The Press.

TUESDAY, JULY 23, 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 Recent Battle.

The record we publish in our telegraphic reports of the repulse of our troops at Manassas Junction, and their retreat to Washington, will sadden every loyal heart in our country. It is idle to seek to disguise that we have met with a great disaster, but one for which, under all the circumstances, we should not have been totally unprepared, and which only proves that even our soldiers cannot achieve impossibilities. We have paid an awful penalty for the error of underrating the strength of our enemy, and attempting, with too small a number of men, to drive him from his stronghold. We have suffered our zeal to outrun our discretion; and in deference to the strong popular sentiment which demanded an early capture of Richmond, the forward movement against that city was commenced before we had consolidated a sufficient force to render its downfall certain. All accounts seem to agree in representing that, after the junction of JOHNSON with BEAUREGARD, the latter had under his command a considerably larger force than General MCDOWELL. Considering that the position of the former, with their entrenchments, fortifications, and masked batteries, gave them an advantage of nearly two to one, even if the forces engaged had been equal, however much we may regret our defeat, it should not excite surprise. We can boast, and with truth and justice, of the superiority of the friends of the Union, in men, money, bravery, skill, and resources of all kinds. But evidence of this plain fact was not furnished in the late battle, because our strength was not sufficiently concentrated at that vital point. At Manassas Junction the enemy had gathered every available element of their power. They had carefully selected the position, as the best they could find for a determined stand. They had spent months of assiduous labor in fortifying it, surrounding it with masked batteries, and gathering all the arms and munitions that they could plunder or manufacture. They had on the ground their three best generals, BEAUREGARD, LEE, and JOHNSON, acting, it is supposed, under the immediate eye of JEFF. DAVIS, to command, it is reported, 80,000 of their very best troops. Whatever there is of strength, valor, or military efficiency in all the land under the sway of the Secession conspirators, was fully represented among the antagonists of General MCDOWELL'S army. The latter was powerful, it is true—it contained many gallant men who nobly fought for their country—but it was in nowise such a representative of the power of the Union as the insurgent army was of the power of the Secession cause. While BEAUREGARD had not only an advantageous position, but more than one-half of the Secession troops, MCDOWELL had not one-fifth of the soldiers of the UNION, and not one-tenth the number the loyal States can send in very short period to the field. The single States of New York and Pennsylvania have each already enrolled and equipped more soldiers than comprised the whole force of the latter, and a majority of the loyal States can, if necessary, each furnish as many troops as fought for the Union at Manassas Junction.

It seems to have been confidently expected that this great disparity of force would have been, to a great extent, prevented by the advance of General PATTERSON, or, at least, that he would have so fully engaged JOHNSON'S attention that the latter could not have reinforced BEAUREGARD. Why he has not done so is not now fully explained, and a correct judgment cannot be formed of the wisdom and propriety of his course until all the facts are fully ascertained. The three months term of a large portion of his men is about to expire, and, by an order dated the 19th inst., it was directed that, on the 27th inst., (Saturday next,) he should also be honorably discharged, and that, previous to that period, he should return to Pennsylvania to superintend the mustering out of our State volunteers whose terms have expired. The vague rumor that he had reached the vicinity of Manassas Junction is apparently unfounded, as a despatch from Harrisburg states that he was at Harper's Ferry yesterday, awaiting the approach of his successor, General BANKS.

While we publish all the telegraphic accounts which were received during yesterday of the battle and the subsequent retreat, our readers should remember that some of the worst features of the first reports were derived from the statements of panic-stricken civilians, and that the real condition of affairs is much better than the exaggerated rumors which were circulated yesterday represented them to be. It is evident that our troops fought with amazing bravery for a long period, against terrible odds. They inflicted much damage upon the enemy, and their own loss, great as it was, has been much exaggerated, six hundred of the Ellsworth Zouaves, for instance, instead of two hundred, having survived the conflict. While a portion of our army retreated in disorder, other regiments admirably preserved their discipline. The Washington *Star* of last evening says that "the enemy made no effort whatever to pursue our retreating army," and that the great body of our troops slowly returned in "remarkably good order, recovering most of the munitions, baggage, &c., thrown away by those stricken with the panic." The army is again reforming at Washington in the positions from which it started out last week, and being now strengthened by the reserve of MCDOWELL at Centreville, which was not in the engagement, and the forces under General MANSFIELD, which, combined, are nearly equal to the whole force in our ranks at Manassas Junction, no fears are entertained for the safety of the capital. On the contrary, the Administration, with the promptness which has characterized all its movements since the fall of Sumpter, is already making vigorous preparations for a second attack upon Manassas Junction. If our first attempt had been successful, by the confession of the rebel chieftain, the whole Secession conspiracy would have been virtually broken up. But the failure of that effort does not prove that under more favorable auspices, with the overwhelming force we can bring into the field, it will be out of our power to capture it. We are rejoiced to learn that not only have heavy reinforcements been sent for, but that the hero of Western Virginia, the gallant MCCLELLAN, whose varied talents and splendid successes pre-eminently fit him for the command of the most important division of our forces, has been appointed commander-in-chief of the army of the Potomac. Coming, as he does, fresh from the fields of victory, he will inspire with renewed courage and determination all who will be associated with him in his new sphere of action, and hundreds of thousands of his countrymen, who place full reliance in his military acquirements, his sagacity, his strategic skill, and his courage, will be found ready and eager to assist him in making the glorious standard of the Union float as triumphantly in Eastern Virginia as it now floats in the Western section of that State.

ADVICES from Missouri revive our faith in the integrity of the loyal military, and dissipate, to some extent, the sombre intelligence from the South. One hundred and seventy Union Home Guards encountered five hundred rebels at Harrisonville, and routed them after a struggle of four hours. A second contest has, likewise, taken place at West Point, near Grand river, which ended in the flight of the Secessionists.

With determined men in the doubtful States to uphold the Union and its flag, we can afford to be hopeful, even with Manassas and its hidden guns still ringing its memories in our ears. A number of dead bodies passed through the city yesterday, on their way to New York and the East. They added to the general gloom relative to the events of Sunday at Bull's Run and Manassas.

SALE THIS MORNING of household furniture at Birch & Son's, No. 914 Chestnut street, commencing at 10 o'clock.

The Pirates Caught Napping.

In this civil contest incidents of personal daring and prowess are of daily occurrence. Not the least remarkable of these has been the feat of the steward and crew of the schooner *Waring*, who slaughtered and threw overboard a part of their pirate captors, and safely navigated the vessel into New York. The executioner in this case seems to have been a negro, named "Tillman," who first put the dangerous freebooters out of the way, and then compelled the remainder to assist in navigating the vessel.

Return of the Volunteers.

The term of service of the three-months volunteers is now drawing to a close, and we may expect, this week or next, the return of a number of the Pennsylvania regiments. A great proportion of these men will re enlist for the war. A small per centage will engage again in civil pursuits. But these latter will probably find the city even more monotonous than the camp, and the stirring nature of affairs in Virginia will again wean some of them from home and the arts of peace.

There is little doubt, therefore, that with a few indifferent exceptions, the three months volunteers will at once take the field. Provision has been made by Congress to reward re enlistment with a handsome bounty, and a fair proportion of disciplined troops will thus be at the disposal of the Government.

The men will, of course, reorganize the regiments, and incompetent officers will be removed to make place for others of better mettle and education.

The return of the city regiments will cause great joy among the citizens, many of whom will embrace their friends again, after a term of anxiety and daily fear.

All honor to those brave men who stood forth in the first peril; may they still remember the country, now that her honor is tarnished and her defenders slain under the shadow of the capitol!

OUR WAR CORRESPONDENCE.

The Great Battle beyond Centreville.

[From our Special War Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, July 22, 1861.

Centreville is a small village about four miles from Bull's Run, and within seven or eight miles of Manassas Gap Junction, the centre of General Beauregard's position as commander-in-chief of the rebel forces It commands a magnificent view—one seldom seen in the eastern part of Virginia The approach from Fairfax Court House is through a succession of hills, covered in many parts with dense forests of timber, and occasionally showing evidences of civilization in large wheat fields, small, aristocratic mansions, and ungathered crops of new mown hay. The plain beyond Centreville is an extensive one, and will be memorable in history as the scene of the greatest battle ever fought on the American continent. It is bounded by the Blue Ridge, whose shelving and uneven summit faintly lines the horizon. It is watered by streams which rise in the mountain and flow into the Potomac, and is divided into fields of grain, pasture and meadow. At almost regular intervals the plain itself ascends into gradually-sloping hillocks, most of which are covered with timber. Towards Occoquan especially the country is densely wooded, and we can but occasionally see a road or a field, even with the aid of the most powerful glass.

In this romantic and beautiful district, the rebels had determined to show their first organized opposition to the Federal Government. Fairfax, Alexandria, and the intervening points were but mere picket stations, as it were, intended only as a menace and a monitor. Their occupation by the Government forces was but weakly contested, and they were illy defended. The great body of the Southern levies have been centred at Manassas, skirting Bull's Run. Stone Bridge, Sudley's Ford, Centreville, and the Occoquan River. Nature has been lavish in strengthening this district as a defensive position. Immediately before Manassas there is a succession of equi-distant hills, in front of which there is said to be a ravine so deep and so thickly wooded that it is passable to an army only at two points, and those two, gorges which a company of men could almost defend against a whole army. Months of preparation have enabled General Beauregard to add to these natural defences others of a more important nature. These defences were said, by Southern journals, to be a line of forts, two miles in extent, zig-zag in form, with angles, salients, bastions, casemates, and everything properly belonging to the art of fortifications In addition to this, the country is admirably adapted to the subsistence and entrenchment of troops in numbers as large as they can easily be manœuvred on the battle-field.

To drive the rebels from this position has been the intention of the Government in all its operations along the Potomac shore. Such a course has been a necessity, as at Manassas the commanding officer holds the key to the surrounding country, and so long as the rebel flag is floating over it, the flag of the Union could never be respected in Western Virginia. The duty of driving these traitors from this position has been assigned to General McDowell; and, in pursuance of this purpose, General McDowell has extended his base-line of operations to Centreville. The assault on Bull's Run was a part of his plan, and a prelude to the great engagement of Sunday. Bull's Run is nothing more than a small stream which crosses the road from Centreville, constituting a kind of ravine, and is buried between dense masses of forest and shrubbery. In this woodland a powerful battery had been constructed to oppose any attempt of the Government forces to threaten Manassas It was the advanced battery of the great line of rebel batteries extending to the Junction The action on Friday did not succeed in its apparent rare, and in order to avoid the great and unnecessary loss of life which the success of such an effort would entail, it was determined, in the operations of Sunday, to avoid it as much as possible—to extend the line against Manassas by a more southerly route from Centreville, and to take it by a flank movement, or compel the enemy to abandon his position. This latter result was accomplished, and the battery was abandoned.

The telegraph has told you of the forces engaged in this great battle—of their numbers, their discipline, the officers they serve under, and the States they represent. In this letter, it is more my purpose to give you an account of the engagement as it appeared to me, of the results achieved, the unsuccessful gallantry of our forces, and the unfortunate issue of our arms.

At 2 o'clock on the morning of Sunday, July 21, 1861, the central column of Gen. McDowell's division moved from their encampment, on this side of Centreville, and took the main road leading to Manassas Junction. It was early morning when they moved over the hill, one or two of the New York regiments leading the advance. The order to move was received with great enthusiasm, and as our brave soldiers went over the hills, under the soft light of the moon, it was with an alacrity and an enthusiasm creditable to their bravery and patriotism. The march was slow and cautious, for on descending into the plain which overlooked the field of battle, the repeated succession of small ravines and suspicious-looking clumps of bushes rendered a constant vigilance necessary to guard against ambuscades and masked batteries. The intention of the movement appeared not so much an invitation to a general engagement on the part of the Federal forces as a desire to clear the woods of masked batteries and extend our base line of operations to a point within some four miles of Manassas Junction with the intention of making a general movement in the course of a few days.

Daybreak still found our troops on the march and, after a short interval allowed for rest and refreshment, in the cool of the morning, they continued their progress. Bull's Run, the scene of the former engagement, was avoided, our troops leaving it to the left. There was a fear that a masked battery might be in existence in a large o'ump of woodland which covered the hillside, and a large cannon, sent on in advance, threw one or two thirty-two pounders among the bushes. No reply was provoked, and the army moved on. Before the advance had passed this position, the rear guard of the army were still coming up from their camps, and marching through Centreville. The long line of infantry, artillery, and cavalry seemed endless, and the glittering of the muskets, the waving of our colors, the gay uniforms of the men, and the different movements each regiment executed, formed a picturesque, a pleasing, and, in view of the coming conflict, its dangers, and even its glory, we might say a painful spectacle.

Different parts of the plain and surrounding country are irrigated and intersected by narrow, and, in many places, deep, turbid, angry, and unfordable streams. The bridges, which were erected for the convenience of the people, had been removed to impede the movement of our forces. The main bridge, crossing the stream above Centreville, which forms, in the course of its windings, the Bull's Run, had been undermined by the rebel troops, and in order to avoid the consequences of a disaster or a delay at this place, the line of march was changed to a fordable position above the Run Captain Alexander, of the engineer corps, had, however, prepared pontoons for their transportation had pontoons been at all necessary.

At about five miles from Centreville the battle commenced, our troops encountering a masked battery in a wheat field. The engagement at first was hardly anything more than a skirmish, the design of the Federal forces being to draw their opponents into the open field where a fair fight could be secured The artillery met the battery, and in a little while its guns were silenced, and the retreat of those commanding it covered with a body of infantry, whose sharp and incessant fire of musketry was promptly answered by our forces, who succeeded in driving them off the field at a great loss on the part of the rebels from our well-directed fire from the small arms, and the loss of a few of the Federal forces, who fell before the cannon balls of the battery, when it first opened its sudden and well directed fire. Among the first to fall was the gallant Haggerty, Lieutenant Colonel of the New York Sixty-ninth. He was shot by a pistol ball and instantly killed.

It was shortly after nine o'clock when the engagement first commenced, and from that period until in the afternoon at five o'clock, the roar of cannon and musketry was incessant. The day was warm and sultry, and for miles the roads were covered with dust, which rose in columns at the discharge of the ordnance, and floated heavily through the air, choking the men and blinding the horses From the hill at Centreville the view extends along a succession of woody hills The road from Brentsville or the Occoquan could be easily seen with a spy glass, and along this road large bodies of infantry and an occasional troop of cavalry could be descried anxiously moving toward the rebel camp. The road to Manassas was partly visible, and although it was difficult to distinguish the forces, the occasional appearance of a Secession flag indicated that Beauregard had reinforced General Johnson, who was commanding, and that, instead of awaiting the arrival of McDowell at Manassas, he had determined to throw forward his forces, and fight the battle for empire in Eastern Virginia, in the hills of Prince William county.

As the day advanced, the firing became louder and more incessant. For miles around there seemed to be a constant roar of artillery, and clouds of ascending dust and smoke. The scene from Centreville was extremely picturesque. To the casual observer, it looked more like a company of citizens at a military review rather than the deadly contest of two great armies. As we proceeded along the road, there were more signs of bustle and military activity. The heavy baggage wagons, laden with food and ammunition, covered the road for a mile or two. Around them, sullen sentinels slowly marched, swearing at the destiny which kept their bayonets a mere guard over flour, biscuits, powder and percussion caps. Occasionally, an anxious soldier might be seen stopping every traveller, begging to know the slightest intelligence of the battle, and asking fondly whether he knew how the Maine, the Vermont, or the New York boys, as the case may be, were making out; whether Death had been dealing largely in their ranks, or whether in this great hour of Death their comrades were passing unscathed amid its unimaginable terrors and unutterable woe. "How are the Sixty-ninth?" "Do you know if the Michigan boys are doing their duty?" "How about the Zouaves?" "Do the Pet Lambs show game?" "Are the rebels going back?" "Is the old flag still up?" and questions similar are anxiously and frantically asked of every passer-by who may seem to know the slightest incident of the battle. In one instance I saw a sick man tottering leisurely along the road. His form was fair and frail, his features brown with exposure and thin with care and excitement, and in all respects he seemed to be more fitted for the sick chamber. And yet his story was one which cannot be told too often. He had been sick, he said, some days, because he couldn't stand the exposure to the elements, but he had kept up because he thought there might be a battle, and he wanted to do his duty. But the battle did not come, and he grew worse and worse, and at last the doctor sent him to the hospital. And as he lay he heard the cannon, and he rose and tottered forth, and was tottering to the seat of war, that he might get a musket from a comrade, and join in the contest. Simple, plain, heartful incidents like these go to show the deep and honest and patriotic feeling which inspires our brave soldiery.

As we drew nearer the field evidences of death were more striking. About half a mile from the immediate scene of hostilities the first shelter for the wounded had been obtained. A low, white frame house stood on the side of a road, covered with a few trees, surrounded by a garden of blooming roses, and neatly enclosed in rough white palings. It was the house of a plain Virginia farmer, but the necessities of war converted his home into an hospital. The well in front was guarded by soldiers. The chambers, the kitchen, the parlor the porch, and the shade under the trees were occupied by wounded men, some moaning sadly some bearing their agony in heroic silence, and others beseeching the doctor to place them out of the reach of pain, and occasionally one asking only for a cup of water. In the meantime the doctors ran hither and thither, binding, trepanning, amputating, probing, and soothing, assisted by the old Virginian, a blunt specimen of a son of the Old Dominion, who, assisted by his family, was assiduous to relieve the miseries of that fearful day. The soldiers had crawled round his well, and broken in his fences, and overrun his house. The flowers no longer bloomed in the garden, but, crushed and broken, they gave forth their fragrance under the bruising feet of the soldiers. Where the roses had grown in the morning dead men lay at noon.

As noon approached, it was evident the battle would be general. Regiment after regiment wheeled from the column, and on the right and left and front the sound of firing became more and more incessant. The anxiety among those in the vicinity was intense. It was evident that the battle would be hotly contested; that the Secessionists were far more numerous than we had expected, and that, with the advantage of a strongly defended natural position, artillery of wonderful range, and well practised gunners, they would not give the United States forces a victory except at the most fearful cost. Our men had driven them from a field into the woods, and from the woods into a field beyond, and a road which crossed between the woods which skirted the extreme line of the battle-field.

As the hours passed on the fight became more and more terrific. The fortunes of the day began to waver, especially as the Federal troops did not seem to gain any material advantage, and only made their advances slowly, laboriously, and at a great loss of life. The rebels were strongly entrenched behind masked batteries of rifled cannon. They seemed to be innumerable. Again and again our men charged upon them, only to find when they had dislodged them in one place they had reappeared in another, until at last the Federal soldiers were compelled to fall on their faces to avoid the swift messengers of death. It was found, too, that the rebel forces largely outnumbered those of the Republic. I have no means of knowing the exact strength of either of the armies, but the best authorities state that the Secessionists numbered 70 000, while at no time had General McDowell in action as many as 40,000. Our troops were mainly infantry; our batteries as a general thing were small, and although well managed, they were no match for the cannon of larger calibre manned by the rebels.

The fight continued until after five o'clock, without exhibiting any material result. The rebels had most decidedly the advantage in position and guns, and they used it with fearful effect. The bravery of our troops was superhuman, but what bravery could meet the unerring and unceasing cannon which came sweeping from almost every tree or heap of brush? Our men unmasked them, battery upon battery, only to find their lessened ranks were unequal to the task. A retreat was commenced by a New York regiment, and very soon became general. In vain General McDowell endeavored to rally his forces. They retreated up the Centreville road in good order until charged upon by the Secession cavalry and artillery, when they broke their lines and pushed towards Fairfax Court House in a disorderly column.

The weary troops kept up the retreat past Centreville, but a reserve brigade held that town. In this brigade was the only Pennsylvania regiment on the field—the Twenty-seventh, Col. Max Einstein commanding. They were quartered in a field, about five miles from the scene of action, where they remained during the battle. Much dissatisfaction was expressed by the men that they could not join in the fight. When the order came to form in line, it was greeted with loud cheers and the manifestation of the greatest enthusiasm by the men. When last heard from they were at Centreville, but had not taken any part in the action.

Colonel James Cameron, of the New York Seventy-Ninth, was killed shortly before the retreat commenced. He was endeavoring to rally his men at the time, and was shot through the breast with a rifle ball. He acted through the engagement with coolness and courage, and died gallantly discharging his duty.

J. R. Y.

Another Account of the Battle

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, July 22, 1861.

The eagerness of our officers and men to meet the enemy induced a premature engagement, which has resulted in a reverse, and taught us a lesson that will not soon be forgotten. Our men were not in condition for an engagement when they were called to arms at six o'clock on Sunday morning. They had, even those who arrived first on the ground, scarcely recovered from the effects of two days marching under a hot sun, while many of the regiments had only arrived on the field a few hours before the call, and others were yet miles away and resting for the night. The call was sounded through the lines, and many of them, without breakfast—not a few of them without supper the previous night—were hurried into the ranks to contend, through the day, with rifle, bayonet, and sword. Added to fatigue and hunger, and consequent weakness, they suffered for water, even to drinking from puddle-holes, as they inform me, thick with mud.

These were the circumstances under which our men, too eager for an engagement, met the enemy. Another defect on our part was an insufficiency of men. While we had 50,000 troops on the other side of the river, with a reserve of 30,000 here in Washington, it is now ascertained that there were not over 30,000 on the field against 70 000 of the enemy. In view of this odds, an engagement yesterday was premature. But our men urged on their officers, and officers in council with the superior commander presented the same enthusiastic appeals for an onward movement. But in a fair open field fight, with all these odds against us, the result would have been a glorious victory. This, however, was not the mode of warfare adopted by the enemy. They had chosen the ground. It was carefully selected, and was composed of valleys and hills covered with forest trees. The batteries were planted in various positions, and so arranged that when the front one should be silenced there was another, and yet another in the rear, ready to open fire upon those who had succeeded in silencing the guns in front. They were nearly all masked, and their position could not be discovered until they had opened fire.

Against all these odds our men were imprudently called, in inferior numbers, to contend against a determined and treacherous foe.

The first gun was fired at 5 o'clock in the morning. It was not answered by the enemy, however, until half an hour had elapsed, during which time our men continued a slow fire. Before seven, however, the firing was opened briskly on both sides, and continued until after four o'clock, with an occasional slacking at long intervals on one and then on another part of the lines. The accounts of the valor, resolution, and determination of our men are beyond precedent. Many of the wounded, as they were carried off the field, begged to be left, that they might, after a little rest from the exhaustion caused by the shock, rally again, and take their position in the ranks I have these facts from those soldiers who stood by their side and heard their words. Some even struggled to get away from those who were carrying them off the field, and begged to be left to fight in their places.

On one occasion, a battery was silenced, and taken possession of by our men, when another in its rear opened a disastrous fire, pouring the small shot upon our men like hail. Our men were scattered, not at first knowing where the shot came from. Immediately, they rallied and stormed and took the second battery, when a third, still in the rear, opened upon them, and against which they stood until they were cut up. Wherever our men were well officered their valor was heroic The Fire Zouaves came out of the fire with a terrible loss. So I am informed by a number of credible witnesses.

A few only of the names of the killed and wounded have reached me yet. Among those are—

KILLED.

Major of Fire Zouaves.
Lieutenant Colonel of Fire Zouaves.
Captain Gordon, Company H, Eleventh Massachusetts.
Captain Foy, Company H, Second Rhode Island.
Colonel Slocomb, Second Rhode Island.
Colonel Slocomb, Twenty-Second New York.
Colonel McCook's brother (a private.)
Colonel Cameron, Seventy-ninth Highlanders.

WOUNDED.

Colonel of Second New York regiment.
Colonel Farnham (Zouaves.)
Colonel Hunter.
Colonel Corcoran.
Colonel Clarke, Eleventh Massachusetts.
Captain Ricketts, Artillery.
Colonel Wood (Brooklyn) New York.
Colonel Wilcox, of First Michigan.
Gen. Schenck, reported killed, is supposed to be taken prisoner. Senator Wade is also believed to be a prisoner.

The retreat is only temporary, and even now, as I write, our men are rallying here, and will first man all the batteries along Arlington Heights, on the banks of the Potomac, and at Georgetown.

PENN.

The Field after the Battle.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, July 22, 1861.

The scenes that immediately succeeded the battle of yesterday are the best evidence of the inefficiency of at least a portion of our officers, to whom is to be attributed the unfortunate issue of the day's labors A correspondent of *The Press*, who went out yesterday with a brother of one of the killed at the Bull's Run skirmish on Thursday, to recover the body, had but just disinterred the body and placed it in a metallic coffin, when the panic commenced among the teamsters and citizens, and was communicated to the men, a portion of whom came out from under a tremendous fire and retreated rapidly and in disorder. The panic became general; the scene was indescribable. The heavy teams—over one hundred in number—rushed madly on, over fields and fences; the carriages of citizens joined in the rush; the soldiers filled up the throng, and the stampede was complete. It was not ordered, but a break was effected in the ranks, and away they went. The road was filled with accoutrements, blankets, muskets, provisions, &c., thrown from soldiers, carriages, and heavy Government teams. Wagons broke down and were left; horses, without riders, were galloping over everything; others, with traces flying in the air, were rushing madly on. The roads were filled with dust. Soldiers would give out and lie down by the way side, and there was no one to come for them. Some of the more resolute gathered up trophies of the day, but the opportunities to do so were few, and the danger was that of being run over by the teams rushing on behind. A large and apparently well-filled pocket book, evidently for a side pocket, was seen in the wreck of a carriage, but time permitted no delay to capture it On they rushed to Fairfax and there the panic was extended to those on duty and asleep. All were aroused, and joined in the general stampede, and on they came to the city, where their adventures, as they are told in beggar description. All this is to be attributed to bad management, not to a fault on the part of the men, for they fought bravely. *We have men* who are capable of leading on our army to the defence of our country and our rights. *Where are they?*

PENN.

LATEST NEWS

By Telegraph to The Press.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Despatches to "The Press."

WASHINGTON, July 22, 1861.

Death of Colonel Cameron.

Colonel JAMES CAMERON, of Pennsylvania, and brother of Secretary CAMERON, fell gallantly fighting, at the head of his regiment, the Seventy ninth (Highland), at the moment while five of his captains were shot down. He was struck by the balls of the enemy just as he exclaimed, "Scots, follow me!"

Supposed Attack on Washington.

Hon. HENRY MAY, Representative in Congress from Baltimore, feels assured that the Confederate army will take Washington. He so informed several gentlemen to-day. OCCASIONAL.

Scenes in the City To-day.

After a day of severe fighting, and a loss on our side of three or four thousand officers and men, our army beat a retreat, in disorder. They have been arriving all day, two, five, and a dozen together, while others, wounded, are brought to the city in ambulances. The dead have been left on the field.

As soon as these companies arrive in the city they are surrounded by hundreds, eagerly inquiring for and listening to statements from the soldiers. The conclusion at which we are enabled to arrive is that our men fought with herculean power; that the retreat was caused by a panic among the teamsters, in which a portion of our men joined, while the main body stood their ground.

The feeling in this city is universally in favor of a grand rally and attack. The word from officers to men in the reserve regiments here is

TO ARMS! TO ARMS!

The sentiment is caught up by our District Volunteers, and their rallying shout is

TO ARMS! TO ARMS!

Merchants, mechanics, Senators, and civilians throughout the city, unite in the rallying word,

TO ARMS! TO ARMS!

Every man is ready to shoulder his musket and march to the rescue of our country, now menaced under a partial defeat in front of an army of traitors. No excitement equal to that of the present hour ever visited our city; but it is based on a determination not to let an hour pass unnecessarily before the enemy is met and humbled. Men equal to the emergency will rush from every corner of the free States. The cry

TO ARMS! TO ARMS!

will echo from the capital through every valley and over every hill-top, until a nation of FREEMEN, who in their manhood FEEL NOW that freedom to be maintained for themselves and their children, must be defended by rifle and sword.

Onward! Onward! brave men, to the capital, and to rebel batteries. Send us generals who ARE EQUAL TO THE EMERGENCY, and brave spirits whose solemn vow is VICTORY OR DEATH.

How General Scott Receives the News

"This is no defeat—no defeat The odds are against us, temporarily, through inaccuracy of details; but Manassas, and Virginia, and the Union are ours." Such is said to be the language of the veteran soldier, after gathering all particulars Such, too, is the language of every officer, soldier and citizen in the capital. Gen. SCOTT is closeted with the officers of his army, and orders are expected to be issued, and are hourly looked for by our citizens, who are ready to take their places in the ranks of the army, and move on with the army.

Onward—Onward!

The Thirty seventh New York Regiment, Colonel MCCUNN, marched over into Virginia yesterday morning.

The Fifteenth Regiment, (sappers and miners,) Colonel J. MCLEOD MURPHY, broke camp yesterday afternoon, and proceeded by steamboat to Alexandria.

The New York Twenty-second Regiment, Colonel PHELPS, left their camp, near Glenwood, and marched over Long Bridge about 10 o'clock last night The Sixth Maine Regiment likewise marched from their quarters during the day. The Thirty-fifth New York, Colonel BROWN, went over about 11 o'clock last night.

These are thirty thousand men encamped in our suburbs, and ready to move in any direction. This reserve, however, is prudently held here as a home defence against an approach of the enemy from the North, by crossing the river at Leesburg and coming down upon an unfortified side of the capital.

At the Battle.

Among those out of the ranks of the army who were on the battle-field was GEORGE B. SMITH, State Senator, Pa. He was in the thickest of the fight, and his carriage was struck and shows marks of bullets in several places. When the men began to retreat he mounted a fence, and in patriotic appeals urged them to stay by the guns. He was among the last to leave, and remained with the wounded all night, attending to their wants.

Judge Wilmot.

Senator WILMOT, though in his seat daily, is very unwell, and unable to attend to his large correspondence.

THE WAR!

The Late Engagement.

Our Troops Compelled to Retire by the Superior Force of the Enemy.

A TEMPORARY PANIC.

OVER-ESTIMATES OF OUR LOSS.

No Pennsylvania Troops Engaged.

OUR ARMY REORGANIZED.

Large Reinforcements Sent For.

Offensive Operations to be Resumed, under command of Gen. McClellan.

WASHINGTON, July 23.—After the latest information was received from Centreville, at half past seven o'clock, last night, a series of events took place in the intensest degree disastrous.

Many confused statements are prevalent, but enough is known to warrant the statement that we have suffered in a degree which has cast a gloom over the remnant of the army and excited the deepest melancholy throughout Washington.

The carnage has been tremendously heavy on both sides, and on ours is represented as frightful

We were advancing and taking the masked batteries gradually but surely, driving the enemy toward Manassas Junction, when the enemy seemed to be reinforced by General Johnson, and immediately commenced driving us back, when a panic among our troops suddenly occurred, and a regular stampede took place.

It is thought that General McDowell undertook to make a stand at or about Centreville, but the panic was so fearful that the whole army became demoralized, and it was impossible to check them, either at Centreville or Fairfax Court House.

General McDowell intended to make another stand at Fairfax Court House, but our forces being in full retreat, he could not accomplish the object.

Beyond Fairfax Court House the retreat was kept up until the men reached the regular encampments, a portion of whom returned to them, but a still larger portion coming inside of the line of entrenchments.

A large number of the troops, in their retreat, fell on the wayside from exhaustion, and scattered along the entire route, all the way from Fairfax Court House. The road, from Bull Run to Centreville, was strewed with knapsacks, arms, &c. Some of the troops deliberately threw away their guns and appurtenances, the better to facilitate their travel.

General McDowell was in the rear at the retreat, exerting himself to rally his men, but with only partial effect. The latter part of the army, it is said, made their retreat in good order. He was completely exhausted, having slept but little for three nights. His orders on the field did not at all times reach those for whom they were intended.

It is supposed that the forces sent against our troops consisted, according to a prisoner's statement, of about 30,000 men, including a large number of cavalry. He further says that, owing to the reinforcements from Richmond, Strasburg, and other points, the enemy's effective force was 90,000 men.

According to the statement of the Fire Zouaves, they have only about two hundred men left from the slaughter, while the Sixty-ninth New York and other regiments have suffered frightfully in killed and wounded.

Sherman's, Carlisle's, and the West Point batteries were taken by the enemy, and the eight-siege 32 pound rifled cannon, the latter being too cumbersome to move. They were left two miles the other side of Centreville.

Such of the wounded as were brought to Centreville Hospital were left there, after having their wounds properly dressed.

The surgeon in attendance there was Frank H. Hamilton.

The panic was so great that the attempt to rally them to a stand at Centreville was entirely in vain If a firm stand had been made there, our troops would have been reinforced, and much disaster prevented.

Gen McDowell was thus foiled in his well arranged plans.

It is supposed that all the provision trains belonging to the United States Government were saved. Some regimental wagons were overturned by accident, or the wheels came off, and had, therefore, to be abandoned. Large droves of cattle were saved by being driven back in the advance of the retreat.

It is supposed here that General Mansfield will take command of the fortifications on the other side of the river, which are able, it is said by military engineers, to hold them against any force the enemy may bring. Large rifled cannons and mortars are being rapidly sent over and mounted.

An officer just from Virginia, at half past ten, reports that the road from Centreville to the Potomac is strewed with stragglers. The troops are resuming the occupation of the fortifications and entrenchments on the line of the Potomac

Colonel Marston, of a New Hampshire regiment, reached here this morning. He was wounded Col. Holmeading was also wounded in the wrist.

In addition to those reported yesterday, it is said that Col. Wilcox, the commander of a brigade, was killed. Also, Capt. McCook, brother of Col. McCook, of Ohio.

The city this morning is in the most intense excitement. Groups are everywhere gathered, inquiring the latest news. Wagons are continually arriving, bringing dead and wounded. Soldiers are relating to greedy listeners the probable events of last night and early this morning.

Both telegraphic and steamboat communications with Alexandria are suspended to-day to the public.

The greatest alarm exists throughout the city, especially among the female portion of the population.

THE ORIGIN OF THE PANIC.

WASHINGTON, July 22 The following is an account of the inauguration of the panic which has operated so disastrously to our troops. It receives unusual interest from the subsequent events:

All our military operations went on swimmingly, and Colonel Alexander was about erecting a pontoon across Bull Run; the enemy were seemingly in retreat, and their batteries being unmasked one after another, when a terrific consternation broke out among the teamsters, who had incautiously advanced immediately after the body of the army and lined the Warrenton road.

Their consternation was shared in by numerous civilians who were on the ground, and for a time it seemed as if the whole army was in retreat.

Many baggage-wagons were emptied of their contents and the horses galloped across the open fields All the fences were torn down to allow them a more rapid retreat. For a time, a perfect panic prevailed, which communicated itself to the vicinity of Centreville, and every available conveyance was seized upon by agitated civilians.

The wounded soldiers on the roadside cried for assistance, but the alarm was so great that numbers were passed by.

Several alarms occurred on previous occasions, when a change of batteries rendered the retirement of the artillery necessary on our part, and it is most possible that the alarm was owing to the same fact.

The reserve force at Centreville was immediately brought up, and marched in double-quick step, in the following order:

Colonel Einstein's Twenty-seventh Pennsylvania Regiment, with two guns, the Garibaldi Guards and Blenker's First Rifle Regiment, with its batteries, followed at several miles distance by the De Kalb Regiment.

When our courier left, at half past 4 o'clock P. M., it was in the midst of this excitement. Two new masked batteries had been opened by the rebels on the left flank, and that portion of the division had had its lines broken and demanded immediate reinforcements. The right was in good order.

The battery erected on the hillside, directly opposite the main battery of the enemy, was doing good execution, and additional guns were being mounted.

On his arrival at Fairfax Court House, our courier was overtaken by the Government messengers, who reported that our army was in full retreat towards Centreville They were followed by less agitated parties, who stated that the report of the retreat was owing to the fact that the alarm among the teamsters had communicated itself to the volunteers, and even in some instances to the regulars, and the lines were thus broken, and that a retirement of our forces across Bull Run was made necessary.

Colonel Hunter passed at the same time in a vehicle wounded.

Ayre's battery was also reported as lost. Crowds of carriages and baggage wagons came rushing down the road. The telegraph office was closed against all private business, and in an hour the alarm was communicated all along the road to Washington.

Additional Particulars.

The Rebel Black Horse Cavalry Cut to Pieces.

List of Regiments Engaged.

WASHINGTON, July 22—P. M.—Lieut. Colonel Fowler, of the New York Fourteenth regiment, is among the killed.

Col. Lawrence, of the Fifth Massachusetts, is wounded. Capt Ellis, of the Seventy-first New York, is badly wounded.

Col. Farnham and Major Losier, of the New York Fire Zouaves, are not killed, but are badly wounded.

LATER.

WASHINGTON, July 22—The Rhode Island battery was taken by the rebels at the bridge across Bull Run, where their retreat was cut off, all the horses being killed.

It is reported that the rebel Black Horse cavalry made an attack on the rear of the retreating army, when the latter turned and fired, killing all but six of the party.

The Seventy first New York lost about half of their men.

The following regiments were engaged in the fight: First, Second, and Third Connecticut; Second Maine; regiment of Regulars, composed of the Second, Third, and Eighth regiments; 750 Marines; Eighth and Fourteenth New York Militia; First and Second Rhode Island; Seventy-first New York; Second New Hampshire; Third Massachusetts; First Minnesota; First Michigan; Eleventh and Thirteenth New York; Twelfth Maine; Second, Fourth, and Fifth Maine, and the Second Vermont, besides the several batteries.

The following is a partial list of the killed and wounded:

Killed—Capt. McCook; Capt. Gordon, company H, Eleventh Massachusetts; Capt. Foy, company H, Second Rhode Island; Col Slocum, Second Rhode Island; Col. Coleum, Twenty-second New York; Col. Wilcox, First Michigan.

Wounded—The colonel of the New York Second; Col. Farnham, of the Fire Zouaves; Col. Hunter, Col. Corcoran, Col. Clark of the Eleventh Massachusetts; Capt. Ricketts, of the Artillery.

Two New York regiments have gone over to Virginia.

It is vaguely reported that Gen. Patterson's division arrived in the vicinity of Manassas this morning