THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

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DIED.

At Alberton, Baltimore county, Monday, July 28th, RAWLINS, son of Andrew J. and Mary Lowndes, aged 8 months.

WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

It was rumored at Fortress Monroe, on Friday last, that the new iron clad ram Merrimac had left Richmond, and was at that time moored under the guns of Fort Darling waiting for an opportunity to descend the river. A similar report, but going more into details, is furnished to the Philadelphia and New York papers from Fortress Monroe, and also from Harrison's Landing. From these sources we are informed that the new Merrimac, accompanied by five other vessels, made her appearance in the James river on Thursday last; that the gunboats covering McClellan's position, were ordered to proceed up the river to meet these new adversaries, and that they formed in line of battle "awaiting an opportunity to give the distinguished visitors a cordial reception." Notwithstanding the writers profess to know that the Galena reported the fact of the presence of at least two Confederate rams—the Richmond (Merrimac,) and Young America—"just below Fort Darling," the story is not generally believed. It is, nevertheless, quite possible that a portion of the Federal gunboat flotilla may have ascended the river a short distance for the purpose of guarding from possible attack the large numbers of transports that still remain at Westover and Harrison's Landing. On Saturday six hundred troops crossed the river, and after destroying the houses which afforded protection to the Confederates in their recent night attack upon the shipping, and camp at Westover, returned without the loss of a man. "Everything," we are told, "in the shape of a dwelling, was burnt." On the morning of the same day the gunboats were engaged in shelling the houses and woods down the river.

On Friday last the Confederates entered the town of Brownsville, Tennessee, captured several persons who were engaged in buying cotton at that place, took from them one hundred and twenty thousand dollars, and burned four hundred bales of cotton. Some five hundred Federal cavalry reached Brownsville the same evening, and pursued the Confederates, who retreated. A slight skirmish subsequently occurred on the Hatchee and Forked Deerrivers, and it is said that "a number of Rebels were taken prisoners." A report was current that General Villepigue was advancing on Bolivar. Portions of the Mobile and Ohio railroad were torn up near Huntsville, and the telegraph line destroyed.

At the last advices from Bloomfield, Missouri some one hundred Federal soldiers stationed there, were surrounded by five or six hundred Confederates. A sharp fight was progressing, but it was thought that the troops could maintain themselves until reinforcements reached them from Cape Girardeau.

In northern Missouri a band of guerillas, numbering one hundred and fifty men, entered the village of Canton, plundered the stores of rifles &c., and killed the owner of one of the warehouses.

Great anxiety prevails with regard to the condition of affairs in Kentucky. A committee from Ohio, headed by ex-Governor Dennison, waited on President Lincoln, on Friday last, to represent to the latter "the situation along the Kentucky border, and the imminent danger in Kentucky itself. It is feared that the secessionists will endeavor to control the election for county officers, which takes place in that State to-day, and that they will also bring "outside pressure" to bear upon the Legislature which Governor Magoffin has just summoned to meet in extra session. The Washington correspondent of the *N. Y. Post* states, on the authority "of one of the most intelligent citizens of Kentucky," that the course of the Government on the question of slavery has nearly ruined the Union cause in that State. The same person asserts that Governor Magoffin has undertaken to carry Kentucky out of the Union, on the cry of slavery and of intervention on the part of President Lincoln. The writer of the *Post* argues that the only way to save Kentucky is by a bold proclamation of emancipation and confiscation in accordance with the recent enactments of Congress.

There is no confirmation of the reported forcing of the blockade of Mobile by a fleet of iron-clad steamers; but the Grenada (Mississippi) *Appeal* states that the steamer Cuba succeeded in running the blockade of Mobile on the 26th ult., bringing a full cargo of arms, ammunition, medicines, blankets, &c.

PROHIBITORY ORDER—NO GOLD OR SILVER TO BE PAID FOR PRODUCE.

CAIRO, July 28.—The following order has been issued:

General Order No. 64.

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT WEST. TENN., CORINTH, July 25, 1862.

The attention of the Major General Commanding having been called to the fact of persons within this District sympathizing with rebellion, who have cotton for sale, and refusing United States Treasury notes in payment therefor, or anything other than gold and silver, which is paid them by speculators whose love of gain is greater than their love of country, and the gold and silver thus paid indirectly affording aid and comfort to the enemy, renders necessary the publication of the following orders:

First, From and after the first day of August, 1862, gold and silver will not be paid within this district, by speculators, for the products of the Rebels. United States Treasury notes are legal tender in all cases, and when refused, the parties refusing them will be arrested, and such of their crops as are not requisite for the subsistence of their families, stock, &c., may be seized and sold by the nearest Quartermaster, for the benefit of those whom it may concern.

Second, Money so received will be accounted for by the officer receiving it in his next account current, and used for the benefit of the Government—only to be paid to the owners of crops sold on orders from authority above District Commander.

Third, Any speculator paying out gold or silver in violation of this order will be arrested and sent north, and the property so purchased seized and turned over to the proper Department, for the benefit of the Government.

Fourth, A strict enforcement of this order is enjoined upon all officers in this District.

By command of Major General U. S. Grant.

JOHN A. RAWLINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

FROM KENTUCKY.

From the Louisville Journal, July 31.

ARREST OF A CONFEDERATE SPY.

A Confederate Captain named Owsley, from Price's army, was arrested yesterday, by order of Colonel Bruce, at Hawing Green, sent up to the city, and confined in the military prison. He boasted that he had been lurking about Louisville for two months, and seemed to be indifferent as to his fate. In conversation with persons on the train he said that General Price had crossed the Mississippi at White river, on the 15th inst., with fifteen thousand men, and that he is now in Missouri or on the way there. Van Dorn, he says, is at Vicksburg, Jeff. Thompson at Grenada, Miss., with ten thousand undisciplined troops. Beauregard at Richmond, and Breckinridge and Bragg at Chattanooga, with one hundred and sixty thousand men.

SEIZURE OF CONTRABAND ARTICLES.

The suspicions of officer Gallagher were aroused yesterday by the appearance of three men at the Galt House with peculiar trunks, when he, assisted by officer Tiller, proceeded to make an investigation, which resulted in the discovery of a large quantity of medicines, which had been purchased for shipment South. The names of the delinquents were not ascertained by the officers, but their conduct was such that there could be no mistake as to their guilt. The medicines were purchased at the drug store of J. S. Morris & Co., and were valued at $2 000. The officers deserve much credit for their vigilance in making the arrest.

TRADE WITH NASSAU.

Key West Correspondence of the Philadelphia Press.

I heard yesterday, indirectly, that our Government had ordered that no more goods should be cleared at any port in the United States, that were consigned to H. Adderly & Co., of Nassau. If this report is true the order will avail nothing. If Government desire to do the thing properly, they had better order at once that no cargoes of any description shall be cleared for Nassau, no matter whom they are consigned to, for although H. Adderly & Co. are the worst of the rascals of Nassau still they are all in league, and would assist each other in any way, in order to give aid and comfort to our enemies.

THE FIRST ADMIRAL SALUTE FIRED.—The Commander of the Brooklyn Navy-Yard, Admiral Hiram Paulding, has linked himself with American naval history. For him was fired the first full admiral salute given to a representative of the U. S. naval service since the good old time of '76. Yesterday he visited the French frigate now lying in the harbor, and was most cordially received by his French cotemporary. On his arrival, he was shown to the chief officer's quarters and subsequently inspected the ship's battery. The commandant's official barge also bore the American Admiral's wide flag at the fore. When Admiral Paulding had concluded his visit, the Stars and Stripes were sent to the foremast top of the Frenchman, and immediately the famous salute, which will be recorded when there is no Hiram Paulding among our admirals, was fired with remarkable precision.—Every eye at the Navy-Yard was all attention to the number of guns, "one," two, down to "fifteen," were counted by dozens of persons. When the last gun went off, the cry, "Hurrah for the Navy—there's an Admiral in it at last!" was re-echoed from mouth to mouth. The Cobb dock then belched forth the return salute, and while all the "acting" admirals were probably wondering which of them should get the first "fifteen," a retired admiral obtained it.—*New York Tribune.*

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

The New Merrimac Out—Our Fleet Gone Up James River to Meet Her—The Recent Attack at Harrison's Landing.

FORTRESS MONROE, August 1.—It is rumored and believed here that the new Merrimac has come down the James river as far as Fort Darling, and that she is hourly expected to make the attempt to come further down. One thing is certain, all of the Federal gunboats have passed up beyond Harrison's Landing, and not one is in sight from that point, or on the river this side.

A detachment of infantry and cavalry from General McClellan's army made a reconnoissance down the Chickahominy, through Diascund, and came on toward Williamsburg till they met our pickets, when they returned, after report by telegraph to Fortress Monroe that on their reconnoissance they had seen nothing of the enemy. We shall probably not hear of their return to camp until to-morrow on the arrival of the mail boat from Harrison's Landing.

The arrival of the mail boat this afternoon brings more particulars of the attack made by Rebel batteries on Gen. McClellan's position, from opposite Harrison's Landing. The attack was made at midnight, with, it is said, four batteries of flying artillery, some being above, and some below the point of attack. They threw six 12 pound shells, some round, and others conical, but not one third of them exploded. Their fire was intended, no doubt, for our camps, but many of the shot fell short, and thus did some little mischief among the shipping, which was lying at the Landing, and at anchor in the river. Several vessels and steamers were struck with fragments of shell, but no one was hurt on board.

It is reported nine of our soldiers were killed and only three wounded. The attack being made at such a late hour of the night, and our army expecting rather an attack in front, caused some delay before our guns opened fire, when our siege guns were brought to bear upon them, and in less than forty minutes the Rebels were silenced. The firing was very brisk while it continued. Many of the enemy's shells were thrown over among our camps, but these did not explode. All those which exploded fell much short of the camps, and thus accounts for so few being injured.

It is supposed that the object of the Rebels in this demonstration was to draw the Federal gunboats down the river, so as to enable their boats, including the new Merrimac, to get out.

It is estimated that the Rebels threw over five hundred shells, which lay this morning scattered over the field. Some lodged in the masts of vessels. All that is known of the effect of our firing is that the Rebels retreated, and this morning the trees where they had their batteries, presented a shattered appearance, and many were cut completely down.

There was only one Federal gunboat near the landing, which opened fire immediately on the enemy, but they did not appear to notice it, as they were so intent on shelling our camps.

If the desire was, as supposed, to draw our gunboats down the river, the attempt was most unsuccessful, as not one made its appearance save the one previously there.

Arrival of Rebel Prisoners—Later from Newbern, N. C.—Affairs at Norfolk.

FORTRESS MONROE, August 2.—The steamships Coatzacoalcos, Atlantic and Ocean Queen passed up Hampton Roads this morning and anchored abreast the fort. They have on board three thousand Rebel prisoners from Forts Warren and Delaware. The physicians from Fortress Monroe have been on board and cared for the sick and wounded. These steamers can go only three miles above Newport News. General Pettigrew, of North Carolina, and Colonel Drake, of Mississippi, are amongst the prisoners. They are to be exchanged.

The steamship Belvidere arrived at noon to-day from New York, with a load of horses, which are discharged at Fortress Monroe, as the vessel draws too much water to go up the river.

The mail boat from Harrison's Landing brought down seventeen Rebel prisoners to-day. Last night there were two regiments of regulars sent across the river opposite the Landing, and had all the trees cut away on the ground where the shelling was done the night before, and burned all the buildings on what is known as the Rullia Plantation, and destroying everything in that vicinity [illegible]

Nothing new has been heard to day from the gunboats which are up the river.

From Newbern, N. C.

Last evening a guard, while on duty, was shot in the leg on one of the streets of Newbern. His name was M. J. Galvin, of Company C, 23d Massachusetts regiment. He fired twice at his assailant, and captured one prisoner. When making fast to the second, the Sergeant of the guard appeared and relieved him.

The shot being fired from a house and being the fourth attempt to murder guards stationed to protect property, and [illegible] great excitement. Gen. Foster concluded to put a stop to such murderous assaults, and caused a thorough search of all habitations in that neighborhood, making arrests of all suspicious characters, who were lodged in jail. The 23d regiment, acting under orders, with great regularity removed all the furniture from the domicils tenanted, and in an incredible short space of time, six or seven of the adjacent houses were entirely demolished. All well-minded people declare that the destruction of these domicils is a righteous judgment upon the inhabitants for harboring such miscreants.

Colonel Kurtz has arrested three New York burglars, who have been carrying on their nefarious operations in Newbern for some time past.

Affairs at Norfolk.

The Norfolk *Union* was to-day suppressed by order of General Viele for publishing a burlesque proclamation calculated to bring Commander Goldsborough into ridicule. The play was commenced by Mr. W. W. Shore, a well-known attache of the New York press, as an aid to the Union cause in Norfolk, and it is but justice to Mr. S. to say that he dissolved his connection with the journal a week ago, and since that time the sheet has been conducted by his former associate in the business department, Mr. O. S. Baker. For the work past the conduct of the *Union* under its new proprietors has been very unsatisfactory, not only to the authorities, but to the Union men of Norfolk and Portsmouth.

FROM THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

A Force of Union Troops Cross the James River and Destroy the Woods and Houses Opposite Harrison's Landing—Gunboats Shelling the Shore.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Saturday, August 2.

A force of six hundred troops crossed the James river yesterday afternoon, for the purpose of destroying the houses and woods on the opposite shore, which had afforded protection to the Rebels. Everything in the shape of a dwelling was burnt. This was the point from which the Rebels shelled our shipping and encampments the night before.

The affair was successfully accomplished without the loss of a man.

The gunboats this morning are engaged in shelling the shore and houses down the river.

Five men were killed by the enemy's shells night before last, and two wounded.

FROM MEMPHIS.

Operations of the Rebels in the Southwest.

MEMPHIS, July 31.—The gunboat Carondolet arrived yesterday from Vicksburg. She brings no later news of interest.

Several gentlemen from Brownsville arrived last evening, bringing some particulars of the Rebel raid under Faulkner on that place. On Friday last every man there found buying cotton was taken prisoner. The sum of $120,000 was taken from them, and four hundred bales of cotton were burned.

A force of 500 Federal cavalry arrived on the same evening, when the Rebels fled. They were pursued, and a slight engagement took place on the Hatchee and Forked Deer rivers. A number of Rebels were captured, and the ferries and bridges destroyed.

The Rebel Colonel Jackson was at Denmark on Saturday, with 200 of his cavalry. It was reported that General Villepigue was approaching Bolivar. Jackson used a pontoon bridge to cross the Forked Deer river.

Heavy cannonading was heard at Bolivar on Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday the telegraph line was destroyed, and portions of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad torn up at Humboldt.

Conference of the Rebel Generals at Richmond—Their Plans for the Future.

MEMPHIS, July 30.—The *Bulletin* of this morning has the following, from authentic sources, among other interesting items as to the proceedings of the Rebels:

"We have some inkling of the subject discussed at the conferences of all the principal military leaders, held in Richmond on the 4th and 5th instant. It is understood that they came to the conclusion that they must not lose more territory. The defensive policy was strongly attacked, and both Lee and Beauregard advised the invasion of the North at three points, namely, from Cumberland and Williamsport into Pennsylvania, from Louisville and Cincinnati into Indiana and Ohio, and from Paducah and Cairo into Illinois.

"It is alleged that the following plan of operations for the remainder of the summer campaign was agreed upon: First—The immediate obstruction of the James river, so as to make it impossible for McClellan to use it as a means of communication with the Government, and for the transportation of reinforcements and army supplies. Second—The occupation of Williamsburg, Yorktown, and the entire peninsula. Third—The recovery of the whole territory of Virginia, and the suppression of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, the recovery of New Orleans, Memphis and the Mississippi river, and the expulsion of the Federal troops from Tennessee and Kentucky. When these objects have been accomplished, then it was proposed to carry out the plan of Lee and Beauregard. Fourth—To make the Potomac and Ohio rivers at once their basis of operations and frontier lines, and to transfer the seat of war from Virginia to Maryland. Fifth—To hurl upon Washington from Richmond a column of 200 000 troops.

"By the capture of that city, the liberation of Baltimore and the invasion of the North at the three points named above, becoming in turn the invaders, they hope to make it necessary for us to keep at home for the defence of our cities five hundred thousand men."

Guerillas in North Missouri.

QUINCY, Ill. Aug. 2.—About 150 rebels under a man named Dunn, attacked Canto Missouri, sixteen miles north of here, last night, and plundered the store of rifles, etc., and killed the owner of one of the warehouses.

FROM GENERAL POPE'S ARMY.

WATERLOO, August 2.—Intelligence from Culpeper says that scouting parties go out daily, and occasionally bring in rebel scouts. No enemy in force has been discovered this side of Gordonsville. It is supposed strong entrenchments are being constructed at that place. Our troops are in such high spirits, and so confident of success, that they say they can defeat whatever forces may there be collected.

General Pope on his way hither was received with enthusiastic cheers by our troops, whom he reviewed, highly complimenting them on their appearance and drill. Desertions have been much checked within the last few days by the stringent orders of General Pope. Several deserters having been found guilty have been sentenced to be branded and drummed out of the army.

At present everything is quiet in front of our advance.

Some members of the 9th New York regiment have issued a newspaper, called the "*New York 9th*," devoted to the dissemination of Union principles in this benighted region.

LATE REBEL NEWS.

Running the Mobile Blockade—The Occupation of Grand Junction by the Rebels.

CAIRO, August 1.—The *Grenada Appeal*, of the 28th ult., contains Mobile dispatches announcing that the steamer Cuba ran the blockade of that port on the 25th, bringing a full cargo of arms, ammunition, medicines and blankets.

The same paper, in an editorial, announces the occupation of Grand Junction by the Rebel forces on the 25th.

A despatch from Chattanooga, Tenn., says the Federals are evincing great activity, and are evidently preparing for some movement. Trains of cars have arrived at Bridgeport with shells and ammunition.

The Jackson *Mississippian*, says it is authorized to state that a sufficient force will be sent to the Mississippi river, to protect the people of the river counties from invaders.

The Colombus (Ga.) *Times* learns that General Toombs has resigned.

The Mobile *News* says one division of Lovell's army has been ordered eastward, and is expected in Mobile soon.

FROM THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2.—An officer writing from Harrison's Landing to a gentleman in Washington, says: "All is quiet on the James river. One corps after another is being reviewed by Gen. McClellan, and the troops make a fine appearance. The officers are in good spirits, and will be ready to deal heavy blows when called upon to strike the enemy. If New England, the Middle States and the Great West will only do their duty now, this wicked rebellion can be crushed forever. God grant that the call for more men may not be in vain."

THE WAR IN MISSOURI.

CAIRO, Aug. 1.—Advices have been received by Gen. Strong from Bloomfield, Missouri, that about one hundred of Coleman's men were surrounded in that town by five or six hundred Rebels, that a sharp fight was going on, and that our troops thought they could sustain themselves until reinforcements which have been sent from Cape Girardeau could reach them.

Letters from a Rebel mail captured at Corinth, on the 29th ult., indicate a Rebel movement on Chattanooga and Nashville.

Indications of a Naval Battle on the James

NEW YORK, August 2.—The New York *Times'* Potomac army correspondent, under date of 31st ult., states:—"Two suspicious rebel craft, probably the new Merrimac and Young America, cast anchor yesterday afternoon in the river, as we saw from our gunboats, near the place called Turkey Bend. Several of our gunboats were immediately sent to that vicinity. The Monitor made a reconnoissance, after which the gunboat fleet, including the Galena, Monitor and others, anchored in line of battle off Lighthouse Point. A balloon and gunboat reconnoissance above and near Fort Powhatan discovered no Rebels or earthworks in that vicinity.

A branch railroad has been discovered from the bank of James river, opposite Berkley Landing, to the Petersburg road.

The correspondent closes his letter as follows:—9, P. M.—The position of the fleet is unchanged. The Rebel rams are still off Turkey Bend. How near we are to a naval battle, every one can judge for themselves.

Washington Items.

WASHINGTON, August 2.—The President to-day [illegible] officers, who have been confined in the penitentiary under sentence of court-martial for various offences, in compliance with a recent act of Congress. A few are unconditionally released, being unfit for military duty on account of ill-health, but the others are required to go to their regiments or some others in the service.

Measures are being taken to organize a brigade for the defense of Washington among the employees of the departments. It is said that two thousand clerks can be enrolled for that purpose.

The sale of condemned horses, &c., at the Government Corral on Tuesday and yesterday was largely attended. One hundred and thirty-five horses were sold at prices ranging from $1 up to $95, averaging from $7 to $10 each. The proceeds of the sale amounted to over $2,000, and the sale, considering the class of animals put up, is considered a very successful one.

Capture of a Valuable Prize.

NEW YORK, August 3.—The United States gunboat Magnolia, which arrived here this afternoon, with the prize steamer Memphis, reports that on the 31st of July, in latitude 32.50, longitude 78.37, she captured this steamer, under command of Captain Carlebank, from Charleston for Liverpool, having run the blockade on the evening of the 27th. The Magnolia put a prize crew on board of the prize, and accompanied her to this port. The Memphis is a fine propeller, of 800 tons, only four months old. She was built on the Clyde, and is of 250 horse power. She has a cargo of 1,570 bales of Sea Island cotton, [illegible] thousand [illegible] tinnages. She attempted to run the blockade of Charleston, with a cargo of ammunition from Liverpool.

The Prosecution of the War.

WASHINGTON, August 3.—It is said in usually well-informed circles that direct and decisive action is to be taken in the prosecution of the war, and that a perfect agreement exists between the principal Generals and the executive branch of the Government. This is asserted as the certain policy of the Administration to be vigorously commenced. Indications seem to confirm the truth of the statement.

Naval Promotions.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3.—The following named officers have been made acting volunteer Lieutenants for gallant conduct: C. Denning of U. S. gunboat Mound City, and John V. Johnston, gunboat St. Louis of the Western flotilla. Also, Thomas C. Woodward of the steamer Shawsheen; John Mac Dermott of the steamer Ceres of the North Atlantic squadron.

Capture of the British schooner Emma.

PHILADELPHIA, August 2.—The British schooner Emma, of and from Nassau, with boots, shoes, salt, &c., was captured on the 24th of July, by the United States steamer Adirondack. The Emma arrived off the Navy Yard this morning. Her captain and crew are on board of the Adirondack in irons.

Arrival of Sick and Discharged Soldiers—A Prize Steamer.

NEW YORK, August 3.—The steamer Mississippi has arrived here with a number of sick and discharged soldiers.

The gunboat Magnolia and prize steamer Memphis have arrived.

The Attack on Vicksburg.

CAIRO, August 2.—The Grenada (Miss.) *Appeal* of the 28th ult., says "The Federals have abandoned the idea of taking Vicksburg by water, and are now evidently awaiting the co operation of the land forces."

Postage Stamp Currency.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3.—The National Bank Note Company who have the order for the postage stamp currency, say they will furnish large supplies by the 15th of this month.

Arrivals From Southern Ports.

NEW YORK, Aug. 3.—The steamers Mississippi, from Hilton Head, and Parkersburg, from New Orleans, have arrived.

A Draft in New York.

NEW YORK, August 3.—It is stated that the Governor's proclamation for a draft will be issued within a few days.

The case of young Johnson, who was arrested in Roxbury for treason, we believe, and is now in jail, is enough to make one ashamed of his fellow creatures. As we are credibly informed, this young man, born in the South, and being there after the rebellion got headway, was made a soldier per-force in the Confederate army. After a time, by some means he obtained his discharge, showing that he was not a very willing recruit, and thereupon he made the best of his way to Roxbury, at the earliest opportunity, where his Northern relations reside. Having thus abandoned the army and the South, he is arrested here and put into close confinement, for fear, we suppose, that he will raise an army in Massachusetts against the Government, whose protection he has sought. Can anything be more ridiculous, or more shameful, than such a petty proceeding? This affair is worse than that of the Gordons.—*Boston Courier.*

FIRST ACT OF EMANCIPATION.—Yesterday a negro woman claimed the protection of the court, on the ground that her mistress, Mrs. Nicholas, had said to her several times to go to the Yankees.—This offended the lady "dub color," and she appealed to Judge Bell for protection. He had her sworn by raising up her right hand, that what she said was true. Thereupon he ordered the clerk to make out her emancipation papers in accordance with Gen. Butler's order.—*New Orleans True Delta, July 25.*

ARRIVAL OF A FRENCH PRIZE.—The French bark Harriet Ralli, in charge of Captain Conant, of the Massachusetts 31st regiment, from New Orleans, 24 days, arrived here this morning. The H. R. was taken in the Mississippi by our forces, after their occupation of New Orleans. She has a valuable cargo, consisting of wines, brandies, &c.—*New York Express of Saturday.*

TRADE WITH NEW ORLEANS.—We have had five arrivals this morning from New Orleans—which bring collectively:—3,421 hhds. sugar, 153 bbls. do., 23 do. varnish, 8 do. turpentine, 1,655 do. rosin, 336 bales cotton, 101 do. moss, 6,005 staves, 231 bbls. molasses, and 9 cases mdse.—*New York Express.*

FROM WASHINGTON.

From the Washington Star of Saturday.

THE ABSENTEES.

There is a great rush today at the War Department of parties (relatives and others) appearing in behalf of army officers absent from their regiments, to show cause for such absence, get furloughs extended, &c., &c. The late stringent order of Secretary Stanton in regard to absentees has caused a fluttering among these worthies, and no mistake.

ARRIVAL OF SURGEONS.

Quite a number of surgeons appointed under the new law authorizing an additional surgeon to each regiment from Pennsylvania have arrived in Washington. They reported to day to Col. Pulcston, Military Agent for the State of Pennsylvania, who forwarded them to the various regiments in the field. Sixteen reached here to-day and twenty-one came last week.

ADMINISTERING THE OATH.

The authorities, it is said, are considering the propriety of administering the oath of allegiance to all persons in the District who have not taken it, and there is reason to believe that this plan will be adopted to drive out secession sympathizers and agents who are doing a great deal of harm.

THE FRIGATE NIAGARA.

The Board of Survey, consisting of Capt. Hudson and Constructors Poole and Hanscom, who examined the Niagara upon her arrival at Boston, recommend to the Department that her bulwarks be cut down about four and a half feet, a light rail and hammock netting to take the place of the present heavy bulwarks, that she be pierced for a battery of twenty broadside guns on her berth deck and ten broadside and two heavy pivot guns on her present spar deck.

Special Despatches to the New York Post.

THE PROSPECT OF DRAFTING.

The subject of drafting is still uppermost in men's minds here, and, in spite of all that may be said to the contrary in the journals, the Government is steadily drifting towards it as a means of filling up the army instantaneously; and while it is about it, it will be thought impossible that half a million of men will be brought immediately into the service of the Government. There is no longer a doubt that the Confederates outnumber us, perhaps not in drilled and effective troops, but in the number of men in their armies; and great reinforcements become absolutely necessary for us. Should the volunteering improve, as it has done in several of the States within a week, there may be no necessity for drafting, but it is considered probable that the Governors of a few States—Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York, for instance—will need full power to make a draft. Maine, New Hampshire, Indiana, Illinois and some other States are sure to fill their quotas without a draft.

CONFEDERATE PROPERTY STILL PROTECTED.

A prominent officer of one of the Maine regiments has arrived here from the army of the Potomac, and this morning, in company with several gentlemen, went to the President's mansion to complain of the management of the war on the James river. He asserted that, in spite of the law of Congress on the subject of confiscation of Confederate property, General McClellan still protects it; that rebel houses, and the like; and that upon his speaking against the practice in the presence of one of General McClellan's staff, the staff officer replied: "It will never do to execute that law. We cannot do it!" Upon his urging that it was a law of the land and that the General had no choice in the matter but must execute it, the officer replied.—"We wait for our instructions upon the subject from the President or the War Department. As we have received none we are not obliged to recognise any newspaper statement of a law, and such laws as those about emancipation and confiscation you may be sure we shall not execute till we are ordered to do so!"

A COLORED REGIMENT IN WASHINGTON.

A black regiment is now forming here, and the colored men are rapidly enlisted. They will form a regiment by themselves. Whether the Government will accept the regiment after it shall have been raised, or not, remains to be seen.

HALLECK'S ORDERS TO MCCLELLAN—NEGROES TO BE IMPRESSED INTO THE SERVICE—CONFEDERATE PROPERTY TO BE SEIZED—DRAFTING PROMPTLY.

The enforcement of the Confiscation and Emancipation law has been commenced with vigor.—General Halleck has sent positive orders to General McClellan to impress all the negroes within his reach, and to ask no questions whether they are slave or free. General Halleck, in sending the order, reminded General McClellan that military [illegible] to recognise the local laws of the States in rebellion. He further orders him to seize every article of Confederate property that can be made useful for the service of our army. It is believed that the Government is now preparing to make quick work with the Confederates. In Kentucky, if any attempt is made to juggle the State out of the Union, Governor Magoffin will be deposed from office and a Provisional Governor appointed. There is a current report to-day that the Government has decided to begin a general system of drafting in the middle of August, in order to fill up the old regiments to the maximum standard at the earliest possible moment. As yet, however, there is no official confirmation of the report.

Special Despatches to The Phila. Inquirer.

GENERAL HALLECK ON CONFISCATION.

General Halleck told certain prominent gentlemen, to-day, and authorized them to use the statement, that he was, and always had been, in favor of a thorough confiscation of all property of the Confederates, slaves especially included. He had ordered General McClellan to impress as much use as many negroes as he could get, in any military duty for which they could be employed. He instructed him to make no inquiry as to whether they were slaves or free; or, if slaves, whether of disloyal or Union masters. These were matters that belonged to the civil authorities, and when they had themselves forced the superintendency of these upon the military, they had no right to look to them for protection in the matter. It was not the business of military men.

The recent report that the Commissioners executing Richmond, is said to have been caused by the fact that they are moving bodies of troops back from James river to operate against Norfolk and Suffolk. They are believed to be endeavoring to intercept McClellan's communications, and to prevent him from crossing the James river.

Special Despatches to the New York World.

MILITARY MOVEMENTS.

There is much excitement here in relation to the military movements now on the *tapis*. Our armies are marching along in pursuance of a fixed plan, and it is believed that matters are so timed as to insure the safety at once of Washington and Gen. McClellan's army. There is a larger force operating against the enemy in Virginia than the people are generally aware of. There is no doubt expressed as to the result of the coming conflicts, which cannot be long delayed.

IMPORTANT NEWS EXPECTED.

We are in expectation here of the receipt of important news from several quarters. It is supposed that Vicksburg will be taken, that a fight has taken place or will soon take place in Eastern Tennessee or Northern Georgia, and that Gen. Pope's army will soon engage the enemy. Now that the mortar-boats have arrived, stirring work is also looked for from the James river.

From the New York Express, Aug. 2.

EXCITEMENT IN THE NAVY YARD.

The business at the Yard still continues quite active, but the principal conversation relates to the administration of the following oath to all persons employed in the yard:

"Having been appointed—(state nature of appointment)—I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I have never voluntarily borne arms against the United States since I have been a citizen thereof; that I have voluntarily given no aid, countenance, counsel, or encouragement, to persons engaged in armed hostility thereto; that I have neither sought nor accepted, or attempted to exercise the functions of any office whatever, under the authority, or pretended authority, in hostility to the United States; that I have not yielded a voluntary support to any pretended Government, authority, power, or Constitution, within the United States, hostile or inimical thereto. And I do further swear (or affirm) that, to the best of my knowledge and ability, I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign or domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God."

This is done in conformity with an order from the Secretary of the Navy, dated July 30, which duty is to be performed by Commander Radford, the executive officer of the Yard, assisted by the chiefs of the respective departments. Though most of the employees are perfectly willing to renew that obligation, still there are some who try to evade this test of their loyalty to the Government.

Some are objecting to the form of the oath, others to the policy of the Administration they are to be sworn to support, while some take the broad ground that they are not citizens of the United States. One man, who had induced his son not to enlist, would not take the oath for that reason, while another (a native of Germany) did not understand English enough to understand the meaning of the oath. There were several, however, who declared that they would not swear allegiance to any such d—d Government as the United States, and would not support any G—d d—d Abolition-ist war. Some of them were rank secessionists.

As a matter of course, those men who for one or the other cause object to take the oath, received notice to stop work immediately. Thus far, some forty have been served with these notices. There is a good deal of grumbling among these malcontents, and threats of the vengeance of their respective political friends are not of an unfrequent occurrence. There are about four thousand men at present employed in the Navy Yard, and it will take the greater part of next week to administer the oath of allegiance to all of them.

IMPORTANT FROM KENTUCKY.

From the New York Express, August 2

The Cincinnati *Gazette* of yesterday, gives prominence to a telegram from Indianapolis, stating that the Secessionists in Southern Kentucky are contemplating a general uprising on Monday next, in order to control the election. There is a perfect reign of terror meanwhile in the whole country. The enemy are said to have a squadron of cavalry under Major Gano at Russellville. They are running off all the horses and stock in that part of the country. Our forces are not effective for want of cavalry, and have been forced to fall back on Henderson. These bands are regularly organized by authority from Brigadier-General John C. Breckinridge, and their rolls expressly state that they are to serve as guerillas, to hunt down Federal soldiers and Union men, take their property, &c.

THE UNSUCCESSFUL ATTACK UPON THE CONFEDERATE RAM ARKANSAS.

A correspondent of the New York *Tribune* gives an interesting account of the unsuccessful attempt to destroy the Confederate ram Arkansas, at Vicksburg, already reported by telegraph. On the 20th of July Colonel Ellet made the following proposition to Commodore Davis:

"STEAM RAM SWITZERLAND, OFF VICKSBURG, Sunday Morning, July 20, 1862.

"*Chas. H. Davis, Flag Officer Gunboat Flotilla:*

"Permit me to say, Commodore, that I apprehend the continued existence of the Rebel gunboat Arkansas so near us is exercising a very pernicious influence upon the confidence of our crews, and even upon the commanders of our boats, and, in view of this state of facts, it does seem to me that some risk should be encountered to insure her destruction and re-establish our own prestige on the Mississippi river.

"I hope you have given my proposition your careful consideration, and that you may not conclude that the risk of failure is too great to attempt its accomplishment.

"I feel great confidence that, with united action, it will be made a complete success.

"I will myself command a boat that I shall select carefully selected crew; while, if you and Commodore Farragut will vigorously attack the batteries, I shall feel that success will surely attend the effort.

"Hoping to hear from you favorably as to the attempt to destroy the Rebel gunboat Arkansas, and that you will excuse the freedom of these suggestions from one whose experience is so slight compared with your own, I remain, with feelings of great respect,

"Your obedient servant,

"Lieutenant Colonel ALFRED W. ELLET,
"Commanding Steam Ram Fleet."

This note was answered in person by both Commodores Farragut and Davis, who called upon Colonel Ellet the following morning, and after a private conversation it was agreed that Davis should engage the upper and Farragut the lower batteries, while Colonel Ellet should suddenly dart upon the Confederate gunboat and strike her on the side with the full force of his ram, the Colonel having every confidence that he could sink her if he could hit her fairly, and prevent his boat from being disabled before he could sink the enemy.

The plan of the attack was as follows: Three of the vessels of Commodore Davis—the Benton, Cincinnati and Louisville—were to engage the upper Confederate batteries, the Bragg to lie behind the bend in readiness to butt the Arkansas in the event of her appearance above; and the Essex to run down in advance of the Queen and grapple her as she passed, draw her off into the stream, to give the Queen an excellent opportunity to run into her, Farragut meanwhile engaging the lower batteries.

After the Queen had struck the enemy she was to come up or go down the river, as was most advantageous, the Benton protecting her retreat in the former, and the Essex in the latter case the Sumter was to ram the hostile gunboat if the Queen failed to perform her task. This arrangement was good, and seemed to satisfactory to all parties, and promised to be faithfully carried out.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE ATTACK.

The three gunboats opened fire; the Bragg took her position, and the Essex led off in fine style, the Queen following at a high rate of speed, and under very favorable auspices.

As the ram passed the flagship, Commodore Davis waved his hand to Colonel Ellet, standing near the pilot house, and cried: "Good luck, good luck!" The Colonel misunderstood the words, supposing the Commodore said, "Go back, go back!" and therefore turned the Queen about and steamed toward the Benton, when he heard "Go on, go on!" Without comprehending this apparent inconsistency, and believing the first duty of a soldier is to obey, the Colonel steamed down under the batteries, and arriving at the first water battery, near the marine hospital, where the hostile gunboat was lying, he discovered the Essex had gone on, and was then in advance one-half or three quarters of a mile.

THE STEAM RAM'S GALLANT FIGHT.

The Queen was now exposed not only to the batteries of the enemy but to those of the gunboat, which lay with her stern into shore and her bow up stream, apparently expecting and prepared for an attack.

All this time, so far from the gunboats drawing the hostile fire, and standing between the Queen and harm, she was receiving most damaging attention from all sides. Shot and shell were raining around her, and she had been struck a number of times in very delicate localities.

Colonel Ellet saw his ram a desperate chance; that he had staked his life upon a cast, and that he had probably lost; that those on whom he had depended had failed, and he could now depend only on himself and fate.

To attempt to strike the Arkansas with his wooden boat while a score of the heaviest guns were pouring their fire upon him seemed certain destruction. There appeared no chance of escape ahead, and none below. He was hemmed in on every side. A wall of fire on both sides. And still believed himself free from her lazarous strait.

A man can use no more than his life to serve his country's cause, thought Col. Ellet; and he determined, come what might, to strike the Arkansas—willing, if he could but sink her, to lose his existence.

The gunboat's position was unfavorable. He would have to take a roundabout course before he would reach her, and strike her going against the current, thus dec