The Press.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1864.

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

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

Georgia.

The rebel Governor BROWN's message, read to the Legislature of Georgia on the 3d inst., contains one important statement, surpassing all the hostility it expresses toward JEFFERSON DAVIS. Mr. BROWN lays it down as a principle that every State of the Confederacy has a right to negotiate for itself. From the very nature of the rebel compact this must be an admitted truth; for nothing is clearer than that the rebellion is based upon the right of secession and State sovereignty. Whether Governor BROWN designed it or not, his mere statement of the right of independent negotiation is a threat and a weapon against the life of the Confederacy. The Georgia Executive complains that the rebel President is centralizing the whole authority of the South in his own person, and has never availed himself of the peace sentiment in the North. Without once sacrificing the idea of Southern independence, Mr. BROWN thinks that skilful State action would have taken power out of the hands of both Mr. LINCOLN and JEFFERSON DAVIS, and enabled the States North and South to come together in their sovereign capacity. Upon this disposition to independent negotiation the whole Chicago movement was based. The action of the South, and the result of our Presidential election, demonstrate its utter futility. Mr. BROWN, like every other rebel statesman who has written upon the subject, shows that all his favor toward the Northern peace movement was only diplomatic, and that the highest and most vital consequences expected of a negotiation by means of States and the election of Gen. MCCLELLAN were: an abandonment of the war by armistice, recognition of the Confederacy by the simple action of negotiation, and the independence of the South by a convocation of States assembled in the interests of secession. Independence is still the darling idea of Southern Statesmen; but against that we may place the growing hostility to JEFFERSON DAVIS. It now amounts to a fatality that either this man must win, or the cause of the South must be lost. Looming up against all this, we find some omen in Governor BROWN's assertion of State sovereignty. Before the independence of the Confederacy is won, the States which compose the compact may find it necessary to declare their own.

WE recently published the report of the Secretary of the rebel Treasury, the sum of which seemed to be the question of *De Mauprat*, in "Richelieu:" "I must pay my debts? With all my heart; where, then, shall I borrow the money?" To-day we print the report of the rebel Secretary of War, in which it is admitted that more men are necessary to oppose our superior forces, and that no more men are to be had. In this dilemma what resource is left? An argument must serve Mr. SEDDON instead of a new draft, so it is gravely stated that though the slaves are not fit to be made soldiers, still they could be, and that in the meanwhile the rebel soldiers are expected to fight better now from the consciousness that when matters come to the very worst they will have this immense reserve force of negroes, unfit to be armed, to sustain them. Every rebel State paper of this year, from DAVIS' message to SEDDON's report, is a confession that the rebellion has no resources—that all its power is in the field. The legislation of its Congress will be a demonstration of this fact.

ALREADY free labor is established in Maryland on the ruins of slavery, and the relations of master and slave are peacefully revolutionized without injury to the interests of either. The planters in the lower counties have agreed to pay their former slaves wages ranging from sixty to one hundred and twenty dollars annually. If this scale is too low, the competition of industry will raise it. It is enough that in two weeks the great principle of compensation for honest labor has been established in a great State, wherein for two hundred years society had existed on a basis of legalized robbery.

GENERAL MCCLELLAN, having apparently resigned all ambition for the Presidency or the command of the army, is about to be presented as a candidate for the United States Senate in the Legislature of New Jersey. If his political friends prove true to him, his election is almost certain; but we may be pardoned if we doubt their fidelity to the personal service of one who so unfortunately has failed to serve them. In the Senate General MCCLELLAN's statesmanship can be tested.

AMONG the witnesses summoned to the trial of Col. NORTH, charged with conniving at election frauds in the army, is the Governor of New York. The determination of the Government to thoroughly expose the great plot to cheat the soldiers of their votes, will probably make another such plot impossible.

THE Richmond papers are evidently aware of SHERMAN's intentions, for they warn their readers to expect startling news. Is it the liberation of our prisoners at Andersonville? Is it Mobile? Whatever it may be, it is victory.

Classical Music.

The appreciation of classical music, which led to the establishment of the Classical Quintette Club, will be increased by its assured success. We are very glad to welcome this new and invaluable musical enterprise; for such artists as GAERTNER, SCHMITZ, JARVIS, CROSS, and PLAGEMANN cannot better use their powers than in the development of a general taste for the highest music. The fine programme of the first concert, to be given on Wednesday, is an earnest of what the Club intends, and, if the support is at all worthy of its merit, the season of twenty-five matinées, announced by the managers, will be something for the musical public of Philadelphia to remember.

LETTER FROM "OCCASIONAL."

WASHINGTON, Nov. 13, 1864.

Looking out upon the capital of our rescued country on this bright Sabbath morning, I recognize in it the symbol of the peaceful triumph of the people at the ballot, and the peaceful submission of their opponents to the wonderful majorities that secure the re-election of President Lincoln. All is tranquil. No cannon boom from the Virginia hills; no drums beat from the adjacent camps; there is no tread of marching columns; nothing disturbs the air but "the sound of the church-going bell." And the same is true of every town and hamlet within every loyal border. What a profound proof of the power of our people and their Government! But if we propose to examine the philosophy of the election of the eighth of November, its immediate effect, its certain or its contingent consequences, we shall be puzzled where to begin. In my opinion, no event, so full of direct and remote importance, has ever transpired. However we discuss it, its proportions grow larger and larger. When, in 1789, George Washington was elected first President of the thirteen original States, he received but sixty-nine electoral votes, representing only ten States. New York, Rhode Island, and North Carolina not having fully accepted the Federal Constitution; and when, in 1793, the same illustrious man was chosen the second President of the United States, he received the support of all the then organized States, fifteen in number, showing 132 votes. In both cases he was elected with grateful unanimity.

Of Washington, the Father of his Country, we may use the language of his immediate successor in the Presidential chair, John Adams. "The attributes and decorations of royalty could have only served to eclipse the majesty of those virtues which made him, from being a modest citizen, a more resplendent luminary. Misfortune, had he lived, could thereafter have sullied his glory only with those superficial minds, who, believing that characters and actions are marked by success alone, rarely deserve to enjoy it. Malice could never blast his honor, and Envy made him a singular exception to her universal rule. For himself, he had lived enough to life and to glory." It was this man, whose life was so filled with honor, and whose death was so memorably mourned, that Providence put forward to lead our ancestors to resistance against British tyranny. It would be irreverent to attempt to compare him with any of those who followed him; but it is historically true that if he was essential to the inauguration of free institutions on these shores, Abraham Lincoln was alike essential to the preservation of these institutions on the more extended sphere over which they spread in a little more than half a century after he was called to the bosom of that God who made him the savior of a struggling people. It will serve to mark equally the intelligence, and the gratitude, and the stupendous growth of the inheritors of the legacy bequeathed by Washington if we consider the last canvass preceding the re-election of Abraham Lincoln to fill out the twentieth Presidential term, the trials through which his Administration has passed, the rebellious war he has been constrained to meet and master, and the final verdict upon his acts. Washington ascended to the position which became, from the sheer force of his example, the proudest in the world, after the war against the slavery of England had closed through his sublime courage and unparalleled statesmanship—Lincoln, an humbler citizen, is re-elected to the same position in the midst of a far greater contest, considering the atrocity of those who began and the thousands who have lost their lives on both sides of it. Washington was surrounded by a people grateful to God that they had been rescued from oppression—Lincoln has had to breast the ingratitude of men who are now seeking to plunge their country into an eternal war, and who have, by their every act, not only stained and dishonored the lessons of Washington in his Farewell Address, but the precepts of his wondrous life, and his constant Christian remonstrances against the institution of slavery. And while this is so of the leaders of the misled Southern people, it is a harmonizing and inspiring thought that an astounding majority of the people of an expanded and an expanding Union have proved themselves true to these lessons and examples, and have declared for Lincoln as they would have declared for Washington himself. Of the two hundred and thirty-four votes cast in the late Presidential contest, two hundred and thirteen have been given in favor of Abraham Lincoln, and of these three are slave and all the rest free. But to leave this retrospect, let us for a moment look upon the present and prospective. Even the most prejudiced and passionate opponent of the Union party must regard the circumstance of Mr. Lincoln's re-election with wonder—whether he looks upon the enormous vote thrown, or the peace maintained in all quarters, or the threats before and the submission after the decree of the ballot-box, or the extraordinary unanimity of the soldiers in the field in rejecting one who had been put forward as their idol on account of his military services. Such an observer must admit that no popular verdict has ever been attained in a manner at once so fair, so significant, and so full of admonition to treason and its accomplices. But it is when such an observer comes to the consideration of the other teachings of this election, that he will be most amazed. We have often surmised what the historian of this war would write in after times, and how he would pause with indignation over the record of the opposition to the administration of the Government, to which resistance to the rebellion was constitutionally entrusted. This would have been his sensation, undoubtedly, had not the last Presidential election resulted as it has. But in that he must find the efficient antidote to all his record of free government. Mr. Seward, in his wise and characteristically philosophic speech at at Auburn, on the evening before the Presidential election, anticipating and analyzing the decree so effectively enunciated the next day, marked the grand epochs of the war thus: The suppression of the slave trade; the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia; the successful arming of the negroes; the enfranchisement in Maryland by the judgment of the ballot-box. Here, now, are four remarkable revolutions or reforms, which, in time of peace, would have required, instead of less than three, at least three hundred years to consummate, supposing slavery to increase as it was increasing when it took up arms against the Government. We have only to remember how Washington and Jefferson, in their day and time, and the Southern statesmen in the generation which commenced with the administration of Andrew Jackson, hopelessly labored to exhibit the enormities of slavery, and to provide for its gradual extinction, to value the great practical measures against that hated institution of Mr. Lincoln's administration. I say practical, and practical, remember, as well in the border States as in the extremest slave States, where the successful enrolment and arming of the colored people have inspired the envy of their former owners, who are now themselves preparing to call the black race to their support, and to offer them the much-dreaded and denounced Emancipation as a reward for their services! Try the effect of Mr. Lincoln's majority by the financial standard. See how every interest of trade and commerce has been exhilarated by it—even those who opposed his retention in the Presidency are free to admit that his popular support is in itself the proudest, if not the strongest, proof that all *their* interests were and are closely involved in his triumph. Religion, of whatever and of every denomination, feels it in every fibre and artery. Society itself confesses that it was the only result that could have secured tranquillity in every corner of the land and the universal acquiescence of the masses. But in nothing is the present aspect more cheering than in its effect upon the honest and patriotic men who sustained George B. McClellan. Instead of finding in the re-elected President a vindictive victor—one eager to remember only those who supported him, and to force a reign of party despotism—he is holding out his hands, not simply by way of forgiveness to men who exercised the right belonging to them as citizens, but of earnest welcome—saying, in so many words: "Our only road to secure safety and the perpetual restoration of our liberties is by unity among ourselves." Do not forget how often we were threatened with Northern rebellion before the last election, if Mr. Lincoln succeeded, by the leaders of what was then the Opposition party. And many said if General McClellan became Mr. Lincoln's successor, arbitrary arrests and all the other acts necessary to the maintenance of the Government in the midst of a great war would be resorted to as against those who suggested and sustained those acts. I am not disposed to believe that any such revengeful system would have been adopted; but I contrast this threat with the fact that every one of these measures has been ratified by large majorities. The people appreciated their importance and the re-elected President signalizes his acceptance of the trust again given to him by spontaneously and earnestly telling those who opposed him that he welcomes them to his side, and will thank them for their support! From this magnanimity will flow such a stream of happiness as will carry us to a speedy ending of the contest. When the mass of the voters who sustained Gen. McClellan realize, as they must realize, the sincerity of Abraham Lincoln's proffers, their satisfaction will react upon the deluded masses in the South, and they, in turn, will compare their own stern and dreadful sufferings—their own weak and weakening resources—their own compelled submission to the tyrants that first betrayed and then ruled over them—with the repeated proffers of peace and forgiveness of the re-elected head of the Federal Government; *on the single and simple condition that they shall return to their allegiance and obey the laws they have heretofore defied.*

OCCASIONAL.

WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14, 1864.

THE NEW SEVEN-THIRTY LOAN.

The Treasury Department is still sending out copies of the appeal of the Secretary in behalf of the seven-thirty loan. The subscriptions to this loan last week amounted to nearly $3,000,000.

The subscriptions to the ten-forty loan have nearly ceased.

THE CIRCUIT COURT OF VIRGINIA.

The Circuit Court of Virginia convened in Alexandria to-day, for the second time since the breaking out of the rebellion. The docket is very lengthy, mostly of persons who have been doing business without taking the required oath of allegiance.

DIRECTIONS FOR ADDRESSING SOLDIERS' PACKAGES.

A large number of packages, intended for the army, arrive at the Washington post office with their wrappers destroyed or the address so mutilated that they cannot be forwarded, and are therefore necessarily sent to the dead-letter office. It is officially suggested that persons sending such packages should write on a card the full address and fasten it securely to the contents of the package inside the wrapper, and this will secure prompt delivery.

THE TRIAL OF COLONEL NORTH.

The trial of Colonel NORTH, New York State agent, MARVIN M. JONES, and LEVI COHEN, was resumed to-day. Several witnesses were examined, but nothing of special interest was elicited.

THE ELECTION-FRAUD TRIAL.

A number of prominent gentlemen from New York are here to testify at Colonel NORTH's trial. Governor SEYMOUR and Mr. FENTON are among the witnesses summoned.

DESTRUCTION OF THE ORANGE AND ALEXANDRIA RAILROAD.

General SLOUGH and staff arrived here from the front this morning, where he has been for the past ten days superintending the taking up of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad. This road will perhaps now be abandoned, but the cars will run as far out as Union Mills, about sixteen miles from Alexandria.

PERSONAL.

The attending physician of Lord LYONS denies that the sickness of the latter is of a serious and alarming character, as has been represented.

The 54th Massachusetts Regiment.

[It is a well-known fact that the 54th Massachusetts Regiment was not paid for so many months that the dissatisfaction of the men became extreme. They remembered their services on the battle-field, and believed that the Government treated them with injustice. In October last they were paid in full. The following extract from a letter, from an officer of the regiment to a gentleman in this city, describes the effect of this tardy fulfilment of a contract, and will be read with much interest.]

Yesterday, the 29th, was a triumphant day for the 54th Massachusetts. The anxiety of eighteen months, the depressing effect of long delay, ended yesterday in—money!

Yesterday the 54th was paid every cent for which they have morally fought since we left Readville. Payment had got to be such a myth that greenbacks were hardly recognizable when brought before the eyes of the men. What an effect it had upon them! for a deep-set suspicion of the success of their efforts had of the fulfilment of the promises made possessed them. They began to think they were deceived—were sullen, had lost faith. They could not fail to see anxiety in us, who with difficulty sustained cheerfulness. To face a row of disheartened men several times daily, to know their distress, and measure it with their deserts, to teach them lessons of patience, to punish the turbulent, and restore the tone of the regiment, was an exhausting task. From this hopeless state they were lifted into one of delight. It was like the apparition of a man's self in a more perfect state. There were the three officials with two hundred thousand in their big safe. They felt they were men; they were recognized; their status as soldiers was gained! "I can send money home at last to my wife, my child!" Forty thousand dollars went out once sent home by the regiment, through Adams' Express. Think of the effect upon their families! The Colonel Shaw monument fund was largely subscribed to. We had been eighteen months waiting, and the keeldescope was turned. Nine hundred men received their money. Nine hundred stories rested in the faces of those men as they passed in at one door and out at the other. Wagner stared Readville in the face! There was use in patience! Two days have changed the face of things, and now a petty carnival prevails. The fiddle and other music, long neglected, enlivens the tents day and night. Songs burst out everywhere—dancing is incessant; boisterous shouts are heard; mimicry, burlesque, and comical, pompous salutations are seen on all sides. Here, a crowd and a preacher; there, a crowd and two boxers; yonder, feasting and jubilee. In brief, they have awakened "the pert and nimble spirit of mirth, and turned melancholy forth to funerals."

THE ELECTION.

THE VOTE IN WEST VIRGINIA AND KANSAS

Latest Official Returns in Pennsylvania.

PENNSYLVANIA.

ESTIMATED VOTE FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS.

[Corrected by latest returns.]

	Lincoln.	McClellan.	Union Gain.	Dem. Gain.
Adams	....	500	....	90
Allegheny	8500	....	1100	....
Armstrong	120	....	....	....
Beaver	900	....	50	....
Bedford	....	650	74	....
Berks	....	6107	869	....
Blair	425	....	100	....
Bradford	3381	....	664	....
Bucks	....	800	193	....
Butler	300	....	....	....
Cambria	....	900	50	....
Cameron	....	....	50	....
Carbon	....	300	212	....
Centre	....	825	95	....
Chester	2500	....	450	....
Clarion	....	1050	....	80
Clearfield	....	1391	....	139
Clinton	....	600	70	....
Columbia	....	1000	41	....
Crawford	1800	....	150	....
Cumberland	....	750	....	346
Dauphin	1139	....	455	....
Delaware	1500	....	....	....
Elk	....	400	37	....
Erie	2500	....	430	....
Fayette	....	700	105	....
Franklin	....	47	....	....
Fulton	....	225	65	....
Forest	....	50	....	....
Greene	....	1350	64	....
Huntingdon	675	....	....	....
Indiana	2000	....	95	....
Jefferson	100	....	....	....
Juniata	250	....	....	....
Lancaster	5479	....	1479	....
Lawrence	1580	....	800	....
Lebanon	930	....	84	....
Lehigh	....	2099	....	52
Luzerne	....	2895	....	870
Lycoming	....	946	....	53
McKean	100	....	....	....
Mercer	800	....	150	....
Mifflin	....	90	....	....
Monroe	....	1800	....	100
Montgomery	....	1268	....	....
Montour	....	400	13	....
Northampton	....	3314	....	614
Northumberland	....	702	165	....
Perry	....	130	....	....
Philadelphia	9508	....	2167	....
Pike	1000	....	....	....
Potter	529	....	208	....
Schuylkill	....	1950	....	....
Somerset	1100	....	180	....
Snyder	300	....	68	....
Sullivan	....	330	....	....
Susquehanna	991	....	190	....
Tioga	3500	....	860	....
Union	435	....	....	....
Venango	500	....	175	....
Warren	800	....	160	....
Washington	500	....	....	....
Wayne	....	1000	....	....
Westmoreland	....	1400	77	....
Wyoming	....	108	....	....
York	....	3300	....	....
Total	52,192	40,877		
	40,877			
Lincoln's majority	11,315			

[Special Despatch to The Press.]

CLEARFIELD, Nov. 14.—The official vote of this county is: Lincoln, 1,371; McClellan, 2,762; Democratic gain, 139. S. J. R.

[Special Despatch to The Press.]

BRADFORD.

TROY, Nov. 14.—The official Union majority of Bradford county is 3,381. Union gain 664 from October. J. H. G.

WEST VIRGINIA.

WHEELING, Nov. 14.—Eastern papers speak of their having been no opposition to the Lincoln and Johnson ticket in West Virginia. Such was not the case, as a McClellan electoral ticket was in the field, headed by George W. Summers. The returns show an overwhelming majority for Lincoln and Johnson in every county except Wetzel. The *Intelligencer* estimates that three quarters of the whole vote cast was for the Union ticket.

KANSAS.

ST. LOUIS, Nov. 14.—A despatch from St. Joseph says that Lincoln and Johnson received about 20,000 votes in Kansas, and that McClellan and Pendleton received about 15,000. It is also stated that Crawford is elected Governor, and Clark for Congress.

THE SOLDIERS' VOTE.

Capt. J. R. Thomas, Co. A, 19th Penna. Cav., informs us that his regiment polled 195 votes, of which 108 were for Lincoln, and 89 for McClellan.

NEW YORK CITY.

NEW YORK, Nov. 14, 1864.

ARRIVAL OF THE CITY OF LONDON.

The steamship City of London, from Liverpool on the 2d instant, arrived at this port to-day. Her advices have been anticipated.

THE BANK STATEMENT.

The following is a statement of the condition of the banks of New York city for the week ending November 14:

Loans, increase	$1,500,000
Specie, do	750,000
Circulation, do	180,000
Deposits, decrease	530,000

THE EVENING STOCK BOARD.—10 P. M.

Stocks closed steady—Gold 244¾; New York Central 126¾; Erie 102¾; Hudson River 122¾; Reading 138¾; Michigan Central 129; Michigan Southern 75; Illinois Central 129¼; Cleveland and Toledo 114½; Rock Island and Chicago 108¾; Chicago and Northwestern 45½; Fort Wayne and Chicago 107¾; Ohio and Mississippi 41; Canton company 34¼; Cumberland Coal 51¾; Gold closed 244¾.

Reorganization of the Suffolk Bank.

BOSTON, Nov. 14.—The directors of the Suffolk Bank have voted to surrender the charter and organize under the national banking law.

THE WAR.

REBEL ADVANCE DOWN THE VALLEY

THEIR CAVALRY DEFEATED AND DRIVEN BACK.

GENERAL SHERIDAN ON THE FIELD.

Two Guns and One Hundred and Fifty Prisoners Captured.

A GUNBOAT BLOWN UP ON THE POTOMAC.

STARTLING NEWS FROM GEN. SHERMAN RECEIVED AT RICHMOND.

ITS TENOR TOO GOOD FOR REBEL EARS.

MOVEMENTS OF HOOD'S ARMY

Arkansas and Texas Rebels Endeavoring to Join Him.

THEY ARE UNABLE TO CROSS THE MISSISSIPPI.

A GUERILLA MURDER ON THE MISSISSIPPI

MAJOR GENERAL CANBY SHOT AND FATALLY WOUNDED.

ARMY OF THE JAMES.

INCIDENTS IN THE LATE RECONNOISSANCE AGAINST RICHMOND—GALLANT CONDUCT OF THE 19TH WISCONSIN.

(Special Correspondence of The Press.)

BEFORE RICHMOND, Nov. 13, 1864.

In every engagement there are incidents which illustrate a variety of characters, many of which are worthy of being placed on record. Those in which patriotism and bravery are comprised, cheering our brave boys on to sustain the old flag, should be held up as an evidence of their unwavering loyalty, and for the purpose of stimulating others to emulate their noble example. With this idea in view, I would refer to the gallant conduct of Colonel Fairchild's brigade in the demonstration against Richmond, September 27th. Never did men acquit themselves more creditably. Amid a terrible fire they rushed again and again upon the enemy's works with an impetuosity that seemed to insure success, but they were driven back in defeat, but not with disgrace.

At one time, when a galling fire was poured into the brigade, which caused it to waver a little, Capt. W. H. Spain, who happened to be the only remaining officer on the spot unscathed, shouted to his own regiment, the 19th Wisconsin, to advance in line and show New Yorkers how to form a line of battle under fire. The 148th New York was a part of the brigade, and inclined to give way under the swearing fire of the enemy. Under such disastrous circumstances the 19th formed, not only rapidly, but remained creditably. Shortly after this Major S. R. Vaughn, who had been under the enemy's guns, made his escape under a combination of perils.

It must be confessed that when the brigade fell back the first time from the raking fire of the enemy, they were a little in disorder, and somewhat panic-stricken; but the appearance of Col. Fairchild on the scene with his staff, together with Capt. Spain, who was the officer of the day, with drawn swords and words of encouragement, rallied the men to make another attack on the enemy's work. In this instance the success that brave officers never fail to make brave men; while, on the other hand, if the soldiers see the officers skulking behind a tree, or under any other suspicious circumstances, the example is likely to be followed.

After the second assault, under the especial inspiration of gallant officers, the men, though unable to reach the enemy's works, won for themselves the appellation of "the brave." They returned in good order, and when the line of the 19th Wisconsin was formed again by Captain Spain, there were only fourteen men, five sergeants, and one corporal to march from the field. When the regiment came out upon the Williamsburg road, the number was augmented to about forty, having been joined by the stretchers and others not in the front of battle. This regiment, whose place was on the left of the brigade, through its good conduct under that terrible fire, was placed upon the right, and in that position had the honor of marching off the field.

The 19th Wisconsin had its colors shot down five times; the last three they were in the hands of Corporal Carpenter. In that demonstration there were acts of individual bravery which give additional lustre to the loyalty of our citizen soldiers.

THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY.

A REBEL ADVANCE DOWN THE VALLEY—THE REBEL CAVALRY ENGAGED OVERTURN, BUT IS REPULSED, AND RETREAT—A PURSUIT AND CAPTURE OF TWO GUNS AND ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY PRISONERS.

HEADQUARTERS SIXTH ARMY CORPS, MIDDLE MILITARY DEPARTMENT, Nov. 12.—A cavalry skirmish took place yesterday afternoon between our cavalry, under Custer and Merritt, and the rebel cavalry. The heaviest firing was on the left of our line. Acting under orders previously issued, our cavalry commenced falling back very rapidly when the rebels first advanced. Continuing to advance, the rebels came suddenly upon our reserve, when they were received with several heavy volleys and hastily retreated.

The object of this reconnoissance on the part of the rebels was doubtless to try our strength and ascertain our position on the new line taken by our troops on the 9th instant.

General Sheridan's army now lies encamped near Kearnstown, about four miles to the south of Winchester. The ground we now occupy is the same on which General Shields fought Stonewall Jackson, and finally drove him back to Cedar creek.

HEADQUARTERS 6TH ARMY CORPS, in the Field, near Kearnstown, Virginia, Nov. 12.—General Sheridan's change of position from Cedar creek to Kearnstown has induced the rebels to again advance down the valley. At an early hour this morning skirmishing was resumed with great briskness along the whole cavalry line; but the rebels were rather weak in numbers or spirit, for they could not be induced to follow up our pickets, who, in obedience to orders, fell rapidly back when the firing commenced.

This system of tactics not seeming to draw the enemy on to our main lines, Gen. Sheridan sent off a large force of cavalry for the purpose of coaxing a fight out of the rebels. Our men are in high spirits at the prospect of having another fight before the campaign closes, and hope that the rebels have brought a large number of guns down with them.

MARTINSBURG, VA., November 13.—Important news is just in from Gen. Sheridan, up to midnight. The strategic reconnoissance by our cavalry on Friday, caused the enemy's cavalry, under Lomax, to advance against our lines on Saturday morning. Considerable fighting ensued, during which the enemy were repulsed with great loss. Gen. Sheridan then ordered Col. Powell to pursue them in their flight; this he did with the greatest vigor and success. He drove them through and beyond Front Royal, and captured two guns, one hundred and fifty prisoners, several wagons, and a large number of horses. Our losses are said to have been considerable, as the fighting was extremely warm for a short time. No infantry were engaged, but Generals Sheridan and Torbert were both at the front in person, with the cavalry, and made very short work of the fighting.

Col. Powell conducted the pursuit very handsomely, and fairly merits the success which attended it.

The escort which came in with despatches from General Sheridan last night was fired on by guerillas when just beyond Bunker Hill, but they fled when the fire was returned by our cavalry. The escort was composed of some twenty-five of the 17th Pennsylvania Cavalry, under command of Lieut. Corse.

Capt. Ira B. Cinflin, of the 6th Regular Cavalry, has been ordered to duty as special inspector of cavalry in the Department of West Virginia.

Gen. Leightbun is now in command of this post during the absence of Gen. Seward, who has gone home on fifteen days' leave.

DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTHWEST.

MOVEMENTS OF THE REBEL ARMY—THE TEXAS REBELS ATTEMPTING THE PASSAGE OF THE MISSISSIPPI TO ASSIST HOOD.

CAIRO, Nov. 14.—A despatch from Gaines' Landing, dated the 7th instant, says that the rebels had again attempted to cross the river at this place to assist Hood.

General Reynolds, of the 19th Corps, has a brigade there, and Osband's cavalry brigade was momentarily expected from Vicksburg.

It was supposed that the rebels have a force on the Mississippi side co-operating with them, and that the movement is formidable, consisting of the Texas portion of the rebel army, said to be under Magruder. But it is not believed that a crossing can be effected.

THE MOVEMENTS OF SHERMAN AND HOOD.

Apart from the rebel announcement that Hood is marching on Chattanooga, the last authentic intelligence received leads to the belief that the Tennessee river, but had not gone far beyond; and, even if he had done so, he will probably find General Thomas', or some other army in his front—at all events, a sufficient force to prevent him from making injurious progress. No despatches have been received from Sherman for several days past, for the reason, as is supposed, that he is now beyond the means of immediate communication with Washington.

The part of the country in which he is now operating will afford him ample subsistence without the trouble of transportation, and by this time he may be far beyond the point where the enemy, in Tennessee, numbers can do him harm. It is not known how long our forces may continue to occupy Atlanta. This will depend on circumstances soon to be developed. Whatever may be Sherman's programme, gentlemen who are good judges of military matters anticipate damaging results to the enemy.

NEW ORLEANS VIA CAIRO.

AFFAIRS ON THE MISSISSIPPI—CAPTURE OF CATTLE AND A REBEL BRIGADIER GENERAL.

CAIRO (Ill.), Nov. 13.—The steamer Luna, from New Orleans on the 6th instant, arrived at this port to day. She discharged one thousand barrels of pork at Memphis.

Thirteen transports were lying north of the White river.

The steamer Balurna was fired into when off Rock Island. A gunboat was shelling the woods on that place when the steamer Luna passed.

The Luna brought several hundred bales of cotton and one hundred barrels of coffee.

Several attempts of the rebels to cross from Texas with cattle, over the Mississippi, for Hood's army, have been frustrated by the gunboats. The enemy, leaving a main portion of his army, with a force numbering about 3,000 had crossed the Black River. Colonel Farrar, commanding at Vidalia, started in pursuit of them; but the enemy, hastening his movement, broke camp and moved his cattle beyond the river. Farrar having dashed on to a cross-road drove the guards, captured one-third of the cattle, dispersed the remainder, and captured Brigadier General Carver.

A rebel flag of truce reached Paducah yesterday requesting an exchange of citizens for the prisoners they had captured on the steamboat, but the request was refused.

All was quiet at New Orleans. The papers contain no news.

Cotton.—The new crop was quoted at $1.05½. Prime Sugar 22c.

The steamer Darling passed Cairo on Saturday with 485 bales of cotton for Cincinnati, and the steamer Arago brought 330 bales to Cairo.

GEN. SHERMAN'S ARMY.

STARTLING NEWS FROM SHERMAN IN REBEL POSSESSION.

FORTRESS MONROE, Nov. 13.—The Richmond papers of Friday, Nov. 11th, urge upon their readers the necessity of being prepared for startling news from General Sherman, and it appears evident from the tone of the editorials of the same date that they are already in possession of intelligence from this source which they are withholding from the public.

FORTRESS MONROE.

MOVEMENTS OF VESSELS—FOUNDERING OF BARGES WITH ALL ON BOARD.

FORTRESS MONROE, Nov. 13.—The United States mail steamer from City Point last evening brought down about twenty rebel prisoners.

The prize steamer Lucy, laden with cotton, arrived here last night in charge of a prize crew, and sailed to-day for Boston.

The steamer Andrew Harder left Fortress Monroe yesterday, for Baltimore, with two barges (the Mount Penn and A. L. Sweet) in tow. At 6 o'clock last night they were struck by a heavy squall when off Smith's point. The barges parted from the steamer, and have not since been heard from. They were heavily laden with railroad ties, and several men were on board at the time they went adrift. The schooner Ella Ogden was also in tow of the A. Harder, and has arrived here, giving the above report.

The steamer Amanda Winants has been sent in search of the missing boats.

A salute was fired yesterday by all the men of war in this harbor in honor of the re-election of President Lincoln.

A Gunboat Blown Up—Fifty-five Lives Lost.

Information has been received that the steamer Tulip, attached to the Potomac flotilla, exploded her boiler, on Friday, when down the river, and caused a frightful loss of life. Of the sixty-five persons on board, only ten can as yet be accounted for. The Tulip was a small screw-steamer of the fourth class, measuring one hundred and eighty-three tons, and carrying five guns. Her officers, at the beginning of this year, were as follows: Acting Ensigns S. G. SLUYTER and D. STEVENS; Acting Master's Mates J. ROFFENSTEG and C. H. MCCLELLAN; Engineers—Acting Third Assistants G. F. PARKS, HOWARD P. GRAY, and JOHN GORDON.

LATER PARTICULARS.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 14.—The following particulars of the destruction of the United States gunboat Tulip have been received:

She was attached to the Potomac flotilla and left St. Marys at three o'clock on Friday afternoon for the navy yard here for repairs. When passing Ragged Point, at 6.20 o'clock, her boilers exploded with a terrific crash, rending the upper portion of the vessel to pieces, in which every vestige of an army and the genius of consummate generalship have been displayed; the glorious defence of Petersburg and Richmond—the victories that have crowned our arms in Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, South Carolina, and Mississippi; the adventurous, bold, and effective efforts of our cavalry under Sheridan, Forrest, Lee, and others, we could have cause for congratulation and rejoicing. We have resisted the mightiest of the efforts of our enemies. We have encountered and defeated his largest and best appointed armies. We have thwarted his best laid plans. We have shown ourselves to be worthy of our ancestry, and have proved to the nations of the earth which is our birthright, and which has been unjustly withheld from us."

Authentic information from the seat of war will be received. It is still important to maintain the army to achieve more. The Secretary calls attention to the fact that the United States Government estimating the rebel fighting population at 1,000,000, put an army into the field sufficient to meet as many out of that number as could possibly be brought into the field and kept there. The Secretary sets down that number at 700,000, and says that the United States Government have strained every nerve to keep it to that figure by recruiting in Europe and enlisting negroes. Now, to meet this, the Confederacy must *force its entire resources into the field*. Measures were just taken to effect such an organization of the industry of the States of the Confederacy as to enable them to defend themselves. Industry without commerce, and the control of magazines and arsenals from which to draw supplies, and it was evident that all depended on the activity and success with which they developed their own internal resources. Manufactures, mechanics, and mining, were necessary to be fostered, and agriculture, too, on which depended the subsistence of the army and people; consequently the exemption acts of '62 and '63 were made in view of these necessities. Since, though the Confederate currency has depreciated, though much of its soil has been devastated, subsistence has always been plenty; railroads have been kept in order, and manufactures and the kindred arts successfully pursued. In the production of arms and all things necessary to carry on a war, Mr. Seddon believes his artizan and mechanic skill to none in the world. These results were achieved without any diminution of the numbers of the army. If any diminution was visible there it might be attributed to detentions and absenteeism. But three years of war had made heavy drafts, and the rebel Congress last winter admitted the fact that more severe measures should be adopted to keep the army in a condition for defence. The act of '62 and '63 was therefore amended. Principals who had furnished substitutes were no longer exempt, but ordered into the ranks, and in all departments of public and social life able-bodied men were sent to the field, their places supplied by invalids, the disabled, and the feeble. Only such able-bodied men as were experts, and persons of skill or craft, were spared. But the early legislation of the rebel Congress, while subjecting classes before exempt from service, gave a large direction of detail, and manifested liberality to the agricultural, mechanical, and industrial branches. It was, however, deemed absolutely necessary to *revoke that detail*, (which, as the reader will see, was deemed absolute necessary by the rebels at the beginning of the struggle,) and to enforce rigidly the laws of conscription limited to men capable only of light duty, and to reserves employment in the departments of the public service, and thus to liberate for the field all liable to such duty, except skilled artisans, experts, and men of science, and a few others actually indispensable for the maintenance and supply of the armies, by subjecting all others rigidly and promptly to the obligations of active service which the law imposes. This regulation Mr. Seddon says, has added considerable reinforcements to the army, especially when it is understood that the law allowing the acquittal by substitutement, if necessary, of 20,000 able-bodied slaves for employment with the armies as teamsters, cooks, and the like, is being enforced. The substitution of such will allow the recall to the ranks of many valuable men who have heretofore been detailed for such incidental service. Of other methods for keeping up the strength of the army the Secretary thus speaks. His remarks show how near the Confederacy is to exhaustion:

"The reserves, too, consisting of those between seventeen and eighteen, and those between forty-five and fifty years of age, have been organized under a commander for each State, and when the State is invaded, have been called into active service; they have been found an efficient force to supply guards to cities and public works, and for the large number of prisoners in our hands, and also as defenders of bridges, roads, and important points, and have thus liberated for the field many soldiers who must otherwise have been withdrawn from the active armies. On several occasions, too, portions of them have been thrown with the armies in the field as active auxiliaries. So far, wherever tried, they have exhibited the characteristic valor and aptitude of our people for military life, and have compared well with their veteran comrades in constancy and conduct. Those various measures, sanctioned by existing legislation, must materially increase and reinvigorate our depleted armies; *but it is not to be disguised that they must still leave those armies relatively weak to encounter the hosts being summoned by the enemy for subjugation.*