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THE DAILY PRESS,
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☞ Advertisements inserted at the usual rates.

THE TRI-WEEKLY PRESS,
Mailed to Subscribers, FIVE DOLLARS PER ANNUM in advance.

The Press.

VOL. 8.—NO. 14. PHILADELPHIA, TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1864. FOUR CENTS.

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CLOTH HOUSE,
W. T. SNODGRASS,
S. SECOND Street and 23 STRAWBERRY Street.
A LARGE STOCK OF ALL KINDS OF
CLOTHS, CASSIMERES, VESTINGS, &c.,
Offer prices, purchased before the rise, *independent gold gamblers*, by the package, piece, or yard. Our ratio is to sell. We don't peddle. Come and see our stock. The Army and Navy trade has our special attention. au3-1m

LINEN DUCK FOR SUITS.
Superb quality, white and colored.
Natural color, extra heavy.
Coating Linens, fancy Drills.
Wide fine black Alpacas.
White Marseilles Vestings.
No advance in Summer Cassimeres.
Fine Stock for Summer and Fall.
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Good styles from $3 to 60 cents.
Summer dress stuffs low. COOPER & CONARD,
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A great variety of styles of this season's importation, from 22 cents to $1.
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100 pieces Puffed, Tucked, and Striped Muslins.
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Will, from this date, sell
SPRING AND SUMMER CLOTHS
at low prices.
On hand a large stock of Fall and Winter Goods, bought before the rise, which they will sell at moderate prices. Terms net cash. 1y30

STATIONERY & BLANK BOOKS.
OIL COMPANY DIRECTORY—CONTAINING a List of Companies, their Offices, Presidents, Treasurers, and Secretaries. We are also prepared to furnish New Companies with
CERTIFICATES OF STOCK,
TRANSFER BOOK,
ORDER OF TRANSFER,
STOCK LEDGER,
STOCK LEDGER BALANCES,
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BROKER'S PETTY LEDGER,
ACCOUNT OF SALES,
Of good materials and at Low Prices.
MOSS & CO., STATIONERS,
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CABINET FURNITURE.
CABINET FURNITURE AND BILLIARD TABLES.
MOORE & CAMPION,
No. 261 SOUTH SECOND STREET,
In connection with their extensive Cabinet business, are now manufacturing a superior article of
BILLIARD TABLES,
And have now on hand a few tables, furnished with the MOORE & CAMPION'S IMPROVED CUSHIONS, Which are pronounced by all who have used them to be superior to all others. For the public benefit of these Tables, the manufacturers refer to their numerous patrons throughout the union, who are familiar with the character of their work. ap19-6m

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NO. 257 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.,
IMPORTERS OF
MEN'S & LADIES' GLOVES,
GERMAN AND ENGLISH HOSIERY,
MEN'S FURNISHING GOODS,
LACES & DRESS TRIMMINGS,
to which they
INVITE THE WHOLESALE TRADE.
1y10-3m

FISHER'S SELF-SEALING CAN.
ALL FAMILIES,
IN CITY OR COUNTRY,
SHOULD USE THIS CAN.
For convenience and reliability,
IT HAS NO RIVAL.
Those who have used this prefer it before all other Cans, either self-sealing, soldered, or glass jars of any description. To be had only of
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aug4-12t*

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EXCELSIOR" HAMS
ARE THE BEST IN THE WORLD.
NONE GENUINE UNLESS BRANDED
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J. H. MICHENER & CO.,
GENERAL PROVISION DEALERS,
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CURERS OF THE CELEBRATED
"EXCELSIOR" HAMS,
SUGAR-CURED HAMS,
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LOOKING GLASSES.
JAMES S. EARLE & SON,
816 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILA.,
Have now in store a very fine assortment of
LOOKING GLASSES,
of every character, of the
VERY BEST MANUFACTURE AND LATEST STYLES.
OIL PAINTINGS, ENGRAVINGS,
PICTURE AND PHOTOGRAPH FRAMES.
ap20

DENSERVO.
A most effective and delightful preparation
FOR THE TEETH AND GUMS.
Highly recommended by the most eminent Doctors of Dentistry.
It is the result of a thorough course of scientific experiments, extending through a period of nearly thirty years.
It is a great extent in every case, and entirely in many, IT WILL PREVENT DECAY OF TEETH. It WILL GIVE STRENGTHEN WEAK GUMS. KEEP THE TEETH BEAUTIFULLY CLEAN, AND THE BREATH SWEET.
See circulars. Price 25 cents. For sale by all Druggists.
C. T. BALE, M. D. DENTIST,
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For sale by Druggists. fel1-3m

READ! READ!! READ!!!—MONTGOMERY'S NERVINE is a never-failing remedy for Neuralgia, Nervousness, Headache, Fits, &c. This is a new article, and is accomplishing wonders every day. You that are suffering with any of these complaints, may have spent many dollars and yet not relieved, therefore I ask you to spend one dollar for a bottle of Montgomery's Nervine; it will give you instant relief. Call at my office and see certificates. 722 PINE Street, Philadelphia. Wholesale and retail by SHOADLEY, SIXTEENTH and MARKET Sts. Sent by mail. anf-1m

FOR SALE—THE VERY DESIRABLE Double Three-story Residence situate north side of BARING street, second property west of Thirty-fifth street, together with stable and coachhouse; house complete in every particular. All modern improvements; large and beautifully arranged garden; well stocked; extensive grape vines, fruit, and shrubbery. The house has two fine dry cellars, one of which is cemented and arranged as provision cellar, etc. Property is now occupied; is examined between the hours of 10 A. M. and 2 P. M. For further particulars apply to
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112 South FOURTH Street.
jy18ths 3t

CHARLES MIDDLETON,
IRON MERCHANT,
SECOND AND WILLOW STREETS,
PHILADELPHIA.
Iron purchased and for sale. jy4-3m

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I. E. WALRAVEN,
(SUCCESSOR TO W. H. GARRIGUES)
MASONIC HALL,
719 CHESTNUT STREET.
WINDOW SHADES,
CURTAINS,
AND
MOSQUITO NETTINGS
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1035 CHESTNUT STREET.
M'INTIRE & BROTHER,
MANUFACTURERS OF THE
MODEL SHOULDER-SEAM SHIRT.
ALSO, DEALERS IN
GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING GOODS

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WARRANTED TO FIT AND GIVE SATISFACTION.
MADE BY
JOHN C. ARRISON,
Nos. 1 AND 3 NORTH SIXTH STREET,
MANUFACTURER AND DEALER IN
GENTLEMEN'S FINE FURNISHING GOODS.
CONSTANTLY ON HAND,
LINEN, MUSLIN, and FLANNEL SHIRTS, and DRAWERS, COLLARS, STOCKS, TRAVELLING SHIRTS, TIES, WRAPPERS, &c., &c.,
OF HIS OWN MANUFACTURE.
ALSO,
HOSIERY, GLOVES, SCARFS, SUSPENDERS, HANDKERCHIEFS, SHOULDER BRACES, &c., &c.
Sold at reasonable prices. ap15-6m

FINE SHIRT MANUFACTORY.
The subscribers would invite attention to their IMPROVED CUT OF SHIRTS, which they make a specialty in their business. Also, constantly receiving NOVELTIES FOR GENTLEMEN'S WEAR.
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GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING STORE,
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Four doors below the Continental.
jal7-tf

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NET CASH DRUG HOUSE.
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No. 119 MARKET STREET,
Between FRONT and SECOND Streets.
S. W. WRIGHT. P. H. SIDDALL.
DRUGGISTS, PHYSICIANS, AND GENERAL STOREKEEPERS
Can find at our establishment a full assortment of Imported and Domestic Drugs, Popular Patent medicines, Paints, Coal Oil, Window Glass, Prescription Vials, etc., at as low prices as genuine, first-class goods can be sold.
FINE ESSENTIAL OILS,
For Confectioners, in full variety and of the best quality.
Cochineal, Bengal Indigo, Madder, Pot Ash, Cudbear, Sal Soda, Alum, Oil of Vitriol, Annatto, Copperas, Extract of Logwood, &c.,
FOR DYERS' USE,
Always on hand at lowest net cash prices.
SULPHITE OF LIME,
for keeping cider sweet; a perfectly harmless preparation, put up, with full directions for use, in packages containing sufficient for one barrel.
Orders by mail or city post will meet with prompt attention; or special quotations will be furnished when requested.
WRIGHT & SIDDALL,
WHOLESALE DRUG WAREHOUSE,
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NEW SMOKED AND SPICED SALMON,
NEW NO. 1 MACKEREL,
Just received.
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Dealer in fine Groceries,
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WHOLESALE GROCERS,
No. 402 North WATER Street, and
No. 46 North DELAWARE Avenue,
Offer for sale, at the Lowest Market Prices, a large stock of
SUGAR, MOLASSES, COFFEE,
TEAS, SPICES, TOBACCO,
And Groceries generally, carefully selected for the country trade.
Sole Agents for the products of FITHIAN & POGUE'S Extensive Fruit Canning Factory at Bridgeton, N. J.
ap26-6m

MACKEREL, HERRING, SHAD, &c.—2,000 bbls. Mass. Nos. 1, 2, and 3 Mackerel, late-caught fat fish, in assorted packages.
2,000 bbls. New Restport, Fortune Bay, and Halifax Herring.
2,500 boxes Lubes, Sealed, and No. 1 Herring.
100 bbls new Mess Shad.
250 boxes Herkimer county Cheese, &c.
HORNY & NAYLOR,
No. 146 NORTH WHARVES.

PICKLES.—100 BBLS. PICKLES IN VINEGAR.
60 half bbls. Pickles in Vinegar.
Also, three-gallon and five-gallon kegs do.
For sale by RHODES & WILLIAMS,
ma26-m 107 South WATER Street.

PINE APPLE CHEESE.—50 CASES CHOICE BRANDS.
Sap Sago and English Dairy Cheese of choice quality.
For sale by RHODES & WILLIAMS,
jy18-tf 107 South WATER Street.

MACHINERY AND IRON.
PENN STEAM ENGINE AND BOILER WORKS.—NEAFIE & LEVY, PRACTICAL AND THEORETICAL ENGINEERS, MACHINISTS, BOILER MAKERS, BLACKSMITHS, and FOUNDERS, having for many years been in successful operation, and been exclusively engaged in building and repairing Steam Engines, Silver Refiners, high and low pressure, Iron Boilers, Water Tanks, Propellers, &c., &c., respectfully offer their services to the public, as being fully prepared to contract for engines of all sizes, Machine, River, and Stationary; having sets of patterns of different sizes, are prepared to execute orders with quick despatch. Every description of pattern-making made at the shortest notice. High and Low-pressure Pipe, Tubes, Flues, Cylinder Boilers, of the best Pennsylvania charcoal iron, Forgings, of all sizes and kinds, Iron Castings of the best quality, of all descriptions; Boiler Iron, Screw-Cutting, and all other work connected with the above business.
Drawings and specifications for all work done at the establishment free of charge, and work guaranteed.
The subscribers have ample wharf-dock room for repairs of boats, where they can lie in perfect safety, and are provided with shears, blocks, falls, &c., &c., for raising heavy or light weights.
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JOHN P. LEVY,
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J. VAUGHAN MERRICK, WILLIAM M. MERRICK,
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MERRICK & SONS,
ENGINEERS AND MACHINISTS,
Manufacture High and Low Pressure Steam Engines, Island, river, and marine service.
Boilers, Gasometers, Tanks, Iron Boats, &c.; Castings of all kinds, either iron or brass.
Iron-Frame Roofs for Gas Works, Workshops, Railroad Stations, &c.
Retorts and Gas Machinery of the latest and most approved construction.
Every description of Plantation Machinery, such as Sugar, Saw, and Grist Mills, Vacuum Pans, Oval Steam Trains, Defecators, Filters, Pumping Engines, &c.
Sole agents for H. Billiter's Patent Sugar Boiling Apparatus, Nesmyth's Patent Steam Hammer, and Asyla Wall & Wolsey's Patent Centrifugal Sugar Drying Machine. anf-tf

MORGAN, ORR, & CO., STEAM ENGINE BUILDERS, Iron Founders, and General Machinists and Boiler Makers, No. 1412 CALLOWHILL Street, Philadelphia. feb20-tf

COAL.
COAL.—SUGAR LOAF, BEAVER MEADOW, and Spring Mountain Lehigh Coal, and best Locust Mountain, from Schuylkill; prepared expressly for family use. Depot, S. W. corner RIDGE avenue and WILLOW Sts. Office, No. 112 South SECOND St.
J. WALTON & CO.
ap6-tf

BRASS STENCIL ALPHABETS.
M. J. METCALF & SON,
101 UNION STREET, BOSTON, MASS.
The only manufacturers in the United States of Brass Alphabets and Figures, to any great extent or in any variety; Sold at Wholesale at the Lowest Cash Prices. Also, the best of INDELIBLE STENCIL INK, very cheap. Stencil Plates and all kinds of Stencil Stock. Inquiries or orders promptly attended to. 1y13-3m

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1864.

Whitebait.

In the Thames, midway between Roshervillo and Gravesend, is found, during three months of the year—March to July—a small, delicate fish, of the herring species, commonly called *Whitebait*, but scientifically known as the *clupea alba*. In size and appearance it resembles a very small sprat, but is infinitely superior in flavor. It is served up, in greatest perfection, by Lovegrove at Blackwall, on the Middlesex, and at the Trafalgar Hotel, at Greenwich, on the Kent shore of the Thames. So delicate is its flavor that it sensibly deteriorates if removed to London, which is only six miles distant. This fish—perhaps we might better say this fishling—is fried in batter, served up in large dish-fulls as the first course of a luxurious dinner, and eaten with brown bread, on which is spread a very thin coating of butter. The last dish-full is devilled—that is, thoroughly flavored with cayenne pepper, the purpose being to excite a thirst, which is not much mitigated by copious draughts of cold ice punch. After every one has eaten plateful after plateful of whitebait, he commences his dinner, which—but, as BYRON says, "Who can describe the indescribable?"

For certainly more than half a century it has been the practice of the leading members of the British Government to have a whitebait dinner at the Trafalgar, in Greenwich, on the Saturday before the close of the Parliamentary session. The Cabinet ministers attend, as also "the whippers-in" of Lords and Commons, and a few others. A pleasant party, rarely exceeding twenty-four, enjoy themselves with much *abandon*, with the Premier as president. Unfortunately, as whitebait is in perfection early in June, and Parliament never breaks up until the end of July, ministers have the favorite fish at too advanced an age. In June it is only as thick as the little finger of a two months'-old infant; late in July it is as stout as the maternal fore-finger. Fortunately there is no statute prohibiting any Minister from visiting Greenwich earlier, when whitebait is in its prime.

Of the sayings and doings of the Ministerial diners on the state-occasion in question little has transpired. The party are admirably "tiled," and their mysteries are not disclosed to vulgar curiosity. It is known, however, that it has become customary to present a wooden spoon (such as salad is mixed up with), to the Minister who has done least or worst during the Session, and that the Premier does this with a suitable mock-heroic address. At the last dinner, which took place on the 23d July, no doubt there was much fun when PALMERSTON presented RUSSELL, as "the most desartless man," with the wooden spoon. It is said that this presentation commenced in 1844, when Sir ROBERT PEEL was Premier. Passing through what then was Hungerford Market (it was lately changed into a railway station), in order to take the river steam boat to Greenwich, PEEL purchased one of these salad spoons, and, after dinner, presented it, with much mock-solemnity, to Sir JAMES GRAHAM, as the Minister who had most completely "put his foot in it" during the Session which then was closing—the fact being that GRAHAM, who was Home Secretary, had got into disgraceful disrepute by ordering that the correspondence of MAZZINI, and other Italian exiles in England should be opened at the London post office, and the contents communicated to certain foreign sovereigns. Such conduct, which excited the utmost indignation in England, has been and is frequent on the Continent. Such an abominable espionage, which is also a breach of trust, is not to be tolerated in England or in this country.

In the last number of *Punch* we find a cartoon by JOHN TENNIEL, entitled "Short Commons, or the Ministerial Whitebait Dinner," which illustrates, or is illustrated, by "The Moral of the Whitebait; a Delectable Ballad." In this is described how the Ministers assemble to dine—

"Of the Most to sup, and the Mosel cup,
And to eat of the Whitebait fine.

"A blithesomer band of Ministers
Ne'er banded geck and glee,
With their minds swept bare of the cobwebs o'care,
And their hearts free from care as free.

"There were young Ministers and old Ministers,
And Ministers 'twixt the two,
But the blithest o' a' was Childe Palmerston,
That with Time had nought to do."

They embark at Whitehall-stairs, steam past the Thames embankments, pass the Temple-stairs, where Lord Chancellor WESTBURY was cursed "with candle, book, and bell," by the lawyers whose fees he had clipped—

"And as the Isle of Dogs they neared,
Childe Palmerston he cried 'Lo!'
But a little month and to you isle
We seemed about to go."

All dangers escaped, PALMERSTON and company reached the Trafalgar, at Greenwich, where no doubt, as magnificent as ever in his most remarkable white neckkerchief, they were blandly and graciously received by Mr. HART, the stately landlord. What follows must not be curtailed, but given in the "ipsissima verba" of *Punch*:

"They have ta'en their places at the board,
With appetites wheticed keen,
But when the covers were lifted up,
All bare each dish was seen.

"'Now is this a gape?' quoth Gladstone the grim,
And a gruesome wight looked he;
'I move in Committee of Supply,
And it's who will second me?'

"Then up rose Milner Gibson the Smooth,
And up rose Caldwell the Cool,
But Childe Palmerston winked with his wicked eye,
And each resumed his stool.

"'I trow 'twas but a little jest;
But a jest may its lesson bear;
Ye have heard, how in good old Border times,
When bein hire and fold were bare,

"'The gudewife would serve an empty dish,
Or one with a spur therein,
As a hint that they who look to dine,
Should first their dinner win.

"'So after a Session bare of Bills,
To Ministers blank of deed,
Methought these empty dishes here
Might a hint and a warning read.

"'There's Gladstone in his Annuities Bill,
One fish with his gaff has hit,
And Johnny can boat *his* kettle of fish—
And a nice *mess he's made of it.*

"'But what is Gladstone's single fish,
Though 'twere twice as fair and fat?
And as for Johnny's kettle of fish * * *
We've had quite enough of *that.*

"'In the empty dishes upon the board,
The Session's moral view:
And now that the moral has done its work—
Serve, waiters! and guests fall to!'"

In fact, as somewhat saucily stated here, the only Ministerial bill of any value passed in the late Session was Mr. GLADSTONE's, for granting life assurances, on Government security, to the working classes of England. How they can save any money out of wages of from two to five dollars a week, with which to pay the premiums upon these life-policies, is a bird of a very different color.

The cartoon in *Punch* represents PALMERSTON as head-waiter at the Trafalgar, setting the table for the Ministerial whitebait dinner. He has two decanters in his hands, and watches GLADSTONE, underwaiter, placing on the table a covered dish inscribed "Poor Man's Life Assurance Bill." The question which PALMERSTON naturally asks is, "Is that all we've got to put on the table?" The answer is given by JOHNNY RUSSELL, the cook, smaller but more demonstrative than ever, who holds up a tin vessel labelled "Foreign Diplomacy," and rather exultingly says, "Here's *my* kettle o' fish!"

By the way, we have caught *Punch* in a great blunder about Lord PALMERSTON's age. He says (Vol. 47, p. 42): "Mr. OSBORNE, who was born in 1811, might remember that Lord PALMERSTON was born in 1794." As it happens, Lord PALMERSTON was born on the 20th October, 1784, ten years before the date given by *Punch*.

And here, for the twentieth time, in reply to inquiries, we mention that Lord PALMERSTON is Irish only by being a peer of Ireland. He was born at the family seat, Broadlands, Hants, which is an English county. His family are essentially English, and the only Irish blood he has in his veins was derived from the marriage of his great grandfather, Sir JOHN TEMPLE, with JANE, daughter of Sir ABRAHAM YARNER, a city knight of Dublin.

Rebel Treatment of Prisoners—Direct Testimony of a Sufferer.

Cary G. Strong, a member of the 4th Ohio Cavalry, was captured in October last, by the rebel General Wheeler, who made a raid among the Army of the Tennessee, just after its defeat at Chickamauga. He was taken to Belle Island, near Richmond, and confined six months. He now publishes an account of his own sufferings, as well as his own observations, over his own signature, affirming them all to be true:

On my trip to Richmond, he says, I was kept five days at Atlanta, and while there was fed one pint of meal and two ounces of meat per day. A lot of our wounded from Chickamauga's bloody field were there, without medicine, and no attendance only such as our own men could give; nothing given them to eat fit for a dog, and old dirty tent canvas for bandages. Their wounds were mortified and rotten. One in particular I saw the day I arrived there, was a man who had a part of his skull taken off by a ball; at least a pint of maggots were wriggling in his brains, and crawling from there over his pillow. From Atlanta we were sent in hog cars to Richmond six Augusts, Georgia, Columbia, South Carolina, and Raleigh, North Carolina, and were incarcerated on that "earthly hell," Belle Island, on the 18t of November. There our rations consisted of about ten ounces of bread, made of corn and cob meal and cold water, and half baked, and from one to two ounces of beef, or half a pint of soup, either rice or corn-pea soup. We lay in the ditches two weeks before we got tents, and many a night have I paced the streets to keep from freezing, and succeeded to a great height, the flesh very brilliant, and the shock great. The cause of the explosion is, of course, unexplained, and it can only be conjectured whether it was intentional or not. The reports continued for several seconds. In addition to the explanations of the explosion which we have already given, the *Express* says that some think that Grant was blowing up his inner fortifications, preparatory to leaving.

THE RAIDERS IN THE SHENANDOAH.

The movements in the Shenandoah Valley may be properly considered under this head. They are, merely the by-play of the two grand armies at Petersburg, secondary, but at the same time of importance, as diversions having an influence in the fate of that city. The evacuation of Winchester by the rebels has been confirmed, but nothing more is heard of the report of an attack on Martinsburg by Beauregard. It evidently never occurred, as advices subsequent to the day of the alleged fight have been received, which make no reference to it. The escape of Early with the whole of his immense plunder seems to be an ascertained fact. He is a day's march ahead of Sheridan, and will, no doubt, reach the narrow neck of the valley before our forces, and defy further pursuit. His forces are marching in three columns, the main escorting the plunder, the centre protecting it from attack in the rear, and the rear obstructing pursuit. The fight at Little Cedar Creek, which is said to have taken place on the 12th instant, was merely an action between our advance and this straggling detachment. Although the rebels were forced to retire, their object was attained—a delay in our pursuit. Bradley Johnson, according to the Richmond *Sentinel* of the 11th, has rejoined Early, but McCausland, the incendiary of Chambersburg, is in the neighborhood of Lost River, Hardy county, a county bordering on Maryland. Lost River is about forty miles southwest of Winchester, and fifty miles from Staunton. He is, therefore, perfectly safe from any attack by Sheridan. The *Sentinel* says that the battle between McCausland and our troops, which resulted, according to Northern papers, in a complete dispersion of his command, and a general flight to the mountains, was a pure invention; without the faintest coloring of truth, it says, and all our rations were stopped twenty-four hours in consequence. Men were bucked down for no offence but begging for bread, until unable to stand up, and then released. Men tied up by the thumbs for the same offence was of common occurrence. The most awful narrative is tame, compared with reality. It is the deliberate process of the hell-hounds to make all who live through the course of torture unit to again enter the service. By the official report of the city hospitals during January and February, 2,500 were admitted, some of that number over 1,500 died. Of all the boxes sent by friends at home, not one in a hundred ever reaches the owner, but are used, at least in part, to fete their returned friends, who come in exchange for our poor skeletons, that are lucky enough to get through. I was released, and reached America the 20th of April, and God grant that I may never run that gauntlet of death again.

General Sherman's Opinion on Recruiting in Rebel States.

A Massachusetts State Agent, who had applied to General Sherman for information concerning the best places for opening recruiting stations in the rebel States, received the following reply: The General, it will be seen, while he gives the necessary information, at the same time ventures his opinion on the law authorizing such recruiting:

HEAD'QRS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISS.,
IN THE FIELD, NEAR ATLANTA, GA., JULY 30, 1864.

SIR: Yours from Chattanooga, July 23, is received, notifying me of your appointment by your State as lieutenant-colonel and provost-marshal of Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, under the act of Congress approved July 4, 1864, to recruit volunteers to be credited to those respectively. On applying to General Webster, at Nashville, he will grant you a pass through our lines to those States, and at Louisville you will find considerable experience in those States, would suggest recruiting depots to be established at Macon and Columbus, Miss., Selma, Montgomery, and Mobile, Alabama, and Columbus, Milledgeville, and Savannah, Georgia. I do not see that the law restricts you to black recruits, but you are at liberty to collect white recruits, also. It is waste of time to open rendezvous for recruits in Northwest Georgia, for I assure you I have not seen an able-bodied man, black or white, there, fit for a soldier who was not in this army or the one opposed to it.

You speak of the impression going abroad that I am opposed to the organization of colored regiments. My opinions are usually very positive, and there is no reason why you should not know them. Though entertaining profound reverence for our Congress, I do doubt the wisdom of the passage of this law:

1st. Because civilian agents about an army are a nuisance.

2d. It is the duty of citizens to fight for their country is too sacred a one to be peddled off by buying up the refuse of other States.

3d. It is unjust to the brave soldiers and volunteers who are fighting, as those who compose this army do, to place them on a par with the class of recruits you are after.

4th. The negro is in a transition state, and is not the equal of the white man.

5th. He is liberated from his bondage by the act of war; and the armies in the field are entitled to all his assistance in labor and fighting *in addition* to the proper quotas of the States.

6th. This bidding and bantering for recruits, white and black, has delayed the reinforcement of our armies at the times when such reinforcements would have enabled us to make our successes permanent.

7th. The law is an experiment which, pending war, is unwise and unsafe, and has delayed the universal draft which I firmly believe will become necessary to overcome the wide-spread resistance offered us; and I also believe the universal draft will be wise and beneficial; for under the Providence of God it will separate the sheep from the goats, and demonstrate what citizens will fight for their country, and what will only talk.

No one will infer from this that I am not a friend of the negro as well as the white race. I contend that the treason and rebellion of the master freed the slave, and the army I have commanded have conducted to safe points more negroes than those of any general officer in the army; but I prefer negroes for pioneers, teamsters, cooks, and servants, others gradually to experiment in the art of the soldier, beginning with the duties of local garrisons, such as we had at Memphis, Vicksburg, Natchez, Nashville, and Chattanooga; but I would not draw on the poor race for too large a proportion of its active, athletic young men, for some must remain to seek new homes and provide for the old and young—the feeble and helpless. These are some of my peculiar notions, but I know others as honest believe a large proportion of our fighting men.

Yours, truly and respectfully,
W. T. SHERMAN, Major-General.
HON. E. D. MORGAN, Governor of New York.

THE BESIEGED REBEL CITIES.

REMOVAL OF GENERAL BURNSIDE—MATTERS IN THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY—EARLY SAFE WITH HIS PLUNDER—HE THREATENS TO RETURN—M'CAUSLAND NOT FLED TO THE MOUNTAINS—LATE DETAILS FROM ATLANTA—INTERESTING PARTICULARS OF THE RECENT FIGHT IN MOBILE BAY.

There is nothing important in a military sense from General Grant's army. Comparative quiet reigns all along the lines. The only item of interest is the removal of General Burnside from his command of the 9th Corps. It is evident from this fact that the court-martial before which he was arraigned have found him the responsible party for the late defeat. He is now on his way home, accompanied by his staff. He has been succeeded temporarily by General Willcox. It is not known who will be his permanent successor, but speculation points to General Hooker, who it is asserted left the army before Atlanta with a command in view in the army before Petersburg. Nothing is known, however, on the subject.

The recent explosion at City Point furnishes food for gossip in the rebel camps as well as in our own. It is amusing to read their speculations, since they are entirely in the dark as to what was really blown up. The Richmond *Whig* of the 11th says:

Our regular informant, who visits our lines in front of Petersburg daily, in prosecuting the duties of his position, says that yesterday all was again quiet. Although he conversed with many of our men and officers, in reference to the explosion noticed by us in yesterday's issue, he was unable to gather anything additional. It, therefore, still remains among the unexplained mysteries of the war. The edition of the *Express*, the evening before, was equally unsuccessful in his efforts to unravel it.

After taking a long walk along our lines in quest often explanation, he says the explosion, as near as could be judged by those who heard and saw it, occurred some distance in the rear of the Yankee lines, rather to the left of Battery No. 5, and to the right of Battery No. 8, on or near the City Point road. It is represented to have been terrific in its proportions, as the volume of smoke was immense, and ascended to a great height, the flash very brilliant, and the shock great. The cause of the explosion is, of course, unexplained, and it can only be conjectured whether it was intentional or not. The reports continued for several seconds. In addition to the explanations of the explosion which we have already given, the *Express* says that some think that Grant was blowing up his inner fortifications, preparatory to leaving.

THE RAIDERS IN THE SHENANDOAH.

The movements in the Shenandoah Valley may be properly considered under this head. They are, merely the by-play of the two grand armies at Petersburg, secondary, but at the same time of importance, as diversions having an influence in the fate of that city. The evacuation of Winchester by the rebels has been confirmed, but nothing more is heard of the report of an attack on Martinsburg by Beauregard. It evidently never occurred, as advices subsequent to the day of the alleged fight have been received, which make no reference to it. The escape of Early with the whole of his immense plunder seems to be an ascertained fact. He is a day's march ahead of Sheridan, and will, no doubt, reach the narrow neck of the valley before our forces, and defy further pursuit. His forces are marching in three columns, the main escorting the plunder, the centre protecting it from attack in the rear, and the rear obstructing pursuit. The fight at Little Cedar Creek, which is said to have taken place on the 12th instant, was merely an action between our advance and this straggling detachment. Although the rebels were forced to retire, their object was attained—a delay in our pursuit. Bradley Johnson, according to the Richmond *Sentinel* of the 11th, has rejoined Early, but McCausland, the incendiary of Chambersburg, is in the neighborhood of Lost River, Hardy county, a county bordering on Maryland. Lost River is about forty miles southwest of Winchester, and fifty miles from Staunton. He is, therefore, perfectly safe from any attack by Sheridan. The *Sentinel* says that the battle between McCausland and our troops, which resulted, according to Northern papers, in a complete dispersion of his command, and a general flight to the mountains, was a pure invention; without the faintest coloring of truth, it says, and all our rations were stopped twenty-four hours in consequence. Men were bucked down for no offence but begging for bread, until unable to stand up, and then released. Men tied up by the thumbs for the same offence was of common occurrence. The most awful narrative is tame, compared with reality. It is the deliberate process of the hell-hounds to make all who live through the course of torture unit to again enter the service. By the official report of the city hospitals during January and February, 2,500 were admitted, some of that number over 1,500 died. Of all the boxes sent by friends at home, not one in a hundred ever reaches the owner, but are used, at least in part, to fete their returned friends, who come in exchange for our poor skeletons, that are lucky enough to get through. I was released, and reached America the 20th of April, and God grant that I may never run that gauntlet of death again.

General Sherman's Opinion on Recruiting in Rebel States.

A Massachusetts State Agent, who had applied to General Sherman for information concerning the best places for opening recruiting stations in the rebel States, received the following reply: The General, it will be seen, while he gives the necessary information, at the same time ventures his opinion on the law authorizing such recruiting:

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Yours, truly and respectfully,
W. T. SHERMAN, Major-General.
HON. E. D. MORGAN, Governor of New York.

STATE LEGISLATURE.

HARRISBURG, August 15, 1864.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 8½ o'clock P. M., and proceeded to consider amendments to various bills passed last session relative to coal and oil companies. These amendments were required before the Governor would sign the bills. Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House met at 4 o'clock P. M.

Mr. WATSON called up the supplement to