The Press.

TUESDAY, JULY 7, 1863.

THE VICTORY.

As the details of the recent glorious victory come to hand, we find it increasing rather than diminishing in splendor and importance, as has too often been the case heretofore. According to reliable accounts, we have taken in the three days' battles nearly thirty thousand prisoners—at least one-third of LEE's entire army; and it is morally certain that the remnant now seeking refuge in the mountains, or endeavoring to cross the swollen waters of the Potomac, is so fearfully shattered and demoralized, that even though it should succeed in escaping into Virginia, it can never be its former self again. In the memorable past it has been a formidable antagonist to the Army of the Potomac; but we do not believe, from the present aspect of affairs, that it will ever again dare to meet that army in battle array. Its campaigns are drawing to a close, and perhaps it will only be heard of in the future of the war as a band of guerillas. Never was an army more thoroughly or completely routed in a single engagement than LEE's army has been. It is scarcely possible to believe that it can be restored to its original effectiveness and spirit. There are no more men in the Southern States to swell its decimated ranks. It cannot be reinforced from Charleston, for the garrison at that point has already been sent to protect Richmond, and at most it cannot number more than fifteen thousand men. It cannot be reinforced from Tennessee, for BRAGG even now is unable to maintain himself before ROSECRANS, and is rapidly retreating. Nor can it be reinforced from the Southwest, for JOHNSTON has not sufficient force as it is to assume a hostile attitude towards GRANT, and is making hopeless appeals to the rebel Government for aid. By this single defeat of LEE the total aspect of the military situation has undergone change, and the prospect of a speedy and honorable end of the war was never so encouraging as it is at the present time. By a single rash movement, the folly of which the experience of last September should have taught him, LEE has brought the "so-called Southern Confederacy" to the verge of dissolution, and its most formidable army almost to the brink of annihilation. We are content with the end of this invasion; we were content with it in the beginning, for though we saw in it possible danger to our National and State capitals, we saw in it, likewise, the grand opportunity for the Army of the Potomac, and we knew that no braver or better disciplined army ever took the field. The opportunity came, and it was not neglected. Victory magnificent, overwhelming, is ours to-day to rejoice over; ours to be thankful to God for, in our inmost hearts. But we have not seen the end of this fearful drama yet. We have sufficiently progressed to understand the working of the plot, and to see that the denouement cannot be much longer postponed; but another act remains to be played before the curtain falls and the lights are extinguished. There are other battles to be fought; other privations and hardships to be endured; other victories as glorious to be won. In the language of Major General MEADE, in whose sagacity and foresight we have every confidence: "Our task is not yet accomplished, and the commanding general looks to the army for greater efforts to drive from our soil every vestige of the presence of the invader." These words are as significant as they are modest. General MEADE does not say that the rebel army is retreating to Virginia, whatever hopes may be. He tells the Army of the Potomac that it must fight other battles to *drive the enemy from "our soil"*—he does not say, to *capture* the enemy. Doubtless he hopes to accomplish this, partially, at least, but he seems to studiously avoid, in his despatches, any form of speech that may excite expectations in the public mind, which may not immediately be justified by events. He is aware that there are difficulties yet to be overcome before he can cross the Potomac, and take up the line of march for Richmond. But the difficulties will vanish before his skill, and the determined, dauntless spirit of his army, and the march once taken up there will be no backward movement.

Pennsylvania and the Victory.

Next to the intense feeling of joy, everywhere prevailing, over the defeat of the rebel army, and its retirement from Gettysburg, the most gratifying feature of the victory, to our minds, is the fact that it was won on Pennsylvania soil, by a Pennsylvania general, and, in a great degree, by Pennsylvania soldiers. We would not disparage in the slightest way the achievements of the soldiers of other States; we would not insinuate, however remotely, that the men of New York, or of Massachusetts, or of Maine, are not as brave and as truly devoted to their country, as any soldiers in the land. We do not claim to be superior to them in these respects; but at least we claim to be regarded as their equals. It is time that the New York journals should cease to sneer and cavil at everything Pennsylvanian. The constant superciliousness with which they interfere in our affairs; the pertinacity with which they misrepresent the actions and sentiments of our people; the air of affected superiority with which they obtrude their gratuitous advice upon us, have a well-understood origin. These do not date from the commencement of the war, but have been of much longer standing. Jealousy of our steady prosperity, the rivalry of business interests—these are the causes whence they spring; and the consequence is that some little difference of sentiment has sprung up between communities which should have the most amicable relations, for the sake of their mutual advantage, if not for the sake of their mutual credit.

As Pennsylvanians, we have nothing wherewith to reproach ourselves. The noble part our people have taken in this war for the Union is the best evidence that a proper spirit animates them, and it should silence the unjust imputations which have been attempted from time to time to be fastened upon their character. When Pennsylvania was invaded a few weeks ago, we were upbraided for permitting the rebel advance. Unmindful of this, we quietly organized and forwarded regiment after regiment to Harrisburg, until we had there collected such a militia force as to insure the safety of our capital, and check LEE's forward movement. Meanwhile, the Army of the Potomac, suddenly placed under the command of General MEADE, whom we are proud to claim as a fellow-citizen, hastened Northward, and fell upon the rash and audacious enemy. We know the result. Neither our children, nor our children's children, to the remotest generation, shall ever forget it, or fail to remember it with a thrill of gratitude and honest pride. The rebels were assailed with unexampled fury; and the gallant General REYNOLDS, a Pennsylvania soldier, laid down his life. The struggle raged for several days, the losses on both sides were fearful, and still the result seemed doubtful. If we should fail, Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, perhaps New York, would be doomed. In this crisis of the nation's fate, it was Pennsylvania that came to the rescue. It was General HANCOCK, a Pennsylvanian, who so nobly bore the brunt of the battle on Cemetery Hill; and in the contest of Friday none were more conspicuous for their daring than the heroic Pennsylvania Reserves, under General CRAWFORD, and, scarcely had we received the news that General SMITH, with eighteen thousand Pennsylvania militia, was moving down from Carlisle upon the enemy's flank, when the joyful news was flashed to us that the rebel army was in full retreat, and the honor of the Republic was saved.

We, of Pennsylvania, have done our whole duty in this struggle. We have poured out our treasures with unstinted hand, because there was national danger to be averted, and national honor to be redeemed. We have sent forth our sons and brothers to the field by tens of thousands; and there have been no battles fought in which we have not been among the mourners. We have not been content with filling our quota of troops, but have exceeded it by many thousands. We have testified, in a hundred ways, our self-sacrificing and patriotic spirit. We have fed the hungry soldiers of New England; we have cared for the moral and intellectual not less than for the physical welfare of our armies; we have sent volunteer agents to the battle-fields to minister to the needs of the wounded after every engagement; we have done everything that could be done for the success and honor of our cause. In doing these things, we have only done what our fellow-citizens in other States have done. For all that has been achieved towards the restoration of the Union we do not arrogate to ourselves the credit nor ask an apotheosis as our due. The lists of killed and wounded will show that the blood of every loyal State in the Union, commingling in one stream, has made forever sacred and historic the soil of our noble Commonwealth. It was in every sense a Union victory—a victory purchased by the whole North, and the glory of which rests alike upon all loyal communities. In the efforts we have made to secure it, we have only done our duty, and ask nothing in return but simple justice. Is it too much to ask for Pennsylvania?

Reply of the President to the Ohio Committee.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 29, 1863.

GENTLEMEN: The resolutions of the Ohio Democratic State Convention, which you present herewith, being in position and argument nearly the same as the resolutions of the Democratic meeting at Albany, New York, I refer you to my response to the latter as meeting most of the points of the former. This response you evidently used in preparing your remarks, and I desire no more than that it be used with accuracy. On a single reading of your remarks, I only discovered one inaccuracy in matter which I suppose you took from that paper. It is where you say, "The undersigned are unable to agree with you in the proposition to have expressed that the Constitution is different in time of insurrection or invasion from what it is in time of peace and public security."

A recurrence to the paper will show you that I have not expressed the opinion you suppose. I expressed the opinion that the Constitution is different *in its application* in cases of rebellion or invasion, involving the public safety, from what it is in times of profound peace and public security; and the opinion I adhere to, simply because by the Constitution itself, things may be done in the one case which may not be done in the other.

I dislike to waste a word on a merely personal point, but I must respectfully assure you that you will find yourselves at fault should you ever seek for evidence to prove your assumption, that I "opposed in discussions before the people the policy of the Mexican war."

You say: "Expunge from the Constitution this limitation upon the power of Congress to suspend the writ of habeas corpus, and yet the other guarantees of personal liberty would remain unquestioned." Doubtless, if this clause of the Constitution, improperly called, as I think, a limitation upon the power of Congress, were expunged, the other guarantees would remain the same; but the question is, not how those guarantees would stand with that clause *out* of the Constitution, but how they stand with that clause remaining in it, in cases of rebellion or invasion, involving the public safety. If the liberty could be indulged of expunging that clause, letter and spirit, I really think the constitutional argument would be with you.

My general view on this question was stated in the Albany response, and to that I do not state it now. I only add that, as seems to me, the benefit of the writ of habeas corpus is the great means through which the guarantees of personal liberty are conserved and made available in the last resort; and corroborative of this view is the fact that Mr. Vallandigham, in the very case in question, under the advice of able lawyers, saw not where else to go but to the habeas corpus. But by the Constitution the benefit of the writ of habeas corpus is itself may be suspended, when in cases of rebellion and invasion the public safety may require it.

You ask, in substance, whether I really claim that I may override all the guaranteed rights of individuals, on the plea of conserving the public safety—at my own choice to say the public safety requires. This question, divested of its argumentative clothing, is stated to represent me as struggling for an arbitrary personal prerogative, is either simply a question *who* shall decide, or an affirmation that *nobody* shall decide, when the public safety does require in cases of rebellion or invasion. The Constitution contemplates the question as likely to occur for decision, but it does not expressly declare who is to decide it. By necessary implication, when rebellion or invasion comes, the decision is to be made, from time to time; and I think the man whom, for the time, the people have, under the Constitution, made the commander-in-chief of their army and navy, is the man on to hold the power and bear the responsibility of making it. If he uses the power justly, the same people will probably justify him; if he abuses it, he is in their hands, to be dealt with by all the modes they have reserved to themselves in the Constitution.

The earnestness with which you insist that persons can only, in time of rebellion, be law fully dealt with, in accordance with the *rules for* criminal trials and punishments in times of peace, induces me to add a word to what I said in that point in the Albany response. You claim that men may, if they choose, embarrass those whose duty it is to combat a flagrant rebellion, and then be dealt with only in turn as if there were no rebellion. The Constitution itself rejects this view. The military arrests and detentions, which have been made, including those of Mr. Vallandigham, which are not different in principle from the other, have been for preventive, and not for punitive purposes—as injunctions to stay injury—as proceedings to keep the peace—and hence, like proceedings in such cases and for like reasons, they have not been accompanied with indictments, or trials by juries, even in a single case, by any punishment whatever beyond what is purely incidental to the prevention. The original sentence of imprisonment in Mr. Vallandigham's case was to prevent injury to the military service only, and the modification of it was made as a less disagreeable mode to him of securing the same prevention.

I am unable to perceive an insult to Ohio in the case of Mr. Vallandigham. Quite a number of men of this sort was or is intended. I was wholly unaware that Mr. Vallandigham was, at the time of his arrest, a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Governor, until so informed by your reading to me the resolutions of the Convention.—I am grateful to the State of Ohio for many things, especially for the brave soldiers and officers she has given in the present national trial to the armies of the Union.

You claim, as I understand, that according to my own position in the Albany response, Mr. Vallandigham should be released; and this because, as you claim, he has not damaged the military service by discouraging enlistments, encouraging desertions, or otherwise; and that if he had, he should have been turned over to the civil authorities under the recent acts of Congress. I certainly do not know that Mr. Vallandigham has specifically, and by direct language, advised against enlistments, and in favor of desertion as it seemed to be drafting, but all know that combinations, armed in some instances, to resist the arrest of deserters, began several months ago; that more recently the idea has appeared in resistance to the enrolment preparatory to a draft; and that quite a number of assassinations have occurred from the same animus. These had to be met by military force, and this again has led to bloodshed and death. And now, under a sense of responsibility more weighty and enduring than any which is merely official, I solemnly declare my belief that this hindrance of the military, including maiming and murder, is due to the course in which Mr. Vallandigham has been engaged, to a greater degree than to any other cause; and is due to him personally in a greater degree than to any other one man. These things have been notorious, known to all, and of course known to Mr. Vallandigham. Perhaps I would not be wrong to say he knew of them with his especial friends and adherents. With perfect knowledge of them he has frequently, if not constantly, made speeches in Congress and before popular assemblies; and if it can be shown that, with these things staring him in the face, he has ever uttered a word of advice or counsel against them, it will be a fact greatly in his favor with me, and one of which, as yet, I am totally ignorant. When it is known that the whole burden of his speeches has been to stir up men against the draft, denounce the war, and that in the midst of resistance to it he has not been known in any instance to counsel against such resistance, it is next to impossible to repel the inference that he has counseled directly in favor of it. With all this before them, the Convention you represent have nominated Mr. Vallandigham for Governor of Ohio, and both they and you have declared the purpose to sustain the National Union by all constitutional means. Of course, they, and you, in common, reserve to yourselves to decide what are constitutional means, and, unlike the Albany meeting, you call to state or intimate that, in your opinion, an army is a constitutional means of saving the Union against a rebellion, or even to intimate that you are conscious of an existing rebellion being in progress with the avowed object of destroying that very Union. At the same time, your nominee for Governor, in whose behalf you appeal, is known to you and to the world to declare against the use of an army to suppress the rebellion. Your mere attitude, therefore, encourages desertion, resistance to the draft, and the like, because it teaches those who incline to desert and to escape the draft, to believe it is your purpose to protect them, and to hope that you will become strong enough to do so. After a personal interchange with you, gentlemen of the committee, I cannot say I think you desire this effect to follow your attitude; but I assure you that both friends and enemies of the Union look upon it in this light. It is a substantial hope, and by consequence, a real strength to the enemy. It is a false hope, and one which you would willingly dispel. I will make the way exceedingly easy. I send you duplicates of this letter, in order that you, or a majority of you, may, if you choose, endorse your names upon one of them, and return it thus endorsed to me, with the understanding that those signing are thereby committed to the following propositions, and to nothing else:

"1. That there is now a rebellion in the United States, the object and tendency of which is to destroy the national Union; and that, in your opinion, an army and navy are constitutional means for suppressing that rebellion.

"2. That no one of you will do anything which in his own judgment will tend to hinder the increase or favor the decrease, or lessen the efficiency of the army and navy, while engaged in the effort to suppress the rebellion; and

"3. That each of you will, in his sphere, do all he can to have the officers, soldiers, and seamen of the army and navy, while engaged in the effort to suppress the rebellion, paid, fed, clad, and otherwise well provided for and supported.

And with the further understanding that upon receiving the letter and names thus endorsed, I will cause them to be published, which publication shall be, within itself, a revocation of the order in relation to Mr. Vallandigham.

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It is a principle of the Prize Ring, an institution said to be the embodiment of impartiality and justice among belligerents, that the victor must not strike a foe when he has fallen. Upon this principle, General MEADE should be very tender in his treatment of LEE. Is it fair that he should relentlessly pursue a flying enemy, who deserves his pity and sympathy? When we remember the humiliations the rebel army has met, its suffering for the want of provisions and ammunition, its very painful situation, we think it may reasonably claim eleemosynary aid from a general who seems so well able to yield it. LEE himself will admit that, to make the next battle fair, fifteen days should be allowed him to entrench his army and receive reinforcements. In this way we might emulate the chivalric courtesy of the ancient warrior, who, when he had disarmed his foe, politely suspended the contest, and requested him to pick up his sword.

WASHINGTON.

Special Despatches to "The Press."

WASHINGTON, July 6, 1863.

The District Militia.

The special emergency for which the militia of the District of Columbia were called out having ceased, owing to recent victories, the order for mustering them into service has been suspended for the present. The militia have been officially complimented for the promptness with which they responded to the call.

Naval.

Acting volunteer Lieutenant Commanding WM. P. RANDALL, of the United States bark Pursuit, reports to the Navy Department, off Indian Inlet, June 23d, that he succeeded in capturing the sloop Kate, from Nassau, with an assorted cargo. Her captain acknowledged that he left Nassau on the 20th ult., for the express purpose of running the blockade.

Lieutenant Commander SEMMES, of the gunboat Tahoma, reports to the Department the capture of the English schooner Harriet, on the 5th ult., while trying to run the blockade.

Lieutenant Commander SEMMES also reports to the Department the destruction of the English schooner Mary Jane, on the 18th June—she having been run on the beach, on a small key, near Clearwater harbor, by her captain, to prevent her seizure by the Tahoma.

The Defences of the Coast of Maine.

Vice President HAMLIN, and Senators FESSENDEN and MORRILL have arrived here for the purpose of inducing the Government to take measures for the defence of the coast of Maine. They come by Executive appointment.

Reply of the President to the Ohio Committee.

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THE WAR IN PENNSYLVANIA.

A GRAND VICTORY.

Disastrous Retreat of the Rebels.

General Meade's Order of Congratulation.

THE WHOLE ARMY IN PURSUIT OF LEE.

Capture of Rebel Trains by Kilpatrick.

COUCH'S TROOPS IN CONFLICT WITH THE ENEMY.

500 Prisoners and 3 Guns Taken by Gen. Pierce.

LEE HOLDING THE PASSES OF SOUTH MOUNTAIN.

4,000 Rebels Captured by General Gregg.

LONGSTREET'S DEATH STILL AFFIRMED.

LEE OPPOSED TO THE INVASION.

[Special Despatch to The Press.]

GETTYSBURG, July 6—2 P. M.—A despatch has just come in from Gen. Haupt, who is in the advance, announcing that the enemy is rapidly retreating.

We are now moving all our sick and wounded in this vicinity into this town.

FOUR P. M.—The 12th Army Corps is on the march, and is now moving in haste through Littletown towards Williamsport, to cut off the retreat of the flying enemy.

The left wing has just received marching orders.

A part of the artillery and cavalry belonging to Gen. Pleasanton's command is in motion towards Frederick.

The following is a partial list of killed in the 90th Pennsylvania Regiment: Col. D. O'Kane, Lieut. Col. Shudy, Capt. Chas. Thompson, Capt. Michael Duffy, and Lieut. Kelly. Out of twenty-six officers in this regiment, only four escaped. Two of them were taken prisoners. B.

[Special Despatch to The Press.]

BLOODY RUN, July 6.—Jenkins has made off with his rebel cavalry. A portion of the rebel cavalry under Lee is reconnoitring the Potomac for a ford. L. W. W.

CONGRATULATORY ORDER OF GENERAL MEADE.

GENERAL ORDER NO. 68.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, NEAR GETTYSBURG, July 4.

The Commanding General, in behalf of the country, thanks the Army of the Potomac for the glorious result of the recent operations.

An enemy superior in numbers, and flushed with the pride of a successful invasion, attempted to overcome or destroy this army.

Utterly baffled and defeated, he has now withdrawn from the contest.

The privations and fatigues which the army has endured, and the heroic courage and gallantry it has displayed, will be matters of history to be ever remembered.

Our task is not yet accomplished, and the Commanding General looks to the army for greater efforts to drive from our soil every vestage of the presence of the invader.

It is right and proper that we should, on a suitable occasion, return our grateful thanks to the Almighty Disposer of events, that in the goodness of his Providence He has thought fit to give victory to the cause of the just. By command of

MAJOR GENERAL MEADE.

S. WILLIAMS.

THE RETREAT OF THE REBELS.

NEAR GETTYSBURG, July 5, via WASHINGTON, July 6.—The enemy have retreated towards the Potomac.

Their skirmishers were driven in last night, and a small cavalry force (probably the rear guard) passed through Emmittsburg this morning about daylight.

Our troops have been engaged all day in burying the dead, relieving the wounded, and collecting arms, many thousands of which belonged to the rebels. The rebel pontoon bridge, at Dam No. 4, has been destroyed by our cavalry, who were almost entirely unopposed, and the cavalry, at the last advices, had gone up to Williamsport to destroy the two bridges there.

Other preparations are in progress to intercept Lee's passage of the Potomac, and our army is already in motion.

So much time, however, has elapsed since Lee commenced to withdraw from our front, that his advance may have reached Williamsport in time to cross before we can prevent it.

Gen. Lee yesterday paroled about 2,000 Union prisoners. They were received by Gen. Couch.

It is not yet ascertained, that Longstreet was captured or killed. Gen. Hunt, chief of artillery, was not wounded. Both of these reports were at first apparently well authenticated and fully believed.

CREIGERSTOWN, July 5.—It is reported here, by officers, that on Saturday afternoon our cavalry, under Kilpatrick, intercepted a retreating train of rebel wagons, guarded by the remnant of Imboden's brigade of cavalry, infantry, and artillery, near Monterey, on the Hammerstown and Gettysburg road.

He captured 900 prisoners, including 200 wounded officers, 150 wagons, and two guns. The enemy were completely surprised, and unable to make any serious resistance.

Firing was heard in the direction of the enemy's retreating column yesterday afternoon, and it was probably caused by our cavalry and flying batteries pressing on the enemy's rear.

FROM CUMBERLAND VALLEY.

HARRISBURG, July 6.—In answer to many inquiries concerning General Couch's movements, it may be stated that he has pushed forward all his effective force to co-operate and join with the Army of the Potomac, and is, by order of General Meade, pushing the regiments forward as rapidly as they are organized. The country may rest assured that he is doing all in his power. His advance is already in contact with the enemy, and aiding in the glorious results.

General Lee, so far as known, holds all the passes in the South Mountain leading into Cumberland Valley from Gettysburg. This is done for the purpose of removing his trains, which are now pushing for Virginia.

The mountains are full of disorganized troops belonging to Lee's army, who are arriving within our lines every hour. No accurate estimate of the number can be made, but it is very large.

The troops under General Pierce, formerly Milroy's, arrived yesterday at Chambersburg, and pushed on to Greencastle, where they captured five hundred prisoners, ten wagons loaded with plunder, and three pieces of artillery.

The prisoners were stragglers who were making their way to the Potomac in company with the wagon train.

A despatch from near Chambersburg this morning states that heavy firing is heard in the direction of Hagerstown.

It is believed that General French has made an attack in that vicinity on the trains moving towards Virginia.

The order requiring passes to cross the Susquehanna was this morning temporarily revoked.

Gen. Couch left this morning for Gettysburg, in company with a number of surgeons.

There is no further news from the Army of the Potomac.

FROM FREDERICK, MARYLAND.

FREDERICK, Md., July 6.—Our whole army is in motion, and the highest hopes are entertained that but a small portion of Lee's army will be able to reach Virginia.

A spy, named William Richardson, about fifty years of age, was hung this morning. He was captured yesterday at Oxford, Maryland, but it appears that he had been previously captured, but made his escape.

It is reported that he admitted the charge, and said he had been in the business for a long time. Also, that important communications between Generals Lee and Ewell were found on his person.

FROM HARRISBURG.

HARRISBURG, July 6.—The embargo is raised. The river may now be crossed. Meade's name is on every lip. Harrisburg is clothed in smiles and tears—*tears for the brave dead, smiles for the living victors.*

The troops under General Pierce, stationed at Bloody Run, advanced yesterday through the mountain passes about McConnellsburg, and fell upon Lee's rear, taking three pieces of artillery, five hundred prisoners, and about one hundred wagons.

Lee's scattered troops are retreating rapidly through the Valley, but the impression prevails in official circles that the fords on the Potomac are all in the possession of our troops.

Gen. Smith's militia force is pushing on rapidly, and has now reinforced the wearied troops of Gen. Meade. The militia are pouring in rapidly, and being organized and sent forward. Philadelphia is behindhand.

General Cameron leaves to-day for the battle-field, with a corps of surgeons and supplies for the wounded.

The following order has just been posted in the Capitol, and is confirmatory of the good news:

HEADQUARTERS DEPT OF THE SUSQUEHANNA, HARRISBURG, July 6, 1863.

To the Officers commanding at the Bridge across the Susquehanna:

SIR: Until further orders you will permit all persons, except such as are suspicious, across the bridge to go to Carlisle, and by the way of York to Gettysburg. Teams for conveyance of persons may also be passed, but not droves of horses or stock without special permission from these headquarters.

By order of Major General COUCH.

TELEGRAM FROM THE GOVERNOR.

HARRISBURG, July 5, 1863.

Colonel R. Biddle Roberts, Philadelphia:

The army commanded by Gen. Couch is advancing in force, and is likely to render important service. We should push troops forward, and there should be no delay. General Couch has telegraphed General Dana to that effect. The State is responding with so much generosity that we cannot afford further delay in the city. I am satisfied that the rebel army is in our power, if we act promptly and vigorously. Much may depend on the strength of Couch's army.

The crossing of the Potomac prepared by the enemy is destroyed, and he is short of ammunition. Send forward companies as mustered into service. To-day and to-morrow we must make up to 40,000 men. Be prompt, and make everything yield to the presence of troops here. A. G. CURTIN.

GENERAL BIRNEY.

By a despatch from General Birney to a friend in this city we learn that he is "well and unharmed." He also says: "All is going well. The corps had its usual heavy fighting." The despatch is dated July 5, 10 A. M., and is from the the battle-field.

BALTIMORE, July 6.—Brig. Gen. H. Haupt arrived here at midnight last night, and had an interview with Gen. Schenck up to one o'clock on Sunday. When Gen. Haupt left the headquarters of Gen. Meade, the enemy were fleeing.

Gen. Meade's headquarters were at Cremgerstown, Md., some fifteen miles north of Frederick, and today he is no doubt at Frederick.

Gen. Halleck is in possession of several recent despatches from Gen. Meade, and, from their tone, Meade declares that Lee has suffered a disastrous defeat.

The following has been posted at headquarters: Advices from the army up to 2 o'clock on Sunday afternoon state that Gen. Meade's headquarters were at Cromgerstown last night, and were to be in Frederick to-day.

Gen. Meade has telegraphed that Lee's army is retreating.

FREDERICK, MD.

FREDERICK, July 6, P. M.—It is believed here that the reported destruction of the rebel bridges at Williamsport is a mistake, originating in the fact that the bridge at Falling Waters, five miles below, was destroyed.

An officer, who was with the party that destroyed the latter bridge, reports that the party subsequently started to destroy those at Williamsport, but, finding Gen. Imboden there with a large force, abandoned the enterprise.

About fifteen hundred rebel prisoners, including thirty-seven wagon loads of wounded, arrived here to-day by the Hagerstown pike. They included those captured on Sunday by Colonel Kilpatrick.

Heavy firing was heard yesterday, at noon, in the direction of Monterey and Greencastle. It is reported to have been caused by our pursuing forces pressing upon the enemy's rear guard, who, being strongly posted, checked the pursuit.

HARRISBURG.

HARRISBURG, July 6—Midnight.—The authorities here are in costasies over the news received today.

The Potomac has risen six feet within the past forty-eight hours, which must necessarily destroy all the fords, and there being no bridges within striking distance of Lee's army, all means of retreat is cut off.

A despatch, which was received to-night by Gen. Couch, states that Gen. Gregg, with a force of Gen. Pleasanton's cavalry, had an engagement to-day at Fayetteville, in which he took 4,000 prisoners. Fayetteville is between Cashtown and Chambersburg, on the east of South Mountain.

After disposing of his prisoners, General Gregg took an interior road, and advanced in the direction of Greencastle. The militia, under General Smith, are in supporting distance of General Gregg, and rapidly advancing up the valley.

The veteran troops of the Army of the Potomac moved yesterday after the retreating Army of Virginia. Their position at the present time is not known here.

Deserters from the rebel army, who had fled to the mountains, continue to deliver themselves up in large numbers.

The report that Col. Coulter, of the 11th Pennsylvania, was murdered in the streets of Gettysburg, by a rebel officer, is not true.

A person representing himself as Gen. Longstreet's adjutant general, who was captured near Hagerstown on Friday, arrived here to-day. He states that Longstreet and Lee both opposed the invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania, believing that it would be disastrous; but President Davis would not listen to their objections, and gave the order for the advance, promising to send them 30,000 reinforcements under Beauregard. When the adjutant was captured he was on his way to Culpeper, to ascertain what had become of Beauregarde's troops, and was ignorant of the reason why whether any one here had any knowledge of them.

Gen. Sigel, who arrived here to-day, was serenaded this evening at the Jones House, and made a short speech.

Thirty army wagons arrived at Carlisle to-day. They were captured from the enemy, near Shippensburg.

A gentleman who left Gettysburg last evening, states that Gen. Longstreet is dead, and within our lines.

There was every indication that Lee's army would be forced to turn and give us battle, or surrender.

Total Rout of Lee.

AN IMMENSE NUMBER OF PRISONERS—GEN. COUCH FORMS A JUNCTION WITH GEN. MEADE.

NEW YORK, July 6.—A special despatch from Baltimore to the *Herald* says:

"Eight thousand prisoners have arrived here, and Gen. Schenck has orders to prepare for twenty thousand more.

"Gen. Couch has formed a junction with Gen. Meade, and the rebels are being slaughtered and captured by regiments and brig