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C. B. M. SMITH, ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW, has removed to KUHN'S LAW BUILDINGS, No. 12 Diamond street, next door to St. Peter's Church. my16:d1y

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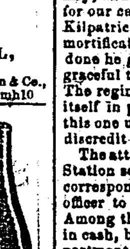

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Pittsburgh Gazette.

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FRIDAY MORNING, AUG. 29.

THE ARMY OF VIRGINIA.

The Rear-Guard Cavalry Engagement—Disorderly Flight of part of the Harris Light Cavalry—Attack upon Catlett's Station—A Strange Exemption of Gen. M'Dowell's Staff Baggage Train—Narrow Escape of Gen. Banks, etc.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 25, 1862.

An officer of the Harris Light Cavalry, who was wounded in the encounter on Wednesday, beyond Brandy Station, and is now here on regimental business, gives the following account of the fight and disorderly flight of part of his regiment: As has already been stated, the rebel advance guard first came in sight of our rear guard of cavalry on Wednesday morning, a little beyond Brandy Station. Their skirmishers were deployed and our pickets driven in, after which a regular bushwhacker fight ensued, and continued for over three hours. All the way from Culpepper to the Rappahannock, Gen. Pope's retreat was covered by Bayard's cavalry force, moving in three columns, of which one came by the main road, another by the Stevensburg road, and the remaining one over the fields in the center. The rear guard which was attacked comprised the Harris Light Cavalry, 1st Pennsylvania, and 1st New Jersey. For more than an hour and a half—in fact, until they had fired sixty rounds of ball cartridge from their carbines—the Harris Light Cavalry stood their ground, and when their cartridge-boxes were emptied, skirmished with their sabres. The ammunition train was six miles away, at Rappahannock Station, and there was nothing else for it but to keep a bold front and make a show of resistance until our army had got safely away over the river. So little by little Gen. Bayard fell back, disputing every inch of the ground as far as Brandy Station, and repulsing all the charges which the rebel squadrons made. The country road crossed and recrossed the railroad track several times in the course of three miles, and at one of these points a charge of the three rear platoons of Major Harhans' battalion of the Harris Light was ordered. The Major was not at hand just at the time to direct the movement, and dashing Lieut. Col. Kilpatrick had ridden off to the left to secure the co-operation of the New Jersey cavalry in a combined charge of the two regiments. The order was given to Lieut. Smith, but not obeyed; for, in a moment, an attack by the enemy seeming imminent, he turned and fled, and his platoon, panic stricken, clattered at his heels and broke for the nearest shelter of woods. With them they carried away the two supporting platoons, and for a while disorder and confusion seemed likely to infect the whole rear guard. But Kilpatrick, leaving all plans and consultations to be made at another time, galloped across the fields through a shower of rebel bullets to the woods, where the broken platoons were wildly riding about, and waving his saber, he shouted, "Halt! halt! Will no one stand by me? Halt! You disgrace the regiment. Stand by me, and we'll rally, boy!" And then he swore by all that was sacred that he would not leave that spot, but go alone and charge the enemy. In a few minutes the men were rallied, and at their head Kilpatrick dashed upon the rebel cavalry, and checked their advance long enough for our column to regain its steadiness. When Kilpatrick saw his men break he cried from mortification, and after the day's work was done he gave them such a talk that the disgraceful thing is not likely to happen again. The regiment has made such a reputation for itself in previous actions and skirmishes that this one unfortunate affair will not bring much discredit upon it.

The attack of Stuart's Cavalry upon Catlett's Station seems likely to prove as rich a mine for correspondents as the one during [illegible] officer to the rear of the Peninsular Army. Among the trophies carried off were $40,000 in cash, belonging to the Quartermaster's Department of Gen. Pope's army, and his own commissions as Brigadier General and Major General. The latter was, however, recaptured by one of our soldiers, who found it in the saddle-bag of a rebel trooper, which was left behind in the hurry of the departure. A captain in the Purnell Legion, in Col. Simpson's regiment, was lying hid in a house by the railroad track, and heard Gen. Stuart give positive orders to spare Gen. McDowell's staff baggage-train, but seize Gen. Pope's, and destroy what was not of public importance. The order was implicitly obeyed; although the wagons of Gens. McDowell and King were close at hand, they were not desturbed, but everything in Gen. Pope's was turned out, his official papers sorted and carried off, and his letters from his wife and other private individuals strewn over the ground or torn into bits.

This same officer reports that the guard comprised details from various cavalry regimens and two companies of Purnell's Legion, of whom the few who were not taken away by Stuart were paroled or scared to death. The rebel force consisted, according to his account, of only eight companies—400 men in all. So that you see important results are sometimes achieved without the spade or the pick, or monster armies. Morgan and Stuart have the dash and spirit which characterised Sumter and Marion. Pity 'tis 'tis true, and a thousand pities that we hadn't many of the same sort on our side.

It seems that Stuart's men were dressed in uniforms much like our own cavalry. When they approached our picket they said they were sent as escort to the baggage train, and, passing through unquestioned, dashed upon our officers, and took them all prisoners. Their discrimination was so nice that they even spared eight wagons belonging to the Harris Light Cavalry, because their battalion was acting as a body-guard to McDowell.

Gen. Banks had a very narrow escape from death during the engagement of his troops on Saturday morning, on the extreme right of our line. He was leaning against a tree, watching the progress of the fight, when a rifled shot from a rebel battery struck the tree about eighteen inches above his head, cutting it clean in two. With his usual good fortune, he escaped injury, even from splinters. I found the General on Friday afternoon, lying in the shade of a tree, with his staff about him, and the horses picketed close by. He is looking thin and a little pale, and his leg is still stiff from the effects of his recent injury. Until Friday, he had ridden in an ambulance from place to place, but on that day he mounted his horse and directed the movements of his corps in person. From him I got the true version of the accident which happened in the hard battle at Slaughter Mountain. It seems that he and his staff were lying on the ground, as I found them on Friday, when a sudden dash was made in their direction by some rebel cavalry. The tumult frightened the staff horses, and a large powerful animal of the General's becoming seriously scared at the discharge of pistols, gave a sudden plunge forward, and, striking the General in the hip, with great force, threw him down and bruised him severely.

On Saturday morning word was brought to Gen. Pope that the enemy were throwing a pontoon-bridge across the river on our extreme right. A strong force was immediately ordered up to the threatened point, but what resulted I could not learn.

I should have mentioned in its proper place that when our two batteries and the 12th and 13th Massachusetts Regiments were withdrawn from the opposite side of the bridge, the string-pieces of the bridge were sawn in two, but as the structure did not fall sufficiently to cut off all chances of the enemy's passage, the timbers were fired, and in a short time consumed. A cotton-mill close by was also burnt, and a small block-house across the river shared the same fate. During the progress of these operations our fatigue parties were exposed to a fierce shower of projectiles from the rebel batteries in the edge of the woods on the other side of the river. A long train of cars loaded with ammunition was standing on the track at Rappahannock Station, and narrowly escaped destruction, several percussion and fuse shells passing over and beyond them. If one of the cars had been struck, the explosion would have been like the shock of an earthquake, for the train must have contained several tuns of powder in all.

QUIET AT FREDERICKSBURG—THE NOISE OF CANNON—REPORTS BY AN INTELLIGENT CONTRABAND—M'CLELLAN AT ACQUIA CREEK.

FREDERICKSBURG, Va., Sunday Morning, August 24, 1862.

All is quiet at this point, but reports of every description are coming in from our army on the Rappahannock. I visited our advance cavalry pickets in the front of the town yesterday; they report that they have heard cannonading nearly continually for the last two days; the firing which was first heard on their right has been gradually moving back to their rear, which would indicate that the enemy are falling back. Musketry firing was heard this morning. An intelligent contraband came in yesterday and reports that our troops were licking the rebels, and that we had captured 15 guns. A lieutenant of cavalry arrived in last evening, and he corroborated the contraband's story, but says the number of guns captured was 16; he also states that when Stonewall Jackson's forces reached the Rappahannock at Bennett's ford, some 18 or 20 miles from here, a part of McDowell's forces were on the south bank of the river. He says they secreted themselves under cover of the woods, and that Jackson's forces passed them, and attempted to ford the river. While in the attempt, Gen. Pope's troops opened a destructive fire on them, and at the same time McDowell's men threw themselves on their rear, thus bringing them between two fires.

This officer says that this portion of Jackson's forces—he can't say how many—were utterly annihilated, and that the river was red with rebel blood. These reports I give you for what they are worth; the story is believed here. That fighting is going on is certain, and we only hope the above will turn out to be true. Our pickets in front of this town have been doubled during the past two days, and every precaution to ward off a surprise has been taken by Gen. Burnside. Gen. Burnside and Gen. Fitz John Porter have just left (10 o'clock A. M.) for Acquia Creek, to meet Gen. McClellan, who is at the Creek. No more of Gen. McClellan's troops have arrived here since I wrote you last. I understand the transports do not stop at the Creek, but continue on up to Alexandria and Washington. We had a terrible thunder storm yesterday afternoon, and to-day is quite cool and bracing. The troops that remain here are in the very best of spirits, and very anxious that Stonewall would pay them a visit, when I can assure you he would get the warmest reception he ever met in his life.

THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC BACK AGAIN—OPINIONS OF ITS OFFICERS—A DISTINGUISHED CONVERT—RUMORS AND FICTIONS.

ALEXANDRIA, Aug. 25, 1862.

Last Spring your correspondent came down to this city, with many others, to witness the embarkation of the Army of the Potomac. Then the stream now classical forever, the silver line between the loyal and the rebel States, was crowded with transports never before seen floating in these waters. The Hudson, the East River, Long Island Sound, and New York Bay seemed to have sent their floating palaces and their rotting hulks all at once to the Potomac. The General upon whom the eyes of the nation were fixed had determined upon the campaign of the Peninsula; the Army of the Potomac had fallen back from Manassas; the rebel horde had fled to Richmond, and McClellan had told his brave troops that in a few weeks they would either be seen fleeing from Richmond or as captives marching to the rear of his army.

To-day the same transports are lying off the wharves of Alexandria. The streets are again crowded with soldiers. The army of the Potomac has returned. Richmond has not been taken. Officers who left here as Colonels and Brigadier Generals, return here as Brigadier Generals and Major Generals. Wounds and scars and limping limbs are seen. The men who were fair, and pale and clean, now look bronzed, and rough and dusty. They have fought well and bravely, and deserve much of their country, but have they fought wisely, and might not their wounds have been received in a successful as well as an unsuccessful campaign?

By accident, your correspondent fell into conversation with one of the Major Generals commanding a division in the Army of the Potomac. His division has been in nearly every engagement on the Peninsula, and at the close of each day's fight has occupied the battle-ground. It has beaten the enemy in every encounter. Such is its official record, and of much more value, such is its record as given by the correspondents who witnessed the engagements. The Army of the Potomac, said this Major General, should never have been driven back from Richmond. It should, and could, have entered it months ago. The strength of the enemy has always been exagerated. We never had more than 120,000 opposed to us, and not half of them were disciplined at all.

Last night, continued this General, I had information from the most trustworthy sources, which, if I had acted upon it, would have enabled me to have entered Richmond without striking a blow. I could have taken the city with one division. The information upon which this General relied was received mainly from contrabands. When he took command of a brigade he was a strong pro-slavery Democrat—now as a commissioned Major General, commanding a division, and that division among the most successful in the army of the Potomac, he is as strong an anti-slavery Republican. He admitted the policy of the Democratic party to be a weak and ruinous one. His views were entirely changed, and nothing he had yet seen in the leading organs of the Republican party would approach his radicalism. "The negroes," said he, "are the only friends we have in the South; the most unintelligent and benighted are of some service; the intelligent and naturally smart are of the greatest value."

Your correspondent, as you may suppose, was astonished to hear such sentiments from a General who but a few months since was denounced in Congress for returning fugitive slaves, who barely escaped non-confirmation by two or three votes in consequence. I have this morning conversed with a large number of leading officers of the army of the Potomac. McClellan, with many of them, is still their idol, but what appears strange they all seem anxious to demonstrate that upon the slavery question he has been in advance and not behind the policy of the administration. They assert, in the most positive language, that not a single slave had been returned to his rebel or loyal master since the army of the Potomac touched the soil of the Peninsula.

McClellan, they say, has said but little about the negro, but has acted a great deal, and if it had not been for the hesitating policy of the President, would have done a great deal more. Whatever the truth may be, it is consoling to think that the General who would not allow the Hutchinsons to sing in his camp, and the soldiers who drove them out, are now anxious to possess the good opinion of the friends of those sweet singers and earnest philanthropists.

Up to the hour of writing, no more wounded have been received from the Rappahannock. It is said Gens. Lee and Jackson have decided not to commence any more battles on the Sabbath. Yesterday, therefore, was a quiet one.

Most of those who have been wounded on the Rappahannock have had their bodies disfigured terribly. The wounds from shells are much worse than from Minie balls, and when in the limbs are followed by immediate amputation.

At Warrenton, Gen. Pope's right wing, which was considered by many officers as the weakest point in his line, has been strengthened within the past two or three days, so that Gen. Lee will find it impossible to force his way through it.

By to-night the entire line of the Rappahannock will be impregnable, and it is not impossible that before the close of the week, the Army of Virginia may again take the offensive. General McClellan and staff are expected here this afternoon. It is not yet known whether he is to take command of his troops, or be transferred to some other Department.

The Army of the Potomac is now intermingled with the Army of Virginia, and it would seem impolitic to keep the two Departments distinct. One brain, and that the ablest the country can produce, should command the whole.

Two hundred prisoners taken in the skirmishes on the banks of the Rappahannock arrived this morning. Correspondents having been shut out of the Army of Virginia, the wildest and most absurd rumors are in circulation. Gen. McDowell has been killed by a shell, has been shot by Gen. Sigel in a quarrel, has been knocked down by the butt end of a musket by one of his privates, and been hurried to another sphere in half a dozen other ways. So run some of the stories floating about the saloons and hotels. When last heard from, that brave and noble General was at the head of his corps, resisting the repeated efforts of the enemy to break the centre of the Army of Virginia.—*Cor. N. Y. Tribune.*

Regulations under the Tax Law.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has established the following regulations in regard to individual stamps for proprietary articles, enumerated in Schedule C of the Excise law:

First—Every proprietor can furnish a design for a stamp, which, if approved, will be engraved by the Government engravers, at the cost of the proprietor.

Second—In such cases the proprietor will be entitled to the discount specified in the one hundred and second section of the Excise law.

Third—If the designs do not exceed the superficial area, thirteen-sixteenths of an inch, or the denomination of one and two-cent stamps, or sixty-three sixty-fourths of an inch for the denomination of three or four cent stamps, these being the sizes established by the office for the above specified denominations, there will be no additional charge to purchasers. If, however, proprietors desire to increase the size of the stamps for the denomination above mentioned, then an additional charge will be made for the additional cost of paper and printing. This additional charge will be ten cents per thousand for stamps of 3½ inches superficial area, and a proportionate sum for intermediate sizes.

Fourth—Every stamp must be rectangular in form.

Fifth—All dies and plates will be retained by and be under the exclusive control of the Government.

Sixth—The general stamp must be canceled by writing thereon the initials of the proprietor of the stamped article, and the date of canceling, while the private stamp must be so affixed on the package, that on opening the same, the stamp shall be effectually destroyed.

The Commissioner will be prepared to issue stamps by the 1st of September, for the articles known as "proprietary articles," specified in Schedule C, of the Excise law. The manufacturers of such articles will be required to use this general stamp, until they severally furnish a design for individual use. Orders for such stamps may be sent to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, which will be filled as soon as the stamps are ready for delivery.

Dispatches from Washington.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26, 1862.

GEN. MITCHEL TO HAVE A COMMAND.

There is reason to believe that the Government has under serious consideration the propriety of assigning Maj. Gen. Mitchel to a high command.

TIME FOR VOLUNTEERING IN PENNSYLVANIA EXTENDED.

In the cases of several Pennsylvania regiments, organizing under the last three years call, the Government has extended the time for volunteering until the 1st of September. All the regiments so favored are now nearly full.

BRIGADING STATE REGIMENTS.

An application from an Eastern State to have its new regiments brigaded by themselves was refused to-day. The Secretary of War was inclined to grant the request at first, but yielded to the opposition of General Halleck.

THE COLONIZATION PROPOSITION.

Numerous applications have already been made to Senator Pomeroy for passage to Central America by free colored persons who are anxious to be among the first to enjoy the benefits of the proposed colonization.

THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE ORLEANS PRINCES FROM THE ARMY.

The withdrawal of the Orleans Princes from our army is reported to have aroused against them general indignation in Europe, and particularly in France. To justify their departure, some of their adherents have disseminated the story that their continuance in our military service had created a misunderstanding between Louis Napoleon and this country—a report for which, as we have excellent authority for saying, there is not the slightest foundation. Napoleon has never taken the slightest public notice of their stay here, and his relations with our Government were, while these young men remained, as they are to-day, ostensibly at least, of the most friendly character. The rumor in question goes on all fours with the Prince de Joinville's letter, in which he represents his nephews as the heroes of the Peninsula, by whose efforts, alone, our brave soldiers, who are spoken of as cowards, were kept from running away.

From Cumberland Gap.

A letter from the Gap to the Cincinnati *Gazette*, dated Aug. 19th, says:

We have a large army of secesh in front and 8,000 or 10,000 in our rear.

Last night all our trains due came in safely. We have no fears. We can hold at bay an army of fifty thousand as long as our provisions last.

Say to all our friends that this fortress shall not fall into the hands of the enemy. The moment an enemy shows himself within three miles of us, a shell whistles at his head. They are on every hand, but they are watched.

On this the editor remarks:

The rebels see that, in order to throw a large force into Kentucky, they must have the Gap; and they thought they might secure it by surrounding Morgan and starving him. It is not believed there are over eight thousand rebels, all told, on this side; and these are now subsisting on stores captured in Federal trains. The country they occupy is destitute of provisions, the green corn even having been consumed. While, however, Gen. Morgan is in no danger of being captured immediately, it is important that communication should be opened with him promptly, so that he may not, for the want of provisions, be forced to surrender. The movements in Kentucky tending to his relief, will, therefore, be watched with interest.

In view of the urgency of the case, calling for prompt and vigorous measures, we cannot but regard the removal of Gen. Lew Wallace, who was just the man to adopt and carry out such measures, as one of the most unfortunate and untimely steps in the wrong direction which has yet been taken in Kentucky.

MINNESOTA TAX LAW APPOINTMENTS.—The following appointments have been made under the Internal Revenue Law for Minnesota: First District—Collector, John A. Hall, of Mankato; Assessor, George W. Baker, of Rochester. Second District—Col. Thomas G. Jones, of Avoca, Collector; H. G. O. Morrison, of Pine Bend, Assessor.

AMONG the persons lost by the destruction of the steamer Acacia, were Mrs. Robert Dale Owen and Mrs. Richardson, wife of Captain Richardson, of the 53d Ohio. It is ascertained that not more than thirty persons perished.

SPEAKER GROW has been unanimously renominated for Congress from the new XIIth District of this State. As he usually has from 8,000 to 10,000 majority, he stands in great danger of being elected.

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PEOPLES INSURANCE COMPANY. Office, N. E. corner Wood and Fifth Sts.

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First Mortgage on Improved City Property, worth double the amount	$155,000 00
Ground rent, first class	2,462 50
Penna. R. R. Co.'s 6 per cent. Mortgage Loan, $30,000, cost	27,900 00
City of Philadelphia, 6 per cent. Loan	30,000 00
Allegheny county 6 per ct. P. R. R. Loan	10,000 00
Collateral bonds, well secured	2,500 00
Huntingdon and Broad Top Mountain Railroad Company, mortgage loan	4,000 00
Pennsylvania Railroad Co.'s Stock	4,000 00
Stock of Reliance Mutual Insurance Co.	24,350 00
Stock of County Fire Insurance Co.	1,050 00
Stock of Delaware M. S. Insurance Co.	700 00
Commercial Bank do	5,135 91
Mechanics' Bank do	2,012 50
Union M. Insurance Co.'s Scrip	100 00
Bills Receivable, business paper	16,297 18
Book Accounts, accrued interest, etc.	6,216 73
Cash on hand and in hands of agents	11,385 15
	$308,506 95

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ASSETS, OCTOBER 30, 1859:

Stock Accounts	$63,000 00
Mortgages	2,100 00
Office Furniture	[illegible]
Open Accounts, &c.	7,809 00
Cash	18,351 99
Premium Notes	27,695 14
Notes and Bills Discounted	171,675 12
	$293,251 25

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First Mortgages, amply secured	$1,589,293 00
Real Estate, (pres't val. $106,314 61) cost	102,966 00
Temporary Loans, on ample Collateral Securities	85,135 70
Stocks, (present value $85,667 72) cost	59,769 00
Notes and Bills Receivable	1,821 00
Cash	27,919 00
	$2,208,057 88

The only profits from premiums which this Company can divide by law are from risks which have been determined.

Insurance made on every description of property, in town and country, at rates as low as are consistent with security.

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Losses paid during the year 1858 ..... $106,085 67

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FIRE, MARINE AND INLAND INSURANCE.—INSURANCE COMPANY OF NORTH AMERICA, PHILADELPHIA. Incorporated 1794—Capital, $500,000. Assets, January 10, 1859 ..... $1,159,924 61. ARTHUR G. COFFIN, *President.* THOMAS PLATT, *Secretary.*

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CARBON OIL.—25 bbls. on consignment and for sale by HENRY H. COLLINS.

COUNTRY SOAP.—5 barrels prime Country Soap, just received at 114 Second st. FRANK VAN GORDER.