THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

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TERMS

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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.

BALTIMORE:

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1861.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

The steamer Africa reached New York yesterday with European advices to the 24th ult. The steamer Europe had arrived at Liverpool on the day the Africa left. Intelligence of the seizure of Messrs. Mason and Slidell had not reached England. The case of the Nashville continued to attract public attention. The London *Observer* in allusion to the demand made by the Nashville for permission to arm and coal, refers to the conditions imposed upon the vessels of both belligerents by the terms of the Queen's proclamation, and intimates that any violation of the laws of strict neutrality on the part of the Nashville might subject her, at the instance of the American Minister, to the action of the English Courts. Captain Pegram, as an officer that the Nashville is a Confederate vessel of war, has published his commission as a Lieutenant in the Confederate navy.

The Washington correspondent of the Chicago *Times* frankly acknowledges that, since "the Great Review," numerous and serious skirmishes have occurred along the lines across the Potomac, and that all of them have resulted disastrously to the Federal troops. The writer more than intimates that the facts have been suppressed by the authorities. Mr. Russell, in his recent letters to the London *Times*, has twice hinted the same thing—once in alluding to the erroneous information he received from the Department of War with regard to the result of the battle of Ball's Bluff, and subsequently by sarcastically remarking that "the perfect formula of bureaucratic belief," which declares that "all is quiet along the line," is an article of faith "that is not to be disturbed by reverses or battles." He assumes, moreover, that "there is a profound ignorance in the various public departments respecting the events which occur daily." On the other hand, the *American*, of this city, in a paragraph which we reproduce, indignantly asserts that the minutest details of every skirmish that takes place on the South side of the Potomac are made public by the agent of the Associated Press. As our contemporary has complacently swallowed "the perfect formula of bureaucratic belief," his ignorance "respecting the events that occur daily" must be accepted as a matter of course.

By the steamer from Fortress Monroe on Saturday we have extracts from Southern papers, from which we condense the following points of interest. The Southern journals complain greatly of the conduct of speculators in purchasing up army stores, and refusing to sell them again except at exorbitant prices. A vessel from South America, freighted with coffee—3,000 bags—has succeeded in running the blockade and has discharged her cargo at the port of Fernandina, Florida. Col. Henry Heth, of Virginia, has been appointed a Major-General in the Confederate service, and assumes command of the Department of Missouri. Details of the temporary occupation of Tybee Island are given from the Savannah *News*. It is already known, however, that the Island has since been evacuated. The fight at Pensacola appears, as previously stated, to have ceased for the present. Fort McRae was badly damaged, and it is supposed would be abandoned by the Confederates, but the battery adjacent to the Fort will in such event be brought into more effective use. A secret organization of Abolitionists is said to have been discovered at New Orleans; but the authority for its existence rests only on the statement of one man—a German—who is under arrest.

The Charleston *Mercury* has an article on the capture of Messrs. Mason and Slidell. The *Mercury* argues that whilst it is doubtful whether the government of Great Britain will take any active hostile steps for the release of the Commissioners, their seizure, under circumstances of insult and indignity to the British flag, will give an immense impulse to the cause of the Confederate States.—The New Orleans *Delta* on the other hand, conceives it quite possible that Great Britain will overlook the insult, and says that the true policy of the South is to settle their own questions with the North, without regard to the ultimate action of foreign powers.

So much of Governor Letcher's message to the Legislature of Virginia, as is published in the Norfolk *Day Book*, will be found elsewhere. We have already quoted some extracts from this important State paper, but their force and impressiveness when torn from the context, were partially weakened. We leave the message with our readers without further comment.

The New York *Herald* publishes what purports to be "a full record of the Confederate army," in which the strength of the entire Confederate forces in the field on the 1st of November last is set down at four hundred and ninety-six thousand men. Other accounts, however, make the aggregate less by from forty to eighty thousand men. The *Herald* slyly takes issue with President Lincoln, with respect to that portion of his message concerning Maryland, wherein he remarks with emphasis "that Maryland has furnished seven regiments to the Federal service, and *none* to the enemy." If the *Herald's* account be correct, Mr. Lincoln has fallen into a grievous error, inasmuch as the record of our New York contemporary indicates that a far larger number of Marylanders are in the army of the Confederates than will be found in the "seven regiments" to which Mr. Lincoln refers.

The New York *World* states as a piece of important intelligence which has hitherto been kept a profound secret, that General Buel is rapidly approaching Bowling Green, Kentucky, and that a desperate struggle at that place is imminent.

The report of Secretary Chase, will, it is stated, be withheld from publication for several days yet. We learn, however, on the authority of the Correspondent of the New York *Tribune*, that Mr. Chase will take ground in favour of confiscating the property of the Confederates as a means of revenue; and will recommend an additional war tax on tea, sugar, coffee, distilled liquors, stills, tobacco, &c. A tax upon bank notes, evidences of debt and conveyances, will also be urged upon Congress. The Secretary estimates that the public debt will amount in 1863, to eight hundred millions of dollars.

General Wool is said to be urging upon the government, the necessity of making a demonstration upon Richmond from Fortress Monroe.

DEATH OF CAPTAIN JOHN GRIFFITH

This estimable citizen, a native of Dorchester county, Maryland, and for the last twenty years a citizen of Baltimore, departed this life on Thursday morning, November 28th, at the ripe old age of 71 years. If his modesty and retiring character made him unknown to many, those that were fortunate enough to be acquainted with him, can testify to his generous and noble nature, and to the possession on his part of all the remarkable qualities which constitute a good and useful citizen. His charitable heart led him to many acts of uncommon benevolence; in his own quiet way, he was never behind in answering the calls of suffering humanity or relieving the wants of the Church.—Captain Griffith was at one time a member of the Methodist persuasion, and was a convert to Catholicity. It is from the period of his conversion that his character has come more particularly under our notice. It is from that time that we have heard of his tender, secret and substantial sympathies for the orphan and the desolate. Yet these things were known without any agency on his part. His modesty would have shrunk from the selfish praise of this world, as he placed all his hope of reward in a better one. Yet even here below his virtues had found their admirers, and he had become as one of those who

"Do good by stealth and blush to find it fame."

A better man, as a Christian, a father, a friend, or a philanthropist, this community did not possess.—*Catholic Mirror.*

We publish the original report of Secretary Cameron and the amendment "injected into the body" of the same by President Lincoln. Few who are not very timid, or very pro-slavery, will hesitate to prefer the Secretary's bold grappling with the slave question to the poor, shuffling, milk-and-water evasions of the President. We feel ashamed of the affair—of the President's lack of dignity in interfering with the report as he did.—*Pittsburg Dispatch.*

LATEST FROM THE SOUTH.

One of the lady passengers who came up in the boat from Old Point on Saturday, had in her possession several late Southern papers, from which the following paragraphs are taken:

"A general complaint is made in the papers in regard to the conduct of speculators, who were demanding the most outrageous rates for army stores. The principal thing complained of was the fact that parties were speculating in salt, and the soldiers could not be supplied.

"The Hon. George E. Badger has introduced into the North Carolina Legislature an ordinance to punish salt speculators, who are known to have amassed immense sums of money by taxing up all the market supplies and selling at the highest rates. The ordinance is framed upon the old statutory laws, and we hope it will soon become a law, and be strictly enforced. The fact is that these men far exceed the Yankees in their grasping after heavy profits.

"For several days past the State Convention of Virginia has been engaged in the consideration of reports of special committees upon the Judiciary. One report recommends two Supreme Courts of Appeals, to be composed of three judges each. One of these tribunals is to be a court of law, and the other a court of equity, the jurisdiction of which, except as conferred by the Constitution, to be regulated by law. The report was accepted and the accompanying bill passed.

"The State Convention was engaged on Wednesday night upon the report of the Committee appointed to consider the vacant seats in the Legislature occasioned by the disloyalty of the members elected from the counties in the Western part of the State.

"The Senate of Virginia was organized by the election of clerks, sergeant-at-arms, and printers, after having been called to order by Lieutenant-Governor Seymour, who presides over the body.—Upon motion the message of Gov. Letcher was referred to a Select Committee, consisting of Messrs. Thompson, Robertson and Nelson.

"We learn that a large vessel from South America, with a cargo of three thousand bags of coffee, has succeeded in entering Fernandina, Florida, and that the same has been purchased by the Government agents.

"Colonel Henry Heth, who has been attached to Floyd's Brigade ever since its formation, has been made a Major-General, and upon the reception of his commission would be superior in his command to General Price. He will have command of the Department of Missouri."

MESSAGE OF GOVERNOR LETCHER, OF VIRGINIA.

The Norfolk *Day Book* of the 5th instant publishes in part the Message of Governor Letcher to the Legislature of Virginia. The document is a very lengthy one, and, as the journal above mentioned is very limited in its space, it is unable to publish it entire, and gives the first half as follows:—

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, Dec 2, 1861.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Delegates:

Since the adjournment of the General Assembly, on the 4th of April last, Virginia has withdrawn from the Federal Union, and has resumed her sovereignty as an independent State. The reasons which impelled her to the adoption of this course are numerous, and are ample to justify her action. It is sufficient to state that the Government which our forefathers established was a Government of freedom and equality—that it has been subverted, and its aims and objects defeated. Free will and the consent of the governed were the great principles lying at its foundation. They never entertained the idea that one section of the country was to be held by subjugation under the dominion of the other. Their own history has shown that they had freed themselves from unwise and unjust legislation, from coercion and subjugation, by their revolutionary struggle—the noblest and most glorious in its results that has adorned the annals of history. They founded a Government for the protection of all which commended itself to popular approval, and around which the affections of the people were closely entwined, giving to it strength, power and influence. In the pure days of its existence it enjoyed the confidence of the people, and commanded the respect of the nations of the earth. So long as it gave protection, all were interested in maintaining and perpetuating its existence, but when it ceased to afford protection, and the attempt was made to coerce and subjugate States, the Government of our forefathers was overthrown.

We are in no sense responsible for the present condition of the public affairs. The Northern masses, maddened by passion and inflamed by prejudice, have pushed these aggressions upon us until every consideration of duty and patriotism requires us to separate from them.—We desired to separate in peace. We wanted no war, but yet we had made up our minds to vindicate our conduct on the battle-field, if need be, and trust to that God who directs the destinies of men and nations, to guide us into the pathway to success and independence. So far, He has watched over us, guarded and protected us in our right course in resistance to tyranny, has presided in the councils of our brave generals, has stimulated our officers and men to deeds of noble daring, and has crowned our efforts with the wreath of victory.

It would be an idle consumption of time to present all the reasons which influenced our actions in this communication. They are familiar to the public mind, and under their influence the people of Virginia have pronounced their judgment at the polls, and by a majority unparalleled have declared for separation. The events that have transpired since the 17th day of April fully attest the sincerity of their convictions. I am content to leave their vindication with posterity, assured that their action will be fully justified.

The purpose of the Federal President to subjugate us and coerce us to remain in a Union the great aims and objects of which have failed, has involved us in a war of resistance to defeat his unholy designs. We have met movements with a firmness, resolution and courage that become freemen in the maintenance of their honor, their rights and their institutions. We have defeated his best troops, and driven them in confusion and dismay from his own selected battle-fields. Bethel and Haynes'ville, Bull Run and Manassas, Rich Mountain and Gamboy, Harper's Ferry and Leesburg, all attest the spirit, the heroism, the patriotism and courage of the volunteers of the Southern Confederacy. They have proved themselves equal to any emergency, and have demonstrated that they are worthy sons of illustrious ancestors, who struck the first blow for freedom in the Western world.

It is not with us to determine whether this war shall be of longer or shorter duration. We have decided, however, that it cannot terminate until our enemies shall recognize fully and unconditionally the independence of the Southern Confederacy. Whatever of men or money is needed to work out this result will be cheerfully furnished. There can be and there will be no compromise. We can never again live in harmony and peace under the same government. We can never entertain friendly feelings for a people who have ruthlessly shed Southern blood upon Southern soil in so execrable a war. They have shown themselves our worst enemies, and such we hold them to be. The separation that has taken place has been signalized in blood, and it ought to be, and I trust will be, a permanent separation. Reconstruction is not desirable, and even if it were, it is now an impossibility.

It is our duty, therefore, to devote all our energies to a vigorous prosecution of the war. Everything must be done that vigilance and fidelity require, and nothing left undone that patriotism and prudence suggest as necessary for our protection against actual and contemplated aggressions and encroachments upon our rights. No hesitating or doubtful policy will answer when armies are in the field. Nor will it do to act always on the defensive. The Susquehanna is a better fighting line for us than the Potomac, and the sooner the war is pushed forward to that line the better for Virginia and the Southern Confederacy. To that line it must go if we would have Maryland. Let our actions show to her people that we feel for their condition, and that we intend to aid them in effecting their deliverance from the tyranny that now oppresses them, and thousands will welcome us to their State and flock to the standard of the Southern Confederacy, with a resolution to plant that flag firmly upon her soil, or die in the attempt. This war will not end until we show the Northern people the difference between invading and being invaded.

In this connection I must not omit to notice the noble spirit and promptitude exhibited by the gallant sons of that State, in coming forward immediately after our ordinance of secession was passed, and making tenders of service to aid in the struggle which was then seen to be unavoidable. A more gallant set of men never graced a battle-field, and soldiers more true, more courageous and more faithful never struck blows for freedom and independence. When their State was subjugated they left their homes, families and friends, came to Virginia, entered her service, and have exhibited a devotion and fidelity to the cause worthy of all admiration.

Very shortly after the secession of Virginia, in the full belief that Governor Hicks, of Maryland, would be disposed to unite with me in the adoption of some line of policy that would be calculated to give mutual protection to our respective States against the encroachments of the Lincoln government, I sent Judge William W. Crump, of this city, one of my aids-de-camp, a gentleman of fine intelligence and good prudence, to confer with him, and ascertain what would be his course of action in the then existing condition of public affairs. On calling upon Gov. Hicks, Judge Crump very soon became satisfied that the Governor intended to go with the North, and would use his influence, personal and official, to prevent Maryland from connecting herself with her Southern sisters. The conference, therefore, soon terminated. Judge Crump's report is herewith transmitted.

For this struggle, so suddenly commenced, Virginia had for some time been making such preparations as her means enabled her to make; and although she was not so well prepared as was desirable, still she was better prepared than most of her Southern sisters—better, perhaps, than any one of them. For some time anterior to the secession she had been engaged in the purchase of arms of different kinds, ammunition, and other munitions of war, and in mounting artillery, in anticipation of the event which subsequently occurred. The reports from the Ordnance Department of the State, which have been laid before the convention from time to time, will show what she had done in the way of preparation, and what number of artillery for the field, and what number of small arms, ammunition and other articles necessary for fitting out and maintaining an army, have been issued. To Colonel Charles Dimmock, chief of the ordnance department, is the State largely indebted for what has been done before and since the war commenced. He is not only an accomplished and well educated military officer, but he is a systematic business man, remarkable for energy and perseverance. His services to the State have been, and are now, invaluable in the position he occupies.

A large portion of the ammunition which has been used in the war was captured at Norfolk, and the heavy guns supplied to our Southern sister States for coast, river and land defence, were captured with the Navy Yard at the same time. The capture of the Navy Yard and of Harper's Ferry was accomplished without the loss of a life, or a casualty of any description. All the field artillery which we have issued belonged exclusively to the State of Virginia, and much the larger part of it had been in our possession for half a century. The small arms were all of her own exclusive property, save seven thousand five hundred altered percussion muskets kindly furnished by the late Governor Ellis, of North Carolina, who felt and manifested the deepest interest in all that concerned the people in this Commonwealth. Death has removed him from the theatre of action, but his memory will be cherished, his manly virtues honored, and his name held in grateful remembrance by the Executive and people of Virginia.

On the 23th day of February, 1860, the Legislature directed the Superintendent of the Armory to sell, under the direction of the Executive, all such arms and accoutrements then in the armory as were not worth repairing. This order was construed by Governor Floyd to include the iron six-pounders then at the armory, and by an order dated February 22, 1859, the Superintendent was directed to sell them at not less than twenty five dollars each. Fortunately for us, there were no bidders at that price, and the guns remained in the possession of the State, and now each one of these pieces is in the field, and they have proved to be equal to any guns of like calibre now in service. How small a circumstance controls the greatest events! What embarrassment would have attended our operations in this important struggle, if these pieces had not been in our possession and ready for transportation to the field!

It is to be regretted that Fortress Monroe is not in our possession; that it was not as easily captured as the Navy Yard and Harper's Ferry. As far back as the 8th of January last, I consulted with a gentleman whose position enabled him to know the strength of that fortress, and whose experience in military matters enabled him to form an opinion as to the number of men that would be required to capture it. He represented it to be one of the strongest fortifications in the world, and expressed his doubts whether it could be taken, unless assailed by water as well as by land, and simultaneously. He stated, emphatically and distinctly, that with the force then in the fortress, it would be useless to attempt its capture without a large force, thoroughly equipped and well appointed. At no time previous to the secession of Virginia had we a military organization sufficient to justify an attempt to take it, and events since that occurrence demonstrate very clearly that with our military organization since, and now existing, it has not been deemed prudent to make the attempt.

Prior to the secession of the State, indeed from the commencement of my Gubernatorial term, I used all proper means within my reach, aided and supported by the military commission, to prepare the State for defence. In the first communication which I had the honor to present to the General Assembly, I used this language:—

"Whether the Union shall survive or perish, it is, nevertheless, your duty to place the State in such a condition that she will be prepared at all times, and upon the shortest notice, to protect her honor, defend her rights, and maintain her institutions against all assaults of her enemies. With this view, I recommend a careful revision of the militia laws; and, in this connection, I suggest that munitions of war be procured and provision made for the organization of an efficient military staff. It would be well, also, to specify in the law the number of aids to which the Governor is entitled, and designate their rank. I cordially approve the bill herewith sent, for the organization of a brigade of minute men, prepared by a gentleman remarkable for his intelligence, military knowledge and experience. And, finally, I commend the Virginia Military Institute to your favorable consideration, and urge that liberal appropriations be made for enlarging the buildings and extending the sphere of its usefulness."

In answer to this recommendation, the General Assembly appropriated one hundred and eighty thousand dollars in bonds, to be expended in the purchase of arms, equipments and munitions of war. If we could then have purchased all the arms which we desired to obtain, our State would have been in a better condition to repel the assaults of the Federal Executive. At the time we made the purchase of five thousand muskets from the Federal Government we desired to purchase ten thousand additional, but the authorities declined to sell them to us, although five times the number were then in the Arsenal at Washington.

The appropriations for the purchase of arms were made, as before stated, in bonds, all of which, under the laws of the State, had to be negotiated at par, before a dollar could be realized for purchases. This was a source of serious embarrassment, and nothing but the untiring zeal and indomitable energy of the military commission enabled us to overcome the difficulties, and to make many purchases which proved of immense value in the struggle in which we have been and are now engaged. The thirteen Parrot rifled cannon and the five thousand muskets and the powder then purchased, furnish examples in point. It is a memorable fact, in connection with the purchase of the powder, that the Military Commission and the Executive were charged with wasting the public money in the purchase of more powder than the State was likely to consume in many years.

The record which Virginia presents in her contributions to this war is a proud one. Her sons can look upon it with satisfaction and pleasure. It demonstrates her performance of duty. She has been true to herself, to her ancient fame, and to her sisters of the Southern Confederacy. With full knowledge, when she passed her ordinance of secession, that her own soil was to be the battle-field between the contending parties; that she in taking her position placed herself between the enemy and her Southern sisters, and would receive the blows that might otherwise fall upon them, she yet boldly occupied the position, stepped forward, and received the shock. How gallantly her sons have maintained that position, history will attest. Her patriotism, her devotion to the common cause, will be fully recognized and admitted by all.

It is impossible at this time to state the precise number of volunteers and militia that Virginia now has in the field, owing to the fact that the mustering at Norfolk, Lynchburg, Abingdon, Staunton, Winchester, Harper's Ferry, the Potomac division, and other places, have not made their returns to the Inspector General's office in this city. *From the light before me, I estimate the number at not less than twenty thousand.* We have in service fifty-nine regiments of infantry, and a considerable number of battalions and companies in this arm of the service that have not been organized into regiments, we have eight organized regiments of cavalry, and a number of companies attached to different commands, which, if consolidated, would make probably three regiments more. We have issued five hundred and fifteen pieces of artillery, nearly all of which are in service in the field. One artillery regiment only has been organized, and that was organized at the instance of General Magruder. When the war commenced, we were compelled to put our artillery companies in the field as fast as they could be raised and armed. The necessity which required the adoption of this course at the origin of the war has continued to exist, and I have felt it to be a duty to transfer the companies to Confederate control as soon as they were mustered into service. It is not probable, therefore, that additional artillery regiments will be organized at this time.

By agreement with the Confederate authorities, the State of Virginia paid off her volunteers in the field to the 30th day of June. The Paymaster General's report shows that he has paid seventy eight companies of cavalry, fifty-two companies of artillery, four hundred and two companies of infantry, one company of cadets, and seven companies of militia. There remain to be paid six companies of infantry and one of cavalry. We had, therefore, in service on the 30th day of June last, five hundred and forty-seven companies of all arms of the service, comprising forty one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five men, then in the field. The Paymaster-General states in his report:—"The force which I report as having been in the field and paid to the 30th of June, has been greatly increased by recruiting the companies as reported to me by the Paymasters. In many cases they had increased twenty five per cent.; in some fifty per cent." Since the date mentioned we have added largely to our volunteer force, and for months past the militia in the Valley, some portions of the west in the Piedmont region and in Tidewater, have rendered more or less service, under calls from the officers in command in those sections of the State.

The alacrity and promptitude with which our volunteers and militia have responded to the call of the Executive entitles them to the thanks of the country. They have exhibited a noble spirit of patriotism, and the courage, coolness and heroism which they have displayed on the field of battle, under the most trying circumstances, are worthy of all praise. No men ever exhibited higher traits of gallantry or more self-sacrificing and whole-souled devotion to a righteous cause than they have done.

The expenditures of the State for war purposes since the 17th of April last amount to more than six millions of dollars. Her credit, her men and money for the common cause have been cheerfully furnished, and my past course gives assurance of her determination to spare no effort to insure success. She feels and knows, and therefore acts upon the principle, that nothing short of the full and free recognition of the Independence of the Southern Confederacy can give assurance of protection to persons and property, and happiness and prosperity to her people. In view of this consideration, therefore, that should influence a people prompts us to repudiate all compromises, to reject all advances towards reconstruction. We must triumph in this struggle. In that a one consists our safety for the present and for the future.

Some legislation is necessary for filling the places of our volunteer forces now in the field when their present terms of service shall expire. It is not improbable that many of them will decline to reenlist after the expiration of their terms of service, at least for a time; and this contingency should by all means be provided for. I commend this important subject to your early consideration, with the full conviction that your wisdom will suggest such legislation as will meet the case.

I avail myself of this, the first opportunity that has presented itself, to return my cordial thanks, individual and official, to Mr. President Davis, Mr. Pickens, Governor of the State of South Carolina, for his promptitude in sending troops to our aid immediately after the passage of the ordinance of secession for the deep interest he has exhibited in our behalf, and for his generous and ready response to every request I have preferred. He was the first Executive who proffered us aid and support, and hence the propriety of this reference to him.

My convictions of individual and official duty, and every dictate of patriotism, have induced me to contribute, in every proper mode, to aid the cause in which all we hold dear is involved. All the means within my control have been cheerfully and promptly employed. As a citizen of Virginia, and as the Executive of the State, I felt it to be incumbent upon me to co-operate cordially and heartily with the Confederate authorities, in the adoption and prosecution of all measures and plans which promised to advance the interests of the Southern Confederacy, and to establish its independence upon a firm and reliable basis.

In addition to arming our own troops, I have issued arms to Maryland unarmed regiments, battalions and companies as came from other States to participate in this struggle. I have furnished to our friends in Maryland five thousand muskets; to Tennessee five batteries of six pounder field pieces, comprising four guns each, and have armed a number of her infantry regiments, to Missouri, two six pounder rifled cannon and five hundred muskets; to Kentucky, thirty six hundred muskets, and have furnished arms to regiments, battalions and companies from Texas, Louisiana, Georgia and South Carolina. Very recently I have furnished some thousand muskets to South Carolina, and some heavy guns and five hundred muskets to North Carolina. The Confederate and State authorities have worked together for the advancement of a cause common to both, and the success of which can only be secured by united counsel and concerted action.

I refer with mortification and regret to the unpatriotic spirit which has been exhibited by a portion of our people in Northwestern Virginia, and to the disloyal and revolutionary acts to which they have resorted to dismember this Commonwealth, and to organize a new State within its limits. Their conduct is without justification or excuse. The professions and pledges of the leading public men of that section, off repeated before, at the time and subsequent to the passage of the ordinance of secession, induced the belief that they would abide by the expressed will of a majority, as it might be exhibited at the polls. That will, fairly expressed, was overwhelmingly in favor of the ordinance; and every obligation of patriotism, every consideration of duty and loyalty, the ties of kindred and association, should have induced them to abide by and acquiesce in this popular expression of sentiment. While claiming common race of Virginians, they have sought to place brethren under the subjection of a tyrant and despot, who, in utter disregard of the constitution and laws, passed in pursuance thereof, has invaded the territory of their native State by a hired soldiery, composed of the refuse and abandoned, the dissolute and depraved, gathered from the purlieus of the cities and villages of the North, and the floating scum of Northern population. The personnel of their army is a living libel on humanity, abandoning their own brethren, they have given aid and support to these mercenaries, and have justified them in shedding the blood of Virginians upon their own soil. They have rejoiced with them in their small victories, and they have mourned when a few thousand of Southern volunteers have driven their tens of thousands from the field. Could anything be more unnatural, disgraceful and treasonable?

A day of retribution will assuredly come, and with it its certain attendants of shame and sorrow. The enemies of our rights and our peace will be driven from that fertile and valuable portion of Virginia back to their homes in the North and the West, and those who have countenanced and abetted them will be made to feel that Virginia has power to execute her laws and visit punishment upon the guilty violators. Many of the purest, most intelligent and loyal of the citizens of that section of Virginia have been driven from their homes, their personal property destroyed and their landed estates laid waste and confiscated. They enjoy, as they should, the sympathy of their loyal brethren; and I trust the time draws nigh when the measures which have been set on foot by the President will relieve their country from the trend of the invader, and restore them to their homes. The military movements for the Valley and Northwest are in charge of an officer (a native of Northwestern Virginia) of tried courage and experience, whose skill, ability and merit have sustained the severest tests in this and in the Mexican war. Let the true, the faithful and the loyal rally to his standard, and second his efforts for their deliverance.

The northwestern portion of Virginia must not be abandoned and surrendered to the traitor residents and the mercenary soldiery who now occupy it. We owe it to these noble and generous men who have stood by us throughout this great struggle, who have sacrificed their all in their devotion to Virginia and the South, who are now refugees, scattered here and there throughout the loyal portions of the Commonwealth, far removed from all the endearments and comforts of home, and family and friends. We must restore these men to their homes; we must repossess this country, and bring it again under subjection to the laws of Virginia. The Commonwealth must not be dismembered. When this war ends, she must be what she was when it was inaugurated. The Ohio river was the western boundary then, and it must continue to be her boundary.

Early in the month of May last I directed my aid-de-camp, Judge William W. Crump, to accompany an expedition to the Northwest, and to take with him arms, to be placed in the hands of loyal citizens of that country, whom, from assurances I had received, I expected to be at Grafton to receive them. His report, herewith transmitted, will explain the object of his mission, and the instructions given to him.

In the retreat from Philippi, five hundred or more muskets and a considerable quantity of ammunition fell into the hands of the enemy.

On the 14th day of June, 1861, I issued a proclamation to the people of Northwestern Virginia, appealing to them to stand by the State, and unite with us in repelling the invaders of their soil. A copy of this proclamation is herewith communicated.

This war is to end at some time, and when it does end, the question of boundary between the two Governments is to be adjusted. We must therefore recover every square foot of Southern territory before we can think even of negotiating upon the subject. We cannot afford to surrender any part of the slaveholding territory; and any policy which looks to such a result should be indignantly repudiated.

The enemy have recently taken possession of the counties of Accomac and Northampton with a large force, estimated at from six to eight thousand. The isolated location of these counties, and the impossibility of supporting the local volunteers and militia by additional troops, while the enemy held possession of Maryland on the bay, made them an easy capture. These counties must be recovered, the citizens restored to their habitations, and relieved from the subjugation to which they have been reduced. The possession of Maryland is indispensable to us in the present condition of affairs on the Eastern Shore and in the Northwest.

Kentucky, Virginia's oldest daughter, paralyzed by fratricidal strife, torn by intestine commotion, is now passing through an ordeal far more trying than has fallen to the lot of any other State. She will, however, pass through it safely. The courage and heroism, the resolution and patriotism, the will, the energy and unfaltering spirit of her young men will bring her safely through this trial, and place her by the side of the old mother Commonwealth in the Southern Confederacy. We have assisted her as far as it was possible, and now we look forward with confidence to the day when the flags of Virginia, Kentucky and the Confederate Government, floating together over her soil, will assure her people that she is redeemed, regenerated and disenthralled.

We have earnestly and hopefully watched the progress of the revolution in Missouri, the gem of the Northwest. Our strongest feelings have been enlisted in her behalf, because we find Virginians, here and there, dotted over her territory. Virginia feels a mother's affection for all her children, wherever located, and she rejoices with them in their hours of joy and sympathizes with them in their moments of sadness. The brilliant successes which have crowned her efforts so far, the glorious victories which have been won by her soldiers on fields where the odds were against them, assure us that her liberty and independence will be secured.

I introduce, in this connection, an extract from a speech made by Mr Lincoln, in the House of Representatives, on the 12th day of January, 1848, peculiarly striking, and exactly suited to the existing condition of the country:

"Any people, anywhere, being inclined, and having the power, have the right to rise up and shake off the existing government, and form a new one that suits them better. This is a most valuable, a most sacred right—a right which we hope and believe is to liberate the world. Nor is this right confined to cases in which the whole people of an existing government may choose to exercise it. Any portion of such people that can, may revolutionize, and make their own of so much of the territory as they inhabit. More than this, a majority of any portion of such people may revolutionize, putting down a minority intermingled with, or near about them, who may oppose their movements. Such minority was precisely the case of the tories of our own revolution. It is a right of revolutions not to go by old lines or old laws; but to break up both, and make new ones."

Latest from Tybee.

From the Savannah *News* of the 28th we extract the following:

The steamer Ida arrived from Fort Pulaski at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, having left at 2 o'clock. Captain Gircopey reports six United States vessels still inside the bar. Five more vessels, supposed to be transports, arrived yesterday noon, and can be seen outside the bar, making eleven vessels in all now in sight of Fort Pulaski. From their movements it was thought the vessels outside would come in over the bar last evening. The vessels inside lie at anchor about 1 miles from the Fort and out of reach of our guns. One, a large frigate, can be seen from the Exchange and the balconies of the stores on the bluff.

Between 10 and 11 o'clock, yesterday morning, a party of Yankee troops, armed with muskets, were observed from the fort advancing along the beach, towards Kin's landing. Two or three round shot and shell were fired at them from the fort. When the fifth shell was fired, the Yankees prostrated themselves on the ground, after the second shell burst over them they arose and fled to the cover of the woods. They afterwards appeared on the beach, out of the reach of the guns of the fort. It is not known whether any of them were hit by our shot and shell, but those who saw the bursting of the shell, which made the sand fly in their immediate vicinity, are under the impression that they were not entirely harmless.

The Pensacola Fight.

The Richmond *Examiner* of the 2d instant gives the following extracts from the exchanges in reference to the recent engagement at Pensacola:

The Pensacola *Observer* says of the fight at Pensacola:

While we are not able to give the full particulars of the casualties, &c., of the fight, we are prepared to correct some errors we were led into in our last issue. Every gun did execution, and our shells burst over Fort Pickens. Our boys would fire a big gun and then jump on it and give cheers. They are perfectly delighted at the fun. The force engaged has been McCrae's, Wheat's, and another battery, all from Louisiana and Mississippi. The enemy attempted a landing at Perdido river on Sunday night, but were most signally repulsed by our gallant troops there. A negro wagon driver was at McRae this morning when the firing commenced, and said he would drive his team to headquarters if Pickens killed him and every mule he had. A shot killed one of his mules, he cut it loose and drove the remainder safely through. General Bragg says he intends to mention him in his report to the Government.

Another correspondent writes:—The bombardment was kept up nearly all last night, and, from all the information I can gather, with very little damage to our side. It is said that there are three breaches in Pickens, and the Niagara attempted to run in yesterday, but received a heavy shot in her bow, and turned round, when she was raked in the stern, and it is supposed she is disabled. The general impression is that Bragg is fighting slowly, but safely and surely—not wasting a shot, and holding batteries in reserve that they know nothing of.

From the Charleston Courier, Nov. 29.

PENSACOLA, Nov. 23—8 A. M.—Both parties are silent this morning. I walked down to the beach this morning and looked at Pickens. She seems considerably battered. A long dark place upon her side, which the men say is shot marks, was plainly visible. Poor Fort McRae suffered yesterday far more than we thought. Six men were killed by the falling of the cover of a rest, and ten others wounded. They say five hundred shot and shell fell into the fort. The damage was done by the ships, which took position southwest of the fort, where the guns could not be very effective, and fired broadside after broadside upon her. A battery located just back, never aided in repelling the attack, and, it is said, struck the fort 15 times. Only two ships are off the harbor this morning. Our neither party will renew the fight this morning.—If they do McRae will probably be abandoned during the day, and the battery behind her worked. But if she was levelled to the sand, nothing would be accomplished towards the reduction of our batteries. We have never counted her as anything in the fight.

Burning Property.

From the Charleston Courier, Nov. 29.

The plantation of John Raven Matthews, Esq., situated on Bear Island, near the mouth of Ashepoo river, was visited by the Lincolnites on Wednesday last. On their approach the proprietor, with noble patriotism, set fire to his entire crop, and was about placing the match to his residence, when a detachment of our cavalry arrived, and he spared the house for the time being to quarter in. Mr. Matthews is a most extensive rice and cotton planter, and we learn has made a splendid crop this year, which he has sacrificed to the cause of his country.

The large increase of soldiers in this State has created a heavy demand for provisions of every kind. It is to be hoped that the planters will forward, with as little delay as possible, bacon, flour, wheat, lard, rice, corn, &c., &c.

The Petersburg *Express* of last Thursday furnishes a long and interesting account of the escape of two of the Hatteras prisoners of the company of Washington "Greys," their names being given as Wm. H. Parvin and Wm. B. Willis.

While on board the steamer on the way from Fort Lafayette to Fort Warren, they formed and executed the following plan: They supplied themselves with bread and water, and candles, matches, &c. Just before their names were called, upon their arrival in Boston, Parvin and Willis left their company, descended from the deck, and found their way into the extra coal room of the steamer, there they concealed themselves and in a little while had a wall of coal built up around them. They remained concealed in that manner until the arrival of the steamer back at New York, where, after waiting on board for two days, they contrived to make their escape, landing at Jersey City.

From there the road was open to Baltimore.—Here they obtained employment on a wood schooner as good Union sailors, and for sixteen days carried a good Union face, when an opportunity sailed one dark night, and they stole the schooner's small boat and landed on the Virginia side of the Potomac, below Aquia creek. Here they were furnished free passes, after a proper identification by the Confederate military authorities, to their home in North Carolina.

Startling Development—An Abolition Club in the City.

From the New Orleans *Crescent* of the 23d ult., we take the following:

Yesterday morning Lieutenant Morel, of the Third District police, upon information received, arrested a German, named Frenzel, who lives on Charles street, in the Second District, charging him with being an incendiary and traitor to the State and Southern Confederacy. It appears that Frenzel, who is quite an intelligent man, had excited Lieutenant Morel's suspicions, some time since, by remarks that he was reported to have made in favor of Lincoln and his dynasty; he was watched; the result of of which was that he was heard to boast that there was a powerful organization in this city—at least 5,000 strong—which, the moment that the Lincoln army made its appearance here on our coast, would rise and help them to the best of their ability.

He further is reported to have said that his society would help cut all the Confederates' throats; and that, as no one knew or suspected its existence, it was all the more powerful.

The Slidell and Mason Affair.

From the Charleston Mercury, Nov. 23.

Long before anything which may be said on this side of the Atlantic on the seizure of our commissioners on the high seas, from the British packet, shall reach England, the British Government will have taken its position as to the rights it involves. If the cotton famine shall have loomed up with those terrific proportions, which will inevitably be developed by time, the British Government will find, in the laws of nations, quite sufficient ground for a very impressive demand for reparation from the Government of the United States. If, on the contrary, the sufferers, prospective and immediate, of a deficiency of cotton, shall have been stupidly indifferent to their fate, and most destitution and starvation with a passive resignation, the Government of Great Britain may treat the seizure of our commissioners as only an indelicate affair, requiring no stern demand for reparation. A gentle complaint, eliciting a polite disclaimer of any intention to offend, will close the matter.