Pittsburgh Gazette.

MONDAY MORNING, MAY 19.

CITY AFFAIRS.

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS for the *Gazette*, by G. E. Shaw, Optician, 55 Fifth street—corrected daily:

	IN SUN	IN SHADE.
9 o'clock, A. M.	00	74
12 " M.	92	78
6 " P. M.	00	78
Barometer,		29 5-10

The Thirteenth Regiment in the Battle of Williamsburg.

We take pleasure in laying before our readers the following extracts from a private letter written by an officer of the Thirteenth regiment, to his brother in this city. It was not intended for publication, but this fact does not lessen its interest or truthfulness:

"Our brigade went into the fight after a long and fatiguing march through rain and mud, and was under fire from half-past two o'clock until about six in the evening. The Thirteenth regiment was in a very hot place, being literally stormed at with shot and shell. Both officers and men did their duty—fought well, and bravely, and long. Their "buck and ball" carried destruction and dismay into the rebel ranks; and after they left the field not a gun was fired from the rebel lines, although our side kept up the fire for about an hour longer.

"I don't know what the newspapers may say, but what I say is just about the fact. Immediately in front of our regiment there were found ninety-six dead rebels—how many were wounded by our boys, of course, we cannot tell. The rebel prisoners say that it was "buck and ball" that did them so much harm, and our regiment is the only one in our brigade which used that kind of cartridge. The prisoners declare that they could not tell where it all came from—that sometimes they thought our sharpshooters had got up into the trees and were firing down on them, and under this belief they were ordered to fire a volley into the tree tops. You may wonder how it was that more of our boys were not killed. They probably owe their escape to being in the woods, and their position could not be seen certainly by the enemy. Only four of our men were killed; one has since died; and thirty-seven were wounded."

Another member of Colonel Rowley's regiment writes as follows:

"The honors of the late battle at Williamsburg, which rightfully belong to us, have most unjustly been awarded to others. Hancock's brigade, so much flattered and praised by the press, has obtained credit for actions performed by us. Even in the small notice at first published, of General Peck's brigade, and of our gallant Brigadier, his name is spelled improperly—Peat for Peck. The fact of the whole matter is this, we fought all the afternoon, and were relieved at dark, at which time the rebels *were whipped*, and not till then did General Hancock's brigade come on the field. I hope this justice will be done us."

Second Ward Citizen's Meeting.

At a meeting of the citizens of the Second Ward, held in the School House, in pursuance of a public call for the relief of the sick and wounded soldiers of the army.

S. F. Von Bonnhorst, Esq., was appointed Chairman, and Charles B. Scully, Secretary, and the following proceedings and resolutions were adopted:

On motion of Wm. Phillips, a Committee of ten were selected from the Second Ward, for the relief of the sick and wounded soldiers of this county who may be suffering from wounds and disease in the army of Eastern Virginia, and for the relief of any of our sick and wounded soldiers that may require attention after any of the battles that may hereafter occur.

The following named gentlemen compose the Committee; Minas Tindle, T. B. Davitt, Wm. Woods, Jas. Irvin, Louis Morganstern, Henry Hartman, George W. Weyman, John McDonald Crossan, Harry Shirls, George Wilson.

S. F. Von Bonnhorst, Chairman.
Charles B. Scully, Secretary.

Fatal Railroad Accident.

A young man named Wilson Dupes, a brakesman on the Allegheny Valley Railroad, was instantly killed on Saturday morning, about twelve miles this side of Kittanning. It appears that something got wrong with the bell rope which passes from the locomotive through the cars. Dupes undertook to remedy it, to accomplish which it was found necessary for him to get on the top of one of the cars. While in this situation something which projected out from the bank over the track, struck the unfortunate man and knocked him down between the cars, two of which passed over his body, killing him instantly. The deceased was about twenty-six years of age, was unmarried, and resided at Poland, Ohio, where his remains will be sent for interment. He served in Western Virginia in the three months' service in sh Ohio regiment, and participated in the battle of Cheat Mountain.

How John Dearing was Killed.

A private letter, received in this city, from Williamsburg, relates the circumstances attending the death of John Dearing, a member of the Friend Rifles, and a resident of the Fifth Ward. At times the fighting was exceedingly close, and while the latter was raging, young Dearing advanced to within a few yards of the color-bearer of an Alabama regiment and shot him dead. This heroic act made him a conspicuous mark, and he was immediately after shot through the heart and expired instantly. He was noted for personal bravery and daring, and his death will be alike lamented by his friends at home and his comrades in arms.

Fatal Accident--Boy Killed.

On Saturday night, between nine and ten o'clock, as the Independence Hose Carriage was running down Wylie street, (having been out during an alarm,) a boy named Nicholas Zingmaster, who had hold of the rope, tripped and fell at the corner of Chatham street, when both wheels passed over his head, breaking his jaw in three places, and inflicting other injuries. He was picked up and properly cared for, but his wounds being of a fatal character he expired at two o'clock on Sunday morning. His parents reside in Allegheny, and he was employed at Kauffman's grocery store, corner of Penn and Baldwin streets, in the Ninth Ward.

Third Ward Meeting.—The meeting of the citizens of the Third Ward, called by the Finance Committee, met on Saturday evening at the Public School House, and organized by appointing James Montooth, President, and Wm. J. Montgomery, Secretary. The following named persons were then appointed a Committee to collect money for the relief of the sick and wounded soldiers: Alexander Hillands, David Simms, Wm. J. Montgomery, Jas. Abel, Michael O'Hara, Jr., and James Montooth. On motion, the meeting adjourned.

Theater.—By a telegram to the Treasurer of the Theatre, we learn that Manager Henderson, who is now in the east, has secured the services of Miss Cecile Rush, a young lady somewhat remarkable for her beauty and her excellent tragic abilities on the mimic stage. Miss Rush will appear to-night in the difficult character of Bianca, in "Fazio, or the Italian Wife." "Wanted—1,000 Milliners," is the afterpiece, with Mr. Maffit as Miss Smithers. Of course the attendance will be large.

Houses Burned.—The house of Jacob Kuntz, Jr., of Brady township, Clearfield county, was destroyed by fire on the 7th inst. Loss about $500.....In Beccaria township, same county, some person set fire to the woods near New Castle, which did a great deal of damage. The house and barn of Jacob Kephart caught fire and were totally destroyed. Two of his children narrowly escaped being burnt to death.

False Alarm.—The cry of a woman supposed to be in some imminent danger was heard, last evening, in the direction of Try street, Hardcrabble. On reaching the place we found a woman, named McDonald, crying murder, her husband having threatened to kill her, while laboring under the influence of liquor. No harm, however, was done, with the exception of the gathering of a large and excited crowd.

To Let.—A well furnished brick dwelling, with 8 rooms and a large yard No. 833, Wylie street. Inquire of Dr. Starrett, 277, Penn street.

FROM SATURDAY'S EVENING GAZETTE.

Letter from a Returned Prisoner.

The following extracts are taken from a private letter, written by Mr. F. M. Ramaley, (who was a member of the United States Zouave Cadets, and who was in the battle of Williamsburg, and reported among the missing,) to his friends in this city. The letter is dated at Washington City, 13th inst.:

You may be surprised to hear of my being in this city; but a number of events have, together, contributed to bring me here. I presume you have read of the Excelsior Brigade being in the battle of Williamsburg. I was taken a prisoner of war there, and, with 320 others, sent to Richmond. We lay in prison nearly four days. In the same room were many of the old Bull Run prisoners. All of the prisoners at Richmond were, however, released last Sunday, on a parole of honor. Rebel prisoners to the same number were released on the same condition; but about a hundred refused to return to Secessia, and took the oath of allegiance. They were brought up to Washington with us, from Fortress Monroe. There were over eight hundred of the Union prisoners—all that were at Richmond, except officers. Our parole was, that we would not take up arms against the Confederate Humbug Government, until we were regularly exchanged by the Federal Government.

We had three days forced march from Yorktown, under a rebel cavalry guard, by a roundabout road, and were completely done out. We were driven like cattle, over roads and swamps, through mud actually knee deep, and sometimes requiring the greatest exertion to get our feet out of the mud.

I presume you have read of the perils of our march through Yorktown and in the advance. Fortunately, none of the rebel torpedoes exploded, except one, that I heard. The first night of our march a soaking rain set in, and continued next day almost all the time the battle was raging, but not so heavy. The rebels outnumbered us in the fight, but there was great slaughter on both sides. The Excelsior Brigade suffered a great deal—a great number of officers being lost. Our regiment was in fallen timber and brush, and we attacked the rebels in the woods. The fighting was desperate. I did not hear the order to retreat, (if there was any,) and when I saw our men retreat, I thought they would come back again. I saw most of those who retreated fall, and I attempted it, but the balls came singing around me like a basket of bees suddenly let loose, and I received a bullet and some buckshot through the leg of my pants, which only gave me a stinging pain. I thought it best to stay and do all the execution I could; but I was suddenly astonished to see the rebels come yelling, like Indian devils, over logs and bushes, right among us. They had but flanked and surrounded us. I, among others, was taken prisoner, and stayed that night at Williamsburg. The next morning we started for Richmond.

We have not yet been notified what will be required of us, as we only arrived in this city last night.

Our Book Table.

Artemus Ward His Book. With many Comic Illustrations. New York: Carleton, Publisher. (for Rudd & Carleton:) 1862. Pittsburgh: Henry Miner, Fifth street.

"Artemus Ward his book" will bring into the reader's hand a brimming goblet of the wine of the latest vintage, which one of our chiefest humorists has drawn for the delectation of thousands of laughing Americans. Some two hundred and sixty pages in the peculiar orthor- or, rather, *hetero*-graphic vein of Artemus Ward, may be a pretty ample allowance, but doubtless it will not be too much for the receptive faculty of those who have for years delighted to gather and repeat the mere "waifs and strays" of A. Ward from the corners of newspapers. Such persons will find this volume a priceless companion—the source of "inextinguishable laughter."

Journal of Alfred Ely, a Prisoner of War in Richmond. Edited by Charles Lanman. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1862. Pittsburgh: for sale by R. S. Davis, Agent for D. Appleton & Co., corner of Wood street and Diamond alley.

It is the good fortune of some books, that they must interest us. It needs no art or skill in book-making to produce a successful work, when an author has a subject which the public know only he can write about. Such a monopoly in authorship has fallen to the lot of Mr. *Ely*. The first released of the more distinguished prisoners taken by the rebels at Bull Run, the interest of the public has been excited and kept on the tip-toe of expectation, ever since his return, by the frequent announcements that he was preparing a complete narrative of his experiences of prison-life in Richmond. It was the thing to do. The companion of Colonel Corcoran and other distinguished officers held in durance, Mr. Ely's occasional and fragmentary sketches, spoken or written, were eagerly sought by the public, and the idea of a continuous and complete narrative was one which must strike every person as the desideratum arising out of the circumstances, and which ought to be accomplished at the earliest day practicable. Here, then, it is,—quite a volume of interesting narrative, giving in not undue detail the whole matter, so far as black upon white can make record of it. As we said, the public only await the announcement that Mr. Ely's book is ready—they have already made up their minds to read it.

"Why Paul Ferroll Killed His Wife."—Such is the singular title of a singular story. It is stated to be by the author of "Paul Ferroll"—a novel published anonymously several years ago, which was read by almost every novel reader, at that time, with an interest which even this age of sensation-writing has rarely seen equalled. The dark passions portrayed, the terrible insight into the region where the darker passions of human nature work, made "Paul Ferroll" the most remarkable book of its year, and those who have retained any trace of the impression made by that powerful story, will gladly take up the sequel which explains so much that every reader had to submit to leave unexplained—being consciously unable to do for himself what the author alone could do satisfactorily. The publisher of this "Strange Story" is Mr. Carleton, of New York, and it is for sale by Mr. Henry Miner, Fifth street, Pittsburgh.

Fire in the Diamond--Arrest for Arson.

On Friday night, about fifteen minutes before twelve o'clock, fire was discovered issuing from the cellar of a tavern in the Diamond, kept by Charles P. Mugle. The fire was promptly extinguished, but not until considerable damage had been done to the dining room, where the fire first broke out. An examination of the premises created the suspicion that the place had been set on fire, and Mr. Philip Viernelier, proprietor of the building, ordered the arrest of Mugle. It was alleged that the fire had been kindled by some one, immediately under a "musical clock" which stood in the dining room. A quantity of combustible materials seemed to strengthen this suspicion. It was alleged that the motive was to obtain the amount of insurance upon the "musical clock," and the furniture, which were insured for $1,000, in the "Pennsylvania." There was a separate policy of $200 on the clock. It was completely destroyed, but the furniture was not materially damaged. There was an additional insurance upon the liquor, in the "Girard," and the building was insured by Mr. Vierheller, in the "Home," of New York.

Mr. Mugle was absent from home when the fire broke out, but returned soon after, and was arrested. He had a preliminary hearing, but there was no disposition to press a prosecution against him, and he was discharged on his own recognizance, to appear when called on. In the meantime, the Insurance Companies interested will investigate the matter, and if the proof sustains the allegations the prosecution will no doubt be pressed.

The Illustrated Weeklies.—Mr. W. A. Gildenfenny, 45 Fifth street, has received *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, a splendid double number of this well known weekly, and *The New York Illustrated News*, which is also widely known as an enterprising competitor with the older Illustrated Weeklies. Both papers are, as usual, replete with illustrations of the war.

Arrested for Larceny.—Mr. Woodruff, wife and daughter, residing in Sharpsburg, were arrested last night on a charge of having stolen about five hundred dollars worth of goods, the property of Mr. Roth and wife, of this city. Part of the goods have been recovered, upon search warrant, and identified by Mrs. Roth. The accused will have a hearing at the Mayor's office, this afternoon.

Eds Gazette: The time draws near to nominate State and County officers. Allow me to name for State Senator, James Mooney, Esqr., of this city. He is a man of ability, purity and integrity, and just the man for the place. Pro Bono Publico.

Reformed Presbyterian Synod.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

Princeton, Indiana, May 16, 1862.

I dispatched just as the new Moderator was being introduced to the Chair. Before taking his seat Dr. Douglas made a patriotic address to the court, of which the following is an outline. He returned his cordial thanks to the fathers and brethren for the distinguished honor conferred upon him in elevating him, by their unanimous suffrages, to the high position of Moderator of the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America. They had never assembled under circumstances more solemn and critical than those under which they were now convened. It was true that the boom of the guns which vomited forth desolation on half-famished Sumter had scarcely died away on the breeze when they assembled in New York last year—that bloody battles were then impending, and have since been fought, that the Federal arms have been generally successful, and that our government has vindicated its majesty, its honor, and its self-perpetuating power before the world. Our gallant navy and brave army have displayed a prowess and a chivalry unsurpassed, under similar circumstances, by any army and navy in the world. It was true, in a word, that the back-bone of rebellion was completely broken—that rebellion was dead—and all that remained was to give it a burial in accordance with its deserts. Let it be buried in disgrace, and have no place for interment in any necropolis consecrated to the honorable dead.

But notwithstanding all this, he believed that this was the most critical period of the rebellion. For more than fifty years this Church has been testifying against slavery, and refused to hold communion with slaveholders, or even with aiders and abettors of slavery. Our testimony has been disregarded and set at naught by designing politicians and ambitious statesmen. But now God in his providence is enforcing at the point of the bayonet and the mouth of the cannon what we have failed to enforce by our living voice and written testimony. We have often declared that slavery has a disorganizing element in any government. Our prophecy has proved too sadly true. Slavery is truly and only the cause of our present troubles. Our danger lies in this, that owing to our recent brilliant victories designing politicians and selfish statesmen will, no doubt, endeavor to bring about a compromise. We could not drift on a more disastrous rock.—Should they attempt it, and succeed, we will have to pass through the same fiery ordeal and baptism of blood in a few—and a very few years hence. Let the cause remain and the effect will follow. There is no hope nor salvation for the country only in the annihilation of human bondage—the abolition of slavery.

He conceived it, then, to be the duty of this Court, before it adjourn, to give a distinct enunciation to the government and the country upon this subject. To protest against compromise with either moral or political wrong—and to warn them lest they allow themselves to be dashed against a rock which will shiver the glorious ship of state to pieces, and utterly destroy one of the best governments the world has ever seen.

He hoped that the members of the Court, would, in all their religious devotions, remember to pray for the President, the Cabinet, Congress, the Army and Navy, and the complete and final success of the government in crushing out rebellion. Nor should they be unmindful of the poor deluded rebels. Let prayer ascend that they may have new hearts given unto them, and be made to return to their allegiance and loyalty.

The remainder of the sessions, since my last, has been spent in the transaction of routine business. Joannes.

Col. Stambaugh's Report of the Battle of Shiloh.

Headquarters 77th Reg. Pa. Vol.,
Field of Shiloh, April 9th, 1862.

Capt. S. F. Davis, Assistant Adjutant General 5th Brigade:

Sir: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by the 77th Regiment Penna. Volunteers, in the action of the 7th inst.:

Pursuant to Col. Kirk's order, the Regiment moved from the Pittsburgh Landing to the scene of action, about 7½ o'clock a. m., and took position as reserve for the 34th Illinois, where we remained (moving only as the front line moved) until about 11 o'clock, when I received Col. Kirk's order to go to the support of the 4th Brigade, commanded by Brig. Gen. Roseau, which we did, under a severe fire of musketry from the enemy until about 12 o'clock. Gen. McCook then ordered me to take up a position on the extreme left of his Division, and repel the assaults there being made, to turn his left flank by the enemy. We immediately engaged the enemy, and after some ten minutes severe firing, the enemy ran, and concentrated their force to the right. We discovered a battery of the enemy on our left, of 6 guns, throwing shot and shell in the direction of where the 5th Brigade (the 77th excepted) were slowly advancing under a most terrific fire of the enemy. Immediately changing front forward on the 8th company, we poured a deadly fire into the battery, killing six or eight of their men, and all their horses, (except six, attached to one of the caissons, which escaped unharmed.)

Observing the enemy's cavalry, supported by infantry, steadily advancing upon us—we at this time were in quite an isolated position from our Brigade and Division—the infantry pouring a galling fire into us, we continued to move forward through an open field, reserved their fire, when their cavalry came down on us twice, and were twice repulsed by us with a heavy loss to the enemy. Following them up closely, they retreated rapidly through the lines of the infantry, they joining with them in their flight.

Col. Battles, of the 20th Tennessee, was here taken prisoner; his horse, being shot from under him, he was not able to keep out of the hot pursuit of our skirmishers. After receiving his sword, I returned it to him again. At this point, whilst we were still advancing in pursuit of the enemy, Gen. Buell came up, and ordered me to halt.

I refrain from giving special instances of daring coolness and courage, which came under my observation during the day, both on the part of officers and men, as all behaved gallantly. And yet, without wishing to detract from the soldierly conduct of any of the other officers of the regiment, I mention Capts. McKesson and Ross, who were most of the day with their commands, deployed in front as skirmishers. The meagre loss in the Regiment is, in my opinion, owing to the manner in which they performed the duty assigned them respectively.

I take pleasure in bringing to the notice of my superiors, Lieut. Col. Honsum and Major Stephen N. Bradford, whose services during the whole day were invaluable to myself and command. Also, Dr. Franklin Irish, Surgeon of the Regiment, who performed very efficient services on the field that day and night.

The casualties of the Regiment are as follows: None killed; mortally wounded, 1; seriously wounded, 8.

Very respectfully, your ob't serv't,
F. S. Stambaugh,
Col. 77th Reg. Pa. Vol.

From the Roundhead Regiment.

The following is an extract from a letter written by a member of Col. Leasure's Regiment, to his father in this city. It is dated, Beaufort, S. C., May 8th:

I perceive through some papers and other channels, "that the 'Roundhead' Regiment is suffering much from sickness," causing much uneasiness amongst our friends at home, besides doing us injustice. This you should have corrected. The fact is, we never enjoyed better health. As evidence of such, we have but *three on the sick list*, two of whom could do duty if required. The heat at times is oppressive, but a fine sea breeze towards evening sets in, which is quite refreshing. Beaufort is a delightful, healthy place, to which we just returned, being for some time on severe picket duty. Assure our friends in Pittsburgh and other places, that we, as their "Agents" in the "Grand Drama" now being performed, are ready and willing to play our part. Pray for the success of the "Roundheads." W. R. McC.

Among the Wounded.—Corporal D. G. Douthett, son of Joseph Douthett, of Penn township, and Private John Davis, son of Thomas Davis, of Connoquessing township, both members of Capt. Thomas McLaughlin's company, of Butler county, were among the wounded in the battle of Williamsburg. Their injuries are said to be slight.

Deputies Appointed.—John Smitley, Esq., Inspector of Spirits and Gauger, has appointed the following named gentlemen as Deputies: David Robinson, J. B. Lawson, Thomas J. Richardson, R. Haughton, John E. Small and Wm. Brown.

THE LATEST NEWS
BY TELEGRAPH.

COL. CORCORAN TO BE EXCHANGED,

Sumner's Emancipation and Confiscation Bill Reported.

ITS LEADING FEATURES.

GENERAL HUNTER'S PROCLAMATION.

NO CABINET MEETING.

LATHROP NOT WITHDRAWN.

Emancipation in the District.

THE CASE OF GEN. HAMILTON.

THE FOREIGN INTERVENTION STORY.

ARRIVAL OF THE NIAGARA.

&c., &c., &c.

[Special Dispatch to the Gazette.]

Philadelphia, May 17.—The Secretary of War has ordered the release of Col. Wm. Baldwin, of the rebel army, as an exchange for Col. Corcoran. Returned Richmond prisoners represent that the state of Col. Corcoran's health renders an immediate exchange necessary.

The *Tribune* correspondent says: Senator Sumner introduced, yesterday, the bill reported by the Select Committee on Confiscation and Emancipation. It is founded upon the two bills reported by Mr. Elliott to the House. Mr. Sumner's bill proceeds on the idea that the country is now in a state of war, and it authorises the exercise of the rights of war for the confiscation of property, and the liberation of slaves. The Committee's bill is regarded as, in principle, a new penal statute with additional penalties, founded on principles of municipal law in contradistinction to the rights of war. Indeed it is the boast of its supporters that it does not contain a word of confiscation from beginning to end. Mr. Sumner will make an elaborate speech in support of his substitute on Monday.

Gen. Hunter's proclamation, it can be positively stated, was issued without the authority or knowledge of the President, whom it took entirely by surprise. What will be done with it is a question yet to be decided. There was no cabinet meeting yesterday, and it is not probable that any determination will be definitely made until the three members of the Cabinet—Secretaries Seward and Welles, and Attorney General Bates—who are still at Fortress Monroe, return, which will not be till Monday.

It was expected that Mr. Wickliffe, or some other Border State *zealot*, would seek to introduce a resolution of inquiry into the House to-day; but they were silent, whether upon their pet principle which forbids interference with a General in the field, or not, is unknown. The President has not, as stated, withdrawn the name of Mr. Lathrop, as Collector of New Orleans. It is still before the Committee of the Senate on Commerce, which is examining into the truth of certain charges against him.

The Emancipation Commissioners have received applications from several masters who sold their slaves out of the District before the passage of the emancipation bill, for leave to bring them back and to be remunerated under the bill. They have discovered that they cannot sell to advantage in Maryland. The Commissioners have not yet decided the question.

Gen. Chas. S. Hamilton, who was suddenly relieved by Gen. McClellan from the command of his division a few days before the battle of Williamsburg, is in the city. He has had interviews with the President and Secretary of War, and Senators and Representatives are urging his re-establishment in the command of his division.

The Niagara's mails have not yet reached Washington, but we can state on excellent authority that up to this time neither Lord Lyons or M. Mercier know anything which leads them to credit the rumors about foreign intervention in our domestic affairs. D.

Southern News.

Before Corinth, May 16.—The Memphis *Avalanche*, of the 13th, contains the following from Fort Pillow:

On the 12th inst. we fought the enemy with four of our lightest boats for one hour and a half. We sunk one gun and two mortar boats. Our loss is two killed and eight wounded; that of the enemy is very heavy, as our sharpshooters literally mowed them down. We took prisoners, they retreated rapidly through the lines of the infantry, they joining with them in their flight.

Col. Battles, of the 20th Tennessee, was here taken prisoner; his horse, being shot from under him, he was not able to keep out of the hot pursuit of our skirmishers. After receiving his sword, I returned it to him again. At this point, whilst we were still advancing in pursuit of the enemy, Gen. Buell came up, and ordered me to halt.

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Our Gunboats Near Richmond.

REPULSE AT FORT DARLING.

Bursting of a Gun on the Naugatuck.

The Killed and Wounded.

&c., &c., &c.

Washington, May 17—11 o'clock, p. m.—Advices from Gen. Halleck's army, dated yesterday, and from Gen. McClellan's, dated today, have been received at the War Department. The former was in close proximity to the enemy, but no engagement had taken place. The latter was concentrating and bringing up supplies, preparatory to a movement.

The following dispatch has just been received at the War Department:

Williamsburg, May 17.—To Hon. Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War:

The gunboats Galena, Monitor, Aroostook, Naugatuck and Port Royal were repulsed from Fort Darling, seven miles below Richmond, yesterday. A portion of them have returned to Jamestown Island, near this place, in the James river. Lieut. Morris, commanding the Port Royal, sent overland to us, this morning, for intelligence regarding the forts below the island, and also to assist in burying the dead which he brought down with him. Seventeen bodies have been interred on the banks of the river, and there are a number of wounded on board, including Lieut. Morris himself.

The 100-pound gun of the Naugatuck exploded at the first fire.

(Signed,) David Campbell,
Colonel of the Fifth Cavalry.
By authority of Gen. G. B. McClellan.

The following is extracted from a dispatch to the Secretary of War by Gen. John W. Geary, dated Rectortown, Va., May 16:

A company of infantry, of my command, was yesterday ordered to Linden, to remain stationed there. A detachment of seventeen, guarding the company wagon, reached there a short time before the main body, which was on a train, when they were attacked by a body of cavalry, variously estimated at from 300 to 600, coming upon them from four directions. Our men resisted them, keeping up a sharp firing under shelter of the depot, which is riddled with bullets. My men were overpowered, one was killed and fourteen taken prisoners, three of whom were wounded, when the enemy hastily retired, under fire and some loss. I have been informed that a portion of Gen. Shields' command had a skirmish with them.

(Signed,) John W. Geary,
Brigadier General Commanding.

From Washington.

Washington, May 17.—Since yesterday eight or ten fugitive slaves have been returned to their claimants. It is estimated that there were in Washington recently about a thousand slaves, principally from Prince George county, Maryland, adjoining this District. At least forty slave-holders from that county were at the county house, to-day, filing their petitions for the reclamation of the runaways. In some cases as many as twenty-one are claimed by a single person. In several instances, after the Court had issued the necessary writs, the marshal and his deputies were unable to find the fugitives who, having by some means had been informed of the judicial process, removed beyond the reach of arrest.

The following report from Capt. Davis, commanding the Mississippi flotilla, *pro tem*, was received this morning at the Navy Department:

United States Flag-Steamer Benton,
off Fort Pillow, May 14, 1862.

Hon. Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy—

Sir: I have the honor to inform the Department that yesterday morning, a little after eight o'clock, (the rebel dagoon, consisting of eight war-clad steamers,) four of them came around the point at the bend, above Ft. Pillow, and steamed gallantly up the river, fully prepared for a regular engagement. The vessels of this squadron were lying, at the time, tied up to the bank of the river, three on the eastern, and four on the western side, and, as they were transferred to me by Flag Officer Foote, ready for action, most of the vessels were prompt in obeying the signal to follow the motions of the Commander-in-Chief. The leading vessels of the rebel squadron made directly for the mortar-boat No. 16, which was, for a moment, unprotected. Acting Master Gregory, and his crew, behaved with great spirit during the action. He fired his mortar eleven times at the enemy, reducing the charge and diminishing the elevation.

Commander Stemble, on the gunboat Cincinnati, which was the leading vessel in the line on that of the river, followed immediately by Commander Kelty, in the gunboat Mound City, hastened to the support of the mortar boats, and was repeatedly struck by the enemy's rams, and at the same time that they disabled the enemy and drove him away. The two leading vessels in the enemy's line were successfully encountered by this ship. The boilers or steam chest of one of them exploded by our shot, and both of them were disabled. They, as well as the first naval vessel encountered by the Cincinnati, drifted down the river.

Commander Walker informs me that he fired a fifty pound shot through the boiler of the third of the enemy's gunboats on the western line, and rendered her, for the time being, helpless. The action lasted during the better part of an hour, and took place at the closest quarters. The enemy finally retreated, with haste, below the guns of Fort Pillow.

I have to call the especial attention of the department to the gallantry and good conduct exhibited by Commanders Stemble and Kelty, and Lieut. Commanding S. L. Phelps.

I regret to say that Commander Stemble, fourth master Reynolds and one of the seamen of the Cincinnati and one of the Mound City were severely wounded. The other accidents of the day were slight.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant, C. H. Davis,
Captain Commanding the Mississippi Flotilla, pro. tem.

The following interesting report from Commander Parrott has been received at the Navy Department, having been forwarded by Commodore Dupont:

U. S. Steamship Augusta,
off Charlestown, May 13, 1862.

Sir: I have the honor to inform you that the rebel armed steamer Planter was brought out to us this morning, from Charleston, by eight contrabands, and delivered up to the squadron. Five colored women and three children are also on board. She carried one 30 pounder and one 24-pounder howitzer and has also on board four large guns which she was engaged in transporting. I sent her to Port Royal at once, in order to take advantage of the present good weather. I send Charleston papers to the 12th, and the intelligent contraband who was in charge will give you the information which he has brought off. I have the honor to request you to send back, as soon as convenient, the officer and crew sent on board.

Commodore Dupont, in forwarding this dispatch, says in relation to the rebel steamer Planter: She was the armed dispatch and transportation steamer attached to the Engineer Department at Charleston, under Brigadier General Ripley, whose bark a short time since was brought out to the fleet by several contrabands. The bringing out of this steamer under all the circumstances would have done credit to any one. At 4 o'clock in the morning, in the absence of the Captain, who was on shore, she left her wharf, close to the Government office and Headquarters, with Palmetto and Confederate flags flying, passing the successive forts, saluting as usual by blowing her steam whistle. After getting beyond the range of the last gun she quickly hauled down the rebel flags and hoisted a white one.

The "Onward" was the inside ship of the blockading fleet, in the main channel, and was preparing to fire when her commander made out the white flag. The armament of the steamer is a 32-pounder on a pivot and a fine 24-pounder howitzer. She has besides on her deck four other guns, one seven inch rifled, which were to be taken to the new fort on the middle ground. One of the four belonged to Fort Sumter and had been struck in the rebel attack on the Fort on the muzzle. Robert, the intelligent slave and pilot of the boat, who performed this bold feat so skillfully, informed me of this fact, presuming it would be a matter of interest to us to have possession of this gun. This man, Robert Small, is superior to any who have come to us.

From Louisville.

Louisville, May 18.—The steam ram Switzerland got aground in the canal, preventing the passage of boats. The steamer Glendale, with hospital stores, *&c.*, for Pittsburgh Landing, was obliged to return to Cincinnati, as there is but two feet water on the falls. The steamer Franklin will carry forward her stores.

From Cairo.

Cairo, May 17.—The steamer Diligent, from Hickman, brought up a load of refugees from Memphis and other points South, to-day. They all tell the same story of the hardships endured in traveling by foot through the woods and swamps, subsisting upon such provision as could be carried in their pockets. They are almost entirely composed of men in the prime of life. They bring Memphis papers to the 13th. We learn from the telegraphic columns of these papers that Pensacola was evacuated on the 12th.

On the morning of the the 12th the batteries on Santa Rosa Island, together with the fleet, commenced shelling the rebel works with no response from the enemy. After a short but vigorous engagement, a flag of truce was sent ashore to discover the cause, but no enemy whatever was found. The Federal troops were to take possession on the following day. There is no mention made of the direction taken by the rebels.

The Memphis papers contain the accounts of the late naval engagement, and denying the loss of any of their boats, though they confess the fleet was badly cut up.

The evacuation of Yorktown and Norfolk is pronounced strategical movements, and by no means indicating a rebel defeat. Williamsburg is claimed as a rebel victory. According to their accounts the Yankees were repulsed with great loss.

Refugees say that military officers from Corinth, who are frequently in Memphis, complain bitterly of the loss of the Southern cause sustained by the delay of Gen. Halleck to make an attack on them.

Beauregard has been ready for a week. Every day that passes weakens him. He has received all the reinforcements that is possible for him to procure. Sickness rages throughout his camp to an alarming extent. He has placed imperative embargo on letter writing from his camps. No soldier is permitted to send any written communication to friends.

The Union people in Memphis are reported sorely dispirited at the delay of our fleets. In anticipation of their arrival, they have been emboldened to utter Union sentiments which got them into serious trouble.

It is asserted that the fleet will have no difficulty after passing Fort Wright and the rebel fleet.

The whole country for one hundred miles above Corinth have been swept to obtain subsistence for the rebel army, which is now nearly exhausted. Serious embarrassment from this cause is anticipated.

Cairo, May 18.—The steamer Swan, from Pittsburgh Landing, has arrived. She brings news that an important skirmish had taken place, lasting nearly two days. The rebels were driven back, but not until they succeeded in burning the bridge over a small stream, four miles from Corinth. Twelve of our men are reported wounded.

Deserters continue to report the scarcity of provisions in the rebel camp. Many of their cattle are starving for want of forage.

Guerrillas infest the country around Hickman, New Madrid, and other points, committing depredations.

The news from the fleet is that several of the rebel gunboats came around Craig Head Point, yesterday, on a reconnoissance. The Benton opened fire as soon as they came within range, and they retired.

The gunboat Mound City is thoroughly repaired, and goes down to-night.

Passengers by the Swan give currency to the rumor that Bragg is in command at Corinth, Beauregard having been called to Virginia to reorganize the rebel army in the vicinity of Richmond.

Pensacola in Possession of the United States Forces.

Bevons Corinth, May 18.—The Mobile *Advertiser and Register* contains the following special dispatch:

Pensacola, May 10.—At 12 o'clock last night Pensacola Navy Yards and forts were set on fire and destroyed. When the enemy discovered what was going on, Fort Pickens opened a furious bombardment and kept it up during the conflagration, but without doing any damage to anybody at Pensacola. All public property, except the Custom House, incapable of being burned was moved, but all movable Confederate property had been saved. The railroad track leading out of the city towards Montgomery was torn up this morning. A Federal vessel, with a flag of truce, came up to the city to-day, demanding the surrender. Major Bollbe refused to comply with the demand, but stated that all the military force had left and that he had no power to oppose. The Federal officer replied they would occupy the city to-morrow, but that the inhabitants need not be alarmed.

The latest advices from Gen. Curtis are that his forces are between Benarc and Little Rock, Arkansas, rapidly marching on the capital. Gen. Rector called out the militia, and the people generally came out in large numbers and applied to Gen. Curtis for protection, and desired to come under the old flag.

A general advance along our lines towards Corinth was made to-day. Much skirmishing and several severe engagements took place. Gen. Sherman's division lost fourty-four killed and a considerable number wounded in attacking Russell's house, which the rebels have occupied for some time past, worrying our pickets. We succeeded in driving the enemy from their position back to their works. Our men are under arms, expecting an attack on Sunday morning.

Among the killed rebels left on the field was one with a sword, supposed to be an officer.

Maj. Gen. Sherman still occupy Russell House.

Several rifles captured in skirmishing on the right are perfectly new, and much superior to rifles used by our sharpshooters, having a range of twelve to fifteen hundred yards, while ours are only effective at one thousand.

In all cases of rebels left on the field were shot in the head, the wounded were shot in the neck and breast. The enemy left on the field about 40 killed and about 100 wounded.

Deserters from Corinth all report the entire absence of chloroform in their medical stores. There is probably none in the Confederacy.

The weather is very warm and the roads quite dusty.

From