THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

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DIED.

On Sunday morning at 5 o'clock, Mrs. MATILDA BARRY, wife of James C. Barry, aged 60 years, 9 months and 4 days. Requiescat in pace—Amen.

The relatives and friends of the family are requested to attend her funeral on this (Monday) evening, at 5 o'clock, from her late residence, No. 46 Liberty street.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the Senate of the United States the Confiscation bill which passed the House of Representatives, was rejected, and the Senate bill adopted in its stead by a vote of 28 yeas to 13 nays.

The only allusion to the Army of the Potomac which is vouchsafed us from Washington comes to us informally. All we are told is that the city—Washington—is full of exciting rumors; that "severe fighting is believed to have taken place before Richmond, but that nothing definite or reliable concerning these reports has transpired."

The mails of the Arabia indicate that the civil war in this country, and the legislative and military measures which are being taken to reduce the Confederates to subjection, are engrossing the public attention of England and France to an extraordinary degree. All the resources of the English language, and more especially the vigorous Saxon words which constitute its ground work, are exhausted by the most prominent members of the British Parliament and the most influential English journals, in denouncing Gen. Butler's military order as a disgrace to the civilization of the age, and as an indelible stain upon the name of the man who has been guilty of such an outrage upon public decency. In addition to what has already been said on this subject, we have the testimony of the London *Saturday Review* in regard to the effect which this proclamation has produced upon the popular mind abroad. "The proclamation of General Butler at New Orleans," says the *Review*, "has been read in England with a horror which no other event in this deplorable civil war has created." It has excited, we are told, "a general feeling of indignation." Haynau was excoriated by all Europe for whipping a noble Hungarian woman, "yet his offence against humanity was light compared to that of which General Butler has been guilty." * * * "His is a kind of revenge which no man above the rank of a savage would employ." * * * "The bloodiest savage could do nothing crueller—the most loathsome Yahoo of the fiction could do nothing filthier."

Of the two French journals—the *Debats* and the *Siecle*, both of which have hitherto been ardent supporters of the Federal Government—the former, in replying to the strictures of the *Constitutionnel* on the confiscation bill now before Congress, declares that "if it were clearly proved that the American Government and Congress have committed so great a crime as to revive that barbarous penalty, it would not hesitate to brand the measure as infamous." The *Siecle* accepts the fact, and remarks—"It is pitiful to see the American Republic borrow from the ancient *regime* one of its most iniquitous laws, without remembering that the press of the United States has, over and over again, and most justly, accused Austria and Russia of high treason against civilization, for having used that weapon in the case of Poland and against Lombardy and Venice."

From the New York papers we have the most complete narrative which has yet been made public of the terrible reverse experienced by the Federal troops under General Benham in his rash and ill-advised attack upon a Confederate battery on James Island, near Charleston. We have also the Confederate account of the same battle. There is no difference of opinion between the respective statements in regard to the result of the conflict. The Federal telegrams acknowledge a defeat—the Confederate journals claim a victory. The casualties are, however, variously stated. The Associated Press estimates the Federal loss at six hundred and seventy-seven, but a telegram from Charleston to the Richmond *Dispatch* places it at eleven hundred and thirty. The Confederate loss is set down at one hundred and fifty-four. The attacking force consisted of six regiments, numbering, it is said, some four thousand men. The Confederate strength is estimated by the correspondent of the New York *Post* at eight hundred men.—The New York *World*, in commenting upon what it styles "this ill-timed movement," has some severe strictures upon General Benham, who is said to have acted in disobedience of orders, and who we are assured, "ought, if the facts are correctly reported, to be cashiered for misconduct."

Southern papers state that Commodore Tatnall is to be court-martialed for having ordered the Merrimac to be destroyed. A Federal force which had reached the Tallahatchie river, some thirteen miles from Oxford, Mississippi, was met by six hundred Confederates, under Col. Selby, on the 18th inst., and a sharp engagement ensued, but the result is not stated. On the 21st a fight occurred at Chattanooga, in which it is claimed that the Federal troops were repulsed with considerable loss.

A Mississippian offers, through the columns of the Savannah *Republican*, a reward of ten thousand dollars for the head of General Butler, and every woman in the Confederacy is called upon "to contribute her mite towards tripling the sum for a consummation so dear to the insulted honor of our country women." An appeal to Southern soldiers also appears in the New Orleans papers, which purports to emanate from the women of that city. Fathers, brothers, husbands and sons are called upon to avenge the bitter burning wrongs which the women of New Orleans have suffered. "With tears we implore you," so reads the appeal, "not to surrender your cities, or leave your women to a merciless foe." * * * "Rather, like Virginius, plunge your own swords into our breasts, saying—'This is all we can give you, daughters.'"

A telegram from Memphis reports that a railroad train was attacked by a body of Confederates within twelve miles of that city. The engine was destroyed, the cars burnt, and all on board, including a number of Federal officers and one company of soldiers, were taken prisoners.

The naval expedition up White river, Arkansas, has been abandoned in consequence of the low stage of water. As the gunboats returned down the river they were subjected to the incessant fire of bushwhackers, but sustained very little loss.

General Shields is supposed to have resigned his commission and retired from service. He was in Washington, on Saturday, in citizen's costume.—General Fremont, having been relieved of his command, passed through this city yesterday, on his way North.

We learn from Port Royal that when General Hunter ordered his negro brigade to proceed to James Island to join in the attack, several of his subordinate officers refused to go there in company with the negroes, and the project was therefore abandoned. Two medical officers, who refused to act as brigade surgeons to the negro regiments, were sent home on board of the Ericsson, and have reached New York.

The Supreme Court of Illinois has decided that Treasury notes are not a legal tender for State dues, and, it is reported, will also decide that they are not a tender in the State for anything in opposition to State law.

From the Courrier des Etats Unis.

THE CONFISCATION MEASURES.

For some time past we have been subjected to very sharp attacks for having said that the acts of confiscation passed at Washington would raise in Europe a universal sentiment of surprise and disapprobation; and for having called attention to the fact that Austria alone, of all the European governments, retains in its political system this pitiable remnant of the plundering customs of a past age. As on former occasions, these remarks have been instantly set down to sympathy with the South.

We have to day from two Paris papers, whose fidelity to the Federal cause is notorious, remarks on this subject much more strongly expressed than anything we have published. These two journals are the *Debats* and the *Siecle*. Under date 11th June, the first writes:

"The *Constitutionnel* expresses its astonishment and indignation at a measure, which, in the middle of the nineteenth century, revives confiscation, that barbarous penalty which the progress of justice and humanity has eradicated from our codes. We should entirely concur with the *Constitutionnel*, and should not hesitate to brand the measure as infamous, if it were clearly proved to us that the American Congressional and Congress have committed the crime that that journal undertakes to lay to their charge."

The *Siecle* says: "What we fear most for the cause of the North, even more than military reverses, is the fatal inspiration which has led the President to propose and Congress to adopt a law of confiscation against those persons in the South who refuse to lay down their arms within two months. The most bitter civil war never affects the obligation to respect property. It is pitiful to see the American Republic borrow from the ancient *regime* one of its most iniquitous laws, without remembering that the press of the United States has over and again, and most justly, accused Austria and Prussia of high-treason against civilization, for having used that weapon in the case of Poland and against Lombardy and Venice."

We hope that this will convince the advocates of confiscation that one need not be an enemy of the Federal cause to repudiate their system, and that, on the contrary, the truest friends of that cause are those who are clear-headed enough to point out the errors into which it is likely to fall.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

REPORTED BATTLE BEFORE RICHMOND.

WASHINGTON, June 29.—The city is full of exciting rumors, and severe fighting before Richmond is believed to have taken place; but nothing definite or reliable concerning these reports has yet transpired.

LATER FROM NEW ORLEANS.

NEW YORK, June 28.—The steamer Marion, from New Orleans on the 20th, has arrived. A citizen had been condemned to two years' confinement in the parish prison for kidnapping a negro.

Two soldiers, convicted of theft, had been drummed out of the 31st Massachusetts regiment.

Col. Kimball, with four companies of the 12th Maine regiment, had broken up a camp at Mauchac. There had been for some weeks 180 men there, with a number of heavy guns. They skedaddled on the approach of our forces, leaving their camp equipage, regimental colors, and some of their nether garments.

General Butler had issued a modified form of oath for foreign residents, by which persons taking it only swear to support and defend the Constitution of the United States.

California Union Convention.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 22.—The Union Convention, called by the Republican State Central Committee, met at Sacramento on the 17th, and nominated John Swett, of San Francisco, as their candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction.—No other State officer is to be elected this year.

The interest centres in the choice of members of the Legislature, which will elect a United States Senator. The Union Democrats will nominate their candidates by the State Central Committee.—They will make vigorous efforts to secure the control of the next Legislature. The Breckinridge Democrats propose to abandon their organization.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 22.—Arrived 15th, ship Mary L. Sutton, from New York; 16th, steamer Golden Age, from Panama. Sailed 15th, ship Rambler, for Boston; 18th, Asterion, for New York; 20th, Spitfire, for Callao; 21st, Kate Hooper, for Hong Kong; J. D. Dimmick, for Callao.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 23.—The United States steamer Wyoming sailed to-day for Manilla.

The steamer Golden Age sailed for Panama, carrying 170 passengers and $420,000 in treasure for New York, and $200,000 for England.

FROM OREGON—A FRESHET.

Advices from Oregon to the 12th state that another great freshet is doing serious damage to the valley portions of that State. The business portion of Portland was inundated. Crowds of miners had commenced returning from Salmon river, representing that the district was of limited extent, and overcrowded. The total number emigrated from British Columbia and California is estimated at 20,000 since the year commenced.

Commendation of the Naval Forces in Stono River.

WASHINGTON, June 28.—The following has been received, among other documents, at the Navy Department:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH, STONO RIVER, South Carolina, June 10,

The Major General Commanding cannot refrain from expressing his admiration of the noble conduct of the naval officers on duty in the Stono in support of the recent military operations in that vicinity. Ever ready and ever prompt, they have rendered invaluable services to the army. Capt Drayton, the commander of the squadron, by his manly, frank and cordial co-operation, has won golden opinions from all the army officers who have had the pleasure of witnessing his operations.

D. HUNTER,
Major General Commanding.

A Train on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad Captured by the Rebels.

MEMPHIS, June 26.—The first train on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad for Corinth, with a number of teams and wagons and one company of the 55th Ohio, besides several officers, were attacked by a large force of Rebel cavalry yesterday, about twelve miles from this city. The Rebels destroyed the locomotive and burned the cars, killed ten of our men and captured several officers, including Col. Kinney, Majors Pride and Sharpe, railroad superintendent; Capt. McMichael, of Gen. Grant's staff, who was taken prisoner at Shiloh, and had just been exchanged.

The Successor of General Fremont.

WASHINGTON, June 29.—Brigadier-General King on Saturday, in taking leave of his command at Fredericksburg to assume that recently under General Fremont, issued a farewell order to the troops in the highest degree complimentary to their fidelity, gallantry and discipline, and in conclusion expressing the earnest hope that victory may attend the cause of the Union, and glory crown the banner of the division.

It is not true that General Blenker is dissatisfied with the new military arrangement in connection with the appointment of Gen. Pope.

FROM WESTERN IOWA.

CHICAGO, June 28.—A special despatch to the *Tribune*, dated St. Charles, Arkansas, 23d instant, says:

The fleet, after the recent battle, proceeded up the river as far as Crooked Point Cutoff, when, in consequence of low water, they were compelled to return. All the distance up and back, they were continually fired upon by bush-whackers. One man on the St. Louis was wounded. The Rebel gunboat Van Dorn is reported to be up the Arkansas river, also the Ponchartrain; but as the river is low and falling fast, they can do no harm.

Army Intelligence.

WASHINGTON, June 29.—Surgeon Coolidge is to relieve Surgeon Kenny of his duties of inspecting hospitals and examining soldiers in the Military District of Washington.

Surgeon Edwards has been ordered to report to Major General Wool as Chief of the Medical and Hospital Department at the Camp of Instruction ordered to be established near Annapolis, Maryland.

The care and protection of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, westward to Wheeling, is committed to the care of Major General Wool.

Intemperance Among the Troops at Manassas.

MANASSAS, June 28.—One soldier shot another here yesterday, and caused his death. Both were drunk. Four men have been found dead here within the last 24 hours in consequence of drinking whiskey, large quantities of which were captured last night, and the trader in charge of it placed under arrest.

General Fremont's Resignation.

MIDDLETOWN, Va., June 27.—General Fremont turned over his command to-day to Gen. Schenck, and leaves to-morrow for New York. Many of his officers go with him. His resignation will be announced to-morrow by general order.

Arrest of Rebel Music Sellers.

ST. LOUIS, June 27.—Messrs. Balmer & Weber, extensive music dealers and publishers, were arrested to-day by the Provost Marshal and committed to the Military Prison, and the establishment closed for selling Secession music.

GREAT STORM IN NEW JERSEY.—On Tuesday night last, about half past 11 o'clock, a great storm from the southwest swept over a section of New Jersey, about six miles in width, extending from Pittston, in Salem county, to Franklinville, on the line of the Millville and Glasboro' Railroad. The duration of the storm was twenty minutes, and it was accompanied by thunder, lightning, and a heavy shower of hail. The glasses in the windows of dwelling houses were demolished, one tenement alone losing sixty-one panes. The wheat was borne down and ruined, tomatoes and sweet potatoes were destroyed, and the fruit was torn from the trees and scattered over the ground. The fall of hail was so great that, on the ensuing morning, the hailstones could have been gathered by the bushel.—The residents within the limit already designated were taken by surprise, and it is said that some of the most ignorant imagined that the last hour of all things earthly had arrived. The sudden demolition of all the glass in a house, about midnight, coupled with the coming of a strong wind, the beating of bullet-sized hail, and the rocking of the tenement is not calculated to quiet the nerves.—The night was evidently a repetition of the one pictured by Shakspeare, on which Macbeth did most bloody murder.

REJECTION OF GENERAL SHIELDS.—Gen. Shields, it appears, was appointed a Major-General by the President, but was rejected by the Senate. This action of the Senate can be ascribed to nothing but political prejudice. A body which readily confirms the appointment of such men as Carl Schurz, surely could not have seriously questioned either the qualifications or the patriotism of General Shields. No man has won more numerous or more honorable scars in the service of his adopted country than he, and no man has exhibited a more uniform and unselfish devotion to the Union. He is literally a scarred veteran—yet is turned away from the Senate unrewarded with the honors which the President and a grateful people would cheerfully and justly have awarded him.—*Milwaukee News.*

The editor of the Portland *Times*, writing from Pioneer Gulch, Third District Salmon Mines, states that 5,000 men where there in the valley, and more coming in every day. Labor commanded one ounce per day. Flour sold for 60 cents per pound; bacon $1.50; butter $2.50; dried fruit $1.50; onions $1.50; potatoes 50 cents; sugar $1.50, and other eatables in proportion. Gum boots $25 per pair; shovels and spades $8 and $10; rocker irons $8.

DEATH OF GENERAL SCOTT'S WIFE.—A telegraphic despatch from West Point states that Gen. Scott has received intelligence of the death of his wife at Rome on the 10th instant. Mrs. Scott (formerly Miss Mayo) was attended in her last illness by her daughter and son-in-law. Her age was seventy-two years.—*New York Post*

The Nashville *Union* states that 18 bales of cotton which had been purchased of Confederates by Union men, and paid for, was burned in Giles county on the night of June 19.

The New York *Express* says that it is reported in that city, and generally believed, that General Shields' resignation has been accepted by the President.

The Cumberland *Telegraph* says the repairs of the Chesapeake and Ohio canal are so far completed as to permit the passage of boats this week.

The list of delinquent taxes for Cook county, Illinois—in which county Chicago is situated—fills seventy-four columns of the Chicago *Journal*.

FROM WASHINGTON.

From the Washington Star of Saturday.

FEVERISH.

The avenue has been considerably excited to-day over the report of serious fighting going on to day in front of Richmond. The report is quite without confirmation up to this time.

THE ARMY OF VIRGINIA.

The President, Secretary Stanton and Gen. Pope were in consultation for some time to-day. The country looks forward hopefully for a new order of things in the Virginia military district under the command of Gen. Pope.

THE SITUATION.

Up to the time of going to press with our second edition to-day, no news has been received in this city from the army of the Potomac indicating any more active hostilities between the two armies than the usual skirmishing along the picket lines. From other army positions the intelligence is unimportant to-day.

RESIGNATION OF GENERAL SHIELDS.

We notice General Shields upon our streets to-day in citizen's costume, a fact which seems to confirm the statement by northern papers of his resignation.

GENERAL FREMONT.

Major-General Fremont has declined to serve under the orders of Major-General Pope, and has accordingly been relieved from the command of the corps to which he had been assigned by the President. He still holds his commission of Major-General, and hence may be assigned to duty elsewhere.

FROM THE VALLEY OF THE SHENANDOAH.

Information from the Shenandoah Valley, received from other than official sources, leads to the belief that Jackson's Confederate troops have not in force returned from the point at which they were last seen by our troops. The speculations concerning him are various, and among them is one that he is repairing damages and preparing to secure the wheat and rye crops of the valley, which are represented to be very good. The reports about the enemy occupying the country between Manassas and Strasburg, in force, is untrue.—There may, however, be Confederate pickets at settlements heretofore temporarily occupied by our troops.

Special Despatch to the New York Tribune.

GEN. M'DOWELL'S CAMPAIGN.

The Committee on the Conduct of the War are inquiring into the cashiering of General McDowell to and from Fredericksburg. Their attention has been particularly given to the charges that he was unwarrantably afforded protection to the Confederates in person and property. Several officers of his army have been examined. General McDowell, as we are informed, claimed before the committee, and undertook to prove, that some of his most obnoxious orders were issued in strict compliance with directions from the War Department, and that others—among them that quoted by Senator Wade in the course of his speech on Wednesday—were justified by the peculiar circumstances of the case. Evidence was also adduced tending to show that so far from refusing to subsist his troops upon the enemy, General McDowell had pursued a course which leaves the country through which his army has marched a desert without grain, cattle, chickens, or fences, a few houses with their kitchen gardens only remaining unmolested; and orders to General Shields, setting out on his recent march, were produced, directing him to forage upon the enemy, and scrape the country clean if necessary. We learn from other sources, entitled to credit, that Gen. McDowell has appropriated to the use of his army large quantities of grain, giving the Rebel and semi-Rebel owners a receipt in pencil.

Special Correspondence of the New York Post.

THE CURRENCY.

The sudden rise in the value of gold, as compared with the legal-tender notes, somewhat alarms the leaders in the new scheme of making money out of paper. If Congress were not so near an adjournment the Senate would not pass the Treasury note bill at present, but would wait to see the experiment tried further before adding another one hundred and fifty millions to the currency of the country. But an early adjournment is a foregone conclusion, no matter what the emergency may be. Members are bent on leaving this hot and dusty place before the worst of the summer heats are upon us. It is a singular fact, however, that the dust, the heat and the unhealthiness of Washington never seem to make any impression upon Congress so long as the pay was *per diem*.

Correspondence of the Louisville Express.

FROM ATLANTA, GA.

THE SOUTH FULL OF SOLDIERS.

ATLANTA, GA., June 17.—I write this from the famous city of the South—the city of railroads and political refugees—and send you a few items that I doubt not will interest your readers.

The South is full of soldiers, and there are thousands arming for the battles which we know are yet to be fought. Many here think Jeff. Davis' cohorts around Richmond are invincible—but wait until the grand fight and we will know better.—*Apropos*: Said Tallyrand, as he entered the carriage—"Hark, we conquer!" "Who conquer?" exclaimed his associate, South Tallyrand. "I'll tell you to-morrow." There are 2,500 sick soldiers in the hospitals of this city. There has been great mortality among the troops.

John Morgan is a colonel in the army. He is forming his regiment at Knoxville, Tenn., and will proceed thence to Virginia, where he is to succeed C. L. Ashby, whose death is lamented more than any one in the Southern country except Gen. Sidney Johnston. Col. Morgan goes to Virginia by the order of the War Department.

There are upwards of 4,000 Federal prisoners at Lynchburg, Va., who were captured by Jackson, General Prentiss and sixty officers, including Captain Dave Fry, are in this city. They are extremely anxious to be exchanged, and abuse their own Government soundly for abandoning them to their hard fate. There are nearly 12,000 Federal prisoners in the South, and we would like to get rid of them as much as they would like to be rid of them.

Of the 1,500 Louisiana men who fought at the battle at Shiloh, and who had been confined at Macon, were paroled the other day and started through our lines. General Mitchell, at Huntsville, for some cause unexplained, refused to receive them, and they were returned to Macon. They looked wretchedly forlorn, and their imprecations were terrible against the United States Government. Thirty-five sick ones were left here, of which, at the end of the week, only seven were alive. This climate will kill half of the prisoners if they are confined during the summer.

J. J. Andrews, lately a United States Marshal in Fleming county, Ky., was hung as a spy the other day in this city.

The oat crop in the South is a total failure; only half a crop of wheat, but the corn is most promising. It is now in tassel, and from present indications enough will be produced to feed our army and cattle for five years.

From the Providence Daily Post, June 28.

EXIT FREMONT.

It will be seen by an order from the War Department, that Major General Fremont, commander of the Mountain Department, declines to serve under Gen. Pope. In other words, he has asked to be "relieved" from the command of the first army corps of the army of Virginia, under the new arrangement; and his request has been granted. He does not like to step down, even when the interests of the country imperatively call for it. True, he outranks Pope, as he does Banks and McDowell; but this, we think, is a good excuse for his conduct. No matter how much confidence he may have in himself, the country has not that confidence in his military abilities which would justify his appointment to command the whole Army of Virginia, North of the Rappahannock; and that some of the general should receive such an appointment, recent events have plainly enough indicated. We presume the President suspected this refusal on the part of Fremont to serve under Pope, and that no effort will be made to conciliate him with another department. He is played out. We do not apprehend that either Banks or McDowell will ask to be relieved. Their position is now just what it was when McClellan organized the Army of the Potomac, and ought to be satisfactory. Gen. Banks, we feel confident, will be willing to serve the country under the educated, gallant, and always successful General Pope.

From the New York Express.

GEN. HUNTER'S NEGRO BRIGADE, &c.

The rumor from Port Royal by the arrival to-day is, that Gen. Hunter ordered his newly organized Negro Brigade to James Island, to join in the attack there,—but that several of the officers refused to go there in company with negroes, and that, therefore, the project of sending the negroes was abandoned. Two surgeons are on board of the Ericsson, sent home by Gen. Hunter for refusing to act as Brigade Surgeons to the negro regiments. Two or three weeks ago, several white men came into Beaufort, painted black, and succeeded, under the privilege and protection of their color, in capturing some of our small boats near there, and getting off with them successfully.

What the Republican Senator from New Jersey said in the United States Senate seems to be more and more confirmed from South Carolina, that white soldiers, especially from the Middle and Western States, will not fight in company with negroes. Even the New England regiments don't like their company. The probability now is,—that from the indispensable force of circumstances, Gen. Hunter will be obliged to leave a great many plantations, where the missionaries, under the protection of his guns, have been raising cotton, &c., and that the negroes, therefore, will be abandoned by Gen. Hunter,—as were the white Union men of Jacksonville, Florida, by him.

FREEMASONRY IN MAINE.—The hundredth anniversary of the introduction of the Order of Masonry in Maine is now celebrating at Portland. A very large number of delegates from the New England States are in the city to attend the ceremonies. On Tuesday there was a grand procession, which, after marching through the principal streets to the City Building, where were held the exercises of the day, W. Master W. Dodge, of Portland Lodge, delivered the historical address, and Rev. E. C. Bolles, of Portland, the oration. A very satisfactory account was given of the condition and prospects of Freemasonry in Maine, and everything passed off to the entire satisfaction of all concerned in the celebration.—*N. Y. World.*

SHORT CROPS.—The Nashville *Dispatch* says that harvesting has begun in that vicinity. Much of the spring wheat was materially injured and prematurely ripened by the rust, so that some farmers say their crops is hardly worth gathering. As a general thing the Mediterranean and other varieties of late wheat look well, and promise a large yield. Should the remaining portion of Tennessee do as well there will be plenty for home consumption and some to spare.

LATEST FROM THE SOUTH.

THE FIGHT ON THE JAMES RIVER.

ANOTHER BRITISH VESSEL AT CHARLESTON.

TATNALL TO BE COURT-MARTIALED.

NO MORE PARTIAL EXCHANGES OF PRISONERS.

THE BATTLE ON JAMES ISLAND.

From the Richmond Dispatch, of Thursday.

Firing on the River.

In our Monday's issue, under the above heading, we gave an account of an affair on the river between a gunboat of the enemy and one of our field batteries, which, we have since learned, was inaccurate in some particulars. The fight was between four pieces of Capt. T. B. French's light battery of Brig. Gen. Walker's Brigade and a four-gun vessel. The enemy's vessels having been fired on whenever they passed this point by our sharpshooters, the officer commanding this boat took on board, at City Point, a company of sharpshooters to return our fire from the banks; but when his vessel rounded the bend, and was met by the fire of our field pieces, not only sharpshooters, but guns' crews, sought safety below.

The artillery, supported by a detachment of the 3d Arkansas, hammered Uncle Abe's gunboat to perfection, hitting her almost every shot, running their projectiles through and through her, in some instances, and in others, bursting their shells inside. The boat was so badly cut up that she had to be unloaded to keep her from sinking. Having made her way slowly from under fire, she was towed off by the Monitor. The fellows on board were so frightened that they fired only one gun in reply, which was done by pulling the lanyard from below, the operator not showing himself. One of Captain F.'s guns (a 10 pounder Parrott, captured at Manassas) burst at the third discharge, whereby one of the men lost his right arm, and Lieutenant Robertson was very slightly wounded in the mouth. The brave fellow, whose arm was broken (Wm. D. Jackson, of Stafford), while the surgeon was amputating it, held up the stump, remarking, "Thank God, I have one yet left to fight the Yankees with." This battery is the same that harassed the enemy so much last winter on the lower Potomac, under its then Captain (now Colonel) John R. Cook, completely shutting off blockading the river in the vicinity of Boyd's Hole, and, in one instance, sinking a schooner transport at the distance of two miles from the guns. The men are from the old county of Stafford, are superb fellows, know their business, and, with their homes and families in possession of the foe, will lose no opportunity to lay a heavy hand upon him.

The Confederate Account of the "Skirmish" on Wednesday Last.

From the Richmond *Dispatch* and *Examiner* and Petersburg *Express*, we obtain the following accounts of the battle:

THE LINES, ETC.

It was generally expected that a fierce and general engagement would have taken place at our lines yesterday, and from every indication and preparation the surprise seemed to be well founded; but, although all were on the tiptoe of expectation, yesterday passed, like many others, without the realization of the much looked for and desired event. Early in the day, cannonading, both from our own and the enemy's positions, took place from the right, left and centre, but on the two latter points active operations were nothing more than a fierce and artistic artillery duello, in which the enemy were decidedly worsted. Their artillery bearing upon Garnett's and Christian's farms were particularly active, and seemed anxious for a response. This was not long in forthcoming, and they were accordingly shelled from their several positions with much ease and with evident loss.—They repeatedly returned to the charge, however, yet our artillery received them with such accuracy as to drive them pell-mell into the woods, and causing the abandonment of camps to the right of the Mechanicsville bridge. An artillery duel also took place upon the York River Railroad, between six and seven miles from the city, at which place also the enemy were endeavoring to erect breastworks in the woods. Being informed of this, some pieces of the 1st Virginia Artillery proceeded within shelling distance, and, by superior execution, silenced the enemy's guns and stopped their excavations. But the most serious and important transaction at our lines yesterday took place on the Williamsburg road.

The enemy, advancing their lines, suddenly fell upon our pickets, and, owing to superior numbers, drove them in upon our supports. The advance of the enemy was composed of Sickles' and another brigade. Informed of the state of things, the 1st Louisiana was sent forward to reconnoitre and find the enemy's force, position and intentions—but to do this their journey lay across a large open field, and whilst advancing the cowardly enemy screened his forces in the thicket, and having caught the gallant 1st Louisiana in ambuscade, delivered a murderous fire, which struck down dozens of the men, and their heavy loss, for a time, seemed instantly dressed their line, dashed at Sickles' hirelings with their bayonets, and routed them. Still opposed to greater numbers than their own, the 1st Louisiana was quickly supported, we are informed, by the 31, 4th and 24 Georgia regiments, of Wright's brigade, who held a large force of the foe at bay for two hours before our forces were got into position, and applied the enemy by their formidable front. Except in the 1st Louisiana, we hear of few casualties, and this arose from the fact that they were the victims of a trap laid by the Yankees, and were too heroic to fall back when discovering it. Col. Shivers, Major Nellegan, and many men, were wounded—Lieut. Gilmore and some others being killed. This loss arose purely from an *esprit du fire* heroic feeling, and such all the battles at Shiloh, fast, though opposed by vastly superior numbers.

It is said, however, that when the Louisianians closed their broken ranks and charged upon the enemy's masses, that it was so terrible that they gave way in disorder. This conduct is perhaps akin to that which extracted the expression of General Bosquet when witnessing the brilliant and famous cavalry charge of the English Light Brigade at Balaklava, viz: "This is magnificent, but it is not war!" The conduct of the Louisianians and Georgians is highly spoken of; nothing can detract from their superior qualities as soldiers and patriots, but an excess of bravery characterizes their movements. The loss of the Louisianians is reported at fourteen officers and two hundred men killed and wounded, but this we believe to be much of an exaggeration. Subsequent to this brilliant but unfortunate transaction, an artillery force was moved to the front, and a fierce conflict ensued, completely silencing the Yankee batteries in the woods, which had advanced to occupy the disputed ground. Captain Huger's battery, we are informed, was conspicuous in the affairs of the day at the right, and retired from the fray with much honor and little loss. The best evidence of their success is in the fact that the enemy retired and did not reply.

Our pickets were particularly successful yesterday in capturing intruders upon our lines, and effected important seizures. Among others, we may mention the arrival in our midst of two women, who were discovered endeavoring to penetrate our lines, evidently for no praiseworthy intention.—These women are of low caste, and would pass very well in time of peace for mother and daughter; but, as it proves, they are perfect strangers to each other as to relationship, but are evidently leagued together in some clandestine enterprise, and neither can give any satisfactory account of their vocations or residence. Their mysterious appearance at our posts yesterday was more than sufficient to warrant arrest, and their answers give good evidence of treasonable intention.

It is generally expected that operations of great moment will take place to-day, but whether the severe skirmishes of yesterday will culminate in a general action is a point impossible to determine; but should this be the case, we are fully sure that all our preparations will result in a brilliant victory, despite the traps, ambuscades, and petty cunning of the enemy evinced on many occasions as on yesterday. As General McClellan may claim the severe skirmish of yesterday as ano her "Federal victory," we will simply say that the brave 1st Louisianians were opposed to not less than seven Yankee regiments, as the following prisoners captured by them testify; for, in addition to the seizure of Captain James McKernan, of the 7th New Jersey, there are also the following visitors to Libby's warehouse: One sergeant, two corporals, two musicians, six privates—in all, twelve prisoners, part of Sickles' Excelsior Brigade, 7th New Jersey, 19th Massachusetts, 2d New York and 5th New Jersey, taken at the old battle ground of the "Seven Pines." Three were wounded.

SHARP FIGHT BELOW RICHMOND—DAN. SICKLES' REGIMENT BADLY DAMAGED.

From the Petersburg Express, June 26.

RICHMOND, June 25.—The 1st Louisiana, regiment engaged Sickles' Brigade, this forenoon, on the Williamsburg road, and drove them back with great slaughter, capturing, also seventy-five prisoners. Confederate loss comparatively heavy. [We are pretty confident that the word "heavy" was intended for "small."—ED. EXP.]

Running the Blockade—Arrival of a Splendid Steamship.

The British steamship Memphis, Captain Cruikshanks, from Liverpool, via Nassau, arrived at Charleston on Monday last. She has on board a most valuable cargo of British goods, such as we stand much in need of at the present juncture.—Passengers by the Memphis report that the British Government has made a peremptory demand upon the Yankee authorities for the surrender of the British steamer Bermuda, captured as a prize some time ago. The Charleston *Mercury* says: The Memphis had the misfortune, while coming into port on Monday, to get ashore on the beach of Sullivan's Island, where she remained several hours, but was finally towed off by the steamers Marion and Etiwan. When she first got aground she was approached by one of the blockaders, which fired a number of shells, most of which struck on Sullivan's Island, but none of them hit the ship. The Yankee gunboat was finally driven off by a rifled gun on Fort Beauregard, which discharged but one shot at her, when she retired. The Memphis is a new iron ship, on her first voyage, and was built at Dumbarton, on the Clyde; is a most sightly vessel, of good speed, about 800 tons register, but is capable of carrying the cargo of many a vessel of 1,200 tons. She made the passage from Liverpool to Nassau in sixteen days and a half, and was boarded on Abaco by the Yankee steamship Quaker City. Left at Nassau, on the 19th inst., the steamships Hero, Herald, Nashville (now Thos. L. Wragg), Lloyd's, Kate, and others. The Cecile had left Nassau some days previous to the 19th for an unknown port.—The Yankee cruisers keep quite a sharp blockade off Nassau, and board nearly all vessels bound in or going out. The Hon. Mr. Ward, late Minister to China, and Major Bateman, came passengers in the Memphis.

The Battle on James Island—Brilliant Confederate Victory.

Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.

CHARLESTON, June 29.—The late battle in the vicinity of this city was a far more brilliant and important affair than at first supposed. The enemy were so badly beaten that they have not fired a shot from their gunboats or batteries since, though previous to the fight they kept up a constant cannonade day and night. Considering the number of troops engaged on our side, and the length and fierceness of the combat, the battle is one of the most remarkable of the war. The rout of the invaders was complete. They abandoned their dead and fled in wild confusion to their gunboats. Two of their regiments, the 79th New York (Highlanders) and one from Michigan, fought well. One company of the former penetrated as far as our breastworks, and its captain was killed while mounting the ramparts. The enemy had five regiments in the fight.

Our forces engaged consisted of three companies of South Carolina artillery—the Charleston battalion, which numbered only 150 men; the Eutaw battalion, 400 strong, and Colonel McEnery's Louisiana battalion. Other regiments came to the relief of these troops; but most of the fighting was already over. It will be seen, therefore, that the enemy outnumbered us two or three to one. Their greatest loss was occasioned in attempting to storm our entrenchments, behind which Colonel Lamar's artillery was stationed. Colonel Lamar was the hero of the battle. He was severely wounded. Colonel McNeery also deserves great praise. He led his Louisianians fearlessly into the fight, with the watchword, "Remember New Orleans."

Every day's exploration of the surrounding woods reveals additional dead of the enemy. It has been ascertained that a body of the Federals attempted to cross a swamp, where many of them stuck fast in the mud, and were killed and wounded by our shells. Finally, the tide came up and drowned both dead and wounded. Two hundred and fifty of the enemy have already been buried by our troops, and fifty additional dead bodies were discovered yesterday. The total loss of the enemy in the battle cannot be far from—

Killed and buried on the field..... 300
Taken prisoners..... 130
Wounded and dead carried off the field estimated at 700

Total loss of the enemy.....1,130

The Confederate loss in this glorious victory is—

Killed..... 48
Wounded..... 106

Total Confederate loss.....154

The enemy's attack was a surprise to our troops. Had a competent Confederate Commander been on the field, and some plan of action arranged, the whole of the enemy's attacking force might have been cut off. As it was, the greater part of the battle was fought by the rank and file "on their own hook." We have four Confederate Generals in this quarter, but not one was in command. To the rank and file, then, be the glory given of having achieved one of the most brilliant successes of the war. If the Confederate Government is looking for material for more Brigadier-Generals, let promotion fall upon the lion hearted Colonel Lamar, who defended the entrenchments, and the gallant and chivalrous McEnery, who, like Blucher, came into the field just in the nick of time.

Since the battle the enemy have been entrenching themselves silently at the lower end of James Island. As their plan of assault has proved impracticable, it is presumed they will be contented hereafter to advance by regular approaches—that is, if they are permitted to do so. Prisoners state that there are nine Federal regiments on the island, and that General Isaac I. Stevens, of Oregon, (the Chairman of the Breckinridge National Committee in the last Presidential campaign,) is in command. This man Stevens professed to be an ardent proslavery man before the war, and was here in Charleston, enjoying its hospitalities, only two years ago.

There is much dissatisfaction here with the military authorities of the department, and a strong wish expressed for a change in the commanding officer. The South Carolina troops are anxious to defend Charleston, and will do so successfully if they are permitted to. A report that we were to have the great services of Beauregard spread universal joy among the troops. If, however, we cannot have Beauregard, we would be glad to have Huger, Magruder, Hill, of North Carolina, Whiting, Gregg, Joseph R. Anderson, or any other first-class General. A change of some kind is necessary to restore confidence to the troops and people.

Tatnall to be Court-Martialed.

CONFEDERATE STATES NAVY DEPARTMENT, RICHMOND, June 24, 1862.

A naval general court martial is hereby ordered to convene at the city of Richmond, Virginia, on the 5th day of July, 1862, or as soon thereafter as practicable, for the trial of Flag Officer Josiah Tatnall, and of such other persons as may be legally brought before it.

The Court will be composed of the following officers, any three of whom are empowered to act: Captain Samuel Barron, President, Captains Robert G. Robb, Commander Murray Mason, Commander Eben Farrand, Commander A. B. Fairfax, Commander M. F. Maury, Commander George Minor, Lieutenant Wm. L. Maury, Lieutenant Robert B. Pegram; and Robert Ould is hereby appointed Judge Advocate. The above being the greatest number of officers that can be convened without manifest injury to the service.

S. R. MALLORY, Secretary of the Navy.

The Court will meet at 12 o'clock M., at the Navy Department.

The New Postage Law.

It may be well to state that the recent act of Congress, increasing the postage rates in the Confederate States, goes into effect on the 1st of July next. The length of the routes and the great expense of transportation