THE EXPLOIT OF THE ARKANSAS.

From the New York Tribune.

MISSISSIPPI FLOTILLA, OFF VICKSBURG, Tuesday Afternoon, July 15, 1862.

The falling cause of the Confederates has been relieved by a brilliantly daring and most unexpected performance. The famous hostile gunboat Arkansas has been discovered at last, and her powers have been severely put to the test. She came when least looked for, and has proved herself what has been claimed for her—the Merrimac of the Mississippi.

BRILLIANCE OF THE ARKANSAS'S PERFORMANCE.

No one can fail to award her credit for her extraordinary courage, and to confess she has accomplished one of the most dashing feats of the war. She has braved our entire fleet, and run the gauntlet of fifteen of our best vessels in broad light of open day, casting the glove of defiance down, and braving them in their chosen position.

The boastings of the enemy in regard to the strength and efficacy of the Arkansas have been, for once, not without reason. Their promises about her have been verified. She is indeed formidable, and, so far as we actually know, invulnerable. She has achieved a great triumph, and her success will be most welcome to the South in this her hour of heavy trial and dire extremity. It will be balm and honey to the enemy, but gall and wormwood to us. We cannot but yield praise to the Arkansas for her distinguished bravery, nor fail to feel mortified at the extraordinary result.—Certainly it is not gratifying to our national pride to think that a small vessel with twelve guns, moved slowly, quietly and unconcernedly by fifteen national vessels carrying over 200 guns, and escaped with impunity.

THE RECONNOISSANCE UP THE YAZOO.

Yesterday it was determined that another reconnoissance should be made up the Yazoo as far as Liverpool Landing, for the purpose of fully ascertaining the situation in that vicinity, and the intention was to leave at noon. The proper preparations were not made, however, and the expedition was deferred until to-day.

This morning, at 5 o'clock, the Iron-clad gunboat Carondelet, Capt. Henry Walke; the wooden gunboat Tyler, Capt. Wm. Gwin, and the steam ram Queen of the West, Capt. Joseph Ford, left the fleet for the Yazoo. They had not proceeded more than seven miles up the Old River, into which the Yazoo empties, before they discovered a strange and mysterious-looking craft descending the stream rather slowly. She was light brown in color, not more than one-half as large as one of Davis' gunboats, and had a single chimney.

The glasses on the three vessels were directed toward the stranger, and it was speedily concluded she must be the much-talked-of Arkansas, the marine monster, which the Confederates had declared would sweep the Union flotilla from the Mississippi.

Some persons were skeptical; for they insisted that the Arkansas was not finished, and was still aground above the Confederate raft. If the vessel were not the famous gunboat, what was she? That was the question no one could answer; and there was little time to answer it indeed, for the Arkansas was moving steadily down.

DEMONSTRATION OF THE CONFEDERATES' POWER.

In another moment a heavy report was heard from the enigmatical gunboat, and a huge round-shot went howling over the deck of the Tyler.—Another and another followed, and the craft increased her speed perceptibly, the Tyler, meanwhile, turning to give her a broadside. Before the Union vessel was in position, the enemy was upon her, and discharged three guns at her in rapid succession. The Tyler fired her broadside, but the shot seemed, even at that distance, to have no effect on the Confederate, while the latter had pierced her opponent in several places. The stranger was iron-clad, and very at one. There was no longer any doubt that she was the Arkansas. Nor was further evidence wanting to show how vastly she was the superior of the wooden vessel, which soon turned her bow down stream and steamed toward the Mississippi as rapidly as possible.

THE ENGAGEMENT IN THE YAZOO.

Strange to say, the Arkansas, in spite of her strength and weight, is quite fast—nearly as much so as the Tyler—and kept very close behind her, firing at regular intervals, while the Nationalist returned the hostile favors with her stern guns. Almost every shot of the enemy did damage, though most of them injured the boat only. One round-shot entered above the stern-post, and killed and wounded eight or ten men, carrying away the heads of four sailors who were standing in a line and working the piece.

The Tyler finding her antagonist too powerful to contend against, put on all steam and descended the river, closely followed by the Arkansas. At the mouth of the river the Carondelet was stationed. As soon as the Arkansas made her appearance the Carondelet commenced a rapid and continuous fire, but finding that the balls made no impression upon the iron sides of the ram, Capt. Walke determined to attempt to carry her by boarding.

An order was given to that effect, and the Carondelet ran alongside her iron foe, and a number of brave fellows leaped aboard; but finding there was no apparent possibility of getting below, or inducing the enemy to come out, they were compelled to return to their own vessel. A brave and gallant act was theirs, though in this instance valor did not obtain its reward.

How violent were the imprecations of the sailors when they discovered they could not reach their enemies, for whose lives they thirsted, burning to avenge their companions! They went back with dejected faces and terrible rage, that longed to wreak itself upon the heads of the Confederates.—But in vain, for the Arkansas steamed off from her antagonist, though not before one of her shot had burst a steam pipe on the Carondelet, causing some forty or fifty of her crew to jump overboard, and as a few of them are missing, there is little doubt they were drowned. Fortunately no one was scalded, and the poor fellows who were lost were victims of their own apprehensions.

FORTUNATE ESCAPE OF THE QUEEN OF THE WEST.

The steam ram Queen of the West, Capt. Joseph Ford, which was behind the Tyler when the Arkansas was first discovered, perceived from the action of the Confederate stranger and the retreat of her companion, that she could be of no service. Being, moreover, under the gunboat's orders, it was proper enough for her to follow her example, and she did so. The hostile craft frequently fired at the ram—(the enemy has had a particular animosity against the rams, since they performed so gallant a part before Memphis)—on the way down the Yazoo, and struck her several times, though without doing any serious injury, or causing any loss of life or limb.

The Arkansas has a very heavy and sharp wrought-iron prow; its weight is reported at ten tons, though I think this is much exaggerated; and she could run down the Queen or any boat in the ram fleet, as easily as she could an egg-shell. Had Farragut attempted to meet her formidable adversary, she must have experienced a great loss of life without obtaining any advantage.

APPEARANCE OF THE ARKANSAS.

The Arkansas, which is a ram as well as a gunboat, is not more than half the size of the famous Davis' gunboat, and is covered with double railway-iron (T rail); built with slanting sides, without decks or any openings or apertures save the ports; carries 12 large guns, three on each side, two forward and two aft; has one chimney; and looks almost, if not quite, invulnerable. She is of a light brown or reddish brown hue, much like the banks of the Mississippi, and at a distance could not well be distinguished therefrom.

No human being was visible on or about her, as she passed down the river, though her guns were promptly and accurately fired, and her unseen sharpshooters directed their pieces at every man they could see within range. The sharpshooters were very industrious and energetic, and their balls were constantly whistling through the air, though their sharp notes was generally swallowed up in the deep roar or loud shriek of the heavy guns.

THE EFFECT OF THE FIRING ON THE FLEET.

The heavy firing up the Yazoo was plainly heard on the fleet, and it was supposed the Tyler was shelling the woods; but when, about 6 o'clock, the reports grew louder and louder, denoting the approach of the vessels, it was generally surmised the Union boats must have met an enemy in the river. Speculations grew rife, and anxiety and curiosity large, and many wistful eyes were turned up the Mississippi.

EXPLANATION OF THE MYSTERY.

The eyes were not long strained. Just before 7 o'clock, the ram Queen of the West was observed coming at a high rate of speed around the head, and two or three shots struck near her almost as she came in sight.

That the Queen was hotly pursued by an enemy, there could no longer be any reasonable doubt. If there had been, the appearance of the Tyler in the wake of the ram would have removed the lingering skepticism.

"It must be the Arkansas," said many; and indeed the Arkansas it was.

In less than two minutes more, the formidable foe was perceived steaming down after her adversaries—the sole sign of life about her being a thick, heavy column of black smoke proceeding from her solitary chimney.

She soon diminished her speed, and it was generally supposed she would re-secend the YAZOO. No one believed she would dare to come down to the fleet, where it seemed certain she must be overpowered by the vastly superior force.

The iron monster did not stop, however, but continued her course steadily and slowly toward our vessels, keeping in the channel, without turning to the right or left, but firing her guns every few seconds at the nearest vessels.

RUNNING THE GAUNTLET.

That was a formidable gauntlet to run. Fifteen war vessels and seven rams. Would she contend with them alone? Could she hope to escape them all? Did she dare to rush upon her own destruction? From her movements, she evidently did.

There were the Hartford and the Richmond, with their huge batteries of 26 guns each; the Oneida, the Iriquois, Wissahickon, Scioto, De Soto, and Wyoming, of Farragut's fleet; and the iron-clad Benton, Essex, Cincinnati, Louisville, Sumter, and General Bragg, of Davis's flotilla, with the rams Switzerland, Queen of the West, Lancaster, Mingo, Lioness, Hornet and Fulton. This formidable array had no terrors for the Arkansas. She moved on as if they had not been there; and many of the officers of the fleet were for a moment lost in wonderment at the extreme boldness of her most perilous attempt.

As she moved down, one of Farragut's gunboats opened fire upon her; then another and another.—Whether they struck her or not, I could not perceive; but their shot could not have harmed her. She replied promptly, and the fire soon grew warm.

The hot summer morning thrilled with the roar of battle; and the shells went hissing through the air like great serpents, writhing destructively through space. The few silences were impressive—almost awful; and I could hardly turn my eyes away from the small, strange, fearless craft, descending the river with the black trail above and behind her, and the baleful flash of her steadily-replying guns.

EXPLOSION OF THE RAM LANCASTER.

The Arkansas soon arrived where several of the rams were lying, and the Lancaster turned to butt her. Just as the ram had presented her side, the Confederates fired two of her guns, and instantly steam in great volumes was seen to pour out of the Lancaster. The mud-receiver of the ram had exploded, but with how fatal an effect was unknown.

Visions of scalded wretches rose upon my sight, and I heard, not with imagination's ear, the wail and moan and cry of those that were in physical agony—the cry that penetrates the ear like sharpened steel.

The casualties on the ram have been ascertained to be eleven, in killed, wounded, and missing. The second engineer is missing, and is supposed to be lost. John Wylsant, chief engineer, is very badly scalded, and can hardly survive. One of the firemen and the second cook, both negroes, are dead. John Dowell, first cook, dangerously scalded.

The other rams had not sufficient steam to do any damage, and were compelled, therefore, to let the enemy go by.

A skiff, crowded to its utmost capacity, put off from the Lancaster; but before she reached the shore, she sunk, but nearly all her inmates (some 12 or 15) save two or three, were picked up by tugs that went to their assistance.

The Lancaster is severely injured by the Arkansas's shots, and seemed to be sinking. They made signals of distress, and the Switzerland, Queen of the West, and Champion No. 3 went to her aid and towed her up the river, down which she had been for some time helplessly drifting.

RESISTANCE OF FARRAGUT AND DAVIS' VESSELS.

The Richmond and Hartford fired a number of guns as the dangerous enemy passed; but, strange to say, gave her no magnificent broadside, as I had expected they would.

The Oneida blazed; the Sumter and Gen. Bragg let off their Dahlgrens; Farragut's gunboats threw ponderous shot; the Cincinnati and Louisville thundered; the Essex and Benton howled forth their rage, in the shape of immense shells, at the arch-foe.

But the arch-foe hesitated not—recked not—turned not aside.

Onward and forward the Arkansas moved, as if she were covered with the armor of invincibility, and beyond the power of harm. Again and again her guns flashed. She paid her respects to all, and the water and the trees and the shores bore the marks of the falling shot. In the distant forest, a live oak was rent as by a thunderbolt, and in the remote fields the earth was plowed up by a shell as if a mine had exploded in the earth.

The scene was grand and impressive. It was sad, however, to a loyal spirit, to observe the insolent but fearless foe passing the long line of fire unscathed; running the dangerous gauntlet without receiving an apparent wound. After she had passed all the Union vessels, she sent back their shots defiantly, and at last disappeared around the head of the peninsula, and ran under the guns of one of the water-batteries of Vicksburg, where she had been anxiously expected, and where she must have been received with profuse welcome. She merited such welcome, and even though an enemy, we award her praise for her brilliant daring in a most unholy cause.

None of Davis's or Farragut's vessels had sufficient steam to enable them to follow the Arkansas. They had no thought, much less fear, of a hostile gunboat, and of course they were surprised and unprepared for the occasion. How many times more, before the war is ended, will we be surprised? Will we never learn wisdom by severe and painful experience?

THE BENTON'S PURSUIT.

Some twenty minutes after the Confederate had disappeared, the Benton, Capt. W. L. Phelps, and then the Cincinnati went down, and engaged the Arkansas and the upper batteries in a most animated way. The Cincinnati was struck several times, but unhurt. The Benton went immediately under the guns of the enemy, and fought them and the Confederate ram for more than half an hour with great spirit and skill.

Several shots passed into Davis's flagship, and as they were large and plunging, they injured the boat materially, though not so seriously as to prevent her repairs from being made here.

Three of her crew were injured, Wm. H. Lewis, killed; John H. Grey and Wm. H. Travis mortally wounded. Lewis was standing with the pipe of a hot-water hose in his hand, prepared for the enemy if he should attempt to board, when the shot entered at the bow of the ship, and passing along struck him in the upper part of the breast, carrying away his head, and rendering him a horrid and undistinguishable corpse.

One 128-pounder entered the port quarters, passed through the third master's room into the cooking appartment, and then into the Commodore's cabin, and finally rolled upon the bed and lay upon the pillow. The enemy fired with much precision, and seemed well acquainted with the most vulnerable portions of our iron-clad. The fire upon the Benton was tremendous, and she gained much honor for the heroic manner in which she opposed herself to great odds almost alone and unassisted.

OUR COMPLETE LOSS.

The total loss will probably be about 22 in killed and missing and 55 or 60 in wounded. No officers were lost except those I have mentioned on the Tyler, and it is fortunate so many escaped.

Wednesday Noon, July 15.—Commodores Farragut and Davis held a consultation about noon yesterday, and agreed to make a general and formidable attack on Vicksburg last evening, and, if possible, sink and capture the Arkansas, even under the protection of the enemy's guns. Doubtless they burned to wipe away the stain of the morning, and reinstate themselves in their favorable esteem.—That their self-love diminishes somewhat after they saw the Arkansas go around the bend apparently unscathed, there can be little question. No marvel they desired to do something to forget their mortification. The assurance of victory greatly mollifies the haunting memory of defeat.

NIGHT ATTACK ON VICKSBURG.

A little after six o'clock the vessels of both fleets gave signs of moving down the river, and just before seven, Davis' boats steamed toward the bend, and opened the evening's entertainment by a vigorous attack on the upper batteries, which did not reply for some time. The Hartford, Richmond, Oneida, and the gunboats of the Gulf Squadron, soon descended the stream, and swelled the roar of battle to an impressive volume.

TREMENDOUS BOMBARDMENT.

For over two hours the bombardment was very heavy, the heaviest I remember to have heard during the war. It was as if a hundred tempests were combined in one. Thunderbolts seemed falling momentarily at your feet. The atmosphere appeared to reel, and the earth to stagger beneath the tremendous crash. Your correspondent was at one time between the fires, and the concussion overhead was immense. The air was lighted up with bursting shells, and the trees on the peninsula were heard to crash before the heavy projectiles that were howling like demons towards every point of the compass.

To one unaccustomed to such scenes, the effect would have been terrific. Earthquakes and tornadoes would have seemed struggling for the mastery, and all the discordant elements in nature raging for supremacy.

The various calibres were perceptible in the fierce struggle. They all made up the horrid diapason of war; and the shells shrieked over the city, and the vessels, and the peninsula, as if each shot were destroying a hundred souls. The magnificent broadsides of the Hartford and Richmond were perceptible above the entire din. They drowned out the remainder of the ponderous roar, and stood alone upon the pinnacle of the mighty tumult.

ENGAGING THE BATTERIES.

Farragut's ships passed below. The Confederates thundered from above the town at the gunboats, and struck them a number of times, but did no material injury; while the nether guns cut Farragut's rigging, but usually shot too high to do harm. Shots aimed at the passing Union boats often crossed the peninsula and alighted in the river, so elevated and harmless was the aim of the enemy, who must have been greatly excited or alarmed. Whatever the cause, he did not fire with anything like the accuracy or coolness he exhibited in the morning or at any previous time since the commencement of the siege.

A round-shot passed so near Captain W. L. Phelps, of the Benton, as to take the nap from his coat, without doing him any injury. This is as narrow an escape from projection from this planet as usually occurs, and quite as near as any one not enamored of death would desire.

The enemy, after twenty minutes' lighting, was driven from the upper batteries, but it is probable he has since returned. Whether any of his guns were dismounted or not is unknown; though it is reasonable to suppose they might have been, under such a continuous and heavy fire as was poured upon them from our gallant gunboats. During the last hour of the engagement the upper batteries were entirely silent; the action being confined to Farragut's vessels far below the city.

SERIOUS INJURY TO THE CITY.

Vicksburg was set on fire several times, and the flames made a great light. No doubt a number of dwellings and stores were burned; but the efforts of the soldiers must have prevented the destruction of the entire town. The injury to the place from shells must have been extensive, for we saw scores of them fall and burst in the midst of the city. Doubtless, houses that were tenantable and stores that were rentable yesterday morning, would not hold an occupant at the present hour.

CONDITION OF THE ARKANSAS.

The Arkansas lay off the town under the water batteries of the Confederates, but did not fire at all during the bombardment. Though the Sumter was sent down purposely to sink her, she did not succeed in doing so, but it is said she butted and crippled her during the action. This noon the Arkansas still lies, without steam, in her old position, and no one, apparently, is or about her. She seems to be a good deal hurt, and it is reported there are several large holes in her, and that her crew were industriously engaged the greater part of yesterday in pumping her out. I hope her last battle has been fought, but I greatly fear she will yet give us much trouble. Until we capture or destroy her, we cannot feel very secure; for she has demonstrated her ability to set our fleet at defiance. That, however, was under peculiar circumstances, and we trust and think it will be different when she meets our vessels under different auspices.

POSITION OF THE FLEETS.

The vessels of Com. Farragut are all now below the city, having a second time run the blockade, while those of Com. Davis have returned, except the Sumter, which remains on the other side of the peninsula. What the programme now is I will not undertake to say. Vicksburg may fall this week; but if it is ours at the close of the month, I shall be greatly and agreeably disappointed.

FROM THE SOUTH.

The Destruction of the Merrimac—Acquittal of Tattnall.

CHARGES AND SPECIFICATIONS OF CHARGES AGAINST CAPTAIN JOSIAH TATNALL, OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES NAVY.

CHARGE I.

Culpable destruction of an armed steamer of the Confederate States Navy.

Specification 1st—In this, that the said Captain Josiah Tatnall, on the 11th day of May, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, culpably, and without sufficient reason for so doing, did destroy by fire the Confederate steamer Virginia, in Hampton Roads, near Norfolk, Virginia.

Specification 2d—In this, that the said Captain Josiah Tatnall, on the said 11th day of May, 1862, at Hampton Roads, near Norfolk, Virginia, did culpably destroy the said steamer Virginia, when with the draft to which she had been then and there, or might have been reduced, she could have been carried up the James river to a place of usefulness, free from immediate danger.

CHARGE II—NEGLIGENCE.

Specification 1st—In this, that the said Captain Josiah Tatnall, on the said 11th day of May, 1862, at said Hampton Roads, did proceed to lighten the said steamer Virginia, for the purpose of taking her up James river, retaining, however, her armament, ordnance, stores, necessary coal, water, and provisions, without first having ascertained from sources of information within his reach, to what extent the draft of the said steamer would be reduced by such lightening.

Specification 2d.—In this, that the said Captain Josiah Tatnall, after having lightened the said steamer Virginia to a certain draft, on the said 11th day of May, 1862, at said Hampton Roads, then and there, and before said time, neglected and failed to ascertain, from sources of information within his reach, the fact that the said steamer, at said draft, could have been carried about forty miles above the mouth of the James river, to Hog Island.

CHARGE III.—IMPROVIDENT CONDUCT.

Specification.—In this, that the said Captain Josiah Tatnall, on or about the 11th day of May, 1862, when off Newall's Point, in Hampton Roads, intending to take the said steamer Virginia up James river, did then and there proceed to lighten said steamer, instead of taking her up said James river, and there lightening her, when the necessity for so doing arose, and to the extent of that necessity.

The statement of the parties being thus in possession of the court, the court was cleared for deliberation, and having maturely considered the evidence adduced, find as follows:

That the specification of the first charge is not proved.

That the second specification of the first charge is not proved.

And that the accused is not guilty of the first charge.

That the first specification of the second charge is not proved.

That the second specification of the second charge is not proved.

And that the accused is not guilty of the second charge.

That the specification of the third charge is not proved.

And that the accused is not guilty of the third charge.

The Court do further find that the accused had, while in command of the Virginia, and previous to the evacuation of Norfolk, thrown down the gage of battle to the enemy's fleet in Hampton Roads, and that the enemy had declined to take it up; that the day before Norfolk was evacuated a consultation, at the instance of the Secretary of the Navy, was held by a joint commission of navy and army officers, as to the best disposition to be made of the ship; that the accused was in favor of passing Fortress Monroe, and taking the ship into York river, or, of running down before Savannah with her; that in this he was overruled by the council, who advised that she should remain on this side of Fortress Monroe, for the protection of Norfolk and Richmond, and that, in accordance with this advice, he proceeded to regulate her movements; that, after the evacuation of Norfolk, Westover, on James river, became the most suitable position for her to occupy; that, while in the act of lightening her for the purpose of taking her up to that point, the pilots for the first time declared their inability to take her up, even though her draft should be reduced to its minimum of eighteen feet; that, by the evacuation of Norfolk, and the abandonment of our forts below Westover, both banks of the James river below that point were virtually given up to the enemy; that the ship, being thus cut off from Norfolk and Richmond, was deprived of all outward sources of supply, save those of the most precarious and uncertain character; that her store of provisions would not last for more than three weeks; that when lightened she was made vulnerable to the attacks of the enemy, and that after being lightened there were no available means of bringing her down to her proper draft and fighting trim, and that she had but two small boats, each not capable of landing not more than fifteen or eighteen men at a time, even in smooth water. Such being the facts and circumstances under the influence of which the Virginia found herself, after the evacuation of Norfolk, it was, in the opinion of the Court, only necessary for the enemy to continue to refuse battle, as he had done since it was first offered by Captain Tatnall, early in April, and thenceforward to keep strict watch about the Virginia, in order, when her provisions were exhausted, to make her his prize and the crew his prisoners.

Being thus situated, the only alternative, in the opinion of the Court, was to abandon and burn the ship, then and there, which, in the judgment of the Court, was deliberately and wisely done, by order of the accused.

Wherefore, the Court do award to the said Capt. Josiah Tatnall an honorable acquittal.

L. ROSSEAU, Captain,
FRANK BUCHANAN, Captain,
J. N. HOLLINS, Captain,
ROBERT G. ROBB, Commander.
M. MASON, Commander.
EBEN FARRAND, Commander.
A. D. FAIRFAX, Commander.
M. F. MAURY, Commander.
GEORGE MINOR, Commander.
WM. L. MAURY, Lieutenant.
R. B. PEGRAM, Lieutenant.
ROBERT OULD, Judge Advocate.

The Court then adjourned until morning at 10 o'clock.

L. ROSSEAU, Captain and President.
ROBERT OULD, Judge Advocate.

Exchange of Prisoners.

From The Richmond Enquirer, 22nd.

The basis of the pending negotiations for the exchange of prisoners has been made "the cartel of 1812." This instrument was between recognized nations, and stipulated for "American agents at Halifax and other places, and for British agents to the United States; and stipulated not only for an exchange of prisoners of the same rank, but for equivalents in men, where they were of different rank," and for the parole of the surplus.

This cartel has no reference to a most important circumstance connected with prisoners, and that is the arrest and seizure of private individuals by the enemy. It is to be hoped that the Government has given positive instructions to the Confederate Commissioner to insist upon the cessation of these illegal acts, and that unless positively disavowed and abandoned, that no exchange will be permitted to be made. Private citizens are as much under the protection of this Government as Confederate soldiers; they are the fathers, mothers, relatives of the soldiers, and to abandon them to the cruelties of the enemy, without the power of retaliation, of which we will have deprived ourselves when we have paroled their prisoners, would be an act of injustice and cruelty which the public ought not to tolerate in the Government.

We understand that at the last interview between General Hill and General Dix, the Commissioners, the latter objected to a clause forbidding the arrest of citizens, and that the negotiations were suspended to allow General Dix to consult his Government for instructions. Upon this matter the country will repose with confidence that General Hill's firmness and determination would have broken off all negotiation rather than not have secured this important stipulation.

He justly considered the rights of citizens within the enemy's lines as entitled to the fostering care of the Government, and that it would prize ourselves of all means of retaliation. Withingers was to against the outrages of our people within the enemy's lines to the unalecked rapine and lust of a brutal soldiery. As long as we hold in jeopardy the lives of Federal prisoners, we have some guaranty against such conduct, but when once we have bound ourselves to parole their surplus prisoners we have no means of retaliation left, and our countrymen within the enemy's lines are liable to every act of brutality, without even the power of restraint on the part of our Government.

It is doubtless desirable to get rid of the large number of prisoners now in our hands, but their possession is a lever that will overturn the policy of the Federal Government, if rightfully used by our authorities. Once let it be made known that an exchange of prisoners was broken off because the Federal Government would not stipulate against arresting private citizens, and that Federal prisoners were to be carried down South to spend the months of August and September in the swamps of South Carolina and Georgia, the public voice of the North would cry out in such tones that no more private citizens would ever be arrested.

This is a matter of the greatest importance, and one that the Government doubtless appreciates. If we are overreached in this matter, and the Government fails to protect our citizens within the enemy's lines, a voice of indignation will be heard in trumpet tones against the Government.

The policy that has delivered up so much territory to the enemy has already, caused no little dissatisfaction, but to add to it this the manifest injustice of not protecting our exposed people in the present cartel, will very properly diffuse indignation throughout our country.

The arrest of private citizens is unauthorized by every law of war among civilized nations. We cannot resist as long as our army remains within our territory, and retaliation upon prisoners is the only mode of preventing this outrage.

The country had rather see no exchange than one that does not prevent this outrage in the future. It is a matter that has been brought to our attention in the earnest letters from our unfortunate people, and one that necessarily excites the liveliest interest among the soldiers from those States whose territories have been abandoned to the enemy. There are soldiers in our army whose fathers and brothers are prisoners in Washington and the North, and they must naturally feel solicitous upon this subject.

This cartel marks an important era in the war.—It is the acknowledgment of our *quasi* nationality. We are by it made belligerents, and the Government of the United States treats with the Government of the Confederate States through Commissioners. They have learned something at last, and in this respect the Federal Government have improved upon the Bourbons, who never learned anything. One more victory, and Commissioners for a truce, an armistice, will meet—those necessary preludes to peace.

The Exchange of Prisoners Stopped.

Since the agreement of the Commissioners upon the terms of the exchange of prisoners, nearly twelve hundred wounded Federal soldiers, taken in the late battles, have been sent to the Federal transports in James river. During this charitable and in all respects honorable movement on the part of the Confederate Commissioners, we learn that the Federal army on the James made an advance up the river of about two miles. This intelligence reaching headquarters has caused a cessation of movements in regard to the exchange, and appropriate arrangements must be made before they are proceeded with.—*Daily Enquirer, July 21.*

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

UNION MEETING AT MONUMENT SQUARE.—Pursuant to the call of the Joint committee of the Union League and Union City Convention, the Union citizens of Baltimore met in Monument Square last night, to respond to the call of the Government for troops, and, in the language of the call, "to give expression to the unflattering determination of the loyal people of Baltimore to aid the Government in its holy mission of putting down this accursed rebellion." The meeting was called for 8 o'clock, but long before that time people were seen wending their way to the square, anxious to procure available locations where the speeches could be heard, as it had been announced that some of the most distinguished Union citizens, including his Excellency, Governor Bradford, would address the meeting.

The stand was erected upon the pavement in front of the Court House on Calvert street. Although apparently not so costly in its arrangements as has been seen upon the same spot on other occasions, yet it was well constructed and handsomely decorated. In front of the speakers' stand was a portrait of Washington, surmounted by the American Eagle and draped with the United States flag. On either side hung gas chandeliers, which revealed positively huge crowds in the stage, giving a clear and brilliant light far into the street. In the rear of the stage, there was a large painting representing the Goddess of Liberty, holding in the left hand the Union flag and pointing with the right to Glory. This picture was surrounded on both sides with the National flag festooned and flowing to the breeze. Upon the railing surrounding the Court House innumerable small flags were tied, giving the whole a very pretty and picturesque effect. Above the painting of the Goddess of Liberty, was an arch having upon it the inscription—"The Federal Union; our fathers formed it, we will sustain it."

At about 8 o'clock the band of the 7th regiment, New York Militia, under the leadership of Professor Graffalla, were seated in the rear of the stand, and performed, in an excellent manner, the principal National airs. The crowd, however, which now had increased to two or three thousand, seemed not to appreciate the fine music as much as they did the exhibition of rockets, as the Committee on Fireworks sadly interpoted their pyrotechnics just as the band was producing some of its sweetest notes.

It being now about half past 8 o'clock, the different Union Leagues began marching into the square, with music and flags, and by 9 o'clock the space from Lexington to Fayette street was densely packed.

About this time Major General Wool, with his staff, appeared upon the stand, the band playing "Hail to the Chief," and the crowd giving "three cheers for General Wool." Just previous to the arrival of General Wool the recruits of the 4th Maryland regiment, about two hundred strong, from Fort Hoffman, marched into the square without arms, and were drawn up in line in front of the speakers' stand.

The meeting was called to order by John G. Wilmot, who announced the following persons as officers of the meeting:—

President—Hon. Augustus W. Bradford. Vice Presidents—J. L. Chapman, Thomas W. Boots, Geo. W. Christopher, Edwin A. Abbott, W. S. Crowley, W. F. Pentz, A. Stirling, C. A. Gambrill, R. F. Hynson, G. S. Rogers, Wm. Addison, John Rogers, P. G. Sauerwein, J. R. Seidenstricker, Dr. Baltzell, W. D. Gosey, John H. Lloyd, Aaron Fenton, J. A. Morgan, Jos. Glendy Ramsey, Hariiet McKim, Dr. J. P. Hartman, James Price, B. Crane, B. Deford, Dr. J. Armitage, Wm. Roberts, Samuel Wilhelm, Thomas Sewell, Jr., David K. Lusby, Geo. G. Stevens, Henry McElderry, Dr. William L. Rees, Dr. Jos. K. Roberts, Michael Warner. Secretaries—Thomas R. Rich, J. Thomas Wood, Charles W. Walker, Thorndike Chase.

Governor Bradford, after speaking of the nature and proportions of the war, referred to the President's recent call for troops, and proceeded to explain his reasons for appointing a local committee to devise means to encourage the enlistment of volunteers to fill up Maryland's quota. When the call was first made he maturely considered the subject of convening the Legislature in extra session, and arrived at the conclusion, judging from their proceedings last winter, that there was such a redundancy of patriotism and statesmanship in the body that no practical action could result from their deliberations—there were too many willing to lead and too few willing to follow. Another consideration which influenced him in declining to convene the Legislature was the conviction that there were among the members of that body persons who were continually agitating sectional questions, much to the detriment of the country's interests. He had been suggested to him among other things, that a *draft* should be made. He would reply that he had no authority to draft men to suit the present exigency. Three months was the extent of the time which the militia law fixed for the service of those men if they were drafted, and for such a short time they would be of little aid to the Government. The power of drafting rested with the Federal authorities, and whether or not a draft would be made depended upon events yet to be developed. He would at once proceed to enroll the militia, which was preliminary to a draft, and then wait to see what the Government would do. In expressing his sentiment he would say that he would feel deeply humiliated if a draft was made in Maryland while all the other loyal States furnished their quota of volunteers. He believed the sentiment of every loyal Marylander was against such a course. Let the loyal men of Maryland raise four regiments, and then let the draft, came, and the rebels should be put in front. He congratulated the Union men of Baltimore upon the triumph which they had achieved in securing the passage of an ordinance providing for the payment of a liberal bounty to volunteers. He thanked the police for their promptness in suppressing an outbreak of popular feeling which threatened the public peace. He was followed by H. W. Hinsen, Collector of the Port, W. H. Collins, General Wood, W. H. Purnell, Postmaster, and others. From the steps of Guy's Monument House speeches were made by William Price, U. S. District Attorney, and James Touchstone, of Cecil county. The meeting continued until a late hour.

The following resolutions were adopted before the close of the meeting:

WHEREAS, We, the people of Baltimore and of the State of Maryland, have not been properly represented in the councils of the State or Nation, nor understood by the Government of the United States—

Resolved, That any division of the National territory is fatal to the security of the American people, and especially ruinous to every interest of the people of Maryland, and that we here pledge ourselves in person and property to support the Government in the prosecution of this war, till every rebellious weapon sinks into submission before the flag of the nation.

Resolved, That while one third of the people of Maryland are false to their allegiance, two-thirds of her people are loyal to the Government of their fathers, and ready to bear their full share of the burdens of this war, personal and financial, but are not willing to follow all who are ready to lead them. They are entitled to be treated with confidence and respect by those in authority over them, and we have men who enjoy their confidence selected by the Government to lead them in the field, and to have the confidence and respect of the Government expressed by the elevation to responsible commands of a due proportion of Maryland men competent to command and the right to confer with their fellow citizens. And in the hope that this will be so for the future, we earnestly invoke the young men of the State to tender their services to the Government to fill up the Maryland quota, in the full confidence that the people of the State will supply the neglect of the late Legislature, and place the volunteers of Maryland on a full footing with those of the most liberal State.

Resolved, That if the neglect of the Legislature to make provision for the inevitable expenses of organizing a volunteer force—which no loyal State but Maryland has been deprived of, should prove a serious obstacle to filling the Maryland quota by volunteers, in our opinion the President should call on the militia to fill the deficiency, whereby, while the Government will secure the requisite men, the disloyal men of the State will have to bear a part of the burthens their wickedness has imposed upon the country.

Resolved, That the abolition of the rebellion, and the energy of its use should know no other limits than the laws of war, the requirements of the Constitution and the necessities of the case; that armed traitors can avoid their severities by laying down their arms, and those in arms have no right to complain; and the traitors who swarm in our streets, giving aid and comfort to their confederates in arms, are entitled to no more tender treatment, and by their insolence provoke and merit summary chastisement.

Resolved, That while confiscation and emancipation of the property and slaves of Rebels may not be an efficient means of suppressing the rebellion, they are essential to cripple the power of those now in arms to embarrass the restoration of peaceful and constitutional government if their military power is broken; and therefore we heartily approve of the policy of confiscating the property of the leaders of the rebellion, and declaring the slaves of every Rebel free from all obligation to obey those who refuse to obey the laws of the land.

Resolved, That the cause of the Union in Maryland has been greatly damaged by the failure of those in authority to discriminate, in accordance with the circumstances of loyal men, between the loyal and disloyal in Government employments, that in our opinion much the largest amount of Government patronage and contracts has been allowed to find its way in this city into the hands of men and firms notoriously disloyal, and not a few of them actually engaged in aiding the enemies of the Government; that the controlling authorities of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, and a large majority of their employees now in the employ of the Government are, and have been, notoriously, and some of them avowedly, disloyal, and that the same is true of the persons in control of the line of steamers engaged in the Government transportation between Baltimore and Fortress Monroe, and that the Union men of Baltimore regard with regret the retaining of such persons in confidential relations with the Government, as on information can safely be deposited with them which the Government wishes not to be communicated to the Rebels. That this city now and has always been a chief source of supply to the Rebels of provisions, munitions, medicines, and information, the transmission whereof has been almost wholly uninterrupted, and it is the prevailing belief in this city, as well as the boast of disloyal men, that their communications with Virginia and the Rebel Government are perfectly free and easy; that they have officers commissioned, men organized and arms hidden in the city and State, ready to aid any military demonstration on the borders of the State; and these things ought to be remedied by the adoption of a more vigorous, active and intelligent policy in the administration of this military department, and placing in authority in it persons having the requisite local and personal information.

Resolved, That the safety of the State requires an immediate enrollment and reorganization of the militia of the State; and this meeting urges on the Governor of the State the importance of taking steps to accomplish that measure; and they respectfully represent to him that the necessities of the times require that he should promptly assemble the various regiments and companies to elect their officers according to the Constitution, and that for the general and staff officers, young and energetic men should be commissioned by him, who are able and willing to devote their time to the placing the State in a condition of safety, and to maintain it by their swords, and having so far the confidence of their contemporaries that the young men will follow when they lead.

Resolved, That this meeting hereby authorize the Joint Committee charged with the arrangement of this meeting to appoint a committee of five gentlemen to examine into the charges made in the aforegoing resolutions and to proceed at once to Washington with said resolutions and represent the facts to the President of the United States and ask his immediate action in the removal of all disloyal persons from authority in our midst.

Resolved by the loyal citizens of Baltimore, in mass meeting assembled, That the President of the United States be and he is hereby requested to instruct the General in command of this Military Department to require all male citizens above the age of eighteen years to come forward and take the following oath, and that all persons refusing to take said oath shall be sent through our military lines into the so called Southern Confederacy.

TEST OATH.

"I solemnly swear that I will bear true allegiance to the United States, and support and sustain the Constitution and laws thereof; that I will maintain the national sovereignty paramount to that of all State, county or corporate powers; that I will discourage, discountenance and forbid all aids, comforts, encouragements and sympathies of the Federal Union; that I disclaim and denounce all faith and fellowship with the so-called Confederate States and Confederate armies, and pledge my property and my life to the sacred performance of this my solemn oath of allegiance to the Government of the United States."

Notwithstanding the large crowd which was about the Square during the whole night, there was no disturbance worth noting, the Police force detailed by Marshal Vannostrand, promptly suppressing any effort at disorder.

FORBIDDEN PICTURES.—During yesterday the police visited the stores of several picture dealers and booksellers, and took possession of all pictures exposed to view which represented any of the prominent army officers or civilians of the Confederate States. The first place entered was the store of Messrs. Barrett & Debost, who had exposed in a frame, inside the store, a lithograph representing all the Generals of the Southern army. The picture was taken and Mr. Barrett was conducted to the Marshal's office. After some conversation with the Marshal, he was allowed to retire, with the understanding that he should appear whenever summoned. Afterwards the stores of Messrs. Kelly, Hedian & Piet, Mr. T. Hedian, Mr. Jas. S. Waters and Mr. M. H. Waite, all on Baltimore street, were visited, and all pictures and photographs of prominent Southern leaders were taken up poss