Pittsburgh Gazette.

MONDAY MORNING, AUG. 4.

CITY AFFAIRS.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS for the *Gazette*, by G. E. Shaw, Optician, No. 55 Fifth street—corrected daily:

	IN SUN.	IN SHADE.
9 o'clock, A. M.	96	80
12 " M.	106	87
6 " P. M.		84
Barometer		29 6-10

Shocking Railroad Accident--Ex-Mayor Barker Killed.

A most shocking accident occurred on the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad, on Saturday evening, near Jack's bridge, a short distance below Manchester, which resulted in the immediate death of Ex-Mayor Barker, and another man named John McDonald was so badly injured that he is not expected to recover. It appears that Barker had been at Middletown, across the river from Haysville, on Saturday afternoon, addressing a war meeting, and was coming up the railroad track on his way home, in company with two or three others, including McDonald. When near Jack's bridge, they discovered a freight train coming west, and they stepped over on the opposite track to let it pass. In the meantime the Express train, coming east, at a rapid rate of speed, being behind time a little, came up unobserved, and passed over Barker, cutting his head entirely off, and breaking one of McDonald's legs, and injuring him seriously about the head. Barker was, of course, instantly killed.

McDonald is an Irishman, and resides in a court, west of the Diamond. He had been employed, for some time past, in gardening on the Island, and usually returned home on Saturday evening. He has been particularly unfortunate, as he buried one of his children a couple of weeks since. He was still alive last evening, but it is feared that he cannot recover. We are not advised as to whether any blame is attached to the train or not. An inquest was held on the body of Barker on Saturday evening, but we were unable to get the verdict.

Major Stone to Recruit a "Bucktail" Brigade.

Major Stone, of the famous Bucktail Regiment, is now superintending the recruiting of a Bucktail Brigade; he will, no doubt, be successful, as the fame of the Bucktails has spread far and wide. The name has become a terror to the enemy, as well as an inspiration to the men who bear it. The enemy have already the belief that there must be several regiments of Bucktails, and if the brigade can be put into the field of the same class of men and the same name and badge, and the same *esprit du corps* as the old Bucktail Regiment, it will be worth a division.

Major Stone, who was here on Saturday, with a view of furthering his purpose, will have his headquarters at Harrisburg, where he will entertain proposals for companies, or parts of companies, and will furnish the necessary authority for the enlistment, subsistence and transportation.

The distinguished services of Major Stone in the battles before Richmond, and the strong endorsement of Gen. Seymour of his fitness, is ample guarantee, if any were needed, that he is the right man to carry this desirable project through, and to inspire with confidence all with whom he may come in contact.

We hope to see Allegheny county represented in the Bucktail Brigade, as they will no doubt act a conspicuous part in putting a final quietus on the rebels.

EXPLOSION OF THE COM. PERRY.—As will be seen by reference to our telegraphic dispatches, the steamer Com. Perry, bound from Cumberland river, for Cincinnati, exploded at Louisville, on Saturday evening last, and afterwards took fire, and burned. The Perry was owned in this city, and was commanded by Capt. J. M. Andrews, a well-known and experienced riverman. She has been exceedingly unfortunate of late, as it has not been long since she collided with and sunk the government steamer Eunice, for which she was seized by the United States Marshal at Wheeling, and detained for upwards of two months. On her late trip to St. Louis, from this city, her carpenter and two or three of her deck passengers were drowned. The dispatch makes no mention of any injured with the exception of two or three firemen, who were killed.

TO DESTROY HOUSE FLIES.—It is perhaps not generally known that Black pepper (*not* red) is a poison for many insects. The following simple mixture is said to be the best destroyer of the common house fly extant: Take equal proportions of fine black pepper, fresh ground, and sugar, say enough of each to cover a ten cent piece; moisten and mix well with a spoonful of milk (a little cream is better) keep that in your room and it will draw down the flies. One advantage over other poisons is, that it injures nothing else; and another, that the flies seek the air, and never die in the house—the windows being open.

ACCIDENT ON THE RAILROAD.—Last week, Mr. James Kerr, a resident of Latrobe, who has been in the employ of the Pennsylvania Railroad for some time, was very seriously injured while engaged in unloading railroad iron off a track, near Huntingdon. By some mishap, a rail struck him under the left knee, tearing and lacerating his leg down to the foot in a horrible manner, and also injuring his foot.

PITTSBURGH REBEL AT WHEELING.—The Wheeling *Press* says: "One George Scott, hailing from Pittsburgh, and said to have been formerly a resident of Wheeling, was arrested on Friday evening, by order of Major Dirr, Provost Marshal, for hurrahing for Jeff. Davis. The gentleman was quite drunk, and when last we heard from him he was patiently awaiting to take the oath to obtain a release."

DEATH OF DR. THOMAS DICKSON.—We regret to announce this morning the death of Dr. Thomas Dickson. He died Sabbath afternoon at Sewickley, of camp fever, contracted on the Peninsula while there administering to our noble volunteers. Dr. Dickson was one among our leading physicians, and his sudden death will be deeply regretted in this community.

RETURN OF THE FAVORITES.—Carncross & Dixey's Minstrels have returned to our city, after a most successful tour west, and will commence their performance this evening at Concert Hall. Those of our citizens who desire to spend a pleasant evening, cannot be better suited than to go and hear this favorite troupe of minstrels.

EXTENSIVE ROBBERY.—Mr. George L. Smull, of Meadville, Pa., was robbed of a pocket book containing about $500 in bank notes and drafts, at the Lebanon Valley railroad depot, Harrisburg, on Friday last. Mr. Smull offers a reward of $100 for the arrest of the thief and recovery of the money.

A BOLD THIEF.—A German named Esler, who has been guilty of numerous burglaries at Lancaster, during the past six months, has at last been detected and committed for trial. A female companion, Mrs. Ellinger, was arrested with him, and gave bail for trial.

DESERTERS.—A letter from Company F, Capt. Cook, 11th Reserves, states that since that company left Greensburg, last winter, nine men have deserted. Eight died and three were discharged. The names of the deserters are not given.

RECRUITING IN WESTMORELAND COUNTY.—We see it stated that the number of companies apportioned to Westmoreland county has been organized, and the ranks nearly filled up. One is being raised in Ligonier, one in West Newton, and one in Donegal township.

BARN BURNED.—The barn of Mr. Alexander Ross, Unity township, Westmoreland county, near Hannahstown, was totally destroyed by fire, together with all its contents, on Tuesday night last. The loss is heavy.

TWO NEGROES, confined in the Greensburg jail, on a charge of rape, and said to belong in this county, made an unsuccessful attempt to escape a few nights ago, and have since been heavily ironed.

ALMOST A FIRE.—On Saturday afternoon a fire was discovered in the cellar of R. E. Sellers' drug store, but fortunately it was extinguished before any damage was done.

From Saturday's Evening Edition.

How the Siege Guns were Saved.

A soldier, writing from Harrison's Landing, narrates the circumstances attending the removal of our siege guns from before Richmond, and awards the credit of their successful removal to a gallant Pennsylvanian, Capt. J. W. Beazell, of the Quartermasters' Department, and formerly editor of the Uniontown *Standard*. The writer says:

"You doubtless remember it was announced by telegraph while the battles were in progress here, that our siege guns were lost! During the last day of our retrograde movement it rained in torrents. In fact I never saw such a rain, and the roads soon became almost impassable. In the rush, excitement and confusion, it required great exertions to get the trains safely through. Capt. Beazell's train consisted of one hundred and fifty wagons, one hundred caissons and forges, together with the Headquarter train. By hard work and constant watching he succeeded in saving his entire train, excepting two wagons that broke down and could not be repaired. After he got his own train secured he went back to where the rebels were throwing shot and shell as thick as hail, and worked two hours in getting the big siege guns out of the mud, where they were stuck fast hub deep. Two of them had been abandoned by their officers, the trace chains being broken. They were valuable and elegant guns, and the Captain determined he would die by them ere they should fall into the hands of the rebels. He procured a heavy rope, had traces made of it, and by appealing to the soldiers passing by, succeeded in getting them to take hold, and they lifted and dragged them out of the mud and saved them. These guns were in the advance siege train, and I firmly believe he was instrumental in saving all these valuable guns, as many officers had already advised their abandonment. In fact it was supposed by those who first passed them that they were lost, and it was so stated in the papers. All this time the rain was coming down in torrents, and he was working at the risk of his life.

"I happened to be present next morning when Gen. Keyes sent a message inviting Capt. B. to his tent, where he complimented him highly for the part he had taken in saving the siege guns, and concluded by saying: 'My gallant young friend, your services will be remembered hereafter.' Among the stirring incidents of that memorable battle field, I think it may be fairly claimed for one of the Fayette boys, that he was instrumental in saving our siege guns, which were worth a mint of money."

The African M. E. Conference.

This body, in session in Allegheny, has unanimously adopted the following preamble and resolutions:

WHEREAS, As an enlightened and humane people, we cannot but sympathize with the advancement of the principles of liberty and equality, whether it be in the disenthralment of the slaves in the British West India Islands, the liberation of the serfs in Russia, the emancipation of the slaves in the National Capital, or the confiscation of the slaves of those Southern Rebels, whose fratricidal hands are uplifted to strike down the best government ever established by man; therefore,

Resolved, That while we recognize the hand of the God of universal liberty, in raising up philanthropists and humanitarians in all ages and places, we are not unmindful of our obligations to those whose indefatigable exertions have done so much for the amelioration of the condition of mankind.

Resolved, That while the first of August must ever remain memorable in the history of our neglected and oppressed race, as giving liberty to 800,000 souls, we are, nevertheless, bound by birth, sentiment, education, and a common feeling of patriotism, to hold in the highest veneration and esteem those several periods which have recently given freedom to so many of our brethren in the land of our birth and the home of our affections.

Resolved, That we hereby tender our united thanks to God for his unspeakable mercies, to that honest, able and patriotic man, the President of the United States, to the members of Congress, heads of Departments, Generals in the field, and to philanthropists in general, for their aid in the success of those principles which so deeply concern our race, and which, under God, we hope will soon triumph.

Banquet and Presentation.

The members of the "Eagle Steam Engine and Hose Company" gave a splendid banquet last evening, at the Seeton House, at which a large number of invited guests were present. The banquet was gotten up in honor of Mr. J. Nelson, who designed the work of the beautiful new steamer constructed by the company, and which is an honor to them and a credit to our city. Hon. Wm. F. Johnston presided, and after the supper had been discussed "long and ably," he, on behalf of the company, presented to Mr. Nelson a beautiful and costly case of Mathematical Instruments, as a slight acknowledgment of the valuable services which he had rendered to the company. The speech of the ex-Governor was neat and appropriate, and was well received.

Mr. Nelson, being both modest and retiring, and more of a *thinker* than *speaker*, expressed a few words of thanks, and declining to make a speech, threw himself upon the kindness of Hon. P. C. Shannon, who relieved him from his embarrassment, and responded in an able and eloquent manner.

Other speeches were made, sentiments proposed, songs sung, and the happiest kept up until "the wee sma' hour ayant the twal."

The best of humor prevailed, and the affair was highly creditable to the company, whose generosity and liberality are proverbial.

A Camp Established.

Through the efforts of the Executive Committee of this city, Gov. Curtin has, to-day, authorized Hon. Thos. M. Howe, Chairman of that Committee, in connection with Messrs. Springer Harbaugh and R. H. Hartley, to select a proper location for a camp in this vicinity, for the purpose of facilitating the recruiting of volunteers, and promoting their comfort after enlistment.

The gentlemen above named will at once select a suitable place, and establish a camp, which will be placed under the control of a United States officer. They are also authorized to make arrangements with Major S. Montgomery, A. Q. M., stationed here, to furnish subsistence stores, clothing, and camp and garrison equipage for the recruits, as they are mustered in.

Thus another prominent drawback to recruiting has been removed through the exertions of our citizens. We hope speedily to be able to announce that Allegheny county's quota of troops, under the late call of the Government, are ready.

The McAuley Guards.

Capt. Hall, who is recruiting a company on Federal street, Allegheny, near the Suspension bridge, to be called the "McAuley Guards," is doing well. Although but two days in the field, his list already contains the names of some twenty volunteers. A meeting was held last night, at the Hope Engine House, to encourage the enlistment of volunteers. The meeting was addressed by Samuel Riddle, Capt. Hall and Lieut. Wells. A number of the patriotic young men connected with the Hope Hose Company have resolved to volunteer in Capt. Hall's company. As he is a gentleman of large military experience—having served four years in the British army, we hope to see his company speedily filled to the minimum standard.

GOOD FOR TARENTUM.—Scarcely one week ago, a roll book for recruiting a company for the term of nine months was opened in the borough of Tarentum, and on Thursday it contained *sixty-one* bona fide names. Many of these members are among the leading men of the place, who are determined that Tarentum shall do her duty to the country in maintaining the Union and the Constitution. John Boyd, a local Methodist preacher, has been elected Captain. They expect to fill the company to the maximum in a few days, when they will go into camp at Harrisburg.

RESIGNED.—Capt. J. Heron Foster, writing to a gentleman in this city, says: "John W. Johnston, the Lieutenant Colonel of the 93d Pennsylvania, has recently resigned, owing to continued ill health. He had resigned before, but it was only now, on a second application, that it was accepted. He is a brother of Ex-Governor Johnson, and is a good fighting officer."

ALLEGHENY INFANTRY.—We would call attention to the card of Mr. Richard C. Dale, in another column. Mr. Dale is endeavoring to raise a company of sober and respectable young men, and has already secured a number of names. We recommend the "Allegheny Infantry" to young men desiring to enlist in a company of this character.

LETTER FROM GEN. NEGLEY'S COMMAND.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

HUNTSVILLE, ALA., July 29th, 1862.

THE CHATTANOOGA EXPEDITION.

After lying for months in the mud of Munfordsville, after a long overland trip to Nashville, and a subsequent tedious, but not idle, occupation of Columbia and Middle Tennessee, the Pennsylvania Brigade of General Negley found an opportunity to make a little excursion history by an expedition to Chattanooga. But the history of that affair has not been correctly given. On the contrary, the official reports which *surreptitiously* found their way into print, and the rougher reports of amateur correspondents, have given a false light to the whole affair, and I understand that unjust reflections have been made by Pennsylvania papers upon the commanding officer and his brigade. I am satisfied from an examination of certain documents, for the perusal of which I am indebted to a now famous Major-General, that credit has not been given where it belonged, and that the chief fault of Gen. Negley laid in the fact that he allowed his subordinate officers—the Colonel of the 79th, and the Adjutant of the 8th Brigade—to present to the public untrue statements of facts. In justice to all parties let me make a brief statement of the matter—giving the secret history of the whole expedition.

GEN. NEGLEY PLANS THE EXPEDITION.

Gen. Negley's brigade was detached from Gen. McCook's division of the army of the Ohio, at the request of Gen. Negley, who had quarrelled with McCook, because McCook required him to furnish a man named Garrison, negro dealer in Bowling Green, with a squad of men to search for negroes in his (Negley's) camp. When the main army moved forward, Gen. Negley was detailed to guard and keep open the rear. Mitchel deflected towards Huntsville. Negley's command was increased, and he was required to keep open Mitchel's rear also. Things remained quiet until about the 20th of May. I then find that Gen. Negley advises Gen. Mitchel, with whom he had been ordered to act in concert, that a large force of rebel cavalry is being concentrated at or near McMinnville, Tenn., and urges upon him (Mitchel) to allow him to strengthen Col. Lester, at McMinnville; about the same time, he says that Starn's rebel cavalry is reported moving towards McMinnville. On the 25th of May, Mitchel, again urged, gives Gen. Negley the requested order, and Murfreesboro is strengthened by forces placed at Shelbyville, Wartrace, and other points. General Mitchel, about the same time, gets important information on the same subject, and runs to Nashville; where, on the 26th of May, he telegraphs to Negley to meet him.

AN INTERVIEW WITH GEN. MITCHEL.

On the 27th of May Negley was at Nashville, and had an interview with Mitchel and Lester. Mitchel asks of Negley an elaboration of the views which he had telegraphed him. Gen. N. states to him briefly his information. The rebel force threatening Murfreesboro comes from Chattanooga, taking advantage of the Sequatchey Valley. The true way to attack him, is to do so by the same route he attacks Starn's force in front, drives it into or across the river, or captures it. At the same time, by thus threatening Chattanooga, it compels the rebels to withdraw from McMinnville, or from some other point, to reinforce Chattanooga. While his plan is offensive against Starn, it is strategical also, and, besides, made by the route named, the railroad brought supplies near at hand. To make Murfreesboro the base would require an expedition of greater magnitude than both Generals could plan. A calculation was made; 5,000 men could be spared for the expedition; Gen. Mitchel decided that it should be made, and placed Gen. Negley in command of it. "When can you put your troops in motion," asked Mitchel. "Tonight," said Negley. "Then I will go to bed," said Mitchel, and the interview ended, Lester dissatisfied with the plan.

THE MARCH UPON CHATTANOOGA.

At 4 o'clock on the next morning the troops of Gen. Negley were in motion at Columbia, on the way to Pulaski. By a special train the General reached Columbia the same day. From there he telegraphed to Gov. Johnson, and Gen. Morgan, in front of Cumberland Gap, the purpose of the expedition. He said to Morgan that he should be in front of Chattanooga on the 6th of June, and that it was his belief that the movement would result in the evacuation of Cumberland Gap—that the rebels laid more stress on the position at McMinnville and the results it promised, than they did on the Gap. He pushed forward, takes the command at the head of the column, and enters Pulaski on the 29th. On the 31st he is at Fayetteville, where he received more intimations of danger at Murfreesboro, and is required by Mitchel to look to that place and reinforce it. Examining these documents closely, I am inclined to think that Mitchel was fearful of the result, and trying to shirk the responsibility. He says in this dispatch that he is at a loss to understand Beauregard's movements, the evacuation of Corinth taking place at this time. Negley's reply is to the effect that if the expedition is pushed forward and the road cut at Chattanooga, the evacuation of Corinth will be in vain, and that it is his belief that Beauregard is passing via Chattanooga east. On June 3d, the march having been resumed, Negley enters Winchester, dispersing a small force and capturing several prisoners. On the 4th of June, Gen. Morgan thanks Gen. Negley for his advice, and wants to know what force is moving against Chattanooga. And on the same day Negley enters Sweden's Cove, attacks, disperses and pursues the rebels.

I need not recount the incidents of that hand to hand encounter of the cavalry which resulted in so signal a defeat of the rebels. On the 5th inst., he is at Jasper, beyond his new base of supplies, and he begins to look about him as his flanks. He puts Col. Sill's brigade at Shell Mound, to protect his right. He puts a regiment at Battle Creek to protect the left and to hold the pontoon bridge over the creek. He then orders Turchin's brigade by one road and Col. Hambright's by the Anderson road to Chattanooga. On the 6th he is there. On the 7th the fight takes place, and on the evening of the 8th, he begins to retire.

WHO GOT THE CREDIT.

Who got the credit. Hambright and Turchin had a newspaper quarrel for it. Neither deserved it. Mitchel telegraphed to the War Department the substance of Negley's dispatches and reports, while Negley remained silent. Such a silence was injurious to himself—to the men he brought with him from the Keystone State, and to the friends he left there who take a pride in him as a man and officer. Gen. Mitchel got the credit, because he claimed it, and I do not know but what he deserved it for the very reason that he claimed it. You will not deny that those who read his dispatches thought so. Negley is too delicate in such matters—too delicate by half. I learn with regret that he has suffered in reputation by his silence.

ROSE WATER POLICY,

—and particularly so by his silence in regard to a publication singling him out as a general of the "rose water school." Nothing is more unjust. I know it from an observance of his past policy in the West. In regard to slaves, his policy is that of the President's late general order—to use them for camp duties. He is the first General in the army of the Ohio who has used slaves as teamsters. On the 25th inst., his Quartermaster General was ordered by Major Lidell, in General Buell's name, to press in fifty negroes, in Maury county, Tenn., as teamsters for two trains of wagons, and the order has been executed. During an expedition against guerrillas on the Tennessee river, Gen. Negley arrested all the woolen and cotton factors, and the iron founders in the vicinity of Florence, and stopped their contraband trade with the rebels. On the same expedition, he levied a tax of $200 on a county in Tennessee to pay damages to a man named Rawson, who was a Union man, and who had been robbed by the rebels. He ordered Lieut. Cook, his Aid-de-Camp, to ride ten miles out of his course to pay damages, raised in the same way, to a widow lady, who had been robbed. In no other part of the country has any other General yet dared to levy a tax on secessionists. Can you recall an actual *bona fide* case? The "rose water policy" article accused him of guarding the property of secessionists. In his district, Gen. Negley has guarded the property of but two men—John Morgan and Gen. Gideon Pillow. The property of the first is guarded to protect the horses of Mr. Morgan, who is a violent, uncompromising Union man, from Walford's Kentucky cavalry, a set of as big horse thieves as ever John Morgan commanded. The guard over the property of Gen. Pillow is meant to take care of 400 head of United States horses, which have been quartered there for some four months past.

Is this "rose water?" Oh! that we had more of it.

SELMA.

A NEW CAMP is to be established at Lancaster, and the equipments will be forwarded in a day or two.

THE LATEST NEWS

BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM WASHINGTON.

OUR SPECIAL DISPATCHES.

[Special Dispatch to the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

WASHINGTON, August 3, 1862.

GUNBOATS FOR THE OHIO RIVER.

Gov. Dennison, Mr. Gurley, and the rest of the Ohio Committee, had a long interview with Capt. Fox, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, on Saturday. They represented the exposed condition of Ohio and Indiana, along the Kentucky border, and that no military force, however large and well managed, could adequately protect the whole border from such incursion of guerrillas as the recent one into Indiana, which tend to keep up constant alarm, and to feed the hopes and encourage the audacity of secessionists throughout Kentucky.

They found the Navy Department very cordial in co-operating in their views. It was agreed on all hands that the Government could not afford to permit the rebels to gain the immense moral effect in encouraging their people, and stimulating them to renewed efforts, which these guerrilla invasions were certain to give them. They must on no account be permitted to believe they can invade northern soil with impunity. It was believed that no way was so effectual for guarding the border as an efficient gunboat force on the Ohio river. After full conference, therefore, the Navy Department promised the Committee as many gunboats for service exclusively in the Ohio river as they wanted. Ten small boats, drawing only two feet, have already been selected and inspected by agents of the Navy Department.

The Secretary promised that a heavy force should at once be set to work to cut these boats down, put on thick wooden bulwarks, and plate with iron after the most approved models. Each boat is calculated to carry two guns, and be able to patrol the Ohio river any where from its mouth to Pittsburgh. These boats will be hurried through, mounted, and put in commission immediately.

It is believed that when they are placed on the river all danger of guerrilla invasions will be at an end. Two wooden gunboats were able to preserve order along the whole Tennessee river while that country was in the hands of the enemy, and it is believed, therefore, that ten iron clads will form ample police force for the Ohio.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR MR. WALCOTT GONE TO OHIO.

Assistant Secretary of War, Mr. Walcott, left here at 7 o'clock on Saturday night, on a special train, to attend a funeral of a member of his family in Ohio. He was accompanied by Gov. Dennison.

THE CONDITION OF KENTUCKY.

A letter has been received here from Garret Davis, fully confirming the views of the present condition of Kentucky, recently urged by the Ohio Committee, and urging the necessity of a speedy relief to the Union men of Kentucky. The express belief is that Morgan's raid has strengthened the secessionists and dispirited the loyalists, and say great apprehensions exist that the experiment will be repeated on a larger scale, with a view of getting over the border if possible, the first favorable opportunity.

The recent movements for a call of an extra session of the Kentucky Legislature originated with Union men, who believed that the crisis demands a lodgement of such powers as is usually entrusted to the Governor in some loyal hands. They also desired to take steps for having Kentucky raise her quota of troops under the new call, and for having them employed mainly within the State itself. The General to have command of the forces Gen. Hallack has promised for immediate use in Kentucky and along the border has not yet been selected. The trouble seems to be, that a general good enough to be placed at the head of such a department is too good to be spared now from service in the field.

Gen. Rousseau has been more talked of than any other, but no prospect of getting him settled. That Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky are again to be constituted either separate military departments or separate districts in Buell's department with the General having almost independent powers, subject of course to Halleck. The Ohio Committee return greatly delighted with Halleck. They profess themselves entirely satisfied that he will make the war as vigorous as the full use of all the means at his disposal will permit. They believe, too, that he is now as sound on the confiscation of rebel property and the use of rebel slaves as the people could wish, and that he is fully alive to the momentous importance of a speedy and decisive action. Their visit has wrought a marked improvement in the tone of public feeling, and coupled with Halleck's declaration about confiscation and his orders to McClellan, and Pope's movements, inspire more confidence than has been manifested at the capital for some time.

ARRIVAL OF SURGEONS.

Thirty-seven surgeons had arrived here up to Saturday night, for Pennsylvania regiments, under the law authorizing the addition of one to each regiment from this State.

ABSENTEES FROM THE ARMY.

Absentees from duty in the army are making frantic efforts to get furloughs from the War Department under the late order. They generally receive cold comfort.

GEN. SHIELDS.

Gen. Shields was in town on Saturday, in full uniform. It is understood that the War Department hasn't yet accepted his resignation. He's taken off one of the stars of his shoulder straps since the Senate's refusal to confirm him a major general.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST GEN. WOOD.

Senator Sumner has received several letters from prominent officers in the West, making bitter complaints against Gen. Thos. J. Wood, of Kentucky, commanding a division in Gen. Buell's army. They accuse him of violating the article of war forbidding the employment of soldiers to return fugitive slaves; of stripping negroes naked, tying them to trees, and whipping them with his own hands; allowing men, whose sons were officers in the rebel army, at home on furloughs, to roam through his camps at pleasure, ostensibly hunting up runaway slaves, but really getting information for their sons to take to rebel commanders; guarding the property of rebel officers, and releasing rebel officers from confinement because they were only mulattoes who testified to their being such. Gen. Wood is a native of Mumfordsville, Ky., a graduate of West Point, and a colonel of cavalry in the regular army.

CONFISCATION ORDER EXPECTED SOON FROM GEN. HALLECK.

A general order is expected from Gen. Halleck in a day or two, embodying his views on confiscation, use of slaves for military purposes, etc., telegraphed you on Friday night.

FROM LOWER KANSAS.

Advices from Lower Kansas announce great outrages by rebel outlaws and Indians, under Quantrell, committing murders, burglaries, etc. The Indian Agent has written here, asking leave to enlist the friendly Indians to restore order.

GUARDING REBEL PROPERTY.

Capt. Steele, of the Sturgis rifles, McClellan's body guard, arrived here to-day from the Peninsula. He makes a statement, that notwithstanding the recent orders, rebel property is still guarded in that army, and gives this startling example: Col. Carter, a rebel officer, whose plantation is just inside our lines, was wounded in the recent battles. On his plantation are one hundred slaves, and a large quantity of valuable property that could be made useful for the army. The property is protected by guards from our army, and as late as Thursday last the rebel Col. Carter was living quietly at home recovering from his wounds, and unmolested by our army.

THE CASE OF CAPTAIN HARRISON.

Gen. Pope has written a very sharp letter to Capt. Harrison, the officer for whose apprehension he recently offered five cents reward, rebuking him for his card of explanation in a New York paper, telling him he had no adequate grounds for resigning, and that his excuses were trumped up to cover his disgraceful conduct, and assuring him that it was his deliberate purpose to disgrace before the American people any officer in his army who would be guilty of such conduct.

From Fortress Monroe.

FORTRESS MONROE, Aug. 2.—It is rumored and believed here that the new Merrimac has come down the river as far as Fort Darling, and that she is hourly expected to make the attempt to come down further.

All the Federal gunboats have passed up beyond Harrison's Landing, and not one is now in sight.

A detachment of infantry and cavalry from Gen. McClellan's army made a reconnoissance down the Chickahominy through Diascund, and came on toward Williamsburg till they met our pickets, and then returned, after reporting to Fortress Monroe, by telegraph, that in their reconnoissance they had seen nothing of the enemy.

Later.—The mail boat from Harrison's Landing arrived at Fortress Monroe at a quarter to three this p. m., and brings the following information:

Last night between 12 and 1 o'clock, the rebels opened fire on the centre of Gen. McClellan's army, which continued for about an hour and a half, from four rebel batteries of flying artillery, opposite the Landing—some above and some below. They threw shell of six and twelve pounds, round and conical, and not one of them exploded. The firing, no doubt, was intended for our camps, but many of the shot fell short, and they did but little mischief to the shipping, which was laying at the landing, and at anchor in the stream. Several vessels and steamers were struck. It is reported that nine of our men were killed and three wounded.

It being in the dead of night, and our army in expectation of an attack in front, there was some delay before our guns opened fire. In half an hour, however, the siege guns were brought to bear upon them, and in less than forty minutes the rebels were all silenced. The firing was very brisk while it continued. Many of the rebels shell were thrown over among our camps, but they did not explode. All the explosions which took place occurred some distance from the camps, and this accounts for so few being injured.

It is thought that the motive of the rebels in this action was to draw the Federal gunboats down the river to enable their boats—the new Merrimac &c.—to pass out.

The rebels, it is estimated, threw over five hundred shells, which lay, this morning, scattered profusely over the field, and some lodged in the masts of vessels.

All that is known of the fate of the rebels is that they fled, and this morning the trees where they had planted their batteries, presented a shattered appearance, many being cut completely down.

We could learn nothing more about the new Merrimac than has been already reported, and heard nothing to contradict the statements already published.

There was one Federal gunboat near the landing, which opened fire immediately on the enemy, but they did not appear to notice it, as they were so intent on shelling our camps.

If the rebels motive was to draw our gunboats down the river, they were unsuccessful in their efforts, for not a single gunboat made its appearance save the one already there in the right spot.

WASHINGTON, August 3.—It is said in usually well informed circles that direct and decisive action is to be taken in prosecution of the war, and that a perfect agreement exists between the principal Generals and the Executive branch of the Government. This is asserted to be the certain policy of the Administration to be vigorously consummated. Indications seem to confirm the truth of the statement.

The National Bank Note Company, who have the order for the postage stamp currency, say they will furnish large supplies by the 15th of this month.

The following named officers have been made acting volunteer Lieutenants for gallant conduct: C. Deming, U. S. gunboat Mound City, and John W. Johnston, gunboat St. Louis, of the western flotilla; also, Thomas C. Woodward, steamer Shausheen, John Macdonald, steamer Cero, of the North Atlantic squadron.

Conferences of the Rebel Leaders in Richmond.

MEMPHIS, July 30.—The *Bulletin*, of this morning, has the following from authentic sources, among other interesting items, as to the proceedings of the rebels:

We have some inkling of the subjects discussed at the two Conferences of all the principal military leaders, held in Richmond, on the 4th and 5th inst. It is understood that they came to the conclusion that they must lose more territory. The defensive policy was strongly attacked, and both Lee and Beauregard advised the invasion of the north at three points, namely: from Cumberland, or Williamsport, into Pennsylvania; from Louisville and Cincinnati into Indiana and Ohio, and from Paducah and Cairo into Illinois. It is alleged that the following plan of operations for the remainder of the summer campaign was agreed upon:

First—The immediate obstruction of the James river, so as to make it impossible for McClellan to use it as a means for communication with the Government, and for their transportation of reinforcements and army supplies.

Second—The occupation of Williamsburg, Yorktown and the entire Peninsula.

Third—The recovery of the whole territory of Virginia, and the suppression of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad.

Fourth—For the recovery of New Orleans, Memphis and the Mississippi river, and the expulsion of the Federal troops from Tennessee and Kentucky, when the objects have been accomplished, the Lee and Beauregard plan was proposed.

Fifth—To make the Potomac and Ohio rivers at once their basis of operations, and frontiers line, and to transfer the seat of war from Virginia to Maryland.

Sixth—To hurl upon Washington from Richmond a column of 200,000 troops. By the capture of that city the liberation of Baltimore, and the invasion of the North at the three points above named, becoming in turn the Invaders. They hope to make it necessary for us to keep at home for the defense of our cities 500,000 troops.

From Vicksburg---Rebel Raids in Tennessee.

MEMPHIS, July 31.—The gunboat Carondelet arrived yesterday from Vicksburg, but brings no later news.

Several gentlemen, from Brownsville, arrived last evening, and bring some particulars of a rebel raid under Faulkner, on that place, on Friday last. Every man there buying cotton was taken prisoner, and $120,000 taken from them. Four hundred bales of cotton were burned. Five hundred Federal cavalry arrived the same evening, when the rebels fled, and were pursued; a slight engagement took place on the Hatchee and Forked Deer rivers, in which a number of rebels were captured, including Ferris, and the bridges destroyed.

The rebel Jackson, who was at Denmark on Saturday, with three hundred of his cavalry, is reported near Villipique, marching on Bolivar. Jackson used a pontoon bridge to cross Forked Deer river. Heavy cannonading was heard at Bolivar on Saturday and Sunday.

On Saturday the telegraph was destroyed and portions of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad torn up at Humboldt.

Rebel Raid in Missouri.

QUINCY, Ill., Aug. 2.—About 150 rebels under Dunn, attacked Canton, Missouri, sixteen miles north of this place last night. They shot Wm. Carrygh in order to get some rifles stored in his warehouse. They took the rifles, and plundered the stores of what they wanted and left. The amount of damage done has not been ascertained.

Important from Washington.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2.—Under a recently enacted law authorising an additional Assistant Surgeon for each regiment, a number of assistant surgeons were to-day duly mustered for those from Pennsylvania now in the field.

As the stringent orders respecting absent officers and privates will soon go into effect, many persons are now here endeavoring to save their military friends from the effect of furloughs.

Hon. Thomas F. Bowie has not been unconditionally discharged, but was released on his parole.

The notorious female spy and mail carrier Belle Boyd, was captured near Warrenton recently and sent to this city yesterday in charge of a Federal officer. She is now in the old capitol prison. This woman is represented as a sister of Mrs. Charles J. Faulkner, and for a long time past has been engaged in carrying rebel mails to Richmond from points within our lines.

The President to-day pardoned some ninety soldiers who have been confined in the Penitentiary under sentence of court-martial for various offences. In compliance with a recent act of Congress a few are unconditionally released, being unfit for military duty on account of ill health, but others were required to go to their regiments or some others in service.

Measures are being taken to organize a brigade for the defense of Washington from among the employees of the departments. It is said that 2,000 clerks can be enrolled for that purpose.

The sale of condemned horses, etc., at Government cossal on Tuesday and yesterday was largely attended. A hundred and thirty-five horses were sold at prices ranging from $1 to $56; fourteen mules at from $12 to $70, and forty-three col's at from $7 to $10 each. The proceeds of the sale amounted to over $2,000, and the sale, considering the class of animals put up, is considered a very successful one.

The Ohio Committee in behalf of Gov. Tod, who have been in conference with the Executive authorities relative to military protection in the most exposed quarters, to-day accomplished the object of their mission in, as one of the delegation remarked, the most satisfactory manner.

Immense War Meeting at Lancaster.

LANCASTER, Pa., Aug. 3.—One of the largest meetings ever held in this State, outside of Philadelphia, was assembled in this city yesterday afternoon for the purpose of aiding enlistments. Eloquent speeches were made by Dr. Muhlenburg, Col. J. W. Forney, Morton McMichael, Esq., Rev. Alfred J. Cookman, and others. Recruiting offices were opened in the midst of the assemblage and large numbers enlisted in the regiments to be raised by this county and which will soon be ready for the field. Resolutions were adopted sustaining the Government in the prosecution of the war with unremitting vigor and energy by employing all the resources in men and money at their command, and using all means to injure and destroy the rebels in their armies and property, that the laws of civilized war permits, declaring that policy and the laws of war alike demand that the Government in suppressing the rebellion shall inflict on the armies and property of the rebels the greatest injury in the shortest time and with the least loss to the soldiers and treasurers of the Union, and supporting the President in the execution with all the power of the Government of the confiscation and liberation enactments of the last Congress, in their fullest meaning and extent.

Guerrillas in Missouri.

HUDSON, Mo., Aug. 3.—Porter's band of guerrillas crossed the North Missouri Railroad on Wednesday last, and on Thursday night crossed the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad, on their way to the northern counties, pursued by Col. Guitar's forces. Porter had between 600 or 700 men. Bands numbering ten, twenty, and fifty were constantly joining him. Poindexter, another notorious marauder, with about an equal number of men, was marching on Glasgow yesterday, where there are less than 200 of our troops.

The guerrillas in North-eastern Missouri will probably muster 2000, but it is confidently believed that their operations will speedily be brought to a close by the prompt and efficient measures adopted by our forces. Porter and Poindexter profess to have come from the Confederate government to raise recruits and then join Gen. Price, who, it is expected, will soon be in the State again.

From Gen. McClellan's Army.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Saturday, August, 2, 1862.

Six hundred troops crossed the river yesterday afternoon, for the purpose of destroying the houses and woods on the opposite shore, which had afforded protection to the rebels. Everything in the shape of a dwelling was burnt.

This was the point from which the rebels shelled our shipping and encampment the night before.

The affair was successfully accomplished, without the loss of a single man.

The gunboats this morning were engaged in shelling the shore and houses down the river. Five men were killed by the enemy's shells the night before last, and two wounded.

Southern Items.

CAIRO, Aug. 1.—Advices have been received by Gen. Strong, from Bloomfield, Mo., that about 100 of Coleman's men were surrounded in that town by some 500 or 600 rebels; that a sharp fight was going on, and that our troops thought they could sustain themselves until reinforcements, which have been sent from Cape Girardeau, could reach them.

Letters from a rebel mail captured at Corinth on the 29th ult., indicate a rebel movement on Chattanooga and Nashville.

The Grenada *Appeal*, of the 28th, says that the Federals have abandoned the idea of taking Vicksburg by water. They are evidently awaiting the co operation of the land forces.

Steamboat Burned.

LOUISVILLE, Aug. 2.—The stern-wheel steamer Commodore Perry, with a heavy cargo of cotton and tobac