The Press.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1863.

☞ We can take no notice of anonymous communications. We do not return rejected manuscripts.

☞ Voluntary correspondence solicited from all parts of the world, and especially from our different military and naval departments. When used, it will be paid for.

THE NEWS.

BROWNSVILLE, Texas, has been occupied as the headquarters of General Banks. An attempt to revolutionize the district of Tamaulipas, which includes Matamoras and the mouth of the Rio Grande, by the Mexican chief Miramon handing it over to the French, was frustrated by the timely appearance of General Banks. The appearance of the Union troops drove General Cobas, the ally of Miramon, to the other side of the river, where he fell into the hands of Cortinas, who defeated him, and shot him as a traitor. Three revolutions occurred in one week on the Mexican frontier of the Rio Grande. The position which General Banks now occupies secures to the United States the port of Matamoras without danger of a foreign war. Later despatches from New Orleans brig the highly important intelligence that the 13th Army Corps has also embarked for some point in Texas.

THE rebels say they have almost nothing wherewith to feed the Union prisoners at Richmond, yet the Common Council of that city has just voted $80,000 to buy a house for Gen. Lee. The Richmond papers also give the following statistics of Union prisoners in and about the capital: Prisoners of war, 12,747; citizen prisoners, 3; Yankee deserters, 3; negroes, 22—total, 12,775. Among these are 953 commissioned officers of different grades; from brigadier general down to third lieutenant. There are also eighty-four surgeons in the lot. Seven hundred of these prisoners were, on the 14th, sent to Danville, and seven hundred will be sent daily to that point until four thousand are thus disposed of. It is understood that several thousand will also be sent to Lynchburg.

THE findings of the court of inquiry of which General McDowell was president, which had for its object the investigation of charges of "speculating in cotton" by Union officers in the Valley of the Mississippi, implicated Major General Curtis in four fraudulent transactions. The friends of that officer have lately induced the President and Judge Advocate General Holt to make a special and thorough investigation of the case thus presented against General Curtis, in connection with his explanations. The result is his complete vindication, and it is thought he will be speedily restored to command.

SECRETARY CHASE has rescinded the order which caused the strike of the workmen upon the Treasury building, and thus all difficulties have been removed. The men returned to work upon the promise of Mr. Chase to examine into their complaints and do them justice, a day or two after the strike first took place.

SECRETARY STANTON and General Halleck are said to be still opposed to the appointment of any more military Governors, but if they should be overruled on this point, the President will commission, through anti-slavery men as ex-Congressman Casey, of Kentucky, who is likely to be military Governor of Mississippi, if one be appointed.

DESPATCHES from Knoxville contain a few additional details of the fighting between Longstreet and Burnside. The national commander and his brave army have been equal to the occasion, and are inspired with confidence.

A RECONNOISSANCE of the enemy across the Rapphannock was handsomely frustrated by the Michigan and Pennsylvania cavalry.

A CONTRACTOR of this city, convicted by court martial of having furnished inferior and false supplies to the Army of the Potomac, has been sentenced to confinement at Albany.

APPEALS are still being made to the humanity and patriotism of the North to feed our starving soldiers at Richmond. The prisoners on Belle Isle had actually killed and eaten dogs to sustain their lives.

CORRESPONDENCE dated the 16th says that Gen. Franklin's headquarters are at Vermillion Bayou. His troops have possession of the bayou, but the pickets of a rebel force of 5,000 are in sight in view. It is reported that the forces of the enemy in Texas and Louisiana are concentrated between Sabine Pass and Opelousas. The generals in front of Gen. Franklin are Mouton, Green, Walker, and Col. Majors, while Gen. Dick Taylor is at watch in the vicinity.

THE expedition to the Rio Grande has been a complete success. The Texans seem to have been completely taken by surprise. Two efficient batteries at the head of Brazos Pass would doubtless have caused great annoyance, but the invasion is unresisted. It is not doubted that General Banks will realize his hopes. General Bee was in command at Brownsville, but no discovery of troops have been made.

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ADMIRAL LISSOVSKY has selected Hampton Roads as the winter quarters of the Russian fleet.

What is Yet to be Done.

We are in the last weeks of the year 1863. The winter is upon us, and we count the days that will bring us to Christmas. It is perhaps too much to ask from our military men any decisive deeds during this inclement season. The rebels in the east seem to be going into winter quarters, and in the west there is nothing that would gratify General BRAGG more than an opportunity of doing the same thing. Our military operations during the latter part of the year 1863 may be summed up in Vicksburg, Gettysburg and Chattanooga. The fruits of Vicksburg have been gathered, and General BANKS is finishing the harvest. Gettysburg has forever ended the dream of a rebel invasion of the North. At Chattanooga we fought for a position, or rather we fought to save ourselves from disaster. We consider Chattanooga a drawn battle. So far as the mere contest of arms is concerned the rebels may claim an advantage, and yet the rebel newspapers are denouncing BRAGG with vindictive earnestness because he has gained nothing by his campaign. Since the battle, there has been the long pause that in this war has always succeeded battles—a pause necessary to allow the wounded to be healed—the wasted regiments to be recruited—the ordnance, the commissary, and quartermasters' stores to be replenished. The attack of LONGSTREET upon BURNSIDE was evidently prompted by a desire to rectify one of the misfortunes of BRAGG's campaign—the Federal occupation of East Tennessee. There is a military as well as a political meaning in this attempt. The strategic importance of East Tennessee has always been appreciated by the rebels—and they have spared no effort to hold it. The tyranny and terror of their occupation will never be forgotten, and will be remembered, in connection with Libby Prison and the treatment of our colored soldiers in South Carolina, as the infamies of rebel infamy. The remembrance of this conduct on the part of the rebels makes it a matter of national honor and duty to protect the persecuted friends of the Union at every hazard. East Tennessee, too, is a barrier against any rebel invasion of the North, and will prevent any rebel occupation of Kentucky.

There is every indication that at Chattanooga the greatest battle of the war will be fought. General GRANT has under him the largest army of the Union; General BRAGG has under him the largest army of the rebellion. The rebels know the importance of maintaining their position in Northern Georgia, and we cannot but feel that a victory there would crush the rebel military power. The rebels have been draining every township and district in the South of their able-bodied men, and sending them to swell the army under BRAGG. The Richmond journals say that it is now "fully as large as any general can handle." We might say the same of our army under GRANT. He has as many men as can well be managed, and we see from the Western papers that other forces are being sent to his aid. We are glad of this, for it shows that our Government does not share with the people in the feeling of contented apathy that is everywhere manifest. The Administration does not overrate the work we have done, nor underrate the work we have to do. There has been such an absence of interest in the war among our people since the great successes of the summer, that we have dreaded it as a positive danger. We had a similar feeling and incurred a similar danger after the battle of Fort Donelson. When Gen. GRANT captured BUCKNER and his army the nation was so rejoiced over the success that it spent the next two months in shouting and burning fireworks. The rebels quietly retreated into Mississippi, with amazing energy organized a new army, and hurled it upon our forces with such power that we narrowly escaped defeat. The country was so well satisfied with one victory—a victory that came like a star in the darkness and gloom of night—that it believed the rebellion was over, and lay down to sleep. Shiloh ended the repose. When Vicksburg and Gettysburg were conquered, the country was again satisfied that the rebellion was closed, and again was disposed to go to sleep. Chattanooga was a shock; but hardly rude enough, for the country was so well pleased with its former triumphs that it did not seem disposed to take the lesson a past experience had taught. Nor are we sure that it rightly understands the danger of the situation now.

"Let us," said the President, standing over the honored graves of Gettysburg, "be dedicated to the great tasks remaining before us, that from this honored day we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that the nation shall, under God, have a new birth." There is a meaning in these words of ABRAHAM LINCOLN that every citizen should study. We have still much to do. There is a great work before us. We have done nobly. As a nation we have accomplished more than any nation in history. It is not merely the fighting of many battles, nor maintaining a vast blockade, nor bidding defiance to the aristocrats of Europe, whose sympathy with slavery made them the enemies of freedom, nor the devotion we have shown to the Administration, but the education of public sentiment to a higher appreciation of our rights and duties as citizens. We must, however, not be too confident. The trials and successes of the past can only become successes in the future by devotion and self-sacrifice now. The President has asked for new armies, and directs the conscription to furnish them. Without waiting for the conscription, let us fill the quota, and so strengthen the military arm that it will grind the enemy to pieces. Let every man that can be obtained be sent to the front. Strengthen GRANT and MEADE, so that when they advance it will be a mere march to victory. This is "the great task remaining before us," and this we must make up our minds to perform. We can end the war this winter, if we do our duty at once.

The Prisoners in Richmond.

The Richmond *Enquirer* justifies the treatment of the thirteen thousand Union prisoners in the rebel prisons, denying, indeed, the Northern accusation of rebel cruelty. It is said that the people of Richmond are denied provisions for themselves and children, that the "Yankees" may be supplied. No denial can satisfy us that the prisoners are not treated barbarously, for the proof is multiplied day by day, in the living skeletons that come from Richmond with their stories of misery and famine. Nor will the assertion that the rebels need the wretched food they give their prisoners exonerate them; for our Government and people have repeatedly offered to send provisions, and have been inhumanly denied the privilege. Our readers will find in the narrative of Rev. JOHN HUSSEY, a released prisoner, evidence that the want of food is not the only cause of suffering in the Richmond prisons. Want of clothing, want of air, light, water, exercise, are all effective causes of disease, and despondency, and death.

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The French Iron-clads.

NAPOLEON the Third, the gentleman who so curtly summons the sovereigns of Europe to meet him at a Conference where the affairs of the world shall be discussed and decided—upon *his* plan—has directed his attention, ever since he became powerful, to creating a French navy, as a counterpoise to the once famous "Wooden Walls" of England. This was no original idea with him, for LOUIS PHILIPPE, that "Napoleon of Peace," who disliked fighting, but delighted in winning bits of land, in remote seas, by treaty and cajolery, had employed all the means he possessed to give France, always powerful on land, the further advantage of being able to operate successfully at sea with any enemy. With great shrewdness, he commenced substituting iron steamers for the ordinary wooden war-vessels, and may be allowed the merits of having to a great extent anticipated England in this. He brought up his son, the Prince DE JOINVILLE, as a naval officer, and, in 1847, that gentleman, then Admiral in the French navy, wrote a startling pamphlet to show how readily, and with considerable chance of success, England might be invaded by a French steam-fleet carrying over a powerful army, and its full allowance of artillery and other usual medes of aggression. NAPOLEON has very earnestly followed the example of LOUIS PHILIPPE. He was the first to build war steamers of iron, gigantic in proportion, and powerful by nature of their large guns and immense weight. He has improved the harbors of Cherbourg, Boulogne, and Brest, so as to adapt them to contain numerous vessels of the largest size. He has similarly improved Toulon and Marseilles, and the result is a great fleet of French iron-clads. In this he has been followed, also, at vast cost, by the British Government.

On Sunday, September 27th, a French squadron of iron-clads steamed out of Cherbourg on a trial-cruise. This squadron consisted of several classes. The Normandie and Invincible represented the first class, the Couronne the second, and the Solferino and Magenta the third. The fourth night, (September 30th), after the squadron was at sea, it was caught by a sharp gale from the northwest, and the Magenta rolled in the sea like a tub. The heavy sea damaged two of her boats, and, at the rate of five knots an hour, not one of the squadron being within sight, she slowly joined the Admiral's ship thirty-six hours after the storm, at an appointed place of rendezvous. Soon after the other ships came up. All Normandie had lost her bowsprit and foretopmast, and shipped so much water in her fearful rolling, that it was feared each moment that she would tumble over. The Invincible had her machinery damaged, and lost some of her boats. The Couronne lost most of her boats. The Napoleon, model sailing and steamship, suffered much in her machinery, and lost her boats. The Magenta and Solferino were least injured. These are ships-of-the-line, only partially plated, and not only sailed better, but surpassed the great iron-clads in a military point of view. The Normandie carries from thirty-two to forty guns, and the Solferino about thirty, but during this cruise the Normandie could not fire a shot, being compelled to keep her portholes closed, while the Solferino had twenty-four guns available.

This result has caused the English to pause in building mammoth iron-clad ships-of-war, particularly as experiments with their own vessels of that class have not been satisfactory. These immense war-ships, in fact, would seem unsuited—for anything but to bombard or defend ports. If they suffer so much in the channel, it would be mad and desperate risk of life to send them across the Atlantic, especially when one reflects how proverbially inefficient most Frenchmen are at sea. These huge vessels, it was threatened, would cross the Atlantic in a week or ten days, and simultaneously bombard Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington. We venture to predict that they will never operate for such warfare as that, for these great European iron-clads are scarcely seaworthy.

Mr. Forrest.

EDWIN FORREST makes his appearance in Philadelphia this evening, in Mr. BULWER's play, and his own creation, of "Richelieu." Mr. FORREST occupies such a high and recognized position as the greatest tragedian living—the founder of a school, and the representative of the highest degree of culture in our dramatic art—that his appearance among us becomes an event of public interest. We understand that his present engagement will be limited—his intention being to appear but once in each of his greatest characters. Nor would it be at all unlikely if he should not again perform in our city for a long time. Mr. FORREST entered into his recent engagements merely to gratify the general desire among all lovers of the drama to see and profit by his genius. He had not appeared for a long time before, and he may not again appear for a long time to come. He brings with him an excellent company, and will be splendidly supported in all his plays We bespeak for the great tragedian in this city of his birth and his home an enthusiastic reception.

WASHINGTON.

Special Despatches to The Press.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 22.

Important Railroad Changes.

On Monday, the 23d inst., a general change in the schedules between New York and Washington occurs. Four daily trains, at improved speed, will run in each direction for through travel and mails, leaving Washington at 8 and 11.50 A. M., and 5 and 8.30 P. M. Leave New York at 8 and 10 A. M. and 7.30 and 12 P. M. One or two of these trains each way will pass through Philadelphia without change of cars between Jersey City and Washington. Before the first of January, all the trains, both freight and passenger, are expected to run between New York and Washington without any change whatever, using locomotive power, by the new road built around the northern limits of the city of Philadelphia, between Kensington and Gray's Ferry.

The passengers and mails from Washington, connecting in New York for points North or East, will leave Washington at 8 P. M.; but all New York travel proper can take the sleeping cars at 8.30 P. M. here, and reach New York in ten hours precisely without interruption or change.

The Baltimore and Ohio line adds another passenger train between Washington and Baltimore for the benefit of Government clerks, Congressmen, and others, who will lodge in Baltimore, by moving to and from Washington to suit business hours here. This is expected to relieve through travel trains also.

The double tracks between this city and Baltimore, as well as between the Susquehanna and Philadelphia, and also near Trenton, are all being rapidly completed, and sections of them will be put in use at once.

The Baltimore and Ohio Company also improves its schedule for Western passenger trains from Washington and Baltimore to meet the demands of increased travel, the route now being regarded as perfectly safe.

Naval Changes.

Commander HASSEL has been detached from the command of the Matanza, and ordered to the command of the Octorara. Lieut. Com. MUDGE is ordered to the command of the Matanza. Lieut. Com. HENRY ERBEN, JR., is detached from special duty at New York, and ordered to the Niagara. Lieut. Com. JOHN S. BARNES is detached from the Niagara, and ordered as fleet captain of the North Atlantic blockading squadron.

The Army.

The 6th Army Corps, Major General SEDGWICK commanding, was reviewed near Brandy Station on Friday.

Sutlers are now permitted to bring up tobacco for sale to the soldiers, and to fill orders for the immediate necessities of officers; but supplies for the latter are to be placed in the hands of those ordering them as soon as they arrive. The sale of articles, tobacco excepted, by sutlers, is prohibited.

The impression in regard to the enemy's strength on the Rapidan are various, at least so far as publicly expressed. Some maintain that LEE's entire force does not exceed 35,000, while others place it as high as 75,000.

Government Expenditures.

The payments for all branches of the public service, for the fiscal year ending with last June, were nine hundred and three millions of dollars, of which amount six hundred millions were for the army, and sixty-five of sixty-six millions for the navy.

A sufficiency of money has recently been placed in the hands of all the paymasters to pay our armies up to the first of the present month.

The Exchange of Prisoners.

Gentlemen recently arrived here from Fortress Monroe, repeat what they have heard in that vicinity, namely: That, as the correspondence of the respective agents for the exchange of prisoners has degenerated into personalities, a loss of confidence one in the other, their usefulness has, to that extent, been impaired. Hence, the opinion is strongly expressed that, if there could be a change of agents, an exchange of nearly, if not all, the prisoners might be effected, leaving disputed points as to valid parolees, etc., on both sides, to be adjusted hereafter.

The License Required for Pension Agents.

All persons transacting business before the Pension Office will be required to file in that office evidence that they have taken out the license required by the excise law. The fact may be shown by a certificate from the collector from whom the license was obtained, or by a copy of the license duly authenticated.

Letter of Hon. John Minor Botts.

Hon. JOHN MINOR BOTTS, now at his residence at Auburn, Culpeper county, previous to our recent advance over the Rappahannock, sent a letter to the Richmond *Examiner* on the subject of his arrest and treatment. It is full of interest, and a copy has been obtained for publication.

Sentence of a Dishonest Contractor.

The following official notice of conviction and sentence by court-martial of John K. Stetler, of Philadelphia, is an evidence of earnest intention on the part of the Government to prosecute and punish all attempts at fraud in furnishing supplies for the use of soldiers:

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON, Nov. 21, 1863.—John K. Stetler has been convicted by court-martial of wilful neglect of duty, he having contracted to furnish the Subsistence Department one hundred thousand pounds prime roasted ground Rio coffee, stipulating in his contract that proof, by chemical analysis or otherwise, should show that no part of the coffee to be supplied of pure, prime Rio coffee, and that the same should be delivered, and that in failing to deliver any quantity whatever of pure prime Rio coffee, after having agreed to furnish the United States about one hundred (100) casks of pure, prime roasted and ground Rio coffee, did deliver instead thereof about one hundred casks of coffee, proved by the inspection and chemical analysis to be inferior and adulterated with foreign substances, and which was, therefore, rejected by the Subsistence Department. He is sentenced the said John K. Stetler to be imprisoned in the Penitentiary at Albany, New York, or at such other place as the Secretary of War may direct, for the term of five years. The foregoing sentence has been approved by the Secretary of War, and at Albany, New York, designated as the place of confinement, which has been approved by the President.

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Another Rebel Plot to Attack our Northern Border.

BURLINGTON (Vt.), Nov. 22.—Considerable excitement was caused yesterday in the villages of Rouse's Point and St. Albans, by the report that a body of Secessionists, in Montreal, had planned to seize Fort Montgomery, on the Canada line, opposite Rouse's Point, and plunder Plattsburg and Burlington.

Information of such a plot reached Governor Smith and Collector Clapp, of this port, on Friday. They immediately took steps to communicate with the officer in charge of Fort Montgomery, and soon had its guns mounted and ready to give the renegades a warm reception. This scheme was probably linked with the Johnson's Island project. Ample preparations have been made by Gov. Smith to repel any attack which may be made upon our borders.

Loss of the Bark Salab A. Nichols.

HYANNIS, Mass., Nov. 22.—The bark Salab A. Nichols, Captain P. B. Nichols, of Searsport, from Elizabethport, bound to Portland, with a cargo of coal, was lost on Great Rip on Friday. Her crew, nine in number, together with the wife of the captain, the mate, and two men, were left in a boat, and the rest on a raft. All of the former, except who was lost, were picked up yesterday by a fishing smack, and carried into Edgartown. The boat has not been heard from. The bark is a total loss, and went to pieces at 4 o'clock on Saturday morning.

Destructive Fire at Cincinnati.

CINCINNATI, Nov. 22.—Miles Greenwood's machine shops, at the corner of Canal and Walnut streets, were partially destroyed by fire this morning. The loss amounted to $200,000; insured for half that amount. A fireman was killed and several wounded by the falling of the walls.

Boston.

BOSTON, Nov. 21.—The prize steamer R. E. Lee has arrived here.

The Bank of the Metropolis, of this city went into liquidation on the 17th. There were no liabilities of any description.

Sentence of Doctor Brown.

NEW YORK, Nov. 21.—Dr. Brown, the abortionist, was sentenced to two years imprisonment, by Recorder Hoffman, to-day.

General Logan.

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 21.—Major General Logan and staff passed through here yesterday, en route for Nashville.

Markets by Telegraph.

CINCINNATI, Nov. 21.—Flour is buoyant; sales at $6 60@6 75. Wheat active. Corn quiet. Whisky in demand at 67c. Hogs unsettled. Lard 12c. Green Hams 8½c. Exchange on New York, more sellers than buyers at par.

Marine.

NEW YORK, Nov. 22.—Arrived, ship William Rathbone, from Liverpool; bark Reindeer, from Cadiz; brig Osceola, Belle from St. John, N. B., Cari from Marseilles, Annette from Havana, Lady of the Lake from Jacmel.

THE CASE OF WILLIAM T. SMITHSON.—From an official paper or order published in the *Star* this afternoon, it will be perceived that William T. Smithson, banker, of this city, has been sentenced by court martial, to five years imprisonment, &c., and that the Secretary of War has designated the Penitentiary at Albany, New York, as the place in which he shall be confined. We learn that he was duly sent thither, under guard, last night. The proceedings of the court martial by which he was convicted have not yet been divulged. We are, therefore, unable to state the evidence on which he was convicted of holding improper correspondence with the public enemy.

The public will, however, recollect that he was first arrested in Baltimore, and lodged in the State Department, as long ago as when Beauregard was commanding the rebel forces in our immediate front. Certain letters, signed "Charles Capers," fell into the hands of the Government, being found in a captured rebel mail. They were addressed to Beauregard in person, and contained abundance of just such information as a paid spy stationed in this city would communicate. They were written in a hand so closely resembling that of Smithson, who had then been for some time under surveillance, as that his premises were searched; and in his private writing-desk was found the other half-sheet of the paper, on which the most atrocious of the Capers' letters was written. There existed no doubt whatever of the identity of the two half sheets of paper, and scarcely less of the handwriting. His offence was not punished at that time, and subsequently it was found necessary to rearrest him with the result indicated in the order mentioned above.—*Washington Star, Saturday.*

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

Reconnoissances and Captures.

A MOVEMENT OF THE ENEMY FOILED.

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Nov. 20, 1863.—The guerillas around Warrenton having fired upon our pickets quite frequently of late, the citizens have been notified that on the first recurrence of picket shooting Warrenton will be shelled.

Two cavalrymen, who were outside of the lines, were pursued by mounted guerillas yesterday nearly to Catlett's Station. The cavalrymen escaped, but two privates, of the 142d Pennsylvania Infantry, were captured.

Last evening, between twenty and thirty guerillas came up to our lines near Manassas and fired their pieces at our pickets. They were immediately pursued and fired upon, but none of them were captured. Four of them subsequently made their appearance at Brookeville, but fled from the railroad guard, who pursued them.

Several rebel soldiers and citizens, some of the former being deserters, and the latter prisoners, were sent to Washington last night. Some of the citizens tried to bribe the guard to allow them to escape.

General Russell, the hero of Rappahannock Station, went to Washington to-day.

A squadron or two of the 6th New York and 3d Virginia Cavalry, of Buford's command, under Capt. Conger, of the latter regiment, made a reconnoissance yesterday in the direction of Sperryville, and captured a rebel herd of two hundred and thirty-two cattle, fourteen horses, and fifteen herders. The cattle were turned over to the division commissary, Capt. Hale.

[Correspondence New York Times.]

ARMY POTOMAC, Nov. 20.—The movement of the enemy on Wednesday morning seems to have been a concerted movement along our whole front for the purpose of ascertaining our position. Just about the time the 18th Pennsylvania Cavalry was attacked near Germania Ford, a force of infantry crossed a short distance below Raccoon Ford, and attempted to cut off the 1st Michigan Cavalry, Major Brewer, on picket near that point.

The enemy crossed to the ravine, and kept a little rise of ground between the picket and themselves, but, fortunately, Major Brewer was on the alert, and discovered what was going on before an attack could be made, and he was therefore prepared for them. The enemy crossed the river during the night, and exposed themselves just at dawn. After skirmishing for one or two hours, and finding that their plan had been discovered, they returned to the opposite bank. Similar movements were made all along our front, with equal success.

AN INCIDENT.

On Friday, before the battle at Rappahannock Station, Gen. Lee and Gov. Letcher reviewed the rebel army. During the review, and while the latter was giving assurance that the campaign was ended for the present season, the former received information from "scout" or "spy" to the effect that the Union army was moving upon Fredericksburg. That night Lee moved his army in that direction, and was too far advanced on the following night to aid the force left to guard the Upper Rappahannock, and army and citizens feel dispirited because their favorite general has been outwitted in strategy.

WAITING FOR DESERTION.

Two men of the 6th Corps were publicly branded with the letter "D" yesterday, having been convicted of the crime of desertion. One was branded upon the cheek, and the other upon the hip, the direction to which the men belonged witnessed the operation.

ANOTHER RAID OF MOSEBY'S MEN.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22 — Yesterday afternoon about ninety of Moseby's men approached within three miles of Bealeton, with a view of making a raid on the railroad. Being dressed in Federal uniforms, the detachments of the 1st Pennsylvania and 6th Ohio Cavalry, who were in the immediate neighborhood at the time, mistook them for friends, but they soon discovered their error, the rebels firing a volley into them, and wounding several of our men.

Pursuit was given, and the rebels were driven into Snicker's Gap. Six of the gang were captured, but, at the latest accounts, our cavalry had not returned. The storm ceased last night.

DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

THE BATTLES IN EAST TENNESSEE.

Gallantry of Burnside and His Forces.

CINCINNATI, Nov. 21.—The *Commercial* has the following:

KNOXVILLE, Nov. 18, 1 P. M.—The crisis in East Tennessee has come, and found our army and generals ready. Saturday, the rebels, under Longstreet, crossed the river at Loudon. Our forces fell back, slowly and in good order, before them. During Sunday brisk skirmishing was going on all the while, and on Sunday we had them in check all day, at Campbell Station, twelve miles below here, on the Lenoire road. Our forces were under the personal command of General Burnside, and acted splendidly.

Our loss during the day is estimated at 250. The rebel loss is unknown, but cannot, from the nature of the fighting, have been less.

During Sunday the enemy fell back on Knoxville. Early Tuesday morning the line of battle was formed around the city. The rebels appeared about noon on the Lenoire road at Armstrong's house, two miles from town, and heavy skirmishing immediately commenced. General Sanders held our line of skirmishers in most gallant style and stubbornly until nightfall. Late in the evening, our troops charged upon them from the rear, recovered the ground and beyond Armstrong's house, but fell back again to the original line.

This morning was very foggy, and the ball did not open until nine o'clock, and when it did it was on precisely the same ground as last night. The skirmishing has been very heavy, and accompanied with considerable shelling, both by the rebels and ourselves. Our loss yesterday and to-day, in killed and wounded, is about one hundred and fifty.

Our boys are in excellent spirits, and are confident in themselves and their generals. In fact, I have never seen an army on the eve of battle in better spirits.

General Burnside is confident of the result, and is winning golden opinions from every one by his gallant bearing and masterly dispositions.

About three o'clock this afternoon we suffered a loss in the wounding of that most gallant officer, General Sanders.

SHERMAN'S COMMAND—AN ORDER FROM GEN. DODGE.

"HEADQUARTERS LEFT WING, 16TH ARMY CORPS, } PULASKI, Tenn., Nov. 12, 1863.

"GENERAL ORDERS, No. 6.—The Federal army being now in possession of that portion of Tennessee and Alabama from Columbia to Decatur, and from the Tennessee river to the mountains on the Middle Tennessee the following policy will be pursued by my command:

"I. Citizens who have a surplus of corn, wheat, fodder, meat, &c., by bringing it to the different posts along the railroad, from Columbia to Decatur, in sufficient quantities to supply the command, will receive vouchers for the same, which obtain the money. Unless this is done, foraging trains will necessarily be sent out, and what we need will be obtained at the point of the bayonet.

"II. As long as the people maintain quiet in the country, put down guerillas and robbers, they will be protected, their property will be respected, and in all respects as loyal citizens. Otherwise they will be levied upon to support the army, and treated as enemies.

"III. The citizens living along the railroad and telegraph lines will be held responsible for any damage done either by any but regular Confederate troops. For every mile of road in any way injured, a ring nearest that point will be assessed to the full amount of damage done.

"IV. Citizens in the adjoining counties are invited to take such measures as they see proper to comply with this order, and every assistance and encouragement will be given them by the commanders of the different posts.

"By order of Brig. Gen. G. M. DODGE.
"J. W. BARNES, Lieut. and A. A. G."

NORTH CAROLINA UNION GOOD.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Nov. 19.—We have news again of brilliant operations by the 2d North Carolina Union Volunteers, who are under command of Colonel Smith. They have penetrated to little distance into the State of their nativity. On Wednesday last a force of rebels, partly consisting of the 23d North Carolina (rebel) regiment, advanced to attack them at their position on the fifth appointed river. A fight ensued at Warm Springs, in which the loyal North Carolinians succeeded in driving their assailants in confusion below Raccoon Ford, and attempted to cut off the 1st Michigan Cavalry, Major Brewer, on picket near that point.

The enemy crossed to the ravine, and kept a little rise of ground between the picket and themselves, but, fortunately, Major Brewer was on the alert, and discovered what was going on before an attack could be made, and he was therefore prepared for them. The enemy crossed the river during the night, and exposed themselves just at dawn. After skirmishing for one or two hours, and finding that their plan had been discovered, they returned to the opposite bank. Similar movements were made all along our front, with equal success.

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