The Press.

THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 1865.

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

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

The Livery of Rebellion.

It is stated that, in Georgia, "the order prohibiting the wearing of the rebel uniform is strictly enforced," as it ought to be. In Richmond, and many other places, that uniform—*the degraded livery of treason and perjury*—is still flaunted before the eyes of loyal men, within view of the United States authorities, and under the very rustle of the glorious Union flag. In Philadelphia, within the last ten days, we saw a tall, well-built, saucy-looking rebel officer—attired in gray uniform, with a feather in his hat, and a stripe of gold lace running down the sides of his pantaloons—swaggering down Chestnut street as if he owned all the houses, and conferred special honor on Northern "mudsills" by condescending to walk among them—a bold and impudent varlet, who only wanted sword and pistols to complete his equipment. His uniform was so new and fresh, with the gloss upon it, that it apparently had just issued from the tailor's shop. Many persons turned round to look at the swaggering rebel, several watching him stride by, with no friendly eyes. However, no one interfered—not even the police—and he passed on his way.

It cannot be *lawful*, even certainly is not *loyal* to wear the rebel livery; but, at all events, it may be assumed that a sense of propriety would prevent keepers of hotels, boarding-houses and lodgings, especially in Northern cities, from receiving and harboring rebels in uniform. The Georgian order prohibiting the wearing of that garb, ought to be enforced in all places.

It may be argued, most of the wearers of the rebel livery have no other outer apparel, and are without means to purchase the ordinary attire of loyal civilians. That may be, but where is the warranty, even in that well-merited destitution, for the officers continuing to wear shoulder-straps and gold lace—the chief insignia of their late rank in the hordes of rebellion—and to sport the military cap or hat, equally ornamented? Above all, why should they be allowed to wear the rebel buttons? All the insignia of rank should be removed, and the buttons with them. If the wearers, who still regard us as contemptible beings, and very ordinary "Yanks," should not fancy their coats thus denuded of all, except the color, that marks the rebel, there can be no possible objection to their turning them inside out, and wearing them so. Perhaps, like Bryan O'Lynn, in the old song, they would declare them to be both "pleasant and cool." As, to use a familiar phrase, they "turned their coats" to abjure loyalty and engage in rebellion, it will probably be conceded that "one good (?) turn deserves another." At all events, if they still desire to show by their dress that they lately bore arms against the Union, the mode of wearing their coats which we suggest would effectually effect that purpose. The pie-bald appearance of gray coats and various-colored sleeve-linings would decidedly improve the livery of rebellion.

Fire and Fireworks.

The conflagration on Delaware avenue, on Tuesday afternoon, terrible as it was, happily was unaccompanied by loss of human life. Warehouse thank God, too, that it was not more destructive of property. But it gives rise to serious reflections, two of which we shall take leave to place before our readers.

In the very midst of the most crowded business quarter of Philadelphia stood a warehouse, in which, it appears, large quantities of fireworks were stored, and from which *depot* the retail trade of Pennsylvania is generally supplied—particularly on such public occasions as the Fourth of July and the Twenty-second of February, the birthdays of National Independence and of the immortal Washington, who so largely aided in maturing it. On these days, imitating the foolish custom of children and the Chinese, (who are not quite the wisest, if they are the most ancient, people upon earth,) America, young and old, indulges in a vast expenditure for "fireworks;" and it is necessary, therefore, for the wholesale dealers to have a large stock on hand, at and immediately before the recurrence of one of these national anniversary holidays. Their manufacture chiefly takes place, we understand, in remote parts of the city—ever since the blowing-up, a few years ago, of a firework factory in one of our populous districts. Messrs. J. B. Bussier & Co., whose places of business were Nos. 108 and 110 Delaware avenue, dealt largely in foreign and domestic fruits, in all sorts of canned preserves—fish, flesh, fruit, and garden vegetables—which were chiefly stored in No. 108. In the next house they had ample stores of rockets, squibs, Catharine wheels, serpents, Roman candles, Bengola lights, Irish pots, pin-wheels, flower-pots, mines, grasshoppers, snakes, Union candles, Chinese crackers, double-headers, and so forth. One account tells us that, in view of the great demand for next Tuesday (Independence Day,) there were 17,000 boxes of firecrackers in the house on Monday, besides other fireworks. In ordinary times, they are stored up stairs, but, on this occasion, had been largely brought down to the front store, for convenience of show, sale, and package. Mr. Bussier, writing at his desk, near which was a pile of Roman candles, heard a hissing and fizzing noise, instantly turned round, saw a blaze breaking out, and with much presence of mind, seized a hose, which was always ready for use on any such emergency, attached it to a fire-plug in front of his premises, and found—that *it failed to draw water*. At that first moment, a bucketful of water would probably have extinguished the then-commencing flame. The plug—in this case, literally "a plug-ugly"—had been out of order for some time. Its inoperative condition had been reported, it is alleged, five times within the last two weeks to the Water Department, and had not been "fixed:" yet, had it been repaired, it is probable that the whole conflagration might have been prevented.

These, as far as we know, are the two leading points in this case. The destruction of property, large as it is, (it never was lost; but the estimated pecuniary loss exceeds $100,000. It is believed that one or two customers, (disobeying or ignorant of the positive order at Mr. Bussier's that, on no account, should tobacco be smoked on the premises,) visited the store, cigar in mouth, and that a spark therefrom, accidentally falling, ignited some loose powder on the floor, whence the trail of fire crept on, silently but fatally, until it reached the pile of Roman candles, and, from that moment, ruin rapidly proceeded.

Two strong conclusions may be derived from this event; first, that the Water Department ought to have immediately complied with Mr. Bussier's requisition to have the plug repaired, so as to make it operative on a sudden emergency—complied with it, as quickly as a notice to the gas-office of an escape of gas is always attended to—and next, that the storage of fireworks within the inhabited parts of the city ought to be prohibited and severely punished, if the prohibition were disobeyed or evaded. Fireworks can be sold by sample just as readily as tea, coffee, sugar flour, or any other article. There is no necessity for selling them, in bulk, out of a vast storage in the business part of the city.

The event, terrible as it is, carries with it a strong and practical argument against the use of fireworks at all. Surely we can show our nationality, our loyalty, and, above all, our common sense, by other means than letting off fireworks and allowing rough rowdies and thoughtless boys to endanger property and life, on great public holidays and celebrations, by intermittingly firing off pistols. It is childish work, at the best, and no other civilized community indulges in or sanctions the practice.

We cannot conclude without expressing admiration of, as well as gratitude to, that admirable body of men—the very backbone, as it were, of our physical force—the firemen of Philadelphia. The fire, fed by such inflammable materials as assisted it in Delaware avenue, did not at all extend as far as might have been anticipated. Two or three neighboring stores and their contents were more or less injured, and the fire, rushing westward, did some damage in Water street. The firemen, aided by the police, did wonders, not only in checking the conflagration, but in rescuing valuable papers from destruction. One instance is particularly recorded—that of Mr. Richard Kelsh, of the Good Intent Hose Company, who, having heard or seen that a fire-proof safe, left open by Mr. Bussier, contained important documents belonging to the firm, rushed in and secured them, being himself saved from a fiery destruction by his engine-friends outside playing the water upon him, whereby, his apparel and his person were saved. Sundry members of Franklin Engine Company also behaved with even more than the gallantry which characterizes the Philadelphia firemen. But for this most useful force, the whole block, from Walnut and Chestnut street on one side, and between Delaware avenue and Water street on the other, might now have been a mighty mass of burning ruins. Very often, the silk-stocking classes affect to sneer at our brave firemen as "roughs,"—but, if they are sometimes *rough*, they are always *ready*. The city has every cause to be proud of this noble, honest, unpaid, volunteer corps.

A correspondent of the New York *Herald*, writing from Columbia, South Carolina, gives the following deplorable picture of the destructiveness of the Southern system of agriculture, and the absolute ruin which followed in the train of slave labor:

"The Southern planters generally say that with the exception of the loss in property in negroes, and the unsettled state of affairs which the freeing of so large a body will naturally produce, *they will be better off with free labor than slave*. They contend that *the only source of profit in the State from slavery consisted in the increase*, and that if we take away the right of property in them, they will plan to have many more in the State than they can possibly use to advantage.

"The soil of South Carolina is proverbially the poorest in the South. No effort has been made to recuperate, *but after it has become exhausted by the continuous raising of cotton, it has been allowed to go to waste and new ground cleared up*. It has been the policy of the planter to clear as much land as possible, raise all the cotton and negroes he could in a few years, and, after the soil became exhausted, he would be rich enough to emigrate to Louisiana or some other Western State, and buy a new and larger plantation."

This is but a fair parallel to the workings of the institution in Virginia and South Carolina. It yielded no profit except that wrung from a debasing and horrid traffic, and even this vile revenue could only be secured by the impoverishment of the soil, and by blasting acre after acre, plantation after plantation, State after State, and Territory after Territory, of our magnificent national domain. In less than a century it would, if continued, have exhausted all the Southern States, and thus compelled the masters to free their slaves from sheer inability to support them, or to seek in Central and South America new virgin lands to sustain for a time their wicked and wasteful system. What a contrast do such confessions as we have quoted present to the invigorating results of Northern agriculture, which, year after year, reclaims waste places, increases its products, and constantly strives with marked success to make two blades of grass grow where formerly but one could be produced!

THE PRESIDENT'S TALK WITH THE SOUTH CAROLINIANS.

What the Journals Think of It.

We continue, this morning, to quote the opinion of some of the leading journals on the recent conversation between President Johnson and the South Carolinians. The Baltimore *American* says:

"The opposition papers need not attempt to beguile themselves with such flattering unction as that the Republican party is 'split.' Men may and they strive to deceive the people with their false hoods. They know that while the President is acting in accordance with his convictions of duty, and while he is anxious not to exceed his constitutional limitations, he has exhibited the most uncompromising hostility to anything that would rekindle the expiring embers of slavery. His very distinct enunciations upon this subject to the South Carolina delegation, leave no room to doubt his entire accord with the earnest men of the Union party in the disposal of the vexed questions growing out of its lingering existence. It is well known, too, that while the President has deemed it a necessity of his position to refrain from any direct interference in the modification or enlargement of those State laws which regulate the qualifications of voters, he is quite as anxious as any man to avoid the difficulties, and perhaps the conflicts that may arise if color is unjustly and insecurely made a ground of the qualification for the franchise. In all parties there will be inharmonious and disorganizing elements, but the number of men of prominence who are striving to baffle the President in the policy he has adopted is exceedingly small. While there are many who differ essentially from his views, they are not so dogmatic as to concede that reorganization under existing circumstances is purely tentative. They admit that the experiment is entitled to a fair trial, and they are willing that the trial shall be made without disturbance or intermeddling. They prefer to postpone the extra session of Congress which has been demanded in certain quarters, in order that no dictation from that source may arrest the process of restoration which the President has inaugurated."

The Washington *Chronicle* says: "President Johnson's conversation with the South Carolinians seems to have captured the country. Its good sense and straight-out frankness have taken the wind of a dozen polished harangues. On the theory of withholding nothing from the people which can be safely confided to them, the President's course is still the very acceptable. But we attach a higher value to it. The subjects to which he addresses himself are such as test the strongest heads. He never let themselves, they are not to be clarified by brilliant logicians or inexperienced essayists. They demand strong remedies and perfectly fair dealing. As to the rights of Americans of African descent, we take it President Johnson is better able to judge than we, in his possession of these than if he were to fall in with plans that are at best experimental. It is to us a stupendous delusion to expect Congress and the Executive to do that for the uneducated freedmen of the South which the Independent States of the North have failed or refused to do for the better trained and more experienced free colored men in their section. The President is actuated by a most catholic philanthropy. He pleads for the poor whites as well as for the poor blacks. He would not see both of these classes damaged by a conflict for a doubtful advantage to one of them—an advantage which, even secured, would surely breed other dissensions and vexations. President Johnson's suggestions have the weight of experience, and may be safely entrusted to that unfailing adviser, Time, which surely separates the gold from the dross, and removes many impediments that now look like frowning mountains in our path way."

The Boston *Courier*, a leading opposition paper of New England, says:

"It is evident that, under President Johnson, the people of the South meaning in good faith to become loyal citizens have the direction of their future in their own hands.

"No conquered party in any conflict of arms was ever so liberally treated as the majority of the Northern people are now disposed to treat the lately rebellious party in the South. The complete and immediate restoration of all their local rights, save that to hold slaves, awaits them, and if they accept the boon (which, if also a right, is hardly a desire) in a becoming spirit, their liberties and the pacification of the country will be quickly consolidated.

"Some concessions must be made by the Southern people to Northern sentiment. It is naturally feared by a large portion of our people, that the white men of the South will place themselves in hostile or ungenerous relations to their former slaves. There are great temptations to this, but they ought to be avoided, not only for reasons of great dangers, but also because they are wrong and impolitic as regards their own immediate interests."

The New York *Times*, in a long article on the subject, says:

"It is sheer quackery to make negro suffrage the sovereign *panacea* of Southern ills. Whatever it would have, or would not, harm than good—is very doubtful. The worst evil of the South, as President Johnson clearly pointed out to the South Carolina delegates on Saturday, has been its class rule. A few thousand men in each State have owned most of the cultivated soil, have held most of the wealth, have had the control of the legislation and civil administration, and have keen every black man in physical bondage, but the great mass of the white men in almost total ignorance, and in almost complete servitude, mental and moral. This oligarchic power has practically shut out all the republican influences which have so mightily elevated all other parts of the country. The great problem now is how to break up that power?

"It has been said by some discerning Union men of the South that there could be no surer way of perpetuating the old-class rule of the South than the bestowing the suffrage upon the plantation laborers—that it would practically give the planter, who has now but a single vote, ten, or fifty, or a hundred votes. Whether this would prove to be the case, we cannot yet say. The relations between the races since emancipation have not yet taken definite shape enough to justify a settled conclusion. But we do say that no one has any right to assume that the negroes, having the suffrage, would vote to suit Northern men a thousand miles away, whom they never saw, and against the wishes and purposes of their employers. All the antecedent probabilities are against it. The assumption has nothing but vague speculation and empty hope to rest upon. To depend, under present developments, upon negro suffrage as the great means of reorganizing the South, is sheer empiricism.

"We are sure that immigration is a far more rational and safe process of regenerating the South than any sudden and compulsory admission of the blacks to the ballot-box. It involves no overthrow or even disturbance of State rights. It carries with it no prolongation of an arbitrary military rule. It does not exasperate the poor whites, and convert them and their children into life-long enemies. What is best of all, it will accomplish the end in view, beyond all possibility of failure; whereas, the mere gift of suffrage to the freedmen might, and probably would, only aggravate the very evils that keep the South depressed. It is true that some little time would be necessary to produce an extensive flow of emigration to the South, and to realize its results. But considering the immense interests at stake, affecting untold generations in the future, we can afford to take a little time. Ten years is but an insignificant point, as measured by the period which will be affected, for good or evil, by our method of dealing with this business. Hasty action, in a matter of such magnitude, is almost sure to be unwise action."

— A new telegraphic line from Constantinople to Smyrna, is now constructing under the auspices of the Turkish Government.

SOUTH ATLANTIC SQUADRON.

FAREWELL ADDRESS OF REAR ADMIRAL JOHN A. DAHLGREN.

His Congratulatory Order on Quitting the Squadron.

Flag-steamer Philadelphia,
Charleston Harbor, S. C., June 16, 1865.

Order No. 64—Third Yearly Series.—It is but due, before leaving, that I should signify in general orders my appreciation of the officers of the staff, whose ready assistance has so often contributed to lighten my labors.

First is Fleet Captain Joseph M. Bradford. Perhaps no one but a commander-in-chief can rightly understand the many and never-ceasing cares imposed by the proper discharge of the duties of this office, especially in war, and in a command so large as this has been, to say nothing of the abnegation of all opportunity of personal distinction which such a position demands. I shall never think but with great pleasure and satisfaction of the excellent service which this gentleman has rendered, and the never-failing energy and ability with which he has discharged his many onerous duties.

The Fleet Engineer Danby has been for the last two years in charge of the Mechanical Steam Department at Hay Point, where his industry and thorough knowledge of his business have alone enabled me to keep in active operation so many steamers—the first time, perhaps, that his power has been submitted to such a test.

Fleet Surgeon Johnson, Fleet Paymaster Watmough, and Judge Advocate Cowley have always cheerfully contributed their services in their respective branches.

The junior members of the staff, Lieutenant Commanding Matthews, Lieutenant O'Kane, Acting Master Avery, and Ensign Dickman, have always been active and zealous; sometimes in service not strictly belonging to that of their station, as for example with the Fleet Brigade, etc. The flagship has been commanded satisfactorily by Volunteer Lieutenant Gillespie.

Fleet Pilot and Lieutenant Hallards has also deserved good mention for faithful service at all times. He has generally piloted the flagship in action with the rebels.

Nor must I omit my thanks to Mr. Secretary Peterson, Mr. Cooper, and other members of the clerical department of the staff.

Upon the depot at Port Royal and its dependencies, the storeship, workshops at Station creek, and storehouses at Hay point, the vessels of the squadron have relied for their repairs, supplies, and accommodation—a great responsibility, and successful conduct of which is entirely due to the intelligent and zealous experience of Commander Reynolds, during the whole term of my command; and I shall always feel much indebted to this officer for the seal and ability with which he has administered the duties of his direction, and at the head of these respective branches, I must not omit Acting Other Engineer Young and the Master Gunner Sewell.

I have been also very much indebted to Captain Charles G. Boutell, of the Coast Survey, for the valuable information received from him so frequently for the personal attention which he has given to the movements of vessels in difficult channels. John A. Dahlgren,

Rear Admiral, Commanding South Atlantic Blockading Squadron.

Flag-steamer Philadelphia,
Charleston Harbor, S. C., June 17, 1865.

Order No. 65—Third Yearly Series.—The rebellion has been crushed, and the vast military and naval forces of the Union will now be made to conform to the peaceful condition of the country.

The number of this squadron, which has amounted even to as many as ninety vessels, has been already much reduced, and the reduction will continue until its few vessels remain.

The Navy Department has, therefore, been pleased to relieve me from the command.

In taking leave I avail myself of the opportunity to express to the officers, seamen, and marines who have served in the squadron, my earnest appreciation of the good service they have rendered.

During two years of arduous command of a squadron, blockading nearly three hundred miles of coast, including twenty-one ports, and performing every variety of service, the *personnel* of the squadron, regular and volunteer, has most creditably discharged its duty.

It is impracticable, in the limits of a general order, to do more than to point briefly to some of the principal events that have transpired during the two years of command.

The prominent purpose in view when I assumed charge in July, 1863, was to attack the defences of Charleston by a combined operation of the land and naval forces.

The effort had been previously made by each of the services singly, and though gallantly sustained, had not succeeded; it was hoped that by a united effort something more might be effected.

And the result justified the expectation so long as the effort *was* united; but when the commanding general of the department did not deem it desirable to go further, it follows, as a consequence, that the naval force was not of itself sufficient for the task.

Nor was even a trial possible that did not involve full co-operation. Any other attempt, unsuccessful, could not fail to be disastrous. This view was sustained by a council of war.

During all these operations the officers and men of the iron-clads, gunboats, and mortar-boats bore their part, and contributed equally with the army to the capture of Morris Island, though it has been asserted, in a published account of this transaction, that the approaches by land could have been pushed forward without the co-operating fire of the gunboats.

When I began to perceive that the enemy was not likely to be driven out of Sumpter except by land, and saw that the force which I had could not of itself go further unless he was driven out, I ordered the assault. It failed, but never was more gallantry displayed in the attempt.

The necessity for occupying this post was fully justified by subsequent events.

During all this time the vessels of the squadron were active in maintaining the blockade, and in furnishing men for boat duty, or for the service of some of the three batteries, and when the army operations against the interior defences were concluded, for the reasons already given, the picket duty and inner blockade devolved on the monitors, tug-boats, and launches.

Never was any service performed involving a more resolute struggle against the cold and storms of winter, the heavy sea, and the unsleeping enterprise of a vigilant enemy.

The gallant men who lie beneath the blue water enshrined in the iron sepulchres of the "Weehawken" and "Patapsco," and still further to seaward in the "Housatonic," are the witnesses of what you suffered and achieved in the common cause; while the desolate wreck that strew the shores and choke the channels of Sullivan's Island make manifest that your labors were not in vain.

The blockade was perfectly close until a few very fast steamers of trifling draft were built in England expressly for the purpose of evading it. But even they could not pass with entire impunity, for the constant firing of the blockaders would cripple the enemy's batteries, and seldom failed to open fire on the intruding steamers, frequently driving them back or forcing them in shore. In one instance they boarded the "Florie" as soon as she sounded the reef, before there was time to back off, and captured nearly the entire crew.

At the commencement of the command the duty of blockade was carried on quite as effectually, but diversified by many little expeditions which operated severely on the military resources of the enemy.

Stono was the scene of some smart actions. On Christmas day of 1863, the enemy attacked our vessels in position there, and were handsomely repulsed.

In February, 1864, the squadron furnished a strong detachment to assist in the expedition up the St. Johns.

In July, 1864, in connection with Gen. Foster, a detachment of the squadron advanced on the rebel batteries and lines in the Stono, and produced no small alarm; as Charleston seemed to be in peril. Indeed, a well-conceived blow at Fort Johnson by Gen. Schimmelpfennig had nearly succeeded.

Late in 1864 Gen. Sherman began his campaign which would of itself place him among the foremost military commanders of history; and to facilitate its communication with the fleet, a depot of supplies was made up Broad river by Gen. Foster and a detachment of steamers from the squadron manned the enemy's own communications near Coosawhatchie.

The 1st Brigade was organized from the officers, seamen, and marines of the squadron, and served as a corps, participating in all the actions, which were often severe.

At Boyd's creek and on the Tullifinney, the artillery and infantry of the brigade vied with the veteran troops, and drew the frank and appreciative recognition of the General.

At Boyd's creek the sailors and marines were ashore first, and deployed as skirmishers.

At the Tullifinney the howitzers were rushed up to assist the advance, then heavily engaged with the enemy, and, by a few decisive rounds, threw them back.

When General Sherman resumed his line of march from Savannah, to strike the blow that prostrated the rebellion, some of the marines assisted in transferring his right wing to Beaufort, and subsequently the principal forces of the squadron were brought into play with the troops of the department, and shared in the fatigue and glory of Grant and Hull's bay, in order to menace Charleston, and rendered excellent service.

In addition to a number of the obstructions at Charleston so as to co operate directly with General Sherman, then likely to incline towards the city, the "Patapsco" was struck by a torpedo, which sank so suddenly—while the "Dai Ching," in endeavoring to assist the right, under General Howard, grounded in the Wando—that the feeling of regret was not so plaintively—while the "Dai Ching," in endeavoring to assist the right, under General Howard, grounded in the Wando—that the feeling of regret was not so plaintively—while the "Patapsco" was struck by a torpedo, which sank so suddenly