

Presbyterian Banner.

PITTSBURGH, NOVEMBER 8, 1862.

The War.

Circumstances prevent the deferring of our remarks on this absorbing subject, to so late an hour as we are wont, before our going to press.

The weather last week was delightful. Nothing more favorable to army movements could be expected. And it was improved, if not in fighting battles, yet in arranging for conflict and in advancing upon the position of the foe.

Gen. McClellan, in the meantime, moved his headquarters to Berlin, and continued to pass troops over the river. He also moved large bodies of his men, from the neighborhood of Williamsport toward the river at Harper's Ferry.

We stated, last week, that the enemy had retired from Charlestown and other places near the river. He however speedily returned his pickets, and Charlestown was occupied strongly.

Both armies are greatly recruited since the battle of Antietam. Each was then much exhausted, and their numbers were nearly equal.

Successes in Missouri, in suppressing guerrilla bands, are reported. The fleet and army for the clearing of the Mississippi is getting ready.

A division of Gen. Mitchell's army has made an effort to cut the railroad between Savannah and Charleston, but without success.

The question of currency is one of the most important which concerns the country, in the present contest. A currency of gold and silver is utterly beyond practicality.

We noticed, some time ago, the original conduct of O. S. Halsted, Jr., in publishing a private letter of Gen. Kearney, in which the General complains of his Commander.

indispensable to the defence of the country? What enormous discounts must the Government have suffered; and how soon would borrowing have been impossible, at any cost?

The high premium on gold is now much dwelt upon, by critics on the Government. It is an evil—a very great evil. But what causes this? It is the demand made for exportation.

The large foreign demand for gold arises from two sources; one of which the people can justly control; the other they cannot. It arises, 1st, from the largeness of our importations.

The demand for gold arises again, from the call upon us by foreign creditors, to pay our debts.

Gen. McClellan, who knew him well, had often smiled at his hasty, impatient speeches, and reproaches of himself; for, at the same time he knew that in no one of his brilliant Generals could he recognize deeper truth, and that none excelled Kearney in anxiety to carry out the plans of his campaign.

We are indebted for a copy of the November number of this monthly, to Mr. John W. Pitcock, of Fifth Street. Mr. P. is a young and enterprising book-seller, and is deserving of public patronage.

At the time of our going to press, but few returns are received from the recent elections. The indications are, that in New York the vote for Governor is very close; the probability being in favor of Seymour.

We regard General Buell as being, in some respects, one of our ablest officers. He is, however, among those most spoken against, by a large section of the press. It is very difficult to come at official reports, and the more especially as our secular journalists are nearly all partisan, and employ partisan correspondents, and praise or blame mostly in ignorance of important facts, and often from party feelings.

Another way to appreciate United States notes will be to increase the taxes. Possibly, however, the taxes already laid, may be high enough. Taxes are only now beginning to be collected.

The Young Men's Bible Society of Pittsburgh. Messrs. S. M. Kier, Miss Tindie, R. C. Miller, R. S. Davis, and John F. Loy, Executive Committee of the Young Men's Bible Society, send us the following in relation to the operations of the Society:

During the past eight months, the Rev. J. K. Miller, agent of the above-named Society, has been engaged more particularly in exploration—visiting from house to house, and supplying the wants of those whom he found destitute of the Bible. He has also attended to the wants of the soldiers—both those who were in camp, and those who were out on the scene of active service.

and at such times spoke pettishly. Gen. Birney, who was the first Brigadier in Kearney's Division, writes a letter disapproving of Halsted's act, as injurious to the memory of the dead. He says of Kearney: "He was moody, and, under temporary reverses, gave way to despondency, and at such moments was inclined, perhaps too strongly, to criticize the conduct of the war. This letter was written at Harrison's Landing, in one of those moods, in strict confidence to an intimate friend, with no thought that it would ever be published to the world, and call for such a torrent of denunciation."

At the battle of Perryville, Gen. Polk narrowly escaped capture after dark. Leaving his staff, he rode to the Twenty-Third Indiana regiment, which was making a brisk fire. He mistook it for the Iowa regiment, seized the Colonel by the shoulder and ordered him to cease firing on his friends.

Notwithstanding Kearney's caprice and impetuosity of character, the division loved him, and now that he slumbers in his grave, we have a feeling of indignation toward the general that, has exposed his bones to insult and reproach.

The official returns show that the Democrats have carried the State, by the following majorities: Senler, Auditor-General, 3,462; Barr, Surveyor-General, 3,116.

We have received a copy of the above charming little work. It is edited by T. J. Cook and T. E. Parker, (Authors of the "Fruit of the Tree") assisted by the well-known author, Dr. Thomas Hastings. It contains 112 pages of music.

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eral battle at any time and place, when the enemy may be prepared to meet them. It is in a better condition than it has ever been, with the exception of a want of more cavalry.

Escape of Bishop Polk. At the battle of Perryville, Gen. Polk narrowly escaped capture after dark. Leaving his staff, he rode to the Twenty-Third Indiana regiment, which was making a brisk fire.

Little Mary was the last to go; but not with reluctance. When her fond parents bent over her in sorrow, she uttered words of sweetest comfort; by assuring them of her hope in Jesus, and her desire to meet them in glory.

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