantly supplied by other patriotic ladies. Miss JOSEPHINE SANFORD, of New York, has made her way alone to this city, to offer her kind care to the sick and suffering soldiers of our gallant army. She brings letters from General WOOL, and others, testifying to her peculiar qualifications for the duties of an efficient nurse.

Arrival of Troops.

The Thirteenth regiment of New York State militia, and Twelfth regiment of New York volunteers, arrived in Washington at 12 o'clock last night. The New York 79th Highlanders, commanded by Col. CAMERON (son of the Secretary of War), will be in this evening. A regiment from Elmira, N. Y., is also approaching the city, and will be in within a few hours.

Grand Military Review.

The review yesterday was one of the finest of the season. The Eighth, Ninth, and Fourteenth New York regiments, and the Garibaldi Guard, were all out on parade on the avenue, and were reviewed at the Executive Mansion by the President, Gen. Scott, and the members of the Cabinet.

Encampment of the New York Ninth.

The Government has purchased the camp equipage of the New York Seventh, and the encampment will be occupied by the Ninth—the Seventh returning to New York to-day.

New Paper in Alexandria.

Arrangements are in progress to issue a paper in Alexandria of the genuine patriotic stamp, to be called the *Alexandria Republican.* It is to be under the control of Messrs. JOHN UNDERWOOD and HENRY DIXON. The term *Republican* has undergone some change of meaning since the time when the Lynchburg and St. Louis papers of that title were first issued; so your readers will not confound this paper with its homonyms.

A Singular Case of Recovery.

The romances of war is always greater than that of peace. The soldier who was accidentally shot through the lung is recovering. As soon as the accident was known to his gallant sister in Brooklyn, N. Y., (a married lady,) she posted on here to nurse him. She attended to him several days before he was aware of her presence. When he recovered consciousness, he said, with a sigh: "I have a sister, and oh, if she knew how I am, she would be at my bedside!" Like a ghost, she appeared; and her presence has resurrected him.

There was a thorough perforation of the body of the soldier by a Minie ball. These gunshots are not necessarily mortal. Several cases are reported in medical journals where the lungs have been punctured by balls without producing death. The bronchial arteries are so abundantly supplied with oxygen—the healing or therapeutic properties of atmospheric air—from respiration, that hemorrhage and inflammation are both prevented.

Active War Preparations.

The note of preparation is everywhere manifest, and indicates, most conclusively, an early forward movement. Immense quantities of bread and other provisions are prepared. Gun carriages for heavy artillery and ambulances for the wounded are moving, and everything in connection with the war movement has received an impetus not before witnessed here.

Troops on the Move.

Last night the New York Ninth and Seventy-first, and Garibaldi Guard, were ordered to be ready to march on call. There are several battalions of our District militia under similar orders.

The Seized Despatches.

Col. JAMES CAMERON, brother of the Secretary of War, has left Washington for the purpose of gathering and forwarding all the seized telegraph despatches—to be examined here by a board of examiners appointed yesterday for that purpose.

Rumors.

It is everywhere throughout our city reported that a demonstration was made last night upon Manassas Junction, by the Zouaves and the Michigan regiment in Alexandria. So far, I do not trace the report to any reliable source, and the War Department has not been apprised of any *such movement.* I saw two of the Zouaves who came up from Alexandria to day, and they inform me that they, with their regiment, slept in their tents last night at Alexandria.

General Webb Appointed Minister to Brazil.

General James Watson Webb, of New York, has been appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Brazil.

The Revenue Laws.

The revenue laws require vessels entering port with informal papers to be seized; but inasmuch as those coming from the South, where the custom-houses are in the possession of insurrectionary parties, cannot obtain the proper clearances, the Secretary of the Treasury, with the view of remedying the embarrassments and trouble under these circumstances, has decided that in all cases where it appears that there was no fault on the part of the commanders, the latter shall not be compelled to go into court, but on the *correct* representation of the collectors where the vessels arrive, the fines and fees which the law imposes shall be remitted.

Several vessels improperly captured by the blockading forces have been ordered to be released. The Government will act promptly in all future cases of a similar character.

Miscellaneous.

The Hon David Taggart, formerly Speaker of the Pennsylvania Senate, and late candidate for Governor of that State, has been appointed paymaster in the army.

The following-named paymasters in the navy have been appointed: Augustus H. Gilman, Maine; H. H. Pangborn, Massachusetts; Cramer Burt, Minnesota; Washington Irving, New York; Jos. B. Oliphant, New Jersey; R. C. Spaulding, Ohio, and Cuthbert P. Wallach, District of Columbia.

The following-named lieutenants in the marine corps have been appointed:

Wm. H. Hall, New Hampshire; Robert E. Hitchcock, Vermont; Robert W. Huntington, Connecticut; Frank Monroe, District of Columbia; John H. Grimes, Iowa; John A. Burrough, Minnesota; Wm. H. Parker, Wisconsin; John Pope Baker, Illinois. These are all the appointments; leaving no vacancies.

There are no vacancies for chaplains.

The post routes and post offices managed by loyal citizens, and in loyal districts, in Virginia, are not to be deprived of its mail service under the recent order of the department. If they should be suspended temporarily by the general order, they will be restored upon due advice of the facts.

The port of Alexandria, a new collector having been appointed, has been re-opened to the commerce of the country, and therefore vessels will be admitted as heretofore.

The President has appointed the following Massachusetts postmasters: Lewis Merriam, Greenfield; Edward Rogers, North Adams; Henry Chickering, Pittsfield; also, Henry H. Starkweather, Norwich, Conn.

The Secretary of the Treasury has under consideration the proper course to be pursued with a view to pay the volunteers, who have not yet received any money from the Government, apart from the provision made by the States.

Several vessels went to Fortress Monroe to-day carrying hundreds of thousands of cartridges with other war requisites. The supply in that direction is now ample.

One half of the amount of bonds awarded on Saturday having already been prepared, will at once be issued to the successful bidders.

The Second Maine Regiment arrived here this afternoon.

The Seventh New York Regiment left for home at 5 o'clock this evening. The Ninth New York Regiment now occupy the camp vacated by them.

The preparations made last night by the troops for a march were owing to an apprehended conflict on the Virginia side, a telegraphic despatch having been received by Gen. Scott to induce such a belief, but which was afterwards contradicted.

The President has found it necessary, owing to the pressure of public business, to deny himself to many visitors.

Arrivals from Philadelphia.

National—J. Rupre.

Brown's—Charles Brown, John Hassan, W. B. Feirer, J R Marten, J. W. Lewis.

Kirkwood's—Sl. Miller, T. D. Dougherty.

Willard's—A. Getty, S. F. Kerr, R. Chever, A. B. McKee, C. C. Jackson, A. Biles, H. B. Orbison, R. M. Lee.

VISIT OF PENNSYLVANIANS ACROSS THE POTOMAC.

A Novel Spectacle in Alexandria.

Great Union Demonstration.

PATRIOTIC SPEECHES.

WASHINGTON, May 31, 1861.

Yesterday afternoon, the Hon. W. D. KELLEY, Hon. H. McPHERSON, Dr. PULESTON, and A. WARTMAN, Esq., of Pennsylvania, visited Alexandria, for the purpose of noting the condition of the Pennsylvania troops now quartered there, and of observing matters and things generally in that now desolate city. On arriving at the headquarters of the Fifth Pennsylvania Regiment, the party were cordially received by Col. McDOWELL, and the other officers of the regiment, and while there they were joined by Senator G R SMITH, Messrs. D. THOMAS, B. BELL, and JAMES HARPER, of Philadelphia, who had been on a tour of inspection among the troops on that side of the river. The company visited the several points of interest in and around the city, and on returning to headquarters, opposite the now famous Marshall House, where Col. ELLSWORTH was brutally assassinated, the regimental band complimented their visitors with the performance of several patriotic airs.

The music attracted a crowd of about one thousand persons, principally residents of the city, and Judge KELLEY was loudly called for. He was introduced in appropriate manner by Senator SMITH, and spoke substantially as follows:

Judge KELLEY, after indicating the object of his visit to Alexandria, and thanking the band and the men of the Pennsylvania Fifth for the compliment, proceeded to express the gratitude he, in common with the people of the State, owed them for the alacrity with which they had abandoned their homes and peaceful pursuits, and the cheerfulness with which they endured the more than usual hardships and deprivations of a soldier's life.

He reminded them that, though they bore the flag of Pennsylvania, and had enlisted in response to the call of her Governor, they were not there in the service of that glorious old State, but in defence of the integrity and honor, the Constitution, laws, and flag of the Union. They were not there to oppress or subjugate a foreign foe, but to protect the loyal people of that section of their common country against the machinations and outrages of a band of lawless, selfish, and ambitious traitors. [Great cheering]

Addressing himself to the hundreds of citizens who had been attracted to the spot, he continued: No, men of Virginia, these citizen-soldiers are not here to invade your rights or overthrow your institutions. While they are in your midst, life, property, and liberty are safe. Their object is not conquest—they are devoted to the pursuits of peace, and are here in proof of their willingness to surrender all, even life, in the maintenance of honor, order, and constitutional rights. They are here not to exhibit superior prowess or martial training, but to sustain against all foes the beneficent Constitution, in the formation of which your fathers bore so conspicuous a part—this beautiful star-lit flag, which the blood of our common ancestors sanctified, and that Union of thirty-four mighty Commonwealths typified by its lustrous galaxy. They war only upon traitors who spit upon the hallowed memories, and would blast the glorious hopes of our country, and these they will subdue or exterminate. [Great applause] Will you not, therefore, believe that they are your friends, and greet them as such? I am sure you will I know you will. I am sure you will ere long; and I pray God to hasten the day when truth and a thorough good understanding shall prevail between the people of every section of our great and diversified country, and when we may sing, with united voices, as a national hymn, the words so nicely adapted to the last air played by the band—We are a Band of Brothers. [Cheers]

Again thanking the men of the 5th, the Judge concluded by expressing the hope they might soon be permitted to return in health to the joys of home in the smiling valleys or on the rugged hillsides of their dear mother Pennsylvania. Judge Kelley retired amidst great cheering.

Dr. Puleston then stepped forward and introduced the Hon. H. McPherson, who was received with great applause, the band playing "Hail Columbia."

MR. M'PHERSON'S SPEECH.

Mr. McPherson said: Like my distinguished colleague, I have come in a spirit of kindness, upon a mission of mercy. I have come to inquire into the condition of the Pennsylvania troops now quartered in your city, to shake them by the hand, and extend to them whatever attention lie in my power. I can also say for them, as well as for myself, that their feeling is not of hate; that their presence is the result of their loyalty; and that their great purpose is one in which all patriotic persons can co-operate—the restoration of the authority of the Government, the assertion of its rights, and the vindication of its honor. [Cheers]

This is my second visit to Alexandria. The first was five years since, when, in sadness, I accompanied an invalid friend returning from a fruitless sojourn at the watering-places, from your mountains. As I drove through your streets to day I could not but contrast their appearance, *then* gay and bustling, *now*, from untoward events, gloomy, and almost deserted. But my sadness now has a deeper tinge. Sympathies that are not all sectional, but whole communities, States, and sections are deeply suffering in every part. All this is unnatural and deplorable. It is not as we wish it, and you have your sympathies in whatever troubles are impending over you. While this is our feeling, it is proper I should say that we have a duty to perform in this crisis, and that duty rises superior to every feeling; it is the duty all good citizens owe to their Government; it is the paramount duty of all loyal American citizens—that of sustaining the Constitution, which your fathers and mine established, the Union which you and I have inherited, the Government which we must transmit to posterity, not only unimpaired but stronger and better, by reason of the patriotism, the intelligence, and virtue of this generation [Cheers]

I come from one of the Middle States of the Union. I come from one of the counties on the Maryland line. Thus coming from Pennsylvania, a Middle State, a loyal State. I say to you that she has placed in the field fifty thousand men; that, if necessary, she will place in the field one hundred and fifty thousand men; that she has appropriated three millions and a half of dollars; that, if necessary, she will appropriate five times that sum, not because she hates Virginia, or any seceding States, but because the nation's life is in peril, and at every cost and hazard and sacrifice must be saved—for freedom's sake, for civilization's sake, for humanity's sake. [Cheers] Her troops are among you to day; more may come. But, my friends, they will do no injury to peaceful persons; they will outrage no personal feeling; they will deprive no one of his rights; they will destroy no property, and will take no private property for public purposes without making adequate compensation.

I know that you have been told that the "Northern hordes," the "Goths and Vandals," are about precipitating themselves upon the South, to despoil and devastate it. Believe it not. These are the specious deceptions of cunning, designing, unprincipled politicians. They are intended to stimulate passion, to mislead you to your ruin, and to embitter the community. The Government of the United States, I feel assured, and you have been so informed by the President, will protect all peaceful and loyal citizens, and has in view but the one great purpose of preserving our Government from threatened destruction. Whatever may be the present impressions of the citizens of Alexandria, it is as certain as to-morrow's rising sun, that this purpose will be accomplished. It may require a longer or a shorter time, a greater or a feebler effort. But late events have proven this age to be as grandly heroic as any which has preceded, and the men are now living and acting in this drama who will see its last act performed—the whole people, clothed in their mind with a refreshed enthusiasm, accepting the "Stars and Stripes;" and the nation, strengthened by its privations and renewed in its vigor, majestically asserting and performing its high mission. [Cheers]

This Union cannot be dissolved. Its various parts are so interknit as to make its dissolution impracticable. Do not suppose this absurd or novel, for it is but a few years since the President of the Confederate States gave it solemn utterance. You in Virginia have local interests which would make its destruction yours. We in Pennsylvania cannot consent to it. If we wished, we could consent that the Chesapeake, or the Ohio and Mississippi, over which millions of our products float to market, shall fall under a hostile or foreign domination So with other States. A glance at your maps will show that Nature has interposed insuperable obstacles, while your own hearts will tell you that to destroy the Union is to sin against man and against God. To preserve the Union is therefore a sacred duty. In this hour of the nation's travail Unionism is the highest religion, and he is the best man who is most sincerely devoted to this pious purpose Whatever sacrifices this may involve, we accept; whatever duties, we perform; whatever consequences, we endure. In a spirit of patience, but with a glow of faith, we enter upon the task, seeing already the promise of its performance. Some of you doubt this now. Be not deceived. The Union lives, and will live, in spite of conspiracy and treachery. Were this not so, all the yearnings of the good, all the sufferings of the martyr spirits of the world, all the deep life-struggles of aspiring humanity, should be classed as vain and profitless.

Some of you complain that armed men are sent among you. I understood this to be the regret of a gentleman whom I met this afternoon, and who considers himself a Union man. The complaint will not bear testing. The Government did not begin the war. It even passed, unnoticed, repeated acts of war. Only when the crowning insult was offered, and after attack was made upon its flag, it rose in its might to assert its rights. Appealing upon the people, it called for their assistance, and in response met that vast upheaving of loyal sentiment which has redeemed the age from threatened contempt, which, while being the most thrilling event in our history, almost erases the preceding record of shame, and which, startling the world, will yet be accepted as proof that republican government is the most powerful, as ours is the most beneficent on the face of the earth [Cheers] Third, we resorted to force only to repel force. We will use as much as is necessary to put down the antagonistic power, and that, too, in accordance with the rules of warfare among civilized people. No loyal citizen can complain of this. Had the cases been reversed, and the rebel leaders constituted the Government, who can doubt the promptness with which every available agency would have been used to quell the insurrection? To doubt this is to doubt their intelligence, and faithfulness, and courage.

Ere long, Virginia will be released from the fetters now placed upon her. She will be restored to her true position in the Union; and her loyal citizens will be enabled to aid the Government in performing a like work in others of the seceding States. This fully done, the authority of the Government re-established, law once more acknowledged, the Constitution once more accepted and venerated, prosperity will return to us; and we will remember the present only as the dread trial by which, in much suffering, our liberties were confirmed, our Government purified, and our national life invigorated. I know not when I will again meet you of Alexandria, but I hope the time is not far distant when all of us, again remembering our splendid Government and anticipating a glorious future—once more in heart American citizens, all prejudices vanished, and estrangements forgotten—may, under the protecting shadow of this grand old flag, in quietness and peace, worship one household God. [Cheers]

The Hon. GEO. R. SMITH was then introduced, and made a brief speech, during the delivery of which he was frequently interrupted with immense cheering, the Unionists of Alexandria uniting with the volunteers present in evincing their approbation of the noble, patriotic sentiments uttered by the speaker.

The speaking took up over an hour, and during the whole time but one man was observed to manifest disapproval, the audience generally seeming delighted with the demonstration, and listening attentively to every word uttered by the speakers.

After exchanging civilities with the soldiers and many of the citizens present, the party left in their carriages, and were escorted out of town by the band, which struck up Yankee Doodle amid the livelest enthusiasm,—a large crowd following, and the doors and windows of the yet habited houses filled with spectators.

The building occupied by the Fifth Regiment, and from which the speaking was made, was, until Friday last, the headquarters of the Rebel troops—the Stars and Stripes waved majestically where the Secession banner waved, and hundreds of the citizens of the place who were kept in subjection by the cohorts of JEFF DAVIS, now glory in wearing Union badges, and openly applauding Union sentiments. The enthusiasm created by the impromptu Union demonstration of yesterday will not soon be forgotten by the many who witnessed it.

Important from Baltimore.

EX-GOVERNOR PRATT ARRESTED AND REMOVED TO WASHINGION.

Rumored Arrest of Ex-Governor Lowe.

Secession Nominee for Congress.

BALTIMORE, May 31.—Ex Governor Pratt was arrested this evening, at Annapolis, by order of the Government, and taken to the Washington navy yard. It is also rumored that Ex-Governor Lowe has been arrested.

Mr. McLane, late minister to Mexico, was nominated by the Secessionists in the Fourth Congressional district to-night.

A Battle at Acquia Creek.

The Rebel Batteries Attacked by the Steamers Freeborn and Anacostia.

WASHINGTON, May 31.—It was stated in my despatch last night that a number of vessels were fitting out here for some destination not publicly disclosed. The following despatch, received from the navy yard, between four and five o'clock this evening, affords an explanation:

"The *Keystone State* reports that in passing Acquia creek, at noon, the steam gunboats *Freeborn* and *Anacostia* were engaging the battery at that point with success. Shall I send the *Pocahontas*, with her ten-inch gun, to assist?"

The despatch was signed by Captain Dahlgren, the commandant at the navy yard. Immediately on the receipt of the despatch, the Navy Department ordered two men-of-war down to the support of Captain Ward.

Acquia Creek is 54 miles from Washington, and the battery is located at the terminus of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac railroad Vessels can approach within musket-shot range of the battery.

WASHINGTON, May 31—Midnight—There is little if any doubt that the Seventy-first New York Regiment will proceed to-night to Acquia creek, arrangements having been made for their transportation thither.

The Government up to this hour has received no further news from Acquia creek beyond what has already been mentioned. The steamer *Keystone State* was lying near by for several hours, and according to the report of an officer on board that vessel there are two batteries, the one on the lower ground having been damaged. It was supposed from the movements of the steamer *Anacostia* that she was struck by a ball. The War Department is kept open all night, in order to be informed by telegraph or otherwise of whatever may demand its prompt attention

From Manassas Junction.

THE REBELS CONCENTRATING THEIR FORCES.

An Immediate Attack Expected.

WASHINGTON, May 31.—A lady, who lives near MANASSAS Junction, who reached Washington this afternoon, states that the rebels are concentrating rapidly at that point. Their troops are being thrown forward from Lynchburg in large numbers, and the troops, in considerable bodies, are marching in advance, and occupying prominent positions this side of the Junction. They evidently expect an attack immediately from the United States troops somewhere in that vicinity. The rebels were engaged in fortifying every available position at and near the Junction, with the view to make their position as defensible as possible.

From the U. S. Camp in Virginia.

Rumors of Expected Conflicts To-night.

An Advance on Fairfax Court House Contemplated.

Accidents to the Garibaldian Guards.

WASHINGTON, May 31.—A gentleman arrived to night, at half past 9 o'clock, from the camp of the United States troops in Virginia, reports that four companies of the United States Second dragoons, a battery of artillery, and the Eighth, Twenty-fifth, and Sixty ninth New York regiments were occupying the heights two miles beyond the Arlington House, and their pickets were extended beyond Ball's Cross Roads, six and a half miles from Washington. A portion of this force was intended to advance on Fairfax Court House to-night, and, if possible, to occupy it before daybreak. The troops expected to have an engagement, as information deemed to be reliable had reached them that the rebel troops, numbering about 1,400, are in a position at that point.

The rumor was also current in this camp that there would be an attack by 4,000 rebels on Alexandria during the night. The United States troops there and in the immediate vicinity were actively engaged in preparing for the expected conflict. The attack was expected to come from the direction of Dumfries, about 25 miles below. This last report was