The Press.

FRIDAY, JULY 26, 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 Knights of the Golden Circle.

Among the other agencies which have been employed to precipitate the insurrectionary movement and to persuade the people of the South to make a forcible resistance to the authority of the Federal Government, the order of the Knights of the Golden Circle has doubtless exercised considerable influence. Many believe that a lodge, or, technically speaking, a "castle" of the order was established in this city, and that some of our most active sympathizers with the Secession cause were connected with it. Certain it is that it has many members in the Southern States, and that the veil of secrecy which enshrouds its proceedings is an admirable cloak to the plans of the conspirators, who use its organization to assist them in perfecting their plans for the destruction of the Union.

The Louisville *Journal* has recently obtained full copies of its ritual and the accompanying keys, which explain the ciphers it contains, and the pass words and signs which are used. The professed objects of the Order are to "Southernize" Mexico by conquering it and establishing perpetual slavery within its borders; and also to assist any Southern State to resist what is termed "Northern invasion," as well as to war upon all "Abolitionists," or non slaveholders of Northern birth in the Southern States, who are not enthusiastic supporters of the peculiar institution.

The Mexican part of the programme is based on the idea that a treaty was made on the 11th of February, 1860, with MANUEL DOBLADO, Governor of Guanajuato, by which the K. G. C. undertook to furnish him with 16,000 men, armed, equipped, and provided with all necessary supplies to take the field under his command, while he is to furnish an equal number of men to be officered by men connected with the K. G. C's. The expenses of their outfit are to be provided for by a large bonus of land, as well as a mortgaged right to collect one half the annual revenues of Guanajuato, until the sum of $840,000 is obtained.

The pay of the army is to be the same as that of the regular army of Mexico, which is said to be about one eighth more than that of the United States. Members are privileged either to accompany this filibustering army on its march over the Rio Grande, which, if no unexpected delay occurs, is to take place in October next, or to remain at home to assist in obtaining recruits, raising money and munitions, and in other ways facilitating the accomplishment of the objects of the Circle. It is a part of their vow to do all in their power to assist in the expulsion of the free negroes from the Southern States, and to compel them to flee to Mexico, and also to endeavor to conquer the whole or as much as possible of the latter country, and to form it into slave States. The persons are to be perpetually enslaved and divided among the K. G. C.'s.

It is proposed for the present to establish a Limited Monarchy in the district which they conquer, and the successor of the present head of the Order, Gen. BICKLEY, must "swear to carry out this policy, and to extend slavery over the whole of Central America, if in his power" as well as try to acquire Cuba and control the Gulf of Mexico."

So far as the affairs of our own country are concerned, they are told that it is their duty to offer their "services to any Southern State to repel a Northern army," and from present appearances they will have sufficient employment here for some time to come. They must promise to use their best exertions to ascertain who are "Abolitionists" in the counties in which they reside, and to report their names to the head of the order, as well as to keep a close watch upon all their proceedings; and they agree, in case of insurrection or invasion, to muster the largest force they can, and go to the scene of danger.

Those belonging to the first, which is of a military character, are styled Knights of the Iron Hand. The second is of a financial character, and its members are called Knights of the True Faith. The third is of a political character, and its members are called Knights of the Columbian Star. To become a member of the Third Degree, the candidate must be familiar with the work of the two former degrees, "be born in a slave State, or if not, a slaveholder and a Protestant." As some of our readers may be curious in regard to their signs, &c., we give them as furnished by the *Journal*, the figures used being those found in the ritual, and the words in parenthesis the explanations furnished by the key:

FIRST DEGREE.

Caution. I will now give you the signs, grips, password, and token of the First Degree of the K. G. C. [Of course a misprint for K G O.] This degree has a name which I may now give you—it is the "I" (Knight of the Iron Hand). The first great sign of the three is made, 1 (Hands open, palms touching, and resting on the top of the head; fingers pointing upwards.) The answer to this is 8 (open hands touching shoulder where opposite hand rests, and close to the side.) These are battle field signs, and are not to be used under ordinary circumstances. The common sign of recognition is 9 (right fore finger drawn across upper lip under nose, as if rubbing.) The answer to this is 10 (fore finger and thumb of left hand take hold of left ear.) To gain a mission to a Working Castle, or the room of any K. G. C., give 11 (one distinct rap) at the door. The sentinel on duty will then raise the wicket, and demand the countersign, which is 12 (SOLDIERS, always lettered except at Castle door). You will then pass the centre of the room and give the true sign of the K. G. C.; it is 13 (left hand on heart; right hand raised). This will be recognised by a bow from the captain, when you will at once take your seat. The sign of assent is 14, (both hands up); of dissent, 15, (one hand up); the grip is 16 (grasp with thumb to one inch above second knuckle); the token, 17 (Golden Circle encasing block hands closed on scroll; the whole to be the size of a dime). Every member may wear the sign of his degree.

SECOND DEGREE.

Captain. I shall now give you the unwritten parts of this work and I trust you will be careful in its use. If a general war ensues, we shall dispense with the first degree, and rely on this and the third.

Name—18 (True Faith:) *sign*—25 (forefinger and thumb of right hands joined, while with the rest of the hands open the right eye is touching with middle forefinger,) answer—26 (same with left hand and left eye:) *password* 27 (Monterey:) night word of distress—32 (St. Mary:) response—31 and say 5 (grasp by wrist and say Rio Grande:) emblem—28 (gold circle enclosing Greek cross, in centre of which is a star) This is the 29 (key) to 30 (secret alphabet:) are of 33 (K G C:) 56 (George Bickley:) guard sign 2 28 (gold circle encasing Greek cross, in centre of which is a star:) silence 25 (forefinger and thumb of right hands joined, while with the rest of the hands open the right eye is touching with middle finger) on lips: danger—right—same with the left.

THIRD DEGREE.

The *sign* is *a* (Raise hat with left hand over right, open hand on top of head) The counter sign is *b* (Left hand with hat extended to right angles; hand by side). The silent sign is *c* (Left hand on back of head.) The answer is *d* (Right hand on forehead, then extended) The night sign is *e* (Two distinct clasps of hands—and repeat once). The test sign is *f* (Finger and thumb of left hand to take hold of lip) The sacred word is *g* (Sicl). The pass word is *h* (Andalusia) and to this is added in parenthesis, "Notice instruction as to use of words:" The night word given with *e* is *i* (High) The grip is *j* (As given) The pass grip is *k* (Same with left hand still holding by right) The token or emblem is *l* (Same as shown) The answer to *f* is *m* (Right thumb and forefinger on pit of stomach)

GREAT AS WAS the force of the enemy at Manassas, new regiments, containing *more men than there opposed our army*, have already been offered to the Government, and their services have been accepted. The disposition among the returning three months volunteers to re-enlist is almost universal, and most of those who, before the late disaster, intended to remain at home, have changed that determination in consequence of the increased necessity for their aid. Thus, even from the nettle danger we may pluck the flower safety. The defeat of one army will only stimulate us to form more new ones. The discovery of defects in its organization will urge us to guard against and remedy them. It would be folly to expect that an unbroken chain of victories will await us if we neglect the means and precautions which are necessary to achieve them, but we have only to avail ourselves of the resources at our command to make the Union cause once more triumphant.

The Hoboken Steam-battery.

Congress has resolved to have the STEVENS harbor defence battery examined, and a report made as to what is necessary to complete it. Full time that something tangible were ascertained. Years and years have passed since it was commenced: the expenditure of money upon it has been very great; but all that is known about it is that it is kept out of view, at Hoboken, like a mysterious secret—awful, unfathomable, *and unfinished*.

What is more, no one can say when it is to be finished. The *Atlantic Monthly*, for August, in an article on mail clad Steamers, seems to know something about the matter, and discourses thus:

"With the *improvement* of cannon the importance of plate-armor became more and more apparent; and at length Mr Stevens, under the sanction of our Government, instituted a series of experiments upon iron plates, and soon after commenced building an immense floating battery for the defence of New York, at Hoboken, which is still unfinished, but which, it is rumored, will, if *Congress appropriates the means*, be completed the present season

"Stevens was the first to try out the idea of a mail clad steamer, and it is alone due to the apathy of the late Administration, which has neglected our navy while indulging in its Southern proclivities, that our nation has not the honor of launching the first steamer in a coat of mail. The frame, however, of such a vessel has been long in place, the hull is nearly complete, the engines are far advanced, and the finishing stroke may soon be given"

Congress has constantly appropriated the means, but STEVENS' floating battery is unfinished. The public desire to know when it was commenced—how much has it cost—how much more will be required to complete it—what time may be positively named for its completion—and what use it will be when finished and afloat?

The recent experiments made by order of the British Admiralty have created the greatest and gravest doubts of the power of mailed steamers to resist projectiles from Armstrong guns, have made it a question whether NAPOLEON'S *La Gloire*, and VICTORIA'S *Warrior*, *Black Prince*, *Defiance*, and *Resistance*, are as impregnable as they first obtained credit for. It is quite true that the Armstrong guns are costly—say $1 500 to $2,000 each—but if they have the projectile force generally attributed to them, and, as yet, borne out by experiment, the expense is comparatively trifling. The superiority of mail-clad steamers to the old "wooden walls" is undoubtedly immense, but if these are not impregnable, one half their value and *prestige* is gone. The great merit of the mail clad vessels was their invincibility and impregnability. Destroy these qualities, and the Armstrong guns are reported (and proved) capable of doing it, and some new and better description of floating batteries must be looked for.

Before another rivet is clenched in the STEVENS' steam battery, the force of a few Armstrong guns should be directed against it, to ascertain whether it is as resistable as has been reported. Better loss what has been already sunk in this tedious and costly experiment than throw more money away in completing her, if, after all, she is not to be worth much.

To the Board of Enquiry we leave the duty of ascertaining her value, her cost, and the time at which she may be completed—provided it be considered worth while to complete her. At all events, this very tedious and mysterious production has been long enough on hands. Is it to remain boxed up, out of sight, for a dozen years more?

Colonel Einstein's Regiment.

By the graphic letter which we publish this morning from a member of Colonel EINSTEIN'S regiment, it will be seen that, while the great body of our army was retreating in disorder from the battle field on Sunday night, his men were quietly occupying it, and that not until after twelve o'clock did they retire, without the slightest molestation from the enemy. It is evident that the latter had been too seriously damaged to pursue our forces, and that the contest had inspired them with such a wholesome fear of the Union troops that they had little disposition to seek any engagement with them they could avoid.

GEN. MCCLELLAN.—The young hero upon whom the hopes of the nation are now centred arrived in this city yesterday on his way to Washington, and was received with much enthusiasm.

AMONG the trophies brought home by Col. PATTERSON'S regiment was a cannon captured by Company E, Capt. THOMPSON, at Charlestown. It was a nine-pounder, and had formerly been used on a ship, but was in service during the Mexican war, and was planted in front of the court-house at Charlestown during the John Brown raid. On its arrival here, yesterday, the Good Will Engine Company drew it to a safe place of deposit, and it was taken to their engine-house, Broad and Race streets, where it can be seen by the curious.

The Feeling in Western Virginia.

The anxiety which is felt in regard to the sentiment which our late reverse has inspired in the loyal portion of the seceding States will be considerably allayed by the patriotic tone of such journals as the Wheeling (Va.) *Intelligencer*, which, in its issue of the 23d instant, in commenting upon the news of Monday last, says:

"It is enough to make the nation put on mourning; and this is the first thought, the first feeling. But success is not the touchstone with men who are living to maintain, and ready to die defending, a great principle. Disaster is not defeat. And though the first feeling may be dismay, the next is the impulse that will throb in every heart from Maine to Minnesota, to avenge the disaster, and redeem, ten times over, the lost position of our army and cause before the country. Defeat cannot demoralize the elements that are striving to rescue the Government. They are too entirely devoted to that object. They may incur disaster to-day, but for every fallen hero ten will rise to take his place. And they will rise until the rebellion is driven into the Gulf. Last night there was mourning in Northern cities and hamlets, but *this morning* was ushered in with the roll of drums and the ring of *steel*; and there is now

"The mustering squadron and the clattering car,
For the onward wing impatient to speed,
And swiftly forming in the ranks of war.'

"The conquest must now come. With us it begins with disaster; but who that has faith in Heaven, or confidence in the strong arm of right, can doubt that it must end in victory?"

Rebel Accounts of the Battle at Bull Run.

LOUISVILLE, July 25.—Richmond despatches of the 22d and Nashville of the 24th have been received. The former give no particulars of the battle of the 21st, and the latter only meagre despatches, most of which have been telegraphed.

In relation to the retreat of the Confederates from Fairfax Court House and Centreville to Bull Run, and the fight of the 18th, the Richmond *Examiner* of Saturday says, that the retreat from these places was in accordance with orders, Bull Run being selected as the battle ground. Our troops having fired several hundred rounds, with drew in order before the advancing foe, and fell back on Bull Run. Here the retiring forces were met by the Eleventh, Seventeenth, and First Virginia Regiments, and waited, expecting a fight at daybreak. About 4 o'clock in the afternoon the main body of the foe advanced within half a mile of the run—three several attempts to advance each time being repulsed with great slaughter.

Their retreat had every appearance of a signal rout, leaving the dead behind, and losing six pieces of artillery. Two Virginia regiments pursued some distance, capturing a number of prisoners. The enemy, in their several advances, behaved at first with great spirit, quickly rallying and closing up their mowed columns, but finally broke and gave way under the murderous execution of our musketry and artillery. On Wednesday afternoon despatches had been sent to Gen Johnston to reinforce Gen Beauregard.

The enemy as they advanced displayed their accustomed vandalism, burning and destroying the villages Fairfax Court House, Germantown, and Centreville, were reduced to ashes, the men and women fleeing in every direction. The battle extended along the run a distance of a mile. With in this space were left 986 dead and wounded. Our loss is 137 killed, wounded, and missing.

The missing since returned have reduced this to 60. The number of the enemy engaged is variously estimated at between 5 000 and 10,000, while our force but little exceeded 3 500.

The Richmond *Whig* calls the battle a skirmish of first-rate proportions. We hear that the provost marshal reports having buried 983 of the enemy.

Our infantry made a bayonet charge on the enemy which swept all before it. Among the unreported officers killed are Geo. Mure, of the New Orleans Artillery, Major Harrison and Kirby Smith, of Florida, and Col Johns, South Carolina

The latest dates from Pensacola report the capture of a small sloop of the Bay fleet and the arrival, on the 19 h, of the *Macedonian*. The schooner *Vigilance*, charged with furnishing the blockading squadron with provisions, was seized in the Bay of St. Louis, on the 20 h, and a guard put on board of her

The blockading squadron at the mouth of the Mississippi was reinforced on the 20 h by the arrival of five war vessels The force now consists of the *Brooklyn*, *Powhatan*, *Colorado*, and four smaller vessels.

Private despatches to gentlemen in Louisville, from Nashville, say that Jeff Davis admits, in his report to Congress, that the Confederate loss in killed and wounded was 3,000. The same despatch states that Wade Hampton's South Carolina Legion was entirely cut up.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

Letter from "Occasional."

[Correspondence of The Press.]

WASHINGTON, July 25, 1861.

In justice to the Pennsylvania volunteers under General Patterson, it is right to say that they were most anxious to be led against Johnson, and that if their commander had requested them, they, as well as the Indiana troops in the same division, would have gladly offered to have extended the time of their service. This is an unpleasant theme to discuss at such a time as this, and will, doubtless, give rise to considerable crimination and recrimination. I do not know what General Patterson's defence may be. I trust that it will be such as to prove that he acted from sincere and patriotic motives, but there is a grievous misunderstanding in regard to his proceedings. Colonel Stone, one of the most gallant and experienced officers of the service, is, I am told, open in his expressions of sorrow at the course pursued by General Patterson, and the officers and men in the command take the same view, with honorable exceptions. We have a rumor this morning that Johnson has returned from Manassas to Winchester, and is now menacing what is left of Patterson's command at or near Harper's Ferry General Banks, who succeeds to that important command, reached his quarters yesterday, and will infuse characteristic vigor into the whole department. It is expected that General Patterson will return to Philadelphia in all of this week.

It is gratifying to know that in proportion as the events preceding and contemporaneous with the battle of Manassas are investigated, the character of General Scott shines forth with redoubled lustre It is unnecessary to review the recent and bitter past. Suffice it, that the popular confidence in him is unabated, and that the duty is everywhere recognized by patriotic men of strong heeling his hands, and of following that counsel which, had it been implicitly obeyed, would have saved us from the mortification we now endure. I cannot learn that there is the slightest disagreement in the Cabinet at the present time. There is certainly no disposition to fetter it, or to paralyze General Scott in his operations. The clamor of the New York politicians and speculators, demanding a change of the Cabinet because our army, under their disastrous advice, was driven unprepared into an attack upon the fortifications of the enemy, is in truth nothing more than an assault upon the illustrious Lieutenant General, because no step was taken by the President or the Secretary of War without having first received the full approval of that master captain. The cry that regiments were refused, when offered from different parts of the country, amounts simply to this: That General Scott, looking not upon the future, did not desire to hurry men into service half disciplined and half clothed, but preferred to take his own good time, so that when the army came into the field it would be fit to encounter any opposition. Now, it is notorious that a number of regiments came to Washington in the most deplorable condition, and that in other cases where authority was given to clamorous applicants for commissions to raise regiments and brigades, who pledged themselves to be on the ground with their corps in the shortest space, *they have not yet appeared, and in all probability never will appear*. It ought to be some satisfaction, even to those whose whole course, from the beginning of the war, has been that of unjust censure of the Administration, to know that every department of the Government is at work to reorganize the army and put it upon such a basis as will render it invincible. Nearly seventy thousand troops have been accepted within three days. Arrangements for the increase of the navy, the protection of the Mississippi, the rigorous enforcement of the blockade, and the protection of the Union men South, are conducted with a rapidity and an efficiency that reflect the highest credit upon all concerned. Congress is animated by the same patriotic feeling. The bard of Secessionists in both Houses is growing smaller every day, and the true friends of the country are closing in a solid body around the Administration Let the politicians imitate this example. Let us forget all that is unworthy of remembrance, cease our complaints of the brave men at the head of our armies, confide in our public servants, and then, with locked shields, and serried ranks, and firm of foot, we shall move forward to such a victorious future as will deliver not only the South from its oppressors, but the Union from those who are now laboring to consummate its overthrow.

Visitors from Arlington Heights during last evening and to day, give glowing accounts of the improving condition of our troops, and the strength of the fortifications. We have some forty-five thousand men in and around the city, and the feeling that prevailed a few days ago so generally, is giving way before renewed hope and courage. Gigantic efforts are being made to put the city in a state of complete defence at all points. Baltimore may be said to be safe, and the Administration is in excellent spirits. You can see a change for the better in the faces of the conspirators who retain their places in both Houses, and whose expectations of the sudden capture of the city are being rapidly dissipated. OCCASIONAL.

The Excitement in Washington.

[From our Special War Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, CITY, July 25, 1861.

The feeling of apprehension is passing away from the people. Although they are at the point of danger. The general impression is that our army, before the panic which demoralized it took place, had so thoroughly whipped the rebel force that they were unable to advance upon our retreating column. The exact position of their army is not known, although it is thought they have occupied Fairfax Court House, and have thrown their pickets to a point two miles this side of that town It will be impossible for them to advance directly upon the city by way of Arlington Heights, unless at the head of a force which I think it impossible for them to gather. The fortifications erected by Gen. Scott in the early part of the troubles will go far towards rendering the city perfectly secure. The work of reorganizing the troops still continues Gen. Mansfield having issued an order directing the straggling members of each regiment to repair at once to certain points of rendezvous, under pain of arrest. The city, however, is in a state of hustle and military preparation. Regiments are encamped in all parts of it, battalions and companies are constantly patrolling the Avenue, many of them bivouacking on the highways and sidewalks, and cooking their rations over large fires built in the broad and open streets. What the effect of the order will be I do not know; for there are hundreds of stragglers still patrolling the streets sightseeing in the capital, lounging around the public squares, and listening to the evening music in the grounds of the White House Col EINSTEIN'S regiment has gone down to Alexandria, while the regiment of Col. SMALL has crossed into Virginia, and is encamped under the fortifications. These are the only Pennsylvania regiments now in Washington, although we are in hourly expectation of the arrival of the reserve regiments raised by the Legislature of the State under the three million loan bill.

It is impossible to resist the conviction that we live here in a community hostile to the Union. There are many suppressed and open manifestations of disloyalty to the Government, on the part of those who live immediately around its capital. In many cases, too, those who live on its bounty, and occupy positions of honor and trust, are covertly secure in their efforts to paralyze the hands of those in authority, by fostering an intimical public sentiment. This feeling is manifested in various ways Washington is not the place to talk treason openly, for the day of connivance has passed away. But the secret exultation over our reverses, and the sorrow at our success, the temper of the Congressional galleries, the applause which follows Mr. Breckinridge and Mr. Burnett, and the indifference which greets Mr. Johnson or Mr. Carlisle, the cold civility of citizens to our troops, and the spirit of patient endurance that they exhibit, all show that in heart a large minority of our people are no friends to the Union, or the rulers of the Union.

The existence of a system of social espionage places our forces at a disadvantage when contending with the armies of the rebellion. I believe that Gen Beauregard or Mr. Davis have more of the operations of our Government, of the movements, the disposition and the numbers of our forces, than most of the leading men in the departments. No one doubts but that they have a constant system of communication between Washington and Richmond. The very magnanimity and indulgence of our Government emboldens the emissaries of this conspiracy to plot treason and commit treachery under the walls of the capital. Thus we found, on interrogating nearly every prisoner taken at the recent battle, that he was fully acquainted with every material military fact connected with our forces and their meditated advance upon Richmond. Among the most efficient allies of these people are the sensation correspondents of the New York press, and the weak imitations of the New York press you happen to have in Philadelphia. It seems to me, that to be a correspondent of one of these papers is to be a spy on every movement of the departments. They betray the secrets of the Government, and abuse the Government because it objects to publishing its secret archives in the columns of a daily newspaper. Their accounts of the recent battle were in keeping with the usual style of their despatches. Exaggerated and untrue, they exhibited many evidences of fright, cowardice, and braggadocio, and either amused or disgusted the people of Washington.

The body of the lamented Colonel Cameron has not been recovered from the field of battle. Henry S. Magraw, of your State, and Arnold Harris, of Tennessee, went over into Virginia, to endeavor to secure it, but they have not returned. Mr Harris is known to be a sympathiser with the Southern Government, and an intimate personal friend of General Beauregard, and it is thought that his friendship for the rebel commander would go far towards securing the object of his mission. Their absence causes some anxiety, and there are those who do not hesitate to say that they have been detained within the rebel lines for fear of their communicating the condition of their forces to our Government. No apprehensions need be entertained for their safety, for their journey had no connection with our Government or its troubles, but was simply an errand of mercy.

There is a certain feeling of regret among our people that the Fourth Pennsylvania regiment should have returned home on the morning of the day of battle To be sure the period for which they had enlisted had arrived, but in consideration of the fact that a conflict of arms was pending they should have remained Their commander, Colonel Hartranft, continued at his post on the battle field. At the same time while I say this of the Fourth, and say, too, that it was with sorrow I viewed their departure, we must compliment them for their promptness in coming to the rescue of menaced Washington, and for their fidelity and discipline during their term of service.

The vigor of the Government in its efforts to reorganize our army inspires a great feeling of confidence in the minds of the people. They confide in the Administration and those high in authority. They know they are honest and capable, and in their honesty and capability they are willing to trust the Government in this crisis. J. R. Y.

LATEST NEWS

By Telegraph to The Press.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Despatches to "The Press."

WASHINGTON, Jul. 25, 1861.

The Bill for the Increase of the Military.

The two branches of Congress have compromised their disagreeing amendments to the bill for the increase of the military establishment The Senate had provided for an augmentation to the extent of eleven regiments, of 23 000 men, in accordance with the recommendation of the Executive. This the House altered to a volunteer force, but, through the joint committee of conference, receded from its amendment and agreed to the Senate bill, with the proviso that the army, which is thus made to consist of 40 000, shall be reduced to 25 000 men at the end of the war with out further legislation. All the officers of the regular army, who may be assigned to duty in the new regiments are, on the latter being disbanded, to return to their former regiments with the pay and promotion to which they shall be entitled. Both Houses have formally concurred in the report of the conference committee but, from what can be ascertained, it is by no means certain that the Senate will consent to all the appointments for the new regiments.

Army Movements.

The greatest activity prevails in the War Department and at General SCOTT'S headquarters. Eighty-seven regiments have been accepted since Sunday. The organization of the forces will be essentially changed from what it was at the time of the engagement on Sunday. The command, as you are aware, is given to General MCCLELLAN, and others will be appointed to the places of some of those under him. General SCOTT will act by the guidance of his own experience and judgment, and not by the advice of impulsive politicians.

The greatest activity prevails among the troops in and around the forts in Virginia. Your reporter remained over in the camp last night, returning early this morning. Brigades are being formed and organized, positions in the forts changed, regiments recruited, arms examined, men reviewed, etc.

As I write, new regiments are coming in, and marching up the Avenue Among them is the First Regiment, Sickles Brigade, Col. DWIGHT, 1 100 men. The Seventh and Tenth Pennsylvania Regiments are in, and the Eighth Pennsylvania and Second and Third Excelsior New York Regiments are near the city.

Breckinridge.

The visit of this man to the rebel prisoners, on their arrival here, is a sufficient indication of his thorough sympathy with those in rebellion against the Government. Why is a *known* Secessionist allowed to retain his seat in the Senate while innocent citizens are arrested on mere *suspicion* of entertaining Secession sentiments?

The first instalment of rebel prisoners that arrived here inquired for BRECKINRIDGE on entering the city. They said they wanted to borrow some money from him.

Appointments.

JOSEPH P BURR of New Jersey, and CHARLES SPENCER, of Connecticut, have been appointed to second-class clerkships, in the Fourth Auditor's office, Treasury Department.

Our Killed and Wounded.

Our loss in killed will not exceed 600; wounded 500; taken prisoners 300.

Over the River.

The army is being rapidly concentrated on the line of our forts on the Virginia banks of the Potomac. The Ninth Massachusetts regiment, Col. CASS; Twenty-second New York, Col. PHELPS; Twenty-third New York, Col. TAYLOR; and First Maine, Col JACKSON, passed over and have joined the army there Other regiments are going over within a few hours, and are now calling in stragglers, and preparing to march.

Called In.

Handbills were posted yesterday, dated 12 o'clock M., calling in all the troops to their quarters, gathering of troops from all parts of the city, and movement toward their respective quarters. To-day the number of volunteers on the streets is comparatively limited.

Returning Home.

The Second, Third, and Fourth New Jersey, and Eighth and Twenty-first New York regiments left Washington en route for home yesterday.

The Eighth New York, Colonel GEORGE LYON, arrived here with 781 men, and return with 45 or 50 less. They were exposed to the fire of what is called the third rebel battery from eleven A. M. until five P. M., and nobly sustained their position.

Balloon Fired Into.

WISE'S balloon went up this morning early, and when between Fort Corcoran and Ball's Cross, it was seen to collapse suddenly and fall with great rapidity. The general impression is that it was fired into. Your reporter was at Fort Corcoran at the time, and witnessed the swift descent of the balloon It was too far off to ascertain how many were in the car, but it is feared that their escape from a sudden and terrible death was impossible.

The balloon was up yesterday, and could be seen from the city sailing over Virginia. It rested during the night, and went up again this morning, and was, but a short time in the air before it collapsed, leaving only a small section of the top filled with gas.

The danger of accident from shot will ever operate as a serious objection to the use of balloons over the enemy's grounds; for on going near enough to obtain a view of their works, the balloon is within reach of three and four mile rifle cannon which, without any trouble, can be so suspended as to point upward or in any direction required The rifled cannon of the Second Rhode Island throw shot four miles, and to be of any service a balloon cannot be one half of that distance from the spot to be examined. Even at an elevation of a mile no balloonist could have discovered the batteries at Bull Run; but not discovering them, he might report that no such defences existed there. The balloon may, however, be used with great advantage, in noting the advance of troops on the main road, and in watching the general movements of an army during an engagement.

The Highland Regiment.

Excepting, perhaps, the FIRE ZOUAVES, this regiment of brave Scotch hearts has suffered the greatest loss in killed and wounded, as the returns made to day at their quarters show. Its loss in killed, wounded, and *missing* is nearly half of the whole regiment The loss in officers includes, in addition to Col. JAMES CAMERON, the following names, viz: Capt BROWN, Company IV, killed by a cannon ball; Capt. MANSON, Company I, killed or a prisoner; Capt. SHILLINGLAW, killed by a cannon ball. Among the wounded officers are: Major MCCLELLAN; Capt. ELLIS, Company 10, Capt LANG, seriously, and now in the hospital at Georgetown. Surgeons NORVEL and MCCLUSKEY were taken prisoners when in discharge of their duty looking after the wounded. A number of lieutenants are missing, and many non commissioned officers were killed on the field.

The Sixty-ninth.

This fine regiment went off to day, en route for New York, their time having expired. Their very efficient services in the late engagement are acknowledged on all hands.

Orderly Conduct of Soldiers.

From Monday until Wednesday evening the soldiers were allowed to lay off, rest, refresh themselves, and move at pleasure through the city. During that time they have conducted themselves with great credit. Drunkenness was rare, rioting was almost unknown, and the city was as quiet as if every soldier had been ordered to do guard duty.

Serenade to Gov. Blair, of Michigan.

GOV. BLAIR, of Michigan, was complimented with a serenade to-night by one of the regimental bands of that State. He addressed the large and enthusiastic crowd He said that although our forces were checked, not defeated, at the late battle, they will soon be prepared for a renewal of the fight in defence of all that is dear to American freemen—the preservation of the Constitution and liberty. We have now a young man—a soldier of the West—Gen. MCCLELLAN, under whose lead our army cannot fail of victory." [This allusion elicited vociferous cheers.]

"Till now it was supposed that rebellion would soon be suppressed, but *facts* show that a more extended effort is necessary for the restoration of peace. The slogan is sounding throughout the North and West, and stout hearts are burning to enter into the service of their country. The war must be vigorously prosecuted, and the end cannot fail to give us victory.

"We have to day obtained from the Government authority to send five additional regiments into the field, and they will be here within the next four weeks."

The Governor retired amid cheers from the delighted multitude.

Senator GRIMDLER and Representative KELLOGG, of Michigan, and Mr. VAN WYCK, of New York, also delivered brief and patriotic addresses.

Affairs In and Around Washington.

We clip the following interesting items from the Washington *Star* of last evening:

INCIDENTS OF THE BATTLE OF BULL'S RUN—HAIR-BREADTH ESCAPE

Dr. J. H Irwin, surgeon of the Second Wisconsin Regiment, was chased by one of the Black Horse Cavalry, who fired when within ten feet of the surgeon at the same time shouting, "Surrender you d—d Abolition scoundrel!" The ball grazed the head of Dr. I., who, at the same time, made a big leap into a clump of woods. The trooper rode around to head him off but his opponent meantime managed to load his rifle, and when the trooper next appeared shot him through the chest. He fell sideways, the saddle turning with him, and the frightened horse, galloped off with its dead or wounded rider dangling by the stirrups

SUPPOSED BARBARITIES

One of the enemy's cavalry rode up to a wagon containing a wounded German soldier of Captain Langworthy's company, Second Wisconsin regiment, and, dragging him out by the hair of the head, pierced him through the body with his sword, yelling, "I'll teach you d—d black Abolitionists to come down here to fight us!" The trooper then rushed upon the driver of the wagon, and, with a back cut of his sabre, nearly severed the man's head from his body, and he fell lifeless among his horses.

LESS MISSING THAN SUPPOSED.

The list of missing among the several regiments decreases visibly day by day. The First Minnesota regiment, which was reported to have been badly cut up, turns out many more on the rolls than had been expected. Several of their officers are of the opinion that when the roll shall be called, after giving sufficient time for the straggglers to come in, there will not be upwards of seventy or eighty absentees Their regimental colors were brought out yesterday badly damaged by the fight of Sunday, and, when unrolled, were saluted with nine enthusiastic cheers by the men

A BRAVE CAPTAIN.

Where so many did their duty it is hard to discriminate and mention all who are really meritorious; but it is just to refer to the bravery and coolness of Capt. John A Abbott, of the Michigan First. When that regiment made their first gallant charge upon the enemy, he was the first man to mount the fence, and, waving his sword, urged his company on, and not until all was lost—until after Wilcox fell and the final order for retreat was given—did he turn his back to the foe.

"BLAZE AWAY, MISSISSIPPIAN."

During one of the charges of the Fire Zouaves upon his Mississippi Rifles, a Zouave and a Mississippian were in close contest on an open space, both with discharged rifles. Simultaneously they attempted to draw their revolvers and the Mississippian having succeeded before the Zouave in drawing his, the latter cried out, "Blaze away, Mississippi; I'll take the last shot" The Mississippian instantly did so, missing the Zouave, who, having drawn his weapon, discharged it at his foe, piercing his heart and instantly killing him.

THE MICHIGAN FIRST.

The following additional names are among the missing of the First Michigan Regiment: Lieut Murch, Corporal Barnes. Messrs Bales, Brosmer, Brink, Ewers, Goldsmith, Kelly, Sheppard, in Company F; W Newell Edwinsmith, Brakan, in Company J; Rowe, in Company B; Lieut. Parks, O King and wife, George Phillips, P. Chivers, George Baker, M Baker, H. Bontell, in Co. H.

THE FIRE ZOUAVES.

We learn that the Fire Zouaves have not lost so heavily as had been supposed. Probably 225 will cover their entire list of killed, wounded, and missing

The Sixty ninth and Seventy-ninth Regiments lost more largely than any others.

ONE THOUSAND AXEMEN AT WORK.

The work of felling the trees on Arlington Heights has commenced in good earnest, and yesterday at least one thousand sturdy axemen, of the Michigan and Maine regiments, were thus engaged. Work upon another fortification has been commenced between Alexandria and the Long Bridge.

SECESSION CAVALRY ROUTED BY OUR SCOUTS.

Twenty-four scouts, of the Twenty-fourth New York Regiment, encountered a troop of fifty or sixty secession cavalry, near Falls Church, yesterday, and poured a volley into them, scattering them in every direction. Our advanced guard was drawn in last night to Arlington Mills

THE EIGHTH NEW YORK REGIMENT.

The loss of the Eighth Regiment New York Militia so far as can be ascertained, is 66 in killed, wounded, and missing.

THE LOSS OF THE RHODE ISLANDERS.

The loss of the Rhode Island regiments, in killed, wounded, and missing, in the battle of Bull Run, on Sunday, amounts to 205 men—92 of the First Regiment, and 114 of the Second Regiment.

CAPTAIN BALL KILLED.

We are informed that Captain M. D Ball, of the Fairfax Cavalry, who was confined at the navy yard some time since, and released upon taking the oath of allegiance, was killed by a party of Fire Zouaves when they marched on Bull Run The Zouaves met they, fell in with Ball near the Court House as they were scouting, and in attempting to disarm him he stabbed one of their party, whereupon they immediately killed him. We have not learned that he had again joined the Confederates, but the fact that several of his company did so renders it not improbable that he may have gone back to his former companions.

A DAUGHTER OF THE REGIMENT IN THE FIELD.

Mrs. Katy Brownell, daughter of the First Rhode Island Regiment, who marched sixteen miles, side by side with her husband, on the march to Bull Run, where she was presented with the flag she carried through this city on Tuesday last a week ago, and for whom such great inquiry was made, has returned, after having a very narrow escape, being fired upon six times. Passing a picket, she shot one of her pursuers, and fled to the woods and escaped. Her husband is also safe.

THE FOURTH MAINE REGIMENT.

In the papers of the Fourth Regiment, found on the field of battle, it is supposed from the fact that when this regiment was ordered forward, the reporters had left, as in fact up to this time almost all the other forces were on retreat excepting Colonel Howard's Brigade. It has also been a noticeable fact that none of this regiment have yet been seen in Washington city, they having come into Alexandria from the old camp at Chetrsville in good order, under command of their officers. The regiment was the last to leave the field, and made, with the Second Vermont, a desperate charge upon the battery of the enemy, and stood receiving the fire of shot and shell for more than half an hour, until ordered to retreat. The battle had been lost before this, but notwithstanding they were aware of it from the fact that their lines were more than once broken by our own cavalry retreating, it was remarked by those who witnessed it that their lines were more steady than any regiment which had gone before them up the hill Perhaps this fact might have been earlier known had this regiment chosen Washington for a stand, rather than some point near the enemy's line

The gallant Seventy-first Regiment of New York was one of the first on the field, and did much execution, they have, however, not lost half the number which at first supposed. Notwithstanding that their time was already expired on the eve of the battle, they all were anxious for the fray, and were not backward in performing any duty when called upon.

They expect to return home to day, but the most of them will return in a short time, either in their own regiment or in other regiments, to avenge the death of their comrades.

The Secession army is at this time commanded by General Johnson, who, being a Major General, outranks Brigadier General Beauregard

Johnston's advance has not immediately around Fairfax Court House, and is believed to number about 15 000 It is said that yesterday a number of siege guns were brought there from Manassas.

MOVEMENT OF TROOPS.

The three months New Jersey regiments, and the 1st, 21, and 31 Connecticut regiments, came over the Long Bridge yesterday, and will be mustered out of service

The 1st Maine regiment, which went over the river yesterday, has taken the place of the New Jersey regiment which performed guard duty at the Long Bridge.

The 9 h Massachusetts (Irish) regiment passed over the Long Bridge into Virginia yesterday

The 79 h New York Regiment (Highlanders) passed through Georgetown late yesterday on their way to this city It is quartered on Massachusetts avenue, between Sixth and Seventh streets.

The 28 h and 69 h New York regiments passed through Georgetown early in the evening yesterday, on their way to Washington.

The 23 l and 23 l New York regiments broke camp on this side and marched over into Virginia shortly after sunset yesterday.

Green's battery moved to Alexandria yesterday.

The 10th Pennsylvania regiment, known as the Pennsylvania reserve corps, arrived here at six o'clock yesterday evening. The regiment numbers one thous