THE WAR!

BLOODY BATTLE AT BULL'S RUN.

Defeat of the Federal Forces—The Army Retreats to Washington—Great Slaughter.

FAIRFAX COURT HOUSE, July 21.—The following dispatch has been received:

CENTREVILLE, July 21, A. M.

We have successfully outflanked the enemy. At half past two o'clock this morning the various regiments about Centreville were formed for a march. At three o'clock they were in motion in the direction of Perryville, leaving Bull's Run to the left.—At six o'clock the first gun was heard fired by the 32 pound rifled cannon sent ahead to engage the masked batteries that might be encountered on the road. There was no reply from the enemy, and the advance moved on. At General McDowell's headquarters, three miles beyond, Centreville, the greater part of the army moved to the right to avoid a bridge some distance beyond, said to have been undermined.

They will pass over upon pontoons prepared by Captain Alexander, of the engineer corps, and who has inspected the country minutely in previous reconnoissances, and to whom in great measure the plan of the campaign is due.

WASHINGTON, July 21, 9 P. M.—The Secretary of War has received a dispatch announcing that fighting was renewed at Bull's Run this morning. Our troops engaged the enemy with a large force, and silenced their batteries, and drove the secessionists to the Junction, with great slaughter. The firing was heard in this city to-day, from the direction of Bull's Run, from 11 till about 3 o'clock. After a cessation till nearly 5 o'clock, the sound was again heard, and the reverberation of cannon was still audible at 7 o'clock.

WASHINGTON, July 21, 11 P. M.—The most intense excitement is everywhere existing to hear further from the field of battle.—Every returning spectator of the events is immediately surrounded to relate his observations. The demand for intelligence is insatiable. Many unauthorized rumors prevail, which serve to confuse the truth.

The smoke of the battle could be seen from the eminences in Washington. A number of members of Congress, and even ladies, went to the neighborhood of Bull's Run to witness the battle. One of these members report, that Col. Hunter, of third cavalry, acting as Major General, was seriously, if not mortally, wounded. It is stated in all quarters, and the sad news is generally credited, that Col. Cameron, of the 79th regiment, and brother of the Secretary of War, and Col. Slocum, of the second Rhode Island regiment, were killed in the action.

CENTREVILLE, July 21, P. M.—A most severe and general battle was fought to-day at Bull's Run bridge. The conflict was most desperate and bloody, lasting over nine hours!

The rebels rapidly received reinforcements from Manassas Junction after the attack was opened. The vaule consisted in a succession of fires from masked batteries, which were opened in every direction. When one was silenced its place was taken by two, and the daring charges of our infantry in unmasking them exhibited the most dauntless courage.

The most gallant charge of the day was made by the New York 69th, 79th and 13th regiments, who rushed upon one of the batteries, firing as they proceeded with perfect *elan*, attacking it with the bayonet point. Their yell of triumph seemed to carry all before them.

They found that the rebels had abandoned the battery as they approached, and had only succeeded in carrying off one gun.—This success was acquired only after a severe loss of life, in which the 69th Regiment suffered most severely, and it is reported that the Lieutenant Colonel was among the first killed.

Ellsworth's Zouaves also distinguished themselves by their spirited assault on the batteries at the point of the bayonet, but it is feared that their loss is immense.

The position of the enemy extended in three lines, in the form of a triangle, the apex fronting the centre of our columns.—The arena seems to have been filled with masked batteries.

At 7 o'clock this evening guns were still heard firing at short intervals.

WASHINGTON, July 22.—After the latest information was received from Centreville at 7 o'clock last night, a series of events took place in the intensest degree disastrous.

Many unauthorized statements are prevalent, but enough is known to warrant the statement that we have suffered in a degree which has cast a gloom over the remnant of the army and excited the deepest melancholly throughout Washington.

The carnage is tremendously heavy on both sides, and on ours represented as frightful. We were advancing and taking their masked batteries gradually but surely and driving the enemy toward Manassas Junction, when the enemy seemed to have been reinforced by General Johnson, who, it is understood, took command and immediately commenced driving us back, when a panic among our troops suddenly occurred and a regular stampede took place.

It is thought that General McDowell undertook to make a stand at or about Centreville, but the panic was so fearful that the whole army became demoralized, and it was impossible to check them either at Centreville or at Fairfax Court House, but our forces being in full retreat he could not accomplish the object.

Beyond Fairfax Court House the retreat was kept up until the men reached their regular encampments, a portion of whom returned to them, but a still large portion coming inside the entrenchments.

A large number of the troops fell on the wayside from sheer exhaustion, and are scattered along the entire route all the way from Fairfax Court House.

The road from Bull's Run to Centreville is strewed with knapsacks, arms, etc. Some of the troops deliberately threw away their guns, &c., the better to facilitate their travel. General McDowell was in the rear of the retreat, exerting himself to rally his men, but without any partial effect. The latter part of the army it is said made their retreat in good order. He was completely exhausted, having slept but little for three nights.

His orders on the field did not at all times reach those for whom they were intended. It is supposed that the reserved force of the enemy sent against our troops consisted, according to a prisoner's statement, of about thirty thousand men, including large numbers of cavalry. He further says that owing to the reinforcement from Richmond, Strasburg and other points, the enemy's effective force was 90,000 men. According to the statement of two Fire Zouaves, they only have about 600 men left from the slaughter, while the Sixty-ninth and other regiments have frightfully suffered in killed and wounded.

The number of the Federal loss cannot now be known. Sherman's, Carlisle's and the West Point Batteries were taken by the enemy, and the eight siege 32 pound rifled cannon, the latter being too cumbersome to remove. They were two miles the other side of Centreville.

Such of the wounded as were brought to Centreville Hospital were left there after having their wounds properly dressed by Surgeon Frank H. Hamilton.

[*Correspondence of the Baltimore American.*]

WASHINGTON, July 22, 1861.

The first intimation of the reverses sustained by the Government arms reached Washington about 10 o'clock on Sunday night and created an intense degree of excitement, the expression of which was, however, restrained by the general doubt of the reliability of the intelligence. Accounts received up to seven had been so unvarying in their indications of Federal success that the sudden announcement of so unexpected and disastrous a reverse as that which was bruited through the streets of the Capital by the first terrific fugitives who reached the city from the scene of the conflict found few if any believers.

The reported defeat was, however, fully confirmed before daylight, and great as had been the rumored disasters, they were doubly magnified in extent and in their tragic results by the crowds of fugitives—soldiers and civilians—who flocked across the Long Bridge about 7 o'clock.

Shortly after 8 o'clock the remnant of Ellsworth's Fire Zouaves, about 150 strong, entered the city, and as this handful of travel-stained and dejected but yet gallant band marched slowly down the avenue the melancholly contrast suggested by their appearance upon their return from the scene of their gallant but unsuccessful struggles and that presented upon their departure, amid the encouraging plaudits of admiring throngs, was in itself a striking commentary upon the sterner realities of this deplorable war.

The Zouaves were quickly followed by the remnants of other regiments, which straggled painfully through the avenue.—Numbers of the men were barefooted, and all of them travel-worn from the rapidity of their retreat, and stained with powder and with clay. A large proportion of the men were without knapsacks or arms, which had been cast along the road in their flight, and presented in their sullen and gloomy appearance a spectacle which few, if any, could look upon without some touch of sadness or of pity.

To add to the dejectedness of the fugitives the greater number, if not all of them, had been without food for nearly thirty hours, and this deprivation, added to the violence of their exertions upon the battle-field, the fatigues of their retreat of twenty-seven miles, and the depressing effect of their defeat appeared to have robbed them of all personal spirit, and of all *esprit du corps*.—But little provision was or could under the circumstances have been made for the comfort of the returning soldiers, and in consequence they were compelled to stand under arms, and exposed to a pelting rain storm, for four or five hours; a test of subordination and of discipline which, to the credit of the Massachusetts Fifth, New York Twenty-fifth and Twenty-ninth, and the Garibaldi Guard, be it said, was met with exemplary obedience.

It is difficult to convey an idea of the intense excitement which prevailed in Washington during the early hours of yesterday forenoon. Despite the gloomy inclemency of the day, the streets were thronged with people, whose sad and sullen countenances gave ample evidence of the general appreciation of the national disaster. On nearly every corner groups of curious citizens were collected, gathering with eager attention details of the battle from those whose mud-stained appearance bespoke them to be fugitives from the field. The lobbies and entrances of the several hotels were also closely crowded by eager seekers after the fullest news. Wounded soldiers were frequently to be seen creeping along the avenue in search of quarters; and ambulances bearing wounded officers lent melancholy animation to the scene upon the street.

The telegraph offices were crowded during the forenoon with soldiers and officers transmitting to loved and expectant ones, in far distant homes, glad tidings of the safety of those dear to them, or perhaps of the fall of those whose death affection as well as duty had consecrated.

Amid the wild excitement of the day, and the conflicting reports of those actors in the tragic scene who witnessed the battle from different stand-points, it is impossible to arrive at any thing approximating even to a fair account of the movements of the day, or of the number of killed and wounded.

Enough has been gathered, however, and from reliable sources, to render it certain that the battle was most bloody, not in its general result, but in the character of its individual conflicts. In some instances the contest is said to have been carried on with hand-to-hand desperation, entrenchments being lost and won again at the point of the bayonet, and in one instance, at least, at the point of the knife. Thus the Second Michigan Regiment are said to have been driven out of a small battery which they had entered by a desperate bayonet charge by a regiment—of Mississippians it is supposed—armed with rifles without bayonets and with bowie knives, one of which, captured by a member of the Second Michigan, and triumphantly exhibited by its captor, was in size and weight not much unlike a sabre-bayonet.

An officer of the Sixth-ninth (Irish) Regiment states in illustration of the desperate character of the attack and of the repulse, that the third battery attacked during the day by them, and defended, as was ascertained from two youthful prisoners, by a regiment of South Carolinians, was taken and retaken at the point of the bayonet *eight times in succession*, the Carolinians at last retaining possession of the work by the aid of a fourth battery which was unmasked at the critical period of the fight.

A Confederate soldier and a member of a Wisconsin regiment were found upon the field locked in a deadly embrace, the former clutching the hair of his antagonist, in whose breast a bowie knife was found buried to its hilt, he himself having died apparently from a ghastly wound in his breast.

The batteries of the Confederates, it is generally conceded, were planned with consummate skill, and so closely concealed or masked that not until they opened fire could their deadly neighborhood be detected. They were so arranged as to entirely command each other, and the Federal troops found that the deadliest portion of their gallantry and enterprise was that which gained them entrance into a masked battery. They were also covered with rifle pits so contrived as to afford a swift retreat by the rear, and from these a deadly fire was poured upon the advancing columns. It was from these shelters that the Confederate riflemen inflicted the heaviest losses upon the Fire Zouaves.

In the effort during the early part of the day to out-flank the enemy the Federal officers found paths leading as they supposed to the desired positions in the rear of the batteries, and these were followed with zeal and daring, but in more than one instance they are said to have proven mere traps, deliberately devised for the destruction of those who should attempt it, and from which, once entered, egress was prohibited by the splendid cavalry which formed a conspicuous feature of the Southern force, and the strength of which has been estimated in round numbers at from 3,000 to 15,000.

The crisis of the day was reached about four o'clock, when the Confederates, suddenly emerging from the batteries behind which they had previously sheltered, dashed upon the Federal lines, and the assault being followed by an irresistible shower of leaden ball, two regiments, acting, it is said, under a misunderstanding of a general order, commenced a retrograde movement, which was quickly followed by the remainder of those in action, until soon the entire column was in retreat. The movement at first began with deliberation, and might have been continued in good order, but for an unfortunate alarm which, commencing on the left of the column, spread rapidly over the field until the entire army, with a few honorable exceptions, broke into a flight which became a general stampede.—When at a portion of Bull Run, where a small bridge was placed, they encountered the unexpected opposition of an apparently newly erected battery, supported by a strong column of infantry.

A brief but ineffective stand was endeavored to be made at this point by the gallant Rhode Islanders, together with a Michigan and, it is said, an Ohio regiment, but they were swept along with the onward current of the retreat, and the Confederate cavalry charging furiously at that moment the retreat degenerated into a rout. It was at this bridge that Burnside's splendid battery of six James' rifled cannon, and Sherman's celebrated battery were captured, with the exception of one piece from each battery which were saved. The Confederates had previously taken Ayres' battery and the rifled 32-pounder, the latter rapture rendering total the loss of all the artillery and siege guns of the army.

From Bull Run to Centreville, and even beyond, it is said the cavalry of the Confederates harassed the rear of the retreating army. These frequent charges were, however, very gallantly met, and their loss is stated to have been considerable: one entire company of the Black Horse is said to have been destroyed before the fire of the retreating Zouaves.

The rear of the army was skilfully covered by General McDowell, who, aided by the reserve of Colonel David H. Miles and several fresh regiments from New York and New Jersey, which were hurried across the river during the evening of Sunday, a total force of about 20,000, it is estimated, protected the retreat first to Fairfax, and from thence to Arlington Heights, where the remnant of the army entrenched. Ten thousand additional men, it is reported, were despatched across the Potomac yesterday, to reinforce the forces on Arlington Heights. During the day the draw of the long bridge was kept open, and the steamers forbidden to run to Alexandria, thus interrupting all communication between that city and Washington. The Federal steamers were also kept within easy range of the former city, to act as necessity might require.

Owen Lovejoy, whose morbid hatred of the Southerners appears to frequently tempt him into dangers his fanaticism cannot appreciate, narrowly escaped being made a prisoner. Twice he had loaned the horses with which he had been provided to officers of the Federal army requesting their use, and when at last the retreat was began Lovejoy found his attempt to rejoin the retiring army frustrated by a column of the enemy, which intercepted his progress in that direction. He then boldly struck for the woods, and his flight quickened by a proper estimation of the dangers which would attend his capture, he succeeded in safely traversing seven miles of intervening woods and reaching Centreville, where he was supplied with means of retreating to Washington.

A member of the New York Seventy-first, during the hottest of the conflict, came across Captain C. F. Browning (knowing he thinks the name was) of South Carolina, whom he found perishing in the woods from a severe bullet-wound in the neck. The expiring man, after being furnished with water at his request, communicated his name and rank to his humane enemy, and entrusted him with a valuable gold watch to be delivered, together with a last message, to his family in South Carolina, should the chances of war permit the escape of the latter. The Captain fled before the New Yorker left his side, and the latter regarding the trust confided to him as a sacred one, expresses a determination to fulfil his promise to the dead.

The loss on the Federal side is estimated at from 3,000 to 6,000 killed and wounded, including an unusually large proportion of field officers. That of the Confederates is conjectured to be quite as heavy. The official reports alone can determine the correctness of these excited estimates.

Among the officers of the Federal forces Killed and wounded are:

Killed—Col. Slocum, Second Rhode Island; Major Bullon, Second Rhode Island; Capt. Tarr, First Rhode Island; Col. Farnham, New York Fire Zouaves; Col. Cameron, New York Seventh-ninth; Lieut. Col. Haggerty, New York Sixty-ninth.

Wounded—Col. Wilcox, First Michigan; Col. Marston, First New Hampshire; Col. Corcoran, New York Sixty-ninth; Gen. Schenck, of Ohio.

SOUTHERN ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE OF MANASSAS.

RICHMOND VIA NEW ORLEANS, July 22.—The reports of the killed and wounded are so unreliable amid the confusion following the victory at Manassas that a definite statement cannot be made. Gen. Beauregard and staff are safe. The general's horse was shot under him.

Gen. Johnson commanded the left, where the enemy made the fiercest attack. The right was commanded by Gen. Beauregard.

President Davis reached the field at noon, and took command of the centre. When the left was pressed the severed centre engaged that portion of the enemy's forces, and decided the fortunes of the day.

INCIDENTS OF THE DEFEAT.

The scene on all the route leading to the Long Bridge, yesterday, beggars description. Artillery and infantry were straggling along in the greatest confusion, the men completely broken down for want of food and sleep, and by the fatigues of a long march. Regiments and companies were mixed in inextricable confusion in most cases: but occasionally a column of one, two, three or four regiments would come along in perfect order. Stragglers were stopped in Fort Runyon for some time, and at that point the scene was painful. The men came in jaded and tired, and sitting or lying down in the pelting rain, only protected by blankets or oil cloths, were fast asleep in a moment after assuming a recumbent position. Many of the army officers and artillerymen would fall asleep on their horses.

The want of food was almost forgotten, although many of the men had been fasting for twenty-four hours. Lieutenant Watson, of the commissary department, distributed a large quantity of provisions from the store-house in Fort Runyon to the famishing troops throughout the day.—Many wanted food, but mostonly wanted shelter and to lie down. Many laid down and went to sleep in the road. For a long time the approach to the Long Bridge was jammed by ambulances with the wounded, army wagons, artillery wagons, &c. Two secession prisoners were put in a wagon and brought to the city. They incensed the troops very much by their merriment at the confusion which for a short time prevailed.

Capt. Avres brought in his battery, (formerly Sherman's) without the loss of a gun. He lost some of his caissons in consequence of some of the volunteers cutting the traces and riding the horses off. Many of the wagons were lost in the same way.

Capt. Bokkelin, of the regulars, had his horse shot from under him while attempting to rally a body of troops. A cannon ball struck his horse full in the breast, killing him instantly.

On a hill commanding the battle-field was a house, the possession of which position would have given our men a decided advantage in operations against the enemy's batteries. A charge was ordered to obtain it, but regiment after regiment came up, were broken by the heavy firing of the enemy, fell back, and from that moment the fate of the day was decided.

[*Special Correspondence of the Sun.*]

WASHINGTON, July 23.

There are some incidents of the great battle of Manassas on Sunday last, which escaped my memory in hurriedly writing you yesterday.

There is no doubt General Scott for the first time, perhaps, in his eventful military career, was induced from extralicous pressure, to deviate somewhat from his own independent and more experienced judgment, with reference to the recent movement upon Manassas. Aside from the incessant importunities of the New York Tribune and other radical Republican journals of the North, he was, as I have it from good authority, beset by Governors of certain States, restless politicians and merchant princes to push forward his army towards Richmond, and finally he gave a reluctant consent.

No one can fail to see there exists evident jealousy in our present army, and deep disappointment, if not mortification, with officers of true military education, at beholding civilians or militiamen placed over them. This neglect becomes apparent even to the regulars of the rank and file, who in natural sympathy and in detestation of being led into battle by undisciplined, inexperienced commanders, are void of confidence or spirit.

An incident of a painful character was related to me. Whilst the battle was raging a ball from a rifled cannon passed through two noble horses of the regular cavalry, disemboweling them. One of the riders was instantly killed, falling into death with his horse. The other had a leg completely shattered. Horse and rider fell together, the former on the top of the latter, and in the terrible confusion and necessity of retreat he was thus left to suffer and die with no eye to weep and no hand to extend relief.

The most unfortunate feature of this dreadful conflict was the precipitate panic and retreat, allowing neither time nor opportunity to succor the wounded, dead and dying.

Col. Hunter, I am glad to learn, is not seriously wounded. A musket ball struck him in the neck, near the left ear, causing only a flesh wound.

THE ACTUAL HORRORS OF THE WAR DESCRIBED BY AN EYE-WITNESS.

To read of a battle, with its poetry of heroism, is a very fine thing. All men applaud the bold fellow, and all women throw laurels on the gallant soldier who is ready to throw down his life for his country's flag.—If one sees it, the thing is far different. I was at the defeat of our forces yesterday near Centreville, and as I witnessed the hot shot and the terrible shell tearing through the air; as I saw the horrible grape and shrapnel doing its too certain work all around; as I saw my friends storming heroically marked batteries, which the terrible incompetence of their leaders did not allow them to silence, owing to insufficient reinforcements being sent in proper time; when I saw these heroes at 8 11 a month losing heads, legs and arms, in thick profusion around me; when I witnessed the horrible rout brought about by a masterly flank movement of their picked cavalry and sharp shooters, and when I saw our artillery men unlimber their guns, cut loose the traces of their horses and flee, leaving the pieces behind; when I saw, too, our boasted cavalry flying in the same mad haste, with regiment after regiment pushing after them like so many sheep, throwing for three miles guns, bayonets, cartridge-boxes and provisions of every kind away—dragoons riding over infantry in the fight, and the ground absolutely covered for three miles with bodies, then I realized as only those who can see it, the actual horrors of war.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

[*From the New York Journal of Commerce.*]

This reverse, at the very outset of the advance of our army, will disappoint the hopes and the confident expectations of the people of the northern States. For, if there were some who with a more correct knowledge and a more just appreciation of the strength and material of the Confederate army, have deemed the result which has attended the first important movement, not unlikely to occur, it is unquestionably true that the masses of the people have entertained different expectations, and have looked upon the *march to Richmond* in the light of a triumphal and grand occasion which should inspire our troops with the highest spirit, and which could, by no possibility, result in disaster to our arms.

Probably not one in a hundred of the millions at the North who daily read or listen to the demand of the journals to "forward to Richmond," had any conception of the difficulties in the way of such an undertaking. For weeks past, the President and more especially Lieutenant General Scott, has been urged to make a forward movement; and a measure of abuse has been heaped upon the administration by the journals of his own party, which, had it emanated from their opponents, would have provoked the most serious charges of disloyalty to the government.

In common with all our fellow-citizens, we are distressed at the intelligence which every hour brings us of the loss of brave and respected men, officers and privates, who have fallen in the encounter between the two armies. Many homes are thus made desolate, many hearts broken—crushed—by the sudden announcement. Similar scenes are witnessed and similar griefs felt, among the people of the South. Is there no way to put an end, honorably and rightly, to this state of things? The question is full of importance, and we ask the people, in the light of humanity and Christianity, to ponder well the momentous issues which it involves.

[*From the New York Tribune, Rep.*]

We have fought and been beaten. God forgive our rulers that this is so; but it is true, and cannot be disguised. The cabinet recently expressing, in rhetoric better adapted to a love-letter, a fear of being drowned in its own honey, is now nearly drowned in gore: while our honor on the high seas has only been saved by one daring and desperate negro, and he belonging to the merchant marine. The "sacred soil" of Virginia is crimson and wet with the blood of thousands of northern men, needlessly shed. The great and universal question pervading the public mind is: "Shall this condition of things continue?"

A decimated and indignant people will demand the immediate retirement of the present cabinet from the high places of power, which, for one reason or another, they have shown themselves incompetent to fill. Give us for the President capable advisers, who comprehend the requirements of the crisis and are equal to them, and for the army, leaders worthy of the rank and file, and our banner, now drooping, will soon float once more in triumph over the whole land.

[*From the Philadelphia Ledger, Ind.*]

Never has the continent exhibited the sight it did on Sunday last. Never were assembled on this side of the globe two such hostile forces, and never has the republic met with a reverse to its arms so dispiriting in its effect. Now is not the time to criticize the military operations—the strategy and manœuvres of the commander-in-chief. These may have been skillful or otherwise; future facts will show their true character. But one great mistake on our part has been in underrating the power of resistance of the rebels, their resources and courage.

[*From the Philadelphia Gazette, Rep.*]

The restless spirit of discontent which has been worrying and driving the government to do something to satisfy the sensation mongers, must now, we think, acknowledge that its advice has been followed, and the result is precisely in accordance with what might have been anticipated. A clamor as insane as it was insolent and audacious was kept up incessantly and maliciously to have General McDowell move onward and do something, and the strength of the enemy has been systematically underrated for the purpose of favoring the delusion that victory only awaited our advance, and that the patient preparation was nothing more than old fogy stupidity or traitorous reluctance.

We know from authority which is unquestionable that it was originally no part of Gen. Scott's plan to commence the offensive at this time, because careful calculation of the period requisite for preparation had satisfied him that to do the thing properly we should not be ready to act in Eastern Virginia before September. He knew the force of the enemy better than the public, and even when at last compelled to succumb to the pressure, and order General McDowell to advance, he did it, we are persuaded, against his own judgment.

LYNCHBURG, July 23.—The Herald and Courier says that the Confederates captured 63 cannon and 2,500 stand of arms, 1,200 horses and all the stores and provisions of the Federal army, valued at a million of dollars.

Gen. Beauregard was reinforced by General Johnson's command, from Winchester, between 11 and 12 o'clock on Sunday, after the battle commenced. The Confederate loss in killed and wounded is said to be 2,000. The number of prisoners taken by the Confederates is set down at 1,142, including one member of Congress, Mr Ely, of N. Y. There were 42 pieces of cannon captured, 15,000 small arms and over 100 wagons.

The South Carolina troops were foremost in the action, and suffered the greatest loss. Col. Wade Hampton's legion of cavalry was nearly cut to pieces, and Col. Hampton was killed while charging the Federal troops.

The Confederates at no one time had over 12,000 troops in action, but had a reserved force of 60,000 men, from which the regiments in action were occasionally relieved.

Among the prisoners taken was Col. Corcoran, of New York, who is slightly wounded. He is at Manassas Junction.

HARPER'S FERRY, July 24.—Gen. Johnson's force at Winchester is now estimated at 42,000, before his march southward to Manassas.

The Virginia Cavalry, under Col. Stuart, went to Berryville to observe the movements of Gen. Patterson's column. The rest of the cavalry went with Gen. Johnson.

They had at Winchester 62 pieces of artillery in position in the fortifications; about ten 42-pounders, some of which were Columbiads, were left, but the remainder were taken with Johnson.

A detachment of the Washington Artillery from New Orleans, had eight heavy guns, of which four were 32-pounders. These were hauled by 28 horses each. A part if not all of these were brass rifled guns.

The fortifications surrounded the town of Winchester, except on the south side. Upon the high ground were very heavy earthworks, made with logs, barrels filled with earth, etc. In front of the breastworks were deep trenches communicating below with the inside of the works.

The guns were all masked by artificial thickets of evergreen, which were intended in some cases to be used as ambuscades for riflemen and sharp-shooters.

Among the regiments, was one of Kentucky Riflemen, armed with heavy bowie knives. They refused to take more than one round of cartridges with them, and proposed to place themselves in the bushes for assault. All the fences in front of Winchester were leveled. The fortifications extended two and a half miles. Trees had been felled between Bunker's Hill and Winchester to impede our advance.

☞ The secession army is at this time commanded by General Johnson, who, being a Major General, ranks Brigadier General Beauregard. Johnson's advance is at and immediately around Fairfax Court House, and is believed to number about 15,000. It is said that a number of siege guns were brought there from Manassas.

An Accidental Discovery.

During the last Presidential campaign the leaders of the Republican party were loud in their denunciations of the alleged frauds of the party then in power. Our readers will remember that John Covode endeavored to enlighten the public upon this important point through the agency of his famous investigating Committee. These men promised the people that a Republican Administration would be pure and honest; and the people believing them, permitted the opponents of the Democracy to ride into power. But a few months have passed away since the inauguration of Republican rule, and a portion of the Republican press is beginning to "speak out in meeting."—The Philadelphia *Inquirer*—a bold and independent journal of the Republican persuasion—treats the subject of frauds in the following manner, under the startling caption of "Accidental Development of Wholesale Fraud." The story reads in this wise:

A few days ago, the steamer *Cataline*, engaged as a Government transport, was burned near Fort Monroe; and this accident, or probably providential circumstance, is bringing to light the fact that *there are abuses in the Navy Department to be investigated, as well as in the War Department.*

The steamer *Cataline*, it seems, was an old and nearly used up hulk, lying at New York, a burden on the hands of her owners, when the Southern outbreak occurred. She had been a long time up for sale, but could find no purchasers at the prices asked, ranging from ten to fifteen thousand dollars. Competent judges of such stock say she would have been dear at any figure above $7500. Some of our Philadelphia steamboat men were invited to take shares in her at a valuation of fifteen thousand, and refused to have anything to do with her at such a price.

Since her destruction it turns out that through some dexterous manipulation by the political adventurers and speculators with which New York city abounds, this poor apology of a steam tran-port was chartered by the Navy Department for *ten thousand dollars a month*, with a clause in the contract that if she should be lost, destroyed, or captured by the enemy, her owners were to receive *fifty thousand dollars indemnity*. Of course, when so much was to be gained by her loss, her destruction was certain.—Underwriters, who are sometimes deceived into taking risks on such craft, will understand very well how such a blind or corrupt contract was sure to work. That the *Catalina* would meet just some such fate as has overtaken her was surmised by those who were advised of the particulars of her charter. Accordingly, she has been burned.

It appears that in addition to the pay of ten thousand dollars, amounting now to about twenty-five thousand dollars, and the fifty thousand dollars indemnity, the *Catalina* has been insured for twenty-five thousand dollars, thus realizing to her owners and Messrs. Orasmus B. Matteson & Co., the political managers, about one hundred thousand dollars for an unseaworthy old hulk not worth ten thousand. No wonder Mr. Hale, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs, signalized the first day of the session by making a call on the Navy Department for information of all the contracts made by Mr. Welles since the outbreak of the Southern Rebellion.

General Wilson, Chairman of the Military Committee, should make a similar demand upon the War Department, with reference to the beef, horse, and other contracts, and the removal and appointment of sutlers.

Apropos of this we invite the attention of our Pennsylvania Senators and Representatives to the latitudinarian language of General Wilson's proposed bill to ratify the action of the President. This bill not only proposes to ratify all the acts and proceedings of the Executive in calling out the Militia, which is right and should be promptly done, but it designs to ratify "*all the acts and proceedings incident thereto*, and all acts and proceedings *relative to the operations* of the land and naval forces."

Here is "a snake," of the most monstrous proportions. Pass this act in its present shape, and this infamous transaction of the *Catalina* and all the questionable and scandalous operations in beef cattle, horses, and other supplies, will be ratified, and the speculators and jobbers may snap their fingers in the face of the plundered people and of the outraged laws.

Secession of Indian Nations.—The Galveston News, of the 25th of June, has the following intelligence from the Indian nations:

Mr. J. A. Echols, Secretary of the Commissioners sent by the Texas convention to the Indian nation, returned recently. He informs us that the Chickasaw Legislature passed an act of secession by a unanimous vote about the 1st instant. A convention was to be held by the Choctaws about the 14th instant for the same purpose, and there is no doubt that that nation has also seceded. The Creek nation had a convention about the 12th of May, but they sat with closed doors, and their action is not therefore certainly known, but as delegates to the Southern Confederacy were immediately sent no doubt is entertained that an act of secession was passed.

☞ We noticed a young lady parading the streets on the 4th, arrayed in red, white and blue. She had red hair, a white dress and blue stockings.—*Greensburg Democrat.*

The Compiler.

OUR FLAG.

The union of Lakes—the union of lands—
The Union of States none would sever;
The union of hearts—the union of hands—
And the Flag of our Union forever!

H. J. STABLE, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

GETTYSBURG, PA:

MONDAY MORNING, JULY 29, 1861.

WAR ITEMS.

The news of the repulse at Bull's Run has, very naturally, had a depressing effect throughout the North. But affairs now wear a more cheerful aspect. Active efforts are in progress to get the army on a good footing again. Additional troops are daily pouring into Washington. Since Sunday 70,000 or 80,000 have been tendered to the Government. There is no apprehension in regard to the safety of the capital.

Gen. McClellan will take Gen. McDowell's place at Arlington. Gen. Banks succeeds Gen. Patterson, and Gen. Dix takes the place of Gen. Banks at Annapolis.

Gens. Patterson and Cadwalader have received an honorable discharge, their term of three months having expired.

It is reported that Gen. Lee did not command in the Confederate army at Bull's Run, but left Richmond on Thursday previous, with a large army, for Lynchburg, en route for Western Virginia, to intercept Gen. McClellan's forces, now under Gen. Rosencrantz.

Gen. McDowell dispatched a flag of truce to the enemies lines on Tuesday, to make arrangements concerning the dead and wounded left on the field. The Washington Star states that a reply has been received to the effect that while they will not permit our surgeons and ambulances to come within their lines, they will take as good care of the Federal wounded as of their own.

Sherman's battery has been saved, with a number of other guns—Col Einstein's men bringing in six. Two batteries fell into the hands of the Confederates, with some stray pieces.

The most serious apprehensions are still felt for the safety of Hon. Alfred Ely, member of Congress from New York, who went to the scene of war as a spectator, and with the desire to be of use to the wounded in the regiment from his congressional district. He is supposed to be either killed or a prisoner.

The most vigorous measures are being adopted by the War Department for a thorough and complete reorganization of our army. Old systems will be changed to practical modes for the better management of our forces by providing reliable officers. To this end the Secretary of War has issued a general order that all officers of regiments will be subject to examination by a board of military officers—to be appointed by the Department, with the concurrence of the commander-in-chief—as to their fitness for the positions assigned them. Those found incompetent will be rejected, and their positions will be filled by competent officers that may have passed examination of the military board.

Later intelligence confirms the statement that Col. Woodruff, Col. De Villiers, Lieut. Col. Neff, and Captains Austin and Bird, of the Kentucky regiment, had been captured by the Confederates at the engagement on the Kanawha, on Thursday week.

It seems that in the early history of the country, the stream celebrated by the fight of Sunday was known as Bloody Run, from some sanguinary encounters of the settlers with the red men.

The three months men are returning to their homes—but many will reenlist.

The New York 69th passed through Baltimore, homeward, on Thursday. They were in the engagement at Bull's Run, and lost 480 out of 1,400 men. Among the wounded was Col. Corcoran, who fell on the field and was taken prisoner.

Among the killed at Bull's Run is Col. Cameron, brother of the Secretary of War.

The Confederates now have possession of Centreville and Fairfax Court-house, with 10,000 men at the latter place.

One thousand of Gen. Sickles' men have arrived at Washington.

Major General McClellan.—This officer, who commanded the federal forces in Western Virginia, is a son of the great surgeon, Geo. McClellan, of Philadelphia, who died a few years ago. The general is a West Pointer, fought in Mexico, went to Europe on a military commission a few years ago to examine into the science of war in the camps of the great powers in the Crimea; afterwards resigned to become vice president of the Illinois Central Railroad, and then accepted the presidency of the Ohio and Mississippi road, from which he was called by Governor Dennison, of Ohio, as major general of the Ohio volunteers, and from this into the regular army, by the President, to accept the position he now holds. He is thirty-four years of age, and presents a very youthful appearance. So says the Washington Sunday Chronicle.

☞ Herman Haupt, not long since the Chief Engineer of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, has been appointed Assistant Secretary of War. This office has been created during the present extra session of Congress, and the salary fixed at three thousand dollars. Mr. Haupt is a graduate of West Point of the class of 1839. He was placed there by General Jackson in 1835, at an early age.

☞ The Herald says that the Republicans in New York want a new Cabinet, as follows: Nathaniel P. Banks, of Illinois, Secretary of State; John C. Fremont, of California, Secretary of War: Cornelius Vanderbilt, of New York, Secretary of the Navy; Joseph Holt, of Kentucky, Attorney General.

☞ Major Philip Kearney, of New York, a distinguished officer in the Mexican war, has been appointed a Brigadier General, and summoned to Washington.

CONGRESS.

The Senate, on Monday, amended the confiscation bill, on motion of Mr. Trumbull, "that any slaves employed in aiding the rebellion against the government, when captured, shall be forfeited." Yeas 32, nays 6. The Senators from Western Virginia did not vote.

In the House, Mr. Crittenden offered a resolution declaring that the present war had been forced upon the country by the disunionists of the Southern States; that it is not waged in a spirit of oppression or subjugation, nor with a view to overthrow any institution, but is to maintain the principles of the constitution, and the government of the United States; and when such objects shall have been accomplished, the war shall cease. On these resolutions he demanded the previous question, and they passed—yeas 117; nays, Messrs. Potter of Wisconsin, and Biddle of Ohio.

Messrs. Hickman, Lovejoy, and Thaddeus Stevens did not vote.

Mr. Horton, of Ohio, introduced a bill to indemnify the several States for expenses incurred in defending the U. States. Adopted.

In the Senate, on Tuesday, Mr. Wilson moved to take up a bill in addition to an act to authorize the employment of volunteers to aid in enforcing the laws and protecting public property.

Mr. Wilson moved to amend the bill, by inserting in the latter clause of the 1st section: "Provided that the number of troops authorized shall not exceed five hundred thousand." Agreed to. The bill was then passed.

In the House, Mr. Thaddeus Stevens reported from the committee on ways and means a bill to provide additional revenues to defray the expenses of the government, by the assessment and collection of direct taxes. Referred to the committee of the whole.

Mr. Porter reported a bill dividing Kentucky into two judicial districts and abolishing the present District Court; and, as amended on motion of Mr. Blair, of Mo., abolishing the two District Courts of Missouri and creating one district in their stead.

In the course of debate Mr. Crittenden opposed the bill, saying it was an abuse of the power of Congress and an invasion of the constitutional mode of the removal of a judge to effect such object by the abolition of the court as now proposed. The bill passed. Yeas 79, nays 50.

In the Senate, on Wednesday, Mr. Wilson's bill to enable the President to discharge officers in the army for incompetency, &c., was taken up. Mr. Wilson said these men must be weeded out of the army. Mr. Doolittle opposed the bill, as it involved a question of constitutionality. Mr. Grimes warmly opposed the bill.

The bill appropriating $100,000 to pay the police of Baltimore was passed.

The House passed a bill appropriating $1,000,000 for the construction of a steam floating battery.

The Senate bill authorizing the President to accept 500,000 volunteers was passed.

The House also passed the bill to pay the police of Baltimore.

A warm discussion sprung up between Messrs. Richardson and Burnett, and a personal collision was apprehended.

Mr. Richardson stated, that during an interview the day previous, at which he was present, between Gen. Scott on the one side, and the President, the Secretary of War and several members of Congress, the former remarked in substance: "Mr. President, I am the greatest coward in America. I have fought this battle against my judgment, and I think you ought to remove me to-day for doing it. I deserve removal for letting my army fight when I well knew it was not ready to fight."

"Your conversation implies," said the President to Gen. Scott, "that I forced you to battle." To which Gen. Scott replied, "I have never served under a President who has been kinder to me than you have been." But Gen. Scott did not relieve the President from the fact of the latter having forced him to fight the battle. Mr. Richardson said he believed the President to be an honest man, but was afraid he hadn't sufficient strength of mind to withstand the influences of the wily politicians around him.

The direct tax bill was taken up. After an animated discussion, the bill as recommitted.

The Senate adopted a resolution to inquire into the destruction of property at Pensacola, Norfolk and Harper's Ferry, by Government officers.

In the House, Mr. Richardson, rising to a personal explanation, said the remarks he made yesterday were entirely without premeditation. If in the heat of the