THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

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SEE FOURTH PAGE.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Movements of the Flotilla--The Confederate Steamer Page in a Critical Position.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26.—The steamer Reliance came up from the flotilla last night, bringing up Capt. Fox, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and at 1 o'clock A. M. she left the yard to join the flotilla.

It is reported that the Ice Boat, which has a fine battery of four guns, and another steamer, ran up past the Matthias Point batteries in the night, and that they are now between the Confederate steamer George Page and Aquia Creek, with the Yankee and Resolute lying at Stump Neck, opposite Cockpit Point, and the other steamers below Evansport.

The steamer Page is, therefore, in rather a critical position. She was lying near the captured schooner Fairfax yesterday evening, and was supposed to be aground. On board the flotilla at Indian Head heavy firing was heard yesterday afternoon in a southeasterly direction. Two schooners bound up with stores ran the blockade night before last without receiving a shot.

The Case of Judge Merrick.

In the Circuit Court this morning the Judges asked the Clerk if there had been any return to the writ issued against Gen. Porter, the Provost-Marshal. The Clerk answered that there was none.

Mr. Carrington, the District Attorney, presented in behalf of Deputy Marshal Phillips an affidavit of Mr. Phillips, stating that the rule had not been served because he had been ordered by the President not to serve it, and because the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* had been suspended for the present, by order of the President, in regard to soldiers in the army of the United States within the District of Columbia.

Mr. Carrington offered to submit an argument to the Court in behalf of Mr. Phillips, but the Court answered that it did not purpose to take any steps against Mr. Phillips.

As the return presented a grave question, the Court decided to hold it under advisement, and an adjournment was made until Wednesday morning next.

Fatal Railroad Accident on the Washington Road.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 27.—As the train from Baltimore to Washington, due here at half-past five o'clock on Friday evening, was approaching this city, a man was seen on the track by the engineer, but not in sufficient time to enable him to stop the engine, and the unfortunate man was struck by the cow-catcher, thrown from the track, and severely injured. The train was stopped as soon as possible, and the man was picked up in a state of insensibility and placed in as comfortable a position on the train as circumstances would allow.

Dr. Jones, assistant surgeon U. S. Navy, happened to be on the train and rendered such assistance as could be tendered in the case. On the arrival of the train in Washington the injured man was transferred to the army infirmary, near the City Hall. On examination he was found to have received a serious fracture of the pelvis, and other injuries, from which he died in the course of two hours. Papers found in his possession indicated it to be W. R. Ross, first Lieutenant of Anderson's Zouaves.

Official Confirmation of the Fall of Romney.

Lieut. Gen. Scott to-day received the following despatch from Gen. Kelley:

ROMNEY, VA., October 26, 1861.

SIR:—In obedience to your orders, I moved on this place at 12 o'clock last night, attacked the enemy at 3 o'clock this afternoon, and drove in their outposts. After a brilliant action of two hours we completely routed them, taking all their cannon and much of their camp equipage, and many prisoners. Our loss is trifling, but cannot say to what extent.

B. F. KELLY,
Brigadier-General Commanding.

Despatches to the President over the Telegraph Line from California.

Since Friday, when the Pacific and Atlantic telegraph was opened, the President has received a number of despatches over that line. They embrace, first, the announcement from the President of the Overland Telegraph Company that the line is completed, and expressing the hope that it may be a bond of perpetuality between the States of the Atlantic and those of the Pacific.

Governor Downey, of California, expresses, in the name of the people of that State, their congratulations at the completion of the noble enterprise that places them in immediate communication with the capital, and with their fellow-citizens in the East. May the golden links of the Constitution ever unite us as a happy and free people.

The President and Secretary of the California Pioneers, the oldest organization on the Pacific Coast, send greetings to the President as a society loyal, and as a State loyal. They pray God to save, one and indivisible, our glorious Union.

Leland Shanford sends from Sacramento the following to-day: "California is but a second's distance from the National Capital—her patriotism with the electric current throbs responsive to that of her sister States, and holds civil liberty and union above all price."

The Grand Division of the Sons of Temperance sends the following: "To the President of the United States, greeting—Liberty, Union, temperance, one and inseparable, forever." Signed John Wade, P. G. W. P.

The Mayor of Stockton transmits as follows:—"Stockton sends greeting to your Excellency, with the assurance that she is true to the Constitution and the Union, and for the thorough crushing out of the rebellion."

Governor Nye, in behalf of the territory of Nevada, dated Carson City, says:—"Mountain-bound Nevada avails herself of the earliest opportunity to send, upon the wings of lightning, to her national home, assurances of her filial attachment to the Union as framed by our forefathers, and her earnest sympathies with those who are striving to maintain it."

The following is dated Carson City, Nevada Territory, through her first legislative assembly:

"To the President and people of the United States, greetings: Nevada forever for the Union, over true and loyal. The last born of the nation will be the last to desert the flag. Our aid, to the extent of our ability, can be relied upon to crush the rebellion.

"Signed, J. L. VAN BOKKELEN, Pres't."

Army Appointment.

Joseph Rupert B. Paxton, of Philadelphia, has been appointed a Captain in the Fifteenth Infantry, of the Regular Army. Mr. Paxton recently received the appointment of Consul to Bolivia, Brazil, but in view of the higher honor now tendered him, he will, it is presumed, decline that office.

Military Review.

General McClellan, on Saturday reviewed General Porter's division, which manifested marked proficiency in drill. On Monday Gen. McClellan will review General Casey's brigade, and on Tuesday the divisions of Generals Smith and McCall.

ACROSS THE POTOMAC.

All Quiet Throughout the Entire Lines.

As far as can be ascertained, there has been a general quiet on the entire line of the Potomac today.

BATTLE IN WESTERN VIRGINIA.

Romney Taken and the Confederates Routed with Heavy Loss—All their Cannon and Numerous Prisoners Taken.

PHILADELPHIA, October 27.—The Wheeling papers of Friday announced that General B. F. Kelley had started from Piedmont with two regiments for New Creek, and that his destination was understood to be Romney, Virginia, to attack the Confederate army occupying that place.

Private despatches received here this evening announce that General Kelly attacked the Confederates at Romney on Saturday morning, and after a severe battle of nearly two hours succeeded in routing them, capturing all their cannon and a large number of prisoners. The despatches say that the Federal loss was small and the Confederate loss very heavy.

The Battle Near Leesburg—Southern Account of their Losses.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 27.—The Richmond *Examiner*, of the 24th inst., received here, acknowledges the loss of three hundred in the battle near Edwards' Ferry. Other accounts state the loss at near one thousand. In expectation of a Federal advance to Leesburg, General Evans had been largely reinforced.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

FORTRESS MONROE, Oct. 25.—The "Great Expedition" will sail to morrow, unless the weather should prevent, the arrangements having been nearly completed. After its departure a full list of the vessels constituting it will be furnished.

Nothing new has occurred in the vicinity of Old Point.

The Cambridge has arrived from the blockade off Beaufort. The Albatross lost two men drowned in a fruitless attempt to land a few men south of Beaufort.

Arrival of the Steamer Louisiana.

The steamer Louisiana, Captain William Porter, came into port on Saturday morning from Old Point Comfort shortly after seven o'clock, having on board not over twenty passengers, all of whom were connected with either the army or navy. Some of them report that the great naval fleet was ready to sail on Friday night, that all the necessary stores and ammunition, including several batteries of field artillery, had been received on board, but General Sherman, of the land forces, was awaiting more definite orders from the Secretary of War. It was very probable that a part of the fleet would weigh anchor and get under steam to-night, as the weather, recently so violent, had moderated, and there was scarcely a ripple upon the sea.

The only arrival at Old Point on Friday was the steamer Cambridge, direct from Cape Hatteras Inlet, and she brought no news of interest. During the whole of Friday the steamer Express, of this port, was busily engaged in transporting troops from the fleet to the surf boats, in order to instruct the men how to land. The officers state that it was one of the most amusing scenes they ever witnessed, especially as some of the more awkward and clumsy would occasionally get overboard, but being able to swim, succeeded in reaching the beach without injury, whilst all the rest would set up the most tremendous shouting and yelling.

The War in Kentucky.

LEXINGTON, Ky., Oct. 25.—Information from Camp Wildcat says General Zollicoffer has retreated beyond Loudon, and is supposed to be falling back to Cumberland. Forty-three mounted Confederates, armed with United States muskets, revolvers, and bowie-knives, and confessedly bound for the Confederate army, were surrounded and taken prisoners by twenty-four Home Guards under Captain Craddock and Major Buckner; also, four other men and forty horses. The former were aiding the cavalry to escape.

The *Courier*, published at Bowling Green, contains a card from Breckinridge, avowing his intention to resign his seat in the United States Senate.

A passenger from Nashville reports great suffering and sickness among the Confederate troops at Bowling Green, Hopkinsville and other contiguous points. They claim to have 30,000 troops in these localities.

A letter from Hopkinsville says 700 out of the 1,500 Confederate troops there are sick, and from five to ten dying daily.

SPRINGFIELD RE-CAPTURED.

The Confederates Driven Out, and the Union Flag Raised on the Court House.

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 27.—A despatch from General Fremont, dated on Saturday evening, announces that Major Seagonis, at the head of a small force, drove two thousand Confederates from Springfield, and took possession of the town, raising the Union flag over the Court House. The advance will occupy the town to-night.

The Battle of Fredericktown—Jeff. Thompson Pursued Twenty-two Miles.

PILOT KNOB, Oct. 26.—General Plummer has returned to Cape Girardeau, and Colonel Carlin occupies Fredericktown. Jeff. Thompson's Confederate army has been pursued twenty-two miles beyond Fredericktown, when the chase was abandoned. The Confederates were greatly demoralized, and will doubtless continue the retreat.

It is reported that the bodies of 200 Confederates killed in the battle of Fredericktown were left on the field. Our loss was six killed and forty wounded—one mortally.

The Pennsylvania Volunteers—An Army of One Hundred Thousand.

HARRISBURG, Oct. 27.—Commissioners have been appointed by the Governor to attend to the interests of Pennsylvania volunteers around Washington and in Kentucky, and to arrange for allotment rolls for remitting portions of their pay to their families.

It appears, from official data, that the State of Pennsylvania has seventy thousand men in the field, and that thirty additional regiments are organizing. A portion of them are now ready to move, and all will be in service within a month, making a grand army of over one hundred thousand men, besides leaving the material for fifty additional regiments if needed.

The Vote in Western Virginia.

WHEELING, October 25.—Further reports from the different counties show that the ticket for a division of the State was carried almost unanimously. The vote is not full, owing to the prevalent disturbances.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

RUMORS.—It is an old saying that Madam Rumor has a thousand tongues, and that nine hundred and ninety-nine of them are false, and at times even the thousandth one is not really reliable. The truth of the remark has certainly been fully demonstrated in this city recently. The very air has been heavy with rumors. The respirative organs, indignant at the excess of supply, have but tardily performed their functions, or perhaps it was owing to the quality and not the quantity which affected their operation. Wearied and exhausted with a day's labor, in listening to and repeating the reports that come as a flood, a man retires at night, not, as was his wont, to sleep, but wakeful with the effort to mellow down the conflicting rumors of the day into something like consistency. It is of no use, however, and his analytical faculties at last settle the matter by discarding all those not congenial with his taste or desire, as sheer fabrications; and consoling himself with the anticipation that to-morrow will certainly bring a confirmation of the reports which he wishes true, he unconsciously sinks into the lap of sleep. Now, if the person has been so fortunate as to have eaten a dozen fried, a devilled crab, a cucumber, a pepper pickle, or any other indigestible delicacy, half an hour or so before he retired, his slumber, under such aggravating circumstances, will, in all probability, be broken by strange and exciting dreams. Having more courage, possibly, when asleep than when awake, he has joined the army, and is in a big fight. With a start he partially awakes from his uneasy sleep. He has just successfully dodged a 32-pounder that came whizzing out of a rifled cannon. The battle thickens—the dead are lying around him—the shrieks of the wounded fill the air—shell and round shot are flying so thickly that in dodging one he jumps against another—and to increase the probabilities of death, showers of small shot are raining about him in every direction. No ordinary twitch of the muscles answers now, and with a spring the dreamer is out of his bed. So vivid has been the scene which he has witnessed in the land of dreams, that it takes a few moments to convince him that he has not been a participant in the struggle. He again retires, and for the remainder of the night tosses and tumbles uneasily upon his couch. In the morning he gets up without feeling the least refreshed, and is presently eagerly engaged in reading the morning papers. The telegraph announces "all quiet along the lines," and he is accordingly disappointed. A mouthful of breakfast and he is again in the world of rumors. On his way to business he meets an acquaintance who is wearing an enviably pleasant countenance, and before they meet, acquaintance says "Well, B., there is good news." "What is it?" "A fight yesterday at Fairfax Court House;—it was a big thing. The Federals lost three hundred and came back to where they started from." B., who is a Union man, does not think the news is quite so good as it might have been. He says but little however, and passes on. Or perhaps it is C who meets an acquaintance: "Well, C., good news this morning. They are wiping out the Confederates at Hatteras. Killed eight hundred out of a regiment that had seven hundred and eighty men in it. Not many of them left." C. gasps, makes a wry face and goes on his way. B. hurries to a newspaper office and asks for the particulars of the fight at the Court House, and is informed that no information of that kind has been received. B. insists that the fight took place and that Mr. Acquaintance, whom he met on his way down town, has particulars. A note is forthwith put into the reporter's box, running thus: "See Mr. Acquaintance—fight at Fairfax Court House—get particulars—extra if important." Reporter has been chasing rumors all day, and the hunt must be resumed. Mr. Anquaintance is found—says the fight *did* take place—had not the particulars, but Mr. So-and-So could give accurate information. After an hour's search Mr. So-and-So is found. He refers the reporter to Mr. Hearsay who is just from Washington. The latter named gentleman says the fight took place, there is no doubt of it, but it occurred one day last week, Mr. So-and-So was mistaken in regard to the time. The reporter goes to the office to inform the editors that it was the old rumor of last week revived. It is the second, or third, or fourth time it had been hunted down.

It is astonishing with what eagerness the public seizes upon any report. With some it is immaterial how often or how grievously they may have been disappointed; they are ready on the instant to believe any statement which is afloat in keeping with their hopes. There need be no semblance of truth in it; no shadow of probability connected with the story. It will still find hundreds who will give it implicit confidence, and rehearse it throughout the day with the same unction they would a truth which has already become historical. Mr. A. will gently lay his hand on your shoulder and look in your face with a knowing wink, as he recounts an imaginary defeat or victory. If, in response, you ask "How about that report you gave me yesterday? Is this as reliable as that was?"—his countenance changes, and although his credence in the story of yesterday has been destroyed, he yet strongly contends for its general truthfulness. If needs be he will still boldly assert that eight hundred *were* killed out of the seven hundred and fifty in the regiment, or that General Johnston has actually crossed the Potomac with sixty thousand men. Hundreds of persons spend the day in discussing the hundred reports afloat, and up to midnight cling to the street corners in anxious expectancy of hearing some rumor more marvellous and less probable than any which they have yet heard.

A battle is such a necessary adjunct to a day's history, that a news-boy who would cry his extras without announcing "another battle," would be considered behind the spirit of the times, and would doubtless carry a portion of his stock home, unable to find sale for it. Many of the newspapers also are as credulous as the public, and frequently put forth statements which are destitute of truth, and only equalled in fiction by such readable books as the Arabian Nights or the adventures of Baron Munchausen. So long as the war lasts, the public may rest assured that its appetite for the marvellous and incredulous will not go unappeased.

THE NATIONAL BASE BALL CLUB.—On Saturday morning, by the eight o'clock train, the National Base Ball Club, of Washington, arrived in this city. A committee of the Maryland Club, met the visitors at the cars and conducted them to Mann's Hotel, which was their headquarters. During the morning various members of the Maryland were active in their attentions to the visitors, and visits were paid to the Institute Fair, Washington Monument and other places of interest in the city. At two o'clock, the two clubs repaired to the grounds of the Pastime Club, Madison avenue, where the game was played.

Owing to the threatening aspect of the weather, the number of visitors was not as large as was expected. The ladies particularly were deterred from witnessing the match from fear of rain. The game commenced a few minutes after two o'clock, and was one of unusual interest. The play exhibited by both parties was excellent, and up to the sixth innings the contest threatened to be very close. On the sixth inning the Maryland, by excellent batting and skilful base running, scored eight points, which gave them great advantage. The National used its best exertions to recover, but without success, and at the close of the 9th inning, the game stood Maryland 17, National 10, thus giving the game to the former by 7 runs. The usual compliments were paid to each other at the close of the game, and the finest feeling was manifested by all the players. Mr. John K. Sears, of the Pastime Club, acted as umpire, and by his impartial decisions, merited and received the commendation of both clubs. Mr. Vantine acted as scorer.

At night the visitors were escorted to the Holliday Street Theatre, after which they repaired to Shamburg's, on Liberty street, where an elegant entertainment awaited them. The company were seated at the board, with Mr. M. P. Caughey, President of the Maryland Club, at the head of the table. After ample justice was done to the good things, the cloth was removed, and Mr. Caughey, in a few neat and very appropriate remarks, welcomed the visitors. Mr. Pope, of the National, replied, expressing the thanks of his club for the agreeable manner in which they were entertained. Speeches were also made by Mr. John K. Sears and Mr. Charles Stewart, and at twelve o'clock the company adjourned. Several of the National returned to Washington yesterday, and the others will return to-day.

FREIGHT FOR WASHINGTON.—Notwithstanding the fact that the blockade of the Potomac by the Confederate batteries has greatly increased the transportation of freight between this city and Washington, the officers of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad have made ample arrangements for the prompt accommodation of all shippers of freight; and if the rules of the Company are strictly complied with, there can be no delay in the despatch of freight for Washington. Complaints have been made of delay in the arrival of goods in Washington, but the cause of it has invariably been attributable to the carelessness of shippers in directing packages of goods to obscure parties in Washington. In consequence of this carelessness, the goods lie in the cars at Washington, and in warehouses, for weeks, without an owner being found. The Company have always made it a point to deliver goods in Washington within twenty-four hours after their shipment in this city, and they are in no wise responsible for any delay. About thirty first-class freight engines, drawing nearly one thousand freight cars, are now daily passing over the road; and although but a short time has elapsed since the arrangements for the transportation of such an immense quantity of freight were commenced, the demand has been met promptly and energetically. A large force of men, hitherto out of employment, have been engaged by the Company, and are at work at Locust Point, Mount Clare and Washington.

THE CASE OF YOUNG BELLIS.—The case of Wm. H. Bellis, of Colonel Schofey's Public Guard regiment, who has made application, by his father, Joseph Bellis, for his discharge from the service upon the ground that he had enlisted while a minor, and without the consent of his parent or guardian, was again before Judge Giles, of the United States District Court, on Saturday morning. After hearing the evidence on both sides, the Judge ordered his discharge, upon the condition that the father should pay the costs of the case and return the uniform worn by his son.

FUNERAL OF COLONEL MARSHALL.—On Saturday morning the remains of the late Col. Marshall, of the 7th Maine regiment, were despatched North by the Philadelphia and Wilmington Railroad. They were escorted to the cars by the 10th Maine regiment, and then taken charge of by the Quartermaster of the 7th regiment, who accompanied them to Maine. The following officers acted as pall bearers: Colonel Fillebrown, First Lieutenant E. M. Shaw, First Lieutenant E. S. Butler, First Lieutenant E. M. Ridland, First Lieutenant H. M. Binney, First Lieutenant T. B. Bicknell.

ANOTHER POLITICAL ARREST.—Mr. R. W. Raisin, real estate agent, was arrested on Saturday morning at his office on Fayette street, near St. Paul, by a squad of Government police. What the precise nature of the charge against him is, could not be learned. He was removed to Fort McHenry. His office was subsequently searched for documents of a treasonable character.

BEFORE THE UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER.—John and Jonathan Schell were on Saturday morning before United States Commissioner Hanan for examination upon the charge of passing a counterfeit half dollar upon Mrs. Rosanna Calder. The evidence elicited being insufficient to sustain the charge, they were honorably acquitted.

DEATH IN THE CONFEDERATE ARMY.—Henry W. Arnold, a resident of this city, who joined the Confederate army, was wounded in an engagement which took place at Munson's Hill on the 27th of August, and died on the 3d of September. He was a young man of excellent qualities, and was greatly esteemed by his numerous friends.

TO TAX-PAYERS.—The City Collector gives notice to all persons interested that after Friday next, the 1st of November, the discounts on city taxes will materially change, while the discount on State taxes will cease altogether. Those persons who desire to avoid the payment of additional costs can do so by settling their personal tax bills before that day.

YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS.—The yearly meeting of the Hicksite Friends was commenced yesterday, in the meeting-house on Lombard street, near Eutaw. Addresses were made by Miss Lippincott, of New Jersey, Mr. Janney, of Loudoun county, Va., and Mr. Parrish. The meeting will continue for several days.

TROOPS FOR SALISBURY.—An order has recently been issued for the removal of five companies of the Purnell Legion to the town of Salisbury, in Worcester county. This order will be complied with to-day, and the troops will be in command of Capt. J. G. Johnson.

HOSPITAL TO BE REMOVED.—It has been rumored for several days past that quarters have been engaged in Philadelphia for extensive hospital accommodations, and that all the sick and wounded now in hospital here will be removed to that city.

PRISONERS REMOVED.—A number of the prisoners at Fort McHenry were removed on Friday to Fort Lafayette. Whether the removal included the gentlemen recently arrested in this city is not known.

SEIZURE.—The Surveyor of the Port on Saturday last seized the schooner Secretary, Capt. W. C. Riggins, upon the charge that on the last trip which she made down the bay a part of her cargo was taken Pig Point, Accomac county, Virginia.

RESISTING THE POLICE.—George E. H. Bailey and William McCarty were arrested on Friday night, upon the charge of resisting policemen Murray and Kraft. They were committed to jail by Justice Logan in default of bail to answer the charge at Court.

ASSAULT.—G. W. Pryor was taken into custody on Saturday night, upon the charge of committing an assault upon John and Anna Rees. Justice Logan committed him to jail for Court.

APPOINTMENT.—Dr. H. H. Keech has received the appointment of Demonstrator of Operative Dentistry in the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, and has entered upon the duties of the position.

AMUSEMENTS.

HOLLIDAY STREET THEATRE.—We are glad to perceive that the indefatigable exertions of the management of this highly popular place of resort are amply rewarded by our citizens—night after night it is crowded with a fashionable audience. Another novelty is announced for this evening in the production of a new sensation play, which was the rage for an entire season in London and Paris, entitled the *Angel of Midnight*. The leading character will be sustained by Miss Lucille Western, a sure guarantee that it will be faithfully rendered. This thrilling play is said to be replete with interest, a fact of which we should be assured, as it is now in the fifth week of its representation in Boston.

KUNKEL'S OPERA HOUSE.—We invite the attention of our readers to the splendid entertainment offered them at the *Museum*. Richard III is burlesqued for the occasion, and will be presented with a fine dramatic cast. Mr. Rainer, the prince of *baritones*, introduces new songs, and Messrs. Floyd, Charles and Colton, beautiful and artistic dances.

From the New York Post, Oct. 25.

THE CASE OF THE SAVANNAH PRIVATEERS.

The trial of the Savannah privateersmen was continued in the United States Circuit Court, before Judges Nelson and Shipman, this morning. Long before the hour of opening the hall leading to the court room was crowded, and it was deemed advisable to keep the doors closed to the public until about 11 o'clock. At that hour the room was immediately filled and many persons were unable to gain admission. The prisoners were brought in earlier than usual in order to avoid the crowd.—Baker seemed not so much at ease as usual. Passalaigue and Harleston were apparently confident. The respective counsel were in attendance. Chas. O'Conor was present as a spectator. At the opening of the court Mr. Brady stated that two of the prisoners, Palmer and Cald, were very ill, and possibly could not remain during the entire day. It was agreed that the Marshal might provide accommodations for them.

The case for the defence then proceeded. Mr. Sullivan offered in evidence, in addition to two or three proclamations of President Lincoln in relation to the rebellion, and the secession ordinance of South Carolina, offered yesterday (when it was understood that all other secession ordinances might be also given), subject to a limited objection on the part of the prosecution—the letter of Floyd resigning his position as Secretary of War, the correspondence between the South Carolina Commissioners and President Buchanan; that also between Major Anderson and Governor Pickens, of South Carolina; the Provisional Constitution of the Confederate States, reading that portion relating to letters of marque; Davis' Inaugural Address; the Inaugural of President Lincoln, (of which he read that portion in which Mr. Lincoln declared that where the sentiment of the people was so much against the authority of the United States that none of the resident citizens were willing to hold office under the government, no strangers would be forced upon them;) President Lincoln's letter to the Virginia Commissioners; Davis' proclamation relating to letters of marque; the act of the Confederate Congress recognizing the existence of war with the United States, and authorizing letters of marque, reprisal, &c.—all contained in Putnam's *Rebellion Record*.

SCARCITY OF MORAL AND RELIGIOUS SOLDIERS.—There is a fine field for missionary service in the State of Indiana, judging from the fact that some time since authority was given Colonel J. L. Smith to raise a regiment of "moral and religious men" for the war. He was not confined to any Congressional district or particular locality, but had a *carte blanche* to canvass the whole State. After struggling for five weeks Colonel Smith has been forced to abandon the undertaking. He succeeded in getting twenty-three captains, thirteen more than were needed, of the proper qualifications, but the "moral and religious men" did not fall into line in sufficient number to form a respectable guard.

LARGE RETURNS.—The Rev. S. Barber, of Tyngsboro', Mass., raised this year from one bushel of Davis' seedling potatoes, forty-five bushels of excellent quality. They were planted the last of May and dug the middle of October. He also planted one ear of corn, and from it gathered eight distinct varieties, of four different colors, ranging from the long, slim, eight-rowed, to the full fourteen-rowed, all getting fully ripe, and were harvested the 22d inst.

A FAT TAKE.—The captain of the bark General Pike, which arrived at Honolulu from Kodiac on the 12th August, states that he took this season one whale, the largest he ever saw, which made two hundred and seventy-four barrels.

The shock of an earthquake was distinctly felt at Calais, Me., at five minutes past eight o'clock on Wednesday morning.

WAR ITEMS.

Correspondence of the Maryland News Sheet.

FROM MISSOURI.

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 24, 1861.

I have just been informed, on what I deem reliable authority, that the Wisconsin regiment that left here a few days ago to reinforce Fremont's army at Big River bridge—after the latter had been burnt—was surrounded by the Confederates while in the cars. The regiment at once surrendered to the Confederates, who were commanded by Jeff. Thompson. Everything supplied them by the Government is said to have been taken from them; but the private property of the officers and men was respected. You will most likely see no account of this in the papers, but may rely on its correctness.

Frank Blair, Jr., told a person to-day that Fremont's head must come off. When the decapitation does take place, you may look out for an *emeute* in his camp. It may appear singular, but it is actually openly talked of here, that the combined Republican and Abolition wing of the Federal party is so strong in favor of General Fremont, that many would not be at all surprised if Jessie's husband attempted to organize a Northwestern Confederacy.

The Federal Government has placed one million three hundred thousand dollars here, to the credit of no one; it is said that this amount is in demand notes. It will take six or seven millions more to pay the debts already incurred. Our banks are suffering much from the course the Government has exercised towards them.

Arrests continue to be made daily. An old school teacher, named Shepherd, who was the early instructor of many of our merchants and leading men, and whose breast is covered with wounds received in the last war with Great Britain, is among the last arrests. On being arrested he was stripped, when he remarked: "Look well on every scar you see—they were received in defence of my country. They are emblems of honor which you will never be able to show."

Jim Lane, of Kansas notoriety, ran off twenty negroes from a friend of mine a few days ago. He is as strong a Union man as can be found, and is moreover one of the most estimable citizens of Jackson county. More than three hundred negroes have been stolen from this single county, and a large number of them from Union masters.

Major Cochran's son-in-law, in Platte county, has been completely despoiled of all his property by the Federal troops on their retreat from Blue Mills. They took his stock of goods, broke his piano to pieces, and even tore his wife's dresses into shreds. The Federal troops act outrageously whenever an opportunity offers, and we of Missouri desire the Government at Washington to know it, and if possible to remedy the evil. An officer of the regular army tells me that owing to the depredations of the Jayhawkers and Kansas robbers, the smallest train to or from St. Louis would in future require an armed escort.

S.

The Battle at Fredericktown—Particulars.

The St. Louis *Republican* has the following account of the recent battle at Fredericktown, Missouri:

"Colonel Plummer's troops took the road to Jackson, the county seat of Cape Girardeau county, and on a straight road to Fredericktown, in Madison county, and the presumption is that he marched directly to that point. Col. Plummer will be recollected as Captain Plummer of the regular army, who distinguished himself at the battle of Wilson's Creek.

"While he pursued his march from Cape Girardeau, on the enemy, Colonel Carlin, in command at Pilot Knob, ordered troops to march in the direction of Fredericktown, where the Confederates were reported to be in force, and had the command of Jeff. Thompson and Lowe. Major Gavitt, of the First Indiana cavalry, with six companies, was ordered to the assistance of Captain Hawkins' Independent Missouri cavalry, and, having effected a junction with him, and finding the enemy in largely superior force, they despatched a messenger for additional forces. This was on Wednesday.

"As soon as it could be done, Colonel Alexander's Illinois Twenty-first and one gun were sent forward by Colonel Carlin. It was this force that had the engagement with the enemy on Thursday morning, and in which, by drawing them into ambush, a large number were killed, and the Confederates compelled to retreat in confusion.

"Colonel Carlin, with a part of the 21st, 33d and 38th Illinois regiments, and 8th Wisconsin, with Col. Baker's Indiana cavalry, reached Fredericktown at 9 o'clock A. M. on the 21st instant; at 1 o'clock they were joined by the 11th, 17th and 20th Illinois, and four hundred cavalry, from Cape Girardeau. They then marched in pursuit of the enemy under Thompson and Lowe, who had left twenty-four hours previous, and were reported to be rapidly moving South. When the command had marched three-quarters of a mile from town their advance of cavalry had discovered a picket, whom they immediately shot, and on looking ahead they saw the entire force of the enemy drawn up in line of battle, and posted partly in an open field and partly in a wood. They had a battery of four 18-pounder iron cannon well planted in their advance.

"Major Schofield's battery opened fire. At the fourth round one of their cannon was silenced; the engagement then became general, and lasted about two hours. After the first half hour the enemy left the field in great disorder and retreated to the woods, where they were closely followed up by both cavalry and infantry. While they were in the field the Confederate Colonel, Lowe, was shot in the head and instantly killed. After they were in the woods Major Gavitt was shot with five bullets while bravely leading his battalion of cavalry in a furious charge. He was, when shot, thirty paces in advance of his command, urging them on. Captain Hyman, of Company C, of same regiment, was killed in the same charge as he was bravely leading his command forward.

"The report is that but five of our men were killed in the entire engagement, five mortally wounded, and about twenty slightly wounded. Two pieces of the enemy's cannon were captured. The Confederate loss is perhaps three hundred killed and wounded. At last accounts the Confederates were in full retreat, with their baggage train twelve miles in advance, and our troops following them up. They were supposed to number five thousand."

The Recapture of Lexington.

A letter in the St. Louis *Democrat*, dated at Lexington on the 17th, gives these particulars of the recapture of that city by the Federal forces:

The detachment sent against Lexington consisted of Company C, Captain P. Kehroe; Company F, Captain Charles Fairbanks; the Irish Dragoons, Captain P. Naughton, and eighty men under Lieut. Pease. Colonel Eads accompanied us. Our total was not more than two hundred and twenty. We made a forced march and passed through a country filled with guerilla bands, successfully reaching the Confederate pickets around Lexington early the following morning. Our advance guard, under Capt. Kehroe, charged gallantly on the pickets and drove them into Lexington. He captured more than twenty secessionists in his march, and so complete was our surprise that the Confederates in Lexington fled in every direction. We took possession of the town and camped on the site of Price's headquarters, on the fair grounds.

When Mrs. White and Mrs. Grover met us at the door of the house where their husbands lay nearly dying, the scene was most affecting. I shall remember it to my dying day. The few Union men left by persecution in Lexington trooped around us. We seized the ferry boats, and this morning seized the steamboat Florence. Colonels White and Grover were placed on board and in a few moments will start for home and safety.

Lexington for the last few days has been in a terrible condition. Shelby and Martin, two cutthroats, have had their troops in town till their ignominious flight at our approach. A Mr. White, a wounded prisoner, was taken by Martin from his bed, shot in cold blood, and his body left on the road until eaten by the hogs. His wife rescued his remains. A scene of terror reigned, and but for our arrival Colonels White and Grover would have met with a like fate.

We made thirty prisoners, recovered some of Marshall's horses and equipments, and captured fifteen to twenty guns. We are now nearly surrounded by the Confederates, who are beginning to rally. We leave for Warrensburg this afternoon, and hope to make our way through.

ROLLA, Oct. 24.—Reports regarded as reliable say that the band of Confederates which have been infesting the country west of here are concentrating at Springfield; also, that part of Price's army arrived there, and the balance was soon expected. Another report says orders had been issued from the Confederate headquarters requiring all the Texan troops to march to Houston, the Arkansas troops to Little Rock, and the Missourians to Camp Walker.

HEADQUARTERS AT PILOT KNOB, MO., Oct. 25.—Colonel Boyd, of the Twenty-fourth Missouri regiment, commandant of this post, announces that the proclamation of General Fremont, as modified by the President, declaring martial law, will be rigidly enforced in the counties of Jefferson, St. Francois, Washington and Ironton, and that all persons taken in arms against the Government of the United States in an irregular warfare, or who may be found in any manner in burning or otherwise injuring railroad or other bridges, or cutting telegraph wires, or injuring any public property, will be summarily shot. Also, that the sympathizers with the rebellion, who are constantly visiting the station on the Iron Mountain Railroad, and giving information to the Confederates, will hereafter be arrested and dealt with as spies.

From the N. Y. Times, Oct. 26.

The Removal of Fremont.

We see in sundry quarters indications of a very dangerous spirit on this subject. The Oswego *Times* announces that "several prominent gentlemen in different parts of the State have been in correspondence,"—with a view of holding a mass State Convention to *sustain* Gen. Fremont "against the interference of the Secretary of War." "The people," says the Oswego *Times*, "*will stand by our military commanders.*" That should depend—and will depend—on the fidelity of our military commanders to the Government and to their own oaths. We trust that the *Times* is not prepared to countenance anything like usurpation on the part of any military commander,—or to advocate rebellion against the Government because its appointment or removal of an army officer is unsatisfactory. If any such spirit is to be encouraged, and any such policy acted on, we shall see a very speedy termination of the war in the complete victory of the Southern States. Secession has no more efficient allies than men who would inculcate dissatisfaction at home and excite collision between officers of the army and the Government which they serve.

From the Regular Correspondent of the N. Y. Post.

THE LEESBURG BATTLE.

Additional Facts About the Conflict--How the Failure Occurred.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 25.—General McClellan is back at his headquarters, and the attempt to cross the Potomac at Edwards' Ferry is acknowledged to be a complete failure. The Confederates can say with perfect truth that they drove the Federal troops back to their own side of the river with heavy slaughter. There has been a disposition in some quarters to blame Colonel Baker for his conduct in the battle. It has been charged by some that he was rash, ambitious of military renown, and led his men into unnecessary danger. There is no foundation whatever for this criticism. Upon consulting persons who were present at the battle, and others here who knew of the entire plan, I feel confident that the facts are as follows: First, that General McClellan issued the general order for the crossing of the Potomac and a reconnoissance upon its Virginia shore.—Second, that all the details of the matter were left to General Stone, who was allowed to use his own judgment even in the time of crossing. It was probably intimated to him that the time had come for crossing at Edwards' Ferry, but it was understood that if he perceived great danger in the movement he could so report, and at least temporarily postpone it. Under these circumstances General Stone ordered Colonel Devins to cross and make a careful reconnoissance. He did so, got into a severe skirmish with the Confederates, and Colonel Baker was sent over to his relief. There is no evidence in the world to show rashness on the part of Baker, but, on the contrary, it is certain that he crossed the river under circumstances of great risk and danger, with the generous object of rescuing the poor fellows who were caught in a bad trap.

The strategic movement was McClellan's; the execution of that movement was entrusted to Gen. Stone. These facts are undeniable.

As for the particulars of the crossing of the river, so far as it is possible to gather them from the few persons here who were witnessed it, it would seem as if the act was full of risk and danger. A scow and two or three boats were all the means of transport. The river was high, the weather every way bad, and not only was there an almost total lack of means of transit across the river, but, after a small force had succeeded in landing, they do not seem to have guarded the Virginia end of the crossing. The most brilliant part of the whole performance was the final retreat at night of the force that had, subsequently to the battle, been thrown across. This was done in the face of a strong Confederate force, and succeeded most admirably, not a man being lost. Gen. Stone was the last man to leave the Virginia shore, and once more his little army occupies a defensive position.

The Government is urged immediately to put the roads about Washington in a good condition, so that accessible various camps can be kept up during the winter. So far, however, nothing has been done, and perhaps nothing will be done till it is too late. Such a thing as foresight seems to be entirely out of the question. Two months hence the roads to the camps around the city will be impassable, whereas if they were graveled during the fall they would be put into a good condition for all seasons.

Several regiments have been sent down the eastern side of the Potomac to reinforce Gen. Sickles, and there are no fears of an attempt of the Confederates to cross there. Whether they will, in the flush of a considerable success at Edwards' Ferry, attempt to cross the Upper Potomac, remains to be seen; but Generals Banks and Stone, it is said, have no fears of it, and would like nothing better than to have the Confederates try it.

Our forces have been withdrawn from Harper's Ferry, even the pickets, and now are at Point of Rocks. The fact is that Banks and Stone have never had but a small