

Presbyterian Banner.

PITTSBURGH, AUGUST 16, 1862.

The War.

The war horizon has brightened considerably since our last—we say horizon, because the sun has not yet fully risen. The spirit of the nation has revived, and our stout men are responding to the call for volunteers. Quite a number of the States report their quota of the 300,000, raised and preparing to march. Some recruits for the old regiments have also been obtained; and arrangements are in progress for the drafting of the additional 300,000. We need every man of them. They should be already in the field. And when the draft now ordered shall have been fully organized and advanced to the seat of war, another draft at least equally large, should be ordered, organized and trained, as a reserve. It is time fully to advance into an enemy's country with an inferior force. A new instance of this we have in the check administered to Gen. Pope.

The army of Virginia started out with quite too much of a flourish of trumpets. Gen. Pope himself spoke too boastfully, and too disparagingly of the use of caution. The General who will not see to his basis of operations, and the keeping up of his connexions, needs another General over him. Army letter writers and home politicians are not the men whom the commander of an army should permit to stimulate his movements. Let him rather estimate with wisdom whether he has a force adequate to advance. If Halleck had possessed an adequate force before Corinth he would not have consumed two months in cautious approaches. If McClellan had had men enough at Yorktown he would have passed through the enemy's lines the first week. There would have been no "ditching"; neither would he have delayed in the swamps of the Chickahominy.

Well, we trust the country has learned wisdom, and that now the war will be waged in earnest. But by earnestness we do not mean savagery, nor yet cruelty. Christianity and civilization have greatly ameliorated warfare. This being a war against a rebellion, our people are strongly tempted to undue severity against prisoners and non-combatants, and against private property. To allow our men to plunder would destroy discipline. For our own sake it must not be permitted. Guards over residences are often indispensable for our own good. And sometimes gratitude demands it. We may give an instance. Some writers have abounded in their censures because Mr. Carter's house, near Malvern Hill, was protected. Now, it is credibly stated that several hundred of our wounded soldiers were carried into that house, and that the ladies, to the utmost of their power, administered to their comfort. They brought forth napkins, table cloths, sheets, everything which could be used for a bandage, to be torn up and applied. Well, while the army was passing, a guard was posted to protect the women and children. Our horses and cattle are grazed on his farm, and his negroes are working on our fortifications. The General who would not protect that house and those females, would deserve not the name of an American.

Let us not become savages. Though war is waged against a rebellion, let it be conducted on the principles recognized by Christian nations, until the enemy shall be subdued. Our fathers of the Revolution claimed this, and they retaliated British cruelty. If we resort to cruelty the South will retaliate, and the civilized world will condemn us and sustain them. When the war shall be over, then let the conspirators, and the perfidious men, and the deceivers of the people, suffer the just award of their crimes. The principle of conducting the war will not interfere with the due enforcement of the confiscation act, provided only that as far as we advance we will hold the country firmly. It was previously, and is now by the right of eminent domain, and thus we reacquire the actual possession, and may put in force the laws against our subjects, both as to their persons and property.

The orders of Gen. Pope, as to the treatment of persons in his rear, are substantially just. And yet their administration may lead to trouble, as is evident from the retaliatory order of the enemy. To meet that, Gen. Pope, instead of sending beyond his lines such persons as will not take the oath of allegiance, can send them into confinement and hold them as hostages; and let it be known that for every one of his officers taken prisoner and executed, three of these hostages must suffer. It would be putting down barbarism in a terrible way, but sometimes barbarians can only thus be restrained. It becomes us to be just, and merciful, while we are most firm in the punishment of crime.

Guerrilla bands still disturb Missouri, Kentucky, and Tennessee. These are really robbers and murderers, and should be dealt with most sternly.

Our position at Hilton Head is in great danger from rebel iron-clad steamers, which are being built at Charleston and Savannah. Our own Navy Department is putting forth all its vigor, to finish the *New Ironclads*, a most powerful iron-clad frigate, and three new monitors, which are in a favorable state of forwardness. A few weeks more will put them on the ocean; to be followed shortly by several others.

The Army of the Potomac is not quite inactive. A few days ago a reconnaissance in force was made to Malvern Hill. A few prisoners were taken. The display was such as to bring out from Richmond a large part of the rebel army. Gen. McClellan has also taken possession of the South bank of the James river, opposite

his encampment, where he has planted some cannon, and has been pushing daily reconnaissances toward Petersburg. This has induced the enemy to send to Petersburg large reinforcements. In this way the enemy is kept from sending as many men as he would desire, to Gordonsville and Rappahannock, to operate against Pope.

The Army of Virginia (Gen. Pope's) has got into action. On Saturday, the 9th inst., a severe battle was fought at Cedar Creek, near Culpepper Court House. The loss was great on both sides. It was indecisive. No official report is published, at the time of this writing. Gen. Pope greatly needs reinforcements. If he shall be able to hold on for a few weeks, till the new levy can have a full organization, his prospects will be bright. We need Gordonsville.

Let the watchword be, "God and our Country." Promptitude, caution, sure advances, no mawkish sensibility, no cruelty—thus may the victory be ours.

The Employment of Negroes as Soldiers.

The President is besieged by a class of men greatly zealous for the effective prosecution of the war, with applications for authority to raise negro regiments. The wisdom of the policy, pro or con, depends more on feeling than on principle.

It is argued that negroes have a great interest at stake, and that they should be permitted and encouraged to fight for it.

This may be principle; but what says feeling? Will Northern soldiers agree that black men shall be made their equals?

They will not let them vote at elections, nor sit as jurors, nor hold civil offices.

Perhaps a few—a very few—might be willing for all this. And a few are willing to have them elevated to the rank of soldiers.

But what say the many? And what would be the effect? How many tens of thousands of Northern men would our arms lose thereby? And how many Border States men? And how many men would we thereby drive into the rebel army? And how much prejudice, both North and South, would be awakened against the Government? All these questions can be answered far more intelligently by the President than by mere theorists. The question is one of policy, and it may be safely left with the President and his Constitutional advisers. It is a settled policy with the Administration to employ negroes as laborers. This is the letter of the law, and the indications are that the President will feel himself bound by that letter. And if Congress, though pressed thereto, declined to go farther, it is just and wise in the President not to transcend the fixed limit. We must insist on a Government of law. There is now no such stern necessity upon the nation as to justify a resort to constructive powers.

PRESBYTERIAL NOTICES.

The PRESBYTERY OF SUSQUEHANNA (D. V.) will hold its next stated meeting in Orwell, Pa., the fast Tuesday in August, at 7 P. M. Sessional Records are then to be presented for examination.

JULIUS POSTER,
Stated Clerk.

The PRESBYTERY OF DUBUQUE will meet in Dubuque the Second Tuesday (9th) of September, at 7 o'clock P. M.

JOHN M. BOGGS, Stated Clerk.

The PRESBYTERY OF CEDAR will meet in the Sunday church, on the 5th of September, at 7 P. M.

E. L. BELDEN,
Stated Clerk.

The PRESBYTERY OF MARION will meet at Piagach church, Middlestown, on the First Tuesday (28th) of September, at 7 o'clock P. M.

W. B. MCCLAIN, Stated Clerk.

The PRESBYTERY OF FAIRFIELD will meet in Washington, Iowa, on the First Tuesday in September next, at 7 o'clock P. M.

S. C. M'CUINN, Stated Clerk.

The PRESBYTERY OF DES MOINES will hold its next stated meeting in Des Moines, on the First Thursday of September, at 7 o'clock P. M.

J. M. BATCHELDER, Stated Clerk.

The PRESBYTERY OF TOLEDO will hold its next stated meeting in Montezuma, Poweshiek County, Iowa, on Thursday, September 4th, 1862, at 7 o'clock P. M.

LUTHER DODD, Stated Clerk.

The PRESBYTERY OF WOOSTER will meet in the church of Apple Creek, on the First Tuesday of September, at 11 o'clock A. M.

JOHN E. CARSON, Stated Clerk.

The PRESBYTERY OF IOWA will hold its next stated meeting in the Westminster church, Keokuk, Iowa, on the Friday of September (9th) day, at 7 o'clock P. M.

GEO. D. STEWART, Stated Clerk.

The PRESBYTERY OF ALBION will meet in Albion, Monroe County, Iowa, on the last Thursday in September next, at 7 o'clock P. M.

S. C. MCCUNE, Stated Clerk.

The SYNOD OF SOUTHERN IOWA will meet in Albia, Monroe County, Iowa, on the last Thursday in September next, at 7 o'clock P. M.

S. C. MCCUNE, Stated Clerk.

The Eclectic Magazine, for August, has twenty-one articles, mostly selections from foreign journals, with a beautiful steel engraving of Ericsson. Ericsson and the Monitor are associated with our country's glory. Many of the articles are excellent. All of them have value.

The twelve numbers of the Eclectic make three volumes of 600 pages each, price \$5.00 a year. For sale by Henry Nourse, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The South has the advantage of 3,000,000 of slaves, as home producers, and thus spare nearly all its able bodied men, at the same time. The North, as an offset to this advantage, has vastly more of steam power, labor-saving machinery, and men, together with the material of war in far greater abundance, a powerful navy, and free marches access to all nations. The Government, with these advantages, should end the war very briefly.

For the Presbyterian Banner.

Tribute of Respect.

A meeting of the old members of the St. Clair Guards was held at the house of D. C. Bower, in Upper St. Clair Township, on the 7th inst. The meeting was organized by calling Lieut. Isaac Hultz, of the United Presbyterian Church, addressed a meeting, and urged enlistments in the volunteer army. Some of his young men at once proposed to go if he would lead them. He responded promptly, and in 36 hours his company was full, and overflowing. A second company was filled, in a few days, and a third is in progress.

We trust that Mr. Clark, who is an able minister and devoted pastor, will see his way clear to exchange his chaplaincy for a chaplaincy, and have the spiritual care of a whole regiment.

Jackson on the Retreat.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF VIRGINIA, Cedar Mountain, Va., August 15.—Gen. Major-General McClellan. The enemy has retreated before the cover of the night. His rear is now crossing the Rapidan toward Orange Court-House. Our cavalry and artillery are in hot pursuit.

Signed, JOHN POPE,
Major-General Commanding.

greet and deep sorrow of the death of Capt. THOMAS ESKER, do offer our tribute of respect to his memory.

Resolved, That in his death our country has lost one of her most zealous defenders, one who eagerly and promptly responded to her call, one who thought no sacrifice too great to lay upon his country's altar, one who was ready and willing to suffer and bleed in her behalf and who sealed with his blood, his devotion to her cause.

Resolved, That in him we have found a true friend, an agreeable companion, a brave commander, always at his post, ready and willing, to do his duty, and that in his death we have sustained a loss which is irreparable, and language is inadequate to express our deep feelings in regard to his untimely fate.

Resolved, That we will cherish and revere his memory as long as we live, and that the remembrance of his kind deeds and generous actions, will long live in our grateful and admiring hearts.

Resolved, That this community has lost a most estimable citizen, society a valuable member, the Church an exemplary Christian, our country a brave and gallant soldier.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That these resolutions be published in the Pittsburgh papers.

After which the meeting adjourned.

ISAAC HULTZ, President.
Thomas Duncan, Secretary.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

Prof. EMERSON, of Troy, New-York, and his family, sailed for Europe on Wednesday, the 21st ult., having on board ninety-five cabin passengers, one hundred and forty-second cabin and steerage passengers, and ninety-four crew, and \$1,400,000 of treasure, which Kirby, Browne & Co. and McCader & Co. \$10,000.

On the 27th ult., at 4:45 P. M., when fifteen miles North of Manzanillo, while the passengers were dining, the alarm of fire was heard, and the steamer was quickly set afire, the three decks of the ship being entirely involved.

In the afternoon the passengers were given an opportunity to save themselves.

"Come, get off to the life-boats," said the captain.

"I am afraid to do so," replied a passenger.

"I am afraid to do so," said another.

"I am afraid to do so," said a third.

"I am afraid to do so," said a fourth.

"I am afraid to do so," said a fifth.

"I am afraid to do so," said a sixth.

"I am afraid to do so," said a seventh.

"I am afraid to do so," said an eighth.

"I am afraid to do so," said a ninth.

"I am afraid to do so," said a tenth.

"I am afraid to do so," said an eleventh.

"I am afraid to do so," said a twelfth.

"I am afraid to do so," said a thirteenth.

"I am afraid to do so," said a fourteenth.

"I am afraid to do so," said a fifteenth.

"I am afraid to do so," said a sixteenth.

"I am afraid to do so," said a seventeenth.

"I am afraid to do so," said an eighteenth.

"I am afraid to do so," said a nineteenth.

"I am afraid to do so," said a twentieth.

"I am afraid to do so," said a twenty-first.

"I am afraid to do so," said a twenty-second.

"I am afraid to do so," said a twenty-third.

"I am afraid to do so," said a twenty-fourth.

"I am afraid to do so," said a twenty-fifth.

"I am afraid to do so," said a twenty-sixth.

"I am afraid to do so," said a twenty-seventh.

"I am afraid to do so," said a twenty-eighth.

"I am afraid to do so," said a twenty-ninth.

"I am afraid to do so," said a thirtieth.

"I am afraid to do so," said a thirty-first.

"I am afraid to do so," said a thirty-second.

"I am afraid to do so," said a thirty-third.

"I am afraid to do so," said a thirty-fourth.

"I am afraid to do so," said a thirty-fifth.

"I am afraid to do so," said a thirty-sixth.

"I am afraid to do so," said a thirty-seventh.

"I am afraid to do so," said a thirty-eighth.

"I am afraid to do so," said a thirty-ninth.

"I am afraid to do so," said a forty-first.

"I am afraid to do so," said a forty-second.

"I am afraid to do so," said a forty-third.

"I am afraid to do so," said a forty-fourth.

"I am afraid to do so," said a forty-fifth.

"I am afraid to do so," said a forty-sixth.

"I am afraid to do so," said a forty-seventh.

"I am afraid to do so," said a forty-eighth.

"I am afraid to do so," said a forty-ninth.

"I am afraid to do so," said a fifty-first.

"I am afraid to do so," said a fifty-second.