The Press.

THURSSDAY, AUGUST 14, 1862.

☞ We can take no notice of anonymous communications. We do not return rejected manuscripts.

☞ Voluntary correspondence solicited from all parts of the world, and especially from our different military and naval departments. When used, it will be paid for.

FORNEY'S WAR PRESS—STILL IMPROVING!—THE WAR PRESS, for SATURDAY, August 16, is now out. It contains a vast amount of reading, including a good account of the RECENT BATTLE between Stonewall Jackson's forces and the Union troops under General Pope.

CONTENTS:

A FINE ENGRAVING—Harrison Masston, Harrison's Landing, James River, the present Headquarters of Gen. McClellan's Army.

LEONA SOMERS—An Original Tale of the War, by "Essex."

NAMES AND REGIMENTS OF FOURTEEN HUNDRED SICK SOLDIERS who have arrived in Philadelphia this week. [This feature alone in the WAR PRESS makes it valuable to every family in the country, who have friends in the war. The names of all who arrive in this city, either sick or wounded, are published in THE WAR PRESS.]

EDITORIALS—Our Duty in the Crisis—Jefferson Davis, Traitor—A Rush of Recruits—Traitors Almost—D a ins Popular—Breckinridgers Winning—No Scarcity of Soldiers—Northern Fanaticism—Slanders of the Disloyal Press.

THE LETTERS OF "OCCASIONAL."

THE LATEST WAR BULLETINS—No Escape from the Draft—Arrest of Persons Discouraging Enlistments—Leaves of Absence, &c.

A WEEK'S NEWS SUMMARY.

CORRESPONDENCE—From Memphis — From the Army of Virginia—From the Mississippi Fleet—Our Army in Tennessee—From Fortress Monroe.

MISCELLANEOUS—Important Papers—Instructions in Preparing Claims for soldiers Pay—Astounding Developments Before a United States Grand Jury.

WAR WIT AND HUMOR.

CHOICE POETRY—Awake! Awake!—The Union—Prescription for Summer

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL — The Money Market—Philadelphia Produce Markets — Philadelphia and Harrisburg Cattle Markets.

TERMS OF THE WAR PRESS—Two Dollars a year, with great reductions to Clubs. It is the best weekly NEWSPAPER published.

THE WAR.

THE most important feature of the Southern news, which we print to-day, is the repetition of the statement that Baton Rouge has been retaken by Breckinridge. In some particulars the statement is undoubtedly true, but as a whole, it is extremely improbable. The rebel journals say that on the first day (Tuesday, Aug. 5,) Breckinridge was repulsed with heavy loss, one of his generals and a colonel being killed. This defeat, which no doubt really was sustained, was attributed to the non-arrival of the Arkansas. On Wednesday, however, Breckinridge pens a despatch claiming to have occupied the whole town and battle-field on Tuesday evening, having gained the victory by the assistance of the Arkansas, which *did* arrive in the afternoon. He speaks of having "cut them up badly," and boasts that he burned nearly all the camps, and a large amount of stores, besides killing a number of prominent officers, including General Williams. It detracts somewhat from the credibility of this despatch that it is dated "Ten miles from Baton Rouge." Successful generals do not usually date their bulletins ten miles from the scene of their victory. Our dates from New Orleans are to the 3d inst. The next arrival will probably bring us the intelligence that an attack was made upon Baton Rouge on the 5th, which resulted in the disabling of the Arkansas, and repulse of the rebel land force. At any rate, *Baton Rouge has not been retaken*, and this is the only point which is clearly established in the rebel despatches.

A DESPATCH from Culpeper Court House, published yesterday, says: "Jackson's loss can scarcely be less than fifteen hundred. Our loss is much less. The battle was decidedly the bloodiest of the war." This is evidently a mistake. If the losses are reported with anything like an approximation to correctness, the battle was *not* the bloodiest of the war, although, in proportion to the number engaged, it may rank among the most desperate. At Bull Run our loss was 1,590, and that of the rebels, according to their official statement, 1,593. At Pittsburg Landing our loss in killed, wounded, and missing was 5,000, and that of the enemy 6,000. Correspondents are so apt to exaggerate every feature of a battle, that if we are to be love them, each was more desperate than any other that ever had been fought. As to this particular contest, it was needless to magnify its desperate character. It was hotly fought, and ended in our gaining the field. The precipitation of Jackson's flight is the best evidence we could ask that it was purely from necessity, and not a "strategic movement," as a few would-be military critics of extraordinary astuteness have endeavored to persuade the public. Jackson has been credited with an almost infinite amount of finesse and dash; but these qualities appear to have availed him nothing in his last enterprise. Abandoning his wounded, he has fled ingloriously. He will hardly halt at Gordonsville to give battle, important as that position is to the rebels, but will probably move "on to Richmond," to escape annihilation.

GENERAL MCCLELLAN'S ARMY, it may now be admitted, is about to make a very important movement, the success of which is almost inevitable, if there be any value in skilfully laid plans, whose execution is entrusted to our ablest officers. What this movement is, we are not presumed to know, and, therefore, cannot at the present time divulge. Of this, however, we are confident, that it will startle and delight every Union-loving citizen, and carry apprehension to the breast of every traitor. Richmond is a doomed city. The aspect of affairs has totally changed since the week of battles. Then the prospect was all gloom, and the observation of the London *Times*, that "Richmond was safe for this year," seemed very like a truism. Three months have not yet passed, and the army is upon its feet again. Before another month elapses we shall see that army swelled to a million of men, *and we shall see some grand events transpiring.* The London *Times* of July 30th was of the opinion that our civil war would end with this summer. Has the *Times* stumbled for once upon a true prophecy? The news from McClellan will very soon enable us to decide this question.

FROM GEN. BURNSIDE'S army we learn that on Friday the rebels captured a wagon train, with six mules, near Fredericksburg, together with sixty-seven teamsters and soldiers, who had given out on the march, and had been picked up by the train. The wagons, eleven in number, also contained a large lot of blankets and commissary stores, belonging to Hatch's brigade. They had become separated from the balance of the train by some miles, and the rebel cavalry, coming from Guinney's, intercepted them.

THE NEWS.

HON. REVERDY JOHNSON has arrived in Washington. Mr. Johnson, our readers will recollect, was commissioned by the Government some weeks ago to proceed to New Orleans and take testimony, and report his opinion on the merits of the official acts of Gen. Butler in seizing certain large amounts of treasure in the custody of foreign consuls, and which Gen. B. assumed to have been evasively deposited for safety by rebel owners and rightfully forfeited to the United States. Mr. J.'s report, we understand, will be sent in a few days, and, according to the Washington *Intelligencer*, his decision in the cases is such, it is said, that, if concurred in by the Government, will remove all danger of difficulty arising from General Butler's seizures.

THE Great West is getting to be independent of Louisiana. The State of Ohio will produce *fifteen millions* of gallons of sorgho syrup this year. This is enormous. The importation of plantation molasses and refined syrups into Cincinnati, to supply Ohio and portions of Kentucky and Indiana, and the Kanawha Valley, has varied in quantity from three to five millions of gallons per annum.

A MOST dastardly occurrence took place last Thursday night at East Liberty, Summit county, Ohio, in which a band of Secessionists mobbed a meeting which was called for the purpose of raising soldiers for the war. Twelve of the ringleaders in this villainous proceeding have been arrested and put in jail at Akron.

FOUR men of Danbury, Connecticut, applied, on Saturday last, to a surgeon to have their hands dressed, three out of the four having deliberately severed the fore finger of their right hands, and the other the fore finger of the left hand—the latter mistaking the hand—and demanding a certificate of exemption from the draft. What should be done with such Secessionists?

THE St. Joseph's *Herald* says that Gen. Steuart has sent the following note to Brigadier General Loan, commanding the Northwest division of Missouri: SIR: I am ready to fight for the Government of the United States irrespective of any exemption to be found in the Missouri State militia law; but I am not disposed to place myself under the control of a commander-in-chief whose orders may be so construed as to take every loyal citizen from his home, and leave the Secessionists and neutrals to control the destinies of the State by paying the paltry sum of ten dollars.

THE rebels at Vicksburg have possession of the Star of the West, ocean steamer, and a Balize tug, and are piercing them for war vessels. The Star of the West is pierced for twenty-two guns. From twenty to thirty vessels constitute the extemporized war fleet which the Arkansas is gathering around her. They are mostly transports, and, of course, are not very formidable. The Prince of Wales Magenta, Natchez, Ben. McCulloch, Vicksburg, Ferd. Kennett, Louisville, and Mary E. Keene, are the names of some of the vessels.

SEVERAL of Ohio's regiments are full and running over, and her quota will be in camp by the 15th. And so all over the country. The people are responding to the call for a new army with enthusiasm, and next week there will be in camp 300,000 new soldiers for the Union.

THE Leavenworth *Conservative* says: "Last Sunday night at dusk a gang of rebels, numbering about 300, supposed to belong to the notorious Jackman, made their appearance at the Choteau trading post, and robbed the store of Mr. Dodd of about $800 worth of goods, and shot several times at a young man found in it, without effect. The lady of the house was compelled to open the door and let them in."

THE last annual report on the condition of the prisons of Great Britain presents a sorry picture. There is bad management, and the result is bad conduct. The cells are generally unwholesome, and the prisoners suffer from sickness. At Rye jail there are a boy of eight years, committed for stealing a telescope, which he sold for a penny, and a boy of fourteen, committed for swearing in the street.

ACCORDING to the latest official statements, the territory of Russia comprises 370,042 German square miles. This does not include the possessions of the Russo-American Company, and the territories of the Caspian and Aral lakes. Of these, European Russia, with the districts of Perm and Orenburg, comprises 90,134; the Caucasus, as far as it belongs to Russia, 8,033; Siberia, with the islands, the Amoor country and Sachalin, 262,745; the kingdom of Poland, 2,257; and Finland, 6,870 square miles.

OUR Nashville letter furnishes the sad details of the death of General McCook, whose death has been so promptly avenged by the assassination of General Caswell, in East Tennessee. Our correspondent *reiterates* his statement that Gen. McCook was shot while upon his knees, but not pleading for life.

A VARIETY of items of late Southern news appear on our first page. The claim that Baton Rouge has been retaken is again put forward, and another victory is announced in East Tennessee.

OUR Fortress Monroe correspondent informs us that Adjutant General Thomas has visited City Point in relation to the exchange of prisoners. The rebels speak of their recent act of perfidy as "an accident," and assure us that it shall be promptly rectified.

AN interesting *resumé* of affairs in the Crescent City to the 3d inst., is published in our columns to-day. Gen. Butler seems to be up to his eyes in correspondence.

AN IMPORTANT and rather spicy correspondence has been going on between General HALLECK and the rebel general LEE, extending over a period of nearly three weeks. The question at issue seems to have been the right of the United States Government to arrest and punish traitors—a right for which General HALLECK not unreasonably contends, but to the exercise of which General LEE, from personal considerations perhaps, strongly objects.

The cases of WILLIAM B. MUMFORD, reported to have been executed at New Orleans by order of Maj. Gen. B. F. BUTLER, and Col. JOHN OWEN, reported to have been executed in Missouri by order of Maj. Gen. POPE, are specially referred to by General LEE, and are made the occasion of his three epistles, the impudent tone of which General HALLECK very properly and curtly rebukes. We are pleased with the summary manner in which our Commander-in-Chief disposes of the rebel braggart, and sustains the honor of the Government. Gen. LEE'S pompous self-conceit has been punctured by three sharp and formal little sentences, and the result will be a collapse of the inflation. We publish this correspondence with gratification. We are not ashamed of its tone or its rhetoric.

ONE MORE STOUT PULL, Old Keystone! It is for life and for honor, directly for honor, indirectly for life. One more gathering of every energy! It is to repel the destruction of everything that you are, of everything that you can be. One more concentration of the innate force of every particle! One more effort of your dense atoms to preserve their cohesion! It is for their own integrity. It is for the maintenance of the whole stone's structure and feature. It is for the permanence of the mighty arch whose centre block you are. The welfare of each is inseparable from the welfare of all. Nay, in the vast articulation of national destinies which is slowly evolving from this wild chaos and anarchy of social and political upheavings, you, having a given poise, standing immovable in the centre, are the basis of the architecture of the world's regeneration. It is not chimerical to say it; for this aggregation of American units into one self-supporting arch is God's bow of promise to all peoples. The old landmarks are swept away. Torrents of doubt have engulfed them—but doubt heaven-born. The world had grown too corrupt. It was seething in pollution and rioting in every licentiousness. Conscience was cowardice; liberty was license; law was tyranny; and Despotism rode rough-shod in the tracks marked by the soft feet of Sensuality and Servility. On such an earth the windows of heaven were opened, and a wild tumult of clashing waters bore up the bark of the few nations saved. Tossed and whirled in sickening confusion, frightened, dizzied, bewildered, they have sent one messenger after another over the mad waters to see if a bird's footing of hope could be found. One by one have the generations gone out; but one by one have they returned again wet and weary. Not till now has the olive branch, peeping from salt depths, been seized; not till this nineteenth century swept out on the wing of faith and returned on the wing of triumph, could the nations "know that the waters were abated." They come forth purified, and, kneeling with their faces upward, our arch of liberty as a bow of promise greets them.

Shall we tear it down? Shall we let it fade? Must it all be a dreamy pageant of a summer shower? Or, letting our eye travel upwards, shall we recognize it only as the base of a vast architecture patterned on the heavens, mighty and beautiful, with column and cornice and dome?

The next few days must give an answer—one that will thrill through a score of generations yet unborn; the terrible answer of Republican liberty destroyed, or the fair encouragement of Republican liberty established. It depends on the individual exertion, the individual sacrifice of every man to-day; and our own noble State, tried so often, found wanting never, must again bear the brunt. It is not a calamity; it is an honor. We will vindicate the trust reposed in us. We will give our geographical position a moral support, and be, in deed, the Keystone of the arch. The prize is high; let not only our hopes, but our acts, touch and grasp it.

Therefore, one more stout pull, Old Keystone!

THERE lately died in Ireland, in the ninetieth year of his age, an aged prelate of the Protestant Church, who first wore the mitre, as Bishop of Cork, in 1806; and, subsequently translated (or promoted) to two other sees, was made Archbishop of Dublin in 1820, and Archbishop of Armagh and Primate and Metropolitan of all Ireland in 1822. This old gentleman, in addition, was prelate of the Order of St. Patrick, Almoner to Queen Victoria, Chancellor of Trinity College, Dublin, a Privy Councillor, and held other appointments of dignity and emolument. For over fifty years, his income, as Archbishop, averaged some $200,000 a year, but the Church Temporalities' Act of 1833 cut it down, after this occupant's death, to *only* $72,470 per annum, with a Palace at Armagh, free of rent. This humble successor of the Fishermen—the see of Armagh was founded in the year 444—received over $10,000,000 income during his forty years' occupancy, and, never having been married, it must be confessed that the old bachelor was pretty well provided for. He leaves over $5,000,000 to his relatives, chief among whom is his grand-nephew, the Marquis of Waterford.

This old man, Lord JOHN GEORGE DE LA POER BERESFORD, lived at Armagh rather like a Count Palatine than a lawned Archbishop. He was easy of access, very charitable, and truly liberal in his bearing to the ministers and members of other religious persuasions. At his funeral, the other day, there occurred one of the most remarkable scenes ever witnessed in Ireland—even more worthy of record than the memorable occasion when, in 1821, a guest of the then ultra-Protestant Ascendency Corporation of Dublin, the late DANIEL O'CONNELL, joined his civic hosts in drinking "The Pious, Glorious, and Immortal Memory," which had long been the charter-toast of the Orangemen of Ireland.

The funeral of the nonogenarian prelate of Armagh was almost a State Ceremonial. The Lord Lieutenant appeared as chief mourner, and Ulster King of Arms officiated as Master of the Ceremonies.

Noblemen and clergy, members of Parliament and farmers, inhabitants of the county and the city, mingled in that solemn procession, and, side by side, in that sad array, walked the Rev. Dr. DIXON, Roman Catholic Primate of Ireland, and the Rev. Dr. COOKE, Moderator (or official head) of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, representing the religious bodies to which they respectively belong.

Surely, since the Reformation, Ireland never saw a more truly Christian manifestation than this? Following the mortal remains of an aged Protestant prelate to his last earthly resting place, were the Roman Catholic Primate and the Presbyterian Moderator. Any thing more suggestive of that toleration which Christianity *ought* to exercise cannot be imagined. Over the tomb of the aged Protestant Primate the Catholic and the Presbyterian met, as if consummating a solemn truce, and virtually proclaimed charity, toleration, and love.

The Irish letter which records this fact, adds: "The late Primate was of a very conciliatory spirit towards other denominations. He was on very friendly terms with the late Roman Catholic Primate, Dr. CROLLY, and it appears that he was also on friendly terms with Dr. DIXON, the present Primate. Dr. COOKE, the present official head of the General Assembly, was always most friendly to the Established Church, and was one of the Primate's greatest admirers. It was nothing wonderful to see him in the procession; but his position beside the Roman Catholic Primate at the funeral of a Protestant prelate presented a union altogether unprecedented in the ecclesiastical history of Ireland." Would to God that, not in Ireland alone, such amiable tolerance was practised. Every where, mankind would be the better of it, and the happier too. How much better is this than enmity, which too often is exhibited among those who teach the Gospel of Peace and Charity. The event we chronicle is, indeed, unprecedented in Ireland, and truly creditable to all concerned.

THE DISTRESS in the cotton-working districts of Lancashire advances with a fearful increase. Rather than let the people starve, Parliament must give them the means of subsistence, either by a large money grant, or by a heavy rate on local property, or by taxing the whole nation to provide food and clothing for the out-of-work laborers and artisans. Our old enemy, the Thunderer, gently insinuates the latter, in these significant and regretful words: "Had we recognized the independence of the Southern States, we might indeed have involved ourselves in war, *but we should at least have avoided the cotton famine.* Lancashire is suffering thus far in the general behalf, and may urge a certain justice in her claim for a National Rate."

Meanwhile, individual charity has been appealed to, on behalf of these Lancashire people. Some immensely noblemen have subscribed, the highest sum being $5 000, where the donor's Lancashire property yields forty times that amount per annum. Queen VICTORIA, as Duchess of Lancaster, the revenues of which are her own private property, (about $60,000 per annum net income,) has subscribed $10,000, to relieve those "who have been plunged into destitution by no disinclination to maintain themselves by honest and independent labor, but by lamentable circumstances entirely beyond their control." This, being one sixth of her Lancaster income, is a liberal donation. As Archbishop HUGHES remarked, the other day, at a public dinner in Cork, the Queen, so liberal to the Lancashire cotton-spinners, who are starving on beef-steaks, did not contribute a dollar to the distressed Irish whom *we* fed in 1847. It remains to be seen, however, how the Queen will take a suggestion in a leading London paper, to transfer to this Lancashire Relief Fund the amount subscribed to raise a national monument to the late Prince ALBERT, reserving some twenty or thirty thousand dollars to raise a statue to his memory. The sum subscribed amounts to about $1,500,000, which would be of great use. Most probably, however, the starving people will ask for bread, and receive, from this Albert fund, only a stone statue!

LETTER FROM "OCCASIONAL."

WASHINGTON, August 13, 1862.

The better judgment among observing men in this quarter is, that our future operations in Virginia will be advantageous to the Federal arms. The fight of Saturday last was not only an evidence of the wise and admirable management of the *most uncomplaining and least captious soldier in the service*, General N. P. Banks, but a proof that the rebel plan of a new raid into the valley and upon Washington has been checked. How far the retreat of Jackson and Ewell is a feint, a short time will establish. Military authorities concur in the belief that it was a necessity. Should Gen. Pope be able to make his pursuit effectual—and he calls it a pursuit of a flying foe—the effect upon McClellan cannot fail to be most fortunate. That fine officer, according to all late advices, has brought his vast command into splendid discipline, and with the aid of the navy, may strike a crushing blow at any moment. Nothing but unforeseen events prevented his demonstration on Malvern Hill from being a great victory. As it was, the withdrawal of his troops from that important point was effected with signal success. Burnside waits calmly and vigilantly on his new base, and is in the best condition to receive an assault from the enemy, even if that enemy had not been worsted at Cedar Mountain on Saturday. I must be very general in these speculations. To be definite and particular might be more interesting to those who care only to know what is going on, but it would scarcely be patriotic.

Any intelligent spectator of the campaign, with the fact in view that the rebels were resolved to make the summer campaign as decisive as their occupation of the ground of the seceded States would enable them to do, must now admit that the Federal forces have secured great results. They have seized and held many important points, and have been forced to relinquish but few. At this writing, it would seem that the doom of the rebels was sealed in Virginia. And if this hope is fulfilled, we may look forward to a comparatively easy campaign in the Southwest. The approach of the fall months, and our immense preparations for more formidable operations, will go far to decide the struggle on the side of the Government. OCCASIONAL.

THE FOLLOWING suggestion we take from the New York *Times*. It is a good one. PARSON BROWNLOW has done so much good, here in the North, that we are convinced he would produce a wonderful effect in Europe. He is in himself an impersonation of loyalty, devotion, and suffering. He has been a Union man in good and bad report,—to the extent of confiscation, banishment, and the prison. He would command a welcome from those who love our cause, and the respect of those who do not:

To the Editor of the New York Times:

If the Rev. Mr. Brownlow was sent to Europe to repeat, in the principal cities, (with the assistance of Mr. Train,) similar discourses to those he has given in this country, and a large edition of his book were distributed among the booksellers and the newspapers throughout the United Kingdom, it would do much to enlighten the people, and thus counteract the London *Times* and all Secession efforts; and the British Government would never dare attempt intervention in opposition to the feelings of the nation. It would produce far greater effect than Mrs. Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin.*

The writer will give one hundred dollars toward this object, and will pledge himself to raise five hundred dollars more, provided a committee of responsible gentlemen is formed to carry out the design.

NEW YORK, Tuesday, July 29, 1862. G. W. S.

WE CALL attention to an advertisement of Major TAGGART in relation to his brother, who has been missing for some time. Various reports have been received, stating his death and his being wounded, but there is nothing definite. Any information as to his whereabouts will be thankfully received by his brothers.

AUCTION NOTICE—SALE OF BOOTS AND SHOES.—The attention of buyers is called to the large sale of 1,000 cases boots, shoes, brogans, &c., to be sold by catalogue, this morning, at 10 o'clock precisely, by Philip Ford & Co., auctioneers, at their store, No. 525 Market and 522 Commerce streets.

SPECIAL SALE OF HORSES.—We are requested to call attention to the special sale of fifty horses, to be held at Herkness' Bazaar, Ninth and Sansom streets, on Saturday morning at 10 o'clock.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Despatches to "The Press."

WASHINGTON, August 13, 1862.

Highly Important Movement.

One of the most important movements made since the war commenced is now in progress, and will probably result in an important victory, being no more nor less than the speedy downfall of Richmond. That it is nearly accomplished without the rebels being aware of it is of itself cause for sufficient congratulation, and while it opens the broad field of vigor and energy in the long-promised new war policy of the Government, but a short time will elapse before publicity will be given to this movement. Now, it would be quite improper to detail it. That Gen. POPE has succeeded most admirably in performing his part of the campaign need not for a moment be doubted.

Location of the Government Navy Yard.

The Secretary of the Navy has appointed, under the act of July 15, 1862, the following officers to constitute the board to examine and report on the relative fitness and capacity for use, as a Government navy yard, of League Island, in the Delaware river, the harbor of New London, Connecticut, and the waters of Narragansett Bay—viz: Rear Admiral SILAS H. STRINGHAM, Commodore WM. H. GARDNER, Captain JOHNS MARSTON and G. J. VAN BRUNT, and a so, Professor BACHE and W. P. SANGER, Esq., civil engineer. They meet at New London, Connecticut, on the 19th inst.

Pennsylvania Relief Association.

An interesting meeting of this association was held last evening. Its operations have been extended considerably during the past week, on account of the arrival of a large number of sick and wounded from the recent battle at Culpeper. These patients are principally confined in temporary hospitals at Falls Church, Va., where large and valuable supplies have been forwarded. Many of the soldiers have been returned to their regiments from hospitals in this city, and preparations are being effected for the accommodation of a new arrival. The storeroom of the association has been most lavishly furnished by the citizens of Pennsylvania, yet so great and constant is the demand that further donations are respectfully solicited. *Boxes directed to the "Pennsylvania Relief Association," Patent Office Building, Washington, D. C., in care of R. C. Hale, P. M. Quartermaster General, Harrisburg, Pa., will be forwarded to this point free of charge.*

Interesting Statistics about Dead Letters.

An act of Congress, approved January 21st, 1862, authorized the Postmaster General to return all dead letters, "except those containing circulars and other worthless matter, to their writers, whenever their names can be ascertained." Under the provisions of this act the whole number of dead letters not containing valuable enclosures sent out within six months, ended August 1st, was 476,703. Of these, 52,455 were returned because not called for; 9,658 were returned because refused; 2,830 were returned because writers moved away; 10,634 were returned because not known or found; 309 were returned because gone to war; 249 were returned because absent, and 683 were returned for various other causes—making the whole number returned 79,998, and leaving the number actually delivered 399,705.

The whole amount of postage received on these letters, at six cents each, was $23,982 30. Deduct expenses incurred in sending them out, $10,000, and there remains a gross revenue to the department of $13,982.30. Out of this sum postmasters will receive fifty per cent. for commissions on postage collected, $11,991 15, which would leave a net profit to the department, for six months, of $1,991.15, being at the rate of nearly $4,000 per annum.

In addition to the above, the following letters and packages were sent out to the writers or owners during the same period, viz: 41,151 letters held for postage; 5,909 letters containing money to the value of $23,605.54; 4,418 letters containing negotiable and other valuable papers; 4,100 packages of jewelry and of daguerreotypes; total, 55,378; which, added to 476,703 ordinary dead letters, makes the entire number sent out for delivery to writers and owners for one half year, 532,801.

It was stated in the last annual report of the Postmaster General that about 2,500,000 dead letters are annually received, and it was estimated that, excluding letters without the signature or address of the writer, and those containing circulars and manifestly worthless matter, 1,500,000, or three fifths, could be returned to the post office of the writer. It appears, however, that during six months past, out of 1,200,000 dead letters received at the department, but 532 801, being less than one-half, were returned to owners. The large number of letters written by persons in the military service of the United States, whose locality could not be ascertained, contributed very considerably to this result; but the proportion of ordinary dead letters, which cannot or should not be restored to the writers, is found to be much greater than was anticipated before making the experiment.

Joseph H. Squiers, Esq., of San Francisco, California, is appointed to a clerkship in the Pension Office, Interior Department.

Recruiting for the Rebel Army in Maryland.

Last night a patrol from the New York 9th Cavalry, under Lieut. HOLMES, entered Rockville, Md., and finding a man named PERRIE TRAIL about leaving under suspicious circumstances, questioned him. He would give no satisfactory account of himself, nor take the oath of allegiance, and attempted to shoot one of the guards in whose charge he was placed. He was brought to the provost's office this morning, and sent to the Old Capitol Prison.

The guard also searched the house of W. V. BOWIE, and found thirty-one rifles and old muskets, with accoutrements, the plates bearing the Maryland coat-of-arms. Evidence was obtained that there had been a rebel recruiting office in the village, from which several recruits had been forwarded South.

Wounded Officers from the Late Battle.

The following officers, wounded in the recent action near Slaughter's mountain, are at the Metropolitan Hotel:

Col. W. R. Creighton, 7th Ohio; Major C. E. Fulton, 66th Ohio; Lieuts. Eaton, Reed, and Hopkins, 7th Ohio; Captain J. J. Wright, 29th Ohio; Lieut. Stewart, Co. C, 29th Ohio; Lieut. E. J. Hulbert, 29th Ohio; W. N. Clark, Co. K, 66th Ohio; Lieut. Dice, Co. K, 29th Ohio; Capt. S. T. McMorran.

Lieuts. Grafton, Robinson, and Oakley, of the 2d Massachusetts Regiment, are at the National.

Capt. Pitcher and Lieut. Noble, of the Eighth Infantry, United States army, arrived yesterday morning, and are at the Kirkwood House.

From Pope.

There is no special news from POPE to-night, though the peaceful occupation of Orange Court House, or its capture, as a result of the battle, is almost momentarily anticipated here. The final struggle for Gordonsville cannot be much longer delayed. Every indication leads to the belief that POPE is pressing the rebels very hard. They may make no stand at Orange, but will at Gordonsville. This is the state of affairs reported by arrivals to-night from Culpeper. Gen. GEARY arrived to-night. His wounds permit him to come thus far by rail. He is doing well.

General Casey Assigned to Duty.

Brigadier General CASEY has been assigned to duty in receiving and encamping the troops as they arrive in this city from the several States.

Orders have been issued by the Secretary of War to the commanding officers of all armories and arsenals in the United States to administer the oath of allegiance to all the employees under their command.

General Geary Coming Home.

A private despatch, dated Culpeper, Va., this morning, says that Brigadier Gen. GEARY did not lose his arm, in the late battle, as was reported. The despatch adds that the General left for home this morning.

General Augur.

General AUGUR will proceed to-morrow to his home in Western New York. He is recovering from his wound.

Bad for Post Office Clerks.

The Postmaster General has issued an order requiring postmasters to dismiss all employees appointed since the draft was ordered.

Naval Orders.

Acting Assistant Paymaster George C. Boardman has been ordered to the steamer Norwich. Acting Assistant Paymaster Samuel B. M. Warnell is ordered to the gunboat Keneo. Acting Assistant Paymaster W. E. Foster is ordered to the steamer Clifton.

EDWARD F. CLIFTON, of Vermont, has been appointed third assistant engineer, and ordered to the steamer Connecticut. FREDERICK D. STUART, of New York, third assistant engineer, is ordered to the James river flotilla.

Washington Items.

To-day Secretary SEWARD formerly recommended to the employees in his department, that they furnish as many soldiers for the war as there are persons fit for duty below the age of forty-five. Of the entire number fifteen are capable for this purpose. The Secretary, at the same time, pledged himself to furnish three substitutes. The clerks promptly responded, and it is understood that ten or eleven men have already been supplied by them, either personally or by substitute. The remainder to complete the quota will doubtless soon be forthcoming. Two of the clerks will leave Washington to enter the service elsewhere.

The following are the only regular banks of issue in the District of Columbia, and whose notes are received as bankable, viz: The Bank of the Metropolis, the Bank of Washington, the Patriotic Bank of Washington, the Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank, and the Bank of Commerce, of Georgetown. This information is given for the protection of the distant public.

Advices from Culpeper dated yesterday say that, owing to the severe injury received by General BANKS, the command of the Second Corps d'Armée devolves upon Gen. WILLIAMS. Brig. Gen. CRAWFORD commands Gen. WILLIAMS' division, and Gen. GREEN the division of Gen. AUGUR, who is severely, but not dangerously, wounded.

An escaped prisoner saw at Orange Court House Gen. PRINCE and Capt. WATKINS, in the hands of the enemy, on their way to Richmond.

On visiting the battle-ground, many, if not the greater part, of our dead officers were found, some partially, and others entirely stripped of their uniforms. The dead, Union and rebel, lay around promiscuously. Generals STEWART and EARLY held the field, and conversed freely with our own officers about the battle. They stated that the full brigades of Generals A. H. HILL, LONGSTREET, and EWELL were opposed to our small band of heroes, and that they were terribly cut to pieces by our fire, leading to the inference that they suffered as much as ourselves. As previously stated, JACKSON commanded the field in person. General ROBERTS, of General POPE'S staff, is military governor of the post at Culpeper.

The sick and wounded from Culpeper have been all placed in the hospitals to-day in Alexandria and Washington. They are doing well, there being no deaths.

Important Correspondence.

LETTER FROM GEN. LEE—RESPONSE OF GEN. HALLECK.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA, July 21, 1862.

GENERAL: It has come to my knowledge that many of our citizens, engaged in peaceful avocations, have been arrested and imprisoned because they refused to take the oath of allegiance to the United States, while others by hard and harsh treatment have been compelled to take an oath not to bear arms against that Government. I have learned that about one hundred of the latter class have recently been released from Fortress Monroe.

This Government refuses to admit the right of the authorities of the United States to arrest our citizens and extort from them their parole not to render military service to their country, under the penalty of incurring punishment in case they fall into the hands of your troops.

I am directed by the Secretary of War to inform you that such oaths will not be regarded as obligatory, and the persons who take them will be required to render military service. Should your Government treat the rendition of such service by these persons as a breach of parole, and punish it accordingly, this Government will resort to retaliatory measures as the only means of compelling the observance of the rules of civilized warfare.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant, R. E. LEE, General Commanding.

To Major General G. B. MCCLELLAN, commanding Army of the Potomac.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, WASHINGTON, Aug. 13, 1862.

Major General G. B. McClellan, commanding the Army of the Potomac.

GENERAL: I have just received from the Adjutant General's office your letter of July 30th, enclosing a letter from Gen. R. E. Lee, of July 21st. The letters of Gen. Dix and Major Wood will furnish you with the proper information for a reply to General Lee's complaints in regard to the treatment of prisoners at Fort Monroe.

The Government of the United States has never authorized any extortion of oaths of allegiance or military paroles, and has forbidden any measures to be resorted to tending to that end. Instead of extorting oaths of allegiance and paroles, it has refused the application of several thousand prisoners to be permitted to take them and return to their homes in the rebel States. At the same time this Government claims, and will exercise the right, to arrest, imprison, or place beyond its military lines, any persons suspected of giving aid and information to its enemies, or of any other treasonable act; and if the persons so arrested voluntarily take the oath of allegiance, or give their military parole, and afterwards violate their plighted faith, they will be punished according to the laws and usages of war.

You will assure General Lee that no unseemly threats of retaliation, on his part, will deter this Government from exercising its lawful rights over both persons and property, of whatsoever name or character.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant, H. W. HALLECK, General-in-Chief, U. S. Army.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE U. S., NEAR RICHMOND, Va., Aug. 2, 1862.

To the General commanding the Army of the United States, Washington:

GENERAL: On the 29th of June last I was instructed by the Secretary of War to inquire of Maj. Gen. McClellan as to the truth of alleged murders, committed on our citizens, by officers of the United States army. The cases of William B. Mumford, reported to have been murdered at New Orleans by order of Major Gen. B. F. Butler, and Col. John Owen, reported to have been murdered in Missouri, by order of Major Gen. Pope, were those referred to. I had the honor to be informed by Major Gen. McClellan that he had referred the inquiries to his Government for a reply. No answer has as yet been received. The President of the Confederate States has since been credibly informed that numerous other officers of the army of the United States, within the Confederacy, have been guilty of felonies and capital offences, which are punishable by all laws, human and divine. I am directed by him to bring to your notice a few of those best authenticated. Newspapers received from the United States announce as a fact that Major General Hunter has armed slaves for the murder of their masters, and has thus done all in his power to inaugurate a servile war, which is worse than that of the savage, inasmuch as it superadds other horrors to the indiscriminate slaughter of all ages, sexes, and conditions. Brig. Gen. Phelps is reported to have initiated at New Orleans the example set by Gen. Hunter on the coast of South Carolina. Brig. Gen. G. N. Fitch is stated in the same journals to have murdered, in cold blood, two peaceful citizens, because one of his men, while invading our country, was killed by some unknown person while defending his home. I am instructed by the President of the Confederate States to repeat the inquiry relative to the cases of Mumford and Owen, and to ask whether the statements in relation to the action of Generals Hunter, Phelps, and Fitch are admitted to be true, and whether the conduct of these generals is sanctioned by their Government.

I am further directed by his Excellency the President to give notice that, in the event of not receiving a reply to these inquiries within fifteen days from the delivery of this letter, it will be assumed that the alleged facts are true and sanctioned by the Government of the United States. In such event, on that Government will rest the responsibility of the retribution or retaliatory measures which shall be adopted to put an end to the merciless atrocities which now characterize the war against the Confederate States.

I am, most respectfully, your obedient servant, R. E. LEE, General Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, WASHINGTON, Aug. 7, 1862.

General R. E. Lee, commanding, etc.

GENERAL: Your letter of July 6th was received at the Adjutant General's office on the 14th, but supposing from its endorsement that it required no further reply, it was filed without being shown to the President or Secretary of War. I learn to-day, for the first time, that such a letter had been received, and hasten to reply.

No authentic information has been received in relation to the execution of either John Owen or Mumford, but measures will be taken to ascertain the facts of these alleged executions, of which you will be duly informed.

I need hardly assure you, General, that so far as the United States authorities are concerned, this contest will be carried on in strict accordance with the laws and usages of modern warfare, and that all excesses will be duly punished.

In regard to the burning of bridges, &c., within our lines by persons in disguise as peaceful citizens, I refer you to my letter of the 22d of January last, to General Price. I think you will find the views there expressed as not materially differing from those stated in your letter.

In regard to retaliation by taking the lives of innocent persons, I know of no modern authority which justifies it, except in the extreme case of a war with any uncivilized foe, which has himself first established such a barbarous rule. The United States will never countenance such a proceeding, unless forced to do so by the barbarous conduct of an enemy who first applies such a rule to our own citizens.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant, H. W. HALLECK, General-in-Chief United States Army.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY CONFEDERATE STATES, NEAR RICHMOND, Va., Aug. 2, 1862.

To the General commanding United States Army, Washington:

GENERAL: In obedience to the order of his Excellency the President of the Confederate States, I have the honor to make to you the following communication:

On the 22d of July last, a cartel for a general exchange of prisoners of war was signed by Major General Dix on behalf of the United States, and by Major General D. H. Hill on the part of this Government. By the terms of that cartel it is stipulated that all prisoners of war hereafter taken shall be discharged on parole until exchanged. Scarcely had the cartel been signed when the military authorities of the United States commenced a practice changing the character of the war from such as becomes civilized nations into a campaign of indiscriminate robbery and murder. A general order issued by the Secretary of War of the United States, in the city of Washington, on the very day that the cartel was signed in Virginia, directs the military commanders of the United States to take the property of our people for