The Press.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1863.

THE SITUATION.

That the situation is confused cannot be now complained. It is clearly defined, and intelligible. The lines of victory have been sharply drawn; the results are appreciable at a glance. With the point of a pen we may run over the map and mark vast tracts of territory recently regained from the rebellion. Victories that have for their reward whole States are easily understood. We know what we have done. The weakness of the rebellion in the Southwest has been shrewdly pointed out by the fact not merely that Vicksburg fell, but that, during the long siege, not one attempt was made to relieve the city. The enemy had actually no army able to interfere with Gen. GRANT. Now he has advanced, almost unresisted, into the heart of the country, has complete control of the great river, and threatens the immediate subjugation of Mobile and all the surrounding country. Thus far, we have had no trouble from the guerilla, nor do we believe that any effectual interference with the navigation of the Mississippi can occur.

General GILMORE has heavy guns in position within one mile of Sumpter, and is confident of being able to reduce that strong fortress as well as Fort Wagner. The progress of the siege has not been marked by any recent victory, but the general success is uninterrupted. Cumming's Point has been bombarded by the monitors, with what success we cannot know from the rebel journals, which furnish the information. The grand attack upon those mighty works which defend the city of Charleston has not yet been made, and all the attacks thus far must be regarded as preliminary merely—intimations of the great preparations for an assault which we think cannot be resisted. In General GILMORE's ability we can rest confidence. He is working surely and steadily, and has already gained advantages upon which will be based resolute advances. We must not undervalue the strong defensive position of Charleston, nor forget that its harbor was fortified at enormous expense by the United States, and that during the last two years the rebels have greatly increased its strength. In Virginia we have much reason to soon expect another great battle. The enemy is retiring upon Richmond, and our army follows him steadily. The Rappahannock has again been crossed. What position General LEE will select for a stand is undetermined, but from the present disposition of the two armies the outbreak of a battle at any moment cannot be surprising. Yet, from the record which LEE has left in Pennsylvania, and on his march thence to Culpeper, we have learned that his anxiety to fight is not very great, and that, so far as his wish is concerned, it will be delayed as long as possible. We consider it more than probable that he is falling back on reinforcements, and that, if a battle cannot be forced before his plans are consummated, other elements may change the relative position.

The Convention.

A suggestive thought will occur to the gentlemen of the Convention, which is to meet in Pittsburg to-morrow, when they recall the time at which its session was formerly intended, and the changes that have since taken place. The day fixed for the first meeting of the Convention came to pass in the midst of a great and growing peril. The State had been invaded, and the rebels were growing fat and lusty over the spoils of Upper Maryland and the Cumberland Valley. It was a time of dread and danger, and only ended by a fierce and bloody battle on the limits of a Pennsylvania town. The members of the Convention justly felt that their services were due to the State, and that it would be well to postpone any deliberations that looked to the good of the Commonwealth until danger of its invasion was at an end. Therefore it was postponed, and we now see the Convention assembling in the midst of general joy over our recent victories. The rebel foe has been driven from our State, and an Administration, which these gentlemen are particularly called upon to represent, has shown that, notwithstanding the perils and calamities that have befallen its agents in various military enterprises, it is bold and prompt enough to meet the invaders of any Northern State upon the threshold and drive them forth in shame and discomfiture. A Convention of loyal Pennsylvanians, many of whom have done a noble part towards delivering the State from rapine and war, could meet at no more fitting time than this.

As to the duties of the Convention we have said all that we intend to say. The members have it in their power to save the State of Pennsylvania from the control of the enemy in the coming election, and to elect a loyal Governor for this grand old loyal State. Give us Governor CURTIN, if necessary—give us a better man, if one can be found. At all events, give us a candidate who will possess the confidence of the people in such a degree that he can be elected by a large majority. We have all the elements of success in the coming campaign, and it only requires the gentlemen who meet to-morrow to exhibit prudence, discretion, and firmness, to enable us to win the greatest political victory of the age in October.

The Draft.

When a man is drafted, the first duty of the Government is, doubtless, to prepare him gradually for the fatigues and hardships which Fortune, symbolized by a blind man turning a crank, has decreed he must undergo. For this purpose, if for no other, the system, or, as a German would say, the no-system, adopted in the Fourth Congressional district of this city, was designed; or perhaps it would be wiser to say, selected. There the raw conscript is converted into a thorough soldier by exposure to the fires of day and the dews of night; like BYRON's Sardanapalus, but that was a dream and this is reality, is "purged in the flames and withered in the air," and is taught those distinguishing qualities of the best troops, patience and hope, under the most discouraging circumstances and the severest trials.

We desire it understood that we have no fault to find with the able and gentlemanly provost marshal, commissioner, and surgeon of this district, beyond the fact that they have not devised, nor apparently made any attempt to devise, any remedy for the inconveniences to which the public is at present subjected. Their want of sufficient force limits them necessarily to from forty to sixty examinations of exempts and substitutes per day. We do not blame *them* for that, though some one is to blame. But surely it is within the scope of human ingenuity to invent some method by which those who desire exemption, or to present substitutes, may be spared the necessity of waiting from ten in the evening to four of the afternoon of the next day in the open air. Let a single ward be examined by precincts on special days. Let tickets be given to applicants entitling them to precedence in the order in which they are obtained. Let the numbers of the drafted in their notices be taken as a basis of order. But let some system different from the present be adopted. It is no slight inconvenience for a laboring man to lose day after day in vain endeavors to obey the law; it is no slight inconvenience for a man whose health is weak, to be exposed to drenching rain and burning sun, to be compelled to sleep on the hard wood of the cellar-doors, and harder stone of the steps of the provost marshal's office, and then to stand all day, waiting for his turn, and perhaps waiting in vain. It should be remedied without delay.

The Influence of Our Victories in Europe.

"The gleam of success which has fallen on the Federal arms in the surrender of Vicksburg."

These words are almost the entire comment of the London *Times* upon the most important victory of the war. While Vicksburg was in the possession of the rebels, the *Times* paraded the importance of the position, its strength, the gallantry of its defenders, and considered hopeless the task of General GRANT. Now that the hopeless task has been accomplished, and Vicksburg is in the possession of the National forces, it has scarcely a word for the victory. Could the Thunderer thunder more unjustly? The inconsistency of its course is not with a comic aspect, for it must have been hard for the prophet to eat his own prophecies, and, indeed, his grimaces in taking such an unwelcome meal are monstrous. We may measure by the silence of the *Times* in regard to this victory its chagrin and disappointment. Had it been able to have spoken one word of comfort to the defeated Confederacy, it would not have abstained from speech. But, with all its ingenuity, it was unable to escape from its own record, and could only disparage our success by the sullen statement that the Mississippi would still be controlled by the guerilla parties of the enemy.

The opinions of the London *Times* deserve notice not because of their intrinsic value, but because they are representative and influential. It is either the leader or the follower of a large part of the English public; it expresses a feeling which is to some extent national, and embodies the policy of many of the English statesmen. Whatever it may say has, therefore, this dependent value. It speaks for the enemies of the United States in Europe, and we are interested in its utterance. "Do not repeat to me the praises of my friends, but let me know the censures of my foes." This was said by a man supposed to be wise. We may learn lessons of consolation and hope from the angry comment of the pro-slavery European press upon our recent victories.

The value of these victories is weighed by the *Times* in scales of its own construction, very unequally hung. The real lesson to be drawn from the war, we are gravely informed, is that the issues sought are not to be gained by war at all. This is cheerful reasoning. The *Times* has evidently forgotten that the issue of Southern independence was hitherto certain to be gained by war, and that the capture of Washington, of which it so confidently expected to hear, was to insure the recognition of the Confederacy. Successes achieved by the rebels are inestimable; victories won by the nation are valueless. This peculiar style of argument, the deduction of two sets of conclusions from one set of premises, entitles the *Times* to the respect of every man who is ignorant of logic, and the affectionate admiration of all persons bereft of reason. All Powers, all individuals, opposed to free republican institutions, will under-value the results of our triumph, and we must expect perpetual injustice at their hands. Yet the influence of victory will reach them, and whatever indifference they may profess in words, their actions will not be independent. Vicksburg has a direct effect upon the foreign relations of America. Newspapers in the interest of the rebellion may depreciate the value of its capture, but Governments will silently adapt their policy to the fact. The demonstration of the increasing weakness of the rebellion cannot be overlooked. Mr. SLIDELL cannot persuade France that the rebellion is happily progressing to success, and all the cloudy sophisms of a host of anti-American journals cannot veil the permanent value of the recovery of the Mississippi. A fact may be denied, but it cannot be destroyed. It may be disbelieved at first, but in time it becomes its own evidence. The results of the late successes are as yet in the bud, but the bud will break, the blossom unfold the fruit, and the fruit ripen in the end.

The effect of our victories on the friends of freedom will give them renewed energy and a stronger position. Their predictions are fulfilled. New force is given to their arguments. Such men as JOHN BRIGHT will advocate the cause of the Union with increased zeal and with greater success, and such journals as the London *Star* and *Daily News* will be rewarded in their noble defence of liberty. We can imagine the relief and joy which our many friends in Europe felt when the great tidings reached them. The *Star* justly said that "seldom, if ever, has it been the lot of the journalist to announce on the same sheet two events of such transcendant importance as the fall of Vicksburg and the retreat of LEE." We have deep reason to thank these thorough sympathizers with our nation for what they have done and are doing. While we thank them, we place another weapon in their hands. We have taken the argument from our enemies and given it to our friends. Thus, Vicksburg and Gettysburg, not merely the armies of the rebellion were defeated, but the tools of the rebellion in Europe; not only the armies of the Republic triumphed, but the foreign friends of the Republic. It was a victory on two continents.

Liberia as a Cotton-field.

The experiment of the American Colonization Society in 1820, in establishing a settlement of free blacks on the Liberian coast of Africa, has long since been demonstrated to be a most gratifying and complete success. In the brief space of forty-three years—less than the span of a single life—the infant colony has expanded into the prosperous and independent republic of Liberia, and its nationality has been recognized by all the leading Powers of the world. There are but a few hundred settlers, the population, including natives, has increased to hundreds of thousands; commerce and agriculture are in a flourishing condition, and all the elements of prosperity are being developed and turned to good account. We have been shown a letter, recently written to a gentleman of this city, by Reverend ALEXANDER CRUMMELL, a black man of liberal education, for several years a laborious minister of the Episcopal Church of Liberia, and at present professor in Liberian College at Monrovia. The account which he gives of the prosperous condition of the young republic is so highly gratifying that we make a few extracts. The letter is written from Monrovia, the national capital. After stating that he has just returned from a trip to England, the writer says:

"I was landed at Cape Palmas, and sailed up thence to Monrovia; and on the passage we stopped at all important places, save Bassa. I have never seen so much coffee prepared for shipment, in Liberia, as I saw at Sinon. On my arrival here, I found equal zeal in this article, in this country; and from every quarter I hear reports of preparation for a more extensive planting of coffee-trees than has ever taken place before in the country."

After alluding to the opening of Liberia College, and to the efforts being made to increase the efficiency of the schools for the instruction of the Congoes, the letter adds:

"I may not dismiss the case of the Congoes without adding, that, in the general, they are making progress in civilization and in the knowledge of God. Of the twenty who are living at Cape Palmas, seven are members of churches." The letter will be chiefly valuable and interesting to worldly-minded people, however, for the attention which it devotes to the question of cotton culture, and for the important information which it conveys upon this subject, now made doubly interesting to us all by the fortunes of war. Mr. CRUMMELL says: "I send you a small box of cotton, which I wish to submit to your inspection. Our interior natives are bringing in raw cotton for sale, as yet in but small quantities. One of my friends is holding out inducements to the natives to bring it to him, and he is now purchasing it at the rate of about forty pounds per week. This cotton is purchased with trade goods, and costs, including transportation to Monrovia and ginning, the sum of ten cents per pound. The additional cost of transhipping would increase the price to twelve cents per pound." The letter further states, that about seventy-five miles from the coast fields of cotton are grown everywhere by the natives, and as we know cotton to be indigenous to this territory, the statement is doubtless correct. The most of this cotton is made into cotton cloths; but the natives can easily be induced to purchase English cotton goods, and, instead of manufacturing, to bring the raw material to the coast.

The people of Liberia have been engaged in the culture of sugar, coffee, palm oil, camwoods, and other products of like nature Hitherto scarcely any attention has been paid to the vast resources of the territory for the purposes of cotton-growing. The reason is obvious. The Southern States, until the breaking out of the rebellion, have enjoyed a monopoly of the market. Labor in the South was cheap—costing almost nothing in comparison with the capital it produced, and the facilities for the development of commerce were unrivalled; the Mississippi, Ohio, Missouri, and Arkansas rivers not only irrigating the fields of the Southern planter, but bearing his ripened crop to a sure market. It is different with Liberia. It is not that labor is unusually scarce there, for the population, including natives, probably comprises between three and four hundred thousand souls, and it is being constantly increased by the exertions of the American Colonization Society, which beneficent and useful organization has accomplished much towards the amelioration of the condition of the free blacks in the United States, and the development of the Liberian Republic. It is not that the climate is so much more unfavorable than that of the Southern States, for though warm, it is never oppressive—the average range of the thermometer being from seventy-five to eighty-five degrees Fahrenheit. It may reasonably be inferred, therefore, that the natives are not more indolent than the majority of Southern slaves; and certainly self-interest, the most powerful motive that any class of men can have to labor, should exert a marked influence on their character and progress, especially in connection with the examples of thrift, industry, and enterprise, which, as a general rule, is set them by immigrants from the United States. None of these causes, therefore, are sufficient to account for the slow progress which Liberia has made as a cotton-grower. The difficulty is one not indigenous to the country, but yet it is one peculiar to all new and sparsely settled countries. Scarce as labor may seem, compared with the fields that wait to smile upon its coming, capital is still more scarce; and it is this difficulty more than any other that has retarded the progress of the new and flourishing republic. There is no reason why Liberia should not become one of the greatest cotton-growing regions in the world. Specimens of the Liberia cotton have been examined by competent judges, and pronounced equal to any grown in the United States, except the Sea Island, and worth, at present prices, at least seventy-five cents per pound. With cheap labor, a favorable soil and climate, and the spontaneous growth of the cotton-plant, Liberia has all the advantages, save capital, for the productive yield of this most impertant fibre. It is astonishing to us that the subject has not awakened the interest among capitalists which its moment warrants. Perhaps it is an unfortunate thing for mankind that capital and enterprise are not convertible terms. If they were, Liberia to-day might be much further advanced in the path of progress and prosperity, and her commerce might extend to every sea. Nevertheless, as being in some sense an offshoot of our own Republic, and with laws and institutions modelled after our own, we feel some degree of gratified pride that her career has been so peaceful and full of success; while at the same time it may be regarded as but the promise and beginning of future prosperity. The benefits which may result, not only to the colored race, but even perhaps to ourselves and to the civilized world from African colonization, may be incalculable. It is the triumph of civilization over barbarism, and the fruits of such triumphs are always shared by all the nations of the earth.

The Season.

These weary summer days are so completely associated with the campaigns in Kentucky, South Carolina, and Virginia, that we find but little interest attaching to any of the more pleasing and peaceful events around our homes. The season is one of war and scarcely one of pleasure, although we think it may be said that pleasure had never more devoted and constant worshippers. Every watering place and summer resort is crowded with the gay followers of fashion; and it is difficult to realize, in the midst of the grand saloons of Cape May, Ephrata, Cresson, Bedford, and Atlantic City, that an exhausting war is depressing the country, and draining the resources of the States known as the "Confederacy." These summer months show as much life, animation, and gaiety as were ever seen before in a single season. There are those who may consider this an indication of national negligence and depravity; a want of interest or confidence in the Union. We do not think so. When the people regard war in its proper light, and not as mere matters of hospital discipline and ambulance management, we feel assured that in their minds there exists a proper spirit of respect for the Union, and a war for the preservation of the Union. Why should the citizens of the country not continue to enjoy themselves in their own time and way? Why should a great people, boldly and solemnly resolved to be free, refuse to enter into the enjoyments and pleasures of their fellow-men? We do not depreciate nor neglect the great issues involved in the war, and we regard it as a mistake to overlook the true duties of the citizen to the country. At the same time, let those who can afford to be merry enjoy themselves. America is great enough to earn its liberties without making this summer of joy a winter of discontent. We welcome the season for the many pleasures it brings; for the new life it gives to Nature; for its joy, its pleasure, and its profit. The season should be one of gladness, and we are pleased to see that thus far joy has reigned triumphant.

The Late Colonel Shaw.

The following address of General SAXTON we are glad to publish. It is a just acknowledgment of the noble services of the late Colonel SHAW, and worthily appeals to the spirit of the race for whose good he fought. Its truth will be appreciated not merely by the soldiers of the gallant 54th, but by all patriotic Americans, whether white or black. The suggestion that a monument should be raised to commemorate his distinguished services must meet the hearty approval of all friends of freedom:

BEAUFORT, S. C., July 27, 1863.

To the Colored Soldiers and Freedmen in this Department:

It is fitting that you should pay a last tribute of respect to the memory of the late Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, colonel of the 54th Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers. He commanded the first regiment of colored soldiers from a free State ever mustered into the United States service. He fell at the head of his regiment, while leading a storming party against a rebel stronghold. You should cherish in your inmost hearts the memory of one who did not hesitate to sacrifice all the attractions of a high social position, wealth, and home, and his own noble life, for the sake of humanity. Another martyr to your cause, that death has added still another hope for your race. The truths and principles for which he fought and died still live, and will be vindicated. On the spot where he fell, by the ditch into which his mangled and bleeding body was thrown, on the soil of South Carolina, I trust that you will honor yourselves and his glorious memory by appropriating the first proceeds of your labor as freemen towards erecting an enduring monument to the hero, soldier, martyr, Robert Gould Shaw.

R. SAXTON,
Brigadier General and Military Governor.

Promotion of General Logan.

A Washington despatch to the *Evening Post* states: 'General Logan is to be assigned to the command of the Sixteenth Army Corps. Everybody here is pleased at this promotion. General Logan, has shown himself a gallant, capable, and judicious officer, as well as a thorough and uncompromising patriot; and this prompt acknowledgment of his services before Vicksburg will delight the army, which likes him, and the country, which has watched his course in the field and at home."

United States Christian Commission at Detroit.

DETROIT, August 3.—Two good meetings were held here yesterday for the Christian Commission; one in Rev. Dr. Duffield's church and the other in the Young Men's Hall. Rev. B. W. Childlaw, of Cincinnati, and Rev. A. G. McAuley, of Philadelphia, made addresses at both. Much enthusiasm and good collections in each. Meetings will be held in other places this week.

WASHINGTON.

Special Despatches to The Press.

WASHINGTON, August 3, 1863.

Revocation of the Order for 100,000 Six-Months Troops—The Exigency Past.

The following order was issued to-day from the Adjutant General's office:

"The exigencies under which one hundred thousand militia for the six-months service from the States of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia, were called out by the President's proclamation of June 15, 1863, having passed, it is hereby ordered by the President that, on and after the promulgation of this order, no more enlistments under the said call shall be made.

"By order of the Secretary of War.

"E. D. TOWNSEND,
"Assistant Adjutant General."

Payment of the Army of the Potomac.

Paymasters will leave Washington to-morrow to pay off the Army of the Potomac up to the 1st of July.

The Draft in Washington.

The drafting for the District of Columbia commenced this morning. A large crowd was in attendance, and was remarkably orderly. Intense interest is everywhere manifested in the result.

THE ATTACK ON CHARLESTON.

Latest Accounts of the Rebel Press.

FORTRESS MONROE, August 3.—The Richmond *Whig* of August 1st has been received here. It contains the following despatches:

"CHARLESTON, July 31.—Cumming's Point was severely bombarded yesterday morning, commencing at about 10 o'clock. The Ironsides and two monitors were engaged.

"The bombardment lasted until about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, when the vessels withdrew.

"The batteries Gregg, Simpkins, Wagner, and Sumpter responded to the enemy's fire. Two men were killed and one wounded at battery Gregg.

"The battery is not materially injured.

"There was no firing on James Island to-day, and very little from Fort Wagner.

"General Beauregard visited the James-Island works to-day."

[SECOND DESPATCH.]

CHARLESTON, July 31.—A heavy bombardment was commenced at daybreak on the enemy's works from Sumpter and Wagner, continuing until two o'clock, when it ceased. The Richmond *Whig* of the 1st also contains the following:

WELDON, N. C., July 29.—The latest intelligence was that our forces were retreating below Jackson, destroying the bridges as they go.

THE WAR IN KANSAS.

An Unfortunate Mistake.

LEAVENWORTH, August 3.—Captain Harvey, at Westport, learning that it was the intention of the guerillas to attack a large train which left Kansas City for Santa Fe the latter part of July, he started in pursuit with one company of Kansas volunteers. He overtook the train, and finding it had been robbed, he started in pursuit of the robbers, when he came upon a party of Independent Missouri Cavalry of the 9th Kansas Regiment, who had come up from Santa Fe to meet the train. Each party supposed they had found the enemy. Captain Collegan drew up his men in line of battle, and ordered a charge. A severe fight ensued, in which many were killed and wounded before the mistake was discovered.

THE INVASION OF KENTUCKY.

CINCINNATI, August 3.—Only ten wagons were captured and burned by Scott's rebels at Stamford, Kentucky, instead of sixty, as was reported.

A special despatch from Lexington to the *Gazette* says Scott's raid has concluded. Some two or three hundred rebels have effected a crossing of the Cumberland, leaving their stolen wagons and other property behind them.

Four hundred prisoners captured from Scott's command passed through Frankfort to-day, for Louisville.

Election in Kentucky—Union Victory.

CINCINNATI, August 3.—The election in Kentucky passed off quietly. The following returns have been received:

FOR GOVERNOR.

	Bramlette, U.	Wickliffe, D.
Paris	296	21
Maysville	338	3
Lexington	618	107
Georgetown	349	355
Nicholasville	159	2
Cynthiana	135	87
Covington	1,385	59

FOR CONGRESS.

	Clay, (U.)	Buckner, (D.)	Boyle (U.)
Paris	306	22	1
Lexington	588	161	12
Georgetown	305	399	13
Nicholasville	127	19	16

	Wadsworth, U.	Brown, D.
Maysville	312	21

	Menzies, D.	Smith, U.
Cynthiana	174	100
Covington	55	1,331

The Union majority in the State will be about 20,000.

Bankers and Clay are certainly elected in the Ashland district.

LOUISVILLE, August 3.—Bramlette's majority over Wickliffe, for Governor, in this city, is 2,350. The neighboring districts, as far as heard from, give large Union majorities.

Movements of the Pirates.

BOSTON, August 3.—The bark Daniel Webster arrived here to-day, bringing advices from Bahia to July 4. The rebel steamers Georgia and Alabama sailed from Bahia on May 24th. The United States steamer Mohican arrived on June 24th and sailed on the 30th, in pursuit of the pirates. The Mohican had one man killed and another wounded by the explosion of a gun, while firing a salute at Bahia.

The U. S. ship Onward also sailed about May 28th, on a cruise.

The Daniel Webster brings home a number of seamen belonging to the ships Sea Lark, Dorcas, Prince, and bark Union Jack, which vessels were destroyed by the pirates.

HAVANA.

NEW YORK, August 3.—The steamer Melville, from Havana on the 25th, arrived here this afternoon. The fire was still burning in the ruins, but its progress was stopped after consuming sixteen warehouses, containing six hundred and seventy-two bales of cotton, 63,012 boxes of sugar, and large quantities of other goods, a considerable amount of which was intended to run the blockade, and belonged to Englishmen. The loss is estimated at over a million and a half dollars.

The rebel steamer Nita, with a cargo of cotton, arrived at Havana on the 23d ult.

The Record of General Halleck.

A Washington correspondent of the New York *Times* thus vindicates Major General Halleck from the slanders circulated in certain semi-disloyal journals:

Having lately obtained access, through a friend, to somewhat behind-the-scenes view of matters and things at the War Department, I propose, in this communication, to state, as briefly as possible, a few facts which will hereafter enable all unprejudiced observers of public affairs to judge precisely how much credit should be given to these attacks upon the General-in-Chief, which appear as if stereotyped in each successive issue of the journals referred to.

For the blunders which made General Milroy a major general and gave him a command, with its important supplies, at Winchester, surrounded and captured by the advancing columns of Lee's army, General Halleck has been held responsible; while, in fact, General Milroy's promotion was mainly made upon political grounds—grounds never recognized, *always strenuously opposed*, by the General-in-Chief; and, in fact, General Halleck had not only urged, but even ordered, General Schenck to withdraw General Milroy's command from its advanced post of observation long before General Lee's army had started from Fredericksburg on its Northern raid.

As for the blunders which remember General Cullum, chief of General Halleck's staff, was sent to examine and report upon the condition of the works at Winchester, and his report was not merely that the works were indefensible from bad location, though prettily enough constructed *per se*; but that the place itself required no works, and ought to have no heavy garrison—it being merely, in General Cullum's own phrase, "an eye of the national army looking down the Shenandoah Valley." Not content with this advice, this information could be communicated at an early moment to Harper's Ferry of an advance of the rebel forces. It was upon the strength of this report that General Halleck advised General Schenck to withdraw all forces from Winchester, leaving there merely pickets to act as scouts and videttes; and later, when the advance of Lee from Fredericksburg became known, this advice took the form of a peremptory order to immediate withdrawal of Gen. Milroy's forces; the onus now resting upon Gen. Schenck of explaining how this order came to be disobeyed. It should be borne in mind that the orders of department commanders in the West are not made by Gen. Halleck, nor has he power to remove any department commander. All he can do is to report, or at most, remonstrate; and, in case with this report made, his dutiesand his powers terminate.

It has also been the fashion to blame Gen. Halleck for all the errors, real and imaginary, of the Army of the Potomac, while that army was under the command of Gen. McClellan, for which, too, Gen. Halleck had no official knowledge of the existence of that army, except as to matters of the merest routine, or in the transmission of orders dictated to him, from the day of Gen. Hooker's assumption of the command until the day upon which Gen. Meade, at his own request, was relieved at Centreville, and General Meade put in his place. To explain this state of affairs the following facts will suffice:—General Hooker was not General Halleck's choice for commander of the Army of the Potomac. He fully appreciated Hooker's worth as a gallant subordinate; but was of opinion, and so strongly expressed himself, that Hooker was not the man for supreme command at the most important of our armies. Nevertheless the appointment was made, and from the day of his inauguration in command to that of his relief, General Hooker sent no reports to General Halleck, but communicated directly with the higher powers, who, sometimes consulting General Halleck, but for the most part not consulting him—thus apparently sustained General Hooker in his practical ignorement of the General-in-chief's authority.

Under these circumstances, General Halleck declined to be responsible in any manner for the result of events over the framing of which he had no control. He could not dictate an enforcement of the strict rules of military discipline, and an adherence to army usage; nor are his ideas of subordination and duty of that loose kind which have occasionally tempted subordinates to threaten to "break their swords" if superiors in rank should refuse to see things through their eyes. All Halleck could do, he did; and this was, by the most careful foresight and exertions, to assure himself that the disasters which he feared were about to overtake the Army of the Potomac should not be allowed to extend beyond that army, and should be mitigated as much as possible in their consequences.

Finally came the battle of Chancellorville, or, as the rebels call it, "of the Wilderness," to overturn this order of things—as the battle of Fredericksburg had overturned a closely similar state of facts in regard to General Burnside. On the relief of Hooker, the authorities determined that the Army of the Potomac should be subjected to the same rules governing all other armies; and partly from this determination, and partly from the rigid and correct ideas of discipline entertained by General Meade, General Halleck, I am given to understand, will no more be interfered with in regard to the Army of the Potomac—the army which, perhaps, from its proximity to Washington, the political elements of the country have heretofore been fondest of trying their hands at "running."

In the West and Southwest General Halleck has never been interfered with. His authority has never been disputed, and the results are before the country. Let us trust that, under the new order of things, with regard to the Army of the Potomac, the same successes may crown our arms in Virginia which we have already found in Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Kentucky.

On the subject of the draft, I learn that General Halleck is very emphatic: "Sir, we must either raise two hundred thousand men this fall for victory and peace, or eight hundred thousand men next spring to prevent all that we have won being wrung from us.' Most of the "two-years' men" and "three-months men," it should not be forgotten, were placed in the Army of the Potomac; and while those journals which oppose the draft are blaming the Army of the Potomac for its alleged "inactivity," these facts should be borne in mind, and the proper responsibility should be attached to all who oppose the draft.

NEW YORK CITY.

[Correspondence of The Press.]

NEW YORK, August 3, 1863.

THE SUMMER EXODUS—EMBERS OF THE RIOT.

The watering-place rage has, as usual, produced depleting results; and the blank, lonely-looking houses, that here and there dot the avenues, give sufficient evidence of the fact. The hot, unwholesome weather of the past few days has induced the entire perspiring community to look feebly toward the cool shade of the mountains, and the sparkling effervescence of the mineral springs; but beyond this faint indication of a general desire, the commercial portions of the city evince none of the mania for summer hegiras; the crowds hurrying hither and thither show no abatement, either in numbers or business energy. All along in the rivulet of shade, which lies upon the protected side of Broadway, may be seen many fat but respectable men, denuded of vests and collars, and daring apoplexy, fan in hand, and thin, skeletonic beings fairly grinning with heat. These are forcible reminders of undue caloric; these the commercial giants and phantoms who have existed in the fierce furnace which the city has been for the past week, despite rains and drizzles. As a natural consequence, business has languished somewhat, save that department which comprehends the sale of cooling decoctions. Nearly all the places of amusement being closed, the city wears a dull, deserted aspect of nights, rendered doubly so by the fact that public confidence is not yet entirely restored, and but comparatively few of our citizens care to prolong their nocturnal perambulations, in view of the vast number of thieves and cut-throats who still infest those localities strongly, where "the innocent people" most do congregate. These villains will probably remain as long as Governor Seymour's "friends" continue to threaten resistance to the draft, and until their final exodus, the perambulator of our streets who indulges his propensities after dark will run more or less risk of life, limb, and pocket-book. It is useless to blame the police for this insecurity, not only from the fact that the force is not large enough for a thorough surveillance of all its dangerous localities, but that, possessing unscrupulous friends upon the judicial bench, arrests merely result in farces, and they are invariably discharged at the instigation of political friends and adjutors. It seems, indeed, next to impossible to secure the commitment of these ruffians, and the police are already loud in their complaints against the wholesale policy which turns these rascals out upon the community to murder and plunder at will. Numberless instances are already upon record where the testimony of men of the most unimpeachable character has been ignored, and ruffians and desperadoes either discharged at once by pliant judges, or given into charge of an officer—merely a cuphemism for a discharge. This has especially been the case with apprehended rioters, until it has at length become patent to all that in the event of another massacre by the rabble, lynch law alone can secure the punishment of the assassins. Should this state of things continue much longer, vigilance committees will become a public necessity; for, as matters now stand, there is no reliable guarantee of life or property within the corporate limits. Not a day passes without some scene of violence, some assault upon blacks or whites, or some reception of threatening letters proscriptive of political opinion. Since the discovery of Gov. Seymour's apparent intentions to resist the draft, and aid the rebellion by force of arms, as much dread and uncertainty reign as though the city were besieged by a hostile force. The citizens continue to arm themselves in anticipation of other murderous onslaughts by "the free Democracy," and drilling still continues. Almost daily fresh developments occur, which point either to the magnitude of the danger which we have escaped, or of a danger through which we are yet to pass. At the time when the riots were at their height, it was currently reported by the Copperhead press, that the command of the State troops then employed in combatting the insurrectionists was to be conferred on Fitz John Traitor. Subsequent political disclosures tend to confirm this rumor as a portion of the scheme to which certain high dignitaries of the State had lent themselves; and with the real object of pandering to, rather than subduing, the mobs. With such a man controlling the militia, the result could not rest in speculation for any length of time. It seems probable, however, that the Governor was not yet prepared to thrust such gratuitous insult upon a people who were already being robbed and butchered by his "friends," and the scheme perished in its inception. Judging from certain indications, it seems very probable that Fitz John Traitor will yet secure a prominent command in the National Guard, as a consolatory recompense for having been dismissed in disgrace from the army upon which he shed so much lustre—of a peculiar character.

Since the recent unfortunate *lapsus linguæ*, by which General Wool appropriated to himself all the merit of crushing the New York rabble, a growing desire for the substitution of General Butler in his stead has become evident, even among some of his political opponents. Some man of iron will certainly be needed in case of another outbreak of the Copperhead Peace Party, and the holy horror evinced by the disloyal press at the mere mention of such a possibility weighs decidedly in his favor among the loyal.

The outcry against the slaughter of "women and children," which was raised by the aforesaid party is becoming more thoroughly understood as the incidents of the riots come before the public. The innocent women were prominent in the butchery of wounded men. One who has once visited their haunts would be intensely amused at this outcry, even were these horrible facts unknown to him. Shoeless and stockingless, filthy and profane, with all the instincts of brutality written upon their faces; at all hours of the day and night they may be seen congregated in the purlieus of the city, and at the doors of groggeries, engaged in animated discussion of the conscription, and boasting of the parts which they enacted in the recent scenes of blood and horror. These lepers of society were foremost in pillage, instigating the howling mobs to frenzy, and hounding to death the colored of their own sex. In many instances they were armed, and even led attacks upon the police and soldiery. Of the innocent children, whose parents had taught the young idea how to shoot negroes, enough is already known. In nearly every instance they led the way to the negro quarters, and even engaged in murder and robbery when unassisted by adults.

A gentleman related in my presence that he saw from his window a boy, apparently not above seven or eight years of age, who placed a pistol at the head of a man and demanded and received his valuables. Several innocent children have also been apprehended by the police, charged as principals with murder; and in the majority of cases they were the first to assault and burn buildings. That this vast aggregation of innocence should have suffered at the hands of the police and troops is certainly not to be lamented, except as losing votes to Seymour, Wood & Co., and New York will be recurer when, as a last, desperate resort, the rebels will take the law into their own hands, and visit upon man, woman, and child the justice due their inhuman crimes. These boys, these women—the imps and furies of the disloyal element—should be allowed no immunities whatever on the score of age or sex. Throughout every period of mob violence they have been prominent and conspicuous actors, using the knife and torch when even the brutal desperadoes would have felt a twinge of conscience. Pitiless and thoroughly brutalized by nature and association, they, trusting to the fancied privileges generally allowed, have dared what men would shrink from, and commended their courage at all bitter cups to the agonized lips of their victims. Mercy they deserved not, and, thank Heaven, they obtained none. The grape and bullets of the soldiers spared not one in the front ranks of the mob, and the city is grateful for the undiscriminating volleys.

STUYVESANT.

The Ferriss Gun at West Point.

A trial of the "Ferriss Gun," to test the initial velocity of its shot, took place at West Point on the 15th and 17th of July, in presence of Captain S. V. Benet, of the United States army, and one of the best ordnance officers in America.

On the first shot the instrument (the electrobeliat chronometer) being in perfect order, gave a velocity of twenty-two hundred feet per second, the initial velocity ever attained by any cannon in the world.

Whitworth once claimed for one of his guns, built for this purpose, a velocity of twenty-one hundred and two thousand feet per second, but some English writers deny to him this high rate.

The highest velocity ever attained in this country before was by Captain Benet, at West Point, using a spherical shot in a rifled Parrott gun, and this was one thousand eight hundred feet per second. The ordinary velocity of the best cannon in this country, or in England, is from one thousand to one thousand three hundred feet per second.

After the first shot on the 15th a slight derangement of the targets connected with the instruments, which could not, from the nature of the experiments, be constantly under the eye of Captain Benet, prevented a record of the subsequent firing.

On the 17th the firing was renewed, and different velocities obtained, to one thousand seven hundred and upwards. The shot used were conical, and weighed, one of the sizes 40 ounces, and the other 48 ounces. The weight of the powder used was in all cases 24 ounces. The chamber of the gun will hold 27 ounces. The size of the bore is 1¾ inches.

The penetration of this gun, according to the diameter of the bore, is greater than any other cannon ever built—penetrating three inches of solid iron plates at fifty yards.

The initial velocity of 2,200 feet per second is greater than any gun yet known, whether large or small. It only remains to ascertain how far it will throw a ball in its greatest elevation. This is to be tested during the coming week.

Fire Island beach has been recommended by some gentlemen of the navy, as by Bache's Coast Survey it is said to be the longest straight sea beach line in the world, being over nine miles. Other points on the eastern coast, near Boston, have been named as presenting great advantages, but the inventor of the gun, who is now in the city, has not yet fixed upon a proper location for these experiments. When it is settled, probably the time and place will be made known through our columns.

MORGAN IN THE PENITENTIARY.—A despatch from Columbus, Ohio, 30th ult., says:

"Morgan was incarcerated this afternoon in the Ohio Penitentiary. Himself and men were delivered over to Captain Merion by the military authorities, and immediately put through the same motions as other criminals, having their persons searched, hair and beards shaved, bathed and clad in clean suits. Morgan and Cluke submitted very quietly, but some of the young thieves demurred bitterly, until told they must submit. Morgan had his belt filled with gold, greenbacks, and Confederate notes. One who had before broken his parole refused to strip, when it was instantly done for him. Cluke begged for his moustache, but it was in vain—it was razored. They will be compelled to submit to prison discipline, be confined apart from the convicts, and guarded day and night by the military. One or two talked about retaliation, but the rule against speaking was instantly enforced.

"A negro convict did the barbering for the chivalry."

The Prize Steamer Planter.

NEW YORK, August 3.—The prize steamer Planter, which was captured off Mobile, has arrived here, with 775 bales of cotton and 125 barrels of turpentine aboard.

EUROPE.

The Arabia at Halifax.

HALIFAX, August 3.—The steamship Arabia, from Liverpool on the 25th ult., and Queenstown on the 26th, arrived at Halifax to-day:

The City of Baltimore arrived at Liverpool on the morning of the 24th.

The Galway line will commence