The Press.

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 1864.

The Beginning of the Campaign.

There is no doubt that the Union army has advanced, and that hostilities, at least the skirmishes preliminary to pitched battles, have begun. The most important part of the news we publish is, that the Army of the Potomac has crossed the Rapidan without serious opposition, and that General GRANT has overcome the first difficulty that confronted him. The march on Richmond is now begun, and cannot be abandoned before the two armies have tested their strength. Simultaneously with this intelligence we have a probable rumor that General SMITH's forces have occupied West Point, on the Peninsula—a movement of first-class importance.

It is impossible to know, and conjecture is useless, whether LEE, having abandoned his strong position on the Rapidan, will fall back upon the entrenchments of Richmond, or give battle at Chancellorsville. But it would seem likely that if Richmond is threatened with a heavy attack from the Peninsula that his retreat to Richmond is unavoidable. Yet all that is now positively known is that the first of a series of decisive battles is very near, and that we are launched into a colossal campaign of which no one can prophesy the end or exaggerate the greatness.

Garibaldi and Mazzini.

GARIBALDI has had a magnificent reception in England, such as, with all his monarchical proclivities, John Bull would not have vouchsafed to any potentate, be he King or Kaiser, *in the world*. Everywhere, the multitude,—not "the mob," but thousands of all classes, degrees, and opinions,—greeted him with an earnest, because heartfelt, enthusiasm of admiration, and, in London especially, his reception was rather the ovation of a great conqueror, returning home with princes captive to his arms, than of a plain, unpretending man, who disdained titles and their insignia of rank (all of which were tendered to him on his acceptance in 1860, after he had bequeathed the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies under the sceptre of VICTOR EMMANUEL,) and bears himself with even mind, unspoiled by prosperity and unbroken by suffering, as few men ever have done, as far as the world's history records.

It is worth notice, as an instance of perhaps unconscious inconsistency, that, among the guests who were received by GARIBALDI, on the Isle of Wight, (where Mr. CHAS. SEELY, M. P. for Lincoln, placed his residence and its resources at the great Italian's command,) one of the most demonstrative, was a certain "Mr. LINDSAY, M. P." It happens that there are *two* persons named LINDSAY in the House of Commons. It was rather difficult to decide which of these could have fore-gathered (as the Scotch say,) with GARIBALDI, the Liberator of Italy, the modern Apostle of human freedom. There is Mr. JAMES LINDSAY, second son of the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, who is M. P. for the borough of Wigan, rather by virtue of his father being principal owner of the town and the great coal-field of which it is the centre, than by any great sympathy between his political opinions and those of the electors. In truth, while they are ultra-liberal, Mr. JAMES LINDSAY is a decided Tory, hostile to the ballot, owning DISRAELI as the great leader of Conservatism in the House of Commons, and so much satisfied with the system under which his father's agents fell the Wigantes. "You must vote for Mr. LINDSAY, your landlord's son, or be sure of ejection from your dwellings, *his* property, at the end of the next half year," that he considers every proposition for Parliamentary reform as a sort of treason against the Constitution. The other LINDSAY, who is in the British Parliament, is WILLIAM SHAW LINDSAY, the London shipping merchant, M. P. for the borough of Sunderland, and, though a professed Liberal, notorious for his Parliamentary partisanship in behalf of "the so-called Southern Confederacy," and for his complicity, pecuniary as well as political, in the blockade-running of British vessels to the South, and the establishment, contrary to the Statute law of England, of the Alabama line of pirate steamers to annoy and destroy the mercantile marine of the Union States. It appeared to us that neither of the Messrs. LINDSAY, whose personality we have thus indicated, possibly *could* have been the visitor or the guest of GARIBALDI, at Mr. SEELY's villa; one, because, as a Tory, he has ever been opposed to Progress, and the other because, as a public man, to whom wealth rather than talent has given notoriety, if not position, he has ostentatiously exhibited himself as the antagonist of that humane principle which, at last, has decided and proclaimed that Slavery shall no longer be tolerated in any part of the great Republic where the immortal "stars and stripes" wave in triumph over land and water. A private letter from London informs us, however, that the LINDSAY who visited GARIBALDI, in the Isle of Wight, (of course, with declarations of high admiration of the great Italian's crusade in the cause of Freedom,) is the self-same LINDSAY who risks his money in partnerships for blockade-running; who violates the laws of his own country by sending the munitions of war, and other assistance, to the rebellious South; who patronizes piracy, committed by British subjects in the British-built ships-of-war, under what is called "the Confederate flag;" and who, in his place in the House of Commons, invariably has been the champion of the revolted Slave-owners. The chief matter of surprise is, not that Mr. W. S. LINDSAY should have the impudence, with slave-money in his pocket, to thrust himself, under any pretext, upon GARIBALDI, the true champion of human liberty, but that some friend of GARIBALDI's should not have prevented the intrusion upon him of such a man.

In the principal cities of the British Empire, the largest and most liberal hospitality was offered to GARIBALDI; but, after having accepted some two score invitations from all parts of the United Kingdom, he suddenly announced his intention immediately to return to Italy. It has been publicly stated, and as publicly denied by the Palmerston Ministry in Parliament, that his visit has been shortened because of a certain jealousy on the part of NAPOLEON, of his grand reception by all classes in England—600,000 persons having attended his arrival in London, and even the Prince of Wales having paid him a visit of more than one hour's length. If, as we suppose, he reads the lessons which the Past so fully supplies, he will observe, no doubt, that popular favor is at once effervescent and evanescent. How much it is the mere breath of the moment, the case of KOSSUTH emphatically proves. The great Hungarian was also the idol of the British public a few years ago, and now even his name is rarely spoken. But GARIBALDI's home career is not yet ended, it is to be expected and hoped, and ere long he may see the great purpose of his whole career—the unity and freedom of Italy—established by Venitia being restored to the great Ausonian realm.

While one noted Italian is thus the object of welcome and triumph in England, another, scarcely less known, is buffeted by the storms of political misfortune. MAZZINI, condemned by a French tribunal, before which he did not appear, and where he was not in any way represented, condemned on the charge of having conspired against the life and authority of the Emperor of the French, has principally resided in England during the last twenty-two years. Exiled from Italy, on account of his political opinion, in 1831, he found an asylum in the south of France, whence he was driven at the demand of CHARLES ALBERT, King of Sardinia. His subsequent career has been one of agitation in favor of republicanism. Driven out of Switzerland in 1848, he flung himself into the revolution at Rome, where, in February, 1849, he became acknowledged chief of the new Republic, nominally one of the triumvirs who governed it. A French army, overthrowing the new arrangement, restored the Pope, and MAZZINI again had to fly to England, where he has for the most part devoted himself to the extension of his political principles by the pen. He has been repeatedly accused of complicity in plots against NAPOLEON III., who, he thinks, is the most formidable foe to republican liberty in Europe. He has been tried and condemned, before now, (in his absence,) as a conspirator, and now, on the second condemnation, it is demanded by NAPOLEON that Switzerland, where he at present resides, shall refuse to allow him to remain within her confines. No doubt, the demand will be complied with, for Switzerland is feeble against France, as no one has a better right to know that than NAPOLEON himself, for, after his return from America, (whither he was sent to expiate the affair of Strasburg,) he was himself driven out of Switzerland at the pressing instance of LOUIS PHILIPPE. MAZZINI really can find no resting-place for his wandering feet, save the soil of England. It is doubtful whether NAPOLEON will not even drive him thence. If so, he may seek an asylum *here;* and if a pure life and republican principles can qualify a man for a residence here, MAZZINI will be welcomed.

The Postponement of the Convention.

Mr. ARNOLD, member of Congress from Illinois, has written a letter opposing the postponement of the National Convention, upon very excellent grounds. We only regret that it should be thought necessary to give any reasons why the Convention should be held in June. The burden of proof is with the advocates of the postponement, and, until they show good cause why the time should be changed, it is not demanded that others should show better cause why it should not. It is sufficient that the time has been properly chosen, is approved by the people, and that it is not proven that the country would be bettered by the selection of a later day.

To the argument that, as the June Convention will be almost unanimously for Mr. LINCOLN, the decision will be unfair to other candidates, it is only necessary to reply that a Convention in October would also be unanimous. Nor need any notice be taken of that most absurd of charges, that the Baltimore Convention will be governed by political influences. Never was there a popularity which owes so little to scheming as that of Mr. LINCOLN. Mr. ARNOLD truly says:

"There is no organization among the friends of the President; they are doing nothing. But this action of the people is spontaneous, unprompted, cannot be checked. Every State after State holds its convention, appoints its delegates, and, without a dissenting voice, instructs them to vote for Mr. Lincoln. This popularity of the President, this unanimity of the people, is confined to no section, but East as well as West, middle State and border State, they all speak one voice—*let the people speak to our candidate.* Do I exaggerate? Maine speaks for him on the Atlantic, and her voice is echoed by California from the Pacific, New Hampshire and Kansas, Connecticut and Minnesota, Wisconsin and West Virginia, and now comes the great State of Pennsylvania, seconding Maryland by one unanimous shout, and demanding the re-election of the President. Is it not wiser to recognize *and accept this great fact than to struggle against it?*"

It is true also that the instinctive sagacity and good sense of the people have already settled the Presidential question, and the attempt to reverse their decision by postponing the Convention, it is already clear, must fail.

"Driven Out of England."

A letter to the *Evening Post*, from London, written by an intimate friend of GARIBALDI—Mr. KARL BLIND, probably—positively states that the General left England because the Government had informed him that his visit was disagreeable to the French Emperor. This had been previously asserted, but not upon such excellent authority, or so positively, as in the following paragraph:

"Garibaldi's own testimony is worth anything with respect to the cause of his sudden departure—and none will deny that he ought to have a chief voice in the matter when you may assume that he goes because the English Government intimated to him that his continued presence would embarrass them with regard to the Government of France. This is the main substance of an oral communication made by Garibaldi to one who sits not a hundred miles from the desk where I pen these lines. The names of those who have conveyed the epicletic intimation to him are also no secret. Mr. Gladstone and Lord Shaftesbury performed the operation in Parliament, of course, in a special amount of hard—what shall I call it?—statements were gone through by Lord Clarendon, as well as by Lord Palmerston."

The correspondent also states that GARIBALDI himself, in speaking of the matter, said that he was "driven out of England." There is no longer any doubt of the fact the Napoleonic influence must be very powerful with the British Government thus to destroy a national reputation for hospitality, and make England the instrument of the tyranny of France.

THOSE who are palled with imaginary horrors, and have become weary of the excitement of fiction, should read the report upon the massacre at Fort Pillow, which we publish this morning. The realities it narrates imagination could not make more horrible. For the credit of humanity we are ashamed to say that the cruel story is true; it rests upon unquestionable authority, and it is not too much to say that the evidence Messrs. WADE and GOOCH have obtained more than substantiates the wildest rumors current when the outrage first became known. The facts we have announced give new emphasis to the words the President used in his order of July 30, 1863: "It is, therefore, ordered that for every soldier of the United States killed in violation of the laws of war, a rebel soldier shall be executed."

LETTER FROM "OCCASIONAL."

WASHINGTON, May 5, 1864.

He who doubts that our beloved country will triumph in her struggle with Human slavery, may contemplate with profit other things beside the military energies of the people and their Government. Let such a man study the tremendous power of the Christian Church, here and in every part of the civilized world. That mighty instrument and representative of God is everywhere enlisted, armed, and organized on our side, save only in the seceded South, *where there is, in fact, no Church, save that which offends and scoffs at the lessons, and even the literature of the Gospel.* The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, now in session in Philadelphia, the Tuesday's proceedings of which I have just read, is the last and most signal religious demonstration in favor of the cause of the Union. The American, the English, the *Irish*, and the Scotch Methodists, unite in earnest and resolute denunciations of slavery, and in ardent prayers for the American Republic. When we reflect how many hearts these utterances reach, and, also, that they are only the echoes of thousands of other utterances equally fervent and sincere, may we not rest in supreme satisfaction upon the rock of that Faith, the indestructible elements of which are Love of God and Hatred of Slavery?

OCCASIONAL.

WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, May 5, 1864.

The Treasury.

Secretary CHASE has prepared an amendment to the bank bill, which Mr. SUMNER will offer to-day, taxing the National Banks annually two per cent. on their circulation, one per cent. on their deposits, and one per cent. on their capital stock beyond the amount invested in United States stocks. This is all to be applied to the payment of the interest and principal of the public debt. Real estate held by the banks is alone to be subject to State, county, or municipal taxation.

The New Tariff Act.

IMPORTANT ORDER BY THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

The following circular relative to the late law increasing duties has been addressed to all collecting officers:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, May 5, 1864.

In view of the numerous inquiries as to the time when the recent enactment increasing the duties on imports went into operation, the following instruction is published for the government of collecting officers:

The joint resolution of April 29th, enacting the increase, took effect from its passage, and it has been judicially decided by the Supreme Court of the United States that, under acts increasing duties from and after their passage, the increase provided for takes effect on the day of the passage. The Secretary is constrained, therefore, to hold that the increase required by the joint resolution took effect on the 29th of April, and, consequently, that all persons who have paid duties at the former rates on that or any following day are liable to pay the additional fifty per cent. All collectors and all surveyors, charged with the collection of customs, will be governed accordingly. S. P. CHASE,

Secretary of the Treasury.

Attempted Raid on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad is not at all interrupted, but it was threatened for a time early this morning by 70 mounted men under MCNEIL, of West Virginia, who came in at Piedmont, 28 miles west of Chamberlain, where, after cutting the telegraph wires, burning several cars, running half a dozen locomotives on the track, and frightening the women and children badly, left as rapidly as they appeared under fear of Gen. KELLY and his detachments, gathered up at Cumberland and New Creek, who sallied out promptly in search of the marauders. No passengers or freight were captured or injured, and all the trains are running regularly. The wife of Major General WALLACE was on the east-bound train, and the daughters of Gen. SCHENCK on that bound west, but fortunately, with other passengers, escaped without molestation. To prevent a repetition of these raids a very large force of Ohio volunteers have already repaired to the scene by order of the Secretary of War and Gov. BROUGH, and the road is now amply protected.

The Late Rebel Atrocities.

Evidence of the atrocious black-flag character of recent rebel victories accumulates daily. Mr. BLOW, Representative from Missouri, has a letter from R. S. CRIPPEN, acting master's mate of the steamer Silver Cloud, which stopped at Fort Pillow the day following the butchery. This letter confirms the worst that has been told. The writer says: "I saw several colored soldiers of the 6th United States Artillery with their eyes punched out with bayonets. Many of them were shot twice, and bayoneted also. Going up into the fort, I saw there bodies partially consumed by fire—whether burned before or after death I cannot say; anyway, there were several companies of rebels in the fort while these bodies were burning, and they could have pulled them out of the fire had they chosen to do so. One of the wounded negroes told me that he hadn't done a thing, and when the rebels drove our men out of the fort they (our men) threw away their guns and cried out that they had surrendered; but the rebels kept on shooting them down until they had shot all but a few. This is what they all say." The writer adds that the rebels burned some of the white dead. In addition to this, we have accounts that in a little victory over our pickets at Niekajack, after they were captured, those who could not march fast enough to suit the rebels were shot or stabbed to death, and their pockets emptied and clothing stripped off their warm corpses by "our Southern brethren." The detail of these massacres is enough to appal the coldest heart. Let the reader ponder well the facts, and ask himself what measure of justice is announced out to the rebels.

The Military Railway in Kentucky.

The scheme for a military railway from Kentucky, through East Tennessee, to North Alabama, as recommended not long since by the President, has again been revived by General FOSTER before the House Military Committee. No conclusion has reached, but a bill providing for the construction of such a road will be probably reported.

Paroled Union Officers.

The following is the list of paroled Union officers who arrived at Annapolis on Monday last: Surgeon D. G. Rust, 101st Pennsylvania Volunteers; Surgeon J. P. Dean, 103d Pennsylvania Volunteers; Chaplain A. S. Billingsley, 105th Pennsylvania Volunteers; Captain G. McKee; Major J. N. Walker; Lieutenant Colonel J. H. Wing; Captain S. B. King, 12th Pennsylvania Cavalry; Lieutenant J. B. Wilson, 5th Maryland Volunteers; Captain R. T. Conwell, 67th Pennsylvania Volunteers; Captain F. Memmer, 6th Maryland Volunteers; Colonel D. E. Rose, 77th Pennsylvania Volunteers; Lieutenant Colonel W. J. Stewart, 16th U. S. Infantry; Chaplain J. H. Rowling, 103d Pennsylvania Volunteers; Second Lieutenant S. S. Good, 84th Pennsylvania Volunteers; Lieutenant T. S. Harris, 3d Pennsylvania Cavalry; Captain R. Pollock, 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry; First Lieutenant and Q. M. M. Kupp, 107th Pennsylvania Volunteers.

The Pennsylvania Reserves.

The 9th Regiment Pennsylvania Reserves reached town about midnight last night, from the front, having been mustered out of the service in pursuance of an arrangement by which the Government allows the time they were in the State service to their credit on their three years' term, averaging the time the different companies of the regiment have entered into the service, and mustering each regiment out from such average date. The 9th was one of the earliest regiments raised of the Reserves, of whom there are fifteen regiments.

Official Despatches from Gen. Banks.

Official despatches from Gen. BANKS have been received in reference to the battles on the Red river. He states that notwithstanding the severe battles of 8th ultimo, and the reverse experienced at that time, yet on the whole, including the subsequent battles on the two following days, they were a very great disaster to the enemy, the loss in killed and wounded, and the demoralization of their forces, being larger, the numbers being considered, than in any other battle of the war.

The Pennsylvania Militia and their Pay.

In the House of Representatives, the bill which appropriated $700,000 to reimburse the individuals and institutions who advanced money to pay the Pennsylvania soldiers called out by proclamation of the President and the Governor of Pennsylvania, to repel the rebel invasion by the forces of General LEE, in 1863, and who were in the actual service of the United States, was passed, after being amended by appropriating $15,000,000 to other loyal States sustaining damage from raids.

Ordered to Vicksburg.

Captain JAMES E. MONTGOMERY, assistant adjutant general of volunteers, has, by direction of the War Department, been relieved from duty in the military district of Washington, and ordered to report in person without delay to Major General STOUGH, at Vicksburg, Miss., for assignment.

The Ten-forty Loan.

The subscriptions to the ten-forty loan reported at the Treasury Department to-day amounted to $852,000.

The Returned Prisoners.

The Committee on the Conduct of the War are going to Annapolis to-morrow to examine the returned prisoners from Richmond.

Sudden Death of a Female.

Much excitement was occasioned to-day owing to the death of a young woman under circumstances which justified a post-mortem examination. It appears by the evidence that she was dismissed last January from her situation in the National Currency Bureau for absenting herself without leave. The principal female witness is an employee in that bureau, and her testimony was to the effect that another female employee was the accessory of a man named LEWIS, in an effort by him to hide his alleged victim's shame. Both the women are occasional actresses. The latter is said to have recently received permission to fill a theatrical engagement. The testimony was not fully sustained by the autopsy, and the verdict of the jury was that the deceased came to her death by pleuro-pneumonia.

Report of the Agricultural Department.

The following is a synopsis of the bi-monthly report for March and April of the Agricultural Department. The report will be issued this week:

The leading article shows the character of the plans adopted in Great Britain, Prussia, and the United States to estimate and report speedily the amount and condition of the crops.

The table most interesting to farmers and provision dealers is the one that exhibits the amount of farm stock in January last. Compared with the amount in 1859, as returned in the census of 1860, it is as follows in the loyal States:

	Horses.	Mules.	Cattle and Oxen.
1859	4,199,141	301,696	7,931,195
1864	4,640,042	989,847	7,963,439
	Cows.	Sheep.	Hogs.
1859	5,226,764	15,168,372	17,000,035
1864	6,095,748	24,346,291	16,148,172

This table exhibits an actual decrease in horses, mules, and hogs, a very small increase of cattle, a larger increase of cows, but one still far below the usual increase, and a very large increase of sheep.

The report points out the strong inducements that farmers have to increase all kinds of stock that is falling off. The number of hogs will be increased by the lambs of the spring to nearly thirty millions, or double what it was in 1859.

The decrease in hogs is 852,323. This is an important fact to provision dealers and farmers, for it shows that but few hogs, if any, were kept over on account of the loss of Indian corn, as has generally been believed. The condition of hog raising from 1860 to this time is examined, and the opinion given that even if there had been a good corn crop there would have been a decrease in the number of hogs packed.

The number of fattening cattle is reported to be 30 per cent. less than last year in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Michigan; 25 per cent. less in New York, Iowa, and Illinois; and 20 per cent. less in Missouri and Wisconsin. The aggregate decrease is nearly 30 per cent.

The condition of nearly all stock is below the usual spring average, especially of hogs, but sheep are in excellent order, having received more than ordinary attention. Hence the yield of wool per head will be as much as usual.

The condition of wheat and other crops sown last fall is represented as indicating a largely-increased product from the crop of 1863, but it is feared they have improved from the recent rains, and since the returns of the correspondents were sent in, which was on the first of April. The dryness of February and March retarded the usual growth in these months.

It is believed that the production of maple sugar and molasses will be unusually large, as the preparations for it were greater than usual.

Bees are reported as having suffered much during the winter. The usual amount of statistics, showing the trade in agricultural products, is given, and the meteorological part of the report, prepared at the Smithsonian Institution, is very full, and completely exhibits the phenomenon attending the remarkable cold storms of the past winter.

The rains have been heavy and general, retarding much the putting in of spring wheat and other crops; but whether the amount put in will be materially lessened in consequence cannot now be known.

Fortress Monroe.

FORTRESS MONROE, May 4.—Several refugees arrived here to-day, from Little Washington, N. C. They report that the place was burned last Saturday, probably by a guerilla party.

The flag-of-truce steamer New York left to-day, noon, for City Point, with about 400 rebel prisoners of war, in charge of Major Mulford.

The Draft in Ohio—The National Guard.

CINCINNATI, May 5.—The draft begins in the First district this morning.

Governor Brough has issued a proclamation thanking the National Guard for their noble response to the call.

The Guards are rapidly assembling at their camps ready for duty. Over six thousand reported at Camp Dennison.

The grain warehouse of Messrs. C. Hays & Brothers was damaged by fire yesterday to the amount of $11,000. Insured.

Boston.

BOSTON, May 5.—The prize steamer Alliance arrived here to-day.

General Devens has been ordered to Fortress Monroe for duty under General Smith. He has concluded a tour of inspection of the defenses of New England.

A portion of the 5th Massachusetts Cavalry (colored), about 250 men, have been ordered to leave to-day for Washington.

Railroad Accidents.

NEW HAVEN, May 5.—A soldier of the 12th Connecticut Volunteers, named William Scott, was run over by the cars at East Haven and killed to-day.

John O'Meara, and his nephew, Patrick O'Meara, were both instantly killed this afternoon, at West Haven, by the Boston express train.

Contribution to the Sanitary Commission.

BOSTON, May 5.—The Board of Brokers to-day appropriated $1,000, to be equally divided between the Baltimore and St. Louis Sanitary Commissions.

THE WAR IN VIRGINIA.

STIRRING ADDRESS OF GEN. MEADE.

THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC ADVANCING.

THE RAPIDAN CROSSED WITHOUT MUCH OPPOSITION.

THE REBELS FALLING BACK.

A BATTLE CLOSE AT HAND.

THE PENINSULAR MOVEMENT.

OCCUPATION OF WEST POINT.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, May 4, 1864.

SOLDIERS: Again you are called upon to advance on the enemies of your country. The time and the occasion are deemed opportune by your Commanding General to address you a few words of confidence and caution. You have been reorganized, strengthened, and fully equipped in every respect. You form a part of the several armies of your country—the whole under the direction of an able and distinguished general, who enjoys the confidence of the Government, the people, and the army. Your movement being in co-operation with others, it is of the utmost importance that no effort should be left unspared to make it successful.

SOLDIERS: The eyes of the whole country are looking with anxious hope to the blow you are about to strike in the most sacred cause that ever called men to arms. Remember your homes, your wives and children, and bear in mind that the sooner your enemies are overcome the sooner you will be returned to enjoy the benefits and blessings of peace. Bear with patience the hardships and sacrifices you will be called upon to endure. Have confidence in your officers and in each other. Keep your ranks on the march and on the battle-field, and let each man earnestly implore God's blessing, and endeavor by his thoughts and actions to render himself worthy of the favor he seeks. With clear conscience and strong arms, actuated by a high sense of duty, fighting for your country and her institutions, we can hand down to us by our forefathers, if true to ourselves, victory, under God's blessing, must and will attend our efforts.

GEORGE G. MEADE,
Major General Commanding.

S. WILLIAMS, Assistant Adjutant General.

GEN. GRANT ON DISCIPLINE.

General Grant, by general order, calls the particular attention of officers to regulations requiring all official correspondence to be conducted through proper channels. Violations of the regulations will be treated hereafter as disobedience of orders, and will subject the writers of such communications to arrest.

GEN. GRANT ON TENTS FOR THE TROOPS.

Gen. Grant has issued an order calling the attention of officers to general orders of 1862, providing for the issue of common wall or Sibley tents. When troops refuse to accept shelter-tents they will not be furnished with any. Troops in garrison, in stations, or on detachments, can construct huts, if they prefer them to shelter-tents. Quartermasters are prohibited from issuing tents other than the kind authorized, no matter by whom requisitions are approved, or by whose orders issues are directed to be made, until otherwise ordered through the Adjutant General of the army. Any one who violates the letter or the issue of tents other than as prescribed, will be tried by court martial, or reported for summary dismissal.

WASHINGTON, May 5, 2 P. M.—The *National Republican* of this city has just issued an extra, which says:

"We feel authorized to state, since it cannot now afford information to the enemy, that the Army of the Potomac has advanced towards Richmond, and the struggle for the possession of the rebel capital is begun.

"Our army moved on Tuesday night, and has now crossed the Rapidan.

"The crossing was made at Jacob's, Culpeper, Germania, and the United States fords, and was effected without opposition.

"Lee has been compelled to fall back from the strong position where he has held us at bay all winter. Whether he will make a stand this side of the defences of Richmond we are not advised.

"It is the opinion of some that he will fight at Chancellorsville."

"Any battle may now bring us news of battle, but we are inclined to the belief that it will be a foot race for Richmond.

"The rebel capital will undoubtedly be flanked and invested, should Lee's army occupy its defences, and the country may reasonably hope that this time Richmond will fall.

"This change of position was made without any demonstration whatever indicative that it was going on, not an additional tap of the drum or blast of the bugle being permitted, and there were no stragglers whatever bringing up the rear, as in former times.

"All who witnessed it, that we have seen, speak in most enthusiastic terms of the discipline, condition, &c., then and there manifested by our troops—good signs, truly, that the spirit of the army is what we have by this time had occasion to be impressed with a knowledge of the fact.

"The belief is expressed by parties from the front that Lee has suddenly evacuated his position, and there is a report, coming through rebel sources, that he is expected to make a flank movement, and believed, in Richmond, to be going up the Peninsula, under General Smith—that General Lee proposes to throw the right of his army first on Smith, hoping to crush him before Grant can reach within co-operative distance of Smith.

"Good military judges do not, however, believe that Lee means to confront Grant directly, and that any change of position he (General Lee) may have made is with this purpose."

OCCUPATION OF WEST POINT, VA.

NEW YORK, May 5.—We learn that West Point, at the head of the York river, was occupied by a portion of our forces on Monday, the 3d inst. Three of the rebel pickets stationed there came in and gave themselves up.

THE WAR IN THE SOUTHWEST.

GENERAL McPHERSON'S ORDER OF PREPARATION.

The Rebels in Small Force in Georgia.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE, HUNTSVILLE, Ala., April 18, 1864.

Brigadier Gen. G. M. Dodge, Commanding Left Wing of the 16th Army Corps:

GENERAL: The following instructions relative to *transportation for the army in the field will at once* be communicated to your command:

1. Each regiment, battery, or detachment will be allowed two wagons, and no more; one for cooking utensils of the men, and the other for baggage and mess of the officers.

2. Each brigade headquarters will be allowed two wagons and no more.

3. Each division headquarters will be allowed three wagons, and no more.

4. The remaining teams of the command will be organized into an ordnance train, and may be drawn by the ordnance train under the direct supervision of the ordnance officer of the division, who will be assisted by a competent detailed commissary for that purpose; the supply train of the division under the immediate control of the division quartermaster, assisted by the commissary of subsistence, who must not lose sight of their teams because they are thus assigned to the general train. Quartermasters must be prepared upon the moving of their trains in the morning, and will see them packed for the night. This must not be left to the wagon-masters.

5. Not a tent will be taken with the army, and officers will govern themselves accordingly. All surplus baggage must be thrown out and disposed of at once, and the army placed in a condition to move.

By order of Major General McPherson.

WM. A. CLARK, Capt. and Adj. Gen.

This order is regarded as an indication of speedy activity.

SHERMAN ABOUT TO ADVANCE.

Nashville correspondence of the Chicago *Journal* represents the advance of Sherman and says:

It will indeed be a hazardous advance; not that any danger is to be apprehended from the result of a battle, but by it our lines will be extended another hundred or two miles, and consequently shall *be more liable to cavalry raids; and East Kentucky* will be exposed to Longstreet, should Lee find himself compelled to detach a force for a diversion upon our centre; and nothing but entire confidence on the part of General Grant, in his abilities speedily to land Lee, and destroy the East Tennessee Railroad, as a base for an invasion of Kentucky, would justify the movements now on the military chessboard. They are ordered, convinced are that General Grant is satisfied that he will succeed in his advance on Richmond; and I may add that a similar confidence prevails among military men here generally.

ONLY THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND REBELS AT DALTON, GA.

[From the Chicago Journal.]

B. F. Taylor, at Chattanooga, in a letter dated April 25th, received too late for publication to-day, states that refugees just arrived report that there are only 35,000 rebels at Dalton, Johnston having been withdrawn to join Lee in Virginia, and that "the report of the refugees is, in the main, confirmed by intelligence from other sources at Federal command." This is a very important fact, it having been supposed that the rebels would not venture to draw any of their force in Georgia to Richmond. General Grant is, doubtless, ere this, aware of the fact.

MEMPHIS.

CAIRO, May 4.—The steamer Liberty, No. 2, from Memphis for Louisville, arrived to-day with 450 bales of cotton and Memphis dates of yesterday evening. There is no news.

The Memphis cotton market is active. The market for middlings is firm, and all offering is taken at advanced rates. The receipts for the past forty-eight hours have been 810 bales from Helena and Little Rock. Middling to strict middlings are quoted at 68@69c; good 71@73c, and fair 75c.

THE CAPTURE OF THE GUNBOAT PETREL.

CAIRO, May 4.—The steamer Wilson has arrived, with three barges laden with cotton, from Memphis. Eight officers of the gunboat Petrel came up on the Wilson. The rebel attack on the gunboat was a complete surprise, but they succeeded in giving the enemy one broadside, after which the commander of the Petrel ordered the boat to be fired, to prevent her from falling into the enemy's hands. It is believed that this failed.

The Petrel carried eight 24-pounders brass howitzers, and a number of small arms, and had ammunition and stores sufficient for six months, all of which, with the boat, is lost to the Government. It has been learned that the enemy were removing the guns to Yazoo City, where they had a battery posted when the Petrel passed up, which they fired against her without serious damage.

General Hurlbut has issued a farewell address to the 16th Army Corps. He states the manner in which the corps has been scattered, until there were not enough men left to carry on offensive operations, but that they have lost no honor by not performing impossibilities. He says they are receiving additional strength; that the day of reckoning will soon come, and that he shall rejoice in their success. In conclusion, he says that whatever may happen to individuals, the cause remains precisely as ever.

DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF.

A BATTLE NEAR CANE RIVER.

DEFEAT OF THE REBELS.

LOSS OF 1,600 MEN AND NINE GUNS.

REPORT OF A UNION DISASTER IN ARKANSAS.

CAIRO, May 3.—By the arrival of the steamer Belle, from Memphis, we have one day's later dates from Memphis, and advices from Alexandria, Red river, to the 24th of April, at which place General Banks was then, and in a good position.

The rebels had followed our forces from Grand Ecore, and when near Cane river an engagement took place in which the rebels lost one thousand men and nine pieces of artillery.

Our gunboats are safe, notwithstanding the wild rumors to the contrary.

We have news of a disaster to our arms in Arkansas. General Marmaduke attacked and captured a train, with an escort, after a sharp fight. Report says he took one thousand prisoners, two hundred and forty wagons, and seven pieces of artillery. This needs confirmation.

Guerillas had lately captured and burned the steamer Hastings, and fired into the steamer Benefit, killing the captain and two others.

Twelve thousand bales of cotton were burned by the rebels in the vicinity of Camden, previous to their evacuation of the place. The hospital steamer McDougal has arrived from Vicksburg, with 163 sick and wounded from the army on Red river. Sixty-nine were left at Memphis. She proceeds to Louisville.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Little Washington Burned and Evacuated.

INDIGNATION AGAINST GEN. BUTLER.

THE REBEL RAMS ABOUT TO ATTACK.

FORTRESS MONROE, May 3.—Passengers from North Carolina report that Washington, in that State, was laid in ashes by straggling marines and soldiers at the time of its hasty evacuation. The Government naval, ordnance, commissaries, and quartermasters stores were also destroyed. The city was mainly owned by Union men. The loss is several millions of dollars.

Four thousand Federal troops suddenly evacuated the place in the face of seven companies of rebels, leaving the entire Union population to the tender mercies of the enemy, after burning their houses over their heads. Very shocking scenes of women and children were pitiful, and the appeals of brothers and fathers for protection from rebel bayonets as the United States steamers left the docks were heart-rending. The indignation against Butler is very bitter in North Carolina, and a delegation of leading men will visit Washington to ask his removal.

The rebel rams at Plymouth and in the Neuse river have decided to commence an attack on our gunboats without waiting for assistance from their army. Refugee families are continually arriving at Newbern and Beaufort, entirely destitute. Immediate assistance, in the shape of clothing and money, is needed from the North.

BALTIMORE, May 5.—The letter from Fortress Monroe, dated the 3d inst., in regard to the evacuation of Little Washington, N. C., is evidently a great exaggeration. A letter from Fortress Monroe, dated yesterday, says that several refugees have arrived from Little Washington. They report that the place was burned last Saturday, probably by a guerilla party.

It should be remembered that Little Washington was only a very small town, which, in its most prosperous days, had only about 2,000 inhabitants, was built mainly of wood, so that it is absurd to speak of a loss of several millions. All the towns on Pamlico Sound would hardly be worth as much.

The Naval Service and the Draft.

WAR DEPARTMENT, SOLICITOR'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C., April 30, 1864.

Col. James B. Fry, Provost Marshal General:

COLONEL: The question proposed in your letter of the 28th inst., is "whether the credits shown to be given on the quotas for draft for all men enlisted in the naval service or marine corps of the United States, without regard to the length of time for which such men enlist?" In reply I have the honor to enclose the following

OPINION.

The operation of the enrolment act of 1863 proved injurious to the naval service, by withdrawing therefrom a large number of able-bodied seamen, tempted to enlist in the army by the local, State, and national bounties. It was found impossible to encourage the sailor equally with the soldier; and for that purpose the amended enrolment act, approved February 24, 1864, was passed, after being shown by appropriating $15,000,000 to other loyal States sustaining damage from raids.

Ordered to Vicksburg.

Captain JAMES E. MONTGOMERY, assistant adjutant general of volunteers, has, by direction of the War Department, been relieved from duty in the military district of Washington, and ordered to report in person without delay to Major General STOUGH, at Vicksburg, Miss., for assignment.

The Ten-forty Loan.

The subscriptions to the ten-forty loan reported at the Treasury Department to-day amounted to $852,000.

The Returned Prisoners.

The Committee on the Conduct of the War are going to Annapolis to-morrow to examine the returned prisoners from Richmond.

Sudden Death of a Female.

Much excitement was occasioned to-day owing to the death of a young woman under circumstances which justified a post-mortem examination. It appears by the evidence that she was dismissed last January from her situation in the National Currency Bureau for absenting herself without leave. The principal female witness is an employee in that bureau, and her testimony was to the effect that another female employee was the accessory of a man named LEWIS, in an effort by him to hide his alleged victim's shame. Both the women are occasional actresses. The latter is said to have recently received permission to fill a theatrical engagement. The testimony was not fully sustained by the autopsy, and the verdict of the jury was that the deceased came to her death by pleuro-pneumonia.

Report of the Agricultural Department.

The following is a synopsis of the bi-monthly report for March and April of the Agricultural Department. The report will be issued this week:

The leading article shows the character of the plans adopted in Great Britain, Prussia, and the United States to estimate and report speedily the amount and condition of the crops.

The table most interesting to farmers and provision dealers is the one that exhibits the amount of farm stock in January last. Compared with the amount in 1859, as returned in the census of 1860, it is as follows in the loyal States:

	Horses.	Mules.	Cattle and Oxen.
1859	4,199,141	301,696	7,931,195
1864	4,640,042	989,847	7,963,439
	Cows.	Sheep.	Hogs.
1859	5,226,764	15,168,372	17,000,035
1864	6,095,748	24,346,291	16,148,172

This table exhibits an actual decrease in horses, mules, and hogs, a very small increase of cattle, a larger increase of cows, but one still far below the usual increase, and a very large increase of sheep.

The report points out the strong inducements that farmers have to increase all kinds of stock that is falling off. The number of hogs will be increased by the lambs of the spring to nearly thirty millions, or double what it was in 1859.

The decrease in h