The Press.

TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 1864.

The Convention at Baltimore.

The meeting of the Convention of Union men, to be held in Baltimore to-day, at noon, will suggest to the reader something more than the mere political reflections that such occasions invariably produce. The interest of the Presidential year is lost in the all-pervading interest that attends the army and navy. We are busier in our thoughts and fears with the good and brave men now arrayed against LEE on the Chickahominy, and JOHNSTON on the Chattahoochie, than with the keen and busy gentlemen who meet to-day to dispose of the presidency for the next four years. We do not go beyond the bounds of proper speculation when we say that the decision of the Baltimore Convention will anticipate the decision of the nation in November, and that whoever will be selected as the leader of the Union party will be accepted as the President of the United States. When we think of these things, of the battles now being fought in Virginia, and the great battles to be still decided, it seems to us that no easier duty can be performed than the duty of the gentlemen composing the Baltimore Convention. ABRAHAM LINCOLN will be renominated for the Presidency. We do not state this in a spirit of prophecy, for the people have decided it, and any change or combination leading to another result would be a violation of the popular will. There are many good and respected Union men who oppose Mr. LINCOLN, and their opposition will, possibly, be manifested in this Convention; but the nation has tried this man—it has seen him surrounded by embarrassments that no ruler has ever encountered: foes abroad and foes at home—and he has so performed his high and awful duty that men trust him, and believe that under his leadership we shall have a happy, free, and undivided country. We do not care to experiment in this time of trouble. We can trust the servants we have, and, when peace comes back, we may welcome and test a new race of statesmen. The great task is the suppression of the rebellion. ABRAHAM LINCOLN has done so well that we can trust him to finish the job.

This is the sentiment of the country, and we believe it will be the sentiment of the Convention. The nomination of Mr. LINCOLN accomplished, we shall have to adopt a platform and select a candidate for the Vice Presidency. So far as the platform is concerned, we think there can be no difficulty. We ask on the part of this Convention the most radical expression of opinion consistent with common sense and practical statesmanship. We desire that every act of the Administration for the vigorous prosecution of the war shall be endorsed; that it shall have credit for honesty, cador, energy, and patriotism; and that, notwithstanding mistakes have been made, the Convention is willing to believe that the controlling idea of the Administration has been a desire to put down the rebellion and establish peace and union. When this is done, we wish our friends to proclaim the most decided and unambiguous policy. The friends of the Union, and of those who wish to see Mr. LINCOLN re-elected President, are anxious that we should fight this battle on the boldest and most decided ground. Let it be proclaimed that the war has destroyed slavery, and in the eye of the Constitution it no longer exists; that wherever the flag of the Union army floats it floats over freemen; that peace can never come until there is an utter extermination of the rebellion and the causes of the rebellion, and that we ask no conciliation but that which fire and steel place in the hands of conquerors. We have purchased the right to do this by three long years of war and debt and death, and the Convention will only answer the wishes of the country by affirming this fact and taking the boldest and highest ground. We want conscience and courage—neither compromise nor conservatism. The Convention cannot speak too boldly for the country.

The question of the Vice Presidency is purely a personal one, and does not come within the scope of our discussion. What we want is a representative man—one whose record is as clear as that of Mr. LINCOLN—who has served the country faithfully, and deserves a proper reward. If the Convention think that in continuing the President it would be prudent and proper to continue Mr. HAMLIN as Vice President, the country will be satisfied. It is possible that some distinguished soldier or seaman may be selected—as a compliment to our gallant army and navy—although the difficulty of selection in this case will impose on the Convention an arduous and embarrassing duty. We want a representative man. It is not possible for the Convention to strengthen the ticket by any of those expedients so often used by political Conventions, for the name of Mr. LINCOLN has too much power and strength to require adventitious means for increasing it. We should like to see, on the part of the Convention, a recognition of the great Democratic element which has done so much to strengthen and sustain the hands of the Administration. This Convention could do no more gracious thing than to recognize the men who have sustained the country in its time of danger and trial, especially at a sacrifice that none can feel who have not felt the power of this once great and mighty organization. These reasons would control us if we were called upon to advise the Convention. They have a difficult and responsible duty; and we trust that wisdom and patriotism may so control their councils that our victory in November will be worthy of our cause and its glorious leader.

Marshal Pelissier.

The death of such a mere soldier as AMABLE JEAN JACQUES PELISSIER is not deserving of any extended notice. Born in 1794, he wanted some months of completing his seventieth year. At the age of twenty-one he was transferred from the military college of St. Cyr to the artillery, with commission as a sous-lieutenant; served during the glorious but fatal Hundred Days; obtained promotion and employment in Spain in 1823; served in Greece in 1829; and in 1830 was sent to Africa, serving in Algiers, under General BOURMONT, until the failure of his health compelled him to return to France. In 1840 he went back to Algiers, with the rank of lieutenant colonel, won another step at the Battle of Isly, and on the eighteenth of June, 1845, tarnished his name by a foul deed—the destruction of six hundred Arabs in a cavern to which they had retreated, by burning fagots at the mouth. Europe cried "Shame!" but the French Government took his part, (though SOULT protested,) and the official paper at Algiers declared that Colonel PELISSIER had but obeyed the orders of Marshal BUGEAUD, the Commander-in-Chief. He continued to rise in rank, always displaying great physical courage, and was General of Division and Governor of Algiers at the time of NAPOLEON'S *coup d'état* of December, 1851, which he at once accepted. In the Crimean War he displayed great bravery, and eventually succeeded CANROBERT, as Commander-in-Chief, taking the Malakoff, on September 6, 1855, and with it Sebastopol. For this he received a Marshal's baton, was created Duc de Malakoff and Senator, (with a pension of $20,000,) and retired into private life. In March, 1858, he accepted the French Embassy to England, succeeding M. PERSIGNY, but displayed no diplomatic talent. He did not hold this office long, but married a handsome Spanish lady, certainly young enough to have been his grand-daughter, and soon after, in April, 1859, was sent to command the army of observation at Nancy, which prevented his participating in the Italian war. Since 1861, he was Governor-General of Algeria, and died "in harness." He was a bold *sabreur*, and this seems to have been his chief merit. Even as a Duke, he retained the rough manners of the French camp.

Touching, if True.

The *Court Journal*, a London paper which professes to chronicle the leading incidents of fashionable life, relates a little anecdote of GARIBALDI, which, as the Italian proverb says, if not true, deserves to be true. There is an abominable custom in England of giving money-presents (commonly called *vails*) to servants in private houses where you take a meal or sleep. When GARIBALDI was leaving Stafford House, the residence of the Duke of Sutherland, whose guest he had been, he handed twenty pounds ($100) to the attendant who had been appointed to wait upon him particularly, and begged that he would do him the favor of distributing it among the servants of the house, adding an especial gratuity for the man himself. This last was respectfully but firmly declined, with a bow, and the man took the twenty golden coins down to his fellows in the servants' hall. Presently he returned, and laying the money down on the table before GARIBALDI, assured him that all the servants were unanimous in declining to receive money from him, as they wished him to believe that their services had been rendered out of respect and admiration, and not with the ordinary pecuniary expectation. What could GARIBALDI do but feel that this was as high a compliment—though it emanated from what a cynic might call flunkyism—as he had been paid in England by prince, peer, or commoner?

COMMENTING on General FREMONT'S letter, and its assertion that the liberty of the country is threatened by the present Administration, the *Evening Post* very sensibly inquires:

"What has become of the Senate?—what of the House of Representatives?—what of the Judiciary? Are they all gone, swallowed up, destroyed by the Executive Department? Are Mr. Lincoln, Mr. Seward, and Mr. Chase, the grand triumvirate who have absorbed the entire powers of the State into themselves, as the Roman triumvirate did in the last days of the republic? It is only necessary to ask such a question to show its absurdity; such a result, so far from being actual, is not even possible with a people like ours, trained as they have been and animated by their still rare, in a deadness love of individual freedom. If Jefferson Davis, with an immense and infernal crew at his heels, with the resources of half the continent, will not be able, as we sincerely believe, to overturn our fundamental laws, we have little fear of Mr. Lincoln and those of his adherents whom Gen. Fremont has conjured into such frightful presence. Should he be renominated at Baltimore, and a large number of people give him their votes, as they unquestionably will, we shall nevertheless expect to see the United States in full career, and the inhabitants of them still enjoying the main benefactions of freedom, justice, and prosperity which they now possess in unexampled measure."

If the Opposition were content to oppose the usual party arguments to the Union movement, they would unquestionably be received with more respect than the monstrous and self-evident absurdities upon which it depends, and of which this cry of freedom ruined is an example. Theirs is the vaulting ambition which o'erleaps itself; the accusation is too palpably false to find acceptance with the most credulous. The President is not a *tyrant*; nor can all the sophistry in the world force even a small part of the people to believe him one.

THE PENNSYLVANIA RESERVES will march into Philadelphia this afternoon. They return as conquerors. Let them have a grand reception, and we trust some one will be found to repeat the noble welcome with which Governor CURTIN met them, yesterday, at Harrisburg.

THE NATIONAL UNION CONVENTION.

THE PRESIDENCY.

CANDIDATES FOR THE VICE PRESIDENCY.

THE ACTION OF DELEGATES.

Secretary Chase will not Permit his Name to be Brought Before the Convention.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE MEETING.

(Special Despatch to The Press.)

BALTIMORE, June 6.

THE TEMPER OF THE CONVENTION.

The interest appears to centre around the Vice Presidency. The friends of General Cameron are here in large numbers, and have been exceedingly busy in urging the claims of that statesman. It was thought that the delegation from Ohio would favor his nomination. We understand that no decision has been reached by the delegates from that State. If Ohio sustains General Cameron his name will be presented; if not, it is hardly possible that his friends will place his name before the Convention merely for the purpose of obtaining the complimentary vote of Pennsylvania. Gov. Johnson, of Tennessee, is possibly the strongest candidate, and it is very certain that if he and Mr. Lincoln were not from the same section of the country, he would be nominated on the first ballot.

A large body of delegates, particularly from New England, urge the claims of Mr. Hamlin on the ground that it would be invidious to renominate Mr. Lincoln and not his Vice President.

General Dix and Hon. D. S. Dickinson are urged by friends from New York and some of the Western States. The real contest will be between the delegates of the East, and the far-Western delegates will nominate whoever the East desires for the Vice Presidency.

The name of Major General Butler is mentioned on the ground that it is policy to please the radicals, by nominating a representative radical man.

MISSOURI.

There are two delegations here from the State of Missouri—one represents what is called the conservative or "Claybank" element composed of the friends of Gen. Blair. This delegation has the merit of being chosen within the machinery of the Republican party organization, and will urge their claims on that ground. The other is composed of the radical or "charcoal faction," and is said by their friends to represent more completely the wishes of the Republican party of the State of Missouri. I do not know what course the Convention will take. If the radicals are displeased they may go to Cleveland, and it will be difficult to reject the "claybanks," without doing injustice to the discipline of the party. This is the only unpleasant issue before the Convention.

THE CHAIRMANSHIP.

Ex-Governor Dennison, of Ohio, seems to have the preference for the position of chairman of the Convention. The Hon. Galusha A. Grow is brought forward by his friends as a candidate for chairman.

RECENT ARRIVALS.

Parson Brownlow, Thurlow Weed, George W. Curtis, and William Whiting are among the arrivals this evening.

SECRETARY CHASE NOT TO BE A CANDIDATE.

Mr. Chase, we are informed, has instructed his friends not to permit his name, under any condition, to be brought before the Convention. This I have from a high delegate.

THE THEATRE.

The Front-street Theatre, where the Convention is to be held, is now fully arranged for the accommodation of the Convention. The stage presents an extensive canopy of American flags, arranged in the form of a tent, thus presenting quite a patriotic appearance, and, considering the times, quite appropriate. The fronts of the boxes are also embellished with the old flag, in sections of two, the Union-jack being connected and adorned with the national shield. On the centre of the upper tier is an oil painting of the Goddess of Liberty. The dress circle will be appropriated to the delegates exclusively; the second tier to ladies, and the upper one to the citizens generally. That the place will be overcrowded is very evident.

THE OHIO DELEGATION AND THE 7TH OHIO NATIONAL GUARD.

Four o'clock this afternoon was the time fixed for the review of the 7th Regiment National Guard of Ohio. It was to have taken place in front of Barnum's Hotel. The balcony was graced with a beautiful silk flag upon which the following appeared in golden letters: "Ohio is true to the Union." On the other side, we observed the following: "Ohio has sent 291,952 of her gallant sons to the field." The regiment, under command of Col. Harris, filed up Calvert street, the famous band of Professor Mentor playing in admirable style that excellent marching tune, the "Soldiers' Chorus," so well known from the fine performance of Birgfield's Band in the opera of "Faust." The regiment halted around the monument erected to the memory of the gallant men who fell at the battle of North Point, in 1812. The regiment went through a few military evolutions in a truly admirable manner, so much so as to elicit the plaudits of the spectators.

SUDDEN STORM.

But just at this moment an immense array of black clouds darkened the west, which soon burst upon the city, and, after clouds of dust, a heavy and grateful shower of rain fell. This somewhat interrupted the programme of arrangements.

The Hon. Columbus Delano, chairman of the Ohio delegation, called the delegates together and stated that the body would move to a hall on Baltimore street, where a repast was in waiting for the soldiers. The line of march was taken up, and the rain commenced falling in torrents. It was expected that the speech-making would take place after the storm had passed over. The lightning at times was vivid.

PENNSYLVANIA DELEGATION.

The Pennsylvania delegation held a meeting at half past five o'clock this evening. It is a unit for Lincoln and Hamlin. If, however, Mr. Hamlin is not in the field, then the entire delegation will go for General Cameron.

CONCLUSION.

A meeting is now being held in front of the Gilmore House, at which the Ohio Regiment is in attendance. Speeches are being made by distinguished gentlemen. The rain is yet falling fast. The meeting is enthusiastic. Altogether, Baltimore is an exceedingly lively place.

The general complexion of the Convention for intelligence, high-toned moral sentiment, is an honor to its members and the country.

THE RICHMOND CAMPAIGN.

REBEL ATTACK ON SATURDAY NIGHT REPULSED.

NO BATTLE ON SUNDAY.

GEN. HANCOCK'S LINES WITHIN FORTY YARDS OF THE REBEL WORKS.

Satisfactory Report of the Chief Quartermaster.

COMPLETE DESTRUCTION OF THE VIRGINIA CENTRAL RAILROAD.

HASTY RETREAT OF EWELL

LARGE REINFORCEMENTS FOR GEN. GRANT'S ARMY.

OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

WASHINGTON, June 6, 1864.

To Major General Dix, New York:

Despatches have been received from Gen. Grant's headquarters to-day, but they report only certain changes in the position of corps and contemplated operations. They state that "everything is going on well."

The Chief Quartermaster of the army reports a personal inspection of the depot at White House, and that it is in a most efficient state. All needful supplies are on hand, and wagons to transport them to the army. The wounded are being brought in, and transports are not delayed a moment.

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

LATEST OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

WASHINGTON, June 6—7 A. M.

To Major General Dix:

We have despatches from Gen. Grant's headquarters down to six o'clock last evening, which state that there had been no fighting during the day.

The enemy made an attack on Saturday night upon Hancock, Wright, and Smith, but were everywhere repulsed. Hancock's lines are brought within forty yards of the rebel works. The rebels were very busy Saturday constructing entrenchments on the west side of the Chickahominy at Bottom's Bridge, and toward evening threw a party across to the east side.

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

THE BATTLE OF FRIDAY—CASUALTIES.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, June 4, 8 A. M.—Our cavalry were engaged nearly all day yesterday in the vicinity of Hanover store. The first attack was made on Hampton's command, which was badly defeated, with loss. Afterwards we attacked Hill's left, on the Tolopotomy river, with the 2d New York, and drove one brigade out of their works, and held the place for an hour, when we withdrew. We now hold Hanover store. General Wilson bivouacked last night between Bethesada Church and the Pamunkey river, and has a strong position. Our loss was not heavy. The loss in yesterday's engagement was more severe than at first reported. To-day the army has rested, and nothing but artillery duelling has occurred.

In the fight yesterday Breckinridge occupied the right, Beauregard was next, and Longstreet's corps in the centre, and Ewell on the left, while Hill's corps was held in reserve. Their artillery fire was good at some points, two of our caissons being exploded by their shells, and a number of men and horses killed and wounded. The wounded are being sent off as rapidly as possible.

Yesterday among the casualties were Lieut. Col. W. W. Henry, 10th Vermont, wounded in the hand; Capt. Hunter, 48th N. Y., wounded in the leg; Lieut. W. White, 10th Vt., wounded in the groin; Capt. T. Gregory, 9th N. Y. Art., in hip; Lieut. J. R. Irodell, 138th Pa., head; Capt. T. Ward, 126th Ohio, in leg; Capt. H. Bowen, 151st N. Y., arm; Capt. F. W. Coleman, do., thigh; Lieut. J. G. Fisher, 14th N. J., face; Capt. J. W. Moulton, 106th N. Y., arm; Lieut. Hepburn, do., face; Capt. H. Harding, 123d Ohio, arm; Capt. C. Harris, 14th N. J., arm; Capt. W. S. Piper, 9th Pa., foot; Lieut. Col. Jones, 10th Vt., arm; Capt. E. B. Frost, 10th Vt., killed; Col. C. W. Schell, 87th Pennsylvania, arm; Col. I. O. Bassett, 82d Pennsylvania, finger off; Major Wallace, 23d Pennsylvania, face.

REPORTED VICTORY IN FRONT OF RICHMOND.

FORT MONROE, June 5.—The steamer John A. Warner, Capt. Cone, arrived from Bermuda Hundred at 4 P. M. A letter from there says:

"We have news here that Gen. Grant has gained a great victory over Lee in front of Richmond, capturing large numbers of prisoners, but we fear it is a mere rumor."

GRANT'S ARMY.

The Spaulding brought up 100 sick and disabled horses and mules.

Several steamers were at the White House unloading fresh horses for Grant's army.

More than 700 of the 1,500 contrabands brought up last night by the steamer John Rice, from White House Landing, were sent to the freedmen's village this morning, by Lieut. Col. Greene, and provided with comfortable quarters, and with good food. Most of them were women and children, and old men.

Dr. Bryan, New York State agent, is informed by Major Garret, of the 69th, that Colonel James P. McMahon, 164th New York, is a prisoner, but not wounded.

THE VIRGINIA CENTRAL RAILROAD DESTROYED.

A letter from the Army of the Potomac, dated the 4th, says Gen. Wilson, with his division of cavalry, returned from a destructive tour on Wednesday. The 6th Corps, at the time forming the extreme right, supported him. The railroad destroyed was the Virginia Central. It is reported to have been done so effectually that the rebels cannot repair it in some months.

RETREAT OF EWELL.

On the morning of the 4th instant, Ewell, who was upon Lee's left, had entirely disappeared, leaving many infallible signs of hasty retreat. Blankets and knapsacks strewed the line of their march. Their right has been menaced or completely turned by Warren. Nothing else could have caused such a precipitate withdrawal. The 5th Corps were fighting in the neighborhood of Bethsaida Church, the enemy still holding his entrenchments in front of