THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

VOL I---NO. 25. BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1861. PRICE TWO CENTS.

SEE FOURTH PAGE.

BOARD OF TRADE.
Committee of Arbitration for month of October.
ROSS CAMPBELL.
JNO. WILLIAMS, | H. R. TUCKER.
CHS. BULLING, | JNO. K. CALWELL.

Monetary and Commercial Review.

BALTIMORE, October 17, 1861.

The only transaction at the Stock Board to-day was a sale of 40 shares Farmers and Planters' Bank at $21¼, but the market for stocks generally was quite heavy. Maryland 6's were 1 per cent. better than on yesterday, 84¼ being bid for 1870's. Baltimore City 6's were also firm, 1890's closing at 81¼ bid, 82 asked. For Baltimore and Ohio Railroad $43 was bid at the Board, and after the close a sale of 7 shares was made at $43¼. Northern Central was ¼ better than on yesterday $14 being bid, $15 asked for it. In Railroad bonds there was no movement, but Northern Central 1885's closed at 57 bid, 57¼ asked, and Baltimore and Ohio bonds left off at 81 bid, 83 asked for 1867's; 71 bid for 1875's; 62½ bid, 66 asked for 1885's; and 43 bid for 1862's (the extra dividend bonds). For Baltimore Gas Co. $99¾ was bid to-day, and the Bank stocks generally closed steady.

There is but little doing in foreign Exchange but rates remain quite firm. Sterling is quoted at 107 ½@107¾ for bankers', and 106¾@106¾ for commercial bills, and francs at 5.27½ for short sight, and 5.32½@5.35 for 60-day bills. We quote Bremen bills at 76¾@77; Amsterdam at 39½@39¾; Hamburg at 35½, Cologne at 70½, and Frankfort-on-the-Main at 40¾@40½.

In New York to-day all the stocks on the list were lower. Virginia 6's fell off 1 per cent; Missouris 1½; North Carolinas 1; Tennessees ½; Canton ½; Erie $1¼; New York Central $1½; Reading ¾; and Treasury notes ¼, the 6 per cents. selling at 99¾.

SALES AT THE BALTIMORE STOCK BOARD.

THURSDAY, October 17, 1861.

40 shares Farmers and Planters' Bank.....21½

AFTER THE BOARD.

7 shares Balt. & Ohio Railroad stock.....43¼

PRICES AND SALES OF STOCKS IN NEW YORK.
BY TELEGRAPH.
Through WILLIAM FISHER & SON, Stock and Bill Brokers No. 22 South street.

	1st Board	2d Board.
Virginia 6's.....from three days....	46	00
Missouri 6's.....	43¾	43¾
Tennessee bonds.....	42½	00
North Carolina bonds.....	59	00
Canton Company.....	9	00
Erie Railroad.....	31	30¾
New York Central Railroad	77¾	77¾
Reading Railroad.....	35¾	35¾
Treasury notes 2 years 6 per cents..	99¾	00
	heavy.	steady.

The New York *Herald* of this morning says:

The stock market continues very active, and the commission brokers report more orders to buy than they have had for years. At the same time the sales which are being made daily by parties who were buyers at lower figures prevent the advance in prices from being uniform. The market opened yesterday rather weak and tame; but as the call progressed new orders to buy caused an improved feeling and produced an advance on about half the list. Erie preferred rose 3 per cent; Erie common, ¾; Hudson, ½; Harlem, ¾; Harlem preferred, 1; Reading, ¾; Michigan Central, 1¾; Rock Island, 1; Toledo, ¾; Galena, ¾; Michigan Southern, old, ¾; guaranteed, ¾. On the other hand, Pacific Mail fell off ¾; New York Central, ¾; Quincy, ¾; and Illinois Central, ¾. The most marked rise of the day was in Erie, old and preferred, both of which were in demand at the advance. Governments improved, the coupons selling at ¼ advance. At the close of the first board prices rose a fraction; they fell off afterwards in the street. At the second board, prices were generally lower. There seemed to be a general desire to realize profits before another upward surge.

The Custom House statements of the trade of the port for the month of September were closed to-day, and we present our usual comparative tables:

Imports.	Sept., 1861.	Sept., 1860.	Sept., 1861.
Ent'd for consump'n	$12,470,440	11,516,139	3,105,529
Ent'd for warehouse.	2,177,966	2,835,784	1,399,766
Free goods.	1,810,622	1,652,832	1,577,355
Specie and bullion.	184,553	255,695	1,231,012
Total imports....	$16,643,545	16,260,450	7,313,661
Withd'n fm w'house.	2,898,441	4,077,272	2,933,464
Cash duties.....	2,905,509	3,038,803	1,642,382
Exports.			
Domestic produce...	$4,946,612	9,232,931	9,877,909
For'n mdse, dutiable.	635,132	620,394	264,168
For'n mdse, free....	188,072	46,620	30,013
Specie and bullion..	8,267,691	3,758,734	15,756
Total exports.....	$14,037,497	13,658,679	10,187,846
Total, excl. of specie	5,769,816	9,899,945	10,172,090

This is a very remarkable statement. It affords fresh confirmation of the statement—which is now familiar to all—that this country has, for the present, suspended its consumption of foreign goods, while the necessities of the foreign world have enabled us to increase our exportation of our own produce.

The popular subscription to the loan continues to progress favorably. Three-quarters of a million were received at the Sub-Treasury to-day, mostly in 5 per cent. notes. The agents are doing an active business in these notes. Mr. Cisco reimbursed the banks to day $775,000.

There are now few United States demand notes on hand at the New York office. An order for $50,000 has been filled, which, together with the $400 000 sent yesterday to the Western Virginia army, reduces the accumulation here to about $150,000. The Western journals urge the use of Treasury notes as currency as much as possible. The Chicago journals are warning their readers against Canada depreciated paper.

By the North American, at Quebec, we have telegraphic advices to the 4th inst. Consols had rallied again to 92¾@93 for money. The bullion in the Bank of England had decreased £117,000 during the week. Another advance was anticipated in the rate of discount of the Bank of France. Cotton and breadstuffs both firm.

It is said that the receipts of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company for the last fiscal year exceed $7,000,000.

The Cincinnati *Gazette* of Tuesday says:

The money market exhibits no new feature to-day. There was a moderate demand for loans, and good paper was pretty freely absorbed at 10@12 per cent. Exchange was steady, with a supply and demand about equal. A fair demand for gold at ⅜@⅝ premium. There were orders on Saturday from New York for two year Treasury notes There are very few in this market.

The Chicago *Tribune* of the 14th says:

To-day the rates are advanced 20 cts. per bbl. on flour to New York and Boston. On the 1st of September flour was carried to New York, all rail, at $1 per bbl., and the rate is now advanced to $1.55

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

BEFORE THE UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER.—Mr. Isaac Oliver, owner of the schooner Florida, and Michael Terrell, master, were yesterday morning before United States Commissioner Hanan on the charge of sinking the schooner Florida on the 26th of September last, with the intention of defrauding the Underwriters. The evidence elicited at the examination was not sufficient to justify the detention of the accused, and they were accordingly honorably discharged. Immediately afterwards, the principal witness for the prosecution, a seaman named Emanuel Foster, was arrested at the instance of Mr. Oliver, who charged him with an attempt to commit a heinous crime upon the person of his son, William Oliver, about twelve years of age, whilst at sea. The accused was committed to jail for an examination this morning.

MOUNT ROYAL RESERVOIR.—The construction of the new water works, which has been in progress for three or four years past, is now rapidly approaching completion. Mount Royal Reservoir, the last of the work, will be finished in about thirty days. Workmen are now busily engaged upon it, under the superintendence of Chief Engineer Chas. P. Manning, Esq., and Mr. R. K. Martin, Resident Engineer. The capacity of this reservoir will be thirty millions of gallons, which, with the capacity of Hampden Reservoir, forty-six millions, will be a sufficient quantity of water for Baltimore for all time to come.

MORE ARRESTS.—Isaac G. Mask, a city official, employed in the office of Dr. Graves, Collector, was arrested at an early hour yesterday morning by a squad of policemen, on a charge of treason. Mr. Mask was formerly of Moorefield, Hardy county, Virginia, and the specific charge against him is said to be that he has been corresponding with friends in that State. He resided on Poppleton street. He was sent to Fort McHenry.

Robert Ray, a member of the regular police force, was also arrested and taken to the Fort.

A DARK AFFAIR.—Martha Lloyd was yesterday taken into custody on the charge of committing an assault upon Elizabeth Lloyd. Both parties are colored. They were arraigned before Justice Showacre, who heard the evidence in the case and then committed Martha to jail to answer the charge at Court.

PERSONAL.—Sir James Ferguson, Bart. and Hon. Robert Bourk, arrived at Barnum's Hotel last evening, from Washington.

Amusements.

KUNKEL'S ETHIOPIAN OPERA HOUSE—*Museum.*—The Ethiopian burletta, the *Stranger*, proved a laughable success. The cast is truly excellent, and would have reflected credit upon a more serious piece, on a regular dramatic stage. The singing of Kunkel, Rainer, Frazier and Lewis elicited many plaudits from the enthusiastic audience in attendance. To-morrow afternoon there will be a special day entertainment for families. On Monday next an admirable burlesque, in rhyme, will be produced.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

CITY CRIMINAL COURT—JUDGE BOND.
Archibald Stirling, Jr., State's Attorney, prosecuting:

Patrick Conrad, indicted for assault with intent to kill, was tried before the Court, and adjudged guilty of a common assault. Fined $20 and costs. J. Randolph Quinn for defence.

SUPERIOR COURT—JUDGE MARTIN.

The Western Maryland Railroad *vs.* William Taggart. Before reported. Judgment for plaintiff. Damages $522.97.

Charles G. Phelps *vs.* Horace Magne. Before reported. On trial.

Assignment Nos. 274 to 335 inclusive.

CITY CIRCUIT COURT—JUDGE KREBS.

Price *vs.* Flamm. Before reported. Not concluded.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS—JUDGE MARSHALL.

Mary Maston *vs.* David G. Carlisle. Appeal from Barzand. Judgment reversed and judgment for return of property, one cent damages and costs.

Assignment for to-day 108 to 132.

According to the Boston *Post*, the Massachusetts Republicans are bitterly severe in their denunciation of Charles Sumner's abolition harangue. Will they hold their severity till their Legislature meets, and then, in imitation of Kentucky Unionists, in their treatment of Breckinridge and Powell, request Charles Sumner to resign? The proof of the pudding is in the eating.

DECLINE IN COFFEE.—The latest news from Rio (via England) advises a decline in the prices of coffee in that great market. This will be good news to consumers here, who have to pay for the article higher prices than probably were ever before known.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

A FIGHT AT HARPER'S FERRY.

RELAY HOUSE, October 17.—A gentleman from near Harper's Ferry, who reached here last night, furnishes your correspondent with the particulars of a fight which came off between six companies, consisting of parts of the 28th Pennsylvania, 3d Wisconsin and 13th Massachusetts regiments, under command of Colonel John W. Geary, and a force of three thousand Confederates, early yesterday morning. The Confederates showed themselves on Bolivar Heights, in the rear of Harper's Ferry, and commenced an attack upon the three companies of Massachusetts troops in Harper's Ferry with artillery. Our troops at the Ferry were commanded by Major J. P. Gould.

A constant fire was kept up for some hours, when three companies of the 3d Wisconsin regiment crossed the river and formed into line and drove the enemy back and succeeded in capturing one of their heavy guns. This gallant little force were, however, compelled to retreat (leaving the prize behind them) before superior numbers, but in good order to the river, where they were reinforced by three other companies. They then, with Colonel Geary at their head, marched upon the enemy, and after hard fighting, drove the Confederates from their position and recaptured the gun, a 32-pounder columbiad. Our forces had but three pieces of artillery, and these were fired from this side of the river until the enemy retreated. The enemy had seven pieces, supported by 500 cavalry and by infantry. The Confederates were completely routed and driven back some three miles. Our loss in killed and wounded is not over seven, whilst that of the enemy is at least one hundred and fifty killed and wounded. Col. Ashby, who was at the head of the enemy, is among the killed.

P. S.—We learn that the following despatch was received by Col. Paine, at the Relay House, last evening:

"SANDY HOOK, Oct. 16.—I have just ridden into camp on a 32-pounder captured from the enemy at Bolivar. JOHN W. GEARY."

The *National Intelligencer* of this morning also says:

"A despatch last night from Gen. Banks' army states that a detachment of Federal troops crossed the river yesterday and captured and brought over a 32-pounder gun."

Another Account—Colonel Geary Slightly Wounded.

POINT OF ROCKS, October 17.—Colonel Geary, with a portion of the force under his command, achieved a brilliant success yesterday at Bolivar, Virginia, over a greatly superior force of Confederate cavalry, artillery and infantry, capturing from the enemy one 32 pounder and some prisoners, who report the Confederate loss at not less than 150 killed and wounded. Our loss is four killed and seven wounded—one mortally—and one missing. Colonel Geary was slightly wounded by a shell. The fight lasted five hours.

Another Account.

Passengers by the train from Frederick last evening bring the following version of the affair, which is given for what it is worth:

By order of General Banks, Colonel Geary, at the head of thirteen hundred men, attempted to enter Harper's Ferry on Wednesday morning, about eleven o'clock, when he was attacked from Bolivar Heights by a company of Confederate artillery. In a short time the Confederates were compelled to fall back, but, being reinforced by some cavalry, they rallied and succeeded in driving Col. Geary and his men across into Maryland, where he now is. The capture of a large gun is admitted, but it is said that it was left by General Johnston, after having been spiked, so as to render it unfit for use. The same parties also state that Colonel Geary had a considerable number killed and wounded, besides losing a number of prisoners. The report of the death of Colonel Ashby was not credited. The Confederate force was believed to be about three hundred.

Special telegram to the Washington Star.

Detailed Description of the Action, &c., &c.

FREDERICK, MD., Oct. 17.—A gentleman who witnessed the battle of Bolivar Heights yesterday has reached this point, and gives me the following interesting particulars of that glorious affair, viz:

Col. Geary had at and around Harper's Ferry six companies of infantry, viz: Two of Ruger's Third Wisconsin; two of his (Geary's) Eighth Pennsylvania; and two of the Thirteenth Massachusetts Volunteers.

Yesterday morning, at about half-past 8 o'clock, one of the Wisconsin companies, which was posted in the advance, discovered the enemy in Smallwood's woods, about half a mile distant on the southeast.

This company charged on the enemy, and drove them into the wood, and captured their gun. But they (the enemy) rallied, and the Wisconsin men being unable to maintain their position, abandoned the captured gun and fell back in good order.

The Wisconsin company was soon after reinforced by the whole of the troops on that side of the river, named above. Other reinforcements were instantly sent for from Banks' column on this side of the river, and the engagement went on nearly all day. In the meanwhile three pieces of the Rhode Island battery (under Capt. Tompkins in person) reached our troops from Sandy Hook, and immediately took part in the engagement.

At between 3 and 4 P. M. a final bayonet charge was made by all our troops, which scattered the Confederates in all directions. In this charge our gallant fellows recaptured the same gun (a 32-pounder), and took ten prisoners who, with the gun, have been sent over to General Banks' headquarters. At the latest intelligence from there (at 4½ P. M.), which my informant brings, the firing had ceased, and our troops were in pursuit of the enemy, scattered in all directions. Other reinforcements, in addition to Captain Tompkins' Rhode Island battery, were then being sent up to Colonel Geary. The total number of our troops engaged—including some amateurs who took part, and the reinforcement of artillery—was about 600. The bayonet charge was a terrifically-magnificent affair. Our loss was four killed, nine wounded and three missing.

At least one hundred and fifty of the enemy's killed and wounded were left behind them on the field in their flight. Colonel Turner Ashby, their brag cavalry officer, commanded the Confederates, and lost his life in the engagement as gallantly as his brother lost his not long since in the battle of New Creek.

LATEST FROM MISSOURI.

INDEPENDENCE, Mo., Oct. 14.—The Santa Fe mail reached here yesterday morning with dates to the 1st instant.

The conductor states that G. B. Miller, formerly sutler at Fort Wise, has gone South to raise troops and move Northward with them.

Major Lynde's command of released troops, under Captain Pollock, numbering two hundred and fifty or three hundred men, were passed on Wednesday last at the head of the dry route, about 350 miles from here, on their way to the States.

Captain Mentz, with his command of volunteers, was surprised about thirty miles from Fort Craig, and himself, his 2d Lieutenant and nine of his men taken prisoners.

The balance of the men ran back to Fort Craig.—The Confederates also captured three Government wagons.

Captain Morris, of the Rifles, with a command of four companies, has started in pursuit of the Confederates.

The majority of Walls is 2,600.

Eleven companies have been mustered into service in New Mexico under the command of Colonel Gallagher.

Price's Army Still in Full Retreat.

JEFFERSON CITY, October 17.—A scout just arrived reports that Gen. Price's army on Sunday last was at Clintonville, Cedar county, twenty-five miles south of Papinsville, on the Carthage road. The whole army have effected the passage of the Osage, and are still in full retreat.

ROLLA, Mo., Oct, 16.—Thirty wounded men have arrived here from Springfield. They report that a sharp skirmish took place on Monday, twenty miles this side of Lebanon, between two companies of mounted men, and about 130 Confederate cavalry. The latter were surprised and completely routed, killing about thirty, and taking the same number of prisoners. Major Wright's loss was one killed.

Col. Taylor's regiment of Confederates had marched northward to join Gen. Price.

FROM WASHINGTON.
From the Lower Potomac.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17.—The steamer Mount Vernon, Captain Mitchell, came up last night. Some twenty shots were fired at her from the batteries at and near Shipping Point, but not one struck her.

Captain Mitchell reports that some thirty or forty vessels bound up with Government stores, and merchant vessels with coal and oysters are lying at Smith's Point afraid to attempt passing the Confederate batteries near Shipping Point.—There are three batteries there mounting thirteen or more guns.

A battery has also just been opened at Quantico Creek, a short distance above Shipping Point.—The other three are between Shipping Point and Evansport.

There is said to be also a battery at Timber Creek, and one gun on the hill above Evans' fort. When the Pawnee and Mount Vernon went down night before last, the Mount Vernon preceded the Pawnee, and the four hundred marines aboard were ordered to lay down on deck, two deep, in passing the enemy's batteries, which was done, and they thus escaped observation from the shore. Thirteen shots were fired at the Pawnee, six of which struck her, and one near her.

The Aquia Creek battery is now silent.

The Alger is at the Navy Yard taking in stores.

American Contributions to the World's Fair.

The Commissioners, representing the interests of America at the proposed World's Fair at an adjourned meeting have appointed an Executive Committee, consisting of B. P. Johnson, of New York, Chairman, and Messrs. Henry Kennedy, Wm. W. Seaton, of Washington, and James R. Partridge, of Maryland.

The last named acts as Secretary. It is their duty to make all necessary preparatory arrangements for the exhibition. An office is to be established at Washington, and a description of all articles intended for exhibition submitted to the committee for their action. Inventors and other exhibitors can apply to any one of the Commissioners, or of the Executive Committee.

Letter from the President to the Viceroy of Egypt.

The President has addressed a letter to the Viceroy of Egypt, in acknowledgment of the liberal, enlightened and energetic proceedings adopted by his Highness in bringing to speedy and condign punishment the parties who were concerned in an act of cruel persecution against an agent of certain American Christian Missionaries in Upper Egypt.

Mayoralty of Washington—Military Appointment.

The City Councils this afternoon re-elected Richard Wallach, Mayor of Washington. His former election was to fill the vacancy caused by the removal of Col. Berret to Fort Lafayette as a political prisoner, but as he resigned preliminary to his release, another election was deemed unnecessary.

Major Wm. T. H. Brooks, U. S. A., has been appointed Brigadier General of Volunteers.

The Confederates Seeking the Protection of France and England.

Information has been received here from a source entitled to credit, that Messrs. Slidell and Mason, the Confederate Ministers to France and England, are not only authorized to negotiate treaties of extraordinary commercial advantage with those powers, but to place the Southern Confederacy for a limited period under their protection.

Release of Confederate Prisoners.

Of the thirty-six Confederate prisoners to be released according to the recent special order, only three of them to-day took the oath of allegiance, namely: George Larribee and Joseph Elliott, of Maryland, and Jeremiah O'Brian, of Georgia. The others took the oath not to bear arms against the United States.

FROM GENERAL BANKS' DIVISION.

DARNESTOWN, October 15.—In a previous communication was narrated the fact of a party of eleven scouts from the New York 34th having crossed the river, and being attacked and cut to pieces by a superior number of the Confederates. The particulars of the affair are thus detailed by Corporal Robert Gracy, of the party, who, until his return on Monday night, was supposed to have been dead, as he was seen to fall on the field of the skirmish.

On the night of the 10th of September a detachment of twelve men crossed the Potomac, for the purpose of reconnoitering and foraging. When reaching about half a mile from the river, they were attacked by fifteen Confederates, two of whom were instantly killed, viz: O. P. Darling and ——Bromley. Among the wounded was my informant, Corporal Robert Gracy, of Company H, a man of gigantic frame and iron endurance.

As Gracy lay wounded upon the ground a Confederate named McCarthy, Lowe, a farmer residing in the vicinity, rushed up and shot him twice, both balls taking effect, and was stopped from firing a third time by his Captain. One of the balls penetrated Gracy's back in a slanting direction and came out on the left side. The other, entering the back, lodged in his left lung, where it still remains.

After a grand exultation at the successful accomplishment of their feat, the Confederates took up the wounded and conveyed them to the village of Dranesville, about four miles distant. Gracy, being a man of no ordinary weight, was placed upon a rail and carried by four stout men until they found a more comfortable conveyance. On arriving at Dranesville the victors indulged in liquor with their friends, and held a grand jubilee over their victory. Here Gracy remained about two weeks, during which time he was kindly cared for, both by his keepers and the family where he lodged. Fearing an attack by Gen. Stone's command, he was then conveyed to Fairfax Court House in one of our own ambulances, captured at Bull Run.

His two weeks' stay at Fairfax was not of an unpleasant character, considering all the circumstances. He was placed in the hospital under a guard of Lieut. Thomas Adrian, and his command of the Tiger Rifles of Louisiana, who furnished him with more condiments, luxuries and personal attentions than were bestowed upon his own sick. Lieutenant Adrian frequently and jocularly remarked, as an excuse for this, that his object was a selfish one. He wanted to take Gracy to the South and exhibit him, *a la* Barnum, as a fine specimen of the "living Yankee," who could'nt be killed.

In this hospital the inmates were mostly members of the First Virginia regiment. Every day or two those seriously ill were sent to Richmond, as it was feared that Gen. McClellan would attack the Confederate lines.

Among the prisoner-patients there, however, was one named Walter Hemmett, who was wounded in the mouth in some skirmish. Hemmett played the deaf and dumb *role* to perfection, deceiving even Gracy himself until the day preceding the latter's escape, when Hemmett agreed to join Gracy in making their escape.

During Gracy's confinement his sufferings were intense, as evidenced by a comparison of his former with his present weight. The attendants furnished him with opium every day for his drink; but this he treasured up as a means of his ultimate escape. One night, after he became able to move about, he drugged the beverage of his attendants, and then left the hospital in pursuit of some cold water for a violent toothache. After passing the outer guard he fell in with the sentinels of three distinct lines outside the village. He was respectively hailed and fired at three times, but all the balls failed to harm him.

After awaiting as agreed upon for his friend Hemmett, and the latter not appearing, he started towards the Potomac at the point of his capture, but in consequence of large Confederate forces he was compelled to diverge in a westerly direction, crossing Bull Run, and thence taking a circuitous and serpentine route to avoid open and observation. After three days and nights of hunger and suffering, he reached the Potomac, opposite the encampment of the 34th, at midnight, when he was compelled to lay there till daylight, as the pickets declined to cross at night. While in the hospital at Fairfax, Gracy had opportunities of becoming familiar with many important facts. He occasionally overheard conversations between officers and the surgeon of the hospital. Saw Beauregard and Gen. Longstreet in conversation on several occasions together, and inferred that Longstreet held some important commission. On the 5th instant Jeff. Davis was at Fairfax, and spent several hours with Beauregard, Longstreet and other officers. Johnston was understood to be somewhere in the immediate neighborhood, but Gracy did not see him.

On one occasion General Longstreet said to the surgeon that the Confederate forces in front of Washington were so scattered that if attacked at any point in the line there must necessarily be an abrupt retreat by all, upon Manassas Junction—"Our Gibraltar"—where Yankee blood would refresh and enrich Virginia soil. They think it impossible to be driven from this point. It was generally believed that Beauregard would burn the village of Fairfax Court House if compelled to evacuate it.

It was impossible to ascertain the exact number of Confederate troops in and around Fairfax Court House. They were variously estimated at 50,000 to 100,000. As far as Gracy's observation went, they were better fed than clothed, but he heard of no complaints in regard to the latter, although their uniforms presented a curious mixture, grey predominating over other shades of color. Salt had been scarce, but the supply was becoming more plentiful. He learned that hundreds of men were employed on the seashore in evaporating, each man producing, on an average, two bushels per day. It was also coming in freely from the western part of the State.

On his homeward route Gracy saw, about a quarter of a mile northwest of Fairfax, a breastwork about thirty rods long and five feet high, but no troops were then stationed there. He saw no large bodies of troops north of the Great Falls, but laid concealed while a baggage train of forty wagons passed towards Leesburg.

While at Dranesville a large force of the Confederates were understood to be shelling our forces at the Great Falls, and twenty-two of the Tiger Rifles and several citizens went thither to see the sport, but did not remain long. A man named Walker, who lives in sight of the Thirty-fourth, was at Dranesville, and wanted to have Gracy shot at once. He will be remembered by the Thirty-fourth for his kind intentions.

Everything published by our papers was copied into the Richmond journals in detail. The Confederates and citizens think the Thirty fourth, with their Enfield rifles, a terrible and unconquerable set of "Yankees," and fear to go near the river fronting their encampment.

Coffee was scarce at Fairfax, but whiskey rations were issued instead.

Yesterday afternoon a picket reported that the battery attached to the Twelfth Massachusetts had shelled a body of Confederates opposite the White House Lock. The guns were distinctly heard, but no particulars have been received.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

FORTRESS MONROE, October 16.—The gunboat Seminole has arrived from Washington. When passing Evansport, above Aquia Creek, she was fired upon by the Confederate batteries on shore, and ten out of forty shots took effect, one nearly carrying away her mizzenmast, but no one on board was injured. The Seminole returned twenty-six shells, some of which burst over the Confederate battery.

The gunboat Flag has sent up a valuable prize, taken but a short distance off Fort Sumter. She is ladened with molasses and fruit.

Depression of the New York Stock Market.

NEW YORK, Oct. 17.—The circular of Secretary Seward caused some depression in stocks to-day, especially in Government securities, some thinking that the Secretary of State is in possession of knowledge relative to foreign movements which prompted the issuing of such a document. Government 6's of 1881 declined nearly two per cent., and some leading stocks fell off nearly 4 per cent. The noon market, however, closed slightly more steady.

Lord Monck and Party.

MONTREAL, Oct. 16.—Lord Monck and party will come out in the North Briton.

Patterson, the abortionist, who was respited until Friday next, has had his sentence commuted to imprisonment for life.

Departure of Troops for the West.

PITTSBURG, October 17.—Governor Curtin to-day presented a stand of regimental flags to General Negley's brigade, three thousand strong, which leaves to night on five steamers for the West.

A Northern man, who has just arrived in Boston from Richmond, reports that many of the Virginia planters are manufacturing unusual quantities of cloth on their plantations; and he adds that "the women are more zealous secessionists than the men, for while he could talk freely with strong secession men, he had to keep silent when women were present."

The London correspondent of *Wilkes' Spirit* asserts in italics that the challenge of Heenan will not be accepted. No man is to be found in England willing to stake $10,000 against him.

WAR ITEMS.

THE POTOMAC BATTERIES.

The following statement with regard to the effects of the fire of the Potomac batteries upon a portion of the flotilla which attempted to pass down the river on Wednesday last, differs in some particulars from the account previously given. We publish it as we receive it, believing it to be correct in the main, but without vouching for its entire accuracy.

"The Pawnee, Harriet Lane, Pocahontas, Yankee and Seminole attempted to pass the batteries on the Potomac on Wednesday last. The Seminole got by after receiving seven shots, one of which passed through her near her magazine—a 68-pounder elongated shot. One shot passed through her bow, and two others through her waist, forward of her wheel-house.

"The Pocahontas received one shot in her wheel-house, and the Pawnee one in her mainmast. The Yankee and the Harriet Lane kept aloof and escaped. The Yankee, Pocahontas and Harriet Lane returned to the Navy Yard."

The above account, which reaches us from a private source, is confirmed by that of Capt. Cannon, of the steamer Adelaide, as recorded in the books of the Exchange Reading Rooms. He adds, moreover, that several of the crew of the Seminole were injured.

From the New York Herald.

Attack of the Confederate Batteries on the Pawnee and Mount Vernon—The River Commanded by the Enemy, &c., &c.

UNITED STATES STEAMER RELIANCE,
Off Indian Head, Potomac River, Oct. 16, 1861.

The steamer Yankee left Washington last night, about 8 o'clock, and anchored at this place.

At 5 o'clock this morning the Pawnee, towed by two tugboats, and accompanied by the Mount Vernon, passed the Yankee on her way from Washington down the river, upon which Commodore Craven ordered the Yankee to weigh, and stood down the river after the other vessels.

On the Pawnee arriving within range of the batteries at Evansport, fire was opened on her from the shore, and soon another battery, further below, joined in the cannonade. I was on board the Yankee at the time, having come down from Washington on her, and witnessed the whole affair.

The flashes from the guns were so vivid that, though my back was turned towards the battery when the first shot was fired, I distinctly saw the glare as if it was lightning.

The Yankee was about three miles from Evansport at the time, and none of the guns were aimed at her, though from the shrill whistle of the elongated shot, which seemed to pass close by our stern, I thought so at first.

Neither the Pawnee nor the Mount Vernon returned the fire, preferring to run the gauntlet in the dark to revealing their position more clearly by the flashes of their guns.

On board the Yankee both of the after-guns were manned, ready for any emergency, but they were not used.

The affair lasted as long as the Pawnee and the other vessels were within range. As they continued down the river I have not been able to ascertain whether either of them was hit. One shell, however, exploded very near to the Pawnee, and some of the shots may have taken effect.

The batteries command the river entirely.

WASHINGTON, October 16—Evening.—The Harriet Lane has just returned from off Indian Head, with Commodore Craven on board. She is armed with 32-pounders and one eight-inch rifle gun on her forecastle. She will require a much more formidable armament than 32-pounders to cope with the new batteries, and will probably return to-morrow with a very different armament.

By an arrival this afternoon from the Lower Potomac it is ascertained that both vessels had safely passed beyond all reach of danger from the Confederate batteries.

Federal Prisoners at Charleston.

The following note, giving the substance of a letter from a Federal prisoner at Castle Pinckney, has been handed to us for publication:

"We have received a letter from R——dated September 9, the day they were to leave for Castle Pinckney. I wish you to publish at his request, as he says, for the benefit of those afflicted families who have friends prisoners. He says they are all well, and doing well, even those who are in the hospitals. They have no idea of the events that are transpiring in our country, as they never see a paper. He writes there are sixty officers together, that they amuse themselves in all sorts of ways. He says that the Confederate Government is willing to exchange them. Then why don't the Federal Government do it? Please publish this for the comfort of those who have friends or relatives prisoners at Charleston."

From the New York Herald, Oct. 17.

INTERESTING STATEMENT OF REFUGEES FROM RICHMOND.

Strength and Condition of Magruder's Forces—The Fortifications at Yorktown Impregnable—Indomitable Spirit of the Confederates, Etc.

Two intelligent men, who were taken prisoners by the Elizabeth City Cavalry, on suspicion of being strong Union men, called at our office yesterday, and furnished us reliable information respecting the state of affairs in and about Richmond. * *

In reference to the condition of the Confederate army—and this is the most interesting and important part of their narrative—they state that the number of troops at New Kent, Williamsburg, Charles City and Richmond was very small, the main body of Magruder's army (consisting in the aggregate of 27,000 men) having been withdrawn to King's mill, Young's mill and Lee's store, on the Warwick side of the river. Magruder has, in addition to his 27,000 infantry, about 11,000 cavalry. This information our informant received from one of Magruder's men. These troops are well clothed and comfortable for this season of the year, but will need warmer apparel as winter approaches. While they are comparatively well off in this respect, and also as regards breadstuffs, the army, as a whole, is very sickly.

On the 7th of the present month six hundred sick soldiers were brought from the camps on the Greenbrier river, and there was a number in the ranks who were inefficient on account of their want of physical vigor. These returned prisoners confirm the statement already published respecting the release of Union prisoners at Richmond. As has been already stated, they say that there are very few troops in Richmond at the present time, and it was supposed that a week ago last Sunday 4,000 Confederate troops left Richmond to go further north. It is said by these intelligent Confederate fortifications are very strong at Williamsburg and other places, especially at Yorktown, which they consider impregnable, and one of our informants is strongly of an opinion that an attempt to take Yorktown by the Union troops would occasion an immense loss of life. According to his statement, Yorktown is the Sebastopol of America. During their imprisonment they could not, of course, learn very much as to the state of feeling among the Confederates; but, from what conversation they heard at intervals in the prison, the Southerners are bound to fight it out. They say they will fight as long as there is a man alive, and then, when the Yankees succeed in exterminating them, the women and children will carry on the war.

Washington Cor. Philadelphia Inquirer, Oct 17.

The Confederate Batteries on the Potomac.

The most absurd rumors are current this morning about the doings of the Confederate batteries on the Potomac. They are said to have sunk several vessels since yesterday morning, but we have heard of no disaster except the sinking of an oyster boat, the crew of which escaped to the Maryland shore behind the batteries, which have been unmasked by the felling of trees, is reported to be three-quarters of a mile long. Three or four of our small war vessels, however, have passed down safely, after exchanging a few shots. From Quantico Creek to Choppawhomico Creek there appears to be a continuous line of batteries for about six miles. They also appear to have removed their battery from Aquia Creek to Ship Point. They are no doubt now making their last attempt to blockade the Potomac.

Correspondence Philadelphia Inquirer.

Confederate Management.

Breckinridge is now only a short march from the banks of the Ohio, and there is nothing in the world to prevent his crossing it if he chooses.

I have just been talking to a man from Simpson county. He says that many of the Confederates thereabouts are barefooted, and armed with the old-fashioned flint-lock muskets and squirrel rifles. They say that they would be afraid of the Enfield rifle in the hands of either a Kentuckian or Virginian, but not in those of a Northerner, for they shoot too high. This fact ought to be remembered by our men. The way they get block tin is this: they have it moulded into the shape of dog irons, smoothing irons, etc.; have them painted black, and then they get it through in that shape without trouble. They get powder by packing it up securely in different ways, then put it in barrels, which are filled around inside with salt. There are various persons engaged in this business in the loyal counties, and they manage to smuggle it through by hook and crook into Tennessee.

A Confederate Hung.

On the 4th inst., a Confederate tavern-keeper, in Charleston, Va., was hung for murdering a soldier belonging to the 1st Kentucky regiment. They had quarrelled, when the hotel proprietor procured a pistol and shot the soldier from a window. On the following day a formal court was held, and the prisoner sentenced to death by hanging. A scaffold was erected, and between three and four o'clock in the afternoon he was led out to his doom. He steadily refused all religious consolation, and maintained a calm and self-possessed manner. He had previously refused to confess his crime, but when the rope was put about his neck, he acknowledged the deed and expressed regret. "It is done," he said, "and cannot be helped." He also asked forgiveness from the comrades of the murdered man. His last words were, "Farewell to the world and to the boys."

Washington Correspondence Philadelphia Inquirer, October 17.

Inefficiency of the Commanding Officer off Charleston Harbor.

The Navy Department have issued orders for the commanding officer off Charleston Harbor to report himself here. His successor will leave New York to-day. It is not supposed that he is a rank Secessionist, but that he is either winking at the arrival and departure of vessels from Charleston, or else is inefficient and incapable of discharging the duties of his position. How many more have we of the same kind?

From the New York Herald, Oct. 17.

The Confederate Steamer Nashville.

The Nashville, the steamer that has run the blockade conveying to Europe the two Confederate Ministers, was formerly used as a passenger vessel between this port and Charleston, and belonged to the line of Spofford, Tileston & Co. She was seized by the Confederates, and has since been converted into a so-called war vessel, but her build, speed and age are but ill adapted to any such use, and none of our vessels need be afraid of coming into close encounter with her at once. She lacks the strength to bear even the recoil of her own guns, if they are of any weight. She was built in this city in the year 1853, is rated 2, and is 1,220 tons burthen.

HER COMMANDER.

Captain Robert B. Pegram, commander of the Nashville, was formerly attached to the United States Navy, in which he held the position of Lieutenant. He was born in Virginia and appointed from that State. His original entry into the navy was in the month of February, 1829. His total sea service was about seventeen years, on shore about eight years, and the balance of his time was unemployed. He was in the navy nearly thirty-two years. He has been lately engaged on the coast survey. He, too, like Hollins and others, turned his back to the flag under which he had served for a long period, at the breaking out of the present rebellion. Before this Lieut. Pegram had won for himself the respect of the public at large, and of his fellow officers, by the good qualities he had always shown and his cool courage.

He had rendered himself popular by his connection with the affair of the Water Witch in the Paraguay waters, in connection with the Japan expedition, where his coolness and daring secured for him the thanks of the British Admiralty, and a handsome sword from his native State. Since his resignation from the United States service, and his entry into the diminutive navy of the Confederates, he has appeared but once, previous to the present affair, and that was at the affair at Sewall's Point