The Press.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 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 some two years, and will be sold at a bargain. For terms apply at the office of THE PRESS, 417 Chestnut street, Philadelphia.

THE LATEST WAR NEWS.

We find in our exchanges much speculation in regard to the probabilities of the correctness of the report in relation to the success of the attack upon our blockading fleet in the Mississippi. They all concur in the opinion we expressed yesterday, that the rumor is either untrue, or that the extent of the damage inflicted upon our vessels is grossly exaggerated. The boasting propensities of Mr. Geo. N. Hollins, of the insurgent navy, are well known, and there is little doubt that he has sought to glorify himself as much as possible in his account of his alleged victory. The N. Y. *Evening Post* says:

"The despatches state that our fleet was driven on shore and 'peppered' on the Southwest Pass bar. Now, the Southwest Pass, and every other pass of the Mississippi, has been made impassable to Mr. Hollins and his mosquito fleet by a fort which our troops have, within four weeks past, built at that point of the river where it first divides itself to form the delta. This fort, we are able to state on perfectly trustworthy authority—that of Mr. G. W. Blunt, who knows the whole coast as well as he does Broadway or Wall street—was completed before the day on which Hollins dates his action; and whatever he did, he must have accomplished above and not below it. It seems reasonably certain, therefore, that he did not drive our vessels ashore in the Southwest Pass, which he could not enter, and we may expect to hear, when our own reports come to hand, that Hollins' despatch is one of Falstaff's monstrous exaggerations, with, perhaps, the grain of truth that he exchanged shots at a safe distance with some of the small ships we have on the Mississippi."

At an early hour yesterday morning, a United States gunboat left New York in pursuit of the *Nashville*, which is reported to have run the blockade, at Charleston, on the 11th instant. It is not impossible that the rebel commissioners (Senators Mason and Slidell) on board the *Nashville* may arrive at Fort Lafayette in the course of a week or ten days.

Our troops in the advance columns near Washington are frequently compelled to form in line of battle, by the appearance of large bodies of the rebels, but the latter have not yet ventured to make any important attack.

Reports of the insubordination and disbandment of regiments of the rebel army so frequently reach us, that there is doubtless good foundation for some of them. So large a portion of the population of the South has been sent to the war, imperfectly clothed and equipped, that it is not strange that intense dissatisfaction is created. A despatch from Darnestown states that two of the rebel regiments, which were recently encamped near Great Falls, have mutinied and abandoned their companions. The appearance of the recent rebel camp at Big Spring, in Western Virginia, when it was visited by a portion of the command of Gen. Reynolds, indicated that a portion of the rebels, lately stationed there, had disbanded and returned to their homes.

Important battles are soon expected in Kentucky, if the rebels do not flee at the approach of our armies, which it is supposed will soon make a simultaneous advance on the southeastern and southwestern sections of the State.

The Romance of the War.

The persuasive power of speech and the sophistry of the pen must yield in the extremity of nations to a higher umpire. The sword, man's oldest appeal, has found in this war its original dignity, and the master men that led in debate, and were first at the council, have come at last to decide the issue with arms.

State Rights and Federal Rights have contended a long while upon the stump and in the Senate; for in the eloquence of the framers of the Constitution our present troubles began. After eighty years of agitation, their final adjustment must be left to generals rather than orators or writers.

We now present the attitude of continuous armies extending across the continent between the sea and the prairies—three hundred thousand men on either side—to fight out these rival issues. And, apart from its terrible consequences, and the immediate sin in which it was begotten, this war is a noble and sublime spectacle. It demonstrates the heroism and strength of both sections. It has resolved a race of civilians into a race of soldiers. It is a struggle of ideas that do not flinch from deeds, and of principles that will not be yielded but with life. It is a demonstration of practical independence worth more than the eulogies of a century. These armies have been voluntarily gathered, and they are greater than any that tyranny ever brought into the field. States that, united, maintained a standing army smaller than the present garrison of Paris, have separately enlisted forces greater than the entire armies of most of the nations of Europe. Citizens whose wealth and influence would have placed them, under tyrannies, beyond the reach of conscription, are enlisted in our volunteer armies, side by side with the toiling and obscure, feeling common devotion in a common cause. Not men alone, but money, is freely subscribed to the Republic. The great manufactories are altered into armories. Those who do not wield the spear are beating out the sword, and wives, the reward of whose self-sacrifice is widowhood and want, place the steel in the soldier's hand and cheer him on to battle!

The whole country is bristling with bayonets. When the echoes of Sumpter had reached New England her children were on the march, and before the sound of hostilities had broken upon Europe, troops from twelve States had rallied on the border line. In any cause but this, we would have hailed the spirit of the South. If bold, bad men, can thus stir up the people of a section, *what could we not expect of the whole country, contending for a common right!*

The Northerner, quick in a bargain but slow at a blow; the Southron, indolent but when impelled by passion, will exhibit in this contest their several individualities. It has commenced with a few slight successes in favor of the hot blood and fierce courage of the South. It will end in the greatest victories of modern times, achieved by the sagacity and indomitable perseverance of the North. The latter brings to its aid resources of art, intelligence, and persistence; the former an animal courage that every reverse will cool, and a common malevolence that defeat will change into feud and insubordination.

Upon one side are engaged good instincts perverted, power without order, and a principle in itself subversive and ruinous; on the other, elements of discipline, endurance, and integrity, that, having for their motive the welfare of the nation, and the common good of man, will neither be intimidated by losses nor unduly flushed by success. Going steadily forward, with good conscience and resolute hearts, civilization will go with them, and the heresy and indolence that slavery has begotten will resign a beautiful and fertile section to free industry, a free Gospel, and free thought.

The crusade we wage has nothing of fanaticism about it. And while the results that we predict were not the objects for which the war was begun, a greater hand than ours, that is guiding the elements for the welfare of mankind, will make them, if not intended, not less inevitable.

Our motives have changed since the commencement of the war. We are almost prepared to accept any instrumentality or advocate any return. Constitutional obligations have restrained us, but the most prudent begin to assume that those who break all laws deserve little protection. Each event will radicalize this contest, and enlist new motives, so that, to the philosophic eye, these

"Spirits
Of great events stride on before the events,
And in to-day already walks to-morrow."

LARGE SALE OF DRY GOODS, &C., AT AUCTION.—The attention of purchasers is requested to the large and varied assortment of British, French, German, India, and domestic dry goods, hosiery, etc., embracing about 680 lots of staple and fancy articles in woollens, worsted, linen, cotton, and silks, to be peremptorily sold, by catalogue, for cash, commencing this morning at 10 o'clock, the sale to be continued, without intermission, the greater part of the day, by Myers, Cleghorn, & Co., auctioneers, Nos. 232 and 234 Market street.

THOMAS & SONS—STOCKS AND REAL ESTATE—20th OCTOBER.—We shall hold a large sale at the Exchange on Tuesday, 29th inst. Descriptions in handbills part ready.

LETTER FROM "OCCASIONAL."

WASHINGTON, October 16, 1861.

The most obdurate person is your mere partisan. Differences of political opinion are so rigidly maintained, in many cases, that the nearest friends, however ready to assist each other in other matters, are frequently found in earnest and angry opposition on election day. The most conscientious man, who would defend his old school-fellow against the attack of a slanderer, is sometimes found discrediting his political sincerity. In the loyal States of this Union nothing stands so much in the way of the common cause as these honest differences between men who believe in, and are ready to die for, the common cause. In the disloyal and seceded States there is but one party, simply because discussion in favor of the Union and the Constitution is so far from being tolerated, that he who indulges in it is chastised or expatriated. Now, while I would not suggest this example to the consideration of men whose duty and inclination is on the side of the Constitution, *is not the idea worthy of their consideration that there should be no disputes among themselves?* At least we can unite against the men who, while professing to be for the war, are undoubtedly against it. For instance, the Breckinridge Democracy have been successful, in certain localities, in their appeals to party prejudices, by calling attention to exceptional cases of intolerance and injustice on the part of such Republicans as will not give up *their* peculiar and restricted partisan prejudices.

If the loyal people of the free States could, by one impulse, decide that they would recognize no party but that devoted to the prosecution of the war and to the punishment of the rebellion, that they would heartily agree to postpone the whole ritual of former political organizations until the day of victory and peace has arrived, their opponents would become alike powerless and infamous. Many of our sincere friends regret deeply that these general views did not universally prevail among the Union men of Pennsylvania at the last election. Had this been so, we should not be called upon to deplore a single disloyal advantage. It is unnecessary to unbury the dead—to revise unpleasant memories. Our business is with the present and the future. Our energies are all due to our country, and I am confident that, no matter how the citizens who agree in favor of the war may have differed in the late campaign, they will now agree that they have but one course to take hereafter. The advocates of the Union must go together.

As we have but one country, so we have but one party to support that country. If all of us could not see the wisdom of this policy two weeks ago, all of us can see it now. Even the politicians who opposed it will be induced to sanction it when they discover that they can do more for themselves by agreeing to-day. That there will be grumblers and critics is but natural. But when we remember that we are contending not merely for a civil government, but in fact for individual liberty and individual existence, we ought to treat all such men as enemies. The vile and wretched philosophy, that when we are called upon to support a government engaged in such a war as this, and to put out of sight party prejudices and feelings, we are therefore invoked to cover up fraud and favoritism in high places, is refuted by the answer that when men are willing to surrender everything for their country they will be quick and earnest in punishing any of their servants who dare abuse the trusts confided in them. If there is dishonesty in any of the departments at Washington, the great Union Government party will discover it and avenge it. This task need not be referred to the refuse and garbage of a former Administration, which, having achieved an immortality of shame, by striking at the very heart of the Republic, now confirms the logic of its conduct by trying, through its instruments, to hunt down the men engaged in stanching the wounds inflicted by these instruments.

You said, with great truth, prior to the late election in Pennsylvania, that, whatever the result, the triumph of the Breckinridge Democracy would be accepted by the traitors in arms as a tribute to them, and also that, after the election, a sentiment of oblivion to all former political differences, and of uniting all thought and action among loyal men, would subsequently become as inevitable as fate. The first of this prediction has been already fulfilled. Wherever the Breckinridge Democracy have been enabled to pluck a triumph from divisions among good men and true, this triumph is received at Richmond as an assurance that whatever Jefferson Davis and his banditti may attempt will find many to endorse in the free States.

And now, shall we not realize our obligations by rallying as one man under the flag of our country? Errors have been committed by disputes and criminations. There should be no more of these errors. Next October we have Congressmen to elect, but intermediately we have enemies to watch, and there are none more crafty, and subtle, and untiring, than those in your midst. There is no foe so dangerous as the man who professes to be your friend. There is no enemy to our cause so much to be feared as the Breckinridge leader who says he believes in it. What if in agreeing upon a common ground some politicians should be disappointed, some old prejudices violated, and some personal interests disarranged? These are but concessions and tributes to an overmastering exigency.

In order to show how the policy here outlined is regarded by known Republicans, I need only furnish one example. In Cooke county, Illinois, the capital of which is Chicago, the Republicans have united with the Democrats in the following call, "against all parties, conventions, and nominations in the present national emergency:"

"That the present deplorable civil war has been forced upon the country by the Disunionists of the Southern States, now in arms against the constitutional Government, and in arms around the capital; that, in this national emergency, Congress, banishing all feelings of mere passion or resentment, will recollect only its duty to the whole country; that this war is not waged on their part in any spirit of oppression, or for the purpose of conquest or subjugation, or for the purpose of overthrowing or interfering with the rights or established institutions of those States, but to defend and maintain the supremacy of the Constitution, and to preserve the Union with all the dignity, equality, and rights of the several States unimpaired; and that, as soon as these objects are accomplished, the war ought to cease."

This call is responded to in Ohio since the overwhelming election of the Union ticket, and in Wisconsin, Indiana, and Iowa. If party Republicans are afraid to trust themselves to a movement in favor of the Union, they should look to the example of the New York *Tribune*, which is boldly demanding a recognition of loyal Democrats, and which, a few days ago, said, with eloquent significance, that it was unjust to expect loyal Democrats to vote Republican tickets without, at the same time, giving them representatives upon these tickets; to Thurlow Weed, of the Albany *Evening Journal* of the same State; to the ultra Republican Governor of Maine, Israel Washburne; to Hannibal Hamlin, Vice President of the United States; to Benjamin Wade, United States Senator from Ohio; and to many others of their recognized and honored leaders. If party Democrats are afraid to trust themselves to a Union movement, they should be referred to such Democrats as Andrew Johnson, of Tennessee; Daniel S. Dickinson, of New York; Thomas Francis Meagher, and thousands of others, who allege that any attempt to maintain a Democratic organization in this crisis is virtually treason. OCCASIONAL.

WE REGRET to notice a disposition on the part of some journals to endeavor to prejudice public opinion with reference to the army vote. As that vote has not yet been even examined, or announced officially in any way, it would seem that a consciousness of gross irregularities, if not of direct fraud, must possess the minds of those who, in advance of any legal action, and while professing ignorance of the result, threaten the direst vengeance upon any one who shall presume to question the purity of the "almost sacred vote." It will be an unfortunate day when the vote of the volunteers, or any other vote, cannot be subjected to scrutiny.

WE regret to be called upon to announce the death of GEORGE W. PETERSON, Esq., junior partner in the firm of T. B. PETERSON & Brothers, book publishers in this city. He was an enterprising, public-spirited citizen, and was greatly beloved by a large circle of acquaintances. During the storm of Thursday evening last, while on his way to his residence on Washington Square, his foot caught on the rail of one of the passenger roads, causing a severe blow which brought on congestion of the brain. He died in the thirty-second year of his age.

LATEST NEWS
BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM WASHINGTON.

No Change in the Position of the Army.

Rebel Batteries on the Potomac.

OUR SEABOARD AND LAKE DEFENCES.

Important Circular from the Secretary of State.

INTERESTING FROM GEN. BANKS' COLUMN.

AFFAIRS IN MISSOURI.

Gallant Defence of Union Troops at Big River Bridge.

AN ATTACK ON IRONTON EXPECTED.

Special Despatches to "The Press."

WASHINGTON, October 16, 1861.

Washington News and Gossip.

This morning the uninitiated were somewhat startled by the firing of artillery. It was nothing but Griffin's battery practising.

Major DAVIES left Harper's Ferry at 1 o'clock P. M. to-day. The Pennsylvania Twenty-eighth and Massachusetts Thirteenth, under command of Major GOULD, were attacked by three thousand rebels this morning. Our men, fifteen hundred strong, repulsed the enemy three times. The enemy had five hundred cavalry. We took, spiked, and lost one cannon. When Paymaster DAVIES left with his treasure they were still fighting. Our army had eight thousand bushels of wheat, which the enemy desired to obtain.

There was a brisk skirmish between the pickets beyond Barrett's Hill this afternoon. The hill was occupied by the rebels on Saturday. They have been crowded off, and half a mile beyond, where the skirmish occurred to-day. One of our men, belonging to the Thirty-fifth New York Regiment, was shot in the breast. He was brought to the hospital at 5 P. M., apparently in a dying condition.

There was no movement over the river to-day. General MCCLELLAN did not go over.

General ANDERSON has arrived. The sword voted him by the city of Philadelphia was presented to him, at Willard's Hotel, this evening. Mr. CUYLER made the presentation address, and the General responded in a patriotic reply; but his lady afterwards, in the presence of the committee, and other friends, made the most touching speech of the evening, when she said, "To turn his back upon his native State was the hardest duty almost he ever had to perform."

The following were the remarks of Mr. CUYLER: "The city of Philadelphia has charged me to present to you a sword, suitably inscribed. I need not say the duty is agreeable to my feelings. The city of Philadelphia is desirous to encourage loyalty and patriotism, and to place on record the distinguished event which forms so bright a page in your history. As you receive this sword, you receive a token of her regard, with the assurance that she will ever hold in grateful remembrance your past efforts in the cause of liberty. We hope to hear of your speedy restoration to health and return to the field of duty.

To which Gen. ANDERSON made the following reply: "I receive from you, sir, and through you *from the city of Philadelphia*, this beautiful token of your regard, with feelings that words cannot express. I shall, if Providence restores my health, be rejoiced to be permitted to use it in defence of my country. I thank you, sir, and my friends in your city, for this very valuable token of your regard."

Wounded Prisoners from Richmond.

This morning I saw an artist of one of the New York illustrated papers sketching two wounded soldiers who have just arrived from Richmond. They came home down the James river via Fortress Monroe. Their names are JOHN MCKEYSER and JOHN SPEAR. The first was orderly sergeant of the Ninth company of the New York Seventy-ninth Highland Regiment, and the latter was second sergeant of the same company. Sergeant McKEYSER had his right leg amputated in Richmond, and Mr. SPEAR had his right arm shattered, and received a ball in his hip, which has not yet been extracted. They were both wounded in the battle of Bull Run. They report that during their stay in Richmond they received the same treatment as the rebel wounded, which was none of the best. Several of the captured prisoners had been sent to New Orleans, while others were sent to Charleston. Capt. SHILLINGLAW, of the same company, was still at Richmond. He received four bullet-wounds which shattered both his legs. He was in a fair way of recovery. They knew nothing whatever about the rebel movements in Richmond.

From the Virginia Side of the Potomac.

MORRELL ALLEN, of the New York Thirty-fifth Company, H, was dangerously wounded to-day by the rebel pickets at Barrett's Hill, beyond Falls Church.

From the observatory at Upton's Hill, to-day, a large rebel force, consisting of cavalry and detached companies of infantry, were seen on the Leesburg pike, four miles from Falls Church. Twenty-three army wagons accompanied them. The supposition is that they were on a foraging expedition.

The divisions on the right of our army were ordered under arms at 2 o'clock this morning, in consequence of an alarm caused by the firing of the pickets of the Seventy-ninth New York, between Falls Church and Lewinsville, but there was no noteworthy result.

The New York Second Fire Zouaves, attached to Gen. SICKLES' brigade, were to-day presented with a stand of colors from the firemen of that city.

Capt. MOTTS, of the New York battery, reports that while protecting the volunteers in felling the woods at Lewinsville, he saw distinctly a prominent rebel officer, but refrained from shooting him on a moment's reflection that picket firing was a barbarous and murderous practice.

From the Lower Potomac.

An officer of the *Jacob Bell*, who has carefully reconnoitred the Shipping Point battery on the Potomac, says there are six guns in position, all apparently of heavy ordnance. The river there is about one mile wide. Intelligent officers say that the statements to the effect that there are six miles of batteries below Shipping Point is all nonsense. Vessels might be annoyed by batteries from the shore for a mile below there, as far as Endeesport; but below that point the Virginia shore recedes from the channel, and the river widens so that the batteries would be useless there. Sixteen or eighteen guns is about the extent of their armament thereabouts, it is believed, by competent judges. The *Pawnee*, *Harriet Lane*, and *Yankee* went down the river during last night. The *Anacostia* has had her boilers put aboard, and is being rapidly fitted up. The *Jacob Bell* has gone into dock for repairs.

The steamer *Mount Vernon* reached Shipping Point just before daybreak this morning, and unmolestedly passed the rebel battery; but the *Pawnee*, following in a short time thereafter, was fired on, between twenty and thirty shots being thrown toward her. The *Pawnee*, according to orders, made no response.

By an arrival this afternoon from the Lower Potomac, it is ascertained that both vessels had safely passed beyond all reach of danger from the rebel batteries.

Illness of Hon. Thomas A. Scott.

THOMAS A. SCOTT, the Assistant Secretary of War, is confined to his residence by illness this morning. He has overworked himself during the past few days, and requires needful rest. The physician will not permit any person to visit him on official business.

Gen. Casey's New Jersey Brigade.

General CASEY's brigade, which is composed of four New Jersey and one Rhode Island regiments, is still encamped on Meridian Hill. The General has seen service in Mexico and Florida, and is a very strict disciplinarian, and is bringing his brigade to great perfection. He is very popular with the rank and file. Mr. JOHN HALL, late Clerk of the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania, is the commissary of the brigade. The encampment is about a mile and a half from WILLARD'S, and is a model for system and cleanliness.

Army Appointments.

Col. TAYLOR, of the Thirty-third New York Regiment, has been temporarily appointed to command Gen. STEVENS' brigade, the latter having been detached for important service elsewhere.

The New York Seventy-ninth Highland Regiment is now under command of Captain MORRISON, the senior captain of the regiment, which has neither a lieutenant colonel nor major.

Col. Miller's Pennsylvania Regiment.

The Thirty-sixth Pennsylvania Regiment, under command of Col. JAMES MILLER, which arrived here on Saturday from Camp Washington, at Easton, Pa., are now encamped at Kendall Green, about three miles from Washington. Col. GOSLINE'S regiment is encamped close by. These encampments are on the grounds of Hon. AMOS KENDALL, who was Postmaster General under General JACKSON, and is one of the staunchest Union men living to-day.

The Seventh Pennsylvania.

When the Seventh Pennsylvania was paid off they received about $21,000. Out of this sum, the soldiers sent home about $17,000. They are mostly from the interior—Lebanon, Perry, and Luzerne counties.

Dr. GREEN, of Germantown, who is surgeon of this regiment, informs me that out of nine hundred and eighty-seven men only eight were in the hospital, and none of them dangerously ill.

Secretary Cameron.

Secretary CAMERON has telegraphed that he will return to Washington by to-morrow morning.

Assistant Secretary of War THOMAS B. SCOTT is confined at home by sickness.

Important Circular from the State Department.

OUR SEABOARD AND LAKE DEFENCES—PREPARATION AGAINST FOREIGN INTERVENTION—AN APPEAL TO THE STATES.

The following important circular has been sent to Governor MORGAN, of New York, and similar ones to the Governors of all the States on the seaboard and the lakes:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, October 14, 1861.

To his Excellency the Governor of the State of New York:

SIR: The present insurrection had not even revealed itself in arms, when disloyal citizens hastened to foreign countries to invoke their intervention for the overthrow of the Government and the destruction of the Federal Union.

These agents are known to have made their appeals to some of the more important States without success. It is not likely, however, that they will remain content with such refusals. Indeed, it is understood that they are industriously endeavoring to accomplish their disloyal purposes by designs acted by indirection. Taking advantage of the embarrassments of agriculture, manufacture, and commerce in foreign countries, resulting from insurrection they have inaugurated at home, they seek to involve our common country in controversies with States with which every public interest and every interest of mankind require that it shall remain in relations of peace, amity, and friendship.

I am able to state for your satisfaction that the prospect of any such disturbance is now less serious than it has been at any previous period during the course of the insurrection. It is, nevertheless, necessary now, as it has hitherto been, to take every precaution that is possible to avoid the evils of a foreign war to be superinduced upon those of a civil commotion which we are endeavoring to cure.

One of the most obvious of such precautions is that our ports and harbors on the seaboard and lakes should be put in a condition of complete defence. For any nation may be said to voluntarily incur danger, in tempestuous seasons, when it fails to show that it has sheltered itself on every side from which the storm might possibly come.

The measures which the Executive can adopt in this emergency, are such only as Congress has sanctioned, and for which it has provided. The President is putting forth the most diligent efforts to execute these measures, and we have the great satisfaction of seeing that these efforts, seconded by the favor, aid, and support of a loyal, patriotic, and self sacrificing people, are rapidly bringing the military and naval force of the United States into the highest state of efficiency.

But Congress was chiefly absorbed, during its recent extra session, with those measures, and did not provide as amply as could be wished for the fortification of our sea and lake coasts. In previous wars loyal States have applied themselves, by independent and separate action, to empower and aid the Federal Government in its arduous responsibility. The same disposition has been manifested, in a degree eminently honorable, by all the loyal States during the present insurrection. In view of this fact, and relying upon the increase and continuance of the same disposition on the part of the loyal States, the President has directed me to invite your consideration to the subject of the improvement and perfection of the defences of the State over which you preside, and to ask you to submit the subject to the consideration of the Legislature when it shall have assembled. Such proceedings by the State would require only a temporary use of its means, and the expenditures ought to be made the subject of conference with the Federal Government. Being thus made with the concurrence of the Government for the general defence, there is every reason to believe that Congress would sanction what the State should do, and would provide for its reimbursement. Should these suggestions be accepted, the President will direct the proper agents of the Federal Government to confer with you, and to superintend, direct, and conduct the prosecution of the system of defence of your State.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,
WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Reconnoitring Rebel Parties.

Large parties of reconnoitring rebels continue to busy themselves within three or four miles of our advanced guard at Lewinsville. Shots are exchanged, but without any apparent effect, as the rebels, when they do show themselves, contrive to keep at a respectful distance.

The Rebel Batteries on the Potomac.

The most absurd rumors are current this morning about the doings of the rebel batteries on the Potomac. They are said to have sunk several vessels since yesterday morning, but we have heard of no disaster except the sinking of an oyster boat, the crew of which escaped to the Maryland shore. One of the batteries, which has been unmasked by the felling of trees, is reported to be three quarters of a mile long. Three or four of our small war vessels, however, have passed down safely, after exchanging a few shots. From the Quantico Creek to Choppawhomico Creek there appears to be a continuous line of batteries for about six miles. They also appear to have removed their heavy battery from Acquia Creek to Shipping Point. They are, no doubt, now making their last vain attempt to blockade the Potomac.

The Reports from New Orleans.

The reports from New Orleans about the sinking of our vessels has created quite a sensation, but they are not generally credited.

Deaths of Pennsylvanians.

The following volunteers in the Thirty-third Pennsylvania Regiment have died at the hospitals: JACKSON MCCONAHA, Company C; JAMES HOLMES, Company A, and S. DOWNS, Company —. Mr. W. ARMSTRONG, of the Ninth Pennsylvania, died yesterday.

The U. S. Steamer Saranac.

The Navy Department is satisfied from the official information in its possession that the steamer *Saranac* is at San Francisco undergoing repairs. It is therefore untrue that she was recently lost off the mouth of the Mississippi in a storm.

Pickets Driven In.

A sutler who came in from Langley's this morning reports that our outer pickets were driven in last night, and that General MCCALL'S division was under arms at 3 o'clock this morning. This was supposed to be preparatory to an advanced movement on Fairfax and Centreville.

Sick Soldiers.

Several sick soldiers were taken into the Patent Office hospital to-day.

Sad Accident.

While the Fifth Pennsylvania Reserve was drilling, and received the word to fire, one of the pieces was loaded, and the ball killed an artilleryman, and shattered the arm of another soldier, belonging to Colonel CAMPBELL'S First Artillery. I have not learned their names, but they are both from Pennsylvania.

Regiments from Western Pennsylvania.

Five regiments from Western Pennsylvania are expected to arrive here this week. Regiments from different parts of the country are being rapidly forwarded to take the places of the advanced guard.

"No Retreat!"

This is now the watchword of the advanced guard.

Movement of Marines.

A battalion of marines have left the navy yard under command of Major JOHN G. REYNOLDS, the father of the gallant Captain REYNOLDS who commanded the marines at the recent gallant exploit at the Pensacola Navy Yard. The battalion is officered as follows:

Captains, WILEY, GRAHAM, LEWIS, and GOLDSBOROUGH.

First Lieutenants, PARKER, HUNTINGDON, MONROE, and GRIMES.

Second Lieutenants, CORBIN, BARTLETT, SMALLEY, STURGEON, BRADFORD, DEVEROUX, STILLMAN, and MATTHEWS.

Adjutant, MCELRATH.

In addition to these, the battalion numbers a sergeant major, quartermaster sergeant, eight sergeants, twelve corporals, four musicians, and four hundred and fifty privates. They have been ordered to the United States steamer *Pawnee* for special service, no doubt to Old Point. From thence they will go South, under the command of Captain DUPONT, of the Southern squadron. While going down the river the *Pawnee* got aground, and the marines were transferred to the *Mount Vernon*.

The Marine Barracks is at present under the command of Lieutenant JAMES FORNEY.

FROM MISSOURI.

POINTOSCO, Mo., Oct. 16.—We have the following account of the attack on the Big River bridge yesterday morning:

The enemy was discovered approaching the buildings, about seven o'clock yesterday morning, by a German sentry, who gave the alarm. Our troops, numbering between forty and fifty men, instantly prepared for action, and although the force against them numbered somewhere near six hundred, under the lead of Jeff Thompson himself, they stood their ground, and from stone-piles and other places of shelter did good execution. They were finally surrounded, however, and obliged to surrender. Their loss was one killed and six wounded, while the rebel loss was five killed and four wounded.

Immediately after the surrender, the Federal prisoners were sworn by Jeff Thompson not to bear arms against the Southern Confederacy. The rebels then burnt the bridge, and speedily retired.

Jeff Thompson says that he has 5,000 mounted men in the vicinity, and that he intends to burn the other bridges on this road, and that Pilot Knob and Ironton would soon be attacked and captured.

The troops along the road have been ordered to Ironton by Col. Carlin, commanding that post, in anticipation of an attack.

A strong force is said to be in the vicinity, threatening our force at the terminus of the road.

Col. Carlin's force consists of the Thirty-third and Thirty-eighth Illinois, Twenty-first Indiana, and a detachment of Indiana cavalry, which, with our strong fortifications, is considered sufficient to repel any force the rebels have in that section until reinforcements can reach them.

From Kentucky.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., October 16.—A speedy movement of Buckner's forces from Bowling Green is anticipated from the fact of his annulling, last week, the contracts previously made for provisions for his army.

Another Political Arrest in Baltimore.

BALTIMORE, Oct. 16.—Robert Renwick, a cabinet maker doing business in North Howard street, was arrested to-day by order of the War Department, and sent to Fort McHenry.

Departure of the Niagara.

BOSTON, Oct. 16.—The steamship *Niagara* sailed this morning for Liverpool, with 32 passengers, but no specie list.

FROM GEN. BANKS' COLUMN.

RETURN OF AN ESCAPED PRISONER.

MUTINY OF TWO REBEL REGIMENTS.

DARNESTOWN, Oct. 14.—One of the soldiers of the New York Thirty-fourth, captured with others two weeks ago, while on a scout opposite Col. Lee Dawe's encampment, returned yesterday. He was taken to Fairfax Court House, from whence he escaped. He reports that there are no large bodies of rebel troops between the Great Falls and Leesburg.

Two of the six or eight rebel regiments which paid our troops their respects at the Great Falls, three weeks ago, have mutinied and left the rest. It is stated that they were Mississippians. The remainder of the force are scattered at Winchester, Martinsburg, Shepherdstown, and Hancock. There is a full regiment at the latter place, which, from the fact of its being the only post where salt could be obtained, was thought of sufficient importance to protect by a superior force. This accounts for the sudden disappearance from this quarter of the rebel army.

The war against liquor and liquor dealers is being successfully carried on. Thousands of dollars' worth have been destroyed and confiscated already.

The individual killed by a few drunken soldiers, near Neadsville, last week, was not a citizen, but one of their own number. The perpetrators of the riotous act are under arrest, and are to be tried by court martial.

Some of the regiments have not been fully supplied with their outfit of winter clothing, and these have been seriously reminded of the fact by the frosts of the past few nights.

All was quiet along the Potomac yesterday and to-day, from the Great Falls to the mouth of the Seneca.

Rabbit, the individual who sold liquor to the Connecticut Fifth, was arrested by the provost guard, and is now in charge of the marshal.

Letters directed to members of the Fifth Connecticut should now be directed to Williamsport, Md.

Jack Cross, the noted Secessionist, whose residence was within the pickets of the New York Thirty-fourth, secretly returned to his home this week. On receipt of information to this effect, he was arrested and sent to Poolesville for trial.

The Pennsylvania Twenty-ninth received two months' payment yesterday. Two months' more pay and allowances will be due about the first of next month.

From New Mexico.

INDEPENDENCE, Mo., Oct. 14.—The Santa Fe mail and Carson City Express reached here yesterday morning, bringing dates to the 1st instant. The conductor states that G. B. Miller, formerly sutler at Fort Wise, had gone South to raise troops, and move northward with them.

Major Lynde's command of released troops, under Captain Pollock, numbering 250 or 300 men, were passed on Wednesday last at the head of the Dry Fork, about 250 miles from here, on their way to the States. Captain Pollock, with a detachment of volunteers, was surprised, about thirty miles from Fort Craig, and himself, the second lieutenant, and nine men taken prisoners. They also captured three Government wagons. Captain Morris, of the Rifles, with a command of four companies, is in pursuit of them.

Eleven companies have been mustered into service in New Mexico, under Colonel Gallegor's command.

Indiana Troops.

INDIANAPOLIS, Oct. 16.—Indiana disputes the statement that New Hampshire is the first State that has her full quota of volunteers in actual service. Indiana, whose quota is 34,000, has 32 regiments of infantry, of 1,048 men each; one regiment of cavalry; fourteen companies, of 1,153 men; three batteries, of 156 men each, and one of a hundred men; making an aggregate of 35,357 men in actual service. In addition to this, there are six regiments now ready for the field, as soon as arms can be procured, and sixteen more organized and rapidly filling up.

Vermont.

MONTPELIER, Oct. 16.—In joint Assembly, today, George W. Bailey, Jr., was chosen Secretary of State.

Major General Butler, who is here on business relative to raising his New England brigade, today addressed the people in the hall of the House of Representatives, which was crowded to its utmost capacity.

The Fourteenth Regular Infantry.

NEW LONDON, Conn., Oct. 16.—The Fourteenth regular infantry left here yesterday-to-night for Jersey City, en route for Perryville, Md. The regiment is 800 strong, and under the command of Major Giddings.

From Boston.

BOSTON, Oct. 16.—Messrs. Dickinson and Abbott have written letters declining their nominations by the Union Republican Convention for Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General. Both, however, assert their unwavering support to the national flag.

Governor Andrew accepts the renomination for Governor.

Movements of Secretary Cameron.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Oct. 16.—Secretary Cameron, who is slightly indisposed, arrived here this afternoon. He will leave to-morrow morning for Lexington, en route for Cincinnati.

LATER FROM EUROPE.

Arrival of the Arabia.

HALIFAX, N. S., Oct. 16.—The steamship *Arabia*, from Liverpool, has arrived. Her dates are to the 5th inst., and to Sunday, the 6th, by telegraph, via Queenstown, two days later than received by the *North American* at Father Point.

The steamships *City of Manchester* and *Africa*, from New York, arrived at Liverpool on the 5th instant.

An insurrectionary movement had taken place at Gelsdz, in Russian Poland, and the mayor of that place had been killed.

Mr. Lindsay, member of the British Parliament, in a speech at Sunderland, gave it as his opinion that the English Government ought to urge the raising of the American blockade, and that both England and France should consider the expediency of recognizing the Southern Confederacy.

The financial depression continued in Paris, and there had been some agitation in that city, owing to the advanced price of bread.

The *Arabia* has 85 passengers and £6,462 in specie. She sailed at noon for Boston.

Among the passengers for Halifax are Major Doyle, the newly appointed commander at Halifax, and Hon. Arthur Gordon, Governor of New Brunswick.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Earl of Eglinton died on the 4th, from an attack of apoplexy.

Mr. Lindsay, member of Parliament from Sunderland, in addressing his constituents, touched upon the American question. He said, as it would be some time before cotton could be got elsewhere, he considered it the duty of the Government to endeavor to induce the United States Government, for the cause of humanity, to remove the blockade. Considering the bold stand made by the Confederates, and the strength of the South, he thought it almost time that the Governments of England and France thought of recognizing the independence of so numerous a body of people. (Cheers and some hissing.) It was evident that the North was not sincerely anxious to abolish slavery, which would never be removed by a servile war. The separation of the North and the South was much more likely to accomplish the object.

Captain Adams, of the American ship *Lamargier Sound*, from London for Calliao, was murdered off the coast of Devonshire, by the steward, a colored man, named Hawkins. The steward was hill-used by the captain, and revenged himself by murdering the deceased in a cold-blooded manner. The ship had returned to London, and Hawkins was under arrest, awaiting the issue of a warrant under the extradition treaty.

FRANCE.

Another Council of the Ministers, presided over by the Emperor, was held on the 3d.

A new pamphlet, entitled "The Rhine and the Vistula," and ascribed to very high inspiration, had appeared in Paris. It protests that France does not want the Rhine; that consequently Germany has nothing to fear from her; but as regards the Vistula, it argues that Russia has designs in that direction, and must by some her opportunity. To guard herself against Russia, Germany would encourage a reconstruction of Poland. The pamphlet is regarded as an effort to propitiate the King of Prussia on his approaching visit, and allay the apprehensions of Germany.

There had been agitation in some Paris faubourgs owing to the high price of bread. Seditious placards were reported to have appeared. Some arrests were made. It was stated that forty thousand workmen were out of employment at Lyons, but the authorities had got up workshops for them.

Troops had embarked at Toulon for Rome, to replace others in that city.

The Bourse continued depressed and falling. Rentes on the 4th closed at 68f. 30c.

The Paris money market was in a very uncertain state. The supply was short, and high rates were demanded.

A special meeting of the directors of the Bank of France was summoned for the 5th.

It is stated that at the last Cabinet Council, which extended over four hours, grain and bread were the principal objects of discussion.

ITALY.

The Bank of Turin had raised the rate of discount to 6½ per cent.

A strong naval expedition, with troops, had left Venice for the coast of Dalmatia and Fiume.

The intended popular demonstration at Palermo, in favor of the Italian troops proceeding to Rome, was prevented, owing to the precautionary measures of the Government.

The Pope had received the Siamese ambassadors at Rome.

At a recent Consistory, the Pope is said to have denounced, in the strongest terms, all compromise, calling on his supporters to be firm, and to have no communication with impious men.

It is asserted that the relations of the Italian and French