THE DAILY PITTSBURGH GAZETTE
AND COMMERCIAL JOURNAL.

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THURSDAY MORNING, AUG. 21,

The New Troops.

It is stated at Washington that at the rate the new levies are now moving forward to their destinations, sixty thousand reinforcements could be given Pope and McClellan within the week, and that an equal number can be forwarded to the Western armies. It is universally remarked of the troops as they arrive that they are composed of a better class of men than many of the earlier regiments. Washington begins to assume the old appearance of June and July, of a year ago. The town is rapidly filling up with strangers. The regiments in Gen. Pope's army are beginning to receive recruits from home pretty rapidly, to fill them up to the maximum again. One Massachusetts regiment alone, the Thirteenth, has received one hundred and thirteen of these recruits.

Gen. CASEY, who has been appointed to take charge of these troops, as they arrived at Washington, has already made his preparations, and is waiting to receive them. His appointment to the position of providing for the troops arriving at Washington, gives great satisfaction. His previous experience has demonstrated his fitness for the position. In spite of the injustice done to Gen. Casey, by McClellan's hasty dispatches from the Peninsula, he is stronger in the confidence of the Government and the community than ever, and through the simple force of his own character alone; for no General in the army has less of the wire puller and the politician. The adoption of Casey's Tactics, as the result of the recommendation his system has received from the best military authorities, is a just tribute to his labors. It is a satisfaction to see the book of the traitor Hardee giving place to the work of so loyal a man as Gen. Casey, which before this should have displaced it.

This new army, as to physical and mental and moral power, is greatly the superior of the army created a year ago. It will not need the same weeding, and will sooner be in the condition for active duty in the field. In fact we do not believe there ever was an army created in any country, composed of so good material as is now making up the new six hundred thousand levies.

Enlistment of Male Nurses for the Army.

The surgeons in charge of the different hospitals are enlisting, under the recent order of the Secretary of War, male citizen nurses to take the places of those soldiers who have been performing such duties, but who are now, under a recent order, being remanded to their regiments.

The enlistment of the above class of nurses is for one year, receiving pay of $22 per month, one ration per diem, clothing and medical attendance. Preference is given to those who have served in such capacities in civil hospitals. *N. Y. Times.*

A board of medical officers, consisting of Inspectors Perley, Cuyler, and Coolidge, Surgeon Smith, and Assistant Surgeon Webster, United States army, has been convened in Washington, by order of the Secretary of War, to revise and improve the medical regulations of the army. This is one of the important steps of reform instituted in the Medical Department by Surgeon General Hammond.

Wheat and Cash Seeking a Place of Security.

The Cincinnati *Gazette* says that enormous sums of money are being received in that city from Kentucky, to secure it from the advancing rebels. The *Gazette* adds:

Wheat, in immense quantities, continues to arrive here from the interior of the State, per Kentucky Central Railroad. Hundreds of vehicles of every kind, from an express wagon to the huge "broad treads," are engaged in transferring the grain from the depot in Covington to the railroad depots in Cincinnati, where it is shipped eastward. Upon our expressing some satisfaction yesterday to a grain dealer, at the vast amount of wheat passing through the city, he remarked that our astonishment would be increased to amazement, could we see the immense piles of wheat at Lexington, Nicholasville, Paris, Georgetown, and every station along the Covington and Lexington Railroad, awaiting shipment in this direction.

Another Brother of Mrs. Lincoln.

A letter from So De Kay, a participant in the battle of Baton Rouge, to the Granada (late Memphis) *Appeal* says:

Capt. Alex. A. Todd, (a brother of Mrs. Lincoln) of Gen. Helms' staff, was instantly killed, and Capt. Willis S. Roberts, commanding the 4th Kentucky, dangerously wounded. Capt. Todd was a young gentleman of fine accomplishments, great personal daring, exceeding amiability, and the warmest home affections. But the evening before he wrote to his mother, and just before the accident he was conversing with Lieut. L. P. Payne, ordnance officer of the brigade, communicating the message he wished conveyed home in case of his fall. Brave boy! he met his end serenely, and his body was interred by tender and loving hands.

That secession-sympathising organ of Illinois Democracy, of the Egyptian type, has lost a correspondent, to whom it has been largely indebted of late. We read in a western dispatch that W. H. Isham, the Memphis correspondent of the Chicago *Times*, and the sutler afloat of countless sensation rumors, has been arrested by Gen. Grant for giving false accounts of alleged guerilla raids at Brownsville and other places.

THE TAX APPOINTMENTS.—The tax appointments begin to be decided upon more rapidly. Secretary Chase and Commissioner Boutwell agreed on the list of collectors and assessors for Ohio; and the nominations thus made are now in the hands of the President.

The New York appointments are to be taken up and a day spent on them.

Gov. SPRAGUE'S COLORED REGIMENT.—Thirty-five men entered their names at Providence as members of the colored regiment now being raised by authority of Governor Sprague. Gentlemen have been there from Connecticut and other New England States, to learn as to the probabilities of the regiment being raised; that they might recruit for the same in their respective localities. These men will come legally into service under the second draft.

THE CALL IN OHIO.—The Cincinnati *Gazette*, of Tuesday, says:

Four Ohio regiments were armed and equipped yesterday. Two others are ready for the same process, and will be dated out within a few days.

FROM GEN. McCLELLAN'S ARMY.

EVACUATION OF HARRISON'S LANDING.

The Public Property Safely Removed.

The Federal Army evacuated Harrison's Landing, on last Saturday, Aug. 16, at about 8 o'clock in the morning, and at about the same hour Gen. McCLELLAN'S advance, by land, arrived at Williamsburg. Gen. SUMNER had command of the rear-guard, and passed the Chickahominy safely. All the public property was removed.

The following account of the whole scene, which possesses many elements of grandeur, is from an eye-witness:

HARRISON'S LANDING, Aug. 16, 1862.

Harrison's Landing is evacuated. Without a struggle, without a blow, without even the loss of a single man, the immense army of the Potomac, officers and men, bag and baggage, stores, tents, horses, ammunition and contrabands, are now far away from Harrison's Landing, leaving it a deserted and desolate plain.—For several days this important movement has been going on. Ten days ago, when on the way from Fortress Monroe, to Harrison's Landing, in the mail boat, John A. Warner, I was convinced that the evacuation had already commenced, from the fact that steamer after steamer, and vessel after vessel passed us steaming or sailing in the direction of Fortress Monroe laden heavily with horses and stores. All agree that the whole affair has been admirably well planned and executed. For a wonder, everybody did not know everything that was to take place before an order was given, and for a still greater wonder after an order was given no one knew the result; for if it related to the movement of a brigade or division, men and officers, Colonels, and even Generals, speculated as to the meaning of the move, such as "What does it mean?" "Where are we going?" "Is the whole army going to move?" &c.; and even at this moment your reporter is asking the two former questions at Fortress Monroe, without being able to obtain more than a supposition for an answer.

I have said that this movement had been in contemplation some time, but the first intimation of it took place on Monday last, when McCall's division received orders to strike their tents, provide six days' rations, and be ready to move at a moment's notice.

At 9 o'clock at night the whole division arrived at the wharf, and embarked quietly on steamers; left the landing some time during the night for Acquia creek, as was supposed, via Fortress Monroe. An order was next issued that no more vessels loaded with supplies should proceed further than Fortress Monroe; and on Wednesday ten days' rations were served to the army, which was required to be in readiness to move at an hour's notice. All the knapsacks of those who were ordered to march by land were placed on board barges and schooners, for the humane purpose of relieving the men of their weight and incumbrance during the hot and weary march. On the same day Gen. McClellan and Col. Ingalls left Harrison's Landing for the nearest telegraph station, and communicated with the War Department as to future movements, returning the following day.

On Thursday the army commenced evacuating in earnest. All the siege guns were removed from the front, and safely embarked on board barges and schooners. Porter's corps led the van of the overland portion of the army on Thursday night. On Friday morning every tent was struck, and then, for the first time, was it generally known that the whole army was about evacuating Harrison's Landing. On Thursday night fifty sail of vessels left the different wharves, loaded with stores, and yesterday the remainder of the stores were placed on boats and steamers by the contrabands. All the cavalry that remained before the final departure of the land forces acted as pickets, and a strong rear guard of infantry and artillery was placed to protect the baggage trains. The sick and wounded who remained at the different hospitals were placed on board regular steamboats belonging to the Sanitary Commission at the Long Wharf, and were among the first to move out into the stream. Contrabands were shipped on schooners, barges and pontoon bridges, and it was an amusing sight to see the hang'dest boats with their ebony freight pass the different steamers and wharves, to take their place among the others anchored in the stream, or hear the questions, answers and jokes which passed between the two parties, amid the "ha! ha!" of the white men and the "ya! ya!" of the black.

Gen. McClellan and most of his staff moved by land, and yesterday afternoon Col. Ingalls and Capt. Rankin started across the Peninsula on horseback. Capt. Sawtelle remained to direct the operations at the Landing, and great praise is due him for his energetic and indefatigable exertions and excellent management throughout.

At 7 o'clock last night, I went on shore for the last time from the mail dock. On the pier, and the bank above it, but a few barrels and boxes remained to be shipped; and, with the exception of the Provost's guard, this was all that remained on shore of the Army of the Potomac. For as the eye could reach nothing could be seen but a mighty plain of desolation and ruin. The ground was strewn the whole distance with more rubbish—for here, there, and everywhere, large fires burned, and anything that could assist the rebels ever so slightly, was fast becoming a heap of charred and blackened ruins, or lay useless by destruction upon the ground. Old tents and bags either fed the flames or lay about, torn into shreds; boxes and barrels were broken; in fact, nothing remained that would be of use to the enemy, except thousands of cool and shady bowers, built by our soldiers from limbs and boughs of trees, in lieu of tents, which were kindly left standing to woo the rebels on their onward march to Washington, and rest their weary limbs and cool their fiery spirits down.

All being now safely embarked on board the different vessels, Col. Butler, commandant of the depot guard, called in his sentinels, who were on duty at the different wharves, and marched his regiment on board the North America. His regiment, the 93d New York, have performed the arduous duties of guarding the depots at White House and Harrison's Landing with credit to themselves and satisfaction to the whole army.

And now they, too, are all embarked, and the last steamer has steamed to the center of the stream, the mighty fleet quietly resting at anchor on the bosom of the placid James, waiting for the changing of the tide, which is the signal of departure.

The last steamer had paddled out in the stream. This occurred about 9 o'clock. The moon was about half full, shedding sufficient light to clearly distinguish surrounding object. Up and down the river, far as the eye could reach, the fleet lay quietly at anchor; the many colored signal lights, bright and flickering, looked like fairy stars of various hues, flashing along the shore line. A light breeze was blowing up the river, rippling the water noiselessly, each ripple moving as with fairy life, from the reflection of the fires on the banks. A sound of many voices singing a hymn, in the direction of the negro barges, came floating musically over the water, to the tune of "We're bound for the happy land of Canaan." All else was still as death, and as I sat upon the deck of the steamer looking at the enchanting scence I thought of "peace and good will to men" rather than war and war expeditions.

We did not leave until near 7 o'clock, a. m., when all being in readiness at the change of the tide, the whole fleet moved slowly down the river. Nothing occurred of any particular consequence during the voyage. We met a few steamers and vessels bound up in the direction of Harrison's Landing. I thought that they were going there with as little purpose as the mail boat John A. Warner, which arrived at the Landing about 6 o'clock p. m., the night previous, with nearly two hundred soldiers and civilians. On her arrival Capt. Sawtelle ordered her into the middle of the stream, and she returned to-day with the rest of the fleet, and her two hundred passengers.

I should have mention that Capt. Sawtelle, as well as others connected with the Quartermaster's Department, embarked on the steamer Long Branch. The signal corps were called to board, Gen. McClellan having given a special order to that effect. They, it some talk of promoting the officers of the signal corps to Captains in the regular army.

FORTRESS MONROE, Aug. 17, 1862.

The head of the great fleet down the James river, that left Harrison's Landing simultaneously with the column that took the land route down the Peninsula, began to arrive here yesterday morning.

All day yesterday the roads were filling up with the immense fleet, embracing every conceivable kind of craft, presenting, as it turned the point of Newport News, a grand, though melancholy sight. Melancholy, because it filled the mind with the recollection of the great and profitless events and scenes, since we saw the army of the Potomac, the grandest the continent ever beheld, land here last Spring, and commence its proud, confident, even defiant march up the Peninsula; because it brought to mind the bloody contests it had seen; the tens of thousands slain; the tens of thousands more wasted by disease; the untold human suffering; the bloodiest page in modern warfare; because it overwhelmed the mind with the contrast of what that army was with its promises, its hopes, and the expectations reposed in it, and what it now is, what it has done, what it has failed to do, what it is now doing—returning with less than half its numbers, along the route it went, by which it advanced, almost every mile of which is marked by unenumerated graves of fallen heroes. So ends the campaign of the Peninsula—so comes back the army of the Potomac!

But a comparatively small share of the army has come by transports, and none have been disembarked here, save disabled men, who go into hospitals or pause to recruit their health. No public proclamation has yet been made of the destination of the army or of any part. The principal portion of it, which is on the march, will not halt until it reaches Yorktown. As to what will follow, the general belief is that the most of the men will be embarked in transports and follow those now afloat into one of the rivers of Virginia, with the view of co-operating with Pope's army.

It seems to be generally understood that a considerable force will be left on the Peninsula.

A vast amount of baggage and property has been unloaded at Hampton, which now, as in the spring, has become a depot. The bridge over Hampton creek is being repaired with as much expedition as possible, and many things indicate that the lower end of the Peninsula is to be numerously occupied.

Long before this is read, the entire army will have moved away from Harrison's Landing, on its way down the Peninsula, the head of the column perhaps at its halting place, the rear this side of Williamsburg—no enemy pursuing. Gen. Sumner commands the rear guard. Last evening it was understood that he had crossed the Chickahominy. No enemy had been seen since the movement commenced and it is probable that the rebels will not know of the withdrawal of time to pursue.

To-day a strong north-easterly wind keeps the transports in the Roads. Its abatement will be the signal for their leaving.

Gen. Burnside came and went yesterday, in some way or other connected with the movement.

Gen. Hunter's Negro Brigade.

It has been asserted by the New York *Herald*, and papers of a kindred character, and repeated and commented on, in all its phases, that Gen. Hunter's negro regiment has been dissolved, having proved a failure. Having no means of disproving this assertion, in the absence of advices from Port Royal, we let it pass until we could ascertain the fact. It now appears that, just as we expected, all these statements were false.

Lieutenant Luther G. Briggs, Adjutant of the First South Carolina Volunteers, denies the whole story of the disbandment, in a letter to the New York *Tribune*, from which we take the following extract:

SIR: I notice a paragraph in the editorial columns of the *Tribune* of the 15th inst., to the effect that Gen. Hunter's negro brigade had been "disbanded" because of the insults and abuses they were continually subjected to by some of the white soldiers. This is a mistake. The "First Regiment South Carolina Volunteers" has not been disbanded. Several companies have been detached from the regiment, and sent, with their white officers, to St. Simon's Island, on the coast of Florida; and those remaining in camp at Drayton's, on Hilton Head Island, were, just before the departure of Gen. Hunter, given permission from the Colonel commanding to return for a short time to their plantation homes and to their families. The majority of the soldiers availed themselves of the privilege, but a few of them preferred to remain in camp. The reason for this is satisfactory to Gen. Hunter. The army in the department is in a state of inactivity, and nothing can be done until the hot and fever season is over, and until the forces there have been multiplied. Under the circumstances, therefore, it was deemed a favorable one from which to grant furloughs, to be called together again when their services were needed. But nothing has been said about disbanding them; and I have positive knowledge that Gen. Hunter does not purpose to do any such thing—not unless the President should issue a peremptory order to that effect.

And I am not willing that the report should go abroad that the noble Union soldiers who compose the army of the Department of the South, are so pusillanimous as to be insulted, or degrading an act as to "insult" and "abuse" an unfortunate and unoffending people—though they be of a sable complexion. I believe the truth to be quite the contrary. Indeed, I was quite lately pleased to observe the quiet harmony with which the distinction of white and black regiments worked side by side, in the trenches and felling the outside stockade at Hilton Head, during the period of the anticipated attack from the mainland opposite Dawfuskie Island, and from the lips of more than one officer and soldier I heard remarks similar to the following: "Well, your black boys do bring the trees down!" and, "I don't care how many negro regiments Gen. Hunter raises, if he'll only continue keeping them at work doing the fatigue duty of the department!"

My experience has been, and I think it coincides with that of my brother officers, (men whom Gen. Hunter has found "competent and fitted in every respect," and whom Gen. Stevens, in a remonstrance against so large a draft for officers being made on his brigade, said: "the men fitted for service in those regiments, and the men I have already detailed, are the *valuable men* in their companies,") the uniform experience of those officers, as I believe, will be, that they and their commands have generally been treated with courtesy and respect by those with whom they came in contact, and that they have no occasion for regretting the acceptance of a trust reposed in them by Gen. Hunter, nor of serving under so distinguished a Colonel and so accomplished a gentleman as James G. Fessenden, believing that what is honorable for the Major General to order, and for his aid-de-camps to assist in performing, are in no manner so disreputable for those who received appointments under them. And so all sensible people believe, and will continue to believe, notwithstanding the slurs and insuendoes so profusely lavished, and assertions volunteered quite gratuitously by many (who are in no danger of being appointed to a command,) that "they wouldn't accept *any* position in a nigger brigade."

Very respectfully yours,
LUTHER A. LUENE G. RIGGS,
Adj't 1st South Carolina Vols.

New Haven, Conn., Aug. 15th, 1862.

Kentucky Legislature.

FRANKFORT, Aug. 18, 1862.

This morning at 11 o'clock Hon. James F. Robinson was inaugurated Governor of Kentucky, in the hall of the House of Representatives, the Senate and its officers being present. Mr. Robinson made the best speech for the occasion I ever heard. He possesses the entire confidence of the Union party of Kentucky, and he will prove himself equal to the emergency. B. C. Wickliffe, of the Lexington *Observer and Reporter*, is to be Secretary of State, and James W. Tate, is to be Assistant Secretary. These are most admirable appointments and will meet the approval of all Union men. The Senate by unanimous vote re-elected Hon. John F. Fisk Speaker of that body. This is a high and deserved compliment to Mr. Fisk, and is indicative of the situation in which he is held by the Union party of Kentucky.

The John Morgan scare has subsided.—*Special to Cincinnati Gazette.*

THE BATTLE OF CEDAR MOUNTAIN.

The 28th Pennsylvania Volunteers--Why Not in the Fight--Gen. Geary--46th Pennsylvani Volunteers Almost Annihilated--Knap's Battery--General Banks.

[Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

CAMP NEAR BRANDY STATION,
TWELVE MILES FROM CULPEPPER,
August 15, 1862.

On Saturday, the 9th, we, (*i. e.* Gen. Geary's Brigade,) were ordered to the front some six miles from Culpepper. The heat was terrible. When two miles from the battle field, we of the 28th P. V. were ordered to take a road to the right, and under the guidance of Lieut. Harvey, to take a hill near James City, a post village, from which the signal corps had been driven and which was essential to the success of the army.

As we marched along we could see the shells bursting a mile or so off on our left. We went on, and soon word came that the enemy were in front, but this turned out to be a false alarm. As night fell, we quietly took the hill, and next day, according to orders, reported at headquarters. I mention these particulars to show that the 28th did its duty. When we started out, we all thought we were going to have the hard work. The reason Gen. Geary sent the 28th instead of the Ohio boys was, because it would have taken two of those regiments to make up the requisite force, and they would not be so manageable, and knowing us better, he had confidence in us.

As our pickets had been driven in, Banks was ordered to the front, to hold the position, which he nobly fulfilled. Knap's Pennsylvania Battery (officers and men from Pittsburgh and Allegheny county) stood the brunt of the fight. Soon after they had taken position, a battery opened on them from the woods to the right in front of them, which, after about an hour's firing, they silenced. For a while all was quiet, when one of No. 1 gun saw a cannon being planted about a thousand yards to the left, which, unless silenced, would drive them away. The third shot upset the whole affair, gun, carriage and all. And now they thought they would have some rest; but not so, for, suddenly, a battery, or collection of batteries, opened on them, and with deadly effect, killing horses and men. There, for two long hours, they fought this awful odds, and fought it well. The woods were literally alive with men, and every shot told with fearful effect. Now, a party would rally forth for their wounded, but only a few would get back alive, so hot was the fire. At one time the rebel cavalry made a charge, but were met by a discharge of spherical case, which killed and wounded between 30 and 40, after which they took cover in the woods again.

About this time (4½ o'clock) the 46th Pennsylvania Volunteers, Col. Knipe, made their charge. On they went in a wild whirl, and took the battery. Now came the order to fall back (by the way, and with the order came 5,000 infuriated rebels, and fired, and when I rubbed the mist from my eyes—lo, the noble 46th was no more; it had melted from my sight in one instant, and never reappeared again in that fight, and two days after only numbered 124 on rank and file! All honor to the noble 46th.

At this time Geary had his men lying flat on the ground, firing as they best could, to escape the shells. At length the time came to charge, and Geary rode with his staff at their head, they rushed in and took the battery again, but for want of support, had to fall back and leave it. Three times did they charge and take it, and each time were driven back. Gen. Geary now (7 p. m.) had to leave the field being wounded in his arm and leg. When he arrived in Culpepper, he was very weak from loss of blood, but is since better, and hopes are entertained that he may save his arm. Inch by inch we were driven from the field, and had the order for Thompson's Battery we should have suffered much more. They stopped the last advance of the enemy's artillery at midnight. McDowell and Sigel fought some at dead of night, but they were only in time to keep the rebels back, not to fight them.

One shell from the enemy took off the head of a negro cook who was acting as powder monkey, and tore off the thigh of Sullivan, who was No. 7, and killed another man. Knap's Battery lost 4 killed and 9 wounded. Banks' army corps was awfully cut up, but still Jackson, with all his superiority of numbers, was checked. Our wounded, however, were left on the field of battle two days, without succor, in the broiling August sun. Banks and all his men fought like lions. Both sides fought with unexampled obstinacy, 7,000 to 40,000. The rebel loss, I believe, is greater than even ours. Knap captured a rebel caisson, in which the cartridges were made of ladies' dresses, of all stripes, spots and colors. You can judge of the execution of Knap's fellows when I tell you they can hit the head of a barrel at 2½ miles almost every shot. All the Generals here were wounded—even Banks. J. D. T.

"Will Negroes Leave their Masters?"

A Virginian, writing to the New York *Tribune*, says in answer to the question above:

There is no doubt that the Southerners thought their negroes would remain safely with them during their rebellion. Their early boast was as sincere as their disappointment has been mortifying. We all remember the contemptuous utterances of the Charleston *Mercury* on this subject. The aged editor of that paper was as kind a master as the South ever knew; his slaves wanted for nothing; and yet I can furnish positive evidence that when, at the great fire in that city, this wealthy and distinguished citizen's house was burning down, he called vainly upon his negroes to assist in the extinguishment of the flames. With their hands folded they saw the fire raging. The old man sank from that moment into a melancholy frame of mind, which accompanied him to the day of his death, which soon followed. He was a Northern man by birth.

My father was quite an extensive slaveholder, residing, before the war broke out, in Falmouth, Va., and now in Fredericksburg. He was a man of honorable feeling, of strong religious principles, and with a strict sense of justice. In comparison with most of his neighbors he was the model of a master; his slaves were cared for in the tenderest manner, and had many privileges which it was not usual for slaves to have. They all resided in one of the most obscure portions of Eastern Virginia, where I could count on one hand every Northern man who passed that way in twenty years. (On one occasion, in my boyhood, Horace Greeley passed through on his way to visit the mining regions in Virginia, and though it was not known till he was gone, the sensation lasted several months.)

When the rebellion broke out I knew, by private letters received, that the negroes were regarded as entirely on the Southern side. It was written: "They (the negroes) have increased their hold upon our affection by their increased devotion and loyalty to us." There is no doubt the negroes did seem far more fond of enslavement than ever.

But no sooner did the United States military lines reach Fredericksburg than every single one of my father's slaves not hired out below those lines deserted and gained his or her liberty.

Some Washington correspondents have asserted that it was suggested to them that they could and should be free. This is not true. Not a single soul put it into their minds. I for one did not dream of their leaving till they had left. They had no harsh treatment to complain of. Some of their children hired at Richmond and elsewhere had to be left. There were many hardships in the way of leaving yet these negroes, kindly treated, untampered with, unable to read and write, leaped at their liberty as soon as it came within reach.

In view of these and many other facts bearing on the same point, I venture to give the President a piece of purely military advice. It is not impertinent, because he has announced that he is not a military man. Of course I could not take upon my conscience the unpardonable sin of supposing a military General—a graduate of West Point, for example—can be advised in any particular. This is the advice: Let Governor Sprague take his colored regiment to Alabama. Then let Gen. Hunter send his 1st South Carolina regiment, and Governor Sprague send his, into regions *utterly unstrategic*—regions untraversed by any roads leading to seized arsenals, custom-houses, or forts—points which the rebels would never dream of defending; let these colored regiments go forth into the deserted heart and forests of those States, their single object being to gather up all the slaves they can find. The black faces of those regiments will be welcome enough.

Like snowballs accumulating as they roll, those regiments would swell so presently that the rumor would strike through the rebel ranks that a million of blacks were slaying men, women and children; not a word of this would be true, Mr. President, any more than the reports in the Baltimore and Richmond papers that John Brown with several hundred thousand negroes was invading the South was true; but think how fine it would be to see those fellows scampering away from Richmond and Vicksburg to defend their homes from the great negro army! Gen. McClellan might then cry "Shoulder spades!" and march straight into Richmond. All the rebellion needs is a strong counter irritant; a blister-plaster of colored regiments on the back would draw finely, and your proclamation to the rebels to *disperse* would suddenly have a new significance in their eyes.

A Confession of Defeat.

Among the letters seized on board the steamer Memphis, lately captured by the Magnolia on a voyage out of Charleston, was one from Mr. Ward, late American Commissioner to China, to his wife in Paris. It was very long and very explicit in its description of the state of affairs in Richmond. We are not permitted to copy the letter at length, because it has been sent to Washington for the information of Government, but we may say that the substance of it was this: That "the cause of the Confederacy is lost"—a confession which occurs more than once—and that the late battles before Richmond, though they may have been disastrous to the Federal army, were exceedingly disastrous to the rebels. At the time the letter was written Mr. Ward estimated the number of wounded men from those battles at no less than fifteen thousand.—*N. Y. Evening Post.*

Iron-Plating and India-Rubber.

Commodore PORTER, in his official report of the fight between his gunboat, the Essex, and the rebel ram Arkansas, and the rebel batteries opposite Vicksburg, says:

The Department may have some idea of the amount and number of shot, shell, plugs and rifle missiles thrown at this vessel, when they are now informed we were two hours and a half under fire of seventy heavy guns in battery, twenty field pieces, and three heavy guns on board the ram. During that time this vessel was heavily struck forty-two times, and only penetrated twice. This fully proves the admirable character of the iron plating, as the thickest iron was but an inch, with one inch of india rubber beneath, according to my method now patented.

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