

# Rafferty's Journal.

BY S. J. ROW.

CLEARFIELD, PA., WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 1861.

VOL. 7.—NO. 46.

## FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

OF CENTRE AND PLEASANT GROVE SUNDAY SCHOOLS

The Schools met on the old Camp Ground, on the farm of Capt. A. Adelman, at 10 o'clock, A. M.; when Alex. Caldwell, Esq., was chosen President; Jacob Hoover, Abraham Bailey, Orris Hoyt, Wm. Carr, Jacob S. Cole, John D. Wright, John Welch, William McCullough, Sr., and Joseph Bailey, Vice Presidents; and W. J. Hemphill, Wm. P. Beck and George W. Boal, Secretaries. The exercises were opened with singing, and prayer by the President; after which the Martial Band played several National Airs, which were calculated to arouse the Patriotism of all present.

At 1 o'clock, about 300 persons sat down to an sumptuous dinner as could well be gotten up; which the Ladies of Centre and Pleasant Grove are fully competent to do. The cloth being removed, the Declaration of Independence was read by W. J. Hemphill; after which J. B. McNally, Esq., delivered a very able and stirring address, which was cheered and answered by music from the Band. Mr. McNally said:

"The 4th of July should always be held in grateful remembrance by the American people. But never was it more appropriate to do so than at this time. For now we are cast upon troublesome times. There is no year in our history more important than the present—none in which great events crowd upon each other in such rapid succession—none in which we more need the spirit of the sages and patriots of 1776. Let us then recur to other days. For we may rest assured that the same vigilance, virtue and wisdom, that were necessary to achieve and establish our liberties, are still needed to protect and preserve them. The Revolution was successful. By it we cut off all allegiance to the King of Great Britain, and secured our independence. But this would have been of little avail without some system of government better than the one we cast off. We wanted one adapted to our circumstances—one that would make us a great people, that would secure us the blessings of liberty and domestic tranquility at home, and would afford us respect and protection abroad. This was a task most difficult of all. We have scarcely any idea of the vital importance and difficulty of the work. It required for its successful accomplishment, a pure patriotism, combined with the highest political wisdom that was ever conferred upon mortal man. Let us thank God with heartfelt gratitude that he raised up men who were equal to the task. Our Fathers who built the fabric of our government were no common men. They were intellectual giants who towered above their fellows; and who, as a body of men combining political wisdom and virtue, never had their peers. The fabric of constitutional liberty which they built was no common work. They laid its foundations deep and broad, they made its pillars solid and strong. Their work was not a loose and airy thing to be blown away by every secession breeze; but it was a compact and noble structure intended to shelter a free people and make them a united nation whilst ages should endure. That government which they gave us has now been tried for more than 70 years. Under it separated and independent States were formed into one glorious Union. Under it we have enjoyed greater blessings and greater civil and political liberty than any community on the face of the globe. Under it, too, we have grown and prospered, both in peace and in war, till we have become a great people with a great name among the nations of the earth. It is now attempted by traitorous hands to break that government to pieces, under which we have enjoyed these many blessings—to rend that Union to fragments, which has been our glory and our strength. Shall it be permitted? No, never! Then men of a past generation formed this Union, and it is the duty of this generation to protect it. There are those who undertake to calculate in dollars and cents how much the Union is worth, or how much it will take to defend it. I have no such calculations to make. I consider the Union beyond all price, and whilst there is a possibility for successful effort, with a dollar to spend and a man to fight, let it be defended at every hazard. I would have no compromise with the brave words of Andrew Jackson: 'The Union must and shall be preserved.' No, my countrymen; suffer no domestic treason to rend this Union in pieces—suffer no star to be torn from your honored flag. I adjure you by the memories of the noble dead, to preserve that great inheritance bequeathed to you by their labors. Let our brave soldiers standing this day on the banks of the Potomac, where sleeps the great Washington, vow before high Heaven that no other flag, but the flag of the Union he loved so well, shall wave over the land where his ashes repose."

Wm. M. McCullough, Sr., and W. Carr, also entertained the audience with short and patriotic speeches. The following regular and volunteer toasts were then read.

## REGULAR TOASTS.

1. The day we celebrate.—The associations of this day will rekindle the fires of liberty to the hearts of true patriots.
2. The Union.—Cherished by every true patriot. Paralyzed by every traitor's arm that is raised against it.
3. The Star Spangled Banner.—Our glorious flag, may it speedily wave, O'er the soil trod by traitors, and over their graves.
4. Our Army and Navy.—Glorious in their past history. May they still successfully protect our flag against foes without and rebels within.
5. The President of the United States.—Let him say like Andrew Jackson: "The Union must and shall be preserved."
6. Lieut. Gen. Winfield Scott.—The greatest military leader in the world, and as patriotic as he is great. His name and his deeds will fill the proudest page of our present history.
7. Pennsylvania.—Steady and loyal—the Keystone of the arch. She will stand immovable as a rock in defence of the honor of the country, and the union of the States.
8. George Washington.—The father of his country and friend of the Union. May the flag of that Union ever wave over the soil where his ashes repose.
9. Secession.—A word that should ever be dispensed by all true and loyal citizens of America.
10. American Mothers.—Teachers whose lessons are never forgotten. May they ever teach their children to love God, and their country.
11. Young America.—"Let thy noble motto be, God—thy Country!—Liberty! Planted on Religion's rock, Thou shalt stand in every shock!"

12. The Ladies.—Their presence has lent new charms to the enjoyment of this occasion. May we all live to meet again.

With woman's cheerful face before us, And freedom's banner streaming o'er us, Sunday Schools—The nurseries of virtue in the rising generation; the safe guardians of liberty and independence. May all future generations enjoy their blessings.

## VOLUNTEER TOASTS.

By W. J. Hemphill.—Hon. Andrew Johnson of Tennessee.—The able and fearless champion of the Constitution and the Union; who has never evinced either weakness at the knees nor rottenness of the heart; either when assailed by Southern Rebels with arms in their hands, or in the Senate Chamber by Northern doughfaces. His services will be rewarded by an elevation to the highest office in the gift of the American people.

By Jacob Hoover.—Gen. Twigg; the Arch Traitor who betrayed the confidence reposed in him by the chief Executive of the best and most liberal Government the sun ever shone upon, by basely betraying into the hands of the Rebels the loyal soldiers under his command, and by robbing the Government of money, arms, and munitions of war. May he speedily meet the doom which awaits him.

By A. G. Hoyt.—The Federal Union and the Constitution, which recognize the sovereign rights of the people of each State to form their own government and institutions. May this truly Republican principle of our fathers, be understood and adhered to in all time to come; and may all traitors, interlopers and meddlers, be smoked out and choked like Brown.

By W. B. Hemphill.—Stephen A. Douglas, the Patriot and Statesman—revered and beloved by all who knew him. His untimely death has cast a gloom throughout our land, scarcely paralleled by the death of any of our public men. The loss of his eminent services to his country, at this time, will be severely felt. Peace to his ashes.

By G. B. Hoover.—Our National and State Constitutions—they have both been afflicted for a long time by a weakness somewhat allied to the spine complaint. May they speedily recover so as to dismiss all Doctors of Divinity from our army and navy, and all rogues from the post-office Department.

By Edw'd Goodfellow.—The Sunday school, has been the means of reclaiming many a youth from the frowardness of his ways and pointing him the way to God. May much more interest be manifested in the good cause, and may it prove the Salvation of the souls of thousands of our youth.

By Jas. K. Hancock.—The Clearfield Republican, the hired organ of the late Administration, deserves the contempt of every patriotic and loyal citizen, for the treasonable sentences which it weekly publishes calculated to give aid and comfort to the Rebels in arms against the Government.

By Harry Hemphill.—The Ladies—the consoler of man's troubles; ever smiling on occasions like the present—bewitching alike with their smiles and their good things. Long may they live, and many an independence day may they make happy with their presence and good cheer.

By Isaiah Goodfellow.—The day we celebrate—the day American Independence was declared. May it ever be held in grateful remembrance by the American people, and may generations yet unborn rever to have the same patriotic demonstrations that we have been taught to do.

By W. M. M.—The Hon. Joseph Holt of Kentucky, Post master General and Secretary of war under James Buchanan's Administration—may he live to realize the aspirations of his heart, and may his children and grand children repose under the banner of this glorious Union.

By Wm. P. Beck.—Our citizen soldiery, who so promptly responded to the call of the chief Executive to repel by force of arms the insult offered our flag, will ever be held in grateful remembrance by a loyal people.

By Jas. Norris.—Jeff Davis and his Northern cohorts—like rebels and traitors to their country. May they receive their just deserts at the hands of the Law abiding and Union loving American citizens.

By Milton S. Lawhead.—The irrepressible conflict between liberty and despotism—the struggle will be long and severe; "but the harder the conflict—the more glorious the triumph."

By Wm. Carr.—Our Brothers in the army—may they soon return from the war laden with laurels, and ever after be permitted to live in peace beneath their own Vine and Fig tree.

By Philo.—The young Ladies—may their shadows never grow less; and may their patriotism be rewarded by the embraces of their lovers when they return from the war.

By M. J. Carr.—The Star Spangled Banner.—May it wave in triumph over every city of the South, and be acknowledged now as ever, "The Flag of our country."

By W. M. M.—The Traitor—he that sympathizes with the cause of his Country, may he have a short life, a happy death, and may we have no more like him.

By A. G. Hoyt.—The age of reason which broke the chain of Ecclesiastical oppression and proclaimed freedom of conscience to a captive world.

By W. M. M.—Our banner—the stars and stripes—may it float in the atmosphere of freedom, when every Traitor's head is laid in the dust.

By A Member.—The Liberty Hill Sunday School. May it long remain an established fact, and never cease to celebrate the fourth of July.

By John S. Hoyt.—Let us learn to respect all good men, whether living or dead, though it pain many to speak the truth in regard to them.

By B. F. Carr.—May every man have an independent home in this world, and a happy life in the next.

By A Lover of man.—May idleness and humbuggery cease, and industry and virtue jog gradually on.

By Home Stead.—May the day come when all men will live on the production of their own labor.

By A Republican.—Our Union. May it be preserved—and the rebels and traitors annihilated.

By Wm. Mincer.—May Southern fanaticism fall a victim to Northern Democracy.

By Obispo.—Our country's Redeemers, Lincoln, Scott and the Union army. After which the company dispersed all well pleased with the part each had taken, and with the proceedings of the day generally.

## ADDRESS OF L. J. CRANS, ESQ.

DELIVERED AT PENNSVILLE, JULY 4th, 1861.

Fellow Citizens: We commemorate a day which we have been accustomed to celebrate with ringing of bells, firing of cannons, bonfires and other demonstrations of rejoicing. A day memorable in the annals of history, for on it was born a nation founded on the sound political axiom—men are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

Fain would I dissipate every shadow of sadness—banish every thought that could mar the festivities of the day, and in the merriest mood, bid "On with the dance; let joy be unconfined!"

But I have observed the dark and threatening cloud which overhangs the land, covering it with a gloom which may be felt, and have noted the devotion to your country which has crushed out or supplanted every other feeling save a deep solicitude for the welfare of our brethren and friends, who at the first call have rushed forward to stay the mad attempts of those who would subvert the government, destroy the Constitution and the laws, and render those traditions which have so often filled our hearts with pleasurable emotions—a reproach. To day is no day for hilarity, for mirth, for frivolous amusements. The circumstances surrounding us forbid it.

But a few months since the song of the reaper was heard and our granaries were filled to overflowing. Our marts were crowded—on every side the clatter of wheels, the whirr of machinery, the whistle of the engine, the sound of the anvil and the ring of the axe, made the air musical with evidences of well directed industry. Money was abundant, peace was in all our borders, and men's hearts were buoyant at the bright prospect for the future. Suddenly fear seized on us like a strong man, business was paralyzed, the implements of peace were cast aside and the starry arm of labor was extended to receive charity.

"And there was mounting in hot haste; the steed, The mustering squadron, and the clattering car, Went pouring forward with impetuous speed And swiftly forming in the ranks of war."

And the deep thunder, peal on peal afar And near, the beat of the alarming drum Roused up the soldier."

Why was it? Had Albion forgotten the lessons of yore and sought to regain the colonies wrested from her in '76, by the prowess of our fathers? No; but the seed which she had sown in our midst had grown, producing fruit of crime, of recriminations, distrust, hatred and their consequences, civil war. An issue far transcending in importance any of the ephemeral issues of the day, because it involved the integrity of the Union, had been forced upon the American people. Our government had shown itself strong for defence in its struggles with Great Britain; she had proven herself competent to undertake a foreign or aggressive war upon the blood-stained fields of Mexico, and trusting that our people would heed the parting advice of Washington, to regard the union of these states as the palladium of their safety, we had hoped that she would never be called upon to show herself proof against internal dissensions.

The doctrine, new and startling, that a State has a right of its own motion to secede from this Union, has been broached—more—the action of certain States has given the doctrine a tangible form. If it is right, or if it can be maintained by force of arms, then our Union is dissolved, irrevocably—our prestige gone, and our traditions and our glories, sources of regret rather than of honest heart-felt pride.

Leaving the beaten path, to glance at this absorbing topic, will, I trust, meet with your approbation. If a State has the right to secede, then the government cannot properly prevent any State exercising that right, but if no such right exists, then secession is but another name for revolution. Revolution may be peaceful or violent, bloodless or sanguinary. Those who resort to revolution, do so with the understanding that should the government not tacitly acquiesce in their proposed change of government, they must sustain the position they have assumed by force of arms, and in the event of failure, suffer the penalties of treason. The right of revolution exists in every community. Its exercise may be justified whenever a government becomes subversive of the end for which it was established—the preservation of the rights of man.

But light and transient causes are no justification. To deny this position is to assert that our forefathers were wrong in declaring these united colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent States; to charge them with needless and criminal effusion of blood, and to admit that we are not entitled to the liberties which we now enjoy.

Prior to the revolutionary war, the colonies, though distinct political divisions, deriving rights through different charters, were integral parts of the British dominion, and to independent and purposes—coming to the present, each State expressly reserved its sovereignty, freedom and independence. In the second, the sovereignty of the different States was merged in that of the general government. No right was reserved but by implication until by an amendment to the Constitution it was afterwards declared that the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively or to the people. If such a contrast should leave a doubt on the mind of any one that the general government operates directly on persons and things in the respective States, and in such States the Constitution and laws in pursuance thereof constitute the Supreme law of the land, which cannot be altered or annulled at the will of the States individually, I would refer him to the history of the times immediately preceding the adoption of the Constitution, and to the speeches and writings of Washington, Hamilton, Madison, Monroe, Jefferson and other eminent men who assisted in framing or securing the adoption of that instrument, and who expounded it or commented thereon. At the time nullification, eldest born but least mischievous of the heresies of South Carolina, was disturbing the peace, James Madison wrote "I know not whence the idea could proceed that I concurred in the doctrine that although a State could not nullify a law of the Union, it had a right to secede from the Union. Both spring from the same poisonous root." Time would not permit, nor have I the inclination to quote, any more of the scores of passages equally as pointed as this which abound in the writings

tending for the same illustrious prize, and deeply interested in being forever bound and connected together by ties the most intimate and indissoluble. The articles of Confederation being a firm league of friendship with each other for their common defence, the security of their liberties and their mutual and general welfare, binding them selves to assist each other against all forces offered to, or attack made upon them or any of them on account of religion, sovereignty, trade, or any pretence whatever, were adopted by the respective States. Each State expressly reserved its sovereignty, freedom and independence, and every power, jurisdiction and right which was not by the Confederation expressly delegated to the United States in Congress assembled. The government, if so it can be called, was merely a Congress of the States. The powers of the Congress were limited, but the compact which conferred those powers, contained the provision that the articles of Confederation shall inviolably be observed by every State, and the Union shall be perpetual; nor shall any alteration at any time hereafter be made in any of them, unless such alteration be agreed to in the Congress of the United States, and be afterwards confirmed by the legislature of every State.

The insufficiency of the powers conferred on Congress, the necessity for providing for the public credit created by the war, and the embarrassments and difficulties growing out of the regulation of trade, resulted in a meeting of Commissioners, at the instance of the General Assembly of Virginia, to consider the best means of remedying the defects of the Federal Government. Congress promptly took action, and under its authority a convention of delegates, for the sole and express purpose of revising the articles of Confederation, met on the 22nd Monday of May 1787. The manner in which that convention, composed of the most eminent and patriotic men of the day, performed its work is shown by the Constitution of the United States, which they after careful and mature deliberation, framed and presented to Congress. The views of the delegates may be gleaned from the discussions during their protracted session, and are embodied in the letter addressed by the convention, through their President, George Washington, to the President of Congress. I quote its language. "The friends of our country have long seen and desired, that the power of making war, peace, and treaties; that of levying money and regulating commerce, and the corresponding executive and judicial authorities, should be fully and effectually vested in the general government of the Union; but the impropriety of delegating such extensive trusts to one body of men, is evident, hence results the necessity of a different organization, which is obviously impracticable in the federal government of these States to secure all rights of independent sovereignty to each, and yet provide for the interest and safety of all. Individuals entering into society must give up a share of liberty to preserve the rest. The magnitude of the sacrifice must depend, as well on situation and circumstance, as on the objects to be obtained. It is at all times difficult to draw with precision the line between those rights which must be surrendered, and those which may be reserved; and on the present occasion, this difficulty was increased by a difference among the several States as to their situation, extent, habits and particular interests. In all our deliberations on this subject, we kept steadily in our view, that which appears to us as the greatest interest of every true American, the consolidation of our Union, in which is involved our prosperity, felicity, safety, and perhaps our national existence. This important consideration, seriously and deeply impressed on our minds, led each state in the convention to be less rigid on points of inferior magnitude, than might have been otherwise expected; and thus the constitution, which we now present, is the result of a spirit of amity and of that mutual deference and concession which the peculiarity of our political situation rendered indispensable."

No one can contrast the articles of Confederation with the Constitution of the United States without arriving at the conclusion that the adoption of the Constitution was for the express purpose of consolidating the Union; that is, out of several free, independent and sovereign States, to create one free, independent and sovereign Power. The Articles of Confederation were merely a league of firm friendship—the Constitution, the basis of a new government. By the former, certain limited powers were conferred on Congress; under the latter, the legislative, judicial, and executive powers, attributes of sovereignty, were lodged in the three co-ordinate branches of the new government. The one professed to be an agreement between the delegates of the respective States—the other to emanate from, and be ordained and established by, the people of the United States. The Articles of Confederation were intended to create a perpetual Union—the Constitution to form a more perfect Union. In the first compact, each State expressly reserved its sovereignty, freedom and independence. In the second, the sovereignty of the different States was merged in that of the general government. No right was reserved but by implication until by an amendment to the Constitution it was afterwards declared that the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively or to the people. If such a contrast should leave a doubt on the mind of any one that the general government operates directly on persons and things in the respective States, and in such States the Constitution and laws in pursuance thereof constitute the Supreme law of the land, which cannot be altered or annulled at the will of the States individually, I would refer him to the history of the times immediately preceding the adoption of the Constitution, and to the speeches and writings of Washington, Hamilton, Madison, Monroe, Jefferson and other eminent men who assisted in framing or securing the adoption of that instrument, and who expounded it or commented thereon. At the time nullification, eldest born but least mischievous of the heresies of South Carolina, was disturbing the peace, James Madison wrote "I know not whence the idea could proceed that I concurred in the doctrine that although a State could not nullify a law of the Union, it had a right to secede from the Union. Both spring from the same poisonous root." Time would not permit, nor have I the inclination to quote, any more of the scores of passages equally as pointed as this which abound in the writings

of the fathers of the republic. Until some proof of the existence of a right is produced, we may presume that there is no such right. The doctrine that a State has a right to secede is derived from the belief that the States respectively have not relinquished their sovereignty, but have only entered into an offensive and defensive alliance. In other words, that the general government is no government, and it, like a garment used for protection, may be put off or on at option. Admit this for sake of argument, and see where it leads us. Admit the respective States to be sovereign, and (for such is the meaning of the term,) each is possessed of uncontrollable power—knows no superior—cannot be called to account, and without let or hindrance can alter its present form of government and establishing in lieu of it such as it pleases, be it a monarchy, military dictatorship, or I care not what. You may object that the State Constitutions would forbid such a change, and I answer, those Constitutions provide for amendments, but should they not, revolutions destroy Constitutions. What then becomes of that part of our bond of union whereby the United States guarantees to every State in the Union a republican form of government? Though every citizen of such a State, save one, should desire such a change that one alone could dissolve us from this Constitutional obligation. You are aware that the Constitution provides for reciprocity of citizenship, and guarantees to you and me and every citizen wherever we may cast our lot in this broad land, the privileges and immunities of the several States. If you admit State sovereignty you practically ignore this right and acknowledge secession, proper.

The right of secession is not countenanced by the Constitution either by express language or by implication, but is negatived by the terms of that instrument. Secession is revolution. Those States who have passed acts declaring their allegiance to the general government dissolved, have placed themselves in a hostile attitude, and by throwing down the gauntlet, have assumed the responsibility of inaugurating civil war. I shall not attempt to discuss the question whether the seceded States have committed wrongs through the action of the Federal or State Governments, for our courts, where wrongs are redressed, are open to all, and the highest judicial tribunals in the land have most unequivocally recognized their broadest claim of right, but assume the position that in a government like ours, where the right of expatriation is recognized; where the people can, at fixed and short periods change those who have the direction of affairs; where they rule, and their will, controlled only by the Constitution is the law; where the Constitution provides a way by which it can be altered or amended, and where the different branches of government act as checks on each other, and keep each within the limits prescribed by the fundamental law, there can be no good, substantial, solid reason given for revolution until the powers that be, usurp authority, disregard the laws, override the barriers of the Constitution, and render the Government destructive of the ends for which it was instituted, which are declared to be to establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

The government has a right, ay! it is its duty to protect itself and to use all its legitimate powers in preventing its annihilation. It is the duty of every citizen, not merely by passive obedience to the laws, but by active co-operation, if necessary, to aid the Government in so laudable an undertaking. The man who actively engages in subverting the Constitutional authorities may plead as an excuse for his conduct the belief that sufficient cause existed, but he is no more guilty than he who throws obstacles in the way of the Government and attempts to thwart its legitimate designs. In our present distracted and unhappy state of affairs, there can be no neutral ground. When the batteries of Charleston opened upon Fort Sumter a cry went throughout the land like the death of Joshua, "The tribes at Shechem"—"Choose you this day whom ye will serve." We have answered in tones which cannot be misunderstood, that our best emotions cluster round our country, her flag, her traditions and her glory; that our government is founded on the affections of the people, and must and shall be preserved. We have sent forth an army prompted neither by a feeling of revenge, rivalry or ambition, but a stern sense of duty; who would rather embrace, than surround and conquer; protect, than destroy; forgive, than punish; but who have sworn upon the altar of their country, if need be, without stint, to the last drop their blood shall be poured out in defence of the Union, its Constitution and its laws.

The persecutions encountered for opinion sake; the sundering of domestic ties and hardships endured in reclaiming the wilds of America, the wrongs suffered, and the blood and treasure poured out during the Revolutionary struggle, summed up may approximate to the cost of this Union; but who can estimate its value? To the material progress we have made during the last 85 years; freedom of speech; freedom of the press; religious toleration; the happiness and property we have enjoyed, add the hope and ardor we have inspired in the breasts of the down trodden of other nations, the ameliorations wrested from, but a step some duty; who would rather embrace, than surround and conquer; protect, than destroy; forgive, than punish; but who have sworn upon the altar of their country, if need be, without stint, to the last drop their blood shall be poured out in defence of the Union, its Constitution and its laws.

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Major-General McCall has issued an order that each of the fifteen regiments of the reserve corps of Pennsylvania Volunteers be raised to the minimum army standard—1,046, officers and men. A force of nearly 4,000 men will thus be added to this already large effective corps.

## THE JOURNAL.

SUMMARY OF WAR NEWS

The Washington Star states that Taylor, who came hither under flag of truce on the 8th, says that his business was disposed of at the White house in a very few minutes, for in that time he was sent back to Gen. Scott with one letter less than he bore on his person on entering the Union lines, the President not deeming the communication he brought such as required him to enter into any correspondence whatever with Mr. Jefferson Davis. Mr. Taylor was next immediately faced in the direction from which he came, and marched back to Gen. McDowell's headquarters, where though courteously and kindly treated, he was kept under strict guard until an early hour next morning, when he was escorted back to the confederate lines and turned loose to find his way back to Beauregard, without having accomplished what was evidently a main point to be attained by his mission, namely, to communicate with traitors in our midst. He had doubtless been prepared to send to Beauregard, through him, important information concerning the alleged contemplated movement of Gen. M'Dowell's army upon the Confederate lines. The Star further says, that although the President has communicated the contents of the letter from Davis brought by Taylor to none besides his constitutional advisers and Gen. Scott, from certain signs we are able to assure the public that it amounted to nothing of any earthly importance on the present crisis. On the 10th, the dispatches brought by Major Taylor continued to excite inquiry and comment. The administration is evidently trying the experiment of keeping their purport a profound secret. This much, however, is professed to be discovered, namely, that if the contents of them were officially regarded, Washington would virtually be surrendered to the Confederates.

On the 8th, Lieutenant Carmichael, of Provost Marshal Kenly's police, went down the river from Baltimore in a tug and boarded the steamer Mary Washington, to arrest a man named Neil Green, who was charged with being engaged in the riot on the 19th of April, and who it was thought, would come on board at the Patent. On coming up the river he ascertained that Captain Thomas, of St. Mary's county, who took command of the St. Nicholas and headed the pirates on the occasion of the capture, was also on board with seven of his confederates, their supposed object being to seize another steamer in the same manner. Carmichael, on arriving abreast of Fort M'Henry, ordered the captain to stop at the wharf, where he made known the facts to Gen. Banks, who ordered a company of Massachusetts troops to arrest all on board. Seven of the pirates were found, but Gen. Thomas had concealed himself. After an hour's search he was found in a large blue rear drawer in the ladies' cabin. It will be remembered that he went aboard the St. Nicholas disguised as a French lady. All these parties were detained at the fort, with several witnesses who were on board the steamer at the time of her seizure, including her captain and engineer.

A despatch from Martinsburg on the night of the 9th says: Two deserters from Johnson's camp came in yesterday, and estimate Johnson's force at that point at 15,000 men, with twenty-two pieces of cannon. Reliable information has since been received that Johnson has since been reinforced from Manassas Junction with five regiments and one piece of cannon. The Fifteenth Pennsylvania pickets took five horses and three rebel troopers this afternoon. Four of our own pickets have been captured yesterday and to-day, whilst marching beyond the lines of water and Virginia hot can bread. We have a rumor here this evening, and it was received with great enthusiasm, that Gen. McClellan has routed ex-Governor Wise at Buckhannon and Laurel Hill. Reinforcements are now approaching up from Williamsport, which will give us an available force of 20,000 fighting men to move forward with, and a forward movement may be expected within twenty-four hours. Our men are all grumbling at this impatience and eager to move on, but it is believed that Johnson will fall back to Winchester, and it is there the battle will be fought.

As the right section of the Second Rhode Island battery was drilling on the grounds near the encampment of the Mozart Regiment, of New York, on the 9th, the cartridges in the limber chest of gun No. 2 exploded, killing Corporal N. J. Morse, Jr., and private E. R. Freeman, and slightly wounding privates Richard Thornley and Edward E. Weeks. The remains of the dead will be sent to Providence this afternoon. The cause of the igniting of the cartridges is unknown. A report prevails that it was in consequence of the explosion of a shell, but this is disproved by the examination of several gentlemen acquainted with pyrotechnics, and no fragments being found. Their theory is that the explosion was caused by the agency of friction matches, thrown into the limber chest by some enemy, or dropped into or near it by carelessness.

G. W. Coffin, Superintendent of Indian Affairs in the Indian Territory west of Arkansas, arrived at Leavenworth, on the 9th from that section. He was not able to penetrate the country but about 115 miles, being threatened with capture by the secessionists. His predecessor, Col. Rector, claims to hold the office by virtue of a commission from the Confederate States. Since the evacuation of the forts by the federal troops, the secessionists have gained control of affairs in the Territory, and have confiscated the money and provisions intended for the Indians. The Convention of Indians called by Governor Hayes, of the Chickasaw Nation, was held on the 24th of June, but broke up in a row.

Last night two men deserted from the Confederates. They belonged to the gunboat Tanager, which guards James river from Richmond to the vicinity of Newport News. While she was at anchor last night, the men escaped with the yawl and this morning were picked up by the Monticello. A small boat pursued them from the shore, but put back on the appearance of the Monticello. The men belong in New York and Baltimore and report that they were impressed into the Confederate service. They say there are only 2000 troops in Richmond, and the same number posted below. On James river, the situation they say, of the rebels is desperate.

It asserted on good authority that General Scott positively proposes to cross over into Virginia, and be present at the thrashing about to be administered to the rebels at Manassas Junction. His body-guard are now being selected.