THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

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TERMS

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BALTIMORE.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1861.

TO THE PUBLIC.

THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET will be issued daily from the office formerly occupied by the *Daily Exchange* and will be, as its name implies, simply a "News Sheet." It will furnish the latest intelligence as derived from the despatches of the Associated Press, by which it will be supplied in common with the New York journals; from its exchanges, and from such reliable private sources of information as it may be able to command. Expressing itself no opinions, it will devote its editorial columns to such extracts from other journals as may be deemed of interest to the public.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

We copy from the Chicago *Tribune* an extended account of the siege of Lexington, with a graphic narrative of the particulars. The report reflects credit on Colonel Mulligan as a staunch and intrepid officer. The humane and generous conduct of General Rains toward the prisoners is also highly commended.

From Fortress Monroe we learn that. Captain Goldsborough will not permit flags of truce to approach the fleet. The political prisoners, including the Mayor of Baltimore, Messrs. Wallis, Howard, and the members of the Legislature of Maryland, have been removed to Fort Lafayette.

Indiana troops, ammunition and stores, have been sent to the North Carolina coast.

The new battery at Freestone Point is attracting much attention. It is about twenty-five miles below Washington. The transport steamer Delaware was fired at, and the indications are that rifled guns of long range are there.

From General Banks' column we learn that John Lanahan, the murderer of Major Lewis, of the Forty-sixth Pennsylvania regiment, has frustrated the verdict of a drum-head court-martial, by cutting his throat.

Special despatches to the New York journals assert positively that the Confederates have effectually closed the Potomac, and that they threaten to cross into Maryland.

The official report of the destruction of the Ocracoke fortifications will be found in another column. The particulars are related by Lieut. Maxwell.

On the Virginia side of the Potomac the Confederate entrenchments have been extended until they reach nearly to Alexandria.

It is stated that the case of Colonel Fremont will remain under consideration, subject to the opportunity he desires to retrieve his credit in Missouri.

Explanations have been made to Lord Lyons by the State Department, in regard to the passport system.

THE PORT DEPOSITE AFFAIR.—The deplorable affair which occurred at Port Deposite on Saturday last, between a party of soldiers and citizens, and of which it has been so difficult to get a true statement, has, at the suggestion of Gen. Dix, been thoroughly investigated by the United States District Attorney, W. Meade Addison, Esq. That gentleman yesterday made his report to Gen. Dix, and the offenders will be handed over to the proper authorities for trial.

MARYLAND INSTITUTE.—The coming exhibition promises to be equal if it does not surpass any of its predecessors. Various branches of trade which have heretofore taken but small space in the exhibition will elaborately display the finest specimens of wares. The general stagnation which pervades the business community will tend rather to improve the Fair, as our citizens are taking additional interest in the exhibition of their arts, and more untasted dividends of their skill. The Fair will no doubt be a great success.

KUNKEL'S OPERA HOUSE—*The Museum.*—The novel introduction of the beautiful tableaux painted by Mr. C. S. Getz, has caused a furore with the patrons of the Museum. At their presentation last evening, not only ladies but the sterner sex were melted, and all were forced to confess that the works in their execution, design and exhibition, possessed merit of the first order. They will again be shown this evening. On this (Saturday) afternoon there will be a superior, chaste, entertainment for ladies and children.

HOLLIDAY STREET THEATRE.—The complimentary testimonial to Miss Western takes place this evening. During the evening a present will be made to Miss Western by her friends in Baltimore.

Correspondence Maryland News Sheet.

Baltimore County Peace Nominating Convention.

TOWSONTOWN, Sept. 26.

The delegates selected from the several election districts of Baltimore county by the peace party assembled in convention here to-day for the purpose of nominating candidates for the various offices in the county and members of the House of Delegates. At 10 o'clock the delegates assembled in the Odd Fellows Hall, and

On motion, Richard I. Worthington was called to preside as temporary chairman, and Wm. Pole secretary.

On motion, one delegate from each district was appointed by the chairman as a committee on credentials and permanent organization, who, after deliberating returned with the following report:—Richard I. Worthington, President; Rezin H. Worthington and Wilkinson Tyler, Vice-Presidents; William H. Pole and Cornelius Shipley, Secretaries.

Mr. Nicholas Burke moved that the Convention adjourn until to-morrow at 10 o'clock, in order to pay respect to the proclamation of the President of the United States.

Mr. Lawrenson objected, also Mr. Spencer, while Mr. Robert Keene read the following preamble and resolution, and advocated the adjournment:

Whereas this body hath been inadvertently convened on this (Thursday) the 26th day of September—a day set apart by the President of the United States as a day of National fasting, humiliation and prayer; and whereas it becomes a Christian people always and at all times to humble themselves before Almighty God, and earnestly supplicate His divine Providence for our guidance, care and protection. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That in consideration thereof, a committee, composed of one member from each district, to be chosen by his own delegation, be first appointed, who shall have the power to reassemble this Convention at such future time as they shall deem most convenient and judicious—of which time due public notice shall be given by the chairman of the said committee, and that this Convention do then adjourn.

Mr. J. Edwin Spencer read Gov. Hicks' proclamation calling for this day to be set apart as a day for humiliation and prayer, and added that if the Convention endorsed Lincoln's policy, then he would vote for an adjournment.

After a debate in regard to the adjournment for one day to two weeks, and substitutes for the whole and to go into an immediate nomination, a vote on the adjournment until next Thursday was taken, which resulted in the motion being lost by a vote of ayes 21, nays 41.

On motion, the Convention proceeded to nominate candidates, commencing with sheriff, and the following gentlemen were put in nomination, with the following result:

	Ballots.			
	1st	2d	3d	4th
John Besley, of Wm.	19	22	30	30
Joshua Besley, of C.	13	18	18	17
Lewis Layman	5	—	—	—
Samuel B. Mettam	18	19	16	7
Thomas Baldwin	8	6	—	—
Nicholas D. Owings	11	—	—	—

After the first ballot Mr. Layman and Mr. Owings withdrew their names, and Mr. Spencer moved that each delegate vote his own and separate ballot, instead of voting by districts, as on the first ballot; carried.

On the second ballot Mr. Baldwin's name was withdrawn, and upon the fourth ballot John Besley of William was declared the nominee for sheriff.

The Convention here adjourned for an hour in order to dine, and the delegates, together with the throng of spectators, repaired to the Towson Hotel, kept by Mr. Ady, where they partook of a good and substantial repast, furnished in that gentleman's usual good style.

The Convention at 3 o'clock re-assembled, and went into the nomination for county treasurer, with the following result: On the first ballot Wm. A. Slade, 5 votes; Michael K. Whartman, 7; Wm. J. Markland, 5; Samuel F. Butler, 16; William Heaton, 5; Thomas D. Cockey of J., 5; Jos. B. Mitchell, 7; George H. Elder, 11.

No one of the above gentlemen receiving the majority of the whole vote, a second ballot was taken, Mr. Mitchell's name having been withdrawn: William A. Slade, 8; Michael K. Whartman, 11; Samuel F. Butler, 13; William Heaton, 5; Thomas D. Cockey of J., 5; George H. Elder 22.

On motion, Messrs. Slade and Heaton, the two lowest candidates, were dropped, and the convention again proceeded to ballot: Elder 38, Butler 19, Whartman 7 and Cockey 1. Mr. Elder having received the majority of the whole, was declared the nominee.

On motion, Richard W. Templeman was nominated by acclamation for county surveyor; after which the convention proceeded to nominate candidates for county commissioners, and the following gentlemen were put in nomination, with the following results:

Henry W. Beamer 19 votes, H. B. Lawrenson 49, A. L. Lamar 8, William Hutchins 21, Charles T. Hale 44, Thomas R Price 21, and Lewis A. Slade 25. Messrs. Lawrenson and Hale were re elected on the first ballot and Mr. Slade on the third.

In regard to the nomination for members of the House of Delegates those were postponed for another meeting, to be called at the discretion of the President and Vice President of the Convention.

A large number of spectators were present; harmony prevailed, and the Convention at five o'clock adjourned.

FOREIGN ITEMS.

THE AMERICAN QUESTION.

At the late Cutlers' Feast in Sheffield, England, the Right Hon. James Wortly, speaking of the struggle now taking place in America, said, it had been supposed and represented by a portion of the North America press that we look at it with rejoicing—(No, no)—and that we exult in their sufferings. God forbid! They are our blood and our bone. At the same time, I think we have a right to judge their actions, and I say they have now arrived at a point when not England may interfere, when not France may interfere, when not England and France together, not all the potentates of Europe may interfere, but the voice of humanity, and the public opinion of the world must interfere to prevent the further effusion of blood in so senseless and savage a war. (Loud cheers.) It has been supposed we are influenced in this country by some feeling against the North. I appeal to you whether at the outset, when it was supposed to be a question of slavery against anti-slavery, our disposition was not to side with the North. We did not interfere, but our good wishes were rather with the North. If there has been a change, if there be now sympathy with the South, or a less wish for the success of the North, to what is it owing? Not the rash, foolish, and licentious press of the Northern States. I pass that by as the idle wind. But why has there been that especial hostility to this country? Why that desire to raise a suspicion that it was not a question of slavery or anti-slavery, but of protection and monopoly? (Hear, hear.) Why, again, should they use language to us which we have done nothing to justify, and thus irritate perhaps a few minds in this country by the way in which they speak of us? I believe there is but one feeling of deep sorrow among us at what has occurred.

I indulge the hope and anxious expectation that the able men who conduct the affairs of the Federalists and of the Confederates will feel that the time is come when the coercion of one by the other is improper, and that they are strong enough to form two great nations, a result which the people of England would be glad to see. (Cheers.) It is imputed that our desire to side with the North is overruled by the fear of being deprived of the cotton of the South. No such thing. If we look to our own interest we believe we shall derive great advantage, for our active and eager search for cotton in other directions will increase our supply. In the next place, we believe that if the first Napoleon, with his iron arm, could not exclude our manufactures from the Continent by his carefully devised measures and his enormous power, that neither the slave States nor the Northern States, nor the American people, can prevent the cotton from reaching us. For a time their measures may check and interrupt our commerce. They may embarrass and distress us; but eventually this country will again rise by the great energies of her trade above the difficulties created by this senseless hostility. I trust, for your sakes, and for the sake of the people of England, I am not wrong. If I have said anything that can be tortured into disrespect to any party, I regret it. But I speak in kindness when I say it is the general opinion that the time is come when the war should cease. (Cheers)

From the London Times' City Article.

COMMERCIAL VIEW OF THE AMERICAN WAR.

The private commercial advices from New York continue to demonstrate the extent to which party feelings or personal interests blind each writer against any views except such as happen to be in accordance with his preconceptions. The cry is that peace is out of the question, because both North and South are alike determined to fight to the last; but the fact that the determination on both sides is equal, affords the best ground for the supposition that the ultimate solution will not be in harmony with the extreme expectations of either. The subjoined letters, just received, will show not only the utterly contradictory nature of the opinions afloat, but also the intolerance of dissent which prevails, and which is usually one of the strongest symptoms of the weakness that is the prelude to a compromise. The first is from a Boston merchant of great respectability to his London correspondent, and the second is likewise from a merchant also of high respectability, who lately visited New York from near Philadelphia.

The first gives warning against attaching any belief to the idea that the Government are likely to be inconvenienced from want of money, and quotes the fact of £10,000,000 having been obtained at seven per cent., and of the banks being full of bullion, apparently as a sufficient assurance that the additional £20,000,000 required during the next 16 weeks will be willingly supplied, and that the gold which has accumulated from the results of an enormous harbor, a cotton crop worth £20,000,000, and a restricted expenditure, will protect the country from any difficulties consequent upon an expenditure at the rate of £80,000 sterling per annum, and when no cotton crop is to be sent forward. The second, however, expresses a directly opposite anticipation, and announces that already it is found that neither men nor money are to be obtained as readily as might be desired. Again, the first writer assures us that the Government is stronger to-day (all, and that) patriotism is at a discount.

One is fully satisfied that the South must eventually succumb, and sees nothing to prevent the commercial classes from backing up the Federal Government to the necessary work; the other says that all that is heard from the South breathes a tone of confidence in the future; while at New York there is at every turn painful evidence of loss or ruin—shops worth a rent of £2,000 a year to be had for nothing by persons who will consent to keep them open, and goods offered on any terms for the sake of cash. Both, however, are quite clear that peace is remote. The Boston writer still hugs the delusion that the war has something to do with the question of slavery and free institutions, while the Philadelphia view seems to be that it is purely suicidal. In either case it is to be carried to "the utter exhaustion of one or both." Those who believe that the people of New York and the West, with a majority of whom it was unsafe a year back to enter into any discussion on the question of slavery, and who denounced the English people for paying even the most ordinary civilities to Mrs. Beecher Stowe, have suddenly become so opposed to the institution that they will now risk their own utter ruin and exhaustion in order to mitigate or abolish it, will have no difficulty in assenting to the Boston prediction.

Those, on the other hand, who believe that the disregard of money, national aggrandizement, and personal enjoyment is so complete on the part of the Northerners that they will readily pour out every dollar they possess, and destroy the Southern trade, upon which their own prosperity is built, and transfer it to India rather than refuse the installation of the Washington Cabinet to continue a suicidal contest to the last, will be equally ready to adopt the Philadelphia opinion. One is as good as the other to demonstrate the necessary permanence of the war. Meanwhile, however, there are some who, seeing that the unanimity of the North is not considered proof against free discussion, and that censorships, passports, and seizures are even now before anything like the full financial pressure of the struggle has been experienced, found to be necessary, will look with curiosity for possible changes of tone both in North and South as sudden as that which in April last followed the taking of Fort Sumter:

BOSTON, August 22.

The fact is the government is stronger to-day than ever, and determined to put down the rebellion at any and all costs. In which they are upheld by the entire free States, also Kentucky, Missouri, and part of Virginia. I am truly sorry that we are in such a fix, but, being thus I am for backing up the government to the fullest extent, and this you may rest assured will be done. The hot weather has been against us, but next month and onward you will see an entirely different state of affairs. Bull Run was unfortunate, but a good lesson, and one not likely to be repeated. Some 150 more vessels are being put on to the blockade, and any interference by foreign powers will only lead to further complications. This is a war for free institutions, and not slavery, and people so feel. If the South accomplish their purpose, a pretty state of things would exist. This they can never, in my opinion, do, and they must eventually succumb.

PHILADELPHIA, August 23.

The views I have so often expressed in reference to the condition and probable course of things in this country have only been more fully confirmed by recent events. I have before assured you that peace was remote, and I am now enabled fully to confirm my view. The two parties to the contest are equally determined, and there seems no hope for peace except in the utter exhaustion of one or both. The Government at Washington is straining every nerve to meet the occasion in men and money, but it is quite apparent to me that neither one nor the other is so readily had as might be desired. Again, the first writer assures us that the Government is stronger to-day (all, and that) patriotism is at a discount.

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From the London "Money Market Review."

A HINT TO THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN STATES OF AMERICA.—Now, in the name of humanity, as well as on financial grounds, we put it to the contending parties whether, before they exhaust their resources in destroying each other, it would not be well to calculate which would be the cheapest in the end—to pay now for the emancipation of the slaves, or to continue the war? We will assume that the domestic institution comprises 4,000,000 souls, and that, allowing for the aged who are past work, and the children who are too young to do so, the average value of these slaves is £50 each. This would represent a total of £200,000,000. The war costs the Unionists, according to their own calculations, upards of £250,000 per diem, or £91,250,000 per annum; the Secessionists say £150,000 per diem, or £54,750,000 per annum. The cost of the war to both parties is therefore £146,000,000 per annum. Consequently, assuming that the contest lasts for a year and a half, it will cost more by £10,000,000 sterling, even for that period, than if the North and the South were to agree to perform an act which would be regarded with unbounded satisfaction by the civilized world, and by every friend of freedom and humanity. As for the North attempting to coerce the South, or the South the North, in a country of so vast an area, it is simply ridiculous. The war, if it continues, will end in the absolute ruin of all parties. Supposing it were to continue for five years, the public debt incurred by the Northern and Southern States would greatly exceed our own.

In proof of this, let us consider the terms on which the Northern States are now raising money. The banks of New York, Boston, and Philadelphia, have agreed to place at the disposal of Government 50,000,000 dollars, or £10,000,000 sterling, on the 15th of August, with the option of taking a like amount on the 15th of October, and a like amount on the 15th of December. The banks have obtained an option to take securities for their advances either in six per cent. stock, at the rate of 90½, or in a seven per cent. stock at par, or in treasury notes bearing 7 3-10ths per cent. interest, the government agreeing, pending the option, to issue no more treasury notes, and to waive for the present the issuing of redeemable notes. The fifty million dollars is to be placed immediately at the disposal of Government, to remain in the banks till wanted, and securities are to be issued by the Government only as the money is drawn, but the whole loan is to bear interest from August 15. It is stated that the banks concluded this remarkable transaction in self-defence, for, had they not done so, and had the Government made the loan an open one, they feared the effect it might have on their deposits. But, on the other hand, have they taken into consideration the effect it may have on their bullion? Supposing, for the sake of argument, the war progresses, the Government will be sure to require a large amount of specie, and if the depositors in the banks see the specie diminishing, both they and the noteholders will probably demand it. This will cause a pressure on the banks, which may yet prevent them from fulfilling their engagements with the Government. While the present war goes on it will infallibly press on the bullion reserves of the banks.

From the Proceedings of the British Association on Science at Manchester.

MR. ASHWORTH ON THE BLEACHING OF COTTON.—We have before us a printed card or list of prices for bleaching, issued by a leading firm in the year 1803. At that time the charge for bleaching a well-known description of cloth was 7*s.* 6*d.* for a piece of twenty-eight yards, and it is now 6*d.* The case of the laborers employed in bleaching sixty or seventy years ago was, as before stated, a very harassing one; they suffered severely from exposure to wet and cold, and, as a consequence, from rheumatism and asthma. The earnings of a "crofter" would be from 10*s.* to 15*s.* per week. Upon wages so scanty, and with some uncertainty of employment, their mode of living was necessarily inexpensive. Oatmeal was the staple commodity of their food. They used it as porridge; their bread was of oatmeal, either in leavened oat cakes or baked in the form of a loaf called jannock, which is said to have been introduced by the refugee Flemings; and animal food, with the exception of bacon, was seldom found at the working man's table. Now-a-days, the workmen in bleach-works perform all their work in-doors, and are, therefore, no longer exposed to the coldness and moisture of the former period. Their wages are increased in a proportion which cannot easily be estimated, and their employment is one of great regularity. They have nearly ceased to consume oatmeal; jannock is unheard of; oat cakes are seldom seen; and their tables are now daily spread with wheaten bread, animal food from the shambles, and all the other articles which usually enter into the consumption of families in the other grades in life.

CHLOROFORM AND ITS SAFE ADMINISTRATION.—The few accidents that have occurred (not more than one in six thousand or eight thousand cases) have been, not from heart disease, but from a peculiar epileptic or tetanic fixture of the respiratory muscles, which has been overlooked, but now being watched, no danger can arise. Chloroform has been given thirty thousand times in the harassing agony of child-birth without a single accident; and twenty thousand times in the Crimean war with a similar immunity from danger. Chloroform exists in the blood as a vapor, and is probably not dissolved in that fluid, so that it more readily escapes than other. Various new applications of chloroform were described, especially in surgery and midwifery. The other chief facts in the memoir had reference to a new proposition of the author, that respiratory action has its earliest point of departure, not from the diaphragm, but from certain fibres in the glossopharyngeal nerve distributed to the windpipe or larynx. "He breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life" is literally true, and has a very important bearing on chloroform.

As restoratives, artificial respiration with common air is readiest and indeed best. Oxygen, nitrogen or hydrogen gas act as restoratives, but only for an instant. They will destroy natural hæmatosis, if persisted in, just as carbonic oxide does. Great delicacy is required in using a small column of air. If one uses a large column of air, so to speak, a large tube the size of a probang (we are now speaking of the serious accidents in the human subject), we will have emphysema; but a better, because smaller, instrument, and one got more readily, is a No. 10 gutta percha catheter. Amylene escapes from the system in such cases quicker than chloroform, and other also very quickly. The more volatile the carbo-hydrogen may be, the quicker it escapes, and the quicker we get rid of its dangerous effects when they occur. Of course there are several carbo-hydrogens, which all act much in the same manner—acerone, turpentine, aldebyde, "Dutch liquid," etc; but we have none so useful and valuable as chloroform, and chiefly, perhaps, from its agreeable odor and the quickness with which it operates.

SCOTT RUSSELL ON STEAMSHIP PERFORMANCES.—This, Mr. Scott Russell, the author, said, was a very long document, consisting chiefly of very valuable tables, which have been obtained from actual experimental trials with various steamships, most of them in actual practical work, some of them in her Majesty's navy, and some of them employed in the mercantile service. He, therefore, gave a short epitome of the objects carried out by the committee during the last year. On Thursday a paper was read in this section by Mr. Atherton, civil engineer, of Woolwich Dockyard, which described the construction of a vessel of that shape of a ship, as great a difference may be made on the freight of goods carried by her (that is, in her actual mercantile value) as there is between one hundred and one hundred and thirty-two. In short, the proper shape of a ship for a particular purpose, as compared with an improper shape, would give as much as thirty-two per cent. profit or loss upon the performance of a ship. This, coming from such a quarter, was a most important declaration, especially as, in Mr. Atherton's case, the result of vast experience. It showed that that was now established as a truth in the mind of practical men which this British Association, and this particular section, twenty years ago, was ridiculed for attempting to establish.

It was formerly believed that, given the mid-ship section of a ship, her dimensions, and her displacement, there were all the elements of forming a good ship from those data, that form being an altogether immaterial matter, and more a question of taste than anything else. The British Association, however, instituted a series of most numerous and costly experiments upon this subject and carried them on continuously for a great number of years.—Those experiments at last succeeded in satisfying the public of the value of form in a ship, to such an extent that at the present moment there was no steamship in the world now performing fourteen knots an hour, which was not a vessel made upon the exact form resulting from these experiments of the British Association. And if at this moment fourteen knots was as common as ten knots was before the experiments took place, that fourteen knots was due to the change of form that had taken place in steam vessels. He said it was absolutely due to this change, because he would give them this practical fact, that those ten-knot, ocean-hour steam vessels which were built on the old form had as much as one horse's power to propel two tons, while the vessels now performing fourteen knots an hour required as little as one horse's power to three or four tons, and, in the case of the Great Eastern, as one horse's power to nine tons, in order to propel them at fourteen knots an hour. This fact was now recognized, he believed, almost for the first time officially, by Mr. Atherton, a Government officer, who, in his report, gave it as the result of his experience that as much as thirty-two per cent depends on giving a proper shape to a ship with the same material. He was happy to be able to mention that the form which resulted from the experiments of the British Association had now been adopted by the Admiralty; that the hollow water lines, or the form known as the wave line, were the lines on which they constructed their largest and fastest ships, including the Black Prince and the Warrior.

NEWS VIA WASHINGTON.

We take the following items from the Washington *Star* of last evening:

ANOTHER RECONNOISANCE.

Last Tuesday, 5,000 men from the vicinity of the Chain Bridge, under the command of Gen. Smith, proceeded up to Lewinsville, where the skirmish took place a week or two since, in order to obtain forage, of which there was a considerable amount in possession of secessionists who had left their farms and joined the Confederate army.

The advance corps, consisting of 3,000 men, with six pieces of artillery, halted at the house of a physician on an eminence, about a mile and a half from Lewinsville, where two guns were planted to the right of the road, and four to the left, infantry supporting, and skirmishers thrown out on each flank.

From 9½ o'clock A. M. till 3 o'clock P. M., our forces rested, the enemy making no sign, and our men busily loading the wagons with hay and corn belonging the Lewinsville Confederates.

Shortly after 3 o'clock, movements were discovered in the woods. About one regiment appeared on our flank, and a heavy column in front—at least four regiments of infantry, one of cavalry, and six pieces of artillery.

Notice was given to the supports, and in a few moments the Confederates opened with shot and shell; the first falling short. After a few shots the Confederates succeeded in getting the range, and dropped a shell just in the rear of our line, slightly wounding a private of Col. Baker's regiments in the arm. The batteries of Mott and Griffin immediately opened upon the Confederates; the first shell dropping among the bushes where was planted a Confederated battery. Twenty-six shot and shell were thrown by our artillery, when the Confederates retired from the field, and at 5 o'clock our forces returned to their positions with ninety-odd wagon loads of hay, and one prisoner—Burke—an Irishman, of Winchester, who mistook our pickets for theirs. He represents himself as an aid to Col. Stewart.

The expedition was ostensibly for forage, but really to see if the enemy meant fight, and also to try our men.

General McClellan was not present during the affair, but was represented by Colonel Keyes, of his staff.

The Union troops engaged in the affair were the New York 79th, 3d Vermont, 19th Indiana, and a portion of a Wisconsin regiment, with 80 regular cavalry, Griffin's West Point battery, and a section —two guns—of Mott's New York battery. Besides ninety-two loads of hay and corn, our forces brought in twenty sheep and twenty beef cattle—the property of Quartermaster Means, of the Confederate service. The hay was the property of Dr. Mackall, Jr.

Ere the enemy appeared, despatches from the balloon notified Gen. Smith that he might expect an attack, as the Confederates had moved from Falls Church in large forces. They commenced firing from a hill four miles distant from the position of our troops, and their shell fell short three miles quite. The shell that passed over our troops was fired from a section of a battery—two guns—advanced in a different direction within two thousand yards of Griffin's battery.

The noteworthy features of the affair were the capital manner in which our troops deployed as skirmishers, and the fact that the enemy evidently declined the engagement offered to them.

A LAME EXCUSE.

On Sunday last the St. Louis *Democrat* endeavored to break the force of the impending public judgment against General Fremont's competency for his command, then likely to grow out of the apprehended fall of Lexington, by attributing that probability to the order from Washington for "a large portion of the forces which Gen. Fremont had ordered to its relief."

This is all gammon. The order transferring certain Illinois regiments from Fremont's command to this military department did not leave Washington until *after* F.'s refusal to reinforce Mulligan had virtually secured his subsequent defeat. The reinforcements—which he had at command—to have been of service should have left St. Louis weeks before the order in question left the War Department. That there is no validity whatever in this excuse, is proved by the fact that *after* the receipt of the order, General Fremont still had 20,000 troops at command, with which to start to shut the stable door, after he had permitted the steed to be stolen.

THE IRON CLAD STEAMERS.

The letting of iron-clad steamers, as reported in the papers, by the Navy Department, is premature. The bids for this work are not yet disposed of, the models presented scarcely coming up to the expectations of the commission having the matter in charge.

THE SITUATION UPON THE POTOMAC.

Special correspondence of the Star.

ALEXANDRIA, Sept. 26.—On Wednesday last the Confederate batteries for the first time were discovered at Freestone Point, and must have heavy guns mounted from the distance the shot and shell flew. One of the Government propellers of the Potomac flotilla was slightly injured by a shot that struck her, and was towed out of reach of the battery by one of the fleet—Penguin. The point of land being very high, it was difficult for the guns of the fleet to be elevated high enough to do much good. The vessels bound up the Potomac yesterday being quite numerous, as well as to-day, had to hug the Maryland shore very close to prevent being injured. The number of vessels arrived to-day has been quite numerous from the river and bay, as well as from sea, with coal, hay and supplies for the Government—as many as eight vessels with hay in sight at one time on the Potomac.

To day eight or ten shots were fired from Cockpit Point, it is presumed intended as a compliment to the fine steamer Delaware, that came from Philadelphia with a large number of sailors for the new sloop-of-war at the navy-yard. She passed up this morning and down again this afternoon.

The following are believed to be the batteries on the Potomac: At Timber Branch; north of Quantico; Cockpit Point; Freestone Point; heavy battery lower side Occoquan Creek; Aquia Creek; Mathias Point, (three or four heavy batteries, waiting opportunity to do damage.)

There are twenty Government vessels of all sizes from Maryland Point to this point, but a good many are of that description that they cannot stand heavy shot from shore batteries. The truth might as well be told at once; merchant vessels will not be willing to come into the Potomac to run the risk of being sunk unless protected, and our Government vessels on the Potomac cannot stand being fired into; and again, most of their guns are too short to engage.

FREMONT AGAIN.

It is said that the chief of the ordnance bureau declines to pay Fremont's contracts for arms. He has made a requisition for $500,000 to cover those contracts, sending on a schedule of the prices agreed on, which General Ripley, we hear, pronounces far greater than the same arms cost here, and which he refuses to pay.

SERIOUS COMPLAINTS.

We hear complaints of infamous conduct on the part of some of the men of General Hooker's brigade (said to be of the Massachusetts 12th.) The allegations are rowdyism, plundering, wanton mischief to property, &c., in the vicinity of the position where they are stationed.

NAVY-YARD—IMPORTANT RIVER NEWS—A DESERTING LIEUTENANT.

Yesterday morning, the Reliance came up to the Navy-Yard, bringing particulars of the discovery of the enemy's battery at Freestone Point, about twenty-five miles below Washington. This battery at Freestone Point is a new one, having just been completed, and the brush which concealed it cleared away. It is believed to mount seven guns, two of which are rifled. The Reliance brought up a lieutenant of the Confederate army, who escaped a few days since, and upon a raft succeeded in reaching a schooner near Evansport. He reports that there were other heavy batteries concealed by the brush, along the river, one of which is at Cockpit Point. From ten to fifteen thousand troops are stationed along the Potomac, among whom there is great dissatisfaction—many would desert if they could do so successfully. Several contrabands picked up this week, and also brought up by the Reliance, make similar statements, and say that the Confederates were busy all day Sunday hauling cannon to Freestone Point.

The Reliance needs considerable repairs to her boiler and machinery; after which she will again join the flotilla.

The transport Delaware arrived yesterday, with seamen from the northern recruiting stations. She was also fired into by the Confederates. Wednesday night the Delaware run into the transport Planet, just below Matthias Point, sinking her immediately.

Last Tuesday the Island Belle was fired into from the Aquia Creek batteries, but without receiving any damage. A few shots were returned by the gunboat.

The flag-ship Yankee, Com. Gillis, came up to the yard this morning in order to communicate with the Department concerning the Confederate batteries. Some merchant vessels report being [illegible] taking with her the lieutenant deserted from Dixie, doubtless to point out the whereabouts of Confederate batteries.

Last Monday the gunboat Mount Vernon went up the Rappahannock river forty miles, discovering nothing but about 500 Confederates at a little place called Liberty. She was not at all molested on her trip. All is reported quiet on the river this morning by the Yankee.

Yesterday morning the steamer Baltimore arrived from New York, whither she had taken several political prisoners from Annapolis for Fort Lafayette.

THE NEW CONFEDERATE BATTERIES ON THE POTOMAC.

The following report will prove of interest:

U. S. STEAMER J. BELL, Indian Head, Potomac River, Sept. 25.—I have the honor to submit the following report: This morning, about sunrise, I discovered men at work digging, &c., at Freestone Point. I got under weigh at 9.30 A. M., (having satisfied myself that they were making batteries,) in company with the Seminole, Lieut. Norton in charge, I ordered her to follow my motions. We proceeded to Freestone Point, and I went close in and fired six shells, dispersing the workmen and receiving no return of fire. I stood out. At that moment the Seminole opened fire with her battery, which was immediately answered from the said point with rifled shot, disclosing the existence of a battery there. The Seminole continued her fire for some time, continually answered by the battery on shore.

After she had fired sufficiently long, in my opinion, I ordered her to cease firing and return to her anchorage. After taking a curve by the nature of the channel, anon standing up the river, she was fired upon by the battery on shore, which she returned; and while passing the Valley City, she was informed that a shot from shore had passed through the bows of the said vessel; and not having sufficient steam to make any progress to get out of the reach of the enemy's battery, requested Lieut. Norton to tow him towards Indian Head; which was done.—The enemy's battery continued their fire upon all vessels and steamers passing up and down, until three P. M. To the best of my judgment there are four guns at said battery; one rifled gun, extreme range, as many of their shots, during their firing, almost touched the Maryland shore. No one was injured during the action. The officers and men fired deliberately and coolly.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

E. P. MCCREA, Commanding.

To Commander JOHN. P. GILLIS, Commanding Division of Potomac Flotilla.

THE GREAT EASTERN.—Until we have accounts from the vessel itself, it will be premature to pronounce the late mis-adventure of the Great Eastern evidence that the ship is a failure. The presumptions are, however, strongly against her. Having sailed from Liverpool on the 11th inst., she is met in the course of the fourth day putting back, with the loss of both side-wheels, of very nearly all her boats, with bulwarks stove in, and rolling so heavily that the passengers could only maintain their footing on deck by clinging to ropes stretched across for the purpose. Here are nearly all the conditions for which the Great Eastern claimed superiority, if not perfection, vindicated. She cannot outride even a moderate storm. For on the day of her departure, the Saxonia sailed from Southampton for her New York, passing very nearly over the course taken by the Great Eastern; and while her log reports storms of wind and rain, it lays no stress upon the weather as of more than ordinary severity, and she certainly passed through it herself without damage. What special disaster or stress the great ship may have encountered we have yet to learn. But it must have been one to which smaller vessels were less sensitive.—*New York Times.*

DIED,

On the 26th inst., JEFFERSON DAVIS, youngest son of Dr. Edward and Mary Johnson.

In Fred-rick city, on the 21st instant, J. WILLIAM GITTINGER, late of Baltimore city, in the 46th year of his age.

In Cleveland, Ohio, on the 24th instant, Dr. CHARLES S. REESE, formerly a resident of this city, aged 37 years.

DOCTOR F. TUMBLETY,

From Canada,

Will describe diseases and tell his patients the nature of their complaint or illness, without receiving any information from them.

OUR MOTTO!

We use such Bal