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BY MCCLURE & STONER.

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Franklin Repository.

Fourth of July in Chambersburg!

A PERTURBED VILLAGE!

REBELS AND RUMORS OF REBELS!

GENERAL EXODUS OF NEGROES AND STOCK!

EXTENSIVE MILITARY PREPARATIONS!

THE REBELS DON'T ADVANCE!

All Quiet Along the Lines!

Sunday July 3d opened in Chambersburg serene and beautiful, and worshippers wended their way to their respective sanctuaries with their wonted calmness and devotion. The afternoon witnessed the first anniversary of the Mission School—a Sunday School under the direction of the several denominations, and for a year past held regularly in the Presbyterian Lecture Room, and devoted to the christian task of teaching colored men, women and children to read and giving them religious instruction. They had gathered in the church at 3 P. M. to commemorate the first anniversary of an institution that promised them advancement, religious training, and fitness for usefulness and honor; and they sang their songs of praise with an earnestness that betokened the spirit and also the understanding. In the midst of the services, when kind ministers who had watched over and labored with these poor victims of brutalizing slavery, were congratulating them on the great good wrought in their behalf, a messenger handed the speaker a message stating that the rebels were approaching the Potomac in force, and seemed bent on invasion and destruction.

SPREADING THE NEWS.

The news flew like wild-fire, and consternation seemed to have seized almost every citizen. Gen. Sigel had advised Gen. Couch that a considerable force was moving against him at Martinsburg. He intimated his inability to arrest their advance, and advised Gen. Couch to be prepared for the worst. This was but the part of a prudent General, knowing as he did that Gen. Couch would need some time to concentrate his forces, and protect the valuable stock in the southern section of the county. General Couch at once despatched messengers to different parts of the county advising the people to get their stock north of Chambersburg so that it could not be seized by a sudden dash of rebel cavalry. It is needless to say that such an intimation from Gen. Couch to a people thrice despoiled by rebels needed no argument to insure prompt obedience; and the work of exodus commenced early and was continued with the most commendable perseverance until there was scarcely a horse on the southern line.

EXCITEMENT IN CHAMBERSBURG.

Chambersburg took on the excitement as naturally as sunset takes to night. Although but a single reliable dispatch was received from P. M. until late at night, a thousand rumors spread and magnified as they passed from mouth to mouth, until it seemed as if all the articles of rebellion swelled ten-fold, and about to sweep upon devoted Chambersburg, and make a morning lunch of its officers, citizens, negroes, horses, goods and wares, and kindle a breakfast fire by burning half or the whole of the village. In the midst of the intense excitement we recruited on reportorial corps to the largest possible dimensions, and resolved to give the thrilling position of the bloody struggle about to be inaugurated, on some future day, when we should be able to report our office after the coming yancels had vanished. We employed fifteen intelligent knights of the quill to call upon General Couch every fifteen minutes and inquire particularly how many rebels there were on the Potomac; how soon they would cross; where they would cross; what they would do when they were across; how long they would stay; whether they would burn the Repository office; when horses and cattle should be sent off; where they should be sent off; when they should be brought back; how many troops he had here; how many were coming; when and where he was going to fight; whether any indigent citizens could be accommodated with himself and staff in case of retreat; and various other purely military interrogatories which the reportorial corps deemed matter proper for public information. We regret to say that Gen. Couch did not answer more than half of the questions satisfactorily, and although the Major General commanding, even intimated his ignorance on several of the most important points submitted. We are not aware what action the corps may take on this arbitrary exercise of military power.

STARTLING REPORTS FROM FUGITIVES.

We also dispatched forty first-class specimens of the corps to gather all the trust-worthy information about relative to the movement of the rebels. Intelligent contrabands were seized as soon as they arrived, and their modest and unvarnished stories taken down with the utmost care. Enterprising skeddaddlers were questioned and cross-questioned, and their valuable contributions to the current history of the day scrupulously preserved. Retiring quartermasters, and fragmentary commands, just escaped from the wholesale slaughter of their comrades, were persuaded to modify their grief until their pitiful and truthful tales could be preserved to posterity; and the calm, imperturbable citizens, who loved truth solely for the truth's sake, were flanked on the corners, surrounded on

store-boxes, and "smiled" in quarters where lovers of beer most do congregate. Thus was a complete, reliable and intensely interesting history of the campaign kept up with its starting progress.

IMMENSITY OF THE REBEL FORCE.

On comparing the perfectly reliable reports of the corps in the course of the night—leaving out the doubtful and exaggerated stories of frightened and reckless people, we found we had positive information that the rebels had crossed the Potomac at not less than twenty-four places that afternoon and evening, in columns from four to ten thousand strong; and that the main body had not yet reached the river. It was evident, therefore, that not less than a million rebels were about to enter Pennsylvania, and as Gen. Couch's command was certainly not more than half that number, the prospect of successful resistance seemed most gloomy. The rebels had, according to positive rumors, maintained a line of battle all of Sunday, some twenty miles long on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and the extent of their artillery may be imagined when they fired not less than fifteen guns every second. Some of them distinctly heard in this section could not have been less than fifteen hundred pounders. It is barely possible that a little nervousness and a tendency to exaggerate were created with our corps by Gen. Couch's bland assurance to our people that he was able, and would hold the town at all hazards, and that he had sent for an abundant supply of arms for the citizens. This was most agreeable intelligence to all but several hundred who had urgent business abroad, and others who had valuable stock that could not be safely entrusted to servants. Of course citizens so situated could not be expected to fight.

THE FEVER SUBSIDES A LITTLE.

Thus the fever ran until a late hour on Sunday night, when some of the most positive and circumstantial accounts of rebels crossing the Potomac were contradicted, and the crowd weary and worn out with their own exaggerations, gracefully retired, leaving a few leading citizens and the military to conduct operations and provide for contingencies.

AN OPERATOR CHANGES HIS BASE.

The telegraph operator at Hagerstown, being assured every seven minutes that the rebels were about to enter Hagerstown, he very naturally changed his base from the telegraph office to some less attractive point for rebel investigations; and several hours would sometimes elapse before he would turn up again to inform Gen. Couch that the last report was a mistake. The only apparently reliable information received during the night, was a dispatch from Gen. Weeber, dated at Harper's Ferry, stating that Sigel had been overwhelmed at Martinsburg, and was endeavoring to retreat upon the Ferry. The rebel force opposed to him was reported to Gen. Weeber at from ten to twenty thousand infantry, cavalry and artillery. This startling information naturally gave much concern to the military authorities, but as most of the excitable population had retired, it did not ruffle the surface of the village perceptibly. Troops were hurried on by Gen. Couch with all possible speed by rail from eastern points, and before day-light, he had an ample cavalry force of trained troops on the entire southern line, and had also a force of infantry and artillery on which he relied with entire confidence, with the aid of citizens who would voluntarily join the troops, to hold the town against any probable assault. With unintermitted telegraph lines to Greencastle, Mercersburg and McConnellsburg, and an efficient cavalry force scouting from all these points, surprise was impossible; and with the force and facilities for the defence of Chambersburg, a raiding party would have met with an unpleasantly warm welcome had they moved on his works.

INCIDENTS OF THE FOURTH.

The fourth was a day of unusual excitement. The roads were dark with sable refugees, and swarming with horses and other stock moving North, as directed by the General commanding. Every man who came from the southern section of the county brought his own story of fabulous numbers of rebels jet about to enter his particular settlement, and some had actually seen the rebel forces in their neighborhood. They were reported again as crossing at Hancock; at North Mountain Station; at Williamsport; at Sheppardstown; at Falling Waters; at Clearspring; at all the deldams; and at every other point where it was possible for a man to get across the river; and our reporters applied, by a common system of arithmetic to their statements, the robbery could not have been made less than a million—just as it was computed the day before. But the uniform extravagance of all the rumors, and the positive and persistent adherence to them by their authors, at last became fatal, and they were discussed on the corners as practical jokes of the day. By noon general confidence was restored, as it became manifest that if a raid upon Chambersburg had been intended it would have been clearly developed. Here that time, and the remainder of the day was devoted to jolly discussion of the terrors of invasion, and merry peals at the ludicrous incidents with which it chequers human history. General tranquility prevailed thereafter, with the exception of a little variation introduced into the programme on Monday night by the operator at Hagerstown, as reported by a courageous Lieutenant of the "spunk mit do sword" persuasion. The operator finding that the rebels were moving on his works again about 5 P. M., he skeddaddled and did not return as usual tomorrow Gen. Couch that he was misinformed. He took his instrument to Greencastle, and from there gave the account of the advancing rebel. The Lieutenant reached here in the course of the night, and reported the number of rebels that had entered Hagerstown; the exact time of their entry, and knew pretty much all about the rebel force this side of the Potomac, which embraced certainly

Earley's and Breckinridge's commands. Hagerstown being cut off by the departure of the operator, rumor had fair play, and a general stampede of horses and willing attendants took place about 10 P. M. Just while the officer was detailing his strategy in eluding the large force of rebels in Hagerstown and beyond, a dispatch was received from Mr. Bays, who had gone to Hagerstown in a hand-car, stating that all was quiet—that there had been no rebels there, and that none were on this side of the Potomac. Our efficient reportorial corps immediately had a consultation, and unanimously resolved to recommend the Lieutenant not to deprive him of his laurels, we withhold his name.

THE REBEL MOVEMENT.

The truth of the rebel movement is now clearly manifest. Hunter had retired from Lynchburg to West Virginia, leaving the Valley undefended, and it was known to the rebels that vast stores had been loaded at Martinsburg to be sent to Hunter. The train had been started up the Valley; but owing to Hunter's movement had returned; and the cavalry and mounted infantry of the force that had resisted Hunter from Staunton to Lynchburg, made a dash down the Valley to capture the much coveted stores and stock. That Sigel outnumbered the attacking forces, we cannot now doubt; but he had a long line and large and valuable trains to defend. He therefore wisely ran no risk in being overwhelmed; but retired in safety with his entire train to Sharpsburg, where he now has his headquarters. At the time of this writing (Tuesday noon) we have seen no evidence that any more than scouting squads or pickets from the rebels have crossed the Potomac at any point; and as Sigel is in a position to operate from Sharpsburg; Weeber from Harper's Ferry; Kelly from Cumberland and Couch from Chambersburg, we think a rebel raid into Pennsylvania as highly improbable. The risk would be too great, while the advantage could not be substantial even in case of success. By the promptness of Gen. Couch all the valuable stock was got out of the southern part of the county, and there was therefore nothing to gain by a movement into this State. To the decision, skill and tireless energy of Gen. Couch and his staff the people owe their present tranquillity and safety.

FUGITIVE FARMERS AND STOCK.

Certainly not less than 1,000 horses passed along the Harrisburg turnpike to Shippensburg and points adjacent, and many more were sent to the north-western portions of the county. On Monday very many returned, and all day yesterday a steady stream was passing back to their homes again. The golden fields are ready for the reaper, and protected as the border now is, the rich harvest of the Cumberland Valley can be gathered without fear of interruption.

FINALE.

So dawned and ended the 4th of July, 1864, and so ended the latest panic in the "Green Spot." The boys closed the natal day of the Republic with the usual amount of wasted powder; the Old Flag waved merrily over the town from the beautiful Union Pole in the diaphanous; and the sun set in the west in strict accordance with the almanac as in days of yore, while the bottle-scarred and battle-scarred of the village, in mutual admiration, mourned their failure to meet the relentless foes of the Republic. Long live the fourth of July!

SUMMARY OF WAR NEWS.

Gen. Hancock has resumed command of the Second Army Corps.

The Medical Director of Gen. Sherman's army telegraphs that our entire loss in the recent assault will not exceed 1,500.

Provost Marshal Gen. Fry has issued instructions to the various provost marshals that under existing laws, they can receive or accept colored substitutes for white persons.

On the 19th three companies of the 4th Virginia (Rebel) came into our lines on the Chattanooga, took the oath of allegiance, and were employed as teamsters and laborers.

The Chicago Journal says: "We have a confirmation of the report that Gen. Canby's forces in Louisiana have embarked on an important expedition—probably for a movement against Mobile."

A camp of Rebel conscripts on the Hendersonville road, six miles from Atlanta, on the 17th, broke for our lines. They numbered eight hundred, six hundred of whom got in and remain; two hundred were recaptured by the Rebels.

With the consent of Gen. Grant, the Christian Commission has sent to City Point from Baltimore steam fire-engine No 4 for the purpose of forcing water from the James River to the hospitals, a distance of one mile from the river.

Gen. Archer, who was captured at the battle of Gettysburg, has been sent to Major Gen. Foster to keep Gen. Gardner company under the fire of the Rebel batteries at Charleston, until the union officers confined in Charleston are released.

Since Gen. Grant first crossed the Rapidan he has captured over thirty stands of Rebel colors and about 17,000 Rebel prisoners, not including those captured within the last eight or ten days, while his own loss in prisoners is less than one-third that number.

Since Gen. Grant's flanking movements "flanking" is the term used by the soldiers to describe almost everything. A brave fellow, the other day, told our correspondent that he saw a shell coming, but "hadn't time to flank it." The shell had flanked him and taken off one of his arms.

A dead mule, belonging to a Memphis citizen, was being hauled out of the lines the other day, when a bayonet-thrust revealed the fact

that the carcass contained 60,000 percussion caps, a quantity of ammunition, and other contraband articles, which some rebel sympathizer had taken this means of smuggling.

Sherman has captured in the neighborhood of Altoona about thirty iron works, and at Etowah and others places more factories of the rebels fell into our hands. In fact this march of Sherman has indicated prodigious injury upon the rebel cause, and as the country occupied is now firmly held, the idea that Johnston has only temporarily yielded it up is preposterous.

Were you ever ashamed of the names of some of our battle-fields? Not Northern mudsills, but Southern chivalry, are responsible for such names as these—they are genuine and historical: Bull Run, Snicker's Gap, Slaughter's Mountain, Polecat Station, Gum Neck, Nigger-foot-Road, Buzzard Roost Pass, Mob Jack Back, Yellow Tavern, Hardersville, Town, Shaketown, Jericho Marsh, Piping Tree, Pumpkinville Creek, Ox Neck, Guinea's Branch, Snake River Hollow.

An official despatch from Gen. Hunter reports the safe arrival of his force without serious loss at a point (not stated) where he has met abundant supplies of food and forage. General Hunter says that his "expedition has been extremely successful, inflicting great injury on the enemy and victorious in every engagement." He withdrew because his ammunition was exhausted, and it was impossible to collect supplies in the presence of an enemy who was being constantly reinforced from Richmond. Gen. Hunter announces that his force will be ready in a few days for service in any direction.

Later intelligence from Gen. Wilson states that he has reached Burkville, the junction of the arid roads leading from Dantille and Lynchburg to Richmond and Petersburg, and destroyed a large portion of both roads. The cutting of this communication, the accomplishment of which is acknowledged in the Richmond papers, is one of the most important achievements now going on around Richmond. This, together with the results of Hunter's expedition, cuts all of Lee's communications with the South and Southwest, and is the beginning of the great work of investing the rebel capital. Petersburg papers state that Gen. Wilson destroyed a train loaded with cotton and furniture, burned a depot, and at Burkville destroyed the track, and was still pushing South. All the railroads leading into Richmond are now destroyed, some of them badly.

A prominent officer of the Christian Commission sends the following note to the editors of the Baltimore American: "I am just from the front this morning. Everything looks very well. The boys are in fine spirits. You may be assured of this, as I have been in personal contact with hundreds, both in the reserve and in the rifle-pits. I had an interview with Gen. Grant on Monday afternoon. He is confident of the result. He says there can be but one result—the defeat of the enemy or his (the enemy's) retreat from Petersburg, and then his complete overthrow. Extensive preparations are in progress, and soon the country will be more loudly applaud the military genius and executive ability of Gen. Grant and Meade. I was surprised to find some of our Union men despondent when I arrived here (at Baltimore) this morning. You can safely assure your readers that there is no occasion for it."

Mr. Dana, the Assistant Secretary of War, who will be accepted throughout the United States as one of the most intelligent and cool observers that have studied the war, as well as one of the most truthful of men, has answered the questions of anxious inquirers here about the situation at Petersburg, to the effect that Lee's force is not more than two-thirds of Grant's; and that Grant had his hand on Lee's throat, and would keep his hold till he strangled him to death. He gives to all the assurance of our final and conclusive success. Among the striking facts which Mr. Dana has mentioned is that we have at this moment 51,000 of the Rebel soldiers prisoners in our hands. The public feeling is one of absolute, unwavering confidence in the future and in Grant, and over and above all in Grant's army. The coolest and most soldierly heads in Washington now declare that it cannot be whipped—the nation, indeed, can lean on it.

A correspondent sums up Gen. Sherman's great campaign as follows: "The Army of the Mississippi has made a tremendous campaign. It moved out of cantonments on the 1st of May from quarters scattered from Decatur to Knoxville; has marched with only the necessities, and none of the comforts of campaigning, over mountains, through gorges and gaps, and ravines; made bridges and forded streams; used all sorts of traveled and bridle path roads; scaled precipices and made roads for itself in the wildest of countries, a land of hills and streams; has fought a large, well-appointed, well-officered army at Dalton, at Resaca, at Dallas; received battles whenever and wherever offered; pursued it as often as it retreated, and so far outgeneraled the enemy from 'very good position, and is now a good hundred miles, as the crow flies, from its original base of supplies, and but thirty-five miles from Atlanta. And that army, as I write you, is as strong in numbers, as sound in health, as confident in heart, as the day it took the field."

POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE.

M. D. Bechtel is an independent candidate for Sheriff in Blair county.

Having been a failure in his early days, it may be confidently said that Governor Andrew Johnson is "sound on the goose."

W. M. Anderson, an Ohio delegate to the Copperhead Chicago Convention, writes a letter in favor of a Western Confederacy. This is Democratic deputation to the Union.

The Senate on Wednesday voted, by 27 to 6, that Messrs. Fishback and Baxter, protesting to represent the State of Arkansas in the United States Senate, are not entitled to seats in that body.

The Union men of Middlebury have instructed for A. A. Barker, of Cambria, for Congress; D. W. Woods for Senator, and Chas. Stineberger for Assembly. Stineberger is the present member.

The Boston Herald by far the ablest and most popular Democratic paper in New England, comes out for Lincoln and Johnson.—There will not be bogus Democracy enough left for seed in New England.

Col. John B. Parker was elected Councilman in the West Ward of Carlisle recently by 75 majority. He is a decided Union man, and the defeat of the Democrats is the most decisive they have suffered there for years.

The Union State Convention of Maine assembled on the 29th ult., at Augusta, the capital. Hon. Samuel Cony was re-nominated for Governor. The Convention passed a series of resolutions which endorse the Administration and approve a vigorous prosecution of the war.

An election has just taken place in Nebraska, to decide whether the people want a State Government, and to elect delegates to frame a State Constitution, in case the decision is in favor of a State organization. Partial returns from the principal counties indicate that the people are opposed to a State Government.

The Democracy of Wisconsin has concluded to wait until "something turns up." It has no opinions to express until the Convention in Chicago meets. Instead of taking one side or the other, this Micawber Democracy skulks around the baggage wagons, waiting until the battle is over; that it may plunder the dead.

The Copperheads seem to neglect a great argument which might be used against Mr. Lincoln. It is from a recent speech of Hon. J. L. M. Curry, the Secession leader of Alabama. "Should Lincoln be re-elected," says Mr. Curry, "our fond hopes will be dashed to the ground." This is an argument the Copperheads neglect.

The Unionists of Beaver have nominated Hon. Thomas Cunningham for Congress; L. L. McGuffin for Judge; Michael Weyand for Prothonotary, and Col. M. S. Quay and S. G. Gaughey for Assembly. Beaver elects three members with Washington, and Messrs. Reed and Kelly of the latter county will doubtless be re-nominated with Col. Quay as the other candidate. He is a gallant and accomplished young man—was twice Prothonotary of the county, and entered the military service as Colonel of one of the nine months' regiments. Impaired health compelled his resignation, but he was unable to get home until active operations against Fredericksburg were about to commence under Burnside, and he volunteered on Gen. Tyler's staff and served with great heroism in the deadly assaults made by that brave but ill-fated commander. He is now Chief Military Clerk under Gen. Curtin—a position he has filled most acceptably.

FINANCIAL.

The Northumberland Bank will be re-named to Sunbury.

Secretary Chase announces that bids amounting to \$30,000,000 will be received until July 6 for the remainder of the new \$75,000,000 loan.

A Special War Tax was enacted by Congress during Saturday's sitting. Five per cent. on all incomes for 1863 to be paid on the 1st of September next; and it is calculated that this item will put \$20,000,000 into the Treasury, to be devoted to paying bounties to soldiers about to be drafted.

The total official and estimated revenue for the fiscal year, which ended on the 30th ult., is \$247,558,184 46, viz:

From Customs	\$118,212,668 41
From Internal Revenue	109,000,000 00
From Sale of Public Lands	321,077 59
Miscellaneous	36,255,638 59
Total	\$247,558,184 46

The revenue from customs for the last quarter of the year, it is estimated, will amount to \$30,000,000. Over \$28,000,000 has already been received. From internal revenue, \$36,000,000; and from miscellaneous sources about \$20,000,000, derived principally from the premium on gold sold by the Treasury Department. The actual official revenue for the first three quarters of the year is \$161,250,741 69, while the actual and estimated receipts for the last quarter are \$85,577,442 70. The official statement of the public debt on the 21st of June shows that the gold interest per annum on the amount outstanding at that time was \$50,847,167 05, and the interest per annum payable in currency, \$21,290,250 05—making the total interest on the debt \$72,737,416 10. The interest on the Seventy-five Million Loan, when all taken, will amount to four millions five hundred thousand dollars per annum, from the time the bonds are issued. Deducting premium from the first year's interest, it will leave only about one million interest to be paid by the first year. The Four Hundred Million Dollars Loan, at six per cent., will add twenty-four million dollars more to the gold interest-bearing debt; and the hundred and thirty millions of Ten-Forty Bonds still remaining undisposed of, when taken, will increase the interest six million five hundred thousand more, making the total interest payable in gold eighty-two million three hundred and forty-seven thousand one hundred and fifty-seven dollars. These are all the loans which the Secretary has authority to negotiate. It will be seen that, even if the receipts from customs shall fall off twenty-one millions, or one-fifth, during the next fiscal year—which is very unlikely—the Treasury Department will still be able to pay every dollar of interest it owes.

PERSONAL.

—Maj. Gen. D. C. Buell has taken up his summer residence at Bedford Springs.

—Maj. William Bell, of Juniata, has been appointed Lieut. Col. of the Twelfth Pa. Cavalry.

—The Hon. Josiah Quincy died on Friday evening, July 2, at his country seat in Quincy, Mass., aged 92 years.

—Rev. Henry L. Baugher, son of President Baugher of Gettysburg, has accepted the charge of the Lutheran Church at Norristown.

—Brig. Gen. Taylor, Commissary-General of Subsistence, died last week. Col. Eaton of New-York is the next in order of promotion in this Department.

—The Pittsburg Commercial says: "Brig. Gen. Thomas A. Rowley, of this city, has been assigned to the command of this department by Maj. Gen. Couch."

—In an obscure corner of the grave yard at Little Rock, stands a mound of earth marked by a pine board, whitened into curious shapes and bearing this inscription: "C. F. Jackson, Governor of Missouri."

—Gen. Robert Toombs, formerly Senator in Congress from Georgia, and then general in the rebel army, is now a private in a Georgia regiment. Roger A. Pryor is a private in a Virginia regiment.

—Thomas Hyer, the noted pugilist, died on Sunday week. Hyer was not a fighter by profession; though he twice fought McCloskey, who first beat Hyer, and in the next encounter was himself beaten. Hyer was subsequently induced, by Yankee Sullivan, to enter the ring with him. Though successful, Hyer afterwards avoided fighting; but his course of life was not otherwise so commendable. His age was forty-five years.

THIS SITUATION.

"Veteran Observer," in the New York Times gives his opinion at length on the military situation, from which we make the following quotation:

It is plain that if, in marching on Richmond, Grant could not in the first place destroy the use of railroads and bridges leading from Richmond to the Potomac, he could not leave Lee's front (when that became necessary, such was in passing the James) without leaving Lee at liberty, not merely to go, but to go rapidly, to the Potomac. If Lee was a daring and great commander, that was not safe. He must, then, advance in such a way as to destroy the communications from Orange Court House to Port Royal. This he has done; so it became necessary, if possible, to destroy the Central Road. This has been done partially, we hope wholly, by General Sheridan. It was necessary, also, for Grant to compel Lee to go to and east of Richmond, in order, if possible, to confine him at Richmond, instead of retreating on the Rappahannock, which he ought to do. When this was done, and a demonstration made on the north side, all was done there which could be of any use, except on the contingency that Richmond could be carried by assault, which did not seem probable. Grant, then, must pass to the south of the James in order to complete the practical circumvallation of the rebel capital, for on the east it was circumvallated by tide-water, held by us; on the north by the broken communications; and the impossibility of going North with his shattered forces without almost certain destruction; and there remained nothing to complete this circumvallation, but to cross the James river and lie across the Petersburg and Danville roads. Then the investment of Richmond is complete. This, however, was a dangerous operation. Lee could, not really prevent it, but he might have embarrassed us, and caused great loss. This enterprise has been safely accomplished, and we are driven to believe one of two things—either that Lee's army has been so much reduced as to be incapable of fighting in the field, or that Lee was really surprised, and deluded by Grant's movements. The former is most probable. It is not believed that Lee could possibly be brought to the magnitude and importance of Grant's crossing James river. No doubt his army has met with immense losses, and it may be he was really, for a time, deceived; for Grant's assault and intrusions on the north side were such as to induce a belief that there the real attack must be made.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

The people of Pennsylvania will be called upon to ratify or reject several proposed amendments to the State Constitution, on Tuesday, August 2d. The amendments provide for extending the right of suffrage to our gallant soldiers, and also impose certain restrictions upon legislation. The new article to be designated as section 4, will be resisted by copperheads, but it will prevail by a large majority, and the heroic defenders of the Old Flag will be able to vote next fall in support of their sacred cause. We subjoin the several amendments to be voted on:

There shall be an additional section of the third article of the Constitution, to be designated as follows:

"SEC. 4. Whenever any of the qualified electors of this Commonwealth shall be in any actual military service; under a requisition from the President of the United States, or by the authority of this Commonwealth, such electors may exercise the right of suffrage in all elections by the citizens, under such regulations as are or shall be prescribed by law, as fully as if they were present at their usual place of voting."

"SEC. 5. There shall be two additional sections to be designated as sections 6 and 7 of the Constitution, to be designated as sections eight and nine, respectively, as follows:

"SEC. 8. No bill shall be passed by the Legislature, containing more than one subject, which shall be clearly expressed in the title, except appropriation bills.

"SEC. 9. No bills shall be passed by the Legislature, granting any powers, or privileges, in any case, where the authority to grant such powers, or privileges, has been, or may hereafter be, conferred upon the Courts of this Commonwealth."

AN UOBY PICTURE.—The Valley Spirit of this week gives a comforting summary of the despondent and disappointed feelings of the Virginia and states that Secretary Stanton has ceased issuing war bulletins in a complimentary manner. After drawing a most discouraging picture of our military situation, the editor laments that he cannot write in a "more hopeful strain." Instead of hopeful the last sentence should read "truthful."—Village Record.