The South.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 24, 1861.

FOR CONGRESS,
ROSS WINANS.

A WELL-REGULATED MILITIA BEING NECESSARY TO THE SECURITY OF A FREE STATE, THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED.—*Constitution U. S., Amendments, article 2.*

No Soldier shall in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.—*Const. U. S., Amendments, art. 3.*

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, *shall not be violated*, and no Warrant shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.—*Constitution U. S., Amendments, art. 4.*

"To secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers "from the consent of the governed."—*Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776.*

It is idle to say that the power of taxation (or, by parity of reasoning, any other power) rests on consent, provided there be a right claimed for the government to compel that consent by force.—*Say, Political Economy, Chapter on Taxation.*

"That *in all cases, and at all times*, the military "ought to be under strict subordination to, and "control of the civil power."—*Declaration of Rights of the People of Maryland.—Art. 27.*

Can anybody show a different principle in the Constitution of the United States?

"That no man ought to be *taken, or imprisoned*, "or disseized of his freehold, liberties or privi-"leges, or outlawed, or exiled, or in any manner "destroyed, or deprived of life, liberty, or pro-"perty, but by the judgment of his peers, or by "the law of the land."—*Declaration of Rights of the People of Maryland, Art. 21.*

Notice to Correspondents.

In consequence of the multitude of anonymous communications received every day, it is found necessary to remind correspondents, that in no case can any notice be taken of any communication, unless accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith.

THE SOUTH is published every afternoon, after the arrival of the mails, and consequently contains all the latest news by mail and telegraph, up to the hour of publication, and fully twelve hours in advance of the morning papers.

FOR SALE by all the principal newsmen in this city and throughout the South. Persons desiring Agencies for the sale or distribution of the Paper in any particular Town or neighborhood, will apply to the Publisher.

ORDERS for the Paper will be received at the Office of Publication, No. 74 Baltimore street. If sent by mail, must be accompanied by the cash.

THE usual discount in favor of Newsmen and Agents. Postmasters and others forming Clubs of Ten will be furnished with one Copy *gratis*, or *ten* copies will be sent to one address, upon receipt of the subscription price for *nine*, for the time ordered.

Not content with "domiciliary visits," in search of powder and arms, to the homes of the living, it seems that last night the soldiers visited on a similar errand the houses of the dead. The grave itself is no barrier to their insolence.

THE NEWS.

The offensive movement on the part of the Administration, the necessity of which, in a political point of view, we pointed out yesterday, has actually been made. "Something" has been done. By telegraph from Washington, and, (which we think a much more reliable source of information,) by the report of intelligent gentlemen who arrived here this morning, we learn that large bodies of troops have left the Capital within the past twenty-four hours—some crossing the river to occupy Alexandria, Arlington Heights, and (as is supposed) Fairfax Court House, and the junction of the Manassas Gap with the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, and others going down the river, but whether destined for Acquia Creek, York River, the Rappahannock, or to assist in the attack upon Sewall's Point, is of course only matter of conjecture. Our own surmise is—a view which we think is sustained by the latest news from Norfolk and Chambersburg—that the Administration design making a simultaneous attack to-day upon several distinct points. The Virginia and Confederate forces to the number of 75,000 or 100,000 men, for greater convenience of subsistence, and of transportation to any particular point where their services might be needed—have been distributed at various places along the principal lines of railway—a fact which while it facilitates their concentration in case of an attack upon a *single* point, has doubtless suggested to the Administration the necessity of making a simultaneous attack upon *more than one*. As the largest bodies of Confederate troops are at Norfolk, Richmond, Lynchburg, Charlottesville, Staunton, Harper's Ferry, Culpeper Court-House and Fredericksburg, the most likely points of attack would be Sewall's Point, Acquia Creek, Alexandria and Harper's Ferry. If in addition to landing a body of troops at Acquia Creek, the ascent of the Rappahannock should also be attempted, Gen. Ruggles in command at Fredericksburg would have quite enough on his hands, without giving his attention to any other quarter. Should another landing be made at York River, the retention of a strong body of troops for the defense of Richmond would also be necessary. For an attack upon Harper's Ferry, in addition to any movement that might be made from Washington up the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, troops would undoubtedly be sent from Pennsylvania by way of Chambersburg, and from Ohio, by way of Wheeling. Whether the plan of the administration is as comprehensive as is here supposed, the news of the next few days will disclose. Certainly our latest advices from Fortress Monroe indicate the probability of an early engagement in that quarter, while we have actual intelligence of the occupation of Alexandria.

The death of Colonel Ellsworth, on account of his personal intimacy with the President, and the *eclat* with which he left New York with his regiment of Zouaves, will doubtless create an impression at the North altogether out of proportion to his merits as a soldier, which have never been tested except in the drill-room, or to any real loss which the Government has sustained. The effect, moreover, upon the nerves of Lincoln's newly-made Colonels and Generals, is likely to be most damaging. These men, for the most part politicians, have sought and accepted commissions solely with an eye to future political preferment and Congressional elections, and without an idea of exposing themselves to the danger of death and wounds, which in their ignorance of war and all that pertains to it, they have doubtless imagined to be the lot of the common soldier only. Ellsworth's death may undeceive them, and if so, we expect to hear of frequent accidents from the discharge of firearms in their own hands, or by being thrown from their horses, among the general and staff officers of Lincoln's army. People are beginning to remember that in the Revolution the mortality was particularly great among the British officers, the patriots usually selecting an *epaulette* in preference to any other mark. It is to be observed that among the regiments sent to Virginia is the famous "Seventh"—this within three days of the expiration of their term of service!

Some of our gaolers—who do not appear to understand the difference between visiting Baltimore as private citizens, upon their own business or pleasure, and coming here as soldiers, with arms in their hands, to occupy and "if necessary," destroy the city—complain bitterly of the social slights they have experienced at the hands of some whose hospitality they have been heretofore accustomed to enjoy. They have come to "occupy" Baltimore, just as the Russians "occupy" Warsaw, and the Austrians "occupy" Venice. They have converted the Fort which was built for the defence of our harbor, into one capable of effecting the destruction of the city. The guns which have hitherto been pointed sea-ward to face the foreign invader, they have turned land-ward against the town, so as to be able "in case of ne-"cessity," to demolish our houses, and have even calculated to a nicety the very streets and quarters where their shells will fall. They have taken a survey of our city and its environs, and made a map of its "strategetic" points; these they propose to "occupy" with batteries—to plant their cannon, and pitch their camps, upon every pleasant eminence—no doubtful intimation of their purpose as well as ability to overawe and subdue. They move among our disarmed population with pistols and sabres, and march squads with loaded muskets through the streets, as it to add insult to injury, by the constant reminder of their power and our weakness. They have trampled upon every municipal right and privilege, and without authority or color of law, or even the flimsy pretext of necessity, have seized and appropriated the arms of the city—the property of the corporation. They have vexatiously and illegally arrested citizens without warrant, upon the charge of treason, the highest crime known to the law, and with warrant, upon evidence so slight and frivolous, that they did not dare disclose it for publication, but allowed the prisoners to be discharged without a hearing. And they complain that our people do not invite them into their houses and to their tables—that they are not received at the clubs—that society has turned them the cold shoulder! And there are some among ourselves who re-echo their complaints! Even the correspondent of the New York *Tribune* feels the lash, and complains that "social cutting is the order of the day," and that "the bitterness of the women rebels, especially in "the higher walks of life, has not abated one jot, "but is rather intensified." We do not wonder at it. If the bitterness of subjugation was great at first, ten thousand circumstances of insult and aggravation have helped to increase it; and not the least among these has been the half avowed, half hidden sympathy of some of our own people with these acts of oppression. Besides the actual traitors who stickle at nothing, and who openly declare themselves in favor of any and every measure which Government may adopt, there is always in every large community a class of toadies, of constitutional sycophants, and of men, otherwise sufficiently reputable in their lives and conversation, but who are so far corrupted by habits of luxury and a life of ease, that they are become incapable of any high heroic sentiments, and naturally wonder at the least manifestation of such sentiments in others. These are they, who, when an outraged People, deprived of all other means of resistance, seeks to make the oppressor feel, through social channels, the burden of its indignation and its scorn—raise the cry of "prejudice," "illiberality," "intolerance" and "proscription." They can not see the justice of anything of the sort—nor the occasion for it—nor the use of it. Of course, they cannot; nobody expected them to see it. If they could, they would not be what they are. It is reserved for nobler men and women to see these things, and seeing, to act upon them: and that woman has got the start of man, in the culture and display of these "defensive passions" of human nature, is only because woman, uncorrupted by the pursuit of trade and the practice of money-getting, is less selfish and less cowardly than man—more tenacious of principle, and less influenced by interest—seldom a toady, and never a traitor.

New York papers announce that a Scotch Regiment (79th Highlanders) will take its departure from that city on Monday for Fortress Monroe. Already almost every nationality in Europe has its representatives among the corps enrolled for the subjugation of the South. The proportion of Germans and Irishmen in all the regiments that have passed through this city, has already been noticed. In addition to whole regiments of Germans, the 5th and 28th, and the 69th Irish (Colonel Corcoran's), almost every company has a sprinkling of these "exiles of freedom," these "fugitives from oppression." The Poles, forgetful of the memory of Kosciusko and Pulaski, and the Hungarians and Italians, oblivious of the wrongs which their own countrymen have suffered, have prostituted the honored name of Garibaldi, by its appropriation to a legion organized in the cause of oppression. The British residents of New York city have formed a corps and adopted the motto—"We come to redeem our fathers," meaning that they go to enslave our brethren and to impose a yoke upon the Southern States more ignominious than that which England sought to fasten upon the Colonies. It is even stated, that a number of English officers from Canada, on furlough and on half-pay, have volunteered their services to shoot American citizens as they shoot grouse on Scotch moors, or buffalo on Western prairies, and New York journals urge the Government to "avail itself of the skill and experience" of these amateur man-killers. Are not facts like these enough to make every American pause and ponder, and cause every naturalized citizen to blush for shame, as he reflects upon the base return which his countrymen are making for the protection of our laws and the defence which the South afforded when the tide of Nativism and Protestant intolerance threatened to overflow the land? When Massachusetts sent Legislative Committees into convents, and conceded to the negro privileges which she denied to the naturalized foreigner, the first decided check which Know-Nothingism received, was in the State of Virginia, and at the hands of Henry A. Wise! In significant contrast with the facts to which we have called attention, we publish elsewhere a recent correspondence between the same Henry A. Wise and an Irish citizen of Richmond.

MARYLAND IN 1775.

"The people of Maryland, happier than that of Pennsylvania, escaped intestine dissensions and insured unanimity, by passing over the proprietary government, and intrusting the conduct of resistance to a series of conventions. The prudent, the slow, the hesitating were allowed an influence; but from the first, all parties acquiesced in the principle of deriving all power from the people; and the province, however its movement was sometimes retarded, proceeded courageously in an unbroken line. In November, 1774, it adhered to the association, adopted in the general Congress, and its patriotism was confirmed by the austerity of religious zeal. At an adjourned session in December, the Maryland convention, fifty-five members being present from sixteen counties, resolved unanimously to resist to the utmost of their power, taxation by Parliament, or the enforcement of the penal acts against Massachusetts. To this end they voted with equal unanimity a well regulated militia, to be composed of all the freemen of the colony, between fifteen and sixty. They resolved also, that all former difficulties about religion or politics from henceforth should cease, and be forever buried in oblivion; and the benign aurora of the coming republic lighted the Catholic to the recovery of his rightful political equality in the land which a Catholic proprietary had set apart for religious freedom. Charles Carroll of Carrollton, who, under the British government, had not had so much as a vote at the polls, was placed unanimously on the committee of correspondence.

"It was throughout the continent a subject of regret that the zeal of Dulany had grown cool. As he kept silent, the foremost man in Maryland was Samuel Chase, like Dulany a lawyer; less circumspect and less careful of appearances; but strong, downright, brave and persevering; capable of error from rashness or self-will, but not capable of faltering in the cause which he approved. Vehement even to a fault, he did not always speak softly or shun coarse invective; but his undaunted spirit, his fierce independence of mind, his unbending energy, his scorn of semblance without substance, of servility, of plausible hypocrisy that glossed servility over, his eloquence, which sprung from his heart and expressed the vigor of his nature, his uncompromising energy, justly won for him the confidence of Maryland."—*Bancroft's U. S., vol. 8, p. 75-7.*

The Latest from Old Point.

The steamer *Georgeanna*, of the Bay Line, reached her wharf about five o'clock this morning, having made a very quick run up the Bay. There had been no attack, as anticipated, made on Sewall's Point up to 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon, but from the activity prevailing among the forces at Old Point when the boat left, some movement seemed to be on foot. The Confederate batteries on Elizabeth river are very strong, and the fleet cannot possibly force its way up to Norfolk. Gen. Butler may attempt the capture of Norfolk by a land attack, but there are large forces on hand to meet him, which can, in a short time, be largely reinforced.

We learn from a gentleman who came up in the *Georgeanna*, that about 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon a detachment of some four or five hundred men started from Old Point going towards Hampton, a distance of two miles, and that soon afterwards and just as the boat was leaving the wharf, a dense smoke was seen to rise in the direction of the village. It was thought that the bridge across Mill Creek, connecting Old Point with Hampton, had been burnt, probably by the Virginians, to prevent the Federal forces reaching the town.—General Butler appeared to be "spoiling" for a fight, but as there were no women and children in the vicinity that he could frighten, he had not as yet issued a *pronunciamento* similar to his grandiloquent order of the day at the Relay House, or his proclamation to the "Loyal Baltimoreans."

The Virginians had completed a floating battery, and on Thursday it was placed on the flats at Craney Island, when its guns were tried. It was about eight miles from the point where the Georgeanna lay, but was easily seen through a glass.

At Lynnhaven the Virginians are said to have strong fortifications, and at Loudoun bridge there is a strong work of defense thrown up and fully armed. Thus all the approaches to Norfolk over the peninsula from Cape Henry are fortified, and there are said to be ten thousand men to guard the various approaches to Norfolk.

The nearest mode of approach to the Gosport Navy Yard is from the Nansemond river, which is said to be thoroughly fortified by batteries of powerful guns.

It was supposed that the vote yesterday upon the secession ordinance in Norfolk and Portsmouth was nearly unanimous in favor of secession.

THE ARMY OF OCCUPATION.

Fruitless Search among the Greenmount Cemetery Tombs for Powder and Arms.

The residents in the vicinity of Greenmount Cemetery were thrown into a state of intense alarm last night, about 9 o'clock, by the sudden appearance in their midst of a body of soldiers, numbering about three hundred. It appears that yesterday morning, two officers, said to belong to the camp at the Relay House, on the Northern Central Railway, were observed reconnoitering about the Cemetery, remaining in the vicinity some two hours. At the hour named, last night, they returned with the troops, and stationing the main body on the hill on the south side of the Cemetery, and posting a guard on the York road, a detachment entered the Cemetery and spent some two or three hours in a fruitless search among the tombs for powder and arms supposed to have been stored there by the city. The guard stationed on the road stopped several wagons passing into and out of the city, but contented themselves with frightening the parties in them. A detachment of the troops visited the McKim house, on Greenmount avenue, and hailing a squad of police in charge of the same, ordered them immediately to leave the premises. Thus they continued to annoy and terrify all persons who came within their reach until midnight, when they left, as is supposed, for their camp.

Federal Camp at Patterson Park.

At three o'clock this morning, the Regiment of Col. Morehead, composed of the *Washington Blues* of Philadelphia, struck their tents in the camp at Locust Point, and crossing over in the Locust Point ferry boat, marched out to Patterson Park, where their tents were again pitched, on the hill to the north of the Park, fronting the Park house. The site chosen for their new camp is well adapted for the comfort and convenience of the soldiers, but our citizens will find that the change will not tend much to their advantage, as the grass and trees in the Park already show the effects of rough treatment by the troops and the crowd attracted to the spot. The new camp is already surrounded with the usual refreshment booths and wagons.

Col. Lyles' regiment of *Philadelphia National Guards* is still in camp at Locust Point, not yet having received orders to go into Fort McHenry, as stated.

Virginia Election.

The Associated Press despatches furnish a few details of the vote on the Secession ordinance in Virginia, yesterday. The three or four counties heard from are in the north-western portion of the State where the majority against secession is as it was expected to be, quite large. The enterprising correspondents of the association have not been able to obtain returns from any other section of the State, but we learn reliably that nearly three-fourths of the State has voted for Secession

The Postal System of the Southern Confederacy.

The postal problem is to be very easily solved at the South. The old organization is to remain. It is simply to change masters. The same contracts are to be carried out to their expiration.—The same routes and offices are to remain. The same postmasters and mistresses are to continue to officiate. They are to remain during good behavior. Rotation is repudiated and discarded.—It is like the marriage of a bachelor with a rich widow. He has but to send for his trunk and hang up his hat; he is forthwith at home, furniture complete from top to bottom, larder well stored, servants in abundance, and trained to his hand. The rates of postage are to be nearly doubled: which is proper. The Southern people will not grumble at the increased charge. It is only in densely populated communities that very low rates will support the system. In agricultural regions, especially in planting regions, where large areas are required for the crops, higher rates of postage are required, and can be afforded by the people; fewer letters are written and the writers more able to pay the tax.—*Richmond Examiner.*

THE WAR COMMENCED.

ADVANCE OF FEDERAL TROOPS ON VIRGINIA

10,000 Troops in Fairfax County.

ALEXANDRIA IN POSSESSION OF THE GOVERNMENT.

COL. ELLSWORTH KILLED.

Great Excitement in Washington City.

Particulars of the Movements of Federal Troops.

WASHINGTON, May 24, 8 o'clock A. M.—Within the past twenty-hours there have been stirring events in this vicinty, accompanied by most important military movements. It was suspected yesterday that orders had been given for the advance of troops into Virginia, but these being necessarily of a secret character, the exact truth could not therefore at that time be reliably ascertained. The 2d, 12th, 7th, and 71st regiments, the New Jersey and Michigan brigade, and the Ellsworth Zouaves, were, so far as it is at present ascertained, constituted the forces which advanced upon Virginia during the night. The Washington City National Rifles, Capt. Smead, at about ten o'clock last night passed over the Long Bridge, which is about one mile in length, and unites Washington with the Virginia shore, and remained at the latter terminus until between 1 and 2 o'clock this morning, acting as an advance guard.

These were followed by other District companies, acting in a similar capacity. Subsequently the New York Second and the Twelfth Regiment, and the Michigan and New Jersey brigades crossed the bridge, the Virginia pickets having previously been driven in by the advance guard.

At 1 o'clock the regiments took the road leading to Fairfax Court-House, about 20 miles from Washington, whilst another one, the New Jersey, stopped at the Forks, a mile from the Long Bridge, to await orders. An advance into Virginia was also made from another point, namely, at the Potomac Aquaduct at Georgetown. The Seventh New York Regiment were among these troops, and after several hours' march they occupied a point between the bridge and the Columbia Spring, on the line of the Washington and Alexandria railroad.

It is understood that orders were issued yesterday for two regiments to occupy Alexandria, and it is stated at this time that Ellsworth's Zouaves crossed over in boats, whilst it is equally certain that preparations were made to seize Arlington Heights which overlook and surround Washington, and there is little, if any doubt, that all these orders have been executed. It was at least 2 o'clock this morning before all the troops reached their place of destination. The troops which did not repair to Alexandria and Arlington were required to guard important intermediate points between Washington and Alexandria. The District of Columbia military did not return to Washington until half-past 6 o'clock this morning. From six to ten thousand troops were sent over into Virginia. At an early hour this morning firing was heard, occasioned by the driving in of the picket guard. Washington is all excitement this morning, owing to these proceedings. Further events are looked for with intense interest.

WASHINGTON, May 24th, 9 A. M.—The New York Zouaves, the 13th, 69th and New Jersey regiments hold Alexandria, while Arlington heights are seized by several other regiments. The entrance into Alexander was attended by a *striking* event, which will doubtless be followed by others of the same sort. Col. Ellsworth, who had hauled down the secession flag over the Marshall House, was soon after shot by a concealed foe. His dead body has been brought to the Washington Navy Yard.

Accounts from Alexandria are somewhat confused, but there is no doubt of the fact that a man named Jackson, who shot Ellsworth, was immediately put to death. Some say by both the bullet and the bayonet.

When the Federal troops reached Alexandria the Virginia troops, who numbered about 150, fired upon them and retreated.

It seems to be true that a body of Federal troops has advanced to Fairfax Court House, to take possession of the Orange and Manassas Gap Railroad, with the view of interrupting the advance of Virginia troops towards Alexandria from Richmond and other points.

WASHINGTON—11 A. M.—It is reported that as the Virginia troops retreated from Alexandria one of them was killed by a return shot from the Federal troops. Among the forces sent over to Virginia were two batteries and two companies of artillery. Numerous wagons with spades, picks and other entrenching tools, also passed into that State. The news of the death of Colonel Ellsworth was not generally known throughout Washington until toward 10 o'clock. The excitement consequent upon the announcement was intense.

WASHINGTON—1 o'clock, P. M.—Up to this hour we have nothing of particular note from Virginia in reference to the movements of the Federal troops. Numerous wagons with camp equipage, etc., are passing through the streets going towards Virginia.

[It will be recollected that Hon. Wm. C. Rives, in a speech recently delivered at Atlanta, Ga., stated that Alexandria had been left open for the ingress of Federal troops, but that they would soon after occupancy fall into a trap.]

Fatal Overthrow of Law.

Wherever the Federal jurisdiction is exclusive, there all civil authority has been set at defiance, and martial law established in its stead. Will not the people of the North who are not yet blinded by sectional hate, learn that their own liberties are in danger? A Key West correspondent of the New York *Journal of Commerce* thus announces the decrees of the military commander at Key West. The letter is dated the 16th:

Major French yesterday issued an order in relation to the taxes due by the citizens of the State. The following is the order:—"No taxes, assessments or other levies will be laid on or collected from the citizens of the United States by any person or persons acting under the authority of the State of Florida." McQueen McIntosh, of the Confederate States, and appointed to the position of Judge of this District, arrived here a few days since, and finding the Island in the quiet possession of the United States, has concluded best to leave to-day. Himself, and the District Attorney, T. L. Tatum, sail for Tampa this evening. Judge Marvin, of the U. S. Court, having organized his Court, is ready to transact any business that may be brought before him. He can at twenty-four hours' notice, empanel a jury for an extra session at any time in the year. Such is the law. Matters of city police or local infraction of the laws are not under his cognizance, but are for Major French to act upon.

Another Attack on Sewall's Point.

The Norfolk *Herald* of Wednesday, says:

The United States steamer *Monticello*, no doubt by way of proving that she was not so badly crippled during the engagement at Sewall's Point, on Sunday last, as the newspapers reported her to be, came up to the scratch again yesterday morning, after thirty-six hours respite, and opened upon the battery as before. Our gallant boys in the works, were waiting to give her a warm reception, and returned her fire so hotly that she was glad to draw off after firing some three or four shots. Our informant, who was on the beach between Bonsh's Bluff and the Point, saw one of the shots from the fort strike the steamer in her upper works, near the smoke stack. As soon as the shot struck, she turned tail and left, receiving a "fire in the rear" from the battery as she was making off. The booming of heavy guns in the afternoon, was only a repetition of the same game. The firing was witnessed at Craney Island, but the result could not be ascertained.

Virginia Patriotism.

The Fredericksburg, Va., *News* says:—

We understand that there are four widow ladies in Culpeper who have *nineteen* sons in the army of the Confederate States.

DIABOLICAL.—It is now ascertained beyond question that the firing of the houses of Bishops Polk and Elliott, at Suwannee, Tennessee, was the act of Abolition incendiaries.

——The price of spirits of turpentine has advanced to an extraordinary figure in England, in consequence of the position of North Carolina towards the Government in Washington and the Southern Confederacy. That State furnishes the greater portion of this article consumed in Europe.

——The 1st Regiment of Virginia Volunteers at Norfolk voted unanimously for Secession.

——Com. Mayo, of this State, who recently resigned his position in the U. S. Navy is dead.

The Seizure of the Telegraph Despatches.

The arbitrary stretch of power on the part of the President, in seizing upon the telegraphic correspondence of the country, is provoking most unfavorable comment at the North, and it is evident that a reaction in public sentiment there is begining to take place. The New York *Journal of Commerce* of yesterday says:—

"The action of the President, in laying hands on the entire telegraphic correspondence of the country for a year past, is attracting attention. It is not unusual for the authorities, when the ends of justice demand it, to seize upon particular letters written by or addressed to suspected individuals, and to make use of their contents to further the purposes of justice; but we believe this is the first promulgation of the doctrine that in order to institute a general hunt for treason, all the private correspondence of the people may be violated. If telegraphic messages may be thus ransacked, we see no reason why all the letters passing through the post office, or the millions of letters filed away in the private vaults, pigeon holes or drawers in the country, may not be overhauled in the same manner. We have no objection to the search for treasonable correspondence, whenever and wherever it is supposed to exist, but we think there are some privileges which the citizens of this country do or ought to possess, without being subject to the caprice or tyranny of the Government. If the immunity from espionage of the private correspondence of persons not charged with or suspected of crime is not one of them, then it would be difficult to point out any rights which may not be violated or trampled under foot at the bidding of the Executive. In this, as in many other of his acts, the President has clearly usurped authority not conferred upon him by the Constitution or the laws.

The Albany *Atlas and Argus*, copying the first announcement of the raid upon the telegraphic offices from the *Tribune*, indulges in the following comments:

"What is this which the President has done? Simply this: by his own fiat, and not only without color of law, but against all law, he has seized upon all the original dispatches which private individuals have, during the last year, deposited in the telegraph offices of the principal cities for transmission to their correspondents. These dispatches are confidential, and it is a criminal offense for a telegraph operator to divulge them. But the President at one fell swoop takes possession of them all, violates their confidential character, and exposes to the eyes of his agents all the private correspondence of the country, whether of a business, political, or social character.

"The next step may be, to seize all the letters in the post offices and open and read them. This would be quite as justifiable as the seizure of telegraphic dispatches. The public mind of England was startled a few years ago by the discovery that the post office had been violated in a few instances by the government, and suspected letters had been opened to obtain information. A storm of indignation was poured upon the head of the Minister who sanctioned this violation of private correspondence. If the President has done what the *Tribune* above alleges—and we repeat, we find no other authority for the statement—we do not hesitate to denounce the act as a high-handed outrage, unexampled under a free government, and only congenial to a despotism."

Virginia and the Southern Confederacy—"for Naturalized and Religious Rights."

The following correspondence explains itself:

RICHMOND, May 7, 1861.

HON. HENRY A. WISE:

Dear Sir—You were, in 1855, the candidate of that most gallant Southern party that defeated the most unholy combination on record against the rights, the religion and the character of every foreigner; but particularly was war waged on Irishmen, and Irish Catholics. I am an Irishman. My position then was with you and your party, against Know-Nothingism. I wish you to say whether the Virginians stand now firmly by religious liberty and the rights of adopted citizens, as they did in 1855; and whether the Confederate States of America will not, through evil and good report, stand firmly by those principles, thus guaranteeing to all citizens of foreign birth, every right according to the Constitution and laws we now possess. Respectfully, yours,

MARK DOWNEY.

ROLLESTON, NEAR NORFOLK, VA.,
May 15, 1861.

TO MARK DOWNEY, Esq:

Dear Sir:—Yours of the 7th of May found me quite ill, and I am now barely able to reply to it in the briefest possible way.

You say rightly, that the war of 1855, begun by Northern fanatics, was one of unmitigated hostility to the rights of naturalized citizens, and to the religion, especially, of Catholics. Virginia was the bulwark of your defence, and it is the glory of my life that, in the Providence of God, I was made the instrument of crushing the tyranny of test oaths and intolerance, operating in the horrid gloom of the dark lantern of secrecy. Now Virginia and the Southern States are separated, and I hope forever, from the land of *isms*. You ask me "Whether Virginia stands now firmly by religious liberty, and the rights of adopted citizens, as they did in 1855, and whether the Confederate States of America will not, through evil and good report, stand firmly by those principles which guarantee to all citizens of foreign birth every right according to the Constitution and laws you now possess?" My answer is emphatic, that I am confident the host in Virginia who elected me Governor of Virginia in 1855, are all true and firm as ever, when they withstood your Northern enemies in the memorable campaign of that year; many opposed to us then are now friends, and nearly all of the false men in Virginia now, who side with Northern aggression, were then Know-Nothings—witness, Carlile, Jackson, Willey and others, of Northwestern Virginia, now arrayed against us. The Southern States all were, in 1855, united with Virginia for naturalized and religious rights, and they could not command my sympathies and my services as they now do, if I was not sure of their most sacred respect for these and all other individual rights which belong to humanity, as God intended it to exist in this world. I will, with my head and my heart, be responsible to every naturalized citizen, and to every devotee of true and undefiled religion, such as acknowledge the humanities of civilization, and especially, all acknowledging Christ crucified, for equality, protection and freedom, under the benign Constitution and laws of the Confederate States of America.

With assurances of my special personal and political regard, I am very truly and faithfully yours.

HENRY A. WISE.

A Sharp Letter.

The New York *Observer*, a hypocritical religious sheet, has been dunning its Southern subscribers for *advance* subscriptions, and has provoked the following reply from one of its late patrons:

CHRISTIANSBURG, VA., May 11, 1862.

Messrs. Sidney E. Morse & Co:

GENTLEMEN: I am in receipt of your printed note informing me that I owe you $2.40, which you ask me to remit to you. Why this call just at this time upon all your Southern subscribers? I presume it is because you anticipate an immediate suspension of all intercourse between the North and the South. In that event what do you propose to do where persons who have, as no doubt, thousands in the South have done, paid for the *Observer*? Do you propose to refund such their money? Not knowing what your morality on the subject may be, I have taken the liberty to do for you what you ought to do yourself. I have refunded to such of your subscribers the amount I owed you. You will find inclosed the receipt of Rev. James Greer for $1.66 and of Dr. D. Wade for 74 cents, making $2.40, which just squares our accounts.

But what surprises me is, you say "If you desire the paper for another year please send also $2.50, in addition to the amount now due or the paper will be discontinued." Surely there is not a man in all the South, whose heart is not steeped in infamy who can read a paper professing to be Christian and yet countenance the hellish cry of fire and sword, plunder and rape against all the South, because they are unwilling to be tyranized over by fanatical madmen of the North. What is your object in asking the advance of $2.50, for your paper for another year, when you know that it cannot be sent to the subscriber South. Is it intended as a small speculation on the ignorant and unsuspecting? If your object is spoil, why not join Billy Wilson or some other portion of the northern army, and share in the division of our lands and negroes which is promised your soldiers as their reward.

Please acknowledge the receipt of $2.40. I enclose you a stamp to pay postage.

I need hardly say I do not desire your paper for another year. Yours, &c.,

ELI PHLEGAR.

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IRVING COLLEGE, MANCHESTER, CARROLL COUNTY, MD.—The S[illegible] will commence on THUR[illegible] as heretofore announced [illegible] will be made. Patron[illegible] children presented pro[illegible]
m 13 t23