with them the irreparable losses they have sustained, and commend them to the care of our Heavenly Father.

Resolved, Many of the noble and gallant officers in our army and navy, as well as the soldiers and sailors, who have gone forth in defence of the Constitution, our homes and firesides, have our deep sympathies for their sufferings and deprivations from their homes and loved ones, and we pray God that He may direct the affairs of this nation so to put down this wicked rebellion as to permit them soon to return to their homes and their usual avocations.

The association proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, when the following were unanimously elected:

President—Peter Hay.

Vice Presidents—Captain W. T. Elder, Colonel John S. Warner, Captain John Heller, Colonel Robert Carr, Colonel Thomas Mellor, Colonel Lemuel Paynter, James Peters, Colonel John Swift.

Corresponding Secretary—Hiram Ayres.

Recording Secretary—John H. Frick.

Assistant Recording Secretary—Colonel Charles M. Prevost.

Treasurer—James Benners.

Executive Committee—Captain George Emerick, Joseph P. Leclerc, Captain Jacob H. Fisler, Colonel Cephas G. Childs, Colonel John Thompson, Francis Cooper, Matthew Newkirk.

Colonel Childs offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to wait on General Dana and tender him the services of this association to superintend and aid in the construction of one of the fortifications to be erected for the defence of the city.

Colonel Childs, Colonel Cooper, and Matthew Newkirk were appointed the committee.

The Declaration of Independence was read by Colonel Carr.

The thanks of the association were tendered to him for his judicious reading of the Declaration.

Thirty-five cheers were then given for the Constitution and the laws, the army and the navy, and the meeting adjourned.

GENERAL DANA'S HEADQUARTERS.

Business was not suspended for a moment during the Fourth at the headquarters of General Dana. The reports of different officers were received, and all business relative to forwarding and organizing troops was transacted. The military authorities here have been much embarrassed by the want of system in reporting the new organizations formed, or in process of formation. In order to overcome this difficulty, the following orders were issued on Saturday:

HEADQUARTERS, PHILADELPHIA, July 4, 1863.

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 5.—The commanders of all companies of "Minute Men," which have been organized by the citizens in answer to the call of the General commanding, will, without unnecessary delay, report in person at these headquarters for instructions. By command of

MAJOR GENERAL DANA.

CYRUS S. HALDEMAN, Asst. Adj. General.

HEADQUARTERS, PHILADELPHIA, July 4, 1863.

SPECIAL ORDERS, No. 8.—VII. Commanders of all isolated or detached companies which have been mustered into the service of the State, will proceed, without delay, with their commands to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and report for duty to Major General Couch, commanding Department of the Susquehanna.

They will send written reports to these headquarters of the departure of their commands, and their numerical strength. By command of

MAJOR GENERAL DANA.

CYRUS S. HALDEMAN, Asst. Adj. General.

THE FIRST CITY TROOP.

On Saturday night eleven new recruits for the 1st City Troop started for Harrisburg, having previously sent up their horses. By this time they have no doubt joined in the pursuit of the rebels from Cumberland Valley. The new recruits were equipped and mounted without the expenditure of a dollar of the public money, just as their fellow-members were. The last squad goes up to-day.

THE COAL REGIMENT.

The 1st Coal Regiment, under the command of Colonel Alfred Day, took their departure on Saturday. This regiment was raised by the coal-shippers and miners inside of twenty-four hours. The same gentlemen have started another regiment, and already they have eight hundred men, and the ranks will probably be full to-day.

PARADE OF THE NAVY-YARD REGIMENT.

A street parade was made on Saturday morning of the regiment formed at the navy yard for city defence, and composed principally of the workmen at that place. They wore no uniforms except military caps, but the men turned out in white shirts, and presented a very attractive appearance. A portion were armed with muskets and sabre bayonets, and all marched with the precision of old soldiers.

THE EIGHTY-FOURTH NEW YORK.

Between four and five hundred of the 84th New York State Militia arrived on Saturday. The rest expected to follow. After being entertained at the Refreshment Saloons, they embarked for Harrisburg.

THE COLORED ENCAMPMENT.

The Fourth was duly observed at the colored encampment at Chelton Hills. An army of visitors from the city were present on the grounds during the entire day, and during the afternoon several carloads of colored people, headed with a band of music, arrived. Their appearance was greeted with wild and enthusiastic cheering by the soldiers, who were subsequently drawn up in line and went through the regular drill. A handsome flag, gotten up by the friends of the regiment, was presented, in the afternoon, by Fred. Douglass, Esq., and received by the colonel. The soldiers were also bountifully supplied with many delicacies, brought them by the residents of that neighborhood. A number of hymns were sung, and patriotic music discoursed by the band.

In the morning, a short distance below the encampment, the stars and stripes were thrown to the breeze from a large flag-staff erected on the property of Mr. Warner Raison. The men from the encampment were marched down, and halted in front of the residence of Mr. Raison, to witness the ceremony. A band of music was also present, and this, together with the singing of the soldiers, made the scene one of patriotism and cheerfulness. Speeches were made by Messrs. Thomas Balwin and Miller, and the whole affair passed off in the most pleasant manner.

THE CIVIC CELEBRATION.

THE CHESTNUT-STREET THEATRE.

Nowhere was the anniversary of our National Independence more appropriately or more spiritedly observed than at the new Chestnut-street Theatre, which was crowded in the evening. The stage was brilliantly decked with American flags, and our national anthems, "Hail Columbia," "Yankee Doodle," and the "Star Spangled Banner," were played by the orchestra, with thrilling effect, the audience applauding repeatedly. Upon the rising of the curtain, Mrs. Bowers, personating the Goddess of Liberty, stepped forward with a handsome silk flag in hand, and repeated Drake's immortal address to the American flag. At almost every couplet she was interrupted with the wildest bursts of enthusiasm, and when she pronounced the closing stanza:

"Flag of the free hearts' hope and home,
By angel hands to valor given,
Thy stars have lit the welkin dome,
And all thy hues were born in Heaven!
Forever float that standard sheet!
Where breathe the foe but falls before us,
With freedom's soil beneath our feet,
And freedom's banner streaming o'er us!"

the cheering was almost deafening. When she had concluded, the "Star Spangled Banner" was sung by the entire company, the solo being by Mrs. Chas. Henri, Mrs. J. L. Barrett, and Mr. J. L. Barrett. The "Peep O'Day," the great Irish sensation drama—a *legitimate* sensation—followed. As the period is the Rebellion of '98, many of the passages have an appropriate bearing on our own times, and *Father O'Leary* was loudly applauded when he expressed the hope that all rebels would imitate the example of the *Peep-o'-Day* boys, and lay down their arms.

THE SPIRIT OF '76 AND THE FIRST PRAYER IN CONGRESS.

As we stood in Independence Square yesterday, and listened to the echoing peals of the State-House bell, the following beautiful poem—perhaps we might call it prophecy—from the pen of a well-known citizen, recurred to our mind, and, amid the associations of the hallowed place, seemed invested with new meaning and beauty. It was sent us for publication by Mrs. B. J. Leedom:

No self was there when the solemn prayer
Arose from the patriot band
Who stood in their might for God and the right
Of freedom throughout the land.
When the old bell toll'd on the summer air,
The Spirit of Justice heard the prayer.

Fervent yet low were the words that flow
From heart to heart that day,
And hand grasped hand as the patriot band
Prepared them for the fray.
And the old bell toll'd so loud and clear—
Our lives for our country, we know no fear.

From mountain and dell, at the sound of that bell,
Came the hardy children of toil;
From valley and plain came the sturdy old men,
And the youth left the plough in the soil.
When the old bell rung, o'er the mountains afar,
The children of peace became veterans in war.

Firm as a rock they meet the shock
Of England's serried band,
And back from the coast they scattered the host
Of the foeman from out the land.
And the old bell rang through the summer trees,
As the Star Spangled Banner was flung to the breeze.

The tones that fell from that liberty bell
Shall sweep over land and sea,
'Till the sceptre and crown shall tumble down,
And the nations all are free.
And the old bell spirit shall ring through the world,
'Till the banner of Christ be alone unfurled.

THE KEYSTONE LITERARY UNION.

This association celebrated the Fourth of July by a public meeting at the Assembly Buildings. There was a large and fashionable audience present. R. Grant Barnwell, Esq., read the Declaration of Independence in fine style, and James F. Boyle recited Francis de Haes Janvier's poem, "The Sleeping Sentinel." Joel Cook closed the exercises with an oration on the "Soldiers of Pennsylvania."

In the course of his remarks, Mr. Cook alluded to Lieutenant Sleeper, of Norristown, who held Fort Pickens, and to Lieutenant Greble, of the artillery, who was killed at Big Bethel. He said that it was not for him to detract from the patriotic ardor of sister States or cities. He knew how well they had answered the President's call for aid after the fall of Sumpter, and how quickly; how men had sacrificed everything to rush to the aid of their country. But amid the turmoil and excitement since, the promptness with which Pennsylvania sent her help may have been forgotten. On Tuesday, April 16, 1861, the President's proclamation was made known. On the next day, Wednesday, six hundred citizens of Schuylkill county spontaneously assembled and resolved to answer the call. The next morning, Thursday, they got on a railroad train, rode from Pottsville to Harrisburg, and thence, through Baltimore, to Washington. They were the first men who arrived there for its defence, and were most gladly welcomed. They left home in their everyday garb, taking such weapons as were nearest at hand; effected their regimental organization whilst riding in the cars, electing Henry L. Cake their colonel, and arrived in Washington twenty-four hours before the Baltimore mob fired on the Massachusetts 6th Regiment. Ten days afterward, Pennsylvania had twenty-five thousand soldiers armed and equipped, and in the field—one third of the entire number called for by the President, and double the quota demanded of her. Since the war began she has sent over two hundred thousand soldiers to the armies of the Union.

The proceedings of the meeting were very interesting, and the society bids fair to be among the first literary associations of the city.

MAGNIFICENT DISPLAY OF HUNTING.

The most splendidly decorated edifice in the city was the large military warehouse of Messrs. Evans & Hassall, on Arch street, above Fourth. During the entire night of the 3d experienced upholsterers were busily engaged in the arrangement of these gorgeous decorations, and when the light fell upon the lofty front and extensive west side of the house overlooking the Episcopal burying-ground at Fifth and Arch streets, yesterday, it presented such a profusion of patriotic attire as has seldom been witnessed. Bunting to the extent of thousands of yards fell in graceful festoons from the cornice and the several stories, which, added to the immense flags that adorned the intervals and that floated from the windows and roof, and the large garrison flags that waved from the flag staffs at both ends of the building, rendered this establishment an object that attracted thousands of admiring visitors during the day.

FIRING OF SALUTES.

The usual national salute was fired at noon at the navy yard.

The Union Volunteer Refreshment Committee celebrated the day by the firing of twenty-one guns at sunrise, thirty-five at noon, and twenty-one at sunset.

SERENADE TO MRS. GENERAL MEADE.

About eleven o'clock on Saturday night, Mrs. General Meade was serenaded at her residence at Twenty-first and Pine streets, by a fine band of music, under the auspices of the Union League.

HEADQUARTERS UNION LEAGUE.

The Union League rooms in Chestnut street were opened during the day for visitors, and a number of ladies were in attendence.

The doors of the National Union Club, in Chestnut street, were also thrown open for visitors.

THE FIREMEN.

A number of the houses of the various fire companies were decorated with flags and streamers. The Moyamensing Hose Company housed a new carriage capable of holding 1,000 feet of hose. The Shiffler Hose Company housed a new carriage, with 1,000 feet of steam-forcing hose. The carriage has all the modern improvements, and in the hands of the Shiffler will prove serviceable indeed to the people of Philadelphia. The neighborhood was gay with flags, and patriotic airs were played by the band. The members of the Hope Steam Engine were the guests of the Shiffler, and a happy time they had. A handsome collation was served up, over which Mr. Joseph Sailor presided. A large number of ladies were present, and songs in full chorus made the welkin ring.

THE VOLUNTEER HOSPITAL.

The day was celebrated at the Citizens' Volunteer Hospital, corner of Broad and Prime streets, with speeches, salutes, and music. A flag was raised on the occasion.

THE INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS.

SCENES AT THE NEWSPAPER OFFICES.

The newspaper offices were besieged during the whole day, and up till a late hour in the evening, with crowds of loyal citizens, anxious to hear the result of the battles of the 2d and 3d inst. Special despatches reached *The Press* office nearly every hour during the day, from our own correspondents, all of which were of a cheering character. The enthusiasm of the people was at its height, and the firm, elastic step, the bright, flashing eye, the strong shake of the hand, and the erect carriage of the friends of the Union, were convincing proofs of the heartfelt gratitude they felt for the encouraging news received from the Army of the Potomac. Never before, since the days of '76, was there so much joy manifested as there was on Saturday evening upon the receipt of the special despatch to *The Press*, containing the cheering news of Lee's line of retreat being cut off, the enemy being driven back to Gettysburg, and the surrender of a Florida brigadier general and his command, together with the capture of 3,000 prisoners. It fell like a thunder clap upon the heads of the sympathizers in our midst, and gave a death blow to their hopes of ever being able to see the gentlemanly Gen. Lee in Philadelphia. But it thrilled the loyal heart, and with fervent gratitude did men offer up their thanks to Him who ruleth all things for his own glory.

FIRES.

As usual, we had a number of fires caused by the reckless use of fire-works. None of them were of a serious character, and the State House bell was not rung during the day.

No. 555 North Sixth street was set on fire by crackers in the morning, and slightly damaged.

The roofs and upper stories of Nos. 1026 and 1028 Mechanic street were destroyed by fire in the morning.

The shoe store, No. 314 Poplar street, was slightly damaged in the morning.

At two o'clock in the afternoon a brick dwelling in Sepviva street, below Dauphin street, Nineteenth ward, was damaged to the extent of $400.

There was a slight fire at the southwest corner of Nineteenth and Filbert streets in the afternoon.

At half past five o'clock in the afternoon the roof of Gray's brewery, at Sixth and Minor streets, was slightly damaged.

About half past ten o'clock in the evening, the dwelling of Mr. Smith, on Walnut street, near Seventeenth, was slightly damaged by fire. The roof caught fire from a rocket.

ACCIDENTS.

There was a number of trifling accidents from the injudicious use of fire-arms, during the day. Fingers were blown off, hands were lacerated, and the surgeons at the Pennsylvania Hospital were kept busy with a species of small practice.

John McKim, a boy living in Juniper street, above Pitzwater, had his left hand so badly shattered by the explosion of a pistol that amputation was necessary. The operation was performed at the hospital.

A middle-aged man, named Howell, living in Pegg street, had his right hand badly shattered by the explosion of a pistol.

John Burns, six years of age, living in Savage street, near Sixteenth, accidentally shot himself yesterday, with a pistol loaded with gravel-stones. A portion of the calf of one of his legs was torn off. The sufferer was taken to St. Joseph's Hospital.

A BUSINESS PARADE.

Some excitement was created in the neighborhood of Third and Chestnut streets, by the appearance of what was first supposed to be the colored regiment. It proved to be a band of twenty colored musicians, preceded by the Stars and Stripes, playing a national air, followed by a hundred colored persons all dressed in black, and wearing uniform caps and white gloves. It was literally "an army with banners," for every man either carried a placard bearing a patriotic motto, or he bore aloft a pithy inscription framed in rosewood and gold. As the advancing column came close in view, the admiring spectator discovered that the framed banners generally bore the words, "*Helmbold's Preparations*," and the fact of a shrewd advertising dodge stood confessed. We understand that Mr. H. T. Helmbold, the getter-up of the display, expended eight hundred dollars upon it.

THE DAY ELSEWHERE.

LANCASTER—FUNERAL OF MAJOR GENERAL REYNOLDS.

[Special Correspondence of The Press.]

LANCASTER, July 4.

The body of Major General John Fulton Reynolds reached Lancaster at 11 o'clock this morning, by the 7.30 train from Philadelphia. In the same car were the near relatives and intimate friends of General Reynolds, and several of the members of his staff. The body was in charge of Captain Rosengarten. In other cars were many persons from Philadelphia and Washington, whose presence at the funeral was not specially requested. Others, to whom General Reynolds had been personally unknown, followed his body to the grave with sorrow as real, if not as poignant, as that of those to whom his loss was not merely a national bereavement.

It had ever been General Reynolds' desire that his burial should be unattended with display or pomp, and shortly before his death he had requested that the funeral should be unpretending and quiet. Those who expected that the body of this great soldier would be carried to the grave with all the solemn majesty and martial pride befitting the occasion, were therefore disappointed. His wishes were obeyed in death, as in life had been his commands. And so, in keeping with that Spartan simplicity which had ever distinguished the man, his remains were borne to the tomb without military ceremonies of any kind; not the waving of one plume, nor the tap of a single drum, marked the funeral procession as that of one of the purest and best of American soldiers.

Yet it was not to be an ordinary burial. That Lancaster could not permit. She would have been false to her honor had she received with apathy the corpse of her great son. Five thousand persons, at least, were assembled in the streets near the depôt. Every window and balcony of the houses overlooking the street was crowded with spectators. Though in commemoration of the great anniversary of freedom the city was gay with flags, yet they were tied with funeral crape. Though the day was intensely hot and oppressive, this dense crowd of men, women, and children had been, for at least an hour previous to the probable arrival of the train, patiently waiting. No finer tribute to the memory of any man could be paid than was this spontaneous and silent demonstration. There was no display to attract the curious and sight-loving; there had been no announcement of a great military funeral. But the simple fact that the body of Major General Reynolds, slain at the head of the army, in fighting the enemies of his country on Pennsylvania soil, would be brought to his native city for burial, was enough to thrill all Lancaster with feelings tender and deep, and true. Few could have failed to remember that it was in defence of Pennsylvania homes that he had died, and none could have forgotten that for such a man the noblest tribute would be the unaffected grief of a people.

In this way, therefore, it happened that although in the severe simplicity of the funeral itself, which was strictly private, nothing existed which called for special note, yet in the mighty mourning of the city through whose streets the funeral procession slowly wound, there is ample meaning and suggestion. Had it not been for this a very few words would have recorded the solemn event.

After a brief delay the coffin, draped with the American flag, was taken from the car, and placed in a plain hearse. This was followed by a few carriages, which conveyed the relatives and friends of the dead hero, and at twelve o'clock, with even less display than usually attends the burial of a private citizen, the cortege moved slowly to the Lancaster Cemetery.

Thousands of people followed. Old men who could scarcely walk, children who were carried in their mother's arms, and all the quaint, home-life of this old-fashioned country city, came out in motley gathering from every door and avenue. But most remarkable of these,—all, from sire to child, wearing a countenance mournful from various sympathies with the undemonstrative, but unusual melancholy of the passing procession—were the soldiers, some very young, others gray, and a few crippled. Moist eyes under a hard, weather-beaten, sometimes battle-scarred forehead, told the involuntary grief of the veteran. Some had known the Major General when he was simply John Reynolds, for in towns like Lancaster, there are perhaps more neighbors and friends than elsewhere.

The metropolis would have mourned its hero in a pageant splendid and solemn; here, the absence of display made this ceremony of death more solitary, but more true and sublime. It was the hero alone, rather than his apotheosis, that was felt. From death upon the loud battle-field, a noble soldier was quietly borne to the quiet of the tomb.

"After life's fitful fever, he sleeps well."

The whole town seemed to keep company with this modest, but remarkable procession. A brief distance from the town, the beautiful cemetery of Lancaster was reached. Here repose a number of the hero's kindred; among them the patriarch of this remarkable family, John Reynolds, the Franklin of Lancaster, and to this last rest and companionship, all that was mortal of Pennsylvania soldier was consigned.

The funeral services were simple. Hundreds, with uncovered heads, gathered around the grave, and listened in thoughtful silence to their delivery. The Rev. Walter Powell, Rev. Mr. Widdicomb, and Rev. Mr. Wombert, officiated at the burial. The eloquent extemporaneous remarks of Mr. Powell we must briefly report:

REMARKS OF REV. MR. POWELL.

The fortune of war has brought us together this day in solemn state, to mingle our tears and sorrows. This is no ordinary occasion—the burial of so great and good a soldier. We are taught that in war there are none who are exempt from death. The country could ill spare such a soldier as he whom we now mourn, yet it seems to mitigate our private grief, when we consider the cause in which he fell, the good he did, and the glory he achieved. And yet all this usefulness and glory adds to our regret, and makes even the private loss seem lost in that the nation has so unexpectedly suffered.

The life of General Reynolds is known to you all. Here he was born, and here his early life was spent. Since then his career has been one of public honor and value. But it was this war, which was not only to end his life, but to make it ever famous in American history. High as was the position he had achieved, one higher awaited, and had he lived he would probably have earned additional titles to our gratitude. Yet, what he did was enough to win a proud place in our national annals for his name, and to cause the heart of the nation to beat with grief that he has gone.

When Mr. Powell had ended his earnest and impressive discourse, many points of which we are unable to give, the services were closed with prayer and benediction. The vast concourse slowly dispersed, and the spade of the grave-digger soon hid from the light of day the coffin which enshrined those precious remains. Henceforth the fair cemetery of Lancaster will be a new shrine of freedom, and the monument which will soon rise over the grave of the hero will record the name of one of the best and bravest of the soldiers of America.

WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, July 4.—The assemblage on the President's grounds to-day attending the celebration of the ceremonies, was composed in part of the military, corporate authorities, and Masonic and Odd Fellows' fraternities.

Hon. Hiram Walbridge delivered the oration.

The national salutes were fired by order of the Government, and the day was generally celebrated with much enthusiasm. To-night is the most profuse display of fireworks in all directions.

Early in the day, Secession sympathizers endeavored to cast a gloom over the community by extravagant falsehoods concerning disasters to our arms, but the light of truth soon diffused general joy, and dissipated their purposes.

BALTIMORE.

BALTIMORE, July 4, P. M.—The national anniversary has passed off to-day with the greatest patriotic display ever witnessed in this city. Nearly every building, including dwellings, warehouses, public places, and the shipping in the harbor, are covered with flags, banners, &c. Even the avowed sympathizers with Secessia joined in the patriotic display.

All the bells in the city were rung at sunrise and sundown. Grand national salutes were fired from all the surrounding forts at midday and evening.

The people in the streets have been cheering all day very enthusiastically for the success of the Army of the Potomac.

A magnificent display of fireworks took place to-night. No serious accidents are reported.

NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, July 4.—The day was duly celebrated in this city in the usual patriotic manner, by the display of flags, firing of cannon, guns, and pistols, and burning of a tremendous amount of gunpowder, in every conceivable way, from early morn to dewy eve.

This afternoon a large number of ladies and gentlemen gathered together at the Academy of Music, by invitation of the Young Men's Democratic Union Association. The assemblage was called to order by Hon. Luke F. Cozans, who nominated Hon. P. W. Engs as presiding officer. Mr. Engs, in taking the chair, made a very happy speech. The Declaration of Independence was read by Hon. Godfrey C. Gunther. This was followed by the reading of the Constitution, by Hon. Eli P. Norton.

Addresses were then made by Governor Seymour and ex-Governor Seymour, of Connecticut, Representative Pendleton, of Ohio, and Hon. Richard O'Gorman, of this city.

NEWARK, N. J.

[Special Despatch to The Press.]

NEWARK (N. J.), July 5.—Business was generally suspended yesterday, and the day was ushered in by bell-ringing, flag-raising, and the booming of cannon.

The "citizens'" celebration took place in the new market house, at 9½ o'clock A. M. Those participating assembled at the flag staff at 9 o'clock, and marched to the market house, where, after prayer, the Declaration of Independence was read by Mr. George T. Baldwin, and an oration delivered by J. W. Wall. About two thousand persons were present, many of the number being ladies.

The "Catholic" celebration was held at the Bishop's woods in Irvington, where, after music by the band, the Declaration was read, and an oration delivered by Rev. George H. Doane. L.

DAYTON, OHIO.

[Special Despatch to The Press.]

DAYTON, O., July 5.—The celebration of the 4th of July in this town was quite spirited. The eminent elocutionist, James E. Murdoch, in compliance with an invitation from our committee having the celebration in charge, read the Declaration of Independence. Splindler's Glee Club assisted in the exercises. John Brough, the Union candidate for Governor, was present, and delivered an oration pertinent to the times and characteristically eloquent. Brandt's brass band of Cincinnati was also present and discoursed excellent music. Altogether the celebration was of a character to be long remembered. R. T.

NASHVILLE, TENN.

[Special Despatch to The Press.]

NASHVILLE, July 5.—In addition to the several public and private celebrations of yesterday, in this city, the ceremonies at Fort Gillem, one mile west of the capital, were very interesting. The exercises commenced at the fort at 10 o'clock, and consisted of prayer by the Rev. Mr. Hayes, reading of the Declaration of Independence by the Hon. Jordan Stokes, oration by Professor McCoy, speeches by Governor Johnson and Hon. Horace Maynard, and music by the band. At least two thousand ladies were present in the audience. B. C. T.

Letter from Horace Binney.

We commend the following letter of our venerable and distinguished fellow-citizen to the attention of our readers:

PHILADELPHIA, June 25, 1863.

To the General Committee of Invitation and Correspondence of the Union League of Philadelphia: James Milliken, Esq., Chairman.

GENTLEMEN: I acknowledge the honor of your invitation to participate, as a guest, in the ceremonies and banquet of a national celebration of our national independence, in this city, on the Fourth of July next, and although my health and strength do not permit me to avail myself of the invitation, they do not confine me, at present, to this formal reply.

I have unbounded confidence in the principles of the Union League of Philadelphia, and of the loyal National Leagues throughout the United States. They are distinctly recommended and enforced in the Farewell Address of Washington, and are the breath of life to the Union. It has never been so necessary to embody them for universal action as at this day, and to recall them partly in the letter, and wholly in the spirit, of that immortal paper.

The maintenance of the Union against all enemies, without or within, is a central, habitual, and immovable attachment to it; a sacred regard for the Constitution, as the voice of the Union for its government; confidence in, and support of the Government ordained by the Constitution; obedience to the lawfully-elected and appointed Administration of the Government, respect to its authority, compliance with its laws, acquiescence in its measures; and, withal, that concert of the heart with the demands of political and civil duty which obtains the name of loyalty, and in times like the present manifests the cordiality of allegiance to the nation;—these, I think, are in part, the very letter, and in the whole the spirit, of Washington's Farewell Address. Washington makes no distinction between the lawfully elected and appointed administration of Government and the Government itself. He speaks of both in the same paragraph as the Government. By the *measures* of government he means the measures of administration. The Administration is the Government *in action*. When the people constitutionally change the actors in administration the government is not changed, and the action of the government is entitled to the same regard, respect, and support. If there be any practical distinction between the government and the administration, party has made it, and not Washington; and it is a distinction disloyal to the Union, the Constitution, and the Government. It reduces loyalty to the personal rank of personal regard to personal actors in the government, and to party satisfaction with party measures of government.

The doctrines of Washington were not party doctrines. Washington belonged to no party, wrote for no party, and acted for no party. He feared the evils of parties more than all other evils which could assail the Union. He has described, and almost denounced, the designs of a party disloyal to the Union, and which he thought was in sight in his own day. This was the parent thought of his Farewell Address. He discountenanced parties altogether, and at all times, as intrinsically dangerous to the Union and to republican government.

Let us be thankful that God spared the eyes of this pure and incorruptible patriot from beholding, and perhaps his spirit from conceiving, the bottomless depth to which this nation would fall when an immense and ruling mass of its people would regard party as a political virtue, and the unscrupulous managers of party as the only efficient instrument of government. He was especially blessed in escaping the sight of flagrant and long-continuing rebellion, raised up by and through the spirit of party, to blast the best fruits of the great labor of his life, to destroy the Union, to falsify the Declaration of Independence, and to lay foundations in government which all our fathers abhorred. That sight has been reserved for us, perhaps for our unfilial disregard of his advice, which seems to have been an inspiration from Heaven. We have seen, and we now see, this awful treason, after deluging the country with blood, marching to invade this State, and obtaining, or seeking to obtain, from the same exaggerations of party, either open or secret assistance within the State and city in which the Declaration of Independence was first ushered to the world, and where the formation of the Union was first celebrated by an anniversary procession, and ceremonies of homage, in the same way in which you now purpose again to celebrate it.

As a league of patriots, rejecting all discriminations of party, and building up the strongest and purest combination of the people in irrepressible support of the Union and the Government of the nation, upon the principles of the Father of his Country, I venerate the Union Leagues of the United States, and I devoutly pray God to consummate their noble design, to the effectual suppression of rebellion and treason, and of treasonable practices and confederacies, to the perpetuity of the Union, the maintenance of the Constitution, and the restoration of peace and unity to our entire nation of people and States.

I remain, gentlemen, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

HOR. BINNEY.

The Coal Regiments.

To the Editor of The Press:

The Committee on Organization of the two Coal Regiments, of which Colonels Alfred Day and Oliver Hopkinson are commanding officers, have noticed with regret an article in an evening paper claiming that the 1st Coal Regiment is a Democratic regiment. The Committee have particularly avoided giving any political bias to the regiments, and have only required unconditional loyalty from their members. There has never, at any time, been any inquiry made with regard to the political opinions of the officers and men offering for the regiments. The only aim of the Coal Trade has been to send as many men as possible to the field, for the service of our country, in the quickest and most expeditious manner.

COMMITTEE.

Lewis Audenreid,	J. Hicks Conrad,
Davis Pearson,	George F. Tyler,
Wm. G. Audenreid,	George B. Newton,
J. B. Van Dusen,	Jesse M. Cook,
J. W. Morris, Jr.,	John Street,
Chas. M. Taylor,	John R. Blakiston,
John Milnes,	Jos. H. Huddle,
Wm. Hunter, Jr.,	Chas. Wannemacher,
N. P. Gordon,	Chas. F. Norton.

B. HAMMETT, Chairman.

R. N. RATHBUN, Secretary.

The Press.

MONDAY, JULY 6, 1863.

THE VICTORY!

This is grand news which comes to us from the blood-stained field of Gettysburg! The eighty-seventh anniversary of American independence has been commemorated with immortal honor by the gallant Army of the Potomac! A second time has the rebel project of invading the North, and seizing our national capital, been foiled; and, should our conjectures be verified, a second time has General LEE, baffled, defeated, well nigh crushed, been driven in disgrace and confusion from loyal soil towards his Virginia fastnesses and coverts. The special despatch from our Hanover correspondent, published on Saturday, led the public to anticipate further successes; but few save the most sanguine expected so soon to receive the joyful tidings which we print to-day, and which come to us in too reliable a shape to permit a doubt as to the authenticity of their statements. Only a week ago disloyal men predicted, with ill-concealed satisfaction, the fall of Washington and Philadelphia; and loyal men trembled as they reflected upon the possibility—nay, the seeming inevitableness of such disasters. The Army of the Potomac had been worn out by long marches, and the commencement of its eighth campaign found it upon the defensive—found it not before Richmond but before Baltimore. One week ago, under such adverse circumstances, General MEADE took command of this army; took command not because of confidence in his own ability to command success; not because he loved the fame more than he feared the awful responsibility of the position, but because all who had preceded him had failed, and his name stood next upon the list. It was a name comparatively little known to newspaper notoriety; it was not the cry of a party, nor the theme of fulsome adulation; but to-day it is a name that men delight to honor, for it is indissolubly linked with the fame of a glorious achievement. We are proud of General MEADE as a Philadelphian; we are more proud of him as an American soldier, whose sword has saved his country from dishonor, and whose hand has raised her trampled banner from the dust. We are satisfied with the Army of the Potomac. It has been abused, maligned, and sneered at; but it has given us undoubted evidence of its capacities, and we are content to entrust the honor and safety of the Republic to its keeping. It met LEE away from his entrenchments and masked batteries; it saw the long-delayed opportunity, and has embraced it. We congratulate this gallant band of men: we congratulate all who have an interest or who can feel a pride in their success, upon the news we print to-day. The invasion of LEE has proved the most costly experiment he ever ventured upon; and, though some of our own citizens have been made to suffer, and some of our own homes have been despoiled and laid in ruins, we feel rejoiced that this infamous rebellion has received its severest blow on the soil of Pennsylvania! We who, a brief week ago, were so querulous and so timid, have much to be proud of, much to be grateful for to-day, if there be any truth in our despatches from the field. We have found in one fearful test a leader and a victory. The immediate results are the salvation of our liberties, and the vindication of our national honor. The final results, let us hope, will be—peace and a reunited people!

The Anniversary.

The cheering news received on Saturday, victory for the Army of the Potomac, the inspiriting letter of the President, upon whose word we have learned implicitly to depend, made the celebration of the Fourth of July more joyous than the sanguine had dared to hope. In other columns will be found full accounts of the manner in which the day was observed, and of that solitary event which saddened the general exultation—the burial of Major General REYNOLDS. Yet, little of the excitement, which usually marks the celebration, existed. The profound interest of the people in the great battle was not lessened by the assurance of victory, and official despatches were anxiously awaited. Too many of our citizens dreaded lest the National gain should be their private loss, to make possible any general spirit of levity. There was a solemnity in the observance of the sacred day, honorable to a thoughtful and patriotic people.

WASHINGTON.

Special Despatches to "The Press."

WASHINGTON, July 5, 1863.

Blockade Runners Captured.

Captain MARSBAND, of the United States steam sloop-of-war Lackawanna, reports to the Navy Department, under date of June 14th, that at daylight on the previous morning, whilst at anchor off Mobile, a black smoke was seen to emanate from a steamer. By signal from the senior officer he gave chase, gaining gradually upon the vessel. She was kept in sight until two o'clock on the morning of the 14th, when it became quite dark, and sight of her was lost. At daylight, however, she was discovered eight miles distant, notwithstanding the exertions she made to escape by frequently changing her course, burning oily substances in her furnaces, throwing overboard her cargo, &c. The Lackawanna gained upon her, and when nearing the pursued steamer she hoisted the British ensign, and did not stop her engines until several shots were fired. She was a fast vessel, and the Lackawanna had to run iron steamers by her capture was effected, which took place in latitude 25° 42' north, longitude 85° 32'. She was found to be the iron paddle-wheel steamer Neptune, of Glasgow, bound from Havana to Mobile. During the chase most of her cargo was thrown overboard, as well as the mail, and the principal part of the ship's papers.

Another report from Captain MARSBAND, dated at sea, June 15, says that at nine o'clock this morning, on the return of this ship towards Mobile in company with the steamer Neptune, captured yesterday, the black smoke of a steamer was seen ahead, for which this ship, as well as the Neptune, gave chase. She was not brought to until a shot struck her, which did no damage, however, and she was captured after having been chased 36 miles. She was the Confederate steamer Planter, of Mobile, of 313 tons burden, and left Mobile Bay on the night of 13th of June for Havana, with a cargo of 625 bales of cotton and 124 barrels rosin. During the chase between 60 and 80 bales of cotton were thrown overboard, and several barrels of rosin burned.

Lieutenant commanding EATON, of the United States steamer Circassian, reports to the Department, off New Orleans, June 23d, the capture of the rebel sloop John Wesley, which had evaded the blockade off St. Marks, Florida, on the 13th ult., and was bound to Havana laden with cotton. She was sent to Key West for adjudication.

Medals of Honor to the 27th Maine.

About three hundred of the 27th Maine Volunteers, under Colonel WENTWORTH, who volunteered to remain beyond their time while Washington was threatened, have been relieved by the War Department, and left for their homes yesterday evening. Medals of honor are to be awarded them.

Major General Sickles.

Major General SICKLES reached here by rail this morning. Though suffering from the loss of his leg, his physical condition is thought to be improving.

Destruction of the Rebel Pontoon Bridge.

Major General FRENCH yesterday succeeded in reaching Williamsport by a forced march from Frederick, with a considerable force, and has destroyed the pontoon bridge and train of LEE, which the latter had left in position there, to serve for emergencies.

Vicksburg.

Official despatches from Vicksburg to the 29th ult. have been received. Everything was then going on cheeringly.

A Rise in the Potomac—The River not Fordable.

The recent rains have swollen the Potomac, thus rendering the river unfordable, an important fact in view of military operations. The water in such places on the Upper Potomac is said to be now eight or nine feet deep.

The city is jubilant to-night over the latest intelligence from Pennsylvania.

Arrival of Steamer.

NEW YORK, July 5.—The gunboat Sebago has arrived from off Yorktown for repairs.

The steamer Down, from Port Royal, has arrived, to repair and have a new propeller.

The prize-schooner John Willin, from Key West, which she left on the 25th ult., with a full cargo of articles from other prize vessels, arrived today.

ENCOURAGING NEWS.

REPORTS OF A GREAT VICTORY.

GETTYSBURG IN OUR POSSESSION.

The Rebels Driven Two Miles from the Town.

Thousands of Rebels Captured.

A Large Number of Cannon Taken.

The Enemy Contemplating Retreat.

THE ACCOUNTS OF FRIDAY'S BATTLE.

THE ENEMY REPULSED WITH TERRIBLE HAVOC.

Despatches from Gen. Meade.

Surrender of a Rebel Brigade.

Reported Death of Gens. Hill and Longstreet.

General French at Williamsport.

Rebel Pontoons Destroyed.

Another Account of Friday's Battle.

THE UNION LOSS 20,000—REBEL LOSS 30,000.

From 12,000 to 20,000 Prisoners Taken.

The Wounded Union Prisoners Recaptured.

GEN. PLEASANTON IN PURSUIT.

[Special despatch to The Press.]

GETTYSBURG (Pa.), Sunday, P. M.—Early on Friday night the enemy withdrew his entire line, and hastily evacuated Gettysburg, and fell back two miles in a northwesterly direction. They are now entrenching.

They left behind a large number of paroled prisoners, all of our wounded, and many of their own.

They failed to parole General Barlow, who is now in our lines seriously wounded.

Lee sent a flag of truce, threatening to shell the city if we advanced.

General Meade, thereupon, immediately ordered the removal of the wounded.

A rebel colonel declared that they fought in a slaughter-pen on Saturday morning.

Pleasanton has captured a rebel baggage train.

Our dead have been all buried, but the rebel dead are strewn over the field by thousands.

Up to noon to-day there had been no