The Press.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 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.

THE WAR.

To-day we have news from the headquarters of the army in Maryland, giving details of the magnificent victory which was foreshadowed in our despatch of yesterday. The result has not disappointed us, but rather strengthened our conviction that our enemy is rapidly and inevitably being "pushed to the wall" by the army of General McClellan. We have, doubtless, suffered severely in these contests of Tuesday and Wednesday. One of our bravest generals, who won illustrious honor in the Mexican campaign, has been killed, several other officers of equal rank are reported wounded, and our entire loss is placed at 10,000. This estimate (it cannot possibly be anything else) will very probably dwindle down with the return of the missing, and a calmer view of the extent of the casualties; but the carnage has indeed been terrible, and we await the list of the killed and wounded with anxiety and dread. The Pennsylvania Reserves held a position on the front of our right wing, which General Hooker commanded. On Tuesday evening they were briskly engaged for two hours, driving the enemy backward half a mile, and on Wednesday they renewed the contest, gaining a mile of ground by the most indomitable valor, only to have it wrested from them, inch by inch, by the then desperate enemy. Nevertheless, their heroism, and that of the other divisions, was not fruitless, and before nightfall the rebels were driven from every position which they had essayed to hold. Their loss must be as heavy, if not heavier than ours. Essentially they have sustained an inglorious defeat, and really their capitulation, retreat, or annihilation, becomes almost inevitable. Their combined army in Maryland has been so badly cut up that all organization must certainly be lost; weeks and months would be required to reconstruct it, and such delay is its only chance of escape from the trap into which it has thrust itself. Gen. McClellan does not intend that it shall have time to recuperate; his army has suffered greatly by fatigue and the casualties of battle, but every source of strength is open to it, and before many days it can gather up all its energies afresh, to smite the audacious enemy who now confront it upon loyal territory.

Ordinarily we might regard the contest, which now lulls only to gather fresh fury, as indecisive; but considering that it has fearfully weakened the enemy, without materially or in the same degree weakening our almost inexhaustible strength, it can fairly be regarded as deciding the ultimate triumph of the Union. We may not see its results to-day, or this week, but they are already being wrought out, and we may expect to see their influence in the increased desperation and bitterness of the foe, when the next, and we hope the last battle, shall take place upon the Upper Potomac.

THE NEWS.

We print, to-day, the record of one of the most appalling calamities that have happened in the United States for years. We refer to the explosion of the Pittsburg Arsenal, on Wednesday, when the loss of life was as great, and the injuries inflicted as fearfully shocking, as in many a hard-fought battle. Occurring in the immediate vicinity of a densely populated city, the scene, and its attendant incidents, we can readily imagine, were of a heart-rending character. We truly sympathize with the sufferings of the numerous unfortunates, who, either personally, or in the loss of their relatives and friends, have been the victims of this dire accident, and hope that measures will promptly be taken to extend to them such aid as their deplorable situation suggests.

The Southern news which we present to-day will prove of particular interest to mercantile and fanciscio-loving people. It will be seen that the principal source of revenue to the rebel treasury is the manufacture and circulation of paper money. While lithographers and engravers flourish, the supply of this article can always be kept fully up to the demand.

The outbreak of the Sioux Indians is still unquelled. An account of the siege of Fort Abercrombie by the "noble savage," is printed elsewhere.

The particulars of the fall of Harper's Ferry, and of the death of Colonel Miles, which we give to-day, possess a melancholy and touching interest. The material loss to our cause was heavy, 11,583 men having been taken and mostly paroled, and about 50 pieces of ordnance and 72,000 rations seized. Some horses likewise fell into the enemy's hands.

Our Hagerstown correspondence describes some recent achievements of the Anderson Cavalry Troop, and details the arrival at Chambersburg of the cavalry which escaped from Harper's Ferry.

Attorney General Bates, at the request of Secretary Smith, gives his opinion that the third section of the pension act of 1862 entitles the mother of a deceased soldier to a pension, whether she be married or a widow, provided she was dependent upon him for support, in whole or in part, and the question whether she was so dependent, and how far, is one of fact, to be decided in each case by evidence.

The father of General Isaac Ingalls Stevens died at Andover, Mass., on the 22d ultimo, ten days before his son fell nobly fighting for his country. His age was seventy-seven.

General Pope telegraphs from the West that the Indian difficulties in Minnesota are more formidable than he anticipated. He asks for authority to have two regiments of volunteers mounted, to pursue the Indian war parties. The eleven thousand men surrendered at Harper's Ferry, by Col. Miles and Gen. White, are to be sent to the West to be used against the Indians. They can at once be made useful, and they would not serve against the rebels for some time to come.

A despatch from Baltimore furnishes us with the names of the following Pennsylvanians who have recently died in the hospitals at Lynchburg, Va.: John Steward, Co. I, 29th Regiment; J. McCourt, Co. F, 110th; Jacob Slipfer, Co. D, 27th; David Harps, Co. B, 29th; Dennis Lannan, Co. E, 29th; P. Donahue, Knapp's Battery; A. L. Munson, Co. G, 46th Regiment; W. C. King, Co. C, 46th.

Gov. Ramsay, of Minnesota, in his message to the Legislature on the 9th instant, estimates the number killed in course of the Indian atrocities to be five hundred. All the wealth of the districts over which the spoiler has swept has been wantonly sacrificed, and thirty thousand people have been involved in the consequences. To cover this loss the Governor suggests that the United States Government be petitioned to appropriate the annuities due the Minnesota Indians, amounting to $2,000,000, for the benefit of the losers.

To Col. Wilder, of the 17th Indiana, who was in command at Munfordville, belongs imperishable honor, and the country will ever bear his name in grateful remembrance. The rebel general sent to demand the surrender of Munfordville, adding that Wilder's forces were completely surrounded. To this demand his only reply was, "Come and take it." How the fight, which ensued, has terminated, our readers already know. Besides the immense number of rebels killed and wounded, they retreated, leaving on the ground two of their guns.

Another letter from Parson Brownlow appears in *The Press* to-day. It thoroughly exposes the perfidy and audacity of the rebel General Kirby Smith, who is now chiefly notorious for *not* having marched to Cincinnati; and concludes in the Parson's usual trenchant style.

Judge Kelley.

A Democratic evening newspaper of this city attacks the Hon. Wm. D. Kelley, by asking why "he and other Republican candidates and patriots are not high privates in the ranks of the gallant army for the defence of the Commonwealth." There is nothing more base than these attempts to make an invidious distinction as to the party proclivities of the men who are serving their country in the ranks of our army. To us they are neither Democrats nor Republicans—but patriots. They are our brothers, and we honor them. We are glad to see the Hon. Chas. J. Biddle in the ranks again, although we cannot refrain from expressing the hope that he will not, as before, abandon his post before the enemy, and go into Congress when there is prospect of an active campaign. So far as Judge Kelley is concerned, the best answer to the reflection upon his courage is to be found in the fact *that he is now in Chambersburg, serving as a private in Captain* Miller's *artillery company.* Judge Kelley has been a member of this company almost since its organization, and when it was called into the field, he put on his uniform and went into the ranks. We might fill this column with the names of other Republicans who have done likewise—candidates for Congress and other important positions, who have quietly taken their places in the ranks, without taking the trouble of writing a letter to the Mayor, and publishing their intentions to the world. It is such a dishonorable thing, however, to engage in a discussion like this, that we do not wish to have anything to do with it. As Judge Kelley, however, has been slandered in his absence, we hasten to do him justice.

What shall be done with the Southern Army, if Captured.

The remark of Mrs. Glass, that we should first catch the fish, then cook it, must not be forgotten in our anticipations of the capture and disposal of the rebel forces in Maryland; but a grave question arises when we contrast the manner in which the authorities of the United States recognize the principle of *parole*, and the manner in which this principle is violated by the Southern traitors. A Union soldier would no more think of breaking his parole than of joining the rebel army. We met, a few days ago, our excellent friend, Col. John K. Murphy, of the 29th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers, and in answer to our congratulation that he had returned to his home, he manifested the most anxious desire to be exchanged, and relieved from his parole, in order that he might once more unsheath his sword against the traitors. We have seen paroled Union officers and privates, in Washington, and they seem to be oppressed with the weight of the obligation which their sense of honor compelled them to acknowledge, and disabled them from serving their country. This manly spirit does not animate the rebels. Hundreds of instances could be cited where rebel prisoners released upon parole have been afterwards found fighting under the flag of Jefferson Davis. It is, therefore, a grave question what policy is to be pursued in reference to those rebel prisoners who may remain upon our hands, after our own prisoners have been released upon a fair exchange. Are these to be paroled, with the fact staring us in the face that others thus set free have, whether with their own consent or by compulsion, broken faith and again taken up arms against us? Our conquest of the rebellion must be a farce, unless we determine to make such a disposition of rebel prisoners as will prevent them from re-entering the rebel service. In this way the war may be brought to a speedy close. Where these prisoners are to be placed, and how they are to be subsisted and guarded, are, of course, matters belonging to the Administration; but it is the duty of the authorities at Washington to anticipate and to prevent, the enormous evil of paroling a great body of rebel prisoners who, like the traitors who have taken the oath of allegiance, will accept their parole, and go forth at once to break it. Men who follow leaders like Jefferson Davis and Howell Cobb, who have heartlessly disregarded their oath to support the Constitution of the United States, will have little hesitation in defying their word of honor.

Cause and Effect.

The recent successes of the rebels have astonished the country, and will, no doubt, astonish Europe. There were those who believed that the struggle would be a hard and a long one; but no one ventured to assert that a rebel army would ever dare to invade the loyal North. The South have, undoubtedly, able officers and generals, and, perhaps, a certain military element in an idle population which, though useless in time of peace, and not adding to the wealth of a nation, furnishes yet excellent materials for making soldiers. The abolition of the law of primogeniture, and the distaste for labor, has created in the South the class of "Poor Gentlemen," which, in all countries, is but too glad to take the profession of arms. The sacrifices which these men make to the cause of the rebels are in keeping with their tastes, and offer them chances which would never dawn upon them in times of law and order. There are, undoubtedly, instances in which men of fortune, character, and standing have volunteered their services in the South; but they are the exceptions rather than the rule. The superior discipline of which the Southern army boast (but which we deny) might be accounted for in the same manner. In the North, where everybody is obliged to work, and where the men of fortune themselves prefer a regular occupation to unproductive leisure, comparative equality exists among all classes, and renders subordination a new and unwelcome duty. In the South, a handful of men has always made public opinion for a whole State, and now a single man is shaping the destiny of what they are pleased to call their Confederacy—a thing held together by external pressure, and not by the cohesive attraction of its members. Deference to the views of the wealthy and influential, and obedience to the will of a man in superior position, are characteristics of the Southern people. The poorer classes of the South are used to being commanded, and the wealthy feel at home in making use of the privilege of commanding them. In the North, discipline and obedience to superiors had to be established, as a habit, which required time, and could only be effected by the process to which General McClellan resorted for changing recruits into veterans.

Another reason why the rebels have been able to act with so much energy, is the complete unanimity of sentiment produced by the most absolute intolerance of all thoughts and feelings savoring of loyalty to the Union. The men who differed from those who led were driven from home, imprisoned, forcibly enrolled into the army, or hung; while the arrests which have been made in the Northern States were severely commented upon by the press, though in nearly all instances the prisoners were set at liberty on taking the oath of allegiance. The principal object sought to be attained was the assurance of loyalty of suspected persons; and though there may be a diversity of opinion as to the expediency of the measure, there can be no comparison between it and the wholesale proscriptions practised toward loyal Union men throughout the Southern States. There is no Government on earth, not even that of Persia or Turkey, in which the will of a single man is executed with such unsparing and all-pervading despotism as in the so-called "Confederate States," and if such tyranny now prevails in Rebeldom itself, what measure of liberty could the Northern States expect to enjoy, if coerced, by military force, to receive laws at its hands?

If the South have, thus far, had the best of the struggle, it was the success of despotism over republican freedom—an instance often witnessed in history—but which has never been of long duration, unless the republican spirit opposed to it was divided or demoralized. In such a struggle we must always expect the first successes to be on the side of Despotism; the permanent victory will be on the side of the Republic, unless from the supineness and cowardice of its citizens, it deserve to perish.

One thing, however, is certain: the rebels are not only fighting our armies—they also fight the ideas of the North, and these can never be conquered on the battle-field. The idea of freedom, born with the French Revolution of 1789, was neither stifled by the infamous Reign of Terror of 1793, nor did it die on the battle-field of Waterloo. The monarchs who assembled at the Congress of Vienna, and who fulminated their decrees of political excommunication against the liberty of peoples at the Congresses o Laibach and Verona, little thought that in less than a generation constitutional freedom would recover all its lost ground, and, in turn, subjugate Despotism.

The South, which is now fighting, staking its life and its wealth on the maintenance of slavery, little dreams that its greatest success would be its most certain destruction. If the Southern "Confederacy" were recognized tomorrow, and allowed to organize on the principle of slavery, an abolition party would at once spring up in its very midst, more formidable and pernicious than any the pressure of which the South felt during its continuance in the Union. The dreaded phantom would then be seizing it by the throat; it would sit in the Southern Congress, and aspire to supreme control. Where would then be the Federal power which the South has so often invoked for its protection? Southern politicians have always feared this last and terrible consequence of the agitation of slavery, and have also recognized the impossibility of avoiding it. The very efforts which the South would make against the inroads of the anti-slavery principle would hasten the catastrophe.

Could the South be successful in the present struggle, it would not tolerate a single free State in its Confederacy, or any State in which the Abolition element can take permanent root. This would transfer the agitation to the Southern border States, between which and the cotton States there would soon exist the same antagonism which led to the hostile feeling between the North and South in the old Union. Jeff. Davis, in one of his former messages, already expressed his regret that the Southern Confederacy should have attempted "more than it was equal to;" that is, he regretted the taking in of the border slave States. This view was undoubtedly shared by the majority of his Cabinet, and is not likely to be surrendered on account of the temporary successes of the rebel arms. In no case will a Southern Confederacy consent either to the emancipation of slavery in one of the States, or to the admission of a State without the establishment of slavery within its borders.

Governor Curtin.

Honest praise to Andrew G. Curtin, Governor of Pennsylvania, should be, and is, uttered by every loyal heart in our great old State. He has done his duty. His promptitude, his vigor, and his enthusiasm, have contributed much to elevate the character of Pennsylvania throughout the world. She has given more troops, proportionably, than any other State, and has sent forward, besides, nearly one hundred thousand of her sons to defend her border, and, if necessary, to pursue the traitor hordes of Lee and Jackson. It is something to live in a historical age, to be able to deal with great events, and to respond to the exacting expectations of an enthusiastic people, and we are glad to say that Gov. Curtin, in his eminent position, has proved himself to be fully equal to the dangers and responsibilities of the time.

LETTER FROM "OCCASIONAL."

Washington, Sept. 18, 1862.

Are we approaching the end of the war? Is the rebellion to be speedily crushed? Is peace at hand? These are the questions that are now exciting every household in the loyal States, that disturb the dreams of the statesman, that revive the cupidity of the capitalist, and that enter into the calculations of the politician. If either of these classes could be assured that there was a certainty of the immediate ascendency of the Government of the United States, how their visions would be confirmed, and their theories would be realized! The Union victories on the border of Pennsylvania have produced their natural consequences. The honest statesman feels that his confidence in the Government has not been misplaced; the trembling capitalist and financier congratulates himself that his loyalty is sure to be rewarded by a large premium, and the politician who has announced his heartfelt devotion to the Union, looks forward to a compensating majority in the coming elections. It is astonishing what an effect the mere rumor of victory produces among the masses of the American people. They catch at it with eagerness, and are so anxious to believe that our cause cannot fail that they give willing credence even to the sensation fabrications of the hour. They are indisposed to credit the tidings of defeat set forth before their eyes in the most accurate official despatches. But I regret to say that there is a large class in the free States who do not respond to this popular feeling. This class is composed of men who have argued themselves into the belief that this war, for the preservation of the Union, is an unjust war, because they have had no hand in the managing of it. One of their leaders said, the other day, that it was a job that belonged to the Democratic party, and that Mr. Lincoln's Administration could not settle it. They forget that they are chiefly responsible for the war, and, therefore, less qualified honorably to adjust it. They hold off, and quietly advise their followers not to enlist in the army, and, like wreckers upon a rock-bound coast, wait to see the old ship of the Union go to pieces, in order that they may prey upon the treasures that may be thrown upon its shores. These partisans have habitually declaimed against the imbecility, the incertitude, and the inconsistency of the Administration; and have a thousand times predicted, in the midst of their whispered expressions of sympathy for the common enemy, that Mr. Lincoln had neither the honesty nor the energy to close out the rebellion. Well, the reverse has proved to be the fact. Mr. Lincoln's Administration is about to do the work. Call it weak, vacillating, or inconsistent, it has, at any rate, proved that it is equal to the crisis. The novelty of the rebellion, its atrocity, its perseverance, and its unexpected resources, would have startled, and might have terrified, the most powerful despotism in the world. It did not find Mr. Lincoln and his advisers prepared, and their efforts and their shortcomings might undoubtedly have been charged upon the administration which even Andrew Jackson himself was the chief. These facts will likely bring about a new demonstration of loyalty and devotion to the Government in certain quarters. Success is, after all, the great magician. When we have triumphed in this great struggle for the Union and the Constitution we shall be surprised to find how many who have resisted the prosecution of the war will prove that they were among the original supporters of the policy of the Administration of Mr. Lincoln.

That happy class, headed by that false, facile, and shameless politician, Horatio Seymour, of New York, who exult in the distresses of their country, and, when they cannot help the rebellion, openly labor to embarrass the Administration that is trying to put it down, will come forward and attempt to prove that their criticisms upon the President and upon the Union party were the elements that produced the crowning victory. These wretched and desperate demagogues are looking forward to the time when they may claim General McClellan as their leader. In the hour of victory they will attempt to make good this claim. They will employ every artifice to show that he has been opposed and embarrassed by certain ultra men, and that they have always stood firmly by his side. Had General McClellan depended upon such friends as these, the great fame that awaits him would never have been his. They began by hostility to the war, and by sympathy with the rebellion; and when they found that these would not profit them, they devoted themselves to opposition to the Administration which has so steadily, so earnestly, and so heartily sustained him. But on this subject I shall have much to say in other letters.

Occasional.

Atlantic Monthly for October.

A very good number of a deservedly popular magazine. That excellent contributor, "A Peaceable Man," (Nathaniel Hawthorne,) eschewing war and politics, gives a charming sketch of Leamington Spa, the English Saratoga, close to Warwick Castle and famous Dr. Parr's parsonage. There are continuations of the story called "Mr. Axtell," and of Theodore Winthrop's "Life in the Open Air," and "David Grant," by the author of "Margaret Howth," is here concluded. Here, too, we have "Autumnal Tints," one of the essays left by the late Henry D. Thoreau. Of Miss Sheppard, author of "Charles Auchester," is a brief notice by one who was with her in the last hours of her existence, and this appropriately close with a little sketch from her pen. Singularly significant *now*, of three poets,—Bayard Taylor, T. B. Aldrich, and John G. Whittier,—who appear in these pages, only the last named merits notice: His "Battle—Autumn of 1862," is a noble lyric, breathing the sweet, sad uses of humanity. Among the practical papers we recommend "The Sanitary Condition of the Army," by Dr. Edward Jarvis, who treats the subject in a masterly and exhaustive way, with copious illustrations from the experience of foreign armies. This article should be reprinted separately, and circulated as a pamphlet. It is an important contribution to our military hygiene.—We notice that, among announced works by Ticknor & Fields, (publishers of the *Atlantic Monthly,*) are Country Living and Country Thinking, a series of Essays by Gail Hamilton; The Patience of Hope, prefaced by J. G. Whittier; The Poems of Oliver Wendell Holmes, in blue and gold; Eyes and Ears, by Henry Ward Beecher; Sylvia's Lovers, by Mrs. Gaskell, author of "Mary Barton;" Graver Thoughts of a Country Parson, by the author of "Recreations;" Health and Strength, by Dr. Windship, the Strong Man; Out-Door Papers, by Thomas Wentworth Higginson; The Poet's Journal, by Bayard Taylor; Titan, Jean Paul's great romance, now first translated by C. T. Brooks, translator of Goethe's Faust; The Canoe and the Saddle, or Adventures among the Northwest Rivers and Forests, by Theodore Winthrop; The Amber Gods, and Other Stories, by Miss Harriet E. Prescott; A New Volume of Essays and Addresses for the Times, by Ralph Waldo Emerson; Memoir and Correspondence of Theodore Parker, edited by Rev. John Weiss; Historic Americans, by Theodore Parker; Tennyson's Poems, illustrated; Fireside Travels, by James Russell Lowell; Meditations of Death and Eternity, from the German of Zschokke, translated by Frederica Rowan, at the request of Queen Victoria, after the death of Prince Albert, reprinted from the Queen's private edition.

Mr. Boutelle.—This artist, a resident of Bethlehem, Pa., whose landscapes in the last Exhibition of our Academy of Fine Arts, Chestnut street, were greatly admired, has just executed a three-quarter portrait, life-size, of Theodore H. Knight, Esq., of this city, which may now be seen at the bookstore of T. B. Peterson & Brothers, 306 Chestnut street. It is a fine work of art, and its excellent likeness will be recognized, at a glance, by Mr. Knight's numerous friends.

Defeat of the Rebels in New Mexico.

New York, Sept. 18.—By the steamer Ocean Queen, which arrived at this port this morning from New Orleans, we learn that the rebel expedition to New Mexico under Colonel Sibley, had been met near Fort Fillmore by Colonel Canby's forces, and was intercepted by the California troops. A battle ensued, in which Sibley's forces were routed, and everything captured from him, including over half his force, only 150 escaping.

Sibley was assassinated by his own men, who charged him with drunkenness and inefficiency. Among other things captured was a train which the Texans captured from General Grant last spring.

FROM GEN. M'CLELLAN'S ARMY.

Events of Tuesday and Wednesday.

A DESPERATE STRUGGLE.

JACKSON REINFORCES LEE.

A GLORIOUS VICTORY!

DEATH OF GEN. MANSFIELD.

OUR LOSS 10,000.

The Rebel Loss About the Same.

1,500 PRISONERS TAKEN.

Headquarters Army of the Potomac, Tuesday Evening, Sept. 16.

During this afternoon information was received at headquarters showing that the enemy were recrossing the river, and concentrating their forces on the ridge of hills outside of the town of Sharpsburg, to within three miles of the main body of our army.

Stonewall Jackson left Harper's Ferry this morning, his troops commencing to arrive during the afternoon. When it became evident that Gen. Lee was disposed to engage our forces in battle at this point, Gen. McClellan sent for Gen. Franklin's corps and Gen. Couch's division, who were about 7 miles distant, on the other side of Elk Ridge.

There was considerable artillery firing during the day, on both sides, resulting in our having about forty men killed and wounded. Among the seriously wounded was Major Arnedt, of the 1st New York Artillery, who was struck in the side by a piece of shell.

The disposition of the troops for the impending battle was as follows: General Sumner's corps with General Banks' division to occupy the centre; General Hooker's corps with the Pennsylvania Reserves and Franklin's corps on the right; Generals Porter's and Burnside's on the extreme left, with the view of turning the enemy's right flank. General Pleasanton supported the centre with 2,500 cavalry and four batteries.

General Hooker in the afternoon crossed Antietam creek, and took a position on the hills, facing Sharpsburg, and three miles to the right of Keetsville. His troops got into action about dusk, which lasted two hours, during which the enemy were driven about half a mile with considerable loss. The Pennsylvania Reserves, who were in the front, suffered much.

The night was occupied in getting the troops into their respective positions, while ammunition trains and ambulances were farwarded to their different commands.

The Victory of Wednesday.

THE ENEMY DRIVEN BACK A MILE—THEY RALLY AND RECOVER THE GROUND, BUT ARE AGAIN ROUTED.

Wednesday Evening, September 17.—This has been an eventful day in the history of the rebellion. A battle has taken place in which the Army of the Potomac has again been victorious, and which exceeded in extent any battle heretofore fought on this continent.

At the dawn of day, the battle was renewed on the centre and right by General Hooker and General Sumner, who, after a sharp contest of two hours, drove the enemy about one mile.

The rebels, however, rallied shortly afterwards, and, with terrible loss, regained most of the ground. At this time the fearless and indomitable General Hooker received a shot in the ankle, and was carried from the field, the command of his troops devolving upon Gen. Sumner. Gen. Richardson, commanding his division, was severely wounded at the same time.

General Sumner, determined to retake the lost ground, ordered the troops to advance, which they did with a will, driving the rebels before them with great slaughter. They not only retook the ground, but drove them a quarter of a mile beyond.

In this action General Mansfield was shot through the lungs, and died soon after.

The troops under Generals Burnside and Porter had not been idle. They drove the rebels from the line of the Antietam creek, on the main road to Sharpsburg, and, having built a bridge, (the old one having been burnt by the rebels,) occupied the opposite bank. The loss here was considerable.

To get possession of the ridge of hills on the right and left hand sides of the road, from which the rebels were thundering away with artillery, was a task not easily accomplished.

Gen. Sykes' brigade carried the ridge on the right hand side, with the assistance of Gen. Sumner, after considerable trouble and loss, the rebels running in all directions.

It was now five o'clock, and all the enemy's positions had been carried, except the one on the left hand side of the road. To do this duty, Gen. Burnside was assigned. The artillery opened, and the infantry advanced. The point was carried at a charge, but our troops were forced to retire before a superior force, the rebels knowing that if they lost this ridge a complete rout of their army would be the result. They fought with great desperation.

Darkness now overlooked the two armies, and hostilities ceased as though by mutual consent.

The battle lasted from 5 o'clock in the morning until 7 at night, without a moment's cessation.

The conduct of all troops, without exception, was all that any general could wish. Several regiments of new troops, who were in action for the first time, behaved admirably.

Hundreds of Marylanders were present to witness the battle, which could be seen from many of the surrounding hills. The sharp rattle of 50,000 muskets and the thunder of a hundred pieces of artillery is not often heard, nor the consequent excited movements of such large armies witnessed.

It is impossible, at this writing, to form any correct idea of our loss or that of the enemy. It is heavy on both sides. Ours will probably reach ten thousand, in killed and wounded, and that of the enemy will perhaps not exceed it.

The enemy's dead, which nearly all fell into our hands, were thickly strown over the fields, in many places lying in heaps.

Our wounded were immediately carried from the field, and the best possible attention given them.

When Gen. Hooker fell, Gen. McClellan immediately proceeded to the right, where he was enthusiastically received, and by his presence added much to our success in recovering the ground lost. He was in the centre and on the left, anxiously watching the progress of the battle, and giving directions as to the manner of attack. He is in his tent to-night for the first time since he left Frederick City.

We took some 1,500 prisoners during the day, while the enemy obtained but few.

The following officers were killed or wounded:

Gen. Hartsuff, wounded.
Gen. Duryea, wounded.
Gen. Sedgwick, wounded in the shoulder.
Col. Childs, of the 4th Pennsylvania Cavalry killed.
Col. Kingsbury, of the 11th Connecticut, seriously wounded.
Lieut. Col. Parvison, of the 57th New York, killed.
Capt. Audenried, aid to Gen. Sumner, wounded.
Major Sedgwick, killed.
Col. McNeil, of the Pennsylvania Bucktails, and Lieut. Allison, were killed.
Col. Polk, of the 2d U. S. Sharpshooters, wounded.
Major Burbank, of the 12th Massachusetts, wounded.

Several other prominent officers were reported killed or wounded, but nothing positive is known.

Harrisburg, Sept. 18—Noon.—The news received during the night indicates that the result of yesterday's fight was decidedly in our favor, but still another battle is necessary to determine who is the victor.

It was expected that the battle would be again renewed this morning, but no firing had yet been heard, and it is supposed that burying the dead is the order of the day.

Gen. McClellan's headquarters are at Sharpsburg.

Surgeon General Smith despatched a special train to Hagerstown yesterday, with surgeons to attend the wounded.

Baltimore, Sept 18—A gentleman who was on the battle-field up to 10 o'clock yesterday morning says he left the ground with confidence that all was going on well.

It was a grand battle—one of the most severe of the war—every division of the rebel army being on the field.

The despatches from Harrisburg seem to indicate that there was some change in the position of the armies at the close of the day, but there is no reason to believe that there is any truth in the rumors of disaster that are being industriously circulated by Secession sympathizers.

Washington, Sept. 18—The latest information received here, up to 11 o'clock A. M., to day, is up to a late hour last night, when it was telegraphed that McClellan had a severe engagement throughout the day, resulting by nightfall in gaining the position for which our army fought. Information from a point within four miles of the battle-ground, up to 9 o'clock this morning, says nothing of an engagement having been renewed previous to that hour. It merely states that a thousand rebel prisoners, taken yesterday, were then being marched to the rear, past that point, under guard.

Sketch of Gen. Mansfield.

The death of General Mansfield, which the telegraph records as one of the sad results of the battle of Portertown, will prove a national loss, and excite a national feeling of regret. Joseph K. Fenno Mansfield was a native of Connecticut, and was about fifty-eight years of age. He was appointed to West Point Academy from that State, in October, 1817, and passed through the regular course of studies in that institution. He entered the service of the Government on the 1st of July, 1822, as a second lieutenant of engineers, and afterwards rose to higher position, as his merits became appreciated. In March, 1832, he was made first lieutenant, and in July, 1832, became captain. During the Mexican war (in 1846-7) he rose to the position of chief engineer of the army under General Taylor. He was brevetted major for gallant and distinguished services in the defence of Fort Brown, May 9, 1846. In the storming of Monterey he received no less than *seven* wounds, for several of which were most severe; and for gallant and meritorious conduct in those conflicts he was honored with the rank of lieutenant colonel. His gallantry at Buena Vista won him his colonelcy.

In the war for the Union his services, however, have been equally conspicuous, and they are still so fresh in the public memory that it is needless to recount them here. On the 14th of May, 1861, he was commissioned a brigadier general in the regular army, in recognition of his distinguished worth, and his subsequent career, down to the day when he sacrificed his life to his zeal for the cause, is a noble testimony that the trust reposed in him by the Government was not misplaced. The death of General Mansfield is a serious loss, not to his immediate command alone, but to the war bureau, and to the whole country.

Harrisburg, Sept 18.—The second company of Revenue Guards, Captain W. G. Steel, arrived here last evening, and left for Chambersburg to-day.

Information received here this morning, direct from the battle-field, represented that the battle would undoubtedly be resumed to-day, but up to the last advices no firing had been heard at Hagerstown. Our forces remain in about the same position as at the close of yesterday's fight.

Preparations are now being made here for receiving the sick and wounded from the late battle. Our citizens are anxious to do all in their power for the comfort of those who are fighting for the support of the Federal Government.

The State troops are still coming in by thousands, and immediately forwarded.

The Government having complete control of the road to Chambersburg and Hagerstown, the regular trains to these points were suspended to-day, but will be resumed in a few days.

Harrisburg, Sept. 18—10 P. M.—Advices just received at headquarters from Hagerstown confirm the report that no fight had taken place to-day, that the rebels are supposed to be short of ammunition, and that the fight would probably commence at daybreak tomorrow. Our troops are said to have behaved nobly, and talk confidently of gaining a great victory tomorrow.

Governor Curtin has arrived at Hagerstown, together with Colonel J. A. Wright, Surgeon-General Smith and his corps of surgeons. The Governor and his staff are using every exertion in preparing for the comfort of the wounded brought into that place. The telegraph line is being extended to Boonsboro, thus bringing us much nearer to General McClellan's headquarters. It will be completed to-morrow.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Despatches to "The Press."

Washington, September 18, 1862.

The News from the Army.

The latest official information from the army received at noon to-day is to the effect that Gen. McClellan had a severe engagement throughout yesterday, resulting, by night-fall, in gaining the position for which he had fought. His loss in battle had been heavy. Nothing was at that time ascertained as to the extent of the loss of the rebels. News from a point within four miles of the battle-ground says nothing of the engagement having been renewed, and there has been no battle to-day. 1,000 rebel prisoners, taken yesterday, were marched to the rear, under guard, to-day. All our information at hand leads to the belief that the armies hold the same position to-day that they did at the close of the contest yesterday, and that the rebels have their entire force in Maryland. Rumors, even, to-day have been few. An official to-night declares that we are gaining on the enemy.

Dismissal of Army Officers From the Service.

The following-named officers have been stricken from the rolls of the army for absenting themselves without authority:

Lieutenant Colonel James Jourdan, Major Jacob Sharpe, Captain Thomas S Marvel, First Lieutenant T. B. Pope, Second Lieutenant P. B. Szrill, First Lieutenant H. A. Still, and Quartermaster John O. Genard, belonging to the 55th Regiment of New York Volunteers, known as the Tenth Legion, commanded by Colonel C. J. Van Wyck.

The Paroled Soldiers to be sent against the Indians.

The paroled prisoners of Col. Miles' late command at Harper's Ferry are to be sent immediately to the Northwest to suppress the Indian insurrection. This disposition of the soldiers indicated cannot affect their parole, and it will enable the Government to place eight thousand well-drilled troops in a field where their services are much needed.

No Rebel Force between Washington and Bull Run.

A reconnoissance in force, made yesterday, has demonstrated that there were no rebel troops between Washington and Bull Run, where scouts yesterday reported they were in some force at Dranesville.

The Reported Investment of Charleston.

It is not known in official quarters, as recently reported, that Charleston has been invested, nor that there is sufficient force in that vicinity to make such an effort successful.

The Sanitary Commission—Supplies for the Wounded.

At the meeting of the Sanitary Commission to-day, the secretary reported that previous to yesterday five surgeons and one railroad car, loaded with supplies, had been sent by the Commission to and beyond Frederick; that six surgeons and inspectors of the commission, with a railroad car of supplies, were sent yesterday afternoon; that three wagons left Washington for the front of the army on the upper Potomac at 12 o'clock last night, with a party of eight distributing agents, in charge of Drs. Agnew and Harris; that a train of army wagons are now loading with supplies to be despatched to the battle-field, also by way of Frederick; that Dr. Orne had been previously stationed at Chambersburg or Hagerstown with large discretionary powers to act for the Commission; that despatches had been sent to Philadelphia ordering the purchase of large supplies at that place, and that these, with stores to arrive from the North, would be forwarded to Hagerstown in charge of special agents.

Officers Dismissed.

By direction of the President of the United States, the following officers are dismissed from the service: First Lieutenant Wm. J. Godwin, 10th United States Infantry, to take effect September 13, 1862; Surgeon Lyman H. Stone, United States Army, and Additional Paymaster H. S. Gatzman, United States Volunteers; Military Storekeeper Charles Weston, Ordnance Department.

Reports from Richmond.

Paroled prisoners from Richmond say that troops continue to arrive there from the South, but they are sent thence as fast as possible. This is corroborated from other sources, leaving no doubt of the fact that the rebels are concentrating a large force in the Shenandoah valley, with a central depot at Winchester, which is strongly fortified.

Medical Purveyors.

It is ordered by the War Department that Medical Purveyors shall be required to give bond in the sum of $75,000.

Army Orders.

Brig. Gen. D. Tyler has been ordered to report to Maj. Gen. Wright, at Cincinnati, and Gen. Nelson Taylor is ordered to report to Gen. McClellan.

On Tuesday evening Maj. Shoborne, of Gen. Wadsworth's staff, examined a number of State prisoners in the Old Capitol, preparatory to a final decision in their cases. About a dozen prisoners of war were released upon taking the oath of allegiance. They were mostly residents of New Orleans, and intelligent men.

In accordance with Gen. Banks' orders, Maj. Doster is transferring the deserters and stragglers, arrested by his guards, to the convalescent camp near Alexandria. Yesterday one hundred were sent from Georgetown, and this forenoon about three hundred and fifty were sent from the same point by steamer. They are collected at Forrest Hall, Georgetown, from all points, in both cities, and forwarded from there. The camp near Alexandria is under the command of Colonel John S. Belnap, of the 55th New York Volunteers.

Dr. Antoine C. Camps, arrested by the provost marshal, six weeks since, has been released on condition that he leaves the country within ten days. He is a Spaniard.

F. T. Buxton and I. A. Kirby have been released from the Old Capitol, on condition that they reside north of New York city during the war.

—Lieutenant Commanding Egbert Thompson, of the gunboat Pittsburg, communicates to the Navy Department interesting particulars of his movements near White river, Arkansas. He dispersed, with shell, several camps of the rebels. One of the parties hastily left their breakfast for safety, and much spoil fell into our hands. Lieutenant Thompson captured the wharf-boat Eunice, two hundred and twenty feet in length, with finely-furnished apartments. She was built to be used as a hotel, at the termination of the Mississippi and Red River Railroad. The boat was brought to Helena and occupied by our quartermaster's department. It is considered a valuable piece of property.

THE WAR IN KENTUCKY.

THE DEFENCES OF LOUISVILLE.

Reported Surrender of Col. Wilder at Munfordville.

Louisville, Sept. 18.—The military commenced fortifying the city yesterday. A large number of negroes were impressed, and set to work digging rifle-pits and throwing up breastworks.

Nothing official or reliable has been received from Munfordville; the telegraph line is still down.

The *Journal* to-day received information that Col. Wilder and his gallant band, after fighting for three days, were forced to surrender to an overwhelming force of rebels. This, however, is not deemed reliable.

Louisville, Sept. 18—10 P. M.—A multitude of conflicting rumors, relating to matters south of here, have prevailed all day, causing considerable excitement. All that can now be said is that Kirby Smith appears to be joining Bragg, intending to give Buell battle.

Louisville is being formidably entrenched, and great numbers of slaves, from loyal and disloyal owners indiscriminately, have been impressed for that purpose.

Remains of the Gallant Dead at Baltimore.

Baltimore, Sept. 18.—The body of Colonel Miles arrived here to-day, and was escorted by cavalry to the residence of Ashbury Jarett, Esq., a friend of the family. The bodies of Colonel Childs, of the 4th Pennsylvania Cavalry; Colonel Coleman, of the 11th Ohio; Colonel Paxon, 57th New York; Colonel Goodrich, 60th New York, Captain Forbrish, of the 10th Maine, also arrived here