

Mrs J Withrow 7 April

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BY M'CLURE & STONER.

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INSIDE OF REBELDOM.

Col. Grierson, who made the most daring raid through rebeldom on record, having penetrated some six hundred miles of its territory, declared it was an "empty shell" and ready to break at any time.

Since then we have read with no common degree of interest the comments of the journals in the West of the traitors upon the progress of the Union cause. We now know how they are, and they are confessedly in the suggestions, and naturally enough, so dependent in tone.

Mr. President Davis' proclamations and pronouncements, his horrible threatenings and gloomy appeals, have been so often repeated that they are the sneer of the world. But never have they resulted in one solitary performance. He is very obstinate, very bitter, when he gets into a quarrel with some Southern officer over whom the law gives him temporary control.

The retreat of Lee across the Potomac into Virginia again was as unexpected as crushing to the rebels. It at once blighted all their hopes of transferring the war to Northern soil, and cost them half of their best army.

Gen. Lee has re-crossed the Potomac. With this announcement, it is supposed, the second invasion of the United States is at an end. The Government and its chief General undertook this campaign on their own responsibility, and at their own time.

"This war can be terminated only by such a measure. It might have been gloriously terminated in a month had Gettysburg witnessed the annihilation of the Union army of the Potomac. But that battle was fought in a position which rendered success impossible."

"The retreat from Tennessee opens the northern counties of Georgia and Alabama to the incursions of the enemy. In our own State the Tennessee valley will be desolated, and raiding parties will penetrate the counties lying between the Tennessee and the Alabama, and east of the Bigbee rivers."

"But there is another view of this question which is important. Vicksburg having fallen, Grant has an army of eighty thousand men at his disposal. It will be impossible for Gen. Johnston to oppose this army with any hope of success, and as he retreats towards the Bigbee, which we suppose he will do, Grant will close on him, and unite his army with that of Rosecrans. Here, then, will be an army of one hundred and sixty or seventy thousand men encamped on the soil of Alabama."

"Among the objects of repining to which the mind very naturally reverts in contemplating the loss of Middle Tennessee, none forces itself more persistently upon us than the rich crops of grain which our retreat threw into the hands of the enemy."

"The crops of Tennessee, like the soil and all else therein, were fair to see. Many a time during the last three months have we cast a hopeful eye upon the teeming acres and their fruitful promise. But luxury, rather than the absolute want, was the main figure in the prospect."

"It would be wanton affectation were we to deny an extreme regret at the loss of so much produce; but we can continue to do without it; and, in any event, there is no use crying over spilled milk."

"On the supposition of the foe's success, it is our duty to avoid incurring his fiendish malignity. All who can be of no service in the work of defence should betake themselves to places of shelter. And it were well not to defer removal to a late day."

The *Mercury*, commenting on the attack upon Morris Island, says:

"It appears to us to be useless to attempt to disguise from ourselves our situation. By whose fault we got into it, it is vain now to inquire. The Yankees having gained possession of the southern half of Morris Island there is but one way to save the city of Charleston, and that is by the speedy and unflinching use of the bayonet."

"The Mobile *Advertiser* has been holding a post-mortem examination on the rebel cause, but, after careful inspection, thinks that their life is in yet. But some of the subjects of Jeff seem to be weak in the knees. It says that 'there are those who are ready to submit, and anxious for peace and the security of their property on the basis of submission.' It adds, that 'there have been some signs of this white feather.' Will Vallandigham please 'make note on it!'"

The *Richmond Enquirer*, of the 16th, contains a proclamation by Jeff. Davis, calling out, under the Confederate Conscription act, all white men between the ages of 18 and 45, to serve for three years, under penalty of being punished for desertion in case of disobeying the call.

The *Enquirer*, in an article headed "Military Necessity," urges that the only salvation of the Southern Confederacy is in making a levy en masse, such as is called for in this proclamation. The application of martial law to a country in a state of siege, the absolute control of all trading, especially of drink, within military lines, the abolition of substitute exemptions and foreign protections, the material enlargement of the President's power to revise elections of officers, to make appointments, and to get rid of incompetent officers.

The New York riots furnish the only faint gleam of hope for the despairing traitors. They grasp it as sinking men reach for straws. The *Enquirer* says the news is "cheering to us, indeed, because it portends the breaking down of the whole structure of Yankee society."

The movements of Gen. Grant in the South-west have stricken terror into the very heart of rebeldom. The fall of Vicksburg, Port Hudson, Jackson, and the defeat of Price at Helena, are described by the *Richmond Whig* as "the most serious disasters that have attended our arms since the commencement of the war."

Gold sells at \$9 premium; bacon at \$1.50 per lb.; butter \$1.50; candles \$5; coffee \$4; sugar \$1.50; whiskey \$35 per gallon; wheat \$1.50 per bushel; rye \$1; peas \$1; corn \$1; flour \$35 per barrel; Hay \$400 per



Major General George G. Meade.

Business called on the 1st of June, to Fort Pulaski, Georgia. On the way we stopped at Tybee Light House, and visited the Martello Tower, a small fortification built by the Spaniards something over two hundred years ago. It is circular in form, with walls about 8 feet thick, and composed of a composition of shells, sand and cement, which has now become almost as solid as granite.

THE SOUTHERN COAST.

The Rebels in Pennsylvania—Hilton Head—Fort Royal Hotel—Beaufort—The Country on Beaufort River—Visit to Fort Pulaski—A Century Plant in Bloom—Army Amusements—The Department of the South—Character of the Negro Troops—Gen. Gilmore—A Month of Adventure.

NEWBERN, N. C., July 14, 1863. Since I left you I have traveled something over two thousand miles, have seen many strange sights and great curiosities, and yet I doubt whether I had as interesting a time as you poor Pennsylvania Dutch have been enjoying for the past month. I have not heard a word from home in the past three weeks, and you may imagine my anxiety to hear how you have all fared during your time of submission. I borrow the expression from a Chambersburg female: "three weeks in hell." The news we have, gives me reason to hope that the Rebels are ere now South of the Potomac or captured, but the details are imperfect and I can't trust the papers.

You have heard that I left New York for South Carolina on the 20th of May. After passing off Charleston on the 23d, and having a fine view of the city, Fort Smith, the blockading fleet, &c., we reached Hilton Head on the 24th, and at once set to work. The military post, "Hilton Head," is on the Northern point of the Island of that name, and is the headquarters of the Department of the South. The soil is a light, dry sand, and apparently barren, but it is the richest on the Continent. Except where military operations have destroyed the verdure, trees, plants and shrubbery of all kinds grow in luxuriant profusion, and for agricultural purposes on better soil can be found than that of the Sea Islands in the vicinity of Port Royal.

The Department of the South is the best clothed, best equipped, best fed, and in numerical proportion, the most expensive of any in the United States service. It is, I doubt not, composed of men as brave and true as any, and yet under the control of the General, who was lately relieved of his command it has accomplished little else than the emancipation of some thousands of negroes. They are literally swarming in every Department—are becoming insolent and overbearing—and in one of the negro regiments, they recently became so insubordinate, that it was necessary to give several of them "sudden discharges" from the service of the United States, which will enable them to enlist in that fabled army which Old John Brown is supposed to command. Under good officers, the negroes would make good soldiers, but their present expeditions to the main-land are disgraceful in the extreme. They plunder, burn and lay waste all that is in their path. The property of the poor widow who has no part nor lot in the rebellion shares the same fate as that of the wealthiest rebel in the State. It was this state of things which made me doubly anxious about our Pennsylvania homes, while the Rebels were with you. I feared that they would adopt retaliatory measures, and am as much surprised as rejoiced that they did not.

The removal of Gen. Hunter and filling his place by the brave and skillful General Gilmore, shows us that the administration has appreciated the troubles under which the Department was laboring, and gives us promise of better things in the future. The late news from Charleston encourages us to hope that the promise will not be long unfulfilled. After a month's sojourn in our dominions in S. C., driving or rambling through groves of orange and magnolia trees, sailing about the bayous and creeks, being wrecked

on an oyster bank, building lines along the sea shore, through forests and across marshes where we momentarily expected to be "drafted" by alligators, laying cables across four rivers, "melting" in day-light and being "chawed" up by flies, fleas and mosquitoes at night, we fulfilled our mission and departed for a more congenial clime, where one does not hear, see and smell the "inevitable contraband" every moment in the day, where "greybacks" will no longer be so gently o'er us stealing, and which altogether is the most comfortable ranche, we have fallen upon in two years' experience in the army. Congratulate us therefore, that our lines have fallen in places so pleasantly, and that we are living in hopes that but a few months will elapse ere we have the pleasure of taking you by the hand, and of enjoying ourselves as in days gone by.

PHILADELPHIA.

Our Correspondent—The Draft in Philadelphia—Hon. William B. Mann—Reserving Volunteers—The Decline in Gold—The Skies Brighter for the Union.

PHILADELPHIA, July 25, 1863. In complying with your request to become your regular correspondent at this point, I am reminded that the position is not entirely new to me, having, as long ago as 1846, acted for a brief period in that capacity, from another place. I would rather write for the *REPOSITORY* from any other point than this. This is your commercial emporium. Your citizens receive a large number of papers daily, and they are about as well posted on City news as we are, who have to depend mainly on the papers, for information of what is transpiring at our own doors. While much of the local news would be interesting to many of your readers, who are not so fortunate as to receive a daily mail, to others it would be stale and uninteresting, and consequently I will not attempt to report it in detail. The more prominent events only will be noticed, and they briefly.

Although the draft has been made in half the wards of the city, very little excitement has been caused by it. A committee of prominent citizens, of each political party, has been selected to witness the drawing in every ward, and no charge of unfairness has, in any case, been made against the Provost Marshal and his assistants. Those who draw prizes from the wheel, in most cases, take it in good humor. Where substitutes can be had for \$300 or less, they are offered in preference to paying the fine; but it is understood that a very large proportion are paying \$300 for exemption. Ample provisions will be made for the support of the families of those who, from convictions of duty or otherwise, respond in person to the call of their country. The drafting for the whole City will be concluded next week.

Some of the city volunteers, who responded to the call of the Governor, are beginning to return to their homes. The independent company of William B. Mann returned yesterday, and were escorted through some of the principal streets, by other military organizations. Capt. Mann appears to be able to take a turn at almost anything. After the first battle of Bull Run, as Colonel of the 2d Regiment of Pennsylvania Reserves, he hastened to the defense of the Capitol, and continued in command of his regiment for some months. Understanding the politics of Philadelphia better, undoubtedly, than any other man, of any party, he is at once a successful politician, a brave soldier, an accomplished lawyer, and efficient District Attorney.

The decline in Gold is a favorable feature financially, of the last week. This decline must favorably affect the prices of foreign merchandise, as duties will be more easily paid, while in connection with the opening of the Mississippi, the rates of domestic fabrics should give way.

The skies brighten for the Union, and with a continuance of recent successes, the war cannot be prolonged beyond this year. If the draft could be postponed, as the copperhead Journals of New York desire, the rebels might be encouraged to make a desperate effort to recover their lost ground. But with the prospect of an accession of 300,000 men to our army, if they do not see, they can soon be made to feel the hopelessness of their position.

TUSCARORA.

The rebels considered they had a good joke on us when they defended Manassas with wooden guns. While acknowledging the corn, we beg leave to call their attention to several wooden mortars that gave them more annoyance at Vicksburg than all other guns. The mortars threw six, twelve and twenty-four pound shell with considerable accuracy. Captain Trissellian, a "fighting Irishman," on Gen. Logan's staff, conceived the idea of manufacturing mortars from logs. Securing several sound logs, he had them bored out and then hooped them with iron. With a small charge of powder they answered better than iron mortars, for they made little noise. The rebels confessed that more damage was done by these shells than any we threw into Vicksburg.

Major General Maury, commanding at Mobile, is alarmed lest General Grant should take it into his head to "move on the works" erected for the defense of that Rebel city, and accordingly he issues a proclamation to the people setting forth his fears, and calling upon them to prepare for such an event. Maury's fears may be realized.

BRIEF WAR ITEMS.

The *Nashville Union* says: Deserters are again leaving the shattered ranks of Bragg's army, and delivering themselves up to our authorities. Some place their number as high as 10,000. Capt. Ulric Dahlgreen—son of the Admiral—is promoted to a Lieutenant-Colonelcy of Volunteers for gallant conduct at Gettysburg. Among his certificates of good behavior, was a lost leg.

The navigation of the Mississippi, temporarily suspended by the presence of an armed mob, has been resumed. The steamer *Imperial* arrived at New Orleans from St. Louis on the 16th, having met with no obstructions on her voyage.

Surgeon-General Hammond, just returned from Gettysburg, says that the most cruel act of the Rebels within remembrance was the leaving of 11,000 Rebel wounded with only six Rebel surgeons to attend to them. General suffering has been endured by these unfortunate men, so barbarously deserted by the chivalry of the South.

Persons from Hagerstown and Williamsport represent on the authority of the citizens of those places that during the last three days of Lee's stay north of the Potomac his entire army, officers and privates, were in a most fearful state of despondency and trepidation on account of their universal expectation of being attacked.

General Huriburt announces to the War Department that Colonel Hatch, commanding an Iowa regiment of cavalry, had encountered the Rebel cavalry on the 13th inst., at Jackson, Tenn., and after a severe fight routed them, killing, wounding, and capturing two hundred. He also released four hundred conscripts, and took 250 horses.

The Rebel cavalry at Gettysburg was in constant trouble; if it appeared beyond the protection of the infantry lines on either flank, it was charged into by the national cavalry, and sent pell-mell back to its hiding place; and if too far within our own lines, the horses were demoralized by the explosion of shells.

Of the one thousand eight hundred and fifty men comprising the "Iron Brigade," who went into the fight at Gettysburg, seven hundred and twenty-eight were killed or wounded, and four hundred more were unaccounted for on the following day. The brigade is composed of the 2d, 6th, and 7th Wisconsin, 19th Indiana, and the 24th Michigan.

A soldier returning to his regiment, which is under Meade, on the Potomac, said yesterday: "This mob must be put down; the conscription must be enforced. Here I am returning for eighteen months to my regiment, after an spell of sickness. My regiment is not half full; it ought to be filled up; that at once. These men who make a riot, would cut the throats of the soldiers in the field."

Gen. Meade was frequently under the fire at Gettysburg, though he does not appear to have exposed himself unnecessarily. He rode along the lines, attended by the orderlies guiding every movement, and halting and sending to the front demoralized officers and men. At one time his horse was killed under him, the canister shot passing through the flap of the saddle, grazing the leg of the General.

A personal friend and fellow-soldier of Gen. Hooker writes home: "I give you my word that the stories about his drunkenness are utterly false. So far from being drunk at Chancellorville, the fact is that when he was made insensible by the concussion of a cannon-shot against a column upon which he was leaning, and spirits were wanted for his use by the surgeon, not a drop could be found at his quarters, and it was long before it could be obtained."

The capture of Chattanooga by General Rosecrans is a matter which has attracted very little attention, yet it is almost as important an announcement as the surrender of Vicksburg. The latter gave us the Mississippi, but Chattanooga is the key to the whole internal railway system of the South. East Tennessee now becomes ours as a matter of course, and the mountain region which splits the South like a wedge passes naturally into our control. Chattanooga, in its way, means as much as Vicksburg.

The Government has ordered the Rebel General W. Fitzhugh Lee and Capt. Winder into confinement, to await the action of the Rebels at Richmond in reference to the sentence of death passed upon Captains Sawyer, of New Jersey, and Flynn, of Indiana. On Thursday they were removed to a casemate in Fortress Monroe, and notice was sent to Richmond, giving the authorities there to understand that, if the two Union officers were hung, the same death would be visited upon Lee and Winder.

The government is in possession of information going to show that there is a thorough understanding between the New York and Southern Rebels. When the evidence comes to be known to the public, the assertion in the *Tribune* weeks ago that Lee's invasion of Pennsylvania was prompted by a copperhead embassy from New York, will appear amply supported by proof. A widespread organization is known to exist in Northern cities which is in close affiliation with the Southern leaders.