The Press.

TUESDAY, MAY 31, 1864.

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

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

The Strategy of General Grant.

For three long years the army waited for a leader. It has not waited in vain. General GRANT stands head and shoulders above all other commanders who have distinguished themselves in the war, and, judged not only by his successes, but by the means he has used to obtain them, must unquestionably be recognized as one of the great soldiers of the age. The country is astonished, and it has good reason to be, at the masterly development of the campaign in Virginia. Every day brings new proof of courage and brilliancy of the plan, and the energy of its execution. No American general has ever manœuvred an immense army with the ease and skill with which GRANT has handled the forces in Virginia. It has been well said that he controls the Army of the Potomac almost as easily as if it were a brigade. The history of the campaign, thus far, conclusively shows GRANT to be not only the hardest fighter, but the finest strategist of the war.

On the 4th of May General GRANT placed his whole army on the south bank of the Rapidan, sixty miles on a direct line from Richmond, and in the same week hurled his entire forces against the enemy. This was a terrible reconnoissance in force, which settled at once the question of relative strength, tested the spirit of the army, and justified GRANT in moving with the rapidity, daring, and confidence which have marked his subsequent operations. A campaign that does not begin with a great battle is not likely to end with a victory, and GRANT displayed the genius of a great soldier in taking the offensive at once. The enemy, after these fierce battles, were compelled to retire to the stronger position at Spottsylvania. It was there that General GRANT began those brilliant and sound combinations which have given us more confidence in his military skill than all his other victories combined. He refused to hurl his troops upon the strong works at Spottsylvania, but by a sudden movement forced LEE to choose between the surrender of his lines of communication or retreat. LEE fell back to the South Anna, and GRANT again declined to attack the enemy in his chosen position, and in fortifications upon which the best engineering ability of the South has spent two years, at least, of labor. While the enemy spread their lines, like a vast fan, between him and Richmond, and vainly awaited an attack, GRANT, on Thursday night, recrossed the North Anna, moved southerly on LEE's right flank, with his own right securely protected by the river, crossed the Pamunkey at Hanovertown, and is now again confronted by LEE, who was forced to leave his chosen position and throw himself between our army and Richmond, upon the line of the Chickahominy. All this was done by GRANT without wasting either men or time. It is the result of pure strategy.

What then is done? Three weeks ago he was sixty miles from Richmond, with three rivers to cross, and the best army of the rebellion before him, resolved to dispute every foot of ground. Now, without losing a wagon, without once severing his communication with Washington or leaving it unprotected, without any loss which is not exceeded by the loss of the enemy, he stands, or rather moves, within fifteen miles of the rebel capital, and has driven LEE to a position which he would gladly have fought a hard battle every day of the month to avoid. Such a campaign is unprecedented in Virginia. When General MCCLELLAN advanced up the Peninsula he met with little opposition. Beyond the Rapidan no commander has ever led the Army of the Potomac ten miles. Our fighting has been done in what we may call the front of Washington. Even in offensive movements the necessity of caution has been so extreme that the army seemed actually always on the defensive. GRANT, by a less expensive and tedious route than the Peninsula, has placed the army directly before Richmond, and relieved all Northern Virginia of everything but the annoyance of the guerillas. His movement is absolutely and efficiently offensive, and when we remember that he controls the Peninsular advance, and consider the important part which General BUTLER will take in movements which will now be strictly co-operative, it is almost impossible to congratulate the country too much upon the glorious progress of the greatest of all our campaigns. The two great armies of MEADE and BUTLER are virtually under one practical direction; Richmond is attacked, as it never was before, from two sides, and General LEE's forces are, in effect, no longer an army, but a garrison. The severest battles are yet to be fought, but we are positive that GRANT will not attempt to take Richmond by storm, nor by a whole summer's siege. If his future progress is to be proportionate to his past, that city should certainly be our own before July.

General Butler.

That the charges against General BUTLER were untrue is admitted by the journal in which they first appeared. The *Evening Post*, of yesterday, in reference to its statements that BUTLER had lost the ground he had gained by refusing to entrench, against the urgent advice of GILMORE, editorially says:

"General Butler addressed a letter on this matter to General Gilmore, asking: 'Did you or do you authorize the statement that Gilmore advised Butler to make his (my) position secure by entrenchments against sorties or any movements of the enemy to oust us from them when before Fort Darling, and that I answered that I would not pause for defensive preparation?' To which the reply of General Gilmore, a copy of which lies before us, is, 'I never advised you as stated. I sent a staff officer to you in regard to certain changes in the line, but there was not time to make those changes, even if they had been ordered.'"

The *Evening Post* may have had excellent reasons for believing its correspondent to be well informed, but the public reasons for presuming him to be in error were so many that General BUTLER scarcely needed a defence. General GILMORE, however, has settled the question.

THE SECRETARY OF WAR has had many defenders, even if he has been "the best abused man of the war." But the only defence he needs is a plain statement of the work he has done and is doing. From the New York *Times* we quote the following suggestive paragraphs:

"Secretary Stanton has been the best abused man of the war. Many of the disasters have been fathered upon him, and very few of the victories have been put to his credit by the public estimation. Without discussing the exact value of his services to the country, it is worth while to consider occasionally one grand fact which is almost forgotten by the public, and yet which must redound in history especially to the credit of his administration. We mean the wonderful organization by which our immense armies are kept constantly supplied with food, clothing, ammunition, and weapons.

"We had in the Secretary's despatch, received on Tuesday, a brief record of a single week's administration under the War Department. Within eight days after the great battle of Spottsylvania Court House several thousand—probably some twenty-five thousand—veteran troops were forwarded to Gen. Grant, and during the same time rations sufficient for his whole immense army were supplied him. Twenty thousand sick and wounded were transported from the field of battle to the Washington hospitals and placed under surgical care. Over eight thousand prisoners were conveyed from the field to prison depots, and a vast amount of artillery and weapons, won from the enemy, were brought away. Several thousand fresh cavalry horses were forwarded to the Army of the Potomac; and many thousands of reinforcements, with arms and ample supplies, were sent to the other armies in the field. During the same week a fresh army of thirty thousand volunteers was mustered into service, clothed, armed, equipped, and transported to their respective positions.

"We submit that no military department, not even Napoleon's, when he commanded the resources of most of Europe, ever showed a better week's work.

"Now, wherever individually the credit of this masterly organization may lie, historically it will be ascribed to the War Department. History will show that during a great war millions of men were armed, equipped, fed, and transported with a silent regularity and promptness to which only the longest experience in military organization can usually attain; and for this the nation has reason to be devoutly thankful."

ANY articles intended for the great Sanitary Fair may be sent to Mrs. J. W. Forney, the chairman of the Committee on Labor, Revenue, and Income, at the residence 618 Washington Square.

The Conventions at Cleveland.

A number of our fellow-citizens will assemble to-day in the city of Cleveland, Ohio. They propose to discuss the question of the Presidency. We are somewhat at a loss for a general term to express our idea of this Convention; but perhaps we can find none more felicitous than a line displayed in large type by the *World*: "Grand Rally of the Radicals against LINCOLN!" These gentlemen should thank the editorial Copperhead for giving them a phrase that has the merit of adaptability, and, we should think, acceptability. Our own misfortune is, that we cannot see which of these Conventions can be called "The Grand Rally." We have before us no less than three distinct calls, which may be hurriedly summed up:

I. A call signed by "The People's Provisional Committee," which declares that "the one-term principle should be inflexibly adhered to in the approaching elections, and that Baltimore is too near Washington to be a proper place for holding a Convention." Therefore, in order that people may be away from the evil influences of Washington, these gentlemen propose assembling in the purer atmosphere of Cleveland. Senator BROWN, of Missouri, heads this call. Ex-Governor WILLIAM F. JOHNSTON and WILLIAM MORRIS DAVIS, formerly a member of Congress from this State, are the only names of note from Pennsylvania.

II. A call addressed "To the Radical Men of the Nation," demanding the immediate extinction of slavery, negro suffrage, and a division of the lands of the rebels among the slaves. This call concludes: "Men of God! men of humanity! lovers of justice! patriots and freemen! one and all, rally!" It is hardly necessary to say after this quotation that Rev. GEORGE B. CHEEVER is the principal signer. Mr. FREDERICK DOUGLASS will be a prominent member. Pennsylvania has not the honor of being represented.

III. A third call is addressed "To the People," and is quite brief and "conservative." It speaks about violating State and individual rights, and favors an amendment to the Constitution abolishing slavery. It is presumed this Convention will place General GRANT in nomination. Mr. JOHN COCHRANE, formerly a brigadier general, we believe, is the principal signer to this call. Pennsylvania is again denied the merit of a representative.

These are the three "Conventions" that meet to-day in Cleveland. The four or five names we recognize are the names of good men, and we trust they may have pleasant quarters at Cleveland and a safe return home. We do not know how many ladies will be admitted, but we should not be surprised if there was a large delegation in attendance. Mrs. E. CADY STANTON has signed her name to the call, and will take an active part, if she is admitted. This seems to be the only embarrassing question before our friends at Cleveland. It is possible General FREMONT will be nominated by one or two Conventions, and General GRANT by the other, and it is also possible that no nomination will be made, but an adjournment effected to Baltimore, to await the action of the Union Convention. The New York *World* has a great deal of sympathy for this movement, and it assures us that it "affords to the masses of the Republican party their only opportunity for freedom of political action respecting the Presidency." We admire the instinct of the *World* in its elaborate praise of these men, but at the same time there are men with names signed to this call who would have blushed not many weeks ago to find no voice approving their course but the voice of a Copperhead. They may blush still.

We anticipate no important results from the meeting of these Conventions. Like Mr. Micawber, they meet at Cleveland in the hope that something may turn up. They have no distinct principle on which to array themselves against Mr. LINCOLN. Our President holds the advance sentiment of the radical theories of the age, and these discontented men are reduced to nothing but extravagant and foolish declamation. If they ask the abolition of slavery, they find slavery abolished by the man they affect to hate. They find that this man has not only freed the negro, but armed him and raised him as near an equality as it is possible for the member of a race so crushed and degraded to be. Above all, they see that behind this man the country stands, that the country loves and trusts him, and, believing he has been sent by God to direct the destinies of this nation, they propose to continue him in his high office until the work is done. If the gentlemen who meet at Cleveland look at this question coolly, and with common sense, they will accept this truth, and, quietly returning to their homes, prepare to meet the common enemy in the coming campaign. Gentlemen, this cause is too precious to be weakened by these quarrels over men. Our choice is ABRAHAM LINCOLN, but if another can be found, let another be taken. Our faith is inscribed upon the banner, and we shall follow the captain, whoever he may be, that can lead us on to victory.

The Sanitary Fair.

A week longer and it will really open. The great Fair is coming so near that we speak of it as we do of next Sunday's sermon. On Tuesday, then, the doors will open, and Mr. WELSH will give his ten thousand friends a private view. In the meantime the workmen are busy and excited. The noisiest spot in the consolidated city is Logan Square. The sedate inhabitants of that shady retreat are in a condition of despair. They feel that they have made a great sacrifice; that they are deeply injured. Their trees are boxed up and hidden away, their deer have been spirited off to other pastures, and an unsightly medley of brick and lumber and stone is all that can be seen. The workmen have nearly finished their work, and the committees are arranging to decorate the tables. The women are in a state of delightful excitement. They hover around this unsightly square at all hours of the day, and disappear into the mysterious recesses that still baffle the ingenuity and enterprise of our reporters. Mr. CLAGHORN and Mr. HARRISON are getting their pictures ready, and as every picture will be hung in the best light, the artists have no reason to be jealous or unhappy. We have great hopes for this Art Department. Think of a picture gallery five hundred feet long, and in this gallery all the finest pictures in our private collections! Such a display has never been seen before, and may never be seen again. This will be one of the most attractive sensations of all, for in our parlors and galleries there are many gems of art unknown to the student. Bring them forth from dusty walls, and let them see the sunshine and the brightness of many thousands of faces.

Beautiful is art, but more beautiful is nature. Nature is now decking herself with all the glory of May, and out of her beauty we shall have a contribution to our Sanitary Fair. The Garden will be an attraction of great beauty. The many conservatories around our city, and we have some of the finest in the country, will contribute their rarest plants to the Garden of the Fair. We shall have all the wholesome loveliness of our own May fields combining with the rich and luscious fruits and flowers of the Equator. In this May month the flowers may greet the sunshine without fear of frost or blight, and thus we may stroll and saunter through gardens that might have overhung Babylon, burdening the Euphrates with their fragrance. Those who have charge of the Garden say that no attraction in the Fair will excel their peculiar display, and that even now enough contributions have been promised to make it one of the most magnificent horticultural exhibitions the country has ever known. Thus, with pictures and flowers in such abundance, we may all be happy at the Sanitary Fair.

We shall have the quaint, and curious, and useful, as well as the beautiful. The Curiosity Shop will be filled with all the rare old treasures now hidden in the dust of libraries and garrets. The Pennsylvania Kitchen will welcome as fresh and merry groups as those that laughed the weary night away around high blazing fires, in earlier and purer days. The Post Office will contain letters for all who may choose to call, and anxious inquirers will find more charming attendants than Mr. WALDRON has succeeded in obtaining. Mr. CHILDS is arranging the types for his *Daily Fair*, and finds his books filling with subscribers, and Mr. LELAND finds himself, as the editor of the new publication, the most popular man in the city. Happy Mr. LELAND—and happy thousands—who have written their rhymes, and expect to find themselves in glaring print during the Fair! Justice will at length be done to the injured multitude whose genius now suffers from the bad taste and venality of newspaper men. Happy Mr. LELAND! and may he have a speedy recovery from the embarrassments of his trying position. But why dwell upon all these attractions? We must not anticipate too closely, for we may betray some of the mysteries that should not be revealed until the opening day. Another week, and we shall be within those uninviting walls, and in the midst of all their gorgeousness and wealth. Let our friends improve that week, and much good may be accomplished that otherwise would be left undone.

Our readers will remember that last year, during the draft excitement, no argument of the Copperheads was more vehemently published than the argument against the exemption clause in the conscription act. It was said to oppress the poor man and screen the wealthy. Now, when a proposition is made to repeal this "odious law," the Copperheads cry out against it as a violation of civil liberty. One journal says "it is the one feature of the law that makes it anything like a fair and equitable measure, and equalizes its burdens on rich and poor." This shameless inconsistency is characteristic of these men, but can anything be more disgraceful?

THE London *Times* begins to use threatening language towards the German Powers, but in a very quiet way. It is evidently feeling public opinion: "We have done what we could to avert the evils which we foresee, and shall, we trust, *hold our power in reserve for the day—not, as we apprehend, very distant*—when it may be employed efficiently towards undoing a great injustice, and restoring respect for public law, now arrogantly trampled under foot."

THE *World* assures us that "the Cleveland Convention is to procure a true expression of the spontaneous sentiments of the people." This is very kind and clever conduct on the part of a Copperhead towards Radicals, but will the *World* tell us what the Chicago Convention is to be?

THE Copperhead newspapers are still harping upon Mr. SEWARD. That statesman has been fortunate enough to keep the country out of a war with foreign Powers. Such a war would be the recognition of treason, and therefore the chagrin of these gentlemen at Mr. SEWARD's success.

IN the Sanitary Fair of St. Louis the contest in sword voting lies between HANCOCK and MCCLELLAN. HANCOCK is ahead, and will probably succeed. Philadelphia should give her sword to Gen. MEADE.

THE Democracy are discussing the propriety of postponing their Convention until September. They have not found a candidate as yet, and by waiting a little longer something may turn up.

SOME foolish rhymer writes a number of stanzas addressed to GARIBALDI, in which he says, "Fanatic vile! despised by all—the world shall glory in thy fall." The next curiosity will probably be a satire on WASHINGTON, and a eulogy on BENEDICT ARNOLD and JEFFERSON DAVIS.

WHILE the New York *Times* is so busily engaged in proving that there have been no great generals but those graduated at West Point, will it tell us where CÆSAR, and FREDERICK, and MARLBOROUGH graduated?

(Special Despatch to The Press.)

The Cleveland Convention.

[From the Washington Chronicle.]

THE CLEVELAND CONVENTION.

The most encouraging aspect of the present period, after the steady progress of our arms, is the confidence of the great body of the loyal people in Mr. Lincoln. If it were otherwise—if he were not the undoubted choice of the great Union party for re-election—a most damaging element would be added to the other embarrassments of the Government. The country would be convulsed by an internecine war between common friends, on the subject of the succession, and the Executive would feel itself utterly disheartened by the fact that it had lost the confidence of its former partisans. He who looks over the list of delegates to the Union National Convention which is to meet at Baltimore one week from to-morrow, must see that it is to be a body of patriotic distinguished character, experience, and patriotism. That catalogue is alone sufficient to attest the fact that the delegates have, in most cases, been selected outside of party management of selfish combinations. THE CONVENTION OF THE 7TH OF JUNE IS THE ONLY CONVENTION CALLED IN THIRTY YEARS WITHOUT REFERENCE TO PARTY ANTECEDENTS AND PARTY PLATFORMS. For evidence of which observe a few of the very many of the leading men who are to act in it: Daniel S. Dickenson, of New York, and John A. Andrew, of Massachusetts; David Tod, of Ohio, and Robert J. Breckinridge, of Kentucky—the Whig and the Democrat, the slave-holder and the Abolitionist—the adopted citizen and the repentant Know-Nothing—will be in this grand council, in happy oblivion of past differences, and in a patriotic postponement of still existing political affinities. There may be small politicians in this Convention, but they will be shamed into irretrievable obscurity and silence by the patriots who consent to take part in it. THE BOND THAT UNITES THESE PATRIOTS IS LOVE OF COUNTRY. To prove this love, they are ready to give up all lesser considerations, and, first of all, to give up party. To save their country they will slay slavery and all its accessories. To save their country they will approve every act that an honest Administration and Congress may declare to be necessary to that salvation. Observe, and remember, that although this Convention is called to nominate a President and Vice President for four years from the 4th of March, 1865, its first great duty is to the Republic. On this sublime inspiration the people acted when they elected their representatives to it. Therefore, they have chosen their wisest and their most unselfish citizens. And yet, in the State and district Conventions, called to appoint delegates, these delegates have, with very few exceptions, been instructed to support Abraham Lincoln as the Union candidate for re-election to the Presidency. We would not profane our great cause by discussing the shameless accusation that such instructions have proceeded from management or from patronage. No general Administration in our recollection has been so indifferent to party details as the present. To many this indifference has been classified among its gravest offences. And certainly Mr. Lincoln can not be charged with having used his own vast powers to re-elect himself. Can any body suppose that such patriots as we have named, nearly all strangers to Mr. Lincoln, would have been whipped in by any party manipulations to go for any man for President, to please him alone, or that they would, at their time of life, enter any party convention, save at the call of the noblest impulses that ever thrilled the heart or nerved the arm? The controlling minds of the Baltimore Union Convention have long since rejected offices and honors, and have only come from venerated private life to dedicate themselves to the service of a country now assailed by the bitterest enemies of civilization and Christianity. Most happily for that country; most auspicious for our future, it is, that such men will meet to give us a ruler for four years, during which the destinies of the country and the hopes of freedom in that future will be irrevocably decided. Patriots like these, independent of everything but a passionate desire to defend and perpetuate the Republic, cannot be accused of any worship of men, and will not hesitate to sacrifice any ambition or to postpone any inclination to secure that great end.

Another convention, antagonistic to, and assuming to control the body of which we have been writing, congregates in the city of Cleveland, Ohio, to-morrow, Tuesday, the 31st day of May. The gentlemen who have called this meeting are (at least some of them) well-known and patriotic characters. We do not question their motives. We hope they have the good of their country at heart. But it is a fact that cannot be ignored, that the enemies of the Government are as much interested in the Cleveland Convention as those who have immediate charge of it. The unity of the citizens who have responded to the call for the National Union Convention, to meet at Baltimore on the 7th of June, has appalled the enemies of the Republic. They expected divisions in our political household. They expected to see Mr. Lincoln assailed by his own friends in Congress. They counted with a logical certainty upon the factions sure to grow out of every such convention as this. Disappointed in these apprehensions, they hail the Cleveland Convention as the best weapon by which to open a pathway to the election of an enemy of the Union to the Presidential chair.

To secure this result it may be observed that all the Copperhead papers have become suddenly enamored of General Fremont and the Cleveland Convention. They think that that Convention will be a sort of nominating congress for Baltimore, and that if the Cleveland nominees are rejected at Baltimore, dissension and disaster will be inevitable. But we think the Copperheads will be as surely mistaken by the issue of the Cleveland Convention as the authors of it. The men who will go to that assemblage are intelligent and radically loyal. They are not the creatures of General Fremont, or of any other general. If they profess to possess anything, it is principle. Of all others, they are the very last to divide the Union party so as to help to divide the Union itself; and that the latter would follow the former is as true as that the sun follows the dawn. We notice that the call of this convention is so narrow as to be resolved into the mere idea of ONE TERM. No great principle is set forth as the chief inspiration, and no practical attack is made upon the Administration of the Government. One term may answer for a time of peace, but not now, when a change of men may necessitate a change of Government. In the newspaper which is dedicated to the Cleveland Convention, and to General Fremont as the preferred candidate for that body (*The New Nation*), reported to be conducted by a member of the staff of that most expensive and exaggerated chieftain, we notice nothing that is not hostility to the Government. It seems to have been written by a foreigner or a Copperhead. It is a reservoir of calumny upon Mr. Lincoln. We have seen no word of approval even of any officer of the army, and it is as bitter as the *World*, and as jesuitical as the *Intelligencer*, in its comments upon the men who stand by the Government. Like the call for the Cleveland Convention, the *New Nation* seems to have no principle except hostility to Mr. Lincoln and his policy. We have read its attacks upon extravagant expenditures, of arbitrary arrests, of military failures, and of base surrenders to foreign Powers. But we see no recommended remedy for all these diseases but the nomination of General Fremont for President. And is General Fremont, then, to run as a candidate against Mr. Lincoln on the platform of hostility to extravagant expenditures and military failures? The General is a Monte Cristo in more than one respect, and as generous and as unselfish as that hero of the French novelist, but we are scarcely willing to believe that, because he is not in the service at the present, he is ready to make himself the tool of military progress, and to run for President only to elect General McClellan or some one else of the same school. The men who will meet at Cleveland to-morrow are regarded by the Copperheads as meeting for mischief, and some of them may themselves think so. But they do not. They meet to *expoliate*—to separate and to get rid of each other at the earliest possible moment. Mr. Lincoln may be among the weakest and the worst of men, but the delegates to Cleveland will soon discover that the people do not think so. And when they adjourn, and realize that they must take him or a violent enemy of their country, they will be as warmly in his support as we believe them to be against the rebellion.

THE CLEVELAND CONVENTION.

Several Hundred Delegates Assembled.

FREMONT, BUTLER, AND GRANT, TO BE NOMINATED.

ADVICE OF WENDELL PHILLIPS.

FREMONT THE PROBABLE CANDIDATE.

Principles of the Radical Germans.

THE INTENDED PLATFORM.

CLEVELAND, May 30—11 P. M.—Judging from the number of delegates already here, and those reported on the way, the Convention to-morrow will be composed of several hundred delegates. There are many Missourians in attendance, but the delegation from Illinois, Iowa, Arkansas, Ohio, and Pennsylvania are also large. Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Kansas, New York, New Jersey, and Massachusetts are represented, but not largely. Apparently none but the War Democrats will attend from New York, and will favor the nomination of Grant or Fremont. They argue that a victory in Virginia next month will secure the endorsement of this ticket at Chicago.

On the other hand, the Fremont men say they want a man whose political record is well defined and known to his country, and who has positive strength. This they claim for their candidate, and profess to believe he is likely to be endorsed at Chicago. The indications are that Grant's name will be withdrawn and Fremont nominated without opposition. Several are named for the Vice Presidency—among them Gen. Cochrane, George W. Cass, B. Gratz Brown, Gen. Logan, Gov. Andrew, and Gen. Rosecrans.

Comptroller Robinson, of New York, has written a letter strongly favoring the nomination of Grant. Parker Pillsbury brings a letter from Wendell Phillips, expressing regret at his inability to attend the Convention, and complaining that the Administration is a failure, because it has weighed treasure, blood, and civil liberty against slavery, and up to the present moment has decided to exhaust them all before it uses freedom heartily as a means of battle. That if Mr. Lincoln is re-elected he will pursue the same policy and obey the same Cabinet. He deprecates Louisiana reconstruction experiments, and contends that the only plan of reconstruction is, with twenty years, to admit the blacks to citizenship and use them with whites as a basis of States. He closes by favoring the nomination of Fremont or Butler—Fremont being his first choice.

Among the delegates here are General McKinstry, Ex-Governor W. F. Johnston of Pennsylvania, Col. Zagony, Major Haskell, Ed. Gilbert, Parker Pillsbury, Joseph Thompson, A. K. Calvin, General Cochrane, George M. Hopkins, Colonel Moss, and a number of prominent Germans from the West.

(Special Despatch to The Press.)

THE FIRST OFFICIAL DISPATCH OF THE CONVENTION.

CLEVELAND, May 30.—From present signs the Convention will not be a great one. General John Cochrane, General McKinstry, Colonel Leonidas Haskell, Major Zagony (of Fremont's body-guard), ex-Governor William F. Johnston, Hon. William Snethem of Maryland, and other prominent men, are here. Horace Greeley and Senator B. Gratz Brown are expected. An entire military ticket is speculated. Grant for President, and Fremont for Vice President, or the reverse. General Cochrane is strongly for Grant.

THE GERMAN PLATFORM.

The following gives the substance of the German resolutions, which may form the base of to-morrow's platform in the Cleveland Convention, provided that the Convention lays the foundations of a real, well-defined party, to be called the Liberty party, and is not merely a demonstration against the Baltimore Convention:

J. C. Fremont, the first choice for President; after him some one as radical and honest.

The principles adopted are these:

1st. Personal liberty.

2d. Liberty of the press.

3d. Free speech in all districts where martial law has not been proclaimed.

4th. Slavery to be wiped out in every feature; legal equality without distinction of color; confiscation and homestead division of rebel estates.

5th. States rights and sovereignty to be subordinated.

6th. The Monroe Doctrine intact.

7th. A National Swiss militia system.

8th. The rights of labor in relation to capital and wages to be maintained.

9th. Protection of immigration.

10th. Costs of the war to be paid by its aiders and abetters, and the rebel leaders to be excluded from all amnesty.

11th. Guaranteed responsibility of the President and Cabinet.

12th. The one-term principle, and participation of the people in convention.

THE WAR.

ADVICES FROM ALL OUR ARMIES.

DESPATCH FROM LIEUT. GEN. GRANT.

HIS ARMY THREE MILES SOUTH OF THE PAMUNKEY.

SEVERE CAVALRY ENGAGEMENT ON SATURDAY.

THE ENEMY DRIVEN, LEAVING THEIR KILLED AND WOUNDED.

GENERAL SMITH'S FORCES TRANSFERRED TO THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

REORGANIZATION OF THE WEST MISSISSIPPI DIVISION.

GEN. CANBY IN COMMAND.

DESPATCH FROM GEN. SHERMAN.

GREAT VICTORY BY McPHERSON'S CORPS.

2,500 Rebel Killed and Wounded and 300 Prisoners in our Hands.

UNION LOSS ONLY THREE HUNDRED.

REBEL ATTACKS ON UNION GUNBOATS.

FORREST REPORTED IN MISSISSIPPI WITH FIFTEEN THOUSAND MEN.

Buford Reported Moving on Paducah.

THE FIRST OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

WASHINGTON, May 30.

Major General Dix, New York:

A despatch from General Grant has just been received. It is dated yesterday, May 29th, at Hanover Town, and says:

"The army has successfully crossed over the Pamunkey, and now occupies a front about three miles south of the river.

"Yesterday two divisions of our cavalry had a severe engagement with the enemy, south of Hawes' Store, driving him about a mile upon what appears to be his new line. We will find out all about it today.

"Our loss in the cavalry engagement was 350 killed and wounded; of whom but 44 are ascertained to have been killed.

"We have driven the enemy. Most of their killed and many of their wounded fell into our hands."

Another official despatch, dated yesterday afternoon, at 2 o'clock, details the movements of the several corps then in progress, but up to that time there was no engagement.

Earlier despatches from headquarters had been sent, but failed to reach Washington.

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

THE SECOND OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

WASHINGTON, May 30, 9.20 A. M.

To Major General Dix, New York:

No official despatches from the Army of the Potomac have been received since my telegram of Saturday evening.

A telegram from General Sherman, dated near Dallas, 29th, 7.30 A. M., reports that on Saturday an engagement took place between the enemy and General McPherson's corps, in which the rebels were driven back with a loss to them of 2,500 killed and wounded left in our hands, and about 300 prisoners, McPherson's loss being not over 300 in all.

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

THE LATEST OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

WASHINGTON, May 30, 10 P. M.

Major General Dix, New York:

No intelligence later than has heretofore been transmitted to you has been received by this Department from Gen. Grant or Gen. Sherman.

A portion of Gen. Butler's force at Bermuda Hundred, not required for defensive operations there, has been transferred, under command of Gen. Smith, to the Army of the Potomac, and is supposed by this time to have formed a junction.

No change in the command of the Department of Virginia has been made. General Butler remains in full command in the department of Virginia and North Carolina, and continues at the head of his force in the field. Despatches from General Canby have been received to-day. He is actively engaged in resupplying the troops brought back by General Steele and General Banks, and organizing the forces of the West Mississippi Division, which now comprehends the Departments of Missouri, Arkansas, and Louisiana. Generals Rosecrans, Steele, and Banks remain in command of their respective Departments, under the order of General Canby, as division commander, his military relation being the same as that formerly exercised by General Grant, and now exercised by General Sherman in the Departments of the Ohio, the Cumberland, and Tennessee.

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

THE REINFORCEMENT OF GEN. GRANT'S ARMY.

FORTRESS MONROE, May 29.—The 18th Army Corps and some regiments of the 10th Corps are coming down the Pamunkey.

Ten steamers, loaded with troops, have already passed here, and gone up the York river.

THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY—A SUCCESSFUL SKIRMISHING PARTY.

NEW YORK, May 30.—A special to the *Herald*, from Martinsburg, Virginia, to-day, says a scout sent out by General Kelley, by order of General Sigel, has returned, being entirely successful in the operations, and giving important information.

Thirty-six prisoners and eighty-five horses were captured, with forty head of cattle.

The notorious Major Triplet is reported among the prisoners.

NO FIGHTING RECENTLY AT BERMUDA HUNDRED.

FORTRESS MONROE, May 29.—Col. Du Hon was erroneously reported yesterday as having been shot in the neck. His wound is a fracture of the jaw, which is painful but not dangerous.

There is no news that can be published from Bermuda Hundred. There has been no fighting for the last few days in front.

Died, in Hampton Hospital, 28th instant, Charles Hurt, 97th Pennsylvania.

A NEW EXPEDITION.

NEW YORK, May 30.—The *Commercial Advertiser* publishes a letter from Butler's army, written on the 28th, which says an expedition of some magnitude is about starting, but its destination remains a secret. Two or three days will culminate events.

MEMPHIS ADVICES.

CAIRO, May 30.—The steamer Graham has arrived with Memphis dates of the 27th. On the morning of the 25th the gunboat Curlew was attacked at Gaines' Landing, fifty miles below Napoleon, by a rebel battery of ten guns, 18 and 24-pounders. The fire was returned, and a brisk engagement ensued for half an hour, when the rebels were driven off.

The steamer Belle St. Louis, from Memphis, has arrived with 343 bales of cotton for St. Louis, and one day's later news.

Scattered bands are roving about the country committing depredations. They hung four Union men at Union City on the 23d instant.

The United States hospital-boat Thomas, in charge of Dr. E. H. Harris, has arrived from Red river with about 200 men, wounded in the engagement at Yellow Bayou. Nineteen boats had arrived at Vicksburg with Gen. A. J. Smith's command.

The steamer Longworth was fired into on Wednesday last by a rebel battery of six guns, but the boat was beyond range, and passed without receiving any injury. The steamer Sally List was also fired into the same evening by the same battery, and her pilot was badly wounded.

THE COTTON MARKET.

There is considerable activity in the cotton market. Prices are firm, and all offering is taken at advanced rates. Middling to strict, 77@80; good, 81@82; fair, 83.

THE REBEL FORREST IN MISSISSIPPI.

Forrest, with 15,000 men, is reported to have been at Tupelo, Mississippi, on the 20th instant, prepared in moving forage to Corinth, intending to repair the railroad to Jackson.

Portions of his command have within a few days made their appearance in the vicinity of Union City, Kentucky.

RUMORED ATTACK ON PADUCAH.

Much excitement existed yesterday at Paducah in consequence of various rumors of the approach of Buford with a force estimated at from 500 to 1,000. The force is said to have been at Mayfield yesterday. The military authorities are prepared to repel any attack attempted. It is not likely they will allow the enemy to remain in the vicinity in any force.

Markets by Telegraph.

ST. LOUIS, May 30.—Flour firm and upward; single extra, $6.75@7; double extra, $7.25@7.50. Wheat steady and firm; good, $1.60@1.65; choice, $1.80@1.86. Corn firm and active; mixed, $1.26; choice white, $1.28. Oats steady, at 93@96c. Rye firm, at $1.35. Whisky active, at $1.25. Cotton still; low middlings, 90c; receipts 357 bales.

NEW MAP OF VIRGINIA.—We have received from Messrs. William S. and Alfred Martien a map of Virginia, just published. It is printed at the Coast Survey office, under the direction of Hon. A. D. Bache, and has official warrant for its correctness. It is by far the best war map we have seen.

LARGE POSITIVE SPRING SALE OF BOOTS, SHOES, BROGANS, STRAW GOODS, TRAVELLING BAGS, LEATHER CURTAINS, &c.—The early attention of purchasers is requested to the large assortment of boots, shoes, brogans, Sikakor hoods, palm hats, Leghorn hats, traveling bags, &c., embracing samples of 1,100 packages of first-class seasonable goods, of city and Eastern manufacture, to be peremptorily sold, by catalogue, on four months' credit, commencing this morning, at 10 o'clock, by John B. Myers & Co., auctioneers, Nos. 232 and 234 Market street.

WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, May 30, 1864.

ARRIVAL OF PRISONERS AT WASHINGTON.

Six hundred and thirty-five rebel privates and twenty-two officers arrived yesterday from Port Royal, on board the steamer Dictator. The officers were taken from the vessel and committed to the Old Capitol, but the Dictator was ordered to proceed to Point Lookout, and there unload the remainder of the prisoners.

Secesh female sympathizers hereabouts made quite a demonstration in favor of their friends, and contributed to their creature comforts quantities of pies and other refreshments.

As the steamer was approaching the wharf several tried to escape by jumping overboard. One of the number was shot by the guard, and this intimidated the rest. It was necessary to procure a file of soldiers in the afternoon, as the negroes engaged to carry them their rations deared bodily injury.

OFFICERS ORDERED TO ANNAPOLIS.

A large delegation of officers, principally from the East, were ordered to report at Annapolis. Amongst the number were three chaplains, they having arrived here without orders, and being neither wounded nor sick.

WOUNDED PENNSYLVANIA AND NEW JERSEY OFFICERS.

The following Pennsylvania officers have reported to Surgeon Thomas Antisell since last report:

Lieut. Patrick Searly, 13th Pa. Cavalry; Captain Richard Fitzgerald, 17th Pa. Cavalry (the last-named was ordered to report at Annapolis); Assistant Surgeon George W. Saylor, 116th Pa.; Lieut. John Jungerich, 121st Pa.

Belonging to the 7th New Jersey: Captain W. R. Hillyer and Lieut. J. H. Livingston.

THE ARRIVAL OF ARGUELLES AT HAVANA—LETTER FROM THE CAPTAIN GENERAL OF CUBA.

The Captain General of Cuba announces the arrival of Senor ARGUELLES at Havana by the steamer Eagle, in custody of the Spanish agent. The Captain General, in his letter, returns his thanks to Mr. SEWARD for the service he has rendered to humanity by furnishing the medium through which a great number of men will obtain their emancipation, whom the escape of ARGUELLES would have reduced to slavery. The Captain General adds that simply the presence of ARGUELLES, on his return to this island, has already, and in a few minutes, given liberty to eighty-six human beings.

CONTRABANDS FROM THE BATTLE-FIELD.

This afternoon about 1,000 contrabands, two-thirds of them children, arrived here from the neighborhood of the recent battle-field, bringing with them bedding, and huge bundles of clothing. They branched off in various parts of the city to seek for homes.

THE 10-40 LOAN.

The subscriptions to the 10-40 loan, reported at the Treasury Department, amount to nearly $1,500,000.

XXXVIIIth CONGRESS—1st SESSION.

SENATE.

CALIFORNIA LAND CLAIMS.

The bill to expedite the title to land claims in California was called up, and, after discussion during the whole of the morning hour, was laid over.

THE TAX BILL.

The tax bill then came up.

TAX ON BULLION.

Mr. CONNESS moved, in lieu of the tax of five per cent. on gold and silver produced from the quartz mines, beds of rivers, &c., the following, which was adopted:

"On bullion in lump, ingot, bar, or otherwise, a duty of one-half of one percent. ad valorem, to be paid by the assayer of the same, who shall stamp the product of the assay for the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, under direction of the Secretary of the Treasury; and every and all sales, transfers, exchanges, transportation, and exportation of such bullion, assayed at any mint of the United States, or by any private assayer, unless stamped as prescribed by general regulations as aforesaid, is hereby declared unlawful; and every person or corporation who shall sell, transfer to, transport, exchange, export, or deal in the same, shall be subject to a penalty of one thousand dollars for each offence, and to a fine not exceeding that sum, and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, nor less than six months.

"No jeweler, worker, or artificer in gold and silver shall use either of those metals, except it shall have first been stamped as aforesaid as required by this act, and every violation of this section shall subject the offender to the penalties cont