

Franklin Repository.

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We give on the second page of to-day's paper the Bounty Bill recently passed by the legislature. It is now a law, and the people of the various districts can arrange their bounty subscriptions under its provisions without difficulty. It is very latitudinous in its scope, and covers almost every conceivable case.

GEN. McCLELLAN'S Official Report, as made to the War Department, voluminous as it is, omits quite a number of his despatches to the President and Secretary of War. The entire correspondence has now been sent to Congress, and we shall at last have the whole history of General McClellan's campaigns.

LIEUT. GEN. GRANT left Baltimore for Fortress Monroe on Friday last to confer with Gen. Butler. The fact that Burnside is to sail from Annapolis with some 50,000 men, and that Gen. Smith, one of Gen. Grant's most trusted officers, is ordered to duty on the Peninsula, together with Gen. Grant's visit there, point pretty conclusively to important and immediate operations in that quarter. Gen. Grant returned to Washington on Monday.

MARYLAND votes to-day to determine whether a Convention shall be called to eradicate Slavery forever from its soil, and also to elect Delegates. We cannot doubt that the issue will be a decisive verdict in behalf of Freedom. Once disenthrallled from the blight of human bondage, a new and bright future will open for our sister Commonwealth, and another tribute will be added to the faith of the fathers who founded the Republic upon the inalienable rights of Man.

COL. OULD, the rebel commissioner of exchange, came to visit Gen. Butler under flag of truce on Friday last, to confer about the exchange of prisoners. It is confidently expected that they will make arrangements for the speedy release of all our prisoners. After all the bluster of the rebels about holding no intercourse with Butler, they invited him to Richmond under flag of truce to arrange exchanges, and when he refused, they sent their commissioner to his head-quarters.

COL. QUAY, Military Secretary of Gov. Curtin, spent some days in Washington last week to get the quota of troops due from this State definitely ascertained. It has not been officially determined; but instead of being in arrears some 74,000 men as has been published, the record at Washington will probably show an excess of some 10,000, exclusive of the last call. If this should be the official finding of the Provost Marshal General, Pennsylvania will have but 16,000 to furnish under the late call; and the veterans now in service would most likely supply that number by re-enlistments. Gov. Curtin has been indefatigable in his efforts to correct the credits justly due to this State, and we are glad to learn that he has been entirely successful.

THE Rebels and the Democracy sustained two disastrous defeats recently. Gen. Forrest advanced upon Paducah with some 5,000 men, and it was manifestly part of the plan that he was to capture that point and then inaugurate revolution in the Southern portion of Illinois, where they reject free schools and vote the Democratic ticket with a yell. But Col. Hicks, the Union commander at Paducah, unfortunately for the "plan" and the allies, not only refused to surrender the post and his men; but actually repulsed them and compelled Forrest to retreat leaving his dead and wounded behind him. In the meantime, his Democratic allies in Southern Illinois started their revolution in several counties, and finally were routed or captured and taught the propriety of order and obedience to the laws, by Union soldiers. Both of the allied parties failed. The Illinois Democracy failed to aid Forrest at Paducah, and Forrest failed to aid the Democracy in their revolution—so the immediate partnership is supposed to be dissolved until further notice.

THE PRESIDENTIAL STRUGGLE.

The campaign of 1864 opened with the utter discomfiture of the Democracy in New Hampshire, and there must be a counter current of popular opinion within the next six months hitherto unknown in our political history, if the loyal States do not vote as a unit for a Presidential candidate of unquestioned devotion to the cause of our common country. The close of 1863 left the Democracy without a single victory within the year. The Empire State repudiated Seymour by nearly 50,000; Ohio rejected Vallandigham by over 100,000; Pennsylvania defeated Woodward with all his eleventh hour professions of loyalty, by over 15,000, although some 70,000 soldiers were disfranchised; and Indiana, Illinois, and every debatable State declared unequivocally in favor of the policy of the National Administration.

The new year which is to witness the most momentous National struggle in the history of the government, clearly foreshadows the result in November next. New Hampshire was contested with an energy amounting to desperation, and both sides claimed the victory with equal confidence; but the vote in support of the administration candidates astounded friend and foe. Where the Union men claimed but 1,000 majority, they received over 5,000, and scarcely a Democratic candidate survived the struggle to tell that his party had organized existence. Connecticut followed on Monday last with the decisive repudiation of the Democracy, and Rhode Island will certainly follow in the same patriotic devotion to our imperiled Nationality.

Admonished as the Democracy have been by universal defeat in 1863, and the foreshadowing of like disaster in 1864, they have ceased to claim distinctive principles, and have resolved themselves into mere political camp-followers. The late Democratic State Convention, held in Philadelphia on the 24th ult., furnished the most striking and humiliating evidence of the utter demoralization of that once great and dangerous political organization. It had in it the same leading spirits who drove it to the very verge of open treason in 1863; who endorsed Vallandigham, and denounced only the loyal government, while the bloody usurpation of Davis passed without a word of condemnation; but they feared to avow their principles again, and with unblushing treachery declared themselves willing to adopt any platform that promised success. It may be made to suit South Carolina, or it may be made to harmonize with Massachusetts—either will be acceptable if it can only promise success.

And what is Democratic success according to the policy of the leaders? They do not hope to elect the next President; they well know that under the most favorable condition of things they cannot possibly give to any Democratic candidate a majority of the electoral vote.—What, then, is their aim? The deliberate purpose of the Democratic leaders is to defeat the election of a President in November next! They are not fools; they do not hope to carry New Hampshire in November when it gave 5,500 against them in March; they do not calculate on success in Connecticut in the same year that it gave 5,500 majority in condemnation of them and their policy in April; they cannot reverse New York with 50,000 against them in 1863, and the soldier vote to be added in 1864; they are not weak enough to count on Pennsylvania when 70,000 soldiers are to swell the loyal side in the next struggle; and if these States are beyond their control, they are hopeless in the intense Republican States, such as Massachusetts, Vermont, Maine, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa &c., while the regenerated Southern States are, of all others, the most implacable in their hostility to Northern sympathizers with the rebel cause.

But in the face of these discouraging facts, which they comprehend and appreciate fully, they are hopeful that they may deceive the people into defeating the election of the Union candidate; and if so, they will have attained their crowning purpose, by plunging our government into anarchy! This aim they only can they promise the Nation. Give them the strongest possible political current in their favor in November next, and the very most they can accomplish is the defeat of a choice in the electoral college; and that once affected, there can be no election of President, and anarchy is as inevitable as the rising sun. They can carry Kentucky, probably Missouri, Oregon and New Jersey, and they hope to divide the Union strength of the West, by a diversion of the radical German element, so as to give them Indiana, Illinois and several other States. This done, they have achieved their victory, for the nominee of the Baltimore Convention would fall off an election. They expect nothing more—indeed most of them want nothing more. They would prefer losing their own candidate by a failure, to elect any, to the success of their candidate if he is suspected of any degree of fidelity to the Union; and to defeat a choice, therefore, would be their complete victory. The House could not elect, for it would require a majority of all the States of the Union to comply with the provisions of the Con-

stitution; and Pennsylvania, Ohio, Missouri, Kentucky, Indiana, New York, Illinois and New Jersey, have now Democratic delegations and would vote Democratic, while Maryland, West Virginia, Delaware and the Republican States would vote for the Union candidate; but a majority of the States could not possibly be concentrated on either candidate, and the government would be brought to inextricable chaos. This would be the triumph of the Hughes, the Woods, the Vallandighams, and their coadjutors, and the Nationality of our fathers would cease to exist save in history. From anarchy and the revolution it would inaugurate, we should in the end find refuge either in a new Despotism or in the Despotism of Treason.

Such is the aim, the settled purpose of the Democratic leaders in the coming Presidential struggle. Failing to overthrow the government by their treacherous sympathy with traitors thus far, their last hopes is to destroy the Republic by defeating the election of a President in November next, and hurdling twenty millions of people into hopeless anarchy. Let loyal men ponder well as to the entertainment to which they are invited.

OUR STATE REVENUES.

A thorough revision of our State revenue laws, long demanded by equity, is now demanded by imperious necessity. The revolutionists of the Senate resolutely refused to allow any legislation for the relief of the Treasury until the interest on the State debt matured; and the enormous sum of half a million was literally plundered from the tax-payers to gratify the studied purpose of the Democracy to embarrass our finances, and strike a blow at our National credit. Such a depletion of the treasury, with the heavy demands made upon it in the military department, must render the ordinary revenues unequal to the expenses of the government; and unless our tax system is searchingly and sensibly revised, we shall have a sadly embarrassed treasury before the close of the fiscal year.

An increase in taxes is not necessary; and if it be done, it will simply show that the legislature is wanting in an intelligent comprehension of our vast resources. If our present rate of taxes was imposed equitably, we would nearly if not quite double our revenues; and it is confessedly true that the property and capital which escape taxation most, are those which are least deserving of exemption. Not one-tenth the money actually at interest is taxed for State purposes; and there are a thousand avenues of profitable business, which manage to evade our present loose and incongruous tax laws. Our system of valuation is perfectly farcical, and will so remain until we have such enactments as will enforce fair valuation in every section of the Commonwealth. Our Board of Revenue Commissioners has become a mere aggregation of jockeys to shift taxation from point to point, as the more skilful members can best succeed; and the whole system, from beginning to end, is behind the age, invites dishonesty and at last fails to meet the wants of the treasury.

Naturally enough the Representatives from the Agricultural districts pounce upon corporations, and if they can only save lands from taxation, their mission is accomplished whether the necessities of the treasury are met or not. It is but right that corporate wealth should pay a much larger share of the taxes than our lands, for the reason that farming does not afford immense profits. On the contrary, it requires industry and frugality to pay a moderate interest on the investment, while many corporations divide large gains to their stockholders. But corporate wealth should be taxed uniformly, and actual profits, not unremunerative, should be the basis; and it should be so imposed as to reach all and operate justly in its burdens. To tax the gross earnings of Railroads and other transportation companies, without regard to their net revenues, would be a great wrong. The Cumberland Valley could afford to pay tax upon its gross receipts; but how would it operate on the Franklin, that does not pay the interest on its bonds, much less dividends upon its stock? So the Pennsylvania Central could afford it; but how with the Philadelphia and Erie; the Allegheny Valley; the Connellsville and similar roads, which have never declared a dividend, and probably won't declare one for ten years to come? Such a system of taxation would be most unjust and should not be entertained. Actual capital, dividends and surplus funds of corporations are legitimate sources of revenue by taxation, and by a judicious and uniform system reaching them, our laws would be entirely just and vastly increase the revenues of the State.

Valuations should be honest; and until they are made so, we shall have every conceivable fraud practiced. Every dollar at interest should be reached by some proper and effectual process, and lands should be rated at their actual cash value. The uniform custom now is to value real estate at about one-third the price it could be bought for, and in many sections, the valuation is not more than one-fourth. The people elect their Assessors, and as

the general effort is to reduce the valuation of lands, all feel justifiable in laboring and voting to bring their own to the lowest possible point. This system is vicious and unfortunate for both the people and the State; and it cannot too soon be broken up. If our lands were valued justly, a tax of two mills upon real estate, with a judicious tax system reaching all other sources of wealth, would be more than enough to meet all the wants of the government and insure the gradual liquidation of the debt. If for no other reason, the necessity for mutual integrity between the tax-payers and the State demands thorough and honest valuation.

We beg to remind the legislature that there is a vast amount of money due the State for unpatented lands which should be promptly collected. There is no consideration of justice or public policy that can require longer indulgence to those who have held possession of lands for years, without pretending to pay the claim of the State. It is estimated that fully five millions are due the Commonwealth for lands; and the time has come when the State greatly needs it, and the people are abundantly able to pay. It is unjust to those who have honestly paid for their lands to allow others to hold and enjoy the use of theirs without paying a furthing for them; and the times are most propitious for calling in this vast revenue. Let it be demanded promptly and collected, and if not needed for the ordinary expenses of the government, let it be devoted to the various military expenses incurred in preserving our Nationality, and to tempering the sorrow of the many who have been bereaved by the murderous arm of Treason.

OUR JUDICIAL DISTRICTS.

The legislature erred grievously in 1851 by its failure to reduce the number of Judicial districts in this State before any of the Judges were chosen by the people. Once chosen for ten years, it was next to impossible to consolidate districts, where it involved the legislation of Judges out of office. Very many of the districts were confessedly too small—not requiring more than from twelve to sixteen weeks' labor out of the fifty-two on the part of the President Judges; and instead of correcting this evil, the legislature every once in a while erects a new district and diminishes the labors of the Judges and wantonly increases the cost of our courts.

We have been led to refer to this subject by the passage of a bill in the Senate to erect a new Judicial district out of Union and Locoming counties. There is neither local necessity or public policy to favor such a measure. Judge Wood, of Lewistown, has Union, Snyder and Mifflin for his district, and he is not employed over twelve weeks in the year. Take Union from his district, and he will have scarcely eight weeks of court—leaving him idle five-sixths of his time; and the Judge in the new district, would have employment not over ten, or at the outside, twelve weeks. Nor are any of the districts contiguous to the new one at all laborious. Judge Graham is not employed over fourteen weeks in the Cumberland, Perry and Juniata district; Judge Jordan is not employed half—probably not one-third his time in the Northumberland district; Judge Linn could much better take a county to his district than spare one; so with Judge Taylor, and so with two-thirds of the Judges of the State. Why, then, erect new districts which are not called for by any public necessity, and which public policy so clearly forbids? Why impose needless burdens upon the treasury when every dictate of justice and economy demands that our Judicial districts be diminished in number rather than increased? If any aspiring genius wants to become a Judge, let him bid his time, and not demand to be pensioned needlessly on the treasury, to do little or nothing, and to diminish the labors of those who are already cursed with idleness. We submit to the legislature that there can be no rational justification of such a measure; and it should be promptly defeated by the House.

Our Judicial districts should be carefully revised; but the time is not yet at hand when it can be done with entire justice. In 1871 when most of the Judges are to be chosen again, the districts should be diminished fully one-fourth, and we would have better Judges, and could afford to compensate them properly without increasing the cost of our courts. Until then they certainly should not be increased in number. In case of the death or resignation of any Judge, if at all practicable, his district should be partitioned to others where there is not employment for the Judges half the time. Above all things the legislature should avoid such legislation looking to the benefit of individuals at the cost of the people.

POOR Vallandigham! One year ago he was the martyr of the Democracy—was nominated for Governor amidst the wildest enthusiasm and deafening cheers—was greeted by the Democracy of Pennsylvania as one, whose cause was made their cause; and every Democratic press and orator was eloquent in portraying the persecution of a traitor. But now the people have condemned him in their de-

vote to their government, and he is permitted to fall in the house of his friends as a mill-stone no longer to be borne. In the late Ohio Convention he was beaten for Delegate at large to the National Convention—the vote standing for Runney, 216; for Val. 212; and the Pennsylvania Democracy seemed forgetful that such a man as Val. ever lived. Such is the fate of a traitor!

The steamship City of Cork, with European dates to the 21st instant, arrived at New York on Saturday. Prince Frederick, of Augustenburg is reported to have been found dead in his bed at Kiel on the morning of the 18th. On the 17th there was fighting all along the line of Duppel village, and the Tonjeberg position was taken by the Prussians, after a heroic resistance by the Danes. The position of Duppel was unharmed, but the bombardment of the intrenchments, according to a Flensburg dispatch, was renewed the next day, and a terrific cannonade was going on. Advice from Stockholm to the 15th state that fresh disturbances have taken place. The police office was attacked, and the windows in the residence of the chief of the police were smashed.

ARKANSAS.—Although Arkansas is the second of the seceded States to hold an election in renewed allegiance to the Constitution, she will be the first to resume her place in the Union. On the 14th of March she adopted her new free constitution by a popular vote of over ten thousand, in spite of the threats, and, in many places the actual interference of rebel guerrillas. Three members are elected to the House of Representatives from the several districts. The Legislature, which meets next month, will proceed to fill the vacant seats in the United States Senate. The Governor elect is Isaac Murphy, who was "faithful among the faithless found" in the convention that voted Arkansas out of the Union. "The last shall be first" in this case, for the State that closed the file of the seceders, now heads the column of regenerated States which have already begun seeking, repentant but glad, the fold of the Union.

HON. JERE CLEMENS, formerly U. S. Senator from Alabama, in a late Union speech delivered at Huntsville, gave the following secret of the bombardment of Fort Sumter: "In 1861," said Mr. C., "shortly after the Confederate Government was put in operation, I was in the city of Montgomery. One day, I stepped into the office of the Secretary of War, Gen. Walker, and found there, engaged in a very excited discussion, Mr. Jefferson Davis, Mr. Meuninger, Mr. Benjamin, Mr. Gilchrist, a member of our Legislature from Lowndes county, and a number of other prominent gentlemen. They were discussing the propriety of immediately opening fire on Fort Sumter, to which Gen. Walker, the Secretary of War, appeared to be opposed. Mr. Gilchrist said to him: 'Sir, unless you sprinkle blood in the face of the people of Alabama, they will be back in the old Union in less than ten days.' The next day, Gen. Beauregard opened his batteries on Sumter, and Alabama was saved to the Confederacy."

A BILL, completely re-organizing the militia of the Commonwealth, making them more serviceable for resisting raids from the enemy, has been prepared by the Chairman of the Committee on the Militia system, and read in place in the House. It is built mainly upon the Massachusetts system, and meets the approval of the Adjutant General. Under this bill, the State is divided into Regiments and Brigades, and it prescribes the manner of choosing all the officers of the minor organizations, elective. It gives Philadelphia four brigades, Allegheny one. The pay of each officer, non-commissioned officer and private is the same as that of the regular service, allowing, however, thirty cents for rations to each man. A fine of seventy-five dollars, is imposed for non-attendance.

CAPT. WM. P. BRADY, long an officer of the Pennsylvania Senate, died on Monday last, aged over 60 years. He was with Commodore Perry at his victory on Lake Erie during the war of 1812, for which he received a silver medal from Congress. He was the Whig candidate for Assembly in the Clinton, Lycoming and Sullivan district in 1846, but was defeated. In 1847 he was chosen Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms in the Senate, and has remained in that position ever since in the face of all the political mutations that body has experienced. He was invariably an officer and his familiar face and kind attentions to Senators will be sadly missed in the first legislative tribunal of the State. Peace to the ashes of Capt. Brady.

AS THE mountain would not go to Mahomet, Mahomet has come to the mountain. The rebel Commissioner, Col. Ould, who some time since declined to hold any communication with "Beast" Butler, with reference to exchange of prisoners, arrived at Fortress Monroe on Wednesday, on a flag of truce boat, and had a very cordial interview with the General, the result of which is not yet promulgated, as their intercourse will probably continue for two or three days. A proposition was made to Gen. Butler to go to Richmond, with promises of ample protection; but he declined, and the rebel Commissioner has, therefore, paid a visit to him.

MEXICAN news to the 19th ult. have been received. Juarez has published a decree separating the State of Coahuila from New Leon. The report of the capture of Guadalupe by Uruga and the shooting of Miramon is pronounced unfounded. Uruga is said to be marching to the south of Morelia. Ortega is reported to have been routed in Jalisco by the French, and to have disbanded his troops. The French have abandoned Tobasco and Minatitlan. The French cruisers are soon to blockade Mazatlan, Manzanilla and Guaymas.

THE Cincinnati Gazette remarks that "the protracted and heated struggle in the (Ohio) State Democratic Convention, seems to have been over a difference of opinion, whether Mr. Vallandigham or Gen. McClellan is the best representative of the peace and surrender Democracy. We are obliged to declare our astonishment that nearly one-half the Convention disputed Gen. McClellan's pre-eminence claims to this character.

THE Cincinnati Enquirer lays down the "principles" of the Ohio "Democracy" in this wise: "There can be no war under the Constitution for the coercion of a sovereign State. The Democracy stand by the Constitution, and insist that such a war cannot be prosecuted for any legitimate or just purpose, or in any just manner." On this platform the Ohio "Democracy" ran Geo. B. McClellan.

JUDGE PEARSON, of North Carolina, in a recent habeas corpus case tried before him, decided that the act passed by the Rebel Congress for the conscription of persons who have furnished substitutes for the war was unconstitutional.

MINING OF LIBBY PRISON.

A long and interesting speech was made by Gen. Neal Dow, at Portland, Maine, on Friday last, at the public reception given him by the citizens, and in the course of his remarks, he confirmed the report that the rebels in Richmond mined the Libby Prison, at the approach of Kilpatrick's forces. The General gave the following account of the barbarous act:

"They told us of Kilpatrick's raid. On the first of March arrangements had been made to receive him. And what do you suppose the arrangements were? To defend Richmond? Was that it? No. They mined Libby Prison, with the intention of blowing it up; to use their own phrase, 'to blow us to hell.' (Voice—Is there proof of that?) That is capable of proof. I cannot tell you how the fact was intimated to us the next day, without betraying those from whom the information came. On the morning of Wednesday, March 2d, after we had been informed of the gunpowder plot, Dick Turner, the Inspector of Military Prisons, was asked by many officers at different times if we were correctly informed, and he assured us it was true; that a large quantity of powder had been placed under the prison, to blow us up, if Kilpatrick had come in, and that it would be done yet if attempts were made to rescue us.

"Rev. Dr. Smith, President of Randolph-Macon College, who is known to us as an able and influential man, came into the prison to visit Lieutenant Colonel Nichols, of the Eighteenth Connecticut regiment, with whom he was acquainted. He stated that powder had been placed in the basement for the purpose of 'blowing us into atoms.' Col. Nichols did not believe it. Dr. Smith assured him it was so. He had then come from the office of Judge Ould, Commissioner of Exchanges, who told him that it was so. Rev. Dr. McCabe said the same thing to Colonel Censola, of the Fourth New York cavalry, and others. Some officers were in the back kitchen at the window, directly over the door leading into the cellar. Major Turner, the commandant of the prison—Dick Turner—and four or five rebel officers went into the cell, and on coming out they remained a few minutes at the door, and one of the officers said, 'By G—, if you touch that off it will blow them to h—, sure enough?' On the morning we came away, Major Turner assured Captain Sawyer and Capt. Flynn, who were exchanged in connection with myself, that powder was there, and he said, 'rather than to have you rescued, I would have blown you to h—, even if we had some of the rebels.' At first we could not believe it, not that we did not suppose them capable of it. We did not suppose them to be fools enough to be guilty of an act like that. The destruction of nine hundred Federal officers in that way would not have been a fatal blow to the Union cause, but it would have drawn down upon them the execrations of all mankind; it would have united the Northern people as one man, and would have filled the Northern heart with an intense indignation, and when Richmond should be captured, it would have been utterly destroyed and blotted out forever from the earth. At first we could not believe that such an act could have been contemplated, but we now regard it as established by satisfactory proof. Such is the temper of the leaders of the rebellion! Such their character.

DIFFICULTIES OF A CAMPAIGN IN VIRGINIA.

If Gen. Grant does not defeat Lee and drive the rebels out of Virginia in three months, or if he does not win in every move and every battle, he will not be hooded down and disgraced. We know now by sad experience what war is and what are the obstacles to be overcome in Virginia. From a calm and soldierly article in the Army and Navy Journal, we take some instructive hints as to the difficulties of a campaign in Virginia: "On the right of our army are chains of mountains which enable the rebels to conceal any flanking movement they may undertake, while the valleys afford to them the means for an easy and uninterrupted passage to the Potomac above Washington, and one almost entirely a succession of hills, presenting great natural obstacles to our advance, and at the same time easily defensible; to make flanking movements by ascending them is to open our rear to attacks from Frederickburg, and to cross below the rebel army, leaves the railroad a prey to guerrillas. The country is, moreover, masked in every direction by dense forests, rendering anything like a surprise in force impracticable. A few rebel scouts may at all times easily detect and thwart such a movement. Such are the natural features of the country. "It is a well known rule of military operations that a 'base' should neither be too extended nor too limited, and that it should be accessible by several routes. The base of the Army of the Potomac is just the width of a railroad track, and that railroad furnishes really the only practicable route of communication. For every mile of advance beyond Fairfax Court House, 500 men are required to protect the rear. The leaders of the rebels of course understand all these circumstances, and are always ready to take advantage of them. They are fully aware that they can hold in check, with three-fourths of its force, the Army of the Potomac. Meaning, they pursue the Fabian policy—the policy of Washington on the mountains of the Hudson river. They are not foolish enough to stake everything on the risk of a battle, except where invulnerably fortified. They will not attack, nor will they accept a battle in the field. Their own rear needs no protection; they have two railroad routes besides all the ordinary roads. Thus they have all the advantage of position on their side. "But we are in view of these difficulties to expect nothing from the Army of the Potomac. No, it may overcome them in two or three weeks. First, with a sufficient force to cover its flanks, it may compel the enemy to retreat and Richmond to be abandoned. Second, it may be able to bring on an engagement, which will prove decisive. Third, by cutting it loose from Washington, and making it a movable column, it may go at any time to the rear of the rebel army and open a new base for itself on the Pamunkey or York rivers, or by the railroad from Fredericksburg. We risk nothing in saying that the army can at any time go to Richmond, if relieved from the necessity of protecting its rear. This could have been done last fall, when General Meade crossed the Rapidan and was stopped by the rebel works on Mine Run. The army can transport fifteen days subsistence and forage, and with, where it can operate on a new base; or, if successful in forcing the rebel lines, can even enter Richmond at once.