The Press:

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1861.

EXTRACT FROM THE LAST SPEECH OF STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS.—"The conspiracy to break up the Union is a fact now known to all. Armies are being raised, and war levied to accomplish it. There can be but two sides to the controversy. Every man must be on the side of the United States or against it. There can be no neutrals in this war. There can be none but patriots and traitors."

FOR SALE.—The double-cylinder "TAYLOR" PRESS on which this paper has been printed for the last nine months. It is in excellent condition, having been made to order a year ago, and will be sold at a bargain. For terms apply at this office, or address JOHN W. FORNEY, 417 Chestnut street, Philadelphia.

The Latest War News.

On Saturday the rebels advanced in large force with the apparent intention of attacking our forces at Prospect Hill, but the readiness with which the divisions of Gens. McCALL, SMITH, PORTER, and McDOWELL, were formed to receive them, dampened their ardor, and they declined to commence a battle.

Our advices from Missouri state that while there may be a probability that Gen. PRICE still harbors a design of attacking Jefferson City or St. Louis, Gen. FREMONT feels the utmost confidence in his army, and considers it not only large enough to thwart such schemes, but to make a triumphant march to New Orleans. A special despatch to the St. Louis *Republican*, from Jefferson City, dated October 10, says: "PRICE's rebel force is said to be one hundred miles south of Fremont's army. A scout has just arrived from Springfield, and reports at headquarters that there were only one thousand rebels at that place. The scout fell in with an old acquaintance at Springfield, and by pretending to be a Secessionist, learned that BEN. MCCULLOCH was at Camp Jackson with only fifteen hundred men, waiting for reinforcements from Arkansas. A large number of MCCULLOCH's forces who were with him at Wilson's Creek were with PRICE at Lexington, and the rest are with HARDEE. MCCULLOCH expects to join PRICE at Sac river, which will be about the 20th inst., and the combined forces expect to march on Jefferson City. This information is believed to be entirely reliable. General FREMONT *and his army will, of course, meet McCulloch and Price before the 20th, and prevent their designs upon the capital by giving them battle*, and entirely routing, it is to be hoped, the rebel hosts."

A Norfolk newspaper states that an attack was recently made by the rebels upon the famous Billy Wilson Zouaves, at their encampment on Santa Rosa Island. They confess that our troops displayed great bravery, and the details of the battle are not clearly described. The following description of "the situation" at that point, as described in previous advices, we find in the New York Sunday *Herald*:

"The position of the camp of the regiment was peculiarly exposed to the enemy. It lay on a level plateau, and every tent was in plain sight of the rebel forces across the river. The commander of Fort Pickens, Colonel Brown, ordered the regiment to pitch their tents there, but did not supply them with artillery or throw up batteries or entrenchments to cover them. Colonel Wilson, therefore, with the civilian engineer attached to his regiment, proceeded to construct a system of entrenchments and places of shelter for his force. The difficulties in the way of this undertaking were many, and of the most serious kind. The road to the fort was almost impassable with swamps and heavy chapparel, alternated with sand hills. This was remedied first, for the position was to the fort precisely that of an ordinary picket, and in case of the landing of an attacking party all the course left open for them to pursue was to skirmish away to the fort. The road where it crossed swamps was filled in with brushwood, covered with sand, the sand-hills were dug through, the intervals were filled in, and wherever embankments were thrown up they were disguised and masked by the bushes, which they had to cut and dig out. They thus secured a covered way to within twenty rods of the fort, and the innumerable twistings and winding of the road afforded secure positions from which their skirmishers could annoy and retard the advance of the enemy in case they should make an attack. Attention was next turned to the securing of places of shelter for the men in case a bombardment of the camp should occur. This work was done in the night, by the light of the stars alone, so that the rebels could have no idea of the location of these places of refuge. In building these, advantage was taken of the "lay of the land," which is ribbed and corrugated with sand hills that sometimes rise abruptly to the height of twenty or thirty feet from the level. Behind and into these they dug and threw up shelter sufficient to cover a thousand men. The approach to these shelters was protected by an embankment seven feet high and four feet wide on the top, while advantage was taken of every angle or elevated spot, to repel a force attempting to march upon them. This was the place for sharpshooters to work. It was stated that a force marching down upon the regiment would find that white roads leading nowhere would lead them astray, the very sand *hills* behind which they expected to advance in safety were but the hiding places from which a murderous fire would decimate their ranks.

This work was completed in two weeks, and with the expectation that every minute the rebels would open their fire upon the workmen.

The rebels confess that the Zouaves fought bravely, and they acknowledge a loss of forty killed and about eighty wounded. They also state that they committed great slaughter among the Zouaves; but, as they give no approximate number of the supposed killed and wounded, some doubts of that part of the account may be allowed. after a consideration of the above description of their position and defences. They state that they spiked the guns belonging to the regiment, but we have seen no mention that the Zouaves had been supplied with artillery. At the date of our last advices they had not been so supplied.

The rebels do not mention anything about the troops in the fort supporting the volunteers, either by firing their mounted artillery or advancing their infantry. This certainly appears very extraordinary; but doubtless, when we receive the Union statement of the engagement, we shall have a different account of the affair. The rebel surprise must have been very sudden, and they must also have as suddenly vacated their newly-acquired ground, else the fort would have assisted in the engagement, if only for self-protection. The island is certainly forty miles long; but Wilson's troops were, as before stated, located near the regulars.

The general aspect of affairs in Kentucky continues to be of an encouraging character. Conflicting reports in regard to the whereabouts of BRECKINRIDGE and his operations as a rebel leader have recently appeared in the Louisville journals, some accounts representing him as still in Virginia, others as in command of a rebel camp, and others as being at Bowling Green. Our latest telegraphic intelligence says that he is undoubtedly engaged with other Secession notables in organizing a large rebel camp at Prestonburg, Floyd county.

The Louisville *Journal* of the 11th instant says that the pickets of the armies of Gen. ROUSSEAU and Gen. BUCKNER were almost within gunshot of each other, and that the force of the latter on Tuesday did not number more than two thousand men. It was reported that three thousand of his soldiers who were from Mississippi, had left him in disgust, and returned to their homes, and it was deemed probable that he would soon be compelled to retreat.

A gentleman, who arrived in Louisville on Wednesday, from Hickman, Kentucky, informed the editor of the *Journal* that it was the plan of the Confederates, who claimed a force of forty-five thousand men in Southwestern Kentucky, to march upon Paducah at an early day, and he considered it quite probable that a collision had already taken place between the opposing armies at or near Paducah. He said that it is the great ambition of the army in and about Hickman and Columbus to possess themselves of Paducah and destroy Louisville, the latter achievement being one of their fondest dreams.

This opinion is confirmed by a correspondent of the Cincinnati *Gazette*, who, writing from Paducah, under date of October 6, says:

"If I should predict a battle soon at this point, the reader would consider it a mere foolish notice of a newspaper correspondent, for the public mind has become sick and disgusted already by prophecies and predictions of "great battles just at hand," but I will just say this, that it is the universal opinion of all those with whom I have conversed, who are from the immediate vicinity of the rebels' position, and to whom we must give some credit of knowing the intentions of the rebels, that it is their determination to take (?) this point. Their soldiers talk of it, and it is their understanding that they are to be led against us. All this may prove unfounded, but I give it as the drift of opinion, coming from a reliable source. Should Pillow lead his men against us, a force could be thrown in his rear from Cairo to hurry him up a little, and when he reached this point he would be likely to find that the ditch is dug in the right place, and the right kind of men to give him a reception in a true military style. Rumors—whether credible or not I cannot say—say that a force would be brought against him of which he is not aware, and of which I will not speak, lest it should be valuable information to the enemy."

The brilliant feat of the officers and crew of the United States steamer *Union*, in boarding and burning a Confederate schooner, in Quantico creek, under circumstances of peculiar danger, is another proof of the efficiency of our navy, and of the great service it is capable of rendering to the national cause.

The jealous, selfish, and unfriendly views of the governing classes in England towards America have recently been pointedly expressed in a speech delivered by Sir BULWER LYTTON, whose remarks are thus epitomized by the London *Spectator*:

"Sir Bulwer Lytton's opinions may be shortly expressed thus: A war for the dissolution of the Union, like all other wars, is to be regretted; *but the dissolution of itself is beneficial to the world. America was becoming too strong, so strong as to menace Europe, so vast that, like Rome, she must perish under the spread of her own dominion.* Separation, not into two, but into three or four Commonwealths, *would relieve the world of a fear*, while 'the action of emulation and rivalry between one free State and another, speaking the same language and enjoying that educated culture which inspires an affection for all that enlightens and exalts humanity, will produce the same effects upon art and commerce, and the improvements in practical government which the same kind of competition produced in the old Commonwealths of Greece.'"

The *Spectator* proceeds in an able article to expose the fallacy of these unwise and ungenerous sentiments.

WE NOTICE that Messrs. WILLIAM B. REED and GEORGE W. BIDDLE, well known Breckinridge leaders in this city, have taken charge of the West Chester *Jeffersonian*, which was suppressed by order of the Federal Government, (because of its persistent attacks upon the war,) and that they are to appear this morning in the U. S. District Court, for the purpose of securing such action as will authorize the republication of that pestilential journal. Mr. REED is probably the ablest, most crafty, and most industrious enemy of the Government in this quarter; and he will attempt to do all he can to have it attempted before—to invoke, in defence of his client, the very laws against which all his movements are directed. Relying upon the assumption that a lawyer may espouse the cause of his client—no matter how treasonable that client may be—he shields himself under this usage, in order to defend one of the worst enemies of the Government. There are exceptions to every general rule; and, in a crisis like this, we unhesitatingly assert that no attorney should be permitted to appear before any court as the advocate of a known, published traitor to his country—particularly when that attorney is himself believed to be in sympathy with the enemies of his country. We have no right to challenge the impartiality of our judiciary; but at a moment when the American Union is attacked by its worst foes—when the despots of the Old World are waiting to see it overthrown, and ready to exult in its destruction, we trust that, if the civil tribunals refuse to crush the enemies of the country, the military arm will be invoked to do the work in which they have failed. We hope that, in the absence of the gifted United States District Attorney, Mr. COFFEY, his representative will not fail to take the highest ground against the men who, under the cover of professional usage, are attempting to make a precedent which may encourage treason in its vilest forms.

Street Railways.

At the recent meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, a paper was read by Mr. HAWORTH, explaining a patent which he had obtained for Street Railways, by the addition of a fifth or perambulator wheel to the carriages, running as a guide in a central groove between the trams. It was calculated that a saving of thirty-five per cent. would be effected by this plan. Mr. VIGNOLES, an eminent engineer, declared that if any street railway were adopted in English cities, Mr. HAWORTH's system must be the one. It appears to us that the laying down of a third or central groove on each city railway line would cause additional inconvenience to the public, even if it did save thirty-five per cent. to the proprietors of the line. Three iron grooves instead of two would not much break up the streets. For example, Market street is now so much cut up by railways as to resemble a gridiron, and the companies, not keeping faith with the public, maintain the ways so badly that it is a difficult and nearly desperate and dangerous thing to drive across Market street, from Eleventh to Third, in a carriage on light springs. To add additional *bars* to this street gridiron would increase the public discomfort.

Education.

The superiority of the Americans arises from their being universally educated. All the world over, Scotchmen generally succeed in life, because they receive a good, plain, practical education, which fits them, with an average medicum of common sense, for almost any emergency into which they may be thrown. Just so with the Americans; they are so fairly educated that no one wonders at finding any of them emerging from obscurity to the highest stations—in the political world, in the church, in the law, in the army and navy, in the medical profession, in commerce, in mechanical and inventive pursuits. In fact, an American can turn his hand to any thing, with a fair average prospect of success. There is now a rule in England that nobody shall enter any department of the public service without having passed through a competitive examination. It is almost incredible, but, nevertheless, undeniably true, that out of 1,972 candidates for civil, service appointments in England 1,766 were rejected, principally *for bad spelling!* Here in Pennsylvania, not one in a hundred would be ineligible on that score.

"WORKS MEET FOR REPENTANCE."—Brigadier General Pierce, lately commanding at Big Bethel, Va., is now serving as a private soldier in Colonel Fletcher Webster's Regiment.

Immediately after the Big Bethel affair General Pierce asked a court of inquiry into his conduct; for reasons of public policy this was refused. General Pierce said, at the time, that he never pretended to any military knowledge or skill—that he did not solicit the command that was bestowed upon him, and that he cared but little for the censure cast upon his lack of generalship. But he said his personal courage had been impugned, and that he should disprove this slander by enlisting as a *private* as soon as his term of service had expired. He has now fulfilled this promise by joining Colonel Webster's Regiment.—*New York Times of yesterday.*

The example of General PIERCE might well be followed in other quarters, especially by aspirants to military command, who, after having had their incompetency proved by a proper board, proceed to attack the Government, and to make themselves ridiculous by absurd fault-finding. Here is a soldier of undoubted courage who, by a slight military mistake, was placed under a cloud, and who is now willing to show his patriotism by fighting in the ranks.

LETTER FROM "OCCASIONAL."

WASHINGTON, Oct. 13, 1861.

The October frosts will enable those at the head of our military departments to make formidable demonstrations on land and sea. The attacks of our people upon what they regard as delay in assaulting the enemy along the Southern coast will soon be shown to have been unjust. It was impossible to throw large bodies of unacclimated troops into Southern localities; and, although it has been alleged that our naval preparations were not unknown to the enemy, and that this enemy was thereby enabled to take precaution to defend itself, yet it was far better to run the risk of losing our men in honorable battle than to subject them to the disasters of diseases to which they were unaccustomed. Cold weather is what Northern troops desire in a Southern campaign; and when General McClellan advances upon Manassas and Richmond, and Captain Dupont attacks Charleston, Pensacola, and New Orleans, this fact will prove to be of immense advantage to both. Our soldiers have been disciplined and clothed for a winter campaign, while the soldiers of the traitors have not only been suffering during the summer months, but must undergo incredible hardships during the coming winter.

The naval expedition—part of which has already sailed from New York, and the other portion of which will shortly follow—is one of the best organized and most extensive in the history of the civilized world. It will not only be irresistible in its attacks upon the different fortifications along the whole Southern seaboard, but it will carry a land force which may be thrown with terrific effect upon every position that may be conquered by the navy itself. It is impossible that an expedition so vast, destined to accomplish results so astounding, should be hurried. It is right that when the Government strikes at any portion of the rebellious States, it should strike with crushing effect. Jefferson Davis understands this theory. He knows that he has most to fear the awakened power of the Federal Government in the fall and winter months. He knows that the army and the navy, embarrassed and distressed by his own treason and the treason of his followers, have been reformed and reorganized, and that every advantage growing out of the treachery and scoundrelism of the traitors will be fearfully avenged. The closer the blockade, and the more complete and extensive the arrangements for an attack upon the seaboard of the Southern States, the worse for Mr. Davis and his associates; and you may rely upon it that, if a single successful attack is made upon any important point on the Southern Atlantic coast, the army of Beauregard, in Eastern Virginia, will melt away, or be routed by McClellan. As I have said before, the apparition that afflicts the armies of the rebel leaders, under Beauregard, in Virginia, is a successful attack upon the Southern coast. Our troops entertain no such fears. They have left their families behind them, conscious, not only that they are safe from invasion, but that they are cared for by their fellow-countrymen. Let intelligence of the bombardment of New Orleans, or Charleston, or Savannah, or Pensacola get among the soldiers now wearing the rebel uniform in Virginia, and they could not be held a single day. McClellan in the front, with Banks on their flanks, and Rosecrans and Reynolds in Western Virginia, will strike such terror into them that they will fly in a much more disorganized mass than that which has made the retreat from Bull Run so disgraceful in our history.

OCCASIONAL.

LATEST NEWS
BY TELEGRAPH.

IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON.

THE PROSPECT OF A BATTLE.

The Case of Colonel Einstein.

FROM KENTUCKY.

BRECKINRIDGE AND OTHER TRAITORS RAISING REBEL TROOPS.

THE WAR IN MISSOURI.

THE WHEREABOUTS OF GENERAL PRICE.

&c. &c. &c.

Special Despatches to "The Press."

WASHINGTON, October 13, 1861.

A Great Battle Expected.

The city last night and to-day has been in a state of feverish excitement, in consequence of prevalent reports that the rebels were thirty thousand strong within four or five miles of our advanced guard at Lewinsville. Our troops from the Chain Bridge to Lewinsville were under arms nearly all yesterday and to-day. The Pennsylvania Reserves, under Gen. McCALL, are at Langley's, about four miles from the Chain Bridge. As they were drawn up in battle array yesterday afternoon, momentarily expecting to receive word of the beginning of the fight, and orders to march forward, they presented a most formidable appearance as we passed down through their lines. They were singing, shouting, and screaming for a fight. The whole of the Pennsylvania Reserves are at this point, and should a battle occur near their camping ground, which seems almost inevitable, you may be sure that there will be no Bull Run affair. They are determined to stand until the last man is shot down.

Gen. McCLELLAN was upon the ground, with his staff, nearly the whole of yesterday. The man slept upon their arms last night. Every position taken by our troops, as they advance, is strongly fortified, and it is the current opinion of some of the old officers that that the rebels will not dare to attack us until our advance reaches Manassas Junction. The Assistant Secretary of War, THOS. A. SCOTT, has been at his post in the Department all day. A large number of despatches have been sent and received from Lewinsville during the day, but there does not appear to be anything to indicate a battle. The rebel forces which were reported by our advanced guard were no doubt a strong reconnoitering party. But still, from all the surrounding circumstances, a battle must either ensue, or the rebels retreat ingloriously to their strongholds at Manassas Gap, out of which they will be finally driven, and their army annihilated. They can never raise another one. It seems that Gen. McCLELLAN is fully determined that our troops shall winter in Richmond. A force of twenty thousand of our troops are expected to move beyond Lewinsville to-morrow, if a fight does not take place to-day. Not a single civilian has been permitted to cross the Chain Bridge to-day. Gen. McCLELLAN will not tolerate any person about his camps who is not in the employ of the Government, and even then if they have no special business there he will not give them passes. It was with great difficulty that one of the army paymasters, who wished to be on hand if there was any fighting to be done, could get across the Chain Bridge last evening.

The Election in the Camps.

A number of the prominent "working politicians" of both parties from Philadelphia left here yesterday and this evening. They have been busily at work since Wednesday fixing up the returns. The elections in the different camps were most loosely conducted, and very few of the votes, no matter how honest the intentions of the voters, were legitimately cast. The volunteers, as a general thing, having their daily duties to perform, and in hourly expectation of receiving marching orders, cared very little who was or who was not elected in Philadelphia. The few cunning and designing ones took advantage of this apathy, and the returns were made out as best suited particular purposes. If the result of the election depends upon the volunteer vote, it will not honestly express the wishes of the people of Philadelphia; and the returns, when they are opened in November next, will show this to be the case. In some of the companies the returns are merely summed up; for instance: Doe 79, Roe 2, no tickets being used. In fact, in some regiments the voting was not concluded until yesterday afternoon, and no returns will be had from some of the companies who are out on picket duty for a week. No stringent qualification being required, a number of votes were polled for the Philadelphia candidates by persons who had never been in that city, with rare exceptions, the exception in the camps was a farce, and not a free expression of the will of the people.

The Army To-day.

Quiet is again restored, after a night of rumors and anxiety.

The history of the past thirty hours is this: Yesterday General McCLELLAN went over at 11 A. M., having spent the forenoon at his quarters in consultation with a number of his generals. On arriving at the other side of the river a reconnoissance in force was sent out west of Lewinsville, the pickets from which came upon a body of the enemy's cavalry, and were driven back. They were not followed by the enemy, and no further demonstration was made on their part. Our army, however, discovered the enemy in large force, drawn up in lines, and *apparently* about to make a movement. This was late in the afternoon. General McCLELLAN, by means of the telegraph, called the whole force on the Virginia side of the river to arms. He also used the same instrumentality to order his officers on this side of the Potomac to put the army here under marching orders. The order was promptly obeyed, and during the whole evening the camps were in a state of activity. Every one made all necessary preparation in anticipation of going into an engagement. Those who could see their families or friends did so in a hurried manner, and bade them a patriotic farewell. All left their purses and other unnecessary articles by which they were encumbered. At three o'clock the troops on this side began to move towards the river in the direction of Chain Bridge. Music from regimental bands on the march was heard from various points during the early hours of the morning, and until nine o'clock A. M. The return of day afforded an opportunity to make new observations, when it was discovered that no movement had been made by the enemy, and no indications could be discovered of an intention on their part to make an advance. The army seen on the previous evening was perhaps drawn up for parade or review, after which they were probably dispersed to their quarters.

The morning returning without bringing with it an intimation from the enemy to meet our arms, the General ordered the forces from this side to return to their quarters, which they did quietly, during the forenoon, without music, or any demonstration to disturb the quiet of the day.

From this demonstration General McCLELLAN has had an opportunity to test the promptness of his army, the result of which could not have failed to give entire satisfaction.

General Banks' Column.

To add to the excitement this morning, word came to the city that General BANKS had crossed the river, and had been met by the enemy in force, last night. An engagement was the issue, and the cutting up of General BANKS' army the result. The story was credited for a time, and by officers of our army. The story gained strength from the fact of a report that General BANKS proposed to cross the river as soon as it became fordable.

There is no foundation, however, for the rumor. I have seen one of General BANKS' officers. He says all was quiet when he left the army last evening. On Wednesday night there had been a skirmish between fifty of BANKS' men and four hundred of the enemy, the particulars of which are these: There is a small island in the river opposite our army, and upon it General BANKS had placed a guard of thirty men to prevent the enemy from crossing at that point. The channel of the river is between the island and the Maryland bank, while on the Virginia side there is only ten inches of water between the island and the main land. The rebels came down four hundred strong, and drove our men from the island, all of whom, excepting four, reached the Maryland shore. The others were supposed to have been taken prisoners. Our men opened a fire upon the rebels while on the island, which caused them to make a sudden retreat. Our pickets again took possession of the island, when the four missing men came out from their hiding places, where they had concealed themselves while the enemy was in possession of the island.

The Case of Colonel Einstein.

The case of Colonel EINSTEIN, late of one of the Pennsylvania regiments, excites some interest among the German volunteers. It is understood that he is charged with incompetency, and conduct unbecoming an officer. He was seven weeks under arrest. When he went to the paymaster to demand his pay, he was told that he had been mustered out of the service. Colonel EINSTEIN says that he never received any official notice of the fact, and now demands a court-martial, for the purpose of finding out the reason why he was thus summarily dropped. His counsel, WILLIAM B. RANKIN, of New York, has drawn up a protest, which will be duly entered in the proper department in the course of a few days.

Sequestration of Property by the Rebels.

It is estimated that the rebels have sequestered property of Union men in Virginia to the amount of over thirty millions of dollars. There is several million dollars worth of property in this city, belonging to notorious rebels, which should receive attention at the hands of our Government.

Colonels of Regiments.

Dr. JOHN PATRICK, of Philadelphia, it is said, will be made colonel of the regiment which was raised in your city by Col. A. W. CHANTRY. The Doctor is now the lieutenant colonel of the regiment.

GEORGE L. WILLARD, of the regular service, is spoken of for colonel of the Seventy-ninth New York Highland Regiment. This regiment was formerly commanded by Colonel JAMES CAMERON, who was killed at Bull Run.

Captain C. M. DONOVAN, recently elected State Senator from your city, is expected to receive a commission as lieutenant colonel in Colonel CAKE's Schuylkill county regiment. He served as captain in Colonel ZIEGLER's regiment of three-months volunteers.

Pressure of Business.

The Washington and Baltimore Railway continues to be crowded to its utmost capacity, and extraordinary delays occur daily. On Friday, General WILSON's regiment was ten hours on the road—distance forty miles—and finally arrived without their battery, which was left for the next train. The irregularity of the mails is to be attributed to the same cause. The arrival and departure of civilians alone, since the commencement of the war, has been more than quadrupled.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

The proposition to put the Baltimore and Ohio railroad in perfect repair is one of the wise acts of Major General McCLELLAN. In order to understand the condition of this important thoroughfare, it may be necessary to state that from Baltimore to Harper's Ferry, a distance of ninety miles, the road is in the possession of the Federal Government, and that there is sufficient material on hand to construct a new bridge across the Potomac in place of the one destroyed by the traitors. From Harper's Ferry to a point twelve miles east of Cumberland, in the State of Maryland, the road—seventy miles—is in the hands of the Confederates. They have destroyed most of the bridges, but have left the road in tolerably good order. From Cumberland west to Wheeling, Va., a distance of two hundred and twelve miles, the road is in excellent condition, and in the hands of the Federal Government. There is a branch road, ninety miles in length, extending to Parkersburg, also in good order. This is also under the control of the Federal Government.

It is estimated that our forces can take possession of the section now held or threatened by the Confederates in about three weeks, and that we can maintain it through its entire length, with the aid of the loyal men in Maryland and Virginia, by using some five thousand Federal troops.

The advantage of opening this great line of communication is almost incalculable. Baltimore has suffered immensely on account of the stoppage of travel and transportation between the Ohio river and that city, and no greater boon could be bestowed upon the people of Baltimore than to put them in direct communication with those sources of trade upon which they have heretofore subsisted. The effect upon the internal commerce of Maryland and Virginia, when the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad is put in complete running order, would be most healthy. But in a military point of view—which is the chief end sought to be attained by General McCLELLAN—this achievement will prove wondrously beneficial. It will not only enable him to open communication with our army in Western Virginia, but to carry troops and munitions of war into many parts of Virginia and Maryland, and, unquestionably, to reoccupy Harper's Ferry, Martinsburg, and all the surrounding country. The result would also be most profitable upon the Ohio trade, and upon the Western railroads, which have heretofore had close business connections with the Baltimore and Maryland people.

Arrivals at the Government Wharves.

The following steamers have arrived at the western wharves during the week, with subsistence stores, all of which have been discharged:

Steamers *Josephine, Ellen S. Terry, William Donnelly, A. H. Bowman, William John, Whitlldin, Sophia, New York, Thomas Sparks, Patapsco, Thomas Swann*, and *George Peabody*.

Importations.

A recapitulation of the arrivals at the Government wharves for the month of October, thus far, gives us the following footings:

Bread, 23,181 boxes; sugar, 3,189 barrels; potatoes, 1,817 barrels; pork, 1,453 barrels; beef, 847 barrels; coffee, 1,481 bags; hominy, 408 barrels; bacon, 754 barrels.

The President at the Navy Yard.

The President visited the navy yard in the afternoon yesterday, and closely inspected the progress of works in the ordnance and other departments.

Navy Yard.

There was nothing stirring at the navy yard last evening. The *Anacostia* had been launched, and the steamboat *Belle* was upon the docks. The *Mt. Vernon, Seminole, Huron, Harriet Lane, Pawnee, Hetzel*, and other vessels are now lying off the yard.

Escape of a Traitor.

One of the behavatory pur-
poses broke its way out and took
an unlucky dip in the Potomac.

A Graceful Tribute.

General McCALL's division advanced into Virginia some twelve miles on the 9th inst., and occupied the ground vacated by the rebels a few hours previous. The following order was issued by the commanding officer, which is a deserved compliment to the patriotic Governor of Western Virginia:

CAMP PIERREPONT, Oct. 10, 1861.

The camp of this division will be known as Camp Pierrepont, it seeming appropriate to select the name of the chosen leader of the loyal citizens of Virginia to designate our first position in support of their and our rights to an observance of the Constitution and laws of the Union.

By order of Brigadier General McCALL.

Promoted.

General STONE has been breveted major general, and Colonel GORMAN has been appointed brigadier general, and assigned to the command of a brigade under General STONE.

Vigilance of the Provost Guard.

About 240 soldiers were confined at the new provost marshal's guard-house last evening. Among them were two lieutenants, intoxicated.

General Wilson's Regiment.

General HENRY WILSON's regiment of 1,400 men has made an excellent impression here.

Appointed Lieutenant Colonel.

JESSE CRAWFORD, of Blair county, who was a Douglas delegate to the Charleston and Baltimore Conventions, has received the appointment of lieutenant colonel in one of the regiments to be attached to the new brigade to be raised by General J. Y. JAMES, of your city. Mr. CRAWFORD is a hardy mountaineer, a good soldier, and will make an excellent officer.

Condemned Rifles.

Col. BALLIER's regiment is said to have been armed with steel and brass-mounted rifles, which were condemned by the Belgium Government and purchased by our Government. There is much grumbling by the men.

Hon. John Cessna.

A number of Pennsylvania politicians are at Willard's. They are already discussing the probability of Hon. JOHN CESSNA, of Bedford, being made the next Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Secretary Cameron and Adjutant General Thomas.

These two gentlemen, who have gone on a tour of inspection to the West, will return about Thursday next. Hon. THOMAS A. SCOTT is now the acting Secretary of War.

Horse and Mule Contractors.

A number of gentlemen are here from different parts of the country, seeking contracts to furnish the Government with horses and mules. An official notice has been given that no more are wanted, as the stables are all full, and the Government has already on hand some eight or ten thousand head more than are needed at present.

Personal.

Major General MORGAN, Governor of New York, arrived yesterday, and was engaged in important business at the War Department until a late hour in the afternoon.

THURLOW WEED, Esq., is in the city, and, with a few friends, proposes to visit the troops over the river early to-day.

Telegraphic Appointment.

Mr. SILAS C. BURNS, formerly of the local express in your city, has received an appointment in the United States telegraphic corps, and is to be hereafter stationed at the navy-yard.

Hon. Henry D. Foster.

The Hon. HENRY D. FOSTER, of Pennsylvania, arrived here last night, and had an interview with the Assistant Secretary at the War Department this morning.

Gone to the Chain Bridge.

In anticipation of a battle to-day, a large number of Philadelphians who are here rode out as far as the Chain Bridge. They were not allowed to cross over.

A Crowded City.

The city is crowded with strangers, many of whom are contractors, or otherwise connected with the Government and the army.

A REBEL DEFEAT IN WESTERN VIRGINIA!

CINCINNATI, Oct. 13.—Yesterday afternoon, at a point 14 miles south of General Rosecrans' advance, and 8 miles from the rebel encampment on Green River, a detachment of 40 men of the Thirty-ninth Indiana regiment attacked 300 rebels, half of which were cavalry, without loss, killing five and wounding three. The whole rebel force was driven back beyond Bacon creek.

FROM MISSOURI.

SYRACUSE, Mo., Oct. 13.—[Special despatch to the St. Louis *Republican*.]—Letters from rebels in General Price's army have been intercepted and brought here. They are dated the 9th inst., and represent that Price and his army was within 80 miles of the Osage river, near Papinsville, and that he has 2,000 wagons, 10,000 horses, and from 18,000 to 20,00 men.

Affairs in Missouri—Relative Position of Price and Fremont.

There is a triangle formed by three towns in Missouri—Lexington, Jefferson City, and Sedalia—Lexington being the apex, and Sedalia being in the angle between the perpendicular and the base. The hypothenuse is the Missouri river, Jefferson City being located in the angle between the base and hypothenuse. From the latter point starts the Pacific Railroad, running a due western course to Sedalia. Along this road FREMONT is rapidly pushing his troops and munitions of war. He evidently intends Sedalia for the point from which immediate active operations shall be directed.

As PRICE's natural line of retreat lay through Sedalia, it is evident that if he had remained at Lexington, FREMONT would cut him off from all communication with Southwestern Missouri and Arkansas, the region from which he draws his supplies, and where his forces must be recruited and reinforced. Any further advance, either into Northern Missouri or toward Eastern Kansas, could only have exposed him still more palpably to the flank movement now being made against him.

Fremont's Plan of Campaign.

It cannot injure the Union cause now in Missouri to hazard a conjecture as to what his outline plan of campaign is, as he is already far upon his march to execute it. By the movement against Sedalia, he forced PRICE to abandon the dearly-purchased post of Lexington without a blow, and compelled him to retreat by a line diagonal to his shortest and quickest route to Southern Missouri, thus making his retreat circuitous, with his flank exposed for a longer period than it would be had he been permitted to fall back in a right line. The roads of that part of Missouri lying west to Kansas, and immediately west of Sedalia, are difficult and rough; the population is sparse, and the means of maintaining an army much less abundant than in its vicinity and that of Warrensburg.

Price's Retreat.

PRICE, it is said, runs as well as he fights, and has already reached the banks of Grand river, a stream which, rising in Kansas Indian Territory, and running southeastwardly, falls into the Osage, near Warsaw, in Benton county. His line of retreat, whether he concludes to risk a battle in the field with FREMONT or not, will most probably be continued by the line of Osceola, Mumansville, and Bolivar to Springfield.

On each of his flanks, along that line, lies a considerable body of Federal troops—MONTGOMERY, the leader of the Kansas "Jay Hawkers," with a body of between two and three thousand men at Fort Scott. It was with this body he attacked, shelled, and took the town of Osceola recently; and with it, still more recently, cut off a large baggage train on its way northward to join General PRICE. Fort Scott was, during the whole of the Kansas troubles, his favorite resort, and from thence he sallied out to drive back the border-ruffians and raid upon Missouri. Fort Scott is less than sixty miles west of Osceola, and MONTGOMERY has lost his characteristic enterprise if he does not make a dash at PRICE's rear during this retreat.

At Rolla, which is located on the southern branch of the Pacific Railroad, and but little more than one hundred miles from Springfield, to which point PRICE is evidently retreating, General HUNTER lies with a division very little, if any, less than ten thousand in number. As FREMONT has expressed a determination to drive PRICE out of Missouri, he will most probably be joined by HUNTER near Springfield, as he follows right upon PRICE's track.

Springfield.

Springfield is one hundred and thirty miles due south of Sedalia. Near to it was fought the great battle in which the lamented LYON fell. It is the county-seat of Greene county. Its location is high and healthy, and the water is excellent. It is susceptible of being strongly fortified, and as it is the largest, most populous, and wealthy town in Southwestern Missouri, there, if anywhere this side of the Arkansas line, will a stand be made by the rebels. If they retreat from that point without a fight, they will not risk an engagement this side the Arkansas line.

Fremont's Forces.

Before moving from Sedalia, FREMONT will doubtless be joined by STURGIS' corps, heretofore operating in Missouri north of the river; by LANE's column, and by the fifteen hundred regulars under Col. ST. GEORGE COOKE, just returned from Utah. These, followed by a union with MONTGOMERY and HUNTER, will swell his army to a very large size. Various estimates are given in the Western papers of the number of men he will concentrate around Sedalia. One estimate places it as high as forty thousand—a more moderate one at thirty-five thousand. It is impossible that he can march from that point with more than twenty-five thousand, if he leave men enough, distributed at leading points in northern and western Missouri, to hold the local Secessionists in check, and guard the various lines of railroad properly.

MONTGOMERY and HUNTER may raise his numbers to thirty-five thousand effective men when he sits down before Springfield.

Mrs. Fremont.

This lady has been most actively engaged in defending her husband's reputation against the assaults of his enemies, declaring her hatred of them in no stinted measure, and with the fierce vindictive intensity of her father. Indeed, she seems to surpass even him in the ferocity of her assaults.

She accompanied her husband to Jefferson City, and reviewed the troops as they filed off on their march toward Sedalia. Her oldest boy, some twelve or fourteen years of age, wore a lieutenant's, and a younger one a sergeant's uniform. The eldest is to form a member of his father's military household. Indeed, it would not be surprising if JESSIE constituted herself a member of the staff, for she has been with her husband on more than one perilous venture. Her presence would insure energy and rapidity of movement, even if FREMONT had ever exhibited any lack of these qualities.

Missouri State Convention.

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 13.—In the Convention yesterday, Mr. Hendricks, from the Committee on Elections, introduced a bill to postpone the State election till the first Monday in August, 1862, and providing for the continuance of the present provisional Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Secretary of State in office till their successors be duly elected and qualified. The balance of the day was occupied by speeches from Messrs. Uriel, Wright, and Birch.

One of the gun-boats in course of construction at Carondelet was launched yesterday.

Secretary Cameron.

JEFFERSON CITY, Oct. 13.—Secretary Cameron and Adjutant General Thomas passed here at 5½ o'clock this evening by special train from St. Louis. The Secretary reviewed the troops at Syracuse and Tipton to-day.

FROM KENTUCKY.

Breckinridge and other Traitors Organizing a Rebel Camp.

LOUISVILLE, October 12.—The *Evening News* learns, upon unquestionable authority, that Breckinridge, Preston, Johnson, Desha, Williams, Haws, Moore, and other Secession notables, are organizing a large rebel camp at Prestonburg, Floyd county. It says they have a force of 6,000 or 7,000 men now there, and are drilling them eight hours per day, and that they are alarming the mountaineers by circulating incredible stories as to the intentions of the Government. The *News* asks the Government to place promptly the requisite force in the mountains around which the Union forces may rally.

From Fortress Monroe.

FORTRESS MONROE, Oct. 12, via Baltimore.—A party of New York Zouaves, who started out from Newport News this morning to cut fuel, were attacked, probably by a scouting party of rebels, and driven in, with the loss of one team. Two rebel tug boats appeared at the same time in the James river. The steamer *Express* went up a short distance on a reconnoissance, but was unable to reach the enemy.

The steamer *S. R. Spaulding* sails to-night with a large shipment of quartermaster and commissary stores, for Hatteras. Brigadier General Williams goes with her, and will assume the chief command at Hatteras Inlet.

Departure of Steamers

NEW YORK, Oct. 12.—The steamer *Fulton* sailed to-day with 130 passengers, and the *Edinburgh* with 248 passengers.

Public Amusements.

There is really nothing to write about on this subject. Four theatres are open, besides a circus, and the exhibition of Waugh's Italia. "The Belle of the Season" at Walnut-street Theatre, the revival of "The Way to Keep Him" at Mrs. Drew's Arch-street Theatre, and of "Paris and London" at the Continental; Edward Sterling's new comic drama, "Blue Jackets," at McDonough's Olympic, and a fine equestrian troop at Gardner & Hemming's Circus, Twelfth street, below Spruce.

LARGE AND ATTRACTIVE SALE OF PARIS DRESS GOODS,