WAR NEWS.

IMPORTANT FROM PORT ROYAL---GEN. HUNTER'S NEGRO BRIGADE.

The Atlantic, which arrived on Saturday at New York, the Commercial says, brings intelligence that a negro brigade was in process of formation at Port Royal, by order of Gen. Hunter. Between five and six hundred "contrabands" have been enlisted from Beaufort, Ladies' Island, and Port Royal. One regiment of one thousand men is complete. Captain Saxton, formerly Quartermaster in chief of Gen. Hunter's division, will be assigned to the command as Brigadier General. The officers are to be taken from the volunteer force, no negro being allowed to hold an official position. Great offense, our informant asserts, is felt by the army under General Hunter, because of his orders for organizing a negro brigade. A number of officers, he says, have resigned, and others have declared their intention to do so.

The negroes, as a general thing, it is further said, are not in favor of the organization. Large numbers of them have fled, fearing that if they remained near the army they would be impressed.

The health of the army was improving and the soldiers were in excellent spirits. No important movements have taken place of late. The news of the war on the peninsula had not reached Port Royal. Fort Pulaski was almost completely repaired.

The New York Express says:

The proclamation of Gen. Hunter was received very unfavorably by nearly all the officers at Port Royal, some of whom had gone so far as to express their dissatisfaction within the hearing of the general.

The negro regiment, now organizing at Port Royal, is being drilled every day, and their appearance is said to be provocative of great mirth among the white soldiers. On Tuesday last they were reviewed by Gen. Hunter, but they looked more like the recruits of Falstaff than soldiers of an organized army.

The regularly enlisted soldiers are not at all pleased with this arrangement, and are not at all backward in expressing their dislike of their new brother-soldiers. The negroes are quartered near the quartermaster's department. The colonel of a New York regiment, a gentleman well known in the first division, is spoken of as the colonel fo the negroes, and ultimately as their brigadier.

THE PRESS ON HUNTER'S PROCLAMATION.

The National Intelligencer contains an article, three columns in length, denouncing Gen. Hunter's proclamation.

[From the Philadelphia American—Rep.]

We do not hesitate to say that for this monstrous usurpation of power, for this inconceivable folly and recklessness, so totally uncalled for and unjustifiable by every consideration, Gen. Hunter should be peremptorily and ignominiously suspended. We need some decisive dealing with such cases, to put a stop to them.

[From the Philadelphia Inquirer—Rep.]

What could have impelled so good a general to make a proclamation so wild in its statement of facts, so impolitic as to its probable effects, and so violently opposed to the officially declared policy of both the national executive and national legislature, surpasses comprehension.

A FRENCH VIEW OF THE PROCLAMATION.

The "Courrier des Etats Unis," (French organ in New York,) is very severe on the Hunter proclamation, which it looks upon as only another evidence of the disposition of the abolitionists to pervert the war for the Union into a "savage raid upon the slave States," and prevent the re-establishment of the Federal authority over them. In entering upon this *role*, the editor is certain that Gen. Hunter will but waste precious time, that might be more advantageously devoted to military preparations for future victories.

IMPORTANT PROCLAMATION OF THE PRESIDENT.

Hunter's Order Disavowed.

President Lincoln on Monday issued the following important proclamation:

By the President of the United States of America:

A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas there appears in the public prints what purports to be a proclamation of Maj. Gen. Hunter, in the words and figures following, to wit:

"HEADQUARTERS DEP'T OF THE SOUTH, HILTON HEAD, S. C., May 9, 1862.

"GENERAL ORDERS, No. 11.—The three States of Georgia, Florida and South Carolina, comprising the Military Department of the South, having deliberately declared themselves no longer under the protection of the United States of America, and having taken up arms against the said United States, it became a military necessity to declare them under martial law. This was accordingly done on the 25th day of April, 1862. *Slavery and martial law in a free country are altogether incompatible. The persons in these three States, Georgia, Florida and South Carolina, heretofore held as slaves, are therefore declared forever free.*

[Official.] "DAVID HUNTER,

"Major General Commanding.

"ED. W. SMITH, Acting Adjut. General."

And whereas the same is producing some excitement and misunderstanding, therefore,

I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, proclaim and declare that the government of the United States had no knowledge, information or belief of an intention on the part of Gen. Hunter to issue such a proclamation; nor has it yet any authentic information that the document is genuine. And further, that neither Gen. Hunter, nor any other commander, or person, has been authorized by the Government of the United States to make proclamation declaring the slaves of any State free; and that the supposed proclamation now in question, whether genuine or false, is altogether void, so far as respects such declaration.

I further make known that whether it be competent for me, as commander-in-chief of the army and navy, to declare the slaves of any State or States free, and whether at any time, in any case, it shall have become a necessity indispensable to the maintenance of the government, to exercise such supposed power, are questions which, under my responsibility, I reserve to myself, and which I cannot feel justified in leaving to the decision of commanders in the field.—These are totally different questions from those of police regulations in armies and camps.

On the sixth day of March last, by a special message, I recommended to Congress the adoption of a joint resolution to be substantially as follows:

"*Resolved*, That the United States ought to co-operate with any State which may adopt a gradual abolishment of slavery, giving to such State pecuniary aid, to be used by such State in its discretion to compensate for the inconveniences, public and private, produced by such change of system."

The resolution, in the language above quoted, was adopted by large majorities in both branches of Congress, and now stands an authentic, definite, and solemn proposal of the nation to the States and people most immediately interested in the subject-matter. To the people of those States I now earnestly appeal. I do not argue. I beseech you to make the arguments for yourselves. You cannot, if you would, be blind to the signs of the times. I beg of you a calm and enlarged consideration of them, ranging, if it may be, far above personal and partizan politics. This proposal makes common cause for a common object, casting no reproaches upon any. It acts not the pharisee. The change it contemplates would come gently as the dews of heaven, not rending or wrecking any thing. Will you not embrace it? So much good has not been done, by one effort, in all past time, as, in the providence of God, it is now your high privilege to do. May the future not have to lament that you have neglected it.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington this nineteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, and the independence of the United States the eighty-sixth. ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President:

WM. H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

FROM GENERAL McCLELLAN.

"Iron Clads" Retire from Fort Darling.

WASHINGTON, May 17, 11 o'clock P. M.—The following dispatch has just been received at the War Department:

WILLIAMSBURG, May 17.

To Hon. Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War:

The gunboats Galena, Monitor, Aroostook, Naugatuck and Port Royal, were repulsed from Fort Darling, seven miles below Richmond yesterday.

A portion of them have returned to Jamestown Island, near this place, in the James river.

Lieut. Morris, commanding the Port Royal, sent overland to us this morning for intelligence regarding the forts below the Island, and also for assistance in burying the dead which he brought down with him. Seventeen bodies have been interred on the banks of the river, and there are a number of wounded on board, including Lt. Morris himself.

The 100-pound gun of the Naugatuck exploded at the first fire.

DAVID CAMPBELL,
Colonel of the Fifth Cavalry.

[By authority of Gen. G. B. McClellan.]

The New York Tribune publishes a private letter written on board the Galena, May 16, which says:

Yesterday morning we ran up to Watches Bluff, where we found the river full of sunken steamers—the Jamestown, Yorktown, and a number of others. The bank was lined with rifle-pits, and on the top of the bluff the rebels had a very heavy battery mounting ten guns, some of them 10-inch, and three or four very heavy rifles.

We ran within half a mile of the battery, anchored and swung broadside to them.—They opened fire, the first shot striking our port bow, and going through the armor. About five minutes after we got another shot, very near where the first one struck. As it came through it killed one man instantly, and wounded four more of the gun-crew. We fought them four hours, until we got out of ammunition, when we had to retire. We got 23 shots in our side and 17 on deck.

We had twelve men killed, two dangerously wounded, who have since died, and fifteen wounded. We made a gallant fight, but had we taken the battery we could not have held it, and the obstructions in the river prevented our going up any higher. One thing we have demonstrated, the Galena cannot stand heavy shot at a short range. We fired 238 rounds, all that we had. Had we had plenty of shells, we could have silenced the rebels in a couple of hours.

The correspondent of the "Philadelphia Press" writes:

The Galena was moored in close to the shore batteries, and opened a terrific fire upon them; the Monitor, Naugatuck, and other vessels assisting. At first the shot of the rebel guns rolled off the sides of the Galena, making only dents in her mail, but gradually, after five hours' fighting, it was found that the steel-pointed balls used by the rebels were piercing her. Thirty shots struck her and lodged, whilst two went entirely through her, tumbling out on the other side.

A shell burst in the Galena during the engagement, which unfortunately killed seventeen of the crew and wounded nineteen. But even this sad accident did not dishearten the brave Captain Rodgers and his crew. They fought on until dark, and until their ammunition had nearly given out.

The Naugatuck was nobly handled by Capt. Constable; but after firing seven magnificent shots her splendid bow gun burst, killing two men and wounding three others, including Captain Constable, who was struck in the head by a piece of the flying metal. We are happy to learn that he is not seriously injured. A flaw was discovered in the metal, and this was, no doubt, the cause of the explosion.

Lieut. Morris, in command of the gunboat Port Royal, and late of the Cumberland, was slightly wounded. Commodore Rodgers was wounded painfully, but not seriously, in the left cheek.

The slaughter among the rebels in the batteries is said to have been terrible, although they had the advantage of our gunboats in having the batteries situated on a bluff.

THE ONWARD MARCH TO RICHMOND.

Gen. McClellan's Headquarters Within a Short Distance of the City---The Enemy Driven Across Bottom Bridge---One of the Advancing Columns Eight Miles from the City.

[Army Correspondence of Associated Press.]

TUNSAL'S STATION, VA., May 20, P. M.—The enemy's pickets were driven across Bottom Bridge yesterday by the troops advancing in that direction. The rebels attempted to regain the post by the use of their artillery, but failed. Our batteries opened upon them, shelling the woods each side of the bridge.

The advance under Gen. Stoneman reached New Bridge yesterday, within eight miles of Richmond, and found no enemy in force this side of the Chickahominy, which at that point dwindles down to a small creek. The country in that locality is in a good state of cultivation, with no more swamp than is to be found in ordinary bottom land. Six pieces of artillery were posted on the opposite bank, but Gen. Stoneman's purpose not being to bring on an engagement, he retired one mile from the bridge and encamped. During the day, while driving the enemy's out-posts, he had one man killed and three wounded.

The whole army moved again this morning early, with the view of making a lengthy march. What roads they took it is not necessary to state, but the headquarters of Gen. McClellan to-night are within a short distance of Richmond, in front of which city is supposed to be encamped the main body of the rebel army. If they intend to give the Union forces battle, which is almost universally acknowledged to be their purpose, the hour is drawing near at hand when they will have an opportunity.

FROM GEN. HALLECK'S ARMY.

BEFORE CORINTH, May 17.—There has been a general advance along our lines to-day towards Corinth, with much skirmishing and several severe engagements.

General Sherman's division met with a loss of forty-four killed and a considerable number wounded, in attacking Russell's house and driving the enemy from their position back to his works. Our men are under arms, expecting an attack.

LATER.—*Sunday Morning, May* 18.—General Sherman's forces still occupy Russell's house.

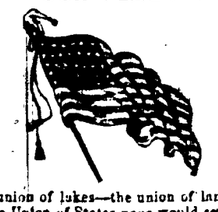
There is skirmishing from the 8th Missouri regiment, only about 300 yards from the enemy's breastworks.

Several rifles were captured in the skirmish on the right. They are perfectly new, and marked Breeze & Friemen, Bremen, and much superior to the rifles used by our sharp-shooters, having a range of 1,200 to 1,500 yards, while ours are only effective at about 1,000 yards.

In all cases the dead rebels left on the field were shot in the head, and the wounded shot in the neck and breast. The enemy left on the field 40 killed & 100 wounded.

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, MAY 26, 1862.

DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION.

In accordance with a resolution of the Democratic State Executive Committee, THE DEMOCRACY OF PENNSYLVANIA will meet in STATE CONVENTION, at HARRISBURG, on FRIDAY, the 4th day of July, 1862, at 10 o'clock, A. M., to nominate candidates for AUDITOR GENERAL and SURVEYOR GENERAL, and to adopt such measures as may be deemed necessary for the welfare of the Democratic party and the country.

WILLIAM H. WELSH,
Chairman of Dem. State Ex. Com.

THE DEMOCRATIC ADDRESS.

The Democratic Address is a hard nut for Republicans to crack. They show the strength of its impregnable truths in their attempts to assail its supposed vulnerable points. The Philadelphia *Press* attempts to controvert the allegation that the "Crittenden Compromise" was strenuously and unanimously resisted and defeated by the Republican party, because it was inconsistent with the sectional doctrines of the Chicago platform: and quotes at length from the speech of Andrew Johnson to show that on the 10th of January, 1861, when that measure was before the Senate, Mr. CLARK, of New Hampshire, submitted an amendment intended to defeat the Compromise; that this amendment was adopted by a vote of 25 yeas to 23 nays, and that it was adopted and the Crittendon Compromise thereby defeated because six Southern Senators, to wit: Benjamin, of Louisiana; Hemphill and Wigfall, of Texas; Iverson, of Georgia; Johnson, of Arkansas, and Slidell, of Louisiana, were present in the Senate and refused to record their votes.

This fact, remarks a cotemporary, only gives additional emphasis to the Address. It shows that the Republican Senators and the secession conspirators acted together and jointly defeated the Crittenden Compromise. Every Republican Senator voted for Clark's amendment, and its adoption was secured by the co-operation and with the concurrence of the secessionists. This fact sustains what the Democrats have always alleged, that the country was precipitated into civil war by the violence of Northern Abolitionists and Southern Secessionists, and that they stood between the people and a compromise that would have been gladly accepted by the masses of both sections.

THE ARMY VOTE.

The Supreme Court of this State has declared the army vote unconstitutional—on the Luzerne county District Attorney case. Under this decision all the Democratic candidates but two in this county were elected at the last October election, their majorities *in the county* having been as follows: For President Judge, Robert J. Fisher, 59; for Associate Judge, David Ziegler, 49; for Assembly, Henry J. Myers, 60; for Director, Andrew Little, 3; for Auditor, John Cole, 13; and for Coroner, Dr. A. B. Dill, 32. But two of the Opposition candidates had majorities in the county, to wit: For Commissioner, Ephraim Myers, 78; and for Treasurer, H. B. Danner, 15.

HOW TO CARRY "NO PARTY."

If the Republicans desire to have no party organization during the period of the war, they can accomplish it very easily.—All they have to do is to abandon the Abolition schemes pending in Congress, and repeal those they have already passed. If they will be honest, and confine the war to what they professed a year ago—to a struggle for the Union and the Constitution—party dissensions will cease. It is they who are reviving old party feeling and old party issues. The Democracy are only acting on the defensive. It is not they who are reviving party.

A Call for More Volunteers.—The New York Tribune, of Wednesday, has the following among its special dispatches from Washington:

A call will soon be made upon the States for additional volunteers, to the number of 100,000 at least. Careful inquiry has elicited the fact, that our army is smaller than has been represented in even official documents, numbering not 500,000 effective men. This fresh force is to be mainly used as a reserve, to be stationed at convenient points to meet emergencies.

☞ HON. CHARLES JARED INGERSOLL died in Philadelphia on the 14th inst., in the 80th year of his age. He was a Democratic member of Congress from 1813 to 1815, and from 1841 to 1847. After his retirement from Congress, in 1815, President Madison appointed him United States District Attorney in Philadelphia, in which capacity he served for a long period. He was an able constitutional lawyer, and a fine scholar. His most ambitious literary work, and the one on which his fame as an author rests, is a "History of the War of 1812," in four volumes, published from 1845 to 1852, which has become a standard American Historical Work.

Caught.—When President Lincoln was in Congress he introduced a bill to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, and Senator Wright of Indiana, keeping his own secret, introduced the same bill into the Senate, as a substitute for the one which has just passed that body. The Republican majority there at once condemned it as not orthodox—not once mistrusting it was the work of the President's own hands.

Colds.—Few are aware of the importance of checking a Cough or "Common Cold" in its first stage; that which in the beginning would yield to a mild remedy, if neglected, soon attacks the Lungs. "*Brown's Bronchial Troches,*" containing demulcent ingredients, allay Pulmonary Irritation,

TAXATION.

The Republican press charges the Democratic party with the design of crippling the Government by exciting the opposition of the people to taxation. Now if the Government is at all embarrassed or crippled for the want of a proper tax bill the responsibility rests exclusively upon the Republican majority in Congress. That body has nearly completed the sixth month of its session without passing a tax law. The other day the Senate postponed the tax bill for the purpose of considering the subject of confiscation and affording Mr. SUMNER and others another opportunity to ring their everlasting changes upon the negro.—The majority in Congress are so afraid of imposing taxes upon the people that they defer the subject from week to week and from month to month, and give rise to the suspicion that they intend to shirk this duty and leave it as a legacy to the next Congress.

Mr. Grow, Speaker of the House of Representatives, writes, in a letter published in the *Tribune*, that "this Congress is redeeming in good faith all its pledges to the people." That is, its time has been principally occupied in carrying out the Chicago platform, and in doing other things not mentioned in that partizan manifesto. Among the acts accomplished for the "future greatness and glory of the republic," he enumerates the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, the prohibition of slavery in the Territories, the Homestead law, the Pacific railroad, and the inauguration of the policy of gradual emancipation; acts, not one of which will put a dollar into the Treasury or aid the Government in the work of suppressing rebellion, but on the contrary, must take millions upon millions out of the Treasury and encourage the rebel cause.

While Congress has been thus lavish in scattering the public money, it has not passed a single act to replenish the Treasury. Its energies are devoted to taking money *out* without putting any in the public coffers. Emancipation in the District took a million of dollars at one stroke; the gradual emancipation policy invites the expenditure of many millions; the Homestead law, (which would be right enough if the Government was rich enough to be lavish,) will dry up the revenue hitherto derived from public lands, and as to the Pacific railroad we forbear to calculate its probable cost. And all these measures of expenditure were enacted at a time when the Government counts its obligations by the hundreds of millions, and when the public debt is accumulating at the rate of something like three millions a day, in order that the Republican majority may be able to boast of redeeming in good faith all its pledges to the people.

The *Patriot & Union* remarks that if the people complain of these things they have a right to complain. This Congress is a shame and a curse to the country. It squanders money and trembles at the thought of taxation. What should have been done first it postpones to the last, and what should not have been done at all, it has done with alacrity.

PATRIOTISM.

The Philadelphia *Sunday Mercury* very appropriately remarks that "it is somewhat singular what strange notions are now prevalent as to qualifications necessary to make a man a patriot. The old fashioned idea of patriotism, that of love and reverence for one's country, because of the real or imagined superiority of its laws and institutions over those of any other country, seems to have passed away.

Formerly, to be an American patriot, it was required that a man should not only profess, but naturally feel a profound and awful regard for the sanctity of the Constitution. Now, however, there appears to be quite a different notion prevalent. He only is a patriot, in these times, who is prepared to subscribe to the despotic plea that 'necessity' authorizes the manifest violation of the most vital provisions of the Constitution. Nor are you even allowed to question the fact of the existence of this 'necessity,' without being stigmatized as a traitor. A party in power concocts certain schemes for the attainment of certain objects, one of which, we may suppose, is the repression of what is admitted to be a causeless rebellion. But these schemes are thought by others, many of whom are risking their lives in fighting the battles of the cause of authority, to be violent and not calculated to effect their object, as unconstitutional, and as leading to a line of policy that must end in the establishment of a despotism where before was the freest government the earth ever beheld. Yet the plotters of these plans, while they prate of the freedom of speech, denounce as traitors, as enemies of liberty, as men seeking to break up the country, those who dare to whisper their fears for the Constitution which they see about to be violated, under the false plea of restoring and perpetuating it.

Again, he only is a true patriot, in the modern acceptation of the term, who falls down and worships that divinity of recent invention, which is presented to us under the name of 'The War Power.' To intimate that it would be difficult to find any authority for the worship of this deity of despotism in the Gospel and Charter of American Liberty—the Constitution—is to expose one's self to the danger of being stigmatised as a rebel in disguise, or, in the mildest terms, as a secession disorganizer.

In brief, to be a patriot, now-a-days, one must be prepared to applaud the violation of the dearest rights of freemen; witness without complaint the abnegation of the most important articles of the Constitution; to glory in the incarceration, in military prisons, of unoffending citizens, against whom no tangible charges have been brought; to regard the political liberties of the white citizens of the Republic of less importance than the elevation of the colored race; and stigmatize as 'Breckinridge Democrats,' all those who still cling to one yet bright hope, and struggle for the attainment of one glorious object—the restoration of the Union and the Constitution as they were. Men may offer freely their blood, their treasure and their lives, in behalf of the repression of this rebellion; but, unless they can subscribe to these doctrines of new fangled patriotism, there is a certain conglomeration of the odds and ends of all parties who will continue to assail them as enemies of their country, and as aiders and abettors in treason.

The FORNEYS and PHILLIPSES, the GARRISONS and GREELEYS, and all the foul-mouthed curs who so disgrace the American character, are now the types of patriotism. Unless a man grovel with them, he must expect to be reviled, and barked at by them.

THE PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION.

We must respectfully beg leave to doubt whether the President's proclamation will have the effect of allaying the excitement and apprehension produced by Gen. HUNTER'S order declaring the slaves forever free in the States of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. The proclamation does not say that the Government has no power to interfere with the domestic institutions of the States, or that the President may not in certain contingencies attempt to exercise such power; it merely says that Gen. HUNTER was not authorized to issue the order he did, and the Government had no intimation of his intention to issue such an order. This is the extent of the President's disclaimer. Whether it is competent for him as Commander-in-Chief of the army and navy to exercise such supposed power as a means of preserving the Government, is a question which the President reserves to himself. He clearly intimates that it is an open question, to be decided as he may see fit and the exigencies of the country may demand.

The fatal blunder of the Administration is to leave this an open question. It should have been decided a year ago. Every day that it remains undecided is a day lost to the country. Such indecision is unbecoming, to use the very mildest term, in an administration entrusted with the control of governmental affairs at the most momentous period of our career as a nation. Decision, firmness, promptness, a settled and unyielding policy, is necessary in this crisis; not a vascillating course, which invites the assaults of faction and stimulates the enthusiasm of theory propagandists; not a hand-to mouth policy, a living from day to day upon expedients, a helpless drifting upon the tide of circumstances.

When the President of the United States tells the people in an official proclamation intended to be known and read of all men, that he holds in reservation the question whether he shall at some future day employ the army in destroying the domestic institutions of the rebellious States, he intimates that he may possibly undertake to do what he has no constitutional power to perform. We do not wish to misrepresent his position, but we put the question to every unprejudiced mind whether this is not precisely the purport of his proclamation. What! the President of the United States undecided as to whether he possesses or will undertake to exercise the power of abolishing slavery in the States! Does any man not a fanatical Abolitionist seriously believe that the President has the Constitutional power to decree the emancipation of the blacks? Where is the clause in the Constitution that confers this power?—Where the passage that by the most remote implication invites it? So long as the rebellious States are recognized as belonging to the Union (and this is the theory upon which the war has been conducted) they are subject to the Constitution and entitled to all the rights guaranteed by the Constitution. Moreover, as our Government is one of limited powers, and these powers are specific in the fundamental law, it cannot transcend or overstep the limits prescribed by the Constitution.

The President refers to the resolution adopted by Congress at his suggestion, pledging the United States to give pecuniary aid to any State which may adopt a gradual abolishment of slavery, for what purpose we do not see without it is to warn the Southern States that if they do not close with this offer, emancipation without compensation may be enforced. This part of the proclamation has no connection with what precedes it, unless it is meant as an intimation that in case voluntary emancipation is not acceded to, involuntary emancipation may be enforced as a military necessity. The meaning, however, is not clear, notwithstanding the President deems it necessary to declare with the utmost solemnity—"It acts not the Pharisee"—as if the suspicion haunted his mind that the resolution of Congress was open to that charge.

In fine, the proclamation leaves the question just where it found it. It is thoroughly non-committal, leaving every other point in darkness except the single one, that Gen. HUNTER was not authorized to issue an order freeing the slaves in the States of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.—*Patriot & Union.*

Gen. McClellan's Address to the Troops that Fought at Williamsburg.—While quartered at Williamsburg General McClellan rode out on Wednesday while the troops were on dress parade. He rode along the lines of Hooker's division until he reached the brigade in which the Fifth Wisconsin regiment was drawn up, then raising his cap in clear and sonorous tones he uttered the following words:

"My lads, I have come to thank you for your gallant conduct the other day. By your bravery and steady discipline you saved the day. You have gained honor for the army, for yourselves and for the States which are proud to own you for their sons. You shall have Williamsburg emblazoned on your banners. You have stood by me faithfully. Continue to do so and your grateful country will never forget you."

We need not say that this stirring little speech called forth the utmost enthusiasm. The whole army idolizes McClellan, and to be thus complimented by him was felt to be an honor indeed.

LATEST.

FEDERAL CAVALRY DRIVEN FROM FRONT ROYAL.

STRASBURG, May 24.—Hon. E. M. STANTON, Secretary of War: Col. Kenley's command of Infantry and Cavalry have been driven from Front Royal with considerable loss in killed, wounded and prisoners. The enemy's force was estimated at from five thousand to six thousand. It is reported as having fallen back on Front Royal, and probably occupies that place this morning.—Signed N. P. BANKS, Major General.—[Front Royal is the court town of Warren county, about fifteen miles due South from Winchester, and about ten South-east of Strasburg. It is on the Manassas Gap Railroad, and is a position of considerable strategic importance. Gen. Banks seems to be making anything but headway.—*Pittsburg Chronicle.*

☞ A dispatch from Washington states that the latest advices from Gen. McClellan report that the army had crossed the Chickahominy river at Bottom's Bridge, and that his head quarters was at New Bridge, about eight miles from Richmond. The army was making preparations for an attack on the Confederate lines.

☞ It was reported here yesterday that the 87th Pa. Regiment, Col. Hay, had received orders to go to Virginia immediately.

A Great Victory.—McClellan's conquest of Greeley.

A GOOD SPEECH.

In the House, at Washington, on Monday, Hon. WM. A. RICHARDSON, of Illinois, (the warm personal and political friend of DOUGLAS,) made a capital speech. He proposed to discuss a few points relative to the conduct of the government in the present war. He said some time ago the distinguished Secretary of State fixed as the law of the land that the negroes, within thirty days after the termination of the court, who were not convicted, should go free. He did not allude to this for the purpose of finding fault with that order, but to contrast it with another. White men cannot visit our camps without obtaining a pass, but negroes can go without one. Why are these things so? The Abolitionists, by their actions in this Congress, have abolished slavery in this District, and laid a large annual tax upon the people of the United States. You are issuing to-day rations for eighteen thousand negroes.—Where are you issuing rations for the white people? The people of Illinois were selling corn for eight cents per bushel to pay the taxes. The Government has four hundred negroes employed as teamsters, paying them more than the soldiers who are fighting the battles. Employing these negroes in positions where the the white men of this country would like to be employed.

The government are issuing rations to negroes in this District for their support at an enormous expense, as much as it would take to support several of the State governments. He had it from the best information that the government was issuing rations for five thousand negroes in a fort in one of the Southern States, at a cost of forty-four cents a head. They are supported everywhere at the expense of the government, where there is a general that will do it. Gen. Hunter has withdrawn his support from the loyal men and given it to the negroes. The government are clothing the negroes everywhere, and furnishing them with the best employment they have to give, and the white man goes without. This Congress has been in session for six months, and Congress has made no appropriation to pay a bounty to the widows and children of soldiers who have been killed upon the battle-field. It will appear before the American people that this Congress has legislated for the negro everywhere. The cost of rations issued to these negroes amounts to one hundred and forty-four thousand dollars per annum. Where do you find that rations have been issued to poor white people?—What have you done for the white man? What have you done for the children whose fathers fell on the bloody battle field? A few days ago he saw one hundred negroes marched through the streets by an army officer; he inquired where they were taken from, and the reply was they were going to work for the government. He would ask the gentleman on the other side of the chamber (abolition) whether it was their purpose to make the negro equal to the white man? No race, no people, were ever made equal to the white man.—The Almighty made the white man to command the earth. The white man is as much above the Indian as the Indian is above the negro.—Some men say the reason why the negro is not elevated is because he has had no chance.—Who gave the white man a chance? The Almighty who created him, and created him superior to the negro. He trusted that the time would come when all these ultra men would be driven from the public councils and put where they could do no mischief. Illinois was tired of such legislation as had been brought forward by his colleague.

A SECRET CONCLAVE.

A goodly number of Republican editors made it convenient to assemble at Harrisburg week before last, where, in company with George Bergner, the Secretary of the "Union League," and Hosea Carpenter, the traveling agent of the "League," they held sweet council together. What transpired at the conference is entirely unknown to outsiders, *for the proceedings were entirely secret.* The editor of the *Transcript*, we understand, was at the conference. It is a wonder he didn't fly into hysterics at the very idea of going to such a place. We thought he was opposed to secret societies. It is said, however, on good authority, that the term "Union League," was urged as the title they should give themselves, while others favored "Union" without the "League," and it was finally concluded that they should agree to differ—the "Union" party to operate outside among the people who would be supposed to frown upon any under handed, dark lantern work; while the secret organization, "The Union League," under Bergner and Carpenter, would strengthen its hands wherever it could do so safely, without the risk of being exposed—both of them favoring a common interest and working together for the same purpose. How is it, Snively? Do you know where "Abe lives and travels?"—*Chambersburg Times.*

☞ It is said that this county was also represented at this secret conclave. *Was it?*

☞ The Wendell Phillipsites are very much distressed, says the Cincinnati *Inquirer*, about the more thorough organization of the Democratic party now in progress over the country. That was, of course, to be expected. They see their craft in danger from these Democratic movements, and hence their howlings. They don't want the war to cease without the destruction of slavery, and they want it to continue until that end is accomplished. Our troops, who are enlisted for three years or the war, if it shall sooner be terminated, are in a different situation. The sooner the war is honorably ended the better for them; for the sooner would they be allowed to return to their families, friends and business, and the sooner be liberated from the perils of the camp and field. The object is to restore the supremacy of the Constitution and the Union, not to liberate the blacks. All the negroes in the country are not worth the sacrifices they have made, and the risks they daily and hourly run in behalf of the country. Their object was a higher one, and they want to accomplish that object in the shortest possible time consistent with honor and safety. The course of the Abolitionists is calculated to prolong the war—indeed, that is their object, until slavery shall have been wiped out. Not only are the physical and material interests of our troops in service imperiled by the course being pursued by the Abolitionists, but the great principles of constitutional liberty are being endangered by the same cause.—Every true lover of his country is interested, therefore, in putting down the extremists of the two sections. But the Abolitionists have a favorite project to accomplish, which the army must be made their tool with which to work it out; and conservative citizens at home must be put under the brand of sympathizers with secessionists, in order to keep them quiet, while the work of Abolitionism is being done. The whole scheme is too apparent not to be detected by the most common observer of passing events. We shall see if, with the aid of their devoted presses, they can howl the Democracy into silence.

LOCAL DEPARTMENT.

ADAMS COUNTY SOLDIER WOUNDED.—We notice in the correspondence of the Philadelphia *Inquirer* of Tuesday, from White House Point, near Richmond, that on the 13th inst., the Eighth Cavalry, (Penn.,) made a reconnoissance towards New Kent Court House, when they came upon a Rebel battery and were compelled to fall back, with a loss of one man wounded, ANTHONY BURKER, of McSherrystown, Adams county, who was shot through the arm.

☞ The remains of Lieut. NESBITT BAUGHER arrived here by the noon train on Wednesday and were interred in Ever Green Cemetery at half-past five that evening, with military honors, the Adams Rifles and the old Independent Blues turning out on the occasion. The Odd Fellows and Students of the College also formed part of the funeral procession.

Lieut. Baugher was wounded *seven* times at the battle of Shiloh, from which he was conveyed to Quincy, Ill., and for a time was doing so well as to afford strong hopes of his recovery. But these hopes were doomed to painful disappointment. Our citizens now mourn the death of a gallant townsman.

☞ There was a grand Union Celebration at Towsontown, Md., on Thursday week. The 87th Regiment, P. V., Col. Hay, were present on the occasion, accompanied by the full band. They made their appearance on the parade ground during the day and for several hours gratified the large number of visitors with their skillful performances in military drill. When evening came, the Court-room was tastefully decorated with flowers, wreaths and flags without number and of all sizes. The excellent band attached to the Eighty-seventh Pennsylvania Regiment, under the leadership of Captain Fry, delighted a full house by the performance of a variety of airs, commencing and concluding the concert with the National Overture. The audience united in singing the Star-Spangled Banner, and the greatest enthusiasm prevailed. The meeting was addressed by J. J. Stewart, Esq. During the evening presentations of magnificent boquets were made to Col. Hay, Lieut. Col. Shaw, Maj. C. H. Buehler, Adjutant Emmett, and others. A collation was then served up to the band, officers and others, of the regiment. Everything passed off in the most happy manner. The 87th have made hosts of friends.

☞ The head-quarters of the 87th Regiment, P. V., has been removed from Cockeysville to Woodberry, about two miles from Baltimore, where eight of the Companies have gone into camp, in tents, including the two from this county. Capt. Eckert's and another Company are along the line of the road, to guard it.

☞ The non-commissioned officers and privates of the 10th N. Y. Cavalry, (Porter Guards,) presented Col. LEMMON with a beautiful sabre and belt on Saturday week. James P. Hall made a neat presentation speech, and the Colonel feelingly responded. The affair created a pleasant sensation.

NEW SALEM.—This new village, situated about eight miles from this place, on the Chambersburg road, is growing quite rapidly, all the improvements being of the best character.

Mr. J. J. BIRCKHEA has erected a fine brick house, two stories and basement.

Mr. ABRAHAM MICKLEY has built a two-story brick house, barn, &c.

Mr. HEZEKIAH LATSHAW will have completed by the first of July a two-story brick house, with attic.

Mr. GEORGE WALTER has in course of erection a large two-story brick house, barn, &c.

We are also informed that an effort is on foot to establish an Academy of learning there, for which a building will have to be erected. Success to New Salem!

☞ The various Singing Classes of Prof. J. W. ALEXANDER had a Grand Musical Pic Nic and Festival, near Hampton, on Saturday, the 17th inst. A large number were present, and all well pleased with the festivities incident to the occasion.

☞ The Public Schools in this place will close on the first of June, and re-open on the first of August.

DEATH OF BRIG. GENERAL KEIM.—Brig. General William H. Keim died in Harrisburg, Pa., on Sunday, of typhoid fever. Gen. Keim was identified with the military affairs of Pennsylvania for the last twenty years, and at the commencement of the rebellion held the commission of Major-General of the Fifth Division Pennsylvania Militia, as well as the office of Surveyor-General of the State. The Telegraph says he served as a Brigadier-General of the three month volunteers, and subsequently was appointed to the command of a brigade in Gen. McDowell's column, which he held until stricken down by disease.

NEW COUNTERFEITS.—Tens on the Bank of Phœnixville, Pa., altered from ones. They are just issued. Tens of the Corn Exchange Bank, Philadelphia, and of Allegheny (Pa.) Bank, altered from ones.

☞ The following appears among the special Washington dispatches in the New York *Tribune* of Wednesday:

The Policy of the Administration.—Senator Grimes, [Radical,] in the course of the running debate with which the Senate refreshed itself after three hours of Garrett Davis, said that he would not vote to take up the Tax bill until the Administration announced a definite policy, and required all its Generals, author of Order No. 3 as well as the author of No. 11, to conform to it.

He would not lay heavy burdens of taxation upon the backs of his constituents until he knew for what purpose and to what end the war was to be carried on. No reply was made to these remarks, which, so far, at least, as regarded the expression of an urgent desire for a sound and uniform policy in the conduct of the war, met with the general assent of the Senate.

General Halleck issued Order No. 3 prohibiting fugitive slaves and other vagabonds from coming within the lines of his army. Order No. 11 is the one issued by General Hunter. The drift of Mr. Grimes' remarks is that he will not vote for a tax bill until the Administration decides upon the "definite policy" of freedom to the slaves. It has long been suspected that the majority in the Senate were delaying the tax bill in order to force the Administration into the adoption of the Abolition programme—and here we have it substantially confessed by the Iowa Senator.

Mr. Grimes professes ignorance of the purpose of the war. He ought to know that the war is to "defend and maintain the supremacy of the Constitution and to preserve the Union, with all the dignity, equality and rights of the Several States unimpaired"—at least Congress so told us less than a year ago, and Congress, you know, never lies.

☞ The advices from Corinth indicate that a general engagement in that locality cannot be far off. On Tuesday the Federal army advanced slowly. Skirmishing was kept up throughout the day with some small losses.