The Press.

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Peace Talk North and South.

Undoubtedly the peace question has assumed paramount importance in both sections of the country, and in the desire for its satisfactory adjustment, at least, if upon no other point, the national sentiment is united. The burden of war has borne too heavily upon North and South not to make each belligerent anxious for the dawning of the day when hostilities shall cease, and battle-fields, forever made historic, may once more smile beneath the hand of tillage. However, so far as the North is concerned, there has been no sudden revulsion of sentiment upon this question. All loyal men to-day stand upon the same ground upon which they were united when the flag was first fired on at Sumpter. They demand to-day, as they demanded then, that the national authority shall be acknowledged throughout the length and breadth of the land, and that the National Union shall be preserved in its integrity—no more and no less. Upon this position will they maintain themselves unto the end, and they may do so with perfect consistency while zealous for the restoration of peaceful relations. Nay, they cannot, as sincere supporters of the Union cause, consistently refuse to give heed to the fundamental principle, that as there can be no peace without Union, so neither can there be Union without peace. The terms Peace and Union are, in fact, convertible, and may be correctly employed as synonyms for each other. It seems clear, then, that there has been no abandonment of principles, no radical change of views on the part of the friends of the Government, since the war began.

What, then, it may be asked, is the meaning of the peace-talk, which just now occupies so prominent a share of our most influential journals? And how is it that the subject comes to be discussed with so much more earnestness now than at any previous stage of the war, when the military situation is so flattering, and the end of the rebellion, instead of being a nebulous probability, has become a tangible result? The answer will be apparent as the question is pertinent. In the first place, the negotiations at Niagara Falls, and the ensuing correspondence, had a tendency to lead the popular mind to a calmer and somewhat more pacific mood, and naturally awakened the inquiry whether it *would* be possible to terminate satisfactorily a struggle the satisfactory adjustment of which the enemy can never hope to accomplish by the sword. In the second place, the irresponsible but not insignificant visit of Mr. J. R. Gilmore and friend to the rebel capital, about the same time, and their mysterious interview with Mr. Jefferson Davis, concerning which the public were only permitted to know that the prominent theme of conversation was peace, had likewise a most marked influence upon the tone of public sentiment; although the *character* of that sentiment, as we have said, has undergone no perceptible change. In the third place, we find another circumstance of like tendency in the near approach of the Presidential canvass, in which it is morally certain that one of the antagonistic parties will stand upon an unconditional peace platform; and, lastly, the machinations of certain scheming peace-politicians, in their public speeches, and newspaper organs, while serving to put the friends of the Union upon their guard, have at the same time intensified the desire they cannot but feel—to see the Union again restored to its pristine splendor and greatness.

These facts are sufficient to open the eyes of the blindest to the true *status* of public opinion upon this peace question, and ought to assure the most faint-hearted adherents of the Union that, in spite of partisan malice and misrepresentation, their cause has never found a more firm and uncompromising advocacy than now.

But, however patent the causes which have brought about peace discussions at the present time, the general willingness to tolerate such discussions is a gratifying evidence that the hearts of the people have not become perverted nor their reasons clouded by the baleful passions which a state of civil war unavoidably engenders when long continued. It shows that reconciliation and the restoration of amicable relations between the two sections is not an impossibility, notwithstanding all the blood shed upon both sides, and the vindictive sentiments which have raged in the breasts of our enemy towards the "accursed Yankees." It shows that the breach between the North and South is not such an irreparable one that a restoration of the Union is necessarily impossible upon an honorable basis. And no other inference than this was ever justly deducible from any policy or measure enunciated or enforced by the present Administration. We do not think there can be found in the whole country, North or South, a man who more ardently longs for the restoration of peace than President Lincoln. He has not favored the prosecution of the war because his nature delights in the shedding of human blood and in the devastation of the Southern country. From the beginning he would have gladly seen the difficulties existing between the two sections arranged without a resort to arms. In his inaugural address he endeavored to impress this idea upon the Southern people, assuring them that if they went to war they could not fight always, and the identical questions in dispute would finally have to be settled by negotiation.

Mr. Lincoln, in fact, has never been opposed to a conciliatory policy, so far as it did not compromise the honor or dignity of the Government. We see this by his proclamation of amnesty, offering pardon and a restoration of the rights of citizenship to all rebels who will lay down their arms and return to their allegiance. We see it, too, by his recent proclamation to certain *quasi* Southern ambassadors (with whom he was bound by no single obligation whatever to have the remotest intercourse), indicating terms upon which an adjustment of our present difficulties may be arrived at, *without, however, pretending that these are ultimate or inflexible.* Yet the proclamation "To whom it may concern" has been seized upon by the Opposition as a proof of Mr. Lincoln's desire to prolong the strife indefinitely for the benefit of the negroes. The New York *Times* pithily disposes of this misrepresentation in the following paragraph: "Mr. Lincoln did say that he *would* receive and consider propositions for peace, coming with proper authority, *if* they embraced the integrity of the Union *and* the abandonment of slavery. But he did not say that he would *not* receive them unless they embraced both these conditions. He did not say that he would *not* receive them even if they embraced neither. He was not laying down an ultimatum—he was not prescribing conditions *sine qua non*, at all."

But are we justified in inferring from the conciliatory temper of our Chief Magistrate that the pacification of the country may be reached through honorable courses? The answer to this question must depend upon the rebel leaders. If they so choose they could inaugurate peace as promptly as they inaugurated war. They were the first to draw the sword, and when we contend that they shall be the first to sheath it, we cannot be charged with punctiliousness upon a mere minor point of diplomatic etiquette, but are simply solicitous that the dignity of the national authority shall be maintained in a matter where, to do less than maintain it, would be to acknowledge the supremacy of the "Confederacy." The suggestion made by the New York *Herald*, *Daily News*, and other journals of this class, in favor of the President appointing "a special commission to Richmond from Washington, in behalf of an armistice and a convention of all the States, to consider the ways and means of peace," is entitled to no consideration whatever. What might be the result if an armistice were asked for by the rebel leaders, it is not easy to say; but it cannot be sought by the North, because, as the New York *Times* truthfully observes, "it would serve precisely the same purpose for Lee as a formidable line of entrenchments, and a still better one, for it would entail no fatigue on his men. It would keep General Sherman inactive, with the expenses of the war, on which the Richmond press relies to ruin us, still running on, with half a million of men still withheld from productive labor, and with the Confederacy still in existence, and because in existence, still triumphant. A battle won could not give Lee more than this, for, he does not seek the conquest of the North."

Yet the refusal of the President to appoint commissioners to Richmond for this purpose will assuredly be distorted by the Opposition into another proof of Mr. Lincoln's desire to prolong the war unnecessarily; and, there is little doubt, that suggestions of an armistice are made for the insidious design of creating expectations, among the ignorant and easily deluded, which cannot be realized. It is worth while noting here, that the men and newspapers that are now most loudly clamoring for peace have all along been waging relentless war against the Administration and its policy. In fact, had it not been for the obstacles which these very men and presses have thrown in the President's way, and the vindictiveness with which they have assailed every war measure of the Government, the struggle in which we are embarked might ere this have reached a satisfactory conclusion by force of arms, thus obviating the necessity of the peace twaddle now prevalent in certain disaffected quarters. Only in the States which have been remiss in filling their quotas, and which have a deficit in this respect charged now against them, does there seem to be any disposition to precipitate a dishonorable conclusion to the war; and, if ever such a conclusion should be reached, we may rest assured that the Opposition party will alone be responsible for this fearful result. So far the war for the restoration of national authority throughout the land has been decidedly successful. It commenced inauspiciously, but has progressed steadily and satisfactorily. One of our grand armies is now thundering at the gates of the rebel capital, and another has penetrated into the very heart of the Confederacy. Hundreds of thousands of square miles of territory have been recovered from an enemy who boasted that he would dispute "every inch of the soil," and to-day not a single seceded State rests in undisputed possession of the rebels, but in every one the stars and stripes are floating. The task which was to prove "interminable" is more than three-fourths finished. The end is no longer distant or doubtful; and, if any evidence is needed that the fate of the rebellion is rapidly approaching a crisis, we have it now in the circumstance that its Northern sympathizers are so zealous for an immediate cessation of hostilities.

Extortionate Market Prices.

On Wednesday the price of butter in the Philadelphia market was *seventy-five* cents per pound. A year ago it was sold at *thirty* cents, and three years ago the average price was *fourteen* cents. We notice, too, that the price of vegetables and fruits has run up almost correspondingly. But there is this difference—the farmers have made the advance in butter, while those violators of the law—the forestallers—perpetrate the extortion as to the vegetables and the fruit. These are "the early birds who catch the worm." They go down to the fruit market, Dock street and Delaware avenue, wait the arrival of the supplies from New Jersey, pick up the best produce, tomatoes and onions, canteloupes and watermelons, apples and peaches, at prices not much greater than were paid last year, and dispense them in the various markets, and to retailers, at an average profit of *from seven hundred to a thousand per cent.* As for tree fruit, it is far more plentiful in the wholesale market than it ever has been. The price of sugar is so high, that housekeepers have been compelled to relinquish, this season, their favorite manufacture of strawberry and raspberry jams, currant and apple jelly, and also to give up all idea of preserving peaches, pears, and melons. Therefore, the supply is in excess of the demand, and this has kept down the price received by the New Jersey growers at the vegetable and fruit market at Delaware avenue. But those pleasant rogues, the law-breaking forestallers, who would speculate even were the enemy within a mile of the city, these folks take care that the public at large shall not profit by the abundance and cheapness of vegetables and fruit. Rather than lower the fictitious prices which they put upon these articles of food, they allow the excess to decay, for sell they will not under the great profit they conspire to extort. If the District Attorney did his duty, he would handle these folks "without gloves." They know that they are indictable for conspiracy to keep up high prices, as well as, at common law, for the offence of forestalling. A few indictments, a few convictions, and a few compound punishments (fines to touch their pockets, and imprisonment to attaint their *respectability*), would operate in a wholesome manner upon this class of criminals, for they are guilty of a heavy crime who combine for filthy lucre to defrive God's thinking creatures of the wholesome food which He has provided in abundance for their sustenance and health at this season. Perhaps the District Attorney has not turned his attention to this matter. Let him do so; it will not draw him *very* much from political matters, and he will merit and obtain the thanks of his fellow-citizens.

As regards the extortionate price of butter the case is different. To demand and obtain it no forestalling is necessary. The thing is done in the most direct manner, by the farmers themselves, who bring this produce into the market generally with the understanding for several successive weeks past that they will put on an extra five cents on each market-day. Thus the price was 65 cents on Wednesday week, 70 cents on Saturday, and 75 cents on last Wednesday. We can understand an advance in the price of tea and coffee, sugar and rice, and other articles of food in ordinary use, because these are taxed, and their original purchase money is augmented by the rise in the price of the specie which pays for them, but Congress, which has showered down taxes, by its Internal Revenue Laws, upon every other class, has singularly favored the farmer. Neither his milk nor his cream, his butter nor his cheese, his corn nor his wheat, his vegetables nor his fruit, his pigs nor his fowl, his oxen nor his sheep, are in any way taxed. If he kill any cattle, swine, calves, sheep, or lambs, he may do so, for his own consumption, without paying the usual duty upon slaughtered animals. There is no tax upon the manure which enriches his land, upon the horses that plough it, upon the cereals it yields, upon the flour, meal, or bran which are manufactured from this produce. The farmer is singularly exempt from taxation. Yet it is the farmer, ungrateful and grasping, who has trebled and quintupled the price of butter in our markets.

It may be said, by him or for him, that this increased price has been caused by the dearness of all other things. We deny it, for, when we were at Lewisburg, in Union county, in this State, a few weeks ago, as fine butter as ever was made in Chester, Lancaster, Montgomery, or Bucks counties was selling there for twenty-five cents a pound, the Philadelphia price then being fifty cents. The present price in Union county is twenty-five cents, against the Philadelphia extortion of seventy-five. Surely, butter can be made as cheaply in one county as in the other?

Against this extortion there is a remedy. Discontinue the purchase of butter until the price has become reasonable. Send the farmers home on four or five successive market-days without effecting sales, and they will be sharply brought to reason. We do not expect anything so miraculous as that they will repent of their barefaced audacity, that they will mourn because greed made them dishonest and extortionate, but we know that if they were unable to dispose of their butter in three successive markets, they would very gladly take reasonable, and still amply remunerative prices, after that sharp lesson. The New Yorkers, when like extortion was tried on them, formed an anti-butter-buying league, and brought the farmers back to reasonable prices in a very short time. Let this example not be lost on us.

It is not often that men holding responsible positions under the Government consider that their duty to the country requires something more than a faithful discharge of their official obligations. Nor is it often that a public officer is morally required to do more than his oath of office requires, for there are few departments of the national service which do not give sufficient occupation to conscientious men. It is noteworthy, however, as an example of unusual earnestness among persons holding responsible offices, that Col. Wm. B. Thomas, collector of this port, has three times raised a regiment for the national service, and thrice led it into the field. At each invasion of the State, Colonel Thomas has been one of the first to answer to the call to arms, and not a month has passed since he left the city at the head of a first-class regiment, chiefly raised by his own exertions. This regiment is now before Atlanta. If Colonel Thomas had, in his anxiety to take an active part in the war, in any way neglected his official duties, we should not refer to his course as one of true patriotism. But knowing that the Custom House is thoroughly organized; that it was with the full approval of the head of the Department that he entered the military service, we cannot withhold our earnest approval of Colonel Thomas' action. We are told that officeholders consider their duty performed in accepting lucrative positions; but here is a case in which a citizen, who could not be blamed for remaining at home, voluntarily takes upon himself the burden of war, and risks his life from a pure sense of duty. Nor is this the only instance of such a spirit.

Mr. Vallandigham is eager to assure his admirers that when the Democracy obtain power every man shall sit down under his own vine and fig-tree, and none shall be afraid; there shall be no more taxes, no draft, no war, &c. It is surprising with what extravagance he predicts glorious things from a return of the Democracy to power. There is, no doubt, in reserve, $1,000 bounty and a homestead for every one who will vote the Democratic ticket; and when a President devoted to "Peace upon any terms" is elected, there will be houses to spare and fortunes to give away. This dazzling gift enterprise of Mr. Vallandigham will have a few gullible victims, we presume, while the rest of the nation endeavors honestly to save what property we possess. But, we submit, is it statesmanly in the Heaven-inspired ex-Canadian to give promises in this fulsome peddler fashion? We fear that the "godlike" Mr. V. is no better than most quacks, and what, with the pack of his own griefs, is a very crazy and dismal itinerary. When we shall have no more war, and no more taxes, let us trust that there will be no more Vallandighammon.

Mr. Dean Richmond, a manipulating politician of New York, is added to the list of candidates for the Chicago nomination. We know of no way by which the Peace party could more literally affirm the object of their movement than by putting Richmond in the place of Washington.

A comparison of the remarks of Mr. Fernando Wood at the Syracuse Peace Convention with the conduct and character of the faction he represents, will show how little Mr. Wood and his friends are fitted to the work of which they are pretended devotees. He said:

"Assuming that an armistice would soon be declared by which both sides would cease fighting, he held it to be the duty of the people to direct attention at once to the great question of a final and eternal settlement of this sectional conflict. He knew this subject was filled with difficulties. It would require the exercise of the highest order of statesmanship than that which had originally formed the Federal Government. Deadly hostilities and questions of a moral character were to be reconciled and adjusted, and geographical, political, and even religious antagonisms to be dissipated by some wise philosophy inspired from above."

THE WAR.

PROGRESS OF EVENTS IN MOBILE.

Investment of Fort Morgan by Land and Water.

A DEMAND MADE FOR ITS UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER.

THE GARRISON DESPERATELY INVITE ATTACK.

An Attack Ordered by Farragut on the 11th.

THE REBELS AT PETERSBURG CANNONADE OUR WORKS.

A General Battle Along our Whole Line.

Favorable News from Hancock on the James River.

ADVICES FROM THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY.

HEAVY REINFORCEMENTS TO EARLY'S ARMY.

THE REBELS BEGINNING TO ASSUME THE OFFENSIVE.

A Movement in Force Attempted on Gen. Sheridan's Flank.

HIS ARMY FALLS BACK TO WINCHESTER.

THE INDIAN WAR BECOMING SERIOUS.

General System of Massacre and Arson in Colorado.

SETTLERS ARMING AND ORGANIZING TO REPEL THE SAVAGES.

The Indians Threaten Extermination.

THE TALLAHASSEE ORDERED OUT OF HALIFAX.

DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF.

FARRAGUT'S EXPEDITION—AN ATTACK ON FORT MORGAN CONTEMPLATED—THE WORK SURROUNDED.

New Orleans, Aug. 12, via Cairo, Aug. 18.—The steamer Kate Dale, from Fort Gaines, Mobile harbor, yesterday morning, arrived here last night. Admiral Farragut had prepared his fleet for action, and issued orders to attack Fort Morgan at 8 o'clock A. M. yesterday. It was to receive an enfilading fire from the fleet, and the land force in the rear have invested it wherever there was a foot of ground to stand upon. The rebels had destroyed all the outbuildings of the fort, and also burned their only vessel, lying under its guns. Everything about the fort indicated a determination to contest the ground till the last. The channel to Dog river was unobstructed. The naval iron-clad force was confident of success. At a late hour last night we heard that Admiral Farragut had demanded the unconditional surrender of the fort.

Admiral Farragut's demand for its surrender, made on Tuesday, was refused, the commander of the fort saying that he had six months' provisions and plenty of cartridges, and would resist to the last moment. Before this, General Granger's force, in the rear, had cut the communications of the fort. The ram Tennessee was in the attack on the fort. Admiral Farragut was confident of reducing the fort. The flag-ship Hartford was badly injured. We hold all the channels to the bay.

NEW ORLEANS ITEMS.

Cairo, August 19.—The steamer Olive Branch, from New Orleans on the 12th inst., has arrived. She was not molested, as rumored in Memphis. Her officers knew nothing of the capture of the steamer Lady or other boats since the Caribel was destroyed. The New Orleans cotton market was unsettled and depressed. Sales of the week, 600 bales; receipts, 2,327; exported, 1,555; stock on hand, 6,295. Sugar and molasses held higher, above buyers' views. Flour declined; choice extra, $13 25.

Washington, August 19.—The latest intelligence from Mobile is the following from the Richmond *Sentinel* of the 17th, received at the Navy Department to-day:

Mobile, August 15.—This evening two monitors and five gunboats passed Dog river bar, and coming up to within two miles of the obstructions opened fire for three hours on our batteries and gunboats, doing no damage. Our gunboats replied handsomely. Our batteries were silent at sunset, and the enemy hauled off.

A special despatch to the *Register*, from Ox Pond on the 14th, says Chalmers dashed into Abbeville and whipped the enemy, capturing twenty-five prisoners, and then falling back from Intelut upon the enemy, attacked him and were repulsed. Our loss was five killed and twenty-five wounded. The enemy lost fifty killed, two hundred and fifty wounded, and forty prisoners.

Firing was heard in the direction of Fort Morgan this morning.

THE ARMY BEFORE PETERSBURG.

THE RECENT OPERATIONS ON THE JAMES—RAPID WORKS, PRISONERS, AND HEAVY GUNS CAPTURED.

Washington, August 19.—A letter from the Army of the Potomac, dated at noon on Wednesday, says: "The 2d Corps having been unsuccessful in the attack on the enemy on the north side of the James river, on Sunday, fell back to a safe position, which they occupied until yesterday, when another assault was determined on and carried successfully, the enemy having been driven from their works with heavy loss in killed, wounded, and several hundred prisoners, who fell into our hands. The 2d Corps also captured a few heavy guns, which the enemy had not time to carry off, besides a quantity of small arms. Our loss was quite trivial. Our troops still hold the position they gained. The cavalry under Gen. Gregg had an engagement with the rebels, and drove them from some works near the New Market road, but they rallied from the different forts in the vicinity, and finally forced the cavalry back upon the infantry supports. Colonel Gregg, commanding the 1st Brigade, 2d Division Cavalry Corps, was severely wounded in the engagement. It is said that Gen. Butler's troops had a slight engagement yesterday, but without much advantage to either side."

Washington, August 19.—The Washington *Chronicle* has the subjoined despatch:

City Point, Va., August 17, 1864.—Advices from Deep Bottom report the first instalment of prisoners—253 privates and 17 officers. Our captures are reported at 1,500. It would be safer to say 500. An attempt on the part of the rebels to flank us resulted in the capture of the flanking party. General Grant was at the dock when the distinguished party arrived. His three stars soon revealed who he was, when some of the bolder spirits saluted him. So eager were the rebellious crowd to catch a glimpse of "the man at hard nut" (as our soldiers familiarly speak of the General) that several slight skirmishes ensued for a commanding position.

A thought here presents itself: It is conceded that the General is a valuable man, and owned by the American people. Is it not slightly indiscreet in us to keep such valuable property lying around loose, for some martyr-hero Jackson or volunteer nurse-murderer to carry off or destroy? One of the objects of the expedition is now apparent. The rebels had become acquainted with our canalling operations, and were engaged in the laudable enterprise of drowning us out. They succeeded in drowning a certain man and a considerable amount of stores before Grant interrupted them by an attack of the 10th Corps on their rear. The work is now progressing rapidly toward completion. Seven hundred sick and wounded of the 2d Corps have been received at the hospital at City Point. The weather, though warm, is favorable for the poor fellows, and the average of deaths is lighter than usual. A corporal from Breckinridge's command, now said to be at Petersburg, came into our lines recently; while on a scout he came across an officer of engineers, to whom he gave his arms. He is from Big Shanty, Georgia; is a mechanic, and is very anxious to go North to earn the large wages said to be paid to mechanics there.

A HEAVY CANNONADING FROM THE REBEL LINES AROUND PETERSBURG.

Before Petersburg, August 18.—About one o'clock this evening the enemy opened the most vigorous fire since the mine was exploded. It commenced on the right and centre, and was directed toward a point where they seemed to imagine that our troops were being massed, and, finally, extended along the whole line of the Appomattox to the Jerusalem plank road.

The night was beautiful, the moon shining brightly, but no damage of any account resulted from the affair. It lasted about two hours, and was thought to be a prelude to an attack on some part of our line. The usual quiet has since prevailed.

Heavy firing was also heard during the night in the direction of General Butler's department, but nothing has been heard from that point.

STRATEGIC RESULTS OF THE JAMES RIVER MOVEMENT—AN ATTACK ON OUR WORKS.

Washington, August 19.—The *Republican* says: The line occupied by Hancock's troops, on the north side of the James river, extends about seven miles from the river in the direction of White Oak Swamp the right resting on that locality. By this strategic movement across the James river General Grant compelled Lee to extend his lines to that degree that there must be some weak points in it, which Grant will probably find. The lines held by our forces is already entrenched so strongly that they cannot be driven from them by the rebels. There is a good deal of marching and counter-marching of divisions, and it is evident that some important movement is on foot near the capital of Dixie. Later reports from the front by the Vanderbilt state that a general attack seems to have been made on our lines from Butler's position up. The weight of the attack appears to have been on our centre. Our loss was comparatively trifling. The cannonading on Wednesday night is described as the most terrific of the war. The whole line was engaged, commencing at 9 P. M. and ending at 4 o'clock on Thursday morning. Fighting seems to be still going on desperately at Deep Bottom, but with what result was not reported at City Point when the Vanderbilt left. It is reported that the Federal and rebel iron-clads took part in the fight on Wednesday night. The fight was conducted with artillery alone.

Early yesterday morning the rebels in front of the 9th Corps made a desperate assault on our works, probably under the impression that the movement up James river had obliged Grant to materially weaken his lines in front of Petersburg. The positions of the other corps were also assaulted and for several hours a fierce battle raged, the cannonading being terrific, interspersed with musketry on either side. The enemy did not catch us napping, and they were finally repulsed, leaving their dead and wounded on the field, between the two lines. The rebels are represented to have lost heavily.

At the time the Vanderbilt left no details had been received, the main facts known being that the rebels had been repulsed, and had retired again behind their works. There was a rumor afloat at City Point, when the Vanderbilt left, that a strong reconnoissance, sent out by Hancock, had reached Fair Oaks.

The demand for ice for hospital purposes in the recent hot spell has created quite a panic in that article. Some of the speculators in that commodity in the Northern cities may be compelled to disgorge of their abundance for the use of the soldiers. The late rains and the cool weather of the last few days have seriously affected the demand.

FURTHER PARTICULARS OF THE ATTACK.

Fortress Monroe, August 18.—The hospital steamer Connecticut arrived here to-day at noon from Deep Bottom, James river, with four hundred wounded, mostly in the battle of Tuesday, and belonging to the 2d and 10th Army Corps.

They were transferred to the hospital steamship Atlanta at this place, which sailed for Philadelphia at 4 P. M. The Connecticut left Deep Bottom this morning. Yesterday was comparatively quiet with the army on both sides of the James river. Whilst the Connecticut was lying at Deep Bottom very heavy cannonading was heard up the river, commencing at 1 o'clock and lasting till 2.30 this morning. The result was not ascertained when the steamer left.

3 P. M.—The mail steamer Vanderbilt, from City Point, has just arrived. At 6 o'clock this morning the rebels made a furious attack on our lines, or rather that portion consisting of General Burnside's old corps and to their left. The fighting was chiefly with artillery, and lasted nearly two hours, when the enemy fell back without attempting an assault on our works. Our loss was small.

THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY.

THE CAVALRY FIGHT AT FRONT ROYAL.

Harper's Ferry, August 18.—Advices from the front state that General Merritt's division of cavalry had a fight with some of Early's infantry, a day or two since near Front Royal, in which the enemy were completely routed, with a loss of several hundred prisoners, including forty-seven officers and three battle-flags. The prisoners were greatly chagrined at finding themselves whipped and captured by cavalry.

Among the casualties is the old war horse, Col. Thomas C. Devins, 6th New York Cavalry, wounded in the foot. Captain Morwitz, 6th Pennsylvania, formerly an aid to General Buford, it is reported, is killed, and Major Starr, of the 6th Pennsylvania, is wounded. Lieutenant F. E. Ewing, first Ohio, reported killed on July 24th, at Winchester, although seriously wounded in the chest, has just been brought in here on his way home, and is doing well. Our cavalry is reported to have recaptured from the rebels some of the animals recently taken by the guerilla Mosby. This achievement was only accomplished after a sharp fight.

GENERAL SHERIDAN FALLS BACK THIS SIDE OF WINCHESTER—THE ENEMY IN STRONG FORCE ON FRONT AND FLANKS.

Harper's Ferry, August 18.—General Sheridan's army has fallen back to Berryville, this side of Winchester. The movement was made necessary in order to secure supplies, and to meet a flank movement made by a heavy rebel force, which was moving up through Front Royal. This force consists of Kershaw's and Longstreet's divisions of Longstreet's corps, which have been sent from Richmond to reinforce Early. Our cavalry met the head of this column at Front Royal, on Wednesday, and an engagement ensued, which is spoken of as a brilliant success. The fight was in an open field, and our cavalry made a splendid charge, which drove the enemy in confusion. We captured nearly three hundred, who were brought off the field. General Sheridan's movements are not to be regarded as a retreat. He found that the enemy were being heavily reinforced, and wisely refused to fight at Strasburg or Winchester, where he would be flanked through Front Royal or Snicker's Gap. If the rebels want a fight, it is believed that they can get one by advancing on him in his present position.

THE INDIAN WAR.

MILITARY PREPARATIONS TO CHASTISE THE SAVAGES—MURDER AND ARSON IN COLORADO TERRITORY—GENERAL AND AWFUL MASSACRE AND DESOLATION.

Denver City, C. T., Aug. 18.—The regiment of 100-days cavalry authorized by the War Department, three days ago, to fight the Indians, is already more than half filled. It is expected will be in the field in less than ten days. It is to operate along the Platte Valley and to protect the overland mail and wagon trains. In this they are to have the cooperation of troops from the East. It is hoped the route will soon be re-established, and the Indians severely chastised. At present all the trains and mail coaches are stopped. Friendly Indians report that extensive combinations exist among the Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Kiowas, Sioux, Camanches, Utahs, and Snakes, and that they intend to wage a war of extermination against the whites. Martial law is being enforced here, and all places of business have been closed until further orders. Several independent militia companies are about ready to start out, and a few days will demonstrate the truth or falsity of the many wild rumors floating about. Provisions of all kinds are very high and rapidly advancing, and unless communication with the States is speedily resumed there will be much suffering, if not actual starvation.

SECOND DESPATCH—LATER.

The Indians murdered several families and burned a number of houses on Cherry creek, fifty-five miles from here, last night. Settlers are fleeing to this city for protection. The commander of this district to-day issued a special order for the enrolment of all the able-bodied males over sixteen years of age. Drafting to fill the one-hundred-day regiments will be commenced immediately. A line of block-houses is being erected around the city. The fact that the telegraph wires are unmolested leads to the belief that no white men are engaged with the Indians in their work of destruction.

St. Louis, August 19.—Information from Fort Riley, General Blunt's headquarters, says that three ranches, near Little Blue river, have been burned by the Indians, and the stock run off and the inhabitants killed, their bodies being found in the ashes of the buildings. The citizens of Washington, Republic, and Clay counties have been armed by General Blunt. Four hunters have been killed at Selena, fifty miles west of Fort Riley. Between Nilesburg and Little Blue no ranches have been left standing, and between 60 and 70 dead bodies have been seen. There are no ranches remaining between the Big Sandy and Little Blue, and no inhabitants between Fort Kearney and Denver. Four trains have been captured on the Little Blue, and all the stock, consisting of four hundred and fifty cattle and a large number of mules, driven off. The men belonging to these trains escaped. The Indians are well mounted, and most of them armed with long-range guns. Captain Thompson, with seventy-five men of the 16th Kansas Cavalry, and one howitzer, is pursuing the Indians who committed the outrages on the Little Blue. Despatches from him, dated the 4th, stated that the Indians moved towards Republican Fork with 1,000 oxen and large herds of horses and mules. Gen. Sherry, of the Kansas militia, has also joined the pursuit, moving north of Thompson's command. Eight days have elapsed since any communication has been had from the front, further west than nineteen miles from Little Blue, within which distance sixteen men, women, and children have been massacred, and every dwelling burned. The families of the settlers have been sent to the settlements, and the men turned upon the Indian trail. Gen. Blunt sent orders to Forts Leavenworth and Selena to detail commands there to scout in the direction taken by the Indians, keeping ready to join in the pursuit when their rear was found. Gen. Blunt was doing everything possible with the small force at his command.

OPERATIONS IN SHERMAN'S REAR.

A BATTLE NEAR CHATTANOOGA—RESULTS NOT STATED.

Louisville, August 19.—A gentleman, just from the front, reports that on Thursday Gen. Stedman started from Chattanooga, and met the foe at Greenville, eighteen miles distant, and a severe engagements ensued. The Federal loss is not stated. It is reported that General Stedman was severely wounded, and Colonel Streight, of the 51st Indiana Volunteers, killed. A rebel force is reported at Cleveland, Tennessee. A brigade from Chattanooga left for Cleveland on Wednesday. The rebel cavalry have divided into small parties, and are demonstrating upon the towns in Northern Georgia and Tennessee.

The Federal pickets were fired upon at various points between Chattanooga and Bridgeport. As our informant left, Major General Stedman's adjutant was leaving Chattanooga for Graysville with a cavalry force. The Frankford train is three hours behind time, caused by the cars running off the track near Frankfort. No casualties are reported.

THE GUERILLA WAR.

AN ATTACK ON HOPKINSVILLE, KY.

Clarksville, Tenn., August 19.—A small scouting party sent out from here yesterday returned at midnight, and reported three hundred rebels, under Frank Woodward, at Garrettsburg, twelve miles from here, at six o'clock last night. They were well mounted, and armed mostly with navy revolvers, and were pressing horses and mules indiscriminately. They are supposed to be on the way to join Adam Johnson.

Clarksville, August 19—10.30 A. M.—Woodward attacked Hopkinsville about four o'clock this morning, and was repulsed by a company of the 52d Kentucky and one hundred Home Guards. On the second charge Woodward was mortally wounded and taken prisoner. Two rebel soldiers were killed, and the Federals sustained no loss. The rebels are still hovering around the town, and another attack is expected.

THE TALLAHASSEE.

A REPORT FROM A WITNESS OF HER DEPREDATIONS.

Boston, August 19.—The British brig Ella Ackles, from New Brandon, reports, on the 16th, in lat. 42.55, lon. 66.30, saw the pirate Tallahassee destroying vessels, cutting away spars and scuttling the hulls. Two barks, one brig, and three schooners were in sight at the time, all American vessels. Also saw one schooner, probably the Mary A. Howe, before reported, which had been scuttled, but could not ascertain her name, and took from her fourories, sails, &c. She sunk twenty minutes after. The next day, in lat. 42 50, lon. 67.5, spoke the steamer Dacotah, steering east, and reported the above to her.

St. Johns, N. F., August 18.—A suspicious-looking bark-rigged steamer kept lying off Cape Race on Saturday and Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. The weather was very fine.

ANOTHER CAPTURE.

Boston, August 19.—The schooner Leopard has arrived from Cornwallis, N. S., and reports that on the 10th, off Martinicus, she was captured by the Tallahassee, and released on giving bonds for $2,000. The pirate put ten men on board belonging to a bark from Portland for Pictou. Next morning the Leopard steered into Monhegan, and the men came ashore in a boat. The Leopard subsequently saw the Tallahassee capture and burn two schooners. The pirates destroyed all the provisions and stayed the water casks on board the Leopard.

THE TALLAHASSEE ORDERED OUT OF HALIFAX.

Halifax, August 19.—At noon to-day Admiral Hope sent to the Tallahassee several boats with crews and an order to cease coaling, which was promptly enforced. She intended taking five hundred chaldrons for a long voyage, but has less than three hundred on a week's supply. She sails to-night, beyond doubt, for North Bay. It is impossible to obtain the names of the vessels destroyed by her.

The Falcon, blockade-runner, is still here.

THE CHASE OF THE TALLAHASSEE.

Boston, August 19.—The gunboat Dacotah has returned from her cruise after the pirate Tallahassee.

EUROPE.

The foreign mails by the Asia bring files to the 6th inst., which give the details of the telegraphic summary already published. The principal topic of interest is the settlement of the Danish war. It is, of course, against Denmark, which, being the weakest State, is least likely to cause trouble by dissatisfaction. The official Vienna *Gazette* announces the armistice as signed, and says:

"The duchies of Lauenburg, Schleswig, and Holstein have been unreservedly ceded. The ratification of the treaty agreed to at the same time has been undertaken in the German interest. Germany owes the realization of one of the most ardent desires of the nation to the union of Austria and Prussia and the victories of their allied armies. Europe is indebted to them for the removal of a cause of dangerous conflicts. The war has not been a war of conquest, nor has it had in view the triumph of imaginary pretensions of nationality, but it has been waged to enforce the justice of positive rights. The war having, conformably with the rules of international law, abolished previous treaties, the success of the Austro-Prussian armies has admitted the possibility of separating the Elbe duchies from Denmark."

Thus the European war cloud is dissipated, and the Powers must rest until they discover some new grievance over which to spill blood.

The Polish insurrection, of which we have heard so little of late, seems also ended. The Russian Government, with its usual excess of tyranny and cruelty, is executing *ad libitum* all who were concerned with the unfortunate Mr. Traugott, the head of the Polish National Government, together with Krajewski, Pocyan, Zulinski, and Jezesranski, the chiefs of the different departments, were hanged at Warsaw August 5th, on the glacis of the citadel. The sentences of death passed upon eleven officials of the National Government have been commuted, in some cases to hard labor, and in the others to imprisonment in a Siberian fortress.

The difficulty between the Turkish Government and the missionaries has been arranged. It is not all the latter could wish for, it will, perhaps, under all the circumstances, be generally regarded as equitable and satisfactory. The bookstores and offices of the several societies have been reopened, and full liberty given to their agents to preach to all comers in their respective chapels and meeting rooms—but not in the khans or other public places of Stamboul. The free sale of the Bible in bookstores is permitted, but not its colportage about the capital, neither the sale or gratuitous distribution of controversial works attacking Mohammedanism. The native converts under arrest are, "for their own protection and as a measure of precaution against popular excitement," to be temporarily removed from the capital to some English consular station in the provinces, the Porte engaging to provide for their maintenance during their absence.

A great battle has been fought in Central Asia. The Bombay *Gazette* says: "The latest intelligence from Cabool is dated the 9th June from Cabool, and is highly important. On the 14th idem, Major James, the commissioner of Peshawur, received a letter from Sirdar Mahomed Rufeek Khan, dated the 24 Jilma, 1264, in which a great battle had been fought at Bazgah, near Bameean, between the Ameer's troops, who were thirty thousand strong, with five guns, and his brother, Mahomed Afzul Khan, whose forces amounted to about the same number of men and thirty guns. Afzul Kahn was defeated with the loss of 2,000 men killed, 4,000 taken prisoners, and a great portion of his artillery and camp equipage. The Ameer's army had about 2,000 casualties. The defeated Sirdar escaped, and was, by last accounts, making for Balkh. Mahomed Azim Kahn, another rebellious brother of the Ameer of Cabool, who had to fly from Kooram in May last, after suffering a most ignominious defeat, is still lying *perdu* at Rawul Pindee, within the British territories.

"The great battle of the 2d June appears to have been commenced by the advanced guard of sides, which kept pounding away for several h