The Press.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1862.

THE WAR.

While it is undoubtedly the fact that intelligence of the highest importance, giving us tidings either of a battle or of the flight of Lee, may be almost hourly expected from General Burnside's headquarters, it is equally a fact that much interest attaches to the movements of "Stonewall" Jackson. As to his plans we have yet learned nothing reliable, notwithstanding the reports of deserters, captured staff officers, and negroes. According to our despatches, his entire force, numbering about forty thousand men, including the corps of General Hill, is somewhere in the vicinity of Front Royal. In this position he evidently intends to withdraw such a force from Burnside as to place the latter in danger of an attack from Lee; or, at any rate, to render an advance of our army too hazardous to be undertaken. But in what precise direction he hopes to accomplish this withdrawal, we are not yet informed. He may threaten Harper's Ferry, where his pickets, in fact, have made their appearance; he may attempt a second invasion of Maryland, and one of his staff captured on Friday reported that Stonewall Jackson would be in Cumberland "within twenty-four hours;" or he may endeavor to repeat the *coup* of getting in the rear of our army, either through Manassas or Chester Gaps, in both of which, according to a late reconnoissance, a rebel force was posted. The probabilities are in favor of the last mentioned scheme. Harper's Ferry, if it were possible to retake it, could not be retaken except by a prolonged siege, for it is now fully garrisoned, and whatever Jackson does must be done quickly, to be of any avail in Lee's behalf. As for another invasion of Maryland, we have too high an opinion of the judgment of the rebels, to imagine them capable of repeating their exploit in that direction. Jackson's grand object is to divide Burnside's army, and to avert the decisive battle as long as possible. If he entertains any other purpose it must be subsidiary to this. More than this he can hardly hope to accomplish. It is, therefore, probable that he will remain in his position at Front Royal, hoping by his menacing attitude, either to delay Burnside's advance, or to withdraw from Burnside a force greater than his own to keep him in check. At present he has most to gain by a policy of inactivity. He might make another dash into Maryland which would yield him a bounteous harvest of shoes, clothing, and provisions; but time is of infinitely greater value to the rebels than commissary stores; and they are extremely careful to make no movement likely to bring about an engagement unless the chance of success is immensely in their favor. We do not think Gen. Burnside will allow them such a chance. All the gaps of the Blue Ridge are well guarded, and there is little prospect that the raid of August last to Manassas can be repeated. This provision, in connection with the garrisoning of Harper's Ferry, and the cautious advance of our army, has placed it out of Jackson's power, we think, to interrupt our line of communication. It is by no means so certain that his own can be kept unbroken, for General Cox was reported on Saturday to be within a comparatively short distance of Staunton. Instead of being a detached corps, free to operate in any desired direction, Jackson's force is, therefore, in fact, Lee's reserve, or, we should rather say, his sole reliance; and in the present critical situation of his army, with a retreat in contemplation, or perhaps now in progress, it is extremely unlikely that his "reliance" can be spared to make raids or exploring expeditions at any greater distance from the main body than it is at present.

Moving On.

Wherever we look, we see the armies of the Republic moving on to victory. In the East, General Burnside has reorganized his great army under great chiefs, and hereafter the destinies of the Army of the Potomac will be under the management of such men as Sumner, Hooker, Franklin, and Sigel. General Dix is approaching Richmond from Suffolk, General Foster is threading his way along Pamlico Sound and sounds of North Carolina, and Banks is moving into the Dismal Swamp. Hunter will soon give Beauregard material for a Tale of Two Cities more thrilling and interesting than any romance that has yet proceeded from his pen. General Butler is anxious to reduce Pensacola and Mobile to the docile quietude of New Orleans, while Admiral Farragut's guns are patiently waiting to rouse the echoes around Fort Morgan. General Banks is preparing to enter Texas, hoping soon to shake hands with General Grant at Vicksburg in congratulation over the recovery of the trans-Mississippi territory to the undisputed sway of the Union. General Rosecrans is busily forging the bolt which shall break the chains of East Tennessee, and the flag of the Republic will soon float once more over the brave mountaineers who have suffered so much for their faith and loyalty.

Everywhere moving on! From the North, the South, the East, and the West, the tides of war are surging and flowing towards the great vortex into which treason must in the end be engulfed. Everywhere a unity of purpose, a proud self-denying patriotism, a gallantry that has survived defeats and chastisement, and excited the admiration of the world, all moving on! To victory and peace. Victory that means something. Not merely dead men, and the roar of cannon, and the flight of rebel armies, and the hollow pomp that comes upon the uncertain breath of popular acclamation—for this is but the glitter and pomp and gloom, the trappings and the suits—but a great truth that will awaken the spirit of manhood everywhere, redeeming the world, advancing our civilization, attesting our right to the high name of freemen we so proudly wear—something immortal and sublime, making this generation illustrious through the ages. To this great work, to the spirit of freedom, we have consecrated our country and our cause. The army and the navy, the pulpit and the press, the rich and the poor, the rulers and the ruled, the represented and their representatives—whatever we have of power, pride, courage and devotion, all are in the contest, and moving on towards a glorious consummation.

It is something, after all, to have lived in an age like this, with the high privilege of following such a glorious crusade. Our children will bless our deeds and envy their performance. They will bless us more joyfully if we do not fail or grow weary, or faint on the roadside before the end is gained.

Who Shall be United States Senator?

The Opposition politicians were in an agony of fear at the rumor that their assumed majority of one in the Legislature of this State might dwindle into an appalling minority, until they convinced themselves that they were entirely safe, because no Democrat would venture to vote except under the lash and dictation of their duly chosen leaders. Not only have the pains and penalties of excommunication been pronounced against any of the faithful, who, in imitation of the Southern conspirators, may bolt the caucus, and defy the majority, but the dagger is said to be ready that is to drink the heart's blood of all who contemplate this contumacious disaffection. Taking it for granted, therefore, that matters are to proceed easily and gracefully when the Senatorial election is held in the Legislature, it may be well to look over the list of candidates. It is a brilliant galaxy, this same list, and the people are to be felicitated that there are so many distinguished aspirants for that high position. At the head of the column stands James Buchanan. His claims are superior. He served his country faithfully in the hour of her direst peril, left to the people and to posterity a splendid example and a solid Government, and passed from the Presidency, almost fitted for translation to celestial spheres. Next in rank we must class either William B. Reed or Francis W. Hughes. But, as the contest is close, let us take the first. Mr. Reed belongs to the Carker school; polished, polite, and learned. He inherits patriotism, and his affection for the whole country is so distinctive that he would no more think of dividing the Union than of separating himself from those who have served and saved him. If this accomplished publicist has one virtue more prominent than another, it is his hereditary hatred of England, and his profound horror of the enemies of his country. Mr. F. W. Hughes is a representative of another school. His animosities are directed against no foreign foe. He reserves them for the enemies of the Republic, and, notwithstanding the somewhat unpleasant fact that he has relatives in the Southern army, he opposes the rebellion with heart and soul. Mr. Chas. R. Buckalew, lately returned from South America, where he acted as American minister, by appointment of Mr. Buchanan, and where he learned the lesson that in union there is strength, has quietly reserved to himself four or five confidential votes, and thinks that they may eke out for him a sufficient majority.

But if there is a great R at the head of the roll, there are other B's in this hive including Mr. Buckalew. There are Mr. Bigler and Mr. Brodhead, both of whom have an eye to the Senatorial honeycomb, for both have tasted of it, and long to renew its pleasures. With Mr. Bigler courage and consistency are primary characteristics; and Mr. Brodhead, notwithstanding his connection with Jefferson Davis, is entitled to high consideration for having sternly and steadily resisted his influence. Our ancient friend, J. Glancy Jones, after nearly four years' hibernation near the person of his gracious Majesty Francis Joseph of Austria, comes back to Berks with a heart warm and melting with love for his own country, and abounding with anxiety to serve his State in the Senate. There are other candidates less ostentatious, but equally ambitious and deserving. Ex-Postmaster General Judge Campbell keeps a close and watchful eye upon the animated struggle, and will undoubtedly allow his friends to use his name if thereby he can serve the Democracy. Ex-Mayor Vaux, though wholly averse to notoriety, and calm and subdued in his cosy closet, has already bought his ticket in the lottery, and awaits the result with modest dignity. Mr. Vaux has all the qualifications for the place, and it must not be charged that, because he was a free-soiler only a few years ago, he is not now an honest opposition Democrat. It will be seen from this hasty review how many hearts and hopes hang upon a majority of one in the Legislature of Pennsylvania in the forthcoming Senatorial election—what an important figure that one majority will make in history. We have written a thousand paragraphs upon the importance of one vote in a great election, but then those were popular elections, and the memorable citizen to whom we so frequently appealed had no Senator in his gripe, no great expectations to realize, and no mighty destinies to serve. Suppose this majority of one should dwindle into nothing—suppose some Democrat should take it into his head to vote for "somebody else"—but we will not pursue this painful subject.

The Passenger Railways.

Mr. Henry Croskey, the Secretary of the Board of Railway Presidents, gives us a reason for the recent action of the Board in his brief communication which we publish this morning. If anything were necessary to convince us of the inexcusable injustice of the Railway Presidents, it would be the explanation of Mr. Croskey. He has actually nothing to say that will not intensify the public opinion now arrayed against the Board. In reply to our statement of the great gains of several of the companies, he says that other companies are not so profitable, some of them, indeed, hardly paying the current interest on the original investments. Then, again, as a solace to the community, and, perhaps, as an evidence of kindness and condescension on the part of the Board, he tells us that twenty tickets may yet be sold for one dollar, so that the public may still be enabled to ride at the old rate of fare.

We can see nothing in these reasons of Mr. Croskey to destroy the opinions we expressed a few ago, when discussing this subject. If there are any railway corporations that do not pay a compensating interest on the original investment, the fault is that of the stockholders, and should not be remedied by the public. Passenger railways were never built merely to tax the public for their support. They were established as a general convenience, as an easy and expeditious method of local communication, as an improvement upon the lumbering and dreary old stages, and with a view towards consolidating and improving the city of Philadelphia, by shortening distance, and economizing time and money. When the first road was built it was an experiment. Very soon it became a golden success. Its stock advanced to an almost unprecedented figure. Experience and judgment would have dictated the proper course to be pursued in such a case. It was seen that the railway was a great public convenience, and it was evident that as a convenience it might be followed to a reasonable extent. But this would not satisfy the greedy cupidity and need have been incited by the pecuniary profits of the new enterprise. Like the boy in the nursery fable, they had found a goose that laid golden eggs, and instead of patiently awaiting the course of nature, they killed the bird to obtain at once the auriferous treasure. The fable repeats its moral. Mr. Croskey piteously tells the public that the goose is dead, and no more eggs can be found, and in behalf of the foolish owners of a once profitable investment he tells us that we must be taxed an unnecessary burden, as an expiation of their heedless folly.

We have no idea of submitting to any such burden, and Mr. Secretary Croskey will do the Board a kindness if he can succeed in impressing that fact upon the minds of its members. The owners of these unprofitable railways rushed into the enterprise with an unscrupulous avidity that history only parallels in its narrative of the "South Sea Bubble" and the Mississippi scheme of John Law. If these railroad managers complain of the failure of their investment, let them remember the eager haste with which they entered the speculation—the desperate means they used to control the Legislature in granting charters—and the audacity with which they trafficked away their honor, their money, their time, and their influence, to obtain what they now possess. We may repeat the historian's comments upon the "South Sea Bubble," partly because it anticipates the opinions we express, but more particularly that it may be read with salutary interest by Mr. Secretary Croskey and his board of presidents: "It was buoyed up by nothing but the folly and rapaciousness of individuals, which became so blind and extravagant that Blunt, with moderate talents, was able to impose upon the whole nation." These railway men sinned by their avariciousness, and if now they suffer, they can expect nothing from the public but joy over their penitence. They cannot expect us to assume the burden of a folly which we protested against in the beginning, and which we are ready to remedy now. That remedy is this: If the Board of Presidents are tired of their speculation, let them turn the enterprise over to the city for the sum originally invested, and a fair interest upon the investment since the beginning. The city can run every railroad in our limits at three cents a passenger, and make a profitable revenue, or it can take the privilege into the market and sell it to the highest bidder; for there are capitalists in this city who will take the cost of these roads and agree to run them at three cents a fare, regarding the enterprise as one of abundant profit.

These are the facts, and by thus repeating them we answer Mr. Secretary Croskey. His plea only makes his case more deplorable. He shows us nothing but a hideous, selfish, insatiable monopoly, which has no other aim than to gorge itself to repletion upon the poor, for only upon the poor this burden will fall. The laborer, or mechanic, or artisan, can live in a comfortable dwelling in the suburban districts traversed by Mr. Croskey's own road—the Ridge avenue and Manayunk—and earn his bread at the Navy Yard. Mr. Croskey will take him to his home for five cents, and send him back in the morning for the same sum. By that means he can live in a pleasant, healthful country place, at reasonable rent, and away from the noisy, unhealthy, and overburdened city, escaping from the malaria and vice of alleys and crowded streets, to the clear sunshine and the bracing air of the Schuylkill river banks. It is an advantage like this that has made Philadelphia the Eden of the laboring man. It is an advantage like this, so universal in its effect, and so generally accepted, that saves us from the Five Points, Saint Giles, and a Faubourg Saint Antoine. It may be a small matter to Mr. Croskey and his friends to add twenty per cent. to a simple railway fare, but it is a hardship to thousands of his fellow-citizens, to whom that twenty per cent. would be many additional loaves of bread. It may be said that we invest this subject with more importance than it really deserves. We think, however, that it is one of the many schemes now blossoming under the dark shadow of this fearful war, and seeking to ripen by the misfortunes or oppression of the already too unfortunate and too much oppressed poor. It must be crushed at once, and everything else like it that seems to take advantage of the present crisis to plunder and grow fat. And so far as our humble influence can extend, we shall deal with all such schemes as we are dealing now with Mr. Croskey and his friends of the passenger railways.

The Success of the Passaic.

The grandest triumph of art elicited during the present war for the Union is announced in our columns to-day. The monster fifteen-inch gun of the Monitor battery *Passaic* was tested on Saturday, *within the turret*, and the result was a most complete success, the discharge being unattended with concussion or smoke inside. In 1861 Captain Ericsson's battery, the *Monitor*, appeared upon the theatre of war in Hampton roads, and revolutionized the navies of the world. But the first *Monitor*, though more than a match for the lumbering Merrimac, was still but the embodiment of a crude idea. In the scientific, as in the social world, revolutions never go backward. In 1862 Captain Ericsson's battery, the *Passaic*, appears before the world, to teach the European Powers a new lesson in the art of naval warfare and end their groping theories and experiments. Grand as was the original idea, this new development is equally grand, and fraught with equally important results. The massive *Warrior*, and the pompous *Gloire*, both Samsons, have been shorn of their strength, and the Federal navy may now aspire to rule the waves. But the idea is not yet wholly developed. There is yet room for the fertile genius of our inventors to improve upon it. Our navy is still in its transition state, but the progress we have made, in our efforts to make it the most formidable in the world, has been truly wonderful, and the nation owes a heavy debt of gratitude to Captain Ericsson, and those who have labored with him in this department of art, which cannot be repaid, but will rather be increased as the future records of science are unfolded to its gaze.

Rembrandt Peale.

Rembrandt Peale, our townsman, who died two years ago, at the advanced age of eighty-two, was the last survivor of the numerous artists to whom—penalty of human greatness!—Washington sat for portrait or bust. He was a mere youth, at the time, but was a fair draughtsman, under his father's teaching, at the age of eight. When the father was painting Washington's portrait, the son was also permitted to set up his easel for the same purpose. The result was a portrait which holds rank, as a characteristic likeness, almost equal to that by Gilbert Stuart. For many years before his death, he had to supply copies of this portrait to numerous admirers of the Father of his Country, in all parts of the Union, and also in England, Scotland, Germany, and France. By order of his executors, Mr. Peale's valuable collection of paintings, oil, water color, and crayon sketches, engravings, autograph-book, and manuscripts, will be sold by Thomas & Sons—per Mr. Bell, literary and fine arts auctioneer. The sale will come off to-morrow forenoon, at the Academy of Fine Arts, Chestnut street, above Tenth, the Directors having lent the hall for this purpose. To-day, the whole collection will be on view, without any charge for admission. The articles to be sold consist of engravings, chiefly after modern artists, and a book of original tracings by Wertmuller, whose portrait of Washington was engraved for Irving's biography of the soldier-statesman. Next, a number of crayon and other drawings by Mr. Peale, and a small original sketch of a mother and child. Then, a great many oil paintings by Mr. Peale, including one by his father. These paintings are chiefly original, though two copies of Rubens' St. Cecilia claim especial attention. They consist of all sorts of subjects, principally portraits, among which are Mr. Peale's truly fac-simile copies of the portraits of Washington by Pine, Stuart, and Trumbull; copies of his own Washington, of his father's, and other likenesses of the hero, in various costumes—senatorial, military, and civil. There is also a noble equestrian portrait, highly finished for the purpose of being engraved, though it never was. Moreover, the duplicate of Rembrandt Peale's original, taken in 1795, from which he painted seventy-nine copies, now widely distributed and highly esteemed in this country and in Europe. The portrait of Mrs. Washington, by Mr. Peale's father, is in this sale. The autograph book contains letters from Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, and twenty-three other eminent Americans whose names are historical. Mr. Peale's old Washington scripts, in his portraits, and a precious book entitled "Notes of the Painting Room," being the experience of half a century, by Mr. Peale himself, to the value and interest of which those excellent artists, Thomas Sully and A. B. Durand, bear warmly approving testimony. For our own part, if Mr. Peale wrote as well as he spoke, the work must be an acceptable addition to the literature of Art. The writer of these lines did not know Mr. Peale until the artist was close on his eightieth year, but it might be said of him, as of Moses, "His eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated." His conversational powers were great; his language copious and forcible; his memory as accurate as it was large; and his manner at once easy and genial. His recollections of Washington were vivid, and he was wont to speak, with the simple dignity of desert, of the unanimity with which persons most intimate with Washington had volunteered their favorable opinion of the accuracy and spirit of the Peale portrait. Above all, Charles Wilson Peale, to whom Washington had repeatedly sat, candidly admitted that his son, Rembrandt, had produced a better portrait than himself or Stuart.

After the Rembrandt Peale sale, a few select paintings, with drawings and engravings, the private collection of a gentleman leaving Philadelphia, for whom they were painted by the artist, will be sold. The following artists, with others, are represented here: Rothermel, Birch, Church, Bonfield, Russell, Smith, Doughty, Kensett, Weber, Cropsey, Boutelle, Cole, Durand, Calcott, and James Hamilton. Of course, there will be a large concourse of connoisseurs, collectors, artists, and auction-painters on this occasion.

The Passenger Railways.

To the Editor of The Press:

Sir: I noticed in your paper of yesterday an article complaining of the action of the Board of Presidents of the City Passenger Railways in the proposed increased price of fare. The roads you name are doubtless doing a good business, but there are others whose stock is selling at fifty per cent. below the price actually paid in. My object in writing is to state that the action of the Board of Presidents does not prevent the purchase of tickets, twenty for one dollar, "good over any city road," as heretofore; consequently, by the investment of that amount the increased price of fare will be avoided.

Yours, very truly,
HENRY CROSKEY,
Secretary of the Board of Presidents.

Phila., Nov. 14, 1862.

The Princeton Murder—Arrest of the Suspected Party.

Princeton, Nov. 15—7 P. M.—George W. Simons alias Charles Lewis, supposed murderer of James Rowand, was arrested at Millstone, Somerset county, yesterday. The examination of witnesses has continued all day, and is still progressing. The evidence, though circumstantial, is very strong.

A bloody shirt, chemicals for erasing blood stains, and papers of the deceased, were found in possession of the prisoner. He has been fully identified as the stranger who so mysteriously went among us for several weeks, and as the man met several times in the vicinity of Mr. Rowand's store on the evening of the murder. The probability is that he will be immediately committed for trial. The excitement is intense.

Yours, &c., L.

Music in the West.—Mr. H. M. Higgins, of Chicago, has published lately some musical gems. The exquisite melody and judicious arrangement of parts are such as will commend themselves to all lovers of the truly beautiful and refined in art.

Unusually Attractive Sale of French Dry Goods, Perfumery, &c.—The early and particular attention of purchasers is requested to the unusually attractive assortment of French, Italian, German, and British dry goods, Paris perfumery, &c., embracing about 800 lots of choice and desirable fancy and staple articles in silks, worsteds, woolens, and cottons, to be peremptorily sold by catalogue on four months' credit. Commencing this morning at 10 o'clock, to be continued all day and part of the evening, without intermission, by John B. Myers & Co., auctioneers, Nos. 232 and 234 Market street.

Peremptory Sales—Stocks and Real Estate, to-morrow (Tuesday), at 12 o'clock at the Exchange, by order of Orphans' Court, executors, trustees, and others.

Sale of furniture to-day, Twentieth street; the valuable Paintings of the late Rembrandt Peale are now arranged for examination at the Academy of Fine Arts. Sale to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

See Thomas & Sons' advertisements and *catalogues*—three sales.

Fine Old Wines, Brandies, &c.—C. J. Wolbert, auctioneer, will hold a large sale of rare old wines, brandies, whiskies, &c., in demijohns and cases, this morning at 11 o'clock, at No. 16 South Sixth street, between Market and Chestnut streets, to which the attention of gentlemen desirous of purchasing pure liquors of undoubted reputation is respectfully invited.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Despatches to "The Press."

Washington, November 16, 1862.

Capture of a Rebel Mail Between Charleston and Georgetown, S. C.

The Navy Department despatches contain an account of a valuable service rendered by Acting Master's Mate James J. Russell, of the bark Restless. He left Bull's Island on the 8th instant, in a small boat, with two contrabands well armed, for Jewer's Landing, on the Palmetto river, South Carolina, for the purpose of intercepting the mail between Charleston and Georgetown. He and his friends secreted themselves and waited for the carrier, who approached in a sulky. Suddenly coming from his place of concealment, he commanded him to halt, by the authority of the United States Government. Two mail-bags were captured. The mail carrier said he was glad to be captured, as he had long been wishing to leave the place. The party barely escaped the rebel pickets, and returned in safety to the ship.

The Internal Revenue Bureau.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue is much annoyed at the continual receipt of letters from assistant assessors, deputy collectors, and others, asking information regarding the business of their offices. No attention is paid to their inquiries, as applications for information concerning business should be made by subordinate officials to their principals, and not to the Internal Revenue Bureau.

Arrest of Colonels Colburn and Duane.

The *Star* of last evening says: "The mail brings intelligence to-day of the arrest of Lieutenant Colonels Colburn and Duane, members of the staff of General McClellan, which took place at Trenton yesterday. After due inquiry we are satisfied that the act was caused by the fact that they accompanied General McClellan from the front. They are not recognized here as being members of his personal staff, who were ordered to accompany him to Trenton. His technical personal staff are said, in official circles, to be his two aids, Lieutenant Colonel Key, and Lieutenant Colonel Duane, or his additional aid, A. A. G. Lieutenant Colonel Colburn.

"Under this reading of his personal staff three or four other officers are absent with him from the field without orders to that effect. It is believed here that the writs referred to above meant little more than peremptory orders to the two officers in question to return at once to their positions in the army."

Lieutenant Colonel Colburn.

This gentleman reached this city (under arrest) yesterday forenoon, in obedience to orders to report at the headquarters of the army, we take it.

Heintzleman and Wadsworth.

It is believed around us that the gallant and able Heintzleman is about to be ordered to the field. Gen. Wadsworth is also to have a command in the army.

Arrival of Sick and Wounded.

Two thousand sick and wounded soldiers arrived from Warrenton to-day.

General Heintzelman.

General Heintzelman, commander of the defences at Washington, arrived in this city to-day. The old hero looks well, and appears to be in fine spirits. The report that he will take the field at the head of an army is hailed with delight by every true lover of his country. The nation boasts of no better soldier than General Heintzelman, and all look forward to him with hope and confidence.

The Monitor Passaic.

The success of the trial of the Passaic and her armament creates the liveliest satisfaction. It was feared by many that the trials to which she was subjected would prove unsuccessful; but as they have not, every one is joyful that we will soon have another important addition to our naval power. It is supposed she will be furnished by December 1.

Good Success.

The bark Restless, one of the vessels purchased by Governor Morgan, of New York, under his brother-in-law's contract, has captured prizes amounting to many times her value.

Promotion of Gen. Augur.

Brigadier General Augur, of New York, was to-day appointed a major general of volunteers.

Major General Fremont.

After much inquiry to day, we are forced to the conclusion that General Fremont is not to be made Military Governor of the District and commander of defences at Washington. A strong effort to that end is, however, doubtless being just now made by quite a number of leading and active politicians, who do not seem to make much headway in their undertaking.

Desertion in the Rebel Army.

A Lynchburg paper says the number of desertions from the rebel army is startling, and that they are often the best class of soldiers. It adds that the Confederate Government is fully alive to the magnitude of the evil, and is enforcing the death penalty in the case of every deserter.

Exchanging Prisoners.

General Sherburne, acting assistant adjutant general on Gen. Wadsworth's staff, left this city yesterday afternoon, per steamer, for Fortress Monroe, having in charge between 175 and 200 Secesh prisoners-of-war to be exchanged.

By order of General Wadsworth, they were all permitted to purchase such necessaries and comforts for their own use as their several means would admit of.

We hear that several of their late companions refused to go South to be exchanged, preferring to get their discharge by taking the oath of allegiance to the United States.

Accidental Explosion.

Yesterday, in accordance with custom, the refuse of the workshops of the District Armory—which is about a fourth of a mile from Pennsylvania avenue in a direct line, where fixed ammunition is prepared—was destroyed by fire on the grounds belonging to that building.

It happened that some packages of cartridges were among the refuse, and consequently the explosions run out quite a lively tune to frightfully alarm the entire neighborhood.

The cry of fire went through the city that the building had blown up, and, for a time, there was apprehension of loss of life; but there was nothing more serious involved than the extensive breaking of window glass by the concussion, both of the armory buildings and the army hospital on the same public reservation. The shock was distinctly felt in Pennsylvania avenue, and several panes of plate glass were shattered.

From the Gulf Squadron—Capture of Valuable Prizes.

The Navy Department received voluminous despatches from the Gulf to-day, stating, among other things, that the United States gunboat Sagamore, on the 28th, captured the English schooner Trion, of and from Nassau, with a cargo of one hundred bags of salt and miscellaneous articles.

On the 23d the same gunboat captured the English schooner Francis, of and from Nassau, with salt, powder, guns, etc.

The United States schooner Rachel Seaman, on the 6th ult., captured off Sabine Pass the English schooner Dart.

The steamer Kensington recently captured the British schooner Adventuress while attempting to run the blockade off the coast of Texas.

More Naval Captures.

The Naval Department has received information of the following captures, viz:

By the U. S. gunboat Saginaw, of the British schooner Trier, from Nassau, loaded with salt, principally—on the 25th ult.

By the same vessel, the schooner Francis, loaded with salt, powder, gin, &c., on the 23d ultimo.

By the schooner Rachel Seaman, the English schooner Dart, running the blockade off Sabine Pass—on the 6th ultimo.

By the steamer Kensington, the British schooner Adventurer, while running the blockade off the Texas coast.

Naval Gazette—Official Orders.

James R. Dean, of Freedom, Me., has been appointed acting assistant surgeon in the navy, and ordered to the ship Guard.

Acting Assistant Paymaster J. H. Buckley has been ordered to the ship Guard.

Acting Assistant Paymaster John B. Hazleton has been ordered to the steamer J. C. Kuhn.

Capture of a Prize Schooner.

Lieut. Commander Haxtheu, of the United States steamer Connecticut, reports to the Navy Department that, on the afternoon of the 30th of October, he captured the English schooner Bermuda, of Nassau, about 15 miles eastward of the Sabine river, and close to the land; she was put under the charge of a prize crew, and despatched to Key West.

Rules for Persons Travelling Through our Lines to the South.

Judge Advocate's Office, Washington, Nov. 15.—Applications having been made by ladies to go to their friends and families in the South, notice is hereby given that all applicants must make a written statement to the office, verified by oath, between this date and the 10th day of December next, setting forth—

First. The name, age, and residence of the applicant.

Second. The date when she came within the military lines of the United States, for what purpose, and where she has since resided.

Third. The place she desires to go to, and the purpose.

The persons to whom leave may be granted will be sent with a suitable escort from Washington to the lines, and their effects as shall be allowed to pass.

No person will be allowed to take more than one trunk or package of female wearing apparel, weighing not over one hundred pounds, and subject to inspection; and any attempt or effort to smuggle contraband property will forfeit the same, and subject the party to imprisonment during the war.

L. E. TORNER,
Major and Judge Advocate.

Revenue Tax on Money Earned by Government Officers.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has made the following decision in regard to the term "money earned" by officers in the service of the Government—namely: Payments made to officers in the service of the Government by way of reimbursement for actual expenses, of which an account is rendered, are not subject to a reduction of the three-per-cent tax; but when the moneys are received by such officers by way of commutation, and no account of actual expenses is rendered, the tax must be assessed upon the amount so received.

Important to Drafted Men—Substitutes to be Furnished Immediately.

Harrisburg, Nov. 15—The following order has been received, by Governor Curtin, from the Secretary of War:

To his Excellency A. G. Curtin, Governor of Pennsylvania:

Sir: Drafted men who have been mustered into the service may furnish substitutes within ten days from this time, or at any time within ten days of the time of muster, provided no additional expense shall thereby be occasioned to the Government in transportation, subsistence, or clothing.

By order of the Secretary of War:
C. P. BUCKINGHAM,
Brigadier General and A. A. G.

From Louisville.

Louisville, Nov. 16—Among the arrivals at the Galt House, to day, were Major General Schuyler Hamilton, and Brigadier Generals Burbridge and A. J. Smith, with their respective staffs; Hon. Horace Maynard, and Parson Brownlow.

There is no news from the South to-day.

From Fortress Monroe.

Fortress Monroe, Nov. 16—Yesterday afternoon there were sold at public auction, at Hampton, two hundred and eight Government horses and eighteen mules. The horses sold at prices varying from one to four dollars, and the mules from one to four dollars.

Recently all the able-bodied contrabands were taken from here and Hampton and sent to Washington. Those unable to labor were sent to Newport News, and are now being removed to Craney Island.

OUR GRAND ARMY IN VIRGINIA.

WINTER CAMPAIGN.

Army of the Potomac Reorganized—Four Columns to advance under Sumner, Hooker, Franklin, and Sigel, as Right, Centre, Left, and Reserve—Gen. Burnside's Staff—Burnside and Sigel in Consultation, &c.

Headquarters of the Army of the Potomac, Nov. 15.—The following order was published to day:

Headquarters of the Army of the Potomac,
Near Warrenton, Va., Nov. 14.

General Order No. 184.

First. The organization of a portion of this army into three general divisions is hereby announced.

Three grand divisions will be formed and commanded as follows:

The Second and Ninth Corps will form the right grand division, and will be commanded by Major General E. V. Sumner.

The First and Sixth Corps will form the left grand division, and will be commanded by Major General W. B. Franklin.

The Third and Fifth Corps will form the centre grand division, and will be commanded by Major General Joseph Hooker.

The Eleventh Corps, with such other troops as may hereafter be assigned to it, will constitute a reserve force under the command of Major General F. Sigel.

Assignments of cavalry and further details will be announced in future orders.

Second. In accordance with instructions from the War Department, the commanders of these grand divisions will have power to decide such questions relating to the interior management of their commands as are now forwarded to these headquarters for final action.

Major General Sigel will exercise all the powers in respect to his command above assigned, as the commander of a grand division. Those cases which can only be decided by the departments at Washington, they will forward directly to those departments, without reference to these headquarters.

All matters relating to the movements of troops, together with returns, reports, &c., will be forwarded to these headquarters as usual.

Third. The commanders of these grand divisions will retain with them their respective staffs.

Fourth. The senior officers of the 2d, 3d, 5th and 6th corps will take command of these corps, and will forward to these headquarters a list of recommendations of officers to fill their staffs.

Fifth. Brig. Gen. S. Williams, A. A. G., is appointed Inspector-General of the Adjutant General's Department in this army. Lieut. Col. James A. Hardee, A. D. C., Acting Adjutant General, will act as Assistant Inspector General in the same department.

Sixth. The heads of the various staff departments at these headquarters, other than the Adjutant General's Department, will remain as heretofore until further orders.

Seventh. Lieutenant Colonel Richmond, A. A. General, is announced as A. A. General at these headquarters.

Eighth. All orders conflicting with this are hereby rescinded.

By command of Major General Burnside:
S. WILLIAMS, A. A. G.

General Sigel visited General Burnside at his headquarters to-day.

Artillery Fight near Fayetteville—Narrow Escape of Gen. Sturgis, &c.

Warrenton, Va., November 15—Evening.—At about ten o'clock this morning, while the Second division of the Ninth corps, under General Sturgis, were passing from Sulphur Springs to Fayetteville, at a point about four miles from the latter place, where a small stream, a branch of the Rappahannock, crosses the road, and leading through a deep gorge, a rebel battery opened upon the column from an elevation on the opposite bank of the river.

The attack was sudden, and rapid firing ensued from a twenty-pound gun and several of lighter calibre. Captain Burch's Pennsylvania battery, which was passing at the time, was at once placed in position, and replied to the rebels. His ten-pounder rifle guns soon convinced the rebels that they had awakened the wrong passenger, as his firing was accurate and powerfully effective.

The artillery duel lasted for more than two hours, when the rebels withdrew, with what loss is not yet known.

The firing of the rebels was, however, effectually silenced, and the column continued its march to Fayetteville, which place it reached without further molestation.

The casualties on our side are the loss of First Lieut. McIlvaine, of Durcks' battery, who was struck by a shell while gallantly directing the working of his guns. He received a wound in the abdomen, and another from the same missile in his arm. He cannot long survive. Several of the men were slightly wounded, but none seriously. Several horses were killed, and two wagons destroyed by the enemy's shells.

General Sturgis narrowly escaped death. A ricochet shot struck his horse, and passed close to the General's person.

Yesterday four companies of the 6th New York cavalry, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel McVicker, proceeded to Salem for the purpose of intercepting and capturing the party of Dickinson's rebel cavalry which has been hanging upon our rear, capturing stragglers and otherwise annoying our forces, and which made the recent raid upon Markhall, in which they however made their escape, and no armed rebels were found. Our cavalry remained at Salem last night and returned this morning.

A number of unarmed mounted men were found upon the road, probably scouts of the rebels, although claiming to be peaceful citizens. Having no orders to arrest such persons, they were permitted to proceed.

SABBATH ORDER OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

SUNDAY IN THE AMERICAN ARMY AND NAVY.

Navy of Rest Enjoined and Ordered Throughout the Service, &c.

Washington, Nov. 16.—The following general order has been issued respecting the observance of the Sabbath day in the army and navy:

Executive Mansion,
Washington, Nov. 16, 1862.

The President, commander-in-chief of the army and navy, desires and enjoins the orderly observance of the Sabbath by the officers and men in the military and naval service.

The importance for man and beast of the prescribed weekly rest, the sacred rights of Christian soldiers and sailors, a becoming deference to the best sentiment of a Christian people, and a due regard for the Divine Will, demand that Sunday labor in the army and navy be reduced to the measure of strict necessity. The discipline and character of the national forces should not suffer, nor the cause they defend be imperilled by the profanation of the day and name of the Most High. At this time of public distress, adopting the words of Washington, in 1776, "Men may find enough to do in the service of God and their country without abandoning themselves to vice and immorality."

The first General Order issued by the Father of his Country, after the Declaration of Independence, indicates the spirit on which our institutions were founded and should ever be defended:

"*The General hopes and trusts that every officer and man will endeavor to act as becomes a Christian soldier defending the dearest rights and liberties of his country.*"

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

THE WAR IN THE SOUTHWEST.

PEMBERTON DISBANDS THE GUERILLAS.

Federal Advance into Arkansas.

Hernando Occupied—Cotton Coming Forward—Negroes Sent to the Interior—Accident on the Mississippi River—Rebels Fortifying Jackson—Another Fight at Lumkin's Mills, &c.

Cairo, Nov. 15.—All the partisan rangers who have been pillaging the country around Memphis have been disbanded by Pemberton and attached to regiments.

Cotton is reported to be coming forward again in considerable quantities in consequence of this movement.

Passengers from Helena, Ark., report that the town of Hernando, Ark., was occupied by the Federals on Monday.

The people of Mississippi are said to be running their negroes into the interior, leaving only such property as they cannot carry away.

The steamer Eugene, bound from Cairo to Memphis, struck a sunken wreck on Wednesday night, off Plum Point Bend, and sank in fifteen feet of water. There were over one hundred persons aboard, fifteen of whom were drowned. They were principally of the crew. The passengers remained on the wreck all night, and were brought off on the next morning by the steamer Tigress.

The boat was valued at $13,000, and is probably a total loss. She was loaded with goods and stores, which were badly damaged.

The rebels are said to be fortifying Jackson, Miss. Large reinforcements are being brought there from Aiken. It is believed that their entire army will fall back to that point before giving battle.

FROM NASHVILLE.

Five Murders Reported—The Position of Affairs, &c.

Louisville, Nov. 16—Our Nashville papers of yesterday's date contain account of the murder of two of the homicides were of saloon-keepers, who refused to sell liquor to soldiers; two soldiers were killed, cause unknown; and one negro was killed. The city marshal was also assaulted and badly beaten.

The Associated Press correspondent telegraphed yesterday that Gen. Sill's division moved this morning on the Murfreesboro road. Gen. Crittenden's division is at Silver Springs, twelve miles from Lebanon.

A part of Morgan's force is at Lebanon, and a portion came within two miles of Gen. Crittenden's camp.

The supplies from the country for the city are largely increased. The weather was wet and likely to continue so.

The special despatches from Nashville for the past week have been almost wholly unreliable.

From Texas.

Fortress Monroe, Nov. 15.—The United States gunboat Connecticut has arrived from the Gulf. Among her passengers is Edmund Jenkman, commissioner for the