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The South.

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The South.

The Battle of Bull Run and the Volunteer System.—What does the battle of Bull Run indicate as to the probable efficiency of our Volunteers? That is a question which Volunteers have no doubt been asking themselves for some days past with rather equivocal sensations. But the answer is simple. Nothing that is American furnishes any real indications as to anything that is English. The Americans are of our blood, and, as far as energy and enterprise and genuine enthusiasm for moral objects are concerned, we may be proud to own the connexion; but in some most essential respects they have become a different people. The nature of their climate has probably done something to destroy the coolness and steadiness of their temperament—to make them more irritable, more nervous, and more susceptible of sudden impulses and emotions of all kinds, from vehement enthusiasm to panic fear. Their excessive indulgence in stimulants aggravates the effects of climate, and contributes to render their life one of perpetual excitement, and to bring them—as, compared with Englishmen, most Americans are brought—to early graves. Mere physical causes, therefore, would tell powerfully against them on any occasion which was very trying to the nervous system. But political and social causes have probably told far more. It is evident that one of the main sources of a failure so disgraceful to the Anglo-Saxon race has been the incurable habit of insubordination, transferred from the life of the citizen to that of the soldier. England is a land of lawful authority. America is a land where lawful authority can hardly be said to exist. No one dares to exercise it either in the family or in the State. Everybody and every institution in which it could reside has been ground to powder by the levelling jealousy of a democracy run mad. The idea that it is necessary and that it is ennobling to a freeman to render obedience to superiors for the good of the commonwealth has ceased to enter the mind of any unit of the sovereign people of the United States. The last traditions of this English sentiment died out with the generation which succeeded Washington. This characteristic is in itself enough to account for twenty such catastrophes as that of Bull Run; and the Northerners will have paid a very moderate price for an invaluable lesson if they can learn to reason back from the palpable consequences of a military anarchy to the consequences, less palpable but not less disastrous, of an anarchy in their civil affairs.

There are other circumstances peculiar to the Americans, and quite independent of the Volunteer or any other military system, which help to account for this "whipping." The Americans have never, like the English, known reverses, or been taught by bitter experience to brace themselves manfully for an ardous struggle. The whole course of their brief history has been one unbroken tide of pumpkin-pie prosperity, while their orators and journalists have labored too successfully to fill them as full of self-conceit and overweening confidence in their powers of "chawing up" the whole world as the balloon which they brought into the field the other day was full of gas. Now, like that balloon when it stuck in the trees, they have suddenly come into contact with hard realities; and the natural consequence is a collapse as enormous as the previous inflation. To meet this collapse they had not, in at all an equal degree with ourselves, the sustaining influences which hold an Englishmen in extremity to the post of duty. There is among the Americans a tyranny of opinion of a certain kind from which we have the happiness to be comparatively free. But, on the other hand, they are comparatively destitute of that strong sentiment of social responsibility which would make every Englishman, and every English gentleman especially, fight with the penalty of infamy hanging like a halter round his neck. American society is not so organized as to furnish those compact little circles and communities in which social honor and social dishonor have their seat. It is not so much a society, properly speaking, as a vast aggregate of men—a sand-bank of humanity—the genius of which touch, but do not cohere or exercise any mutual pressure, though the whole is liable to drift violently before the gusts of popular opinion. An Englishman who had behaved as the mass of the Americans appear to have behaved at Bull Run, could scarcely have shown his face in his town or village, among his country neighbors, or in his club, for the rest of his days. The American runaways, on the contrary, are received with popular ovations as the distinguished recipients of the most tremendous "whipping" ever experienced on that Continent—a sensation which, to minds disordered by a prurient love of stimulants, appears to be almost as pungent and agreeable as the sensation of victory. But what shall we say of the Pennsylvania regiments which marched away from the field while the cannon were sounding? There is an incident which at once cuts off by an enormous gulf, the case of the Americans from our own, and forbids us to draw any discouraging conclusions. Spain is said to be the land where two and two make five. America is the land where citizens called out to defend their country, decamp because "their time is up," in the middle of a battle. In regard to both countries ordinary reasonings are at a fault.

Still we should be sorry not to improve the occasion by drawing any moral which it may furnish for the instruction of our new national force. First of all, we see the absolute necessity of regular attention to drill. If men mean to be soldiers, they must make up their minds to undergo a soldier's work; and no drill can be too high to ensure even tolerable promptness and precision amidst the confusion and excitement of a field of battle. Secondly—what is even of more importance—we see the absolute necessity of highly trained officers thoroughly possessing the confidence of their soldiers. A man who has other employment may well find leisure to make himself a very fair private, but he can scarcely find leisure to make himself a good officer—an officer fit to be trusted by his regiment on a field of battle, and really on a level with the advancing science of what is very fast becoming a highly scientific profession.—The English Volunteers, indeed, showed from the beginning far better sense than the Americans show in the selection of their officers. They did not take stump orators. They took all the old soldiers they could get, and, when they could not get old soldiers, they took men whose social position had given them some habits of command, and who had the highest social pledges to offer for their good behaviour before an enemy. There is little reason to fear that any officer of an English Volunteer Corps will ever ride up to his men and tell them that they are "licked into a cocked hat." But this is not a matter to be left in the slightest degree to chance—it is the vital point of the Volunteer system. Macaulay, in his posthumous volume, has bequeathed to us a long tirade against militia and volunteers and in favour of standing armies. As usual, he exaggerates all the facts on one side and leaves out all those on the other. Among the facts on which he mainly relies is the defeat of the Roman militia by the regular army of Hannibal. But what was it that really led to the disasters of Thrasymene and Cannæ? It was not the inferiority of the troops, but the inexperience, inefficiency, and presumption of citizen commanders.—The very same troops under better commanders were, at the very same time, beating another part of Hannibal's army in Spain; and no sooner had Flaminius and Varro been replaced by competent generals, and those generals retained for a reasonable time in their command, than the tide of victory turned against Hannibal's regulars and in favour of the "three months' men" of Rome. No one, therefore, need be deterred from becoming a volunteer, nor need any volunteer feel uncomfortable in uniform, in consequence of what has occurred. But all volunteers may lay to heart the two great lessons which they have been taught at the expense of their cousins—strict drill and trustworthy officers. The third great lesson which this colossal smash preaches—that of subordination—is happily not so much required here.—*London Saturday Review, Aug. 17.*

America.—Contrary to expectation, the defeat of the Northern Americans for the first time opens a prospect of the termination of the war. Every additional account of the battle represents in more striking detail the astonishing cowardice of the officers and men; and the ingenious journalists of New York contrive to exaggerate the actual disgrace, by diminishing the losses which might in some degree have explained and excused the rout. They probably scarcely wish to be believed when they assert that their own numbers amounted only to 20,000 against 90,000 Confederates. As the advance from Washington was immediately ordered by General Scott, it would seem to follow that the first soldier in America was no better than an imbecile or a lunatic. On the very day of the battle, however, the same public instructors reckoned their army at 55,000, and Mr. Jefferson Davis states that the Confederates brought only 15,000 into action. After all, the local historians furnish in their special narratives sufficient contradictions of their general statements. Hereafter, they may perhaps even repudiate the fabulous exploit of those fierce Fire Zouaves who, according to Mr. Russell, were the first to run away. The warriors who cut an imaginary regiment of cavalry into pieces with their bowie-knives can scarcely expect to retain, in the midst of jealous comrades, the apocryphal honors which they have so boldly awarded themselves.

The oddest illustration of American character consists in the total absence of shame with which the misconduct of the army is contemplated and recorded. The runaways, and the regiments who deserted the field on the eve of the battle, are welcomed to their homes with the same noisy demonstrations which celebrated their departure for the field of glory three months before. The officers themselves boast, in the dialect of the country, that they were "thoroughly whipped," and the Commander-in-Chief informs the editor of the New York *Times* that he had always disapproved the plan of campaign which has ended in the anticipated disaster. It seems that General Scott proposed to wait for the autumn, and then, remaining on the defensive towards Virginia, to advance southward by the valley of the Mississippi. The President and Cabinet can scarcely be blamed for overruling a plan which, while it seems in itself not easy of accomplishment, would assuredly never have been attempted; for if hostilities had not been commenced as soon as an army was collected, they would never have taken place at all. The irritation of the North, though by no means unprovoked, was, and remains, altogether purposeless. Nothing can be more improbable than that the popular caprice, after veering round on the capture of Fort Sumter, should remain steadily warlike for six months in default of fresh excitement. Victory stimulates the hope of ultimate success, and disaster generally causes the desire of vengeance; but the American Government would never have been allowed to begin the war, if time had been, in the first instance, allowed for sober reflection. The check which has been suffered at the outset of the campaign seems not unlikely to produce a similar effect. As the defeat has caused little indignation, the abandonment of the proposed advance on Richmond will afford heated imaginations an opportunity of cooling. The wild suggestions of Republican newspapers, while they indicate the helplessness of the warlike agitators, can scarcely fail to accelerate the reaction which already begins to display itself.—One writer proposes to kill or banish all traitors, or, in other words, all inhabitants of the Southern States—others affect to discover that the dispute can only be settled by the abolition of slavery. The hope of terminating the war by military operations in a single campaign, is, with good reason, unanimously repudiated or forgotten. Excited fancies at Washington discern 175,000 formidable troops in Virginia; and as the Confederate Government has probably no intention of attacking the capital, the ultimate escape from a fancied danger will be regarded as a sufficient triumph.

In the meantime, the enormous expenses continue without prospect of reduction. The battle of Manassas represents a necessary outlay, for some months to come, of hundreds of thousands for every successive day. The repugnance of the Western States to taxation adds to the price which must be bid for loans; and the Secretary of the Treasury, who is paying his way by two months' bills, will be constantly obliged to renew on more and more disadvantageous terms. The bankers of the Atlantic cities, will offer no facilities for a war which, in common with the commercial community, they disapprove; and Mr. Chase must already have ascertained that inevitable repudiation forms a conclusive objection to the advance of money by European capitalists.

At the first outbreak of the war, Northern politicians proved with superfluous clearness of demonstration that secession was inconsistent with the original terms of union. Dispassionate foreigners, admitting the force of the legal deduction, remarked that the disruption of the Union was neither more nor less irregular than the original rebellion against the Crown of England. As ten or eleven States, calling themselves sovereign, had in fact set up an independent Government, it seemed immaterial whether their new existence as a nation originated in a revolution or in a plausible interpretation of the Constitutional Act. The North deserved respect for arming in support of its legal claims, but it was evident that the result of the contest would depend upon military resources and contingencies, and not on the conclusions of any verbal controversy. The material probabilities of success on either side have scarcely been changed, but prudent Federalists are beginning to discover that bystanders in Europe understood more clearly than themselves the difficulty or impossibility of their enterprise. In theory, the position of the Seceding States is improved by their duration as an independent Confederacy. Mr. Lincoln has, perhaps without fault of his own, violated the law and the Constitution more undeniably than Mr. Jefferson Davis. Mr. Breckinridge received no answer to the argument by which he proved in the Senate that the President had utterly disregarded all constitutional restrictions in his enforcement of martial law. The approval of his acts by the Congress is a second excess of authority: nor will the joint resolution of indemnity be pleadable in bar of the impeachment which will not improbably furnish a supplementary excitement as soon as the country is thoroughly tired of the war. The necessity of the case may perhaps justify all the irregularities of the President and of Congress; but South Carolina and Alabama, in their turn, will allege that secession was necessary. The Constitution, as far as it interferes with the success of either party, is superseded by general assent. Two enemies are facing each other with nearly equal rights, and one of them is practically standing on the defensive, while the other proposes to itself an impracticable conquest. In a short time the statesmen of the North will probably be permitted to avow the conviction which they must already feel, that subjugation is utterly impossible.—*London Weekly Review, August 17th*

The Secessionist Journals in the North.—Among the papers found on the rebel agent Grove, who was arrested on Saturday in Brooklyn, were letters to parties in the South, enclosing extracts from the *Day Book, Daily News, Journal of Commerce* and *Brooklyn Eagle*. This shows, not only how extensive are the ramifications of treason among us, but how necessary it is for government to promptly suppress such sheets as give aid and comfort to the rebels. The disloyal sentiments uttered by these journals are made use of at the South to persuade the lukewarm and wavering that the North is divided on the question of prosecuting the war. To permit the circulation of such false and malignant statements would be to destroy the hopes that are entertained of a reaction among the oppressed and deluded populations of the seceded States. It is the duty of the authorities, therefore, to lay the strong hand on all publications following so tratorious and wicked a course.—*Herald.*

The New York Press.—The New York *Herald* of yesterday has the following characteristic remarks upon its cotemporaries of the city press:

Certain of the daily journals of our city are greatly exercised of late, not only about the war, the country and the Cabinet, but also about their own and each other's affairs—seeming to know more of the latter than of the former. In fact, they have good reasons for being thus troubled and disturbed; for never have the fanatical abolition, the puritanically pious and the hypocrital secession journals been in such extreme straits as since the present war opened the eyes and quickened the sensibilities of the American people. Like a thunder storm, this war has rarified the air and has made it much too pure for a great many of our journalists. Political corruption, intrigues, prejudices, passions, malevolence and trickery are dead, and the journals which have lived upon political mire, like literary harpies, are dying with them. Let the dead bury their dead, while we take a glance at the moribund condition of those which have only a leg or so yet in the grave.

The *Tribune* declares that the *World* is losing fifteen hundred dollars every week. The *World* returns the compliment by asserting that the *Tribune* is losing an equal amount; and, becoming statistical in its passion, it even investigates such microscopic matters as the number of the *Tribune's* advertisements, and declares that the *Tribune* will shortly be compelled to curtail its dimensions, as it has already done it news, in order to reduce its expenses. This is all very true of the *Tribune*, but the *World* itself is in an equally bad way. Having lost two hundred thousand dollars in good bankable money, and about a million in second hand piety, sectarian bigotry, Sabbatarian legislation and advice to General Scott not to fight on Sunday, it has at last been sold for a mere song to an india rubber manufacturer, and it will henceforth be the organ of the india rubber merchants, with principles as elastic as the material which it represents, and which has proved its temporary salvation. From all accounts, the stockholders have been as badly sold as the paper, and the *Courier and Enquirer*, which was to have regenerated the *World*, only assisted and hastened its damnation, as the blind lead the blind into the nearest pit. The *Times'* position is scarcely any better, and it seems to be an open question whether the *World* will next swallow the *Times*, in its present reduced form, or *vice versa*. The result will be the same in either case, and, as in the celebrated combat between the Kilkenny cats, nothing will be left to remind us of either party but a few scraps of waste paper, a bad pen or two, half a dozen defaced types and a tattered, dog-eared dictionary. Well, if the worst comes to the worst, the *World* men may turn religious exhorters again, and the "little villain" of the *Times* may head his running brigade, and emulate the illustrious General Price, as he did at Solferino and Bull Run.

As for the secession journals, avowed or disguised, the *Day Book* has fairly given up the ghost, and, as Mantillini threatened, has made a "dem'd dead, disagreeable body" of itself. It will never have a resurrection. The *Daily News* has lost all the fire and spirit which it possessed before the recent suppression of its issues by the United States police, and now indulges in only long, windy, philosophical essays upon peace, war, justice, mercy, human nature, ancient history and the Constitution in general, and lottery policies in particular. The *Journal of Commerce* has reduced its size to one which better represents the smallness of its influence; has changed, or pretended to change, its principles, and has sent one of its leading editors into the quiet, tranquil seclusion of the country—for life. Thus reformed and, like the demoniac of Scripture, new clothed and in its right mind, it is now kneeling at the feet of the Postmaster General and begging him to allow it to go through the United States mails. This request we suppose the Postmaster General will grant, provided that the *Journal's* present good conduct continues, and it does not backslide from its state of grace to its old, wicked courses again.

Prisoners for Exchange.—Fortunately, by the recent victory at Hatteras Inlet, nearly as many prisoners of the enemy have been captured as were taken of our troops at Bull Run. They are now here, and they ought to be exchanged immediately for those at Richmond, man for man, rank for rank. As the rebels have no officer of ours ranking so high as a Commodore, we will have to keep Barron; and as we have caught no member of Congress to give in exchange for Ely, we must let him remain where he is. We should not think of giving Commodore Barron for him, for Ely is only a politician of that school which has brought all the trouble upon us, and he is not worth even a drummer boy. We hope the rebels will hold him fast to the end of the war. He had no business at Bull Run. As for Barron, he deserted his colors, and is as bad as the worst; but he is worth a dozen like Ely, and we will not give him up. Retaining Barron, therefore, the Government ought to exchange all the rest, for they would be gainers by the transaction. The gallant men of the Sixty-ninth and of the other regiments, prisoners at Richmond, are certainly better soldiers than those captured at Hatteras, whose fighting did not reflect much credit upon the Southern flag. Give us our own again. They are of more value to us than Southrons.—*Herald.*

How the North Carolina Forts came to Surrender.—The special correspondent of the New York *Tribune*, who accompanied the late expedition to Hatteras Inlet, confirms the correctness of our views in regard to the causes that *compelled* the surrender of the forts in the following statement:

Fort Hatteras covers an area of between one and two acres, and, like Fort Clark, was laid out by Col. Wm. Beaverhouse Thompson, of Virginia. It is an earthwork, mounting ten Bartlette guns, 32-pounds, five bearing towards the sea. *It was designed to mount eight and ten inch columbiads, but they do not seem to have arrived.*

In the fort was a bombproof, *which proved, however, not to have been proof against our bombs; for a shell struck the top of the work, penetrated through the fore part of sand-covering, and entered the apartment below, next to the magazine, with only a board partition intervening.* It did not explode, however. Had it done so, the loss of life would have been terrible, as more than 300 men had been forced and were closely packed in the subterranean chamber at the time. The shell filled the chamber or vault with dust and smoke, and the men supposing the magazine was on fire, a terrible panic ensued. The men ran out, and nothing that the officers could do, even their threats to bayonet and shoot them, could restrain the men within the fort. Shortly after another shell exploded on the bombproof, *and it becoming evident that so accurate had become the range and firing of the fleet, the magazine would soon be exploded,* the white flag was hastily run up.

When I entered the fort, a considerable length of time before Gen Butler arrived, the interior was a complete wreck, and the wonder was that hundreds were not killed. They said that for the last half hour our shells, almost without exception, fell and exploded inside the fort. Two of the guns were disabled. The tents and shanties were a wreck, and there was scarcely room for the wounded. It is impossible to obtain an accurate account of the killed and wounded, as some are known to have been sent away. Some half-dozen are known to have been killed outright, and about twenty-five were badly wounded. I should have stated that our surgeons volunteered their services at once. *The fate of the fort was a certainty. An hour longer, had they undertaken to hold out, hundreds would inevitably have been killed. This became evident to men and officers. Our fleet had been using five-second fuses, but increased them to ten seconds, which had the effect to plant nearly every shell in the fort. To escape them was no possibility.*

The fort was reinforced last night by four hundred men, who had been encamped on the inner beach above about a week. Commodore Barron also arrived last night. This morning steamers approached with further reinforcements of one thousand men, but so evident had it become that the greater the number the greater the sacrifice, they were signaled away. They could not have approached the landing without being sunk by our shells. As it was, a couple of shots sent by Capt. Johnson, from the neighborhood of Fort Clark, was a sufficient warning.

What a Northern Correspondent Saw from the Windows of the Capitol.—The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia *Inquirer* has been taking a look at the position of the "rebels" near Alexandria, and reports as follows:

This morning, (Monday,) the Rebels again made their appearance at Munson's Hill, but did not run up their rag until about ten o'clock. Their fort is apparently done, so far as the work is concerned in front. It is a mere embankment, from eight to fifteen feet high, the top being level. The highest place is to fill up a ravine. Sentries are stationed all along the parapet at a distance of twenty or thirty feet. Near the centre, is a large flag, the stripes of which are four or five feet wide; it floats in the wind to-day, with its broadside to the National Capital, which is plainly visible from there. There is a group of men in dark clothes visible, who have a large glass on a tripod; they are coming and going continually from that point on the fort, and we would judge their officers were all viewing our capital and our camps. In the review this morning they had no artillery or cavalry; this looking as though they were using them in some other direction. To the left of the fort, or in an easterly direction, a battalion was on parade. A wagon or two, and several cattle, were driven up from the direction of Bailey's Cross Roads, evidently the results of a foraging expedition. To the westerly side are a number of horses picketed to a rope, and at about twelve a regiment came up from the direction of Hall's house, and soon afterwards their baggage wagons followed, and they pitched their tents on the side of the hill in a peach orchard, in plain view with a glass. They are strolling all around the hill lazily, not with any apparent *activity*. They and their flag can be distinctly seen, without any glass from our camps.

The Confederate Naturalization Law.—The act establishing a uniform rule of naturalization for persons enlisted in the Confederate Army, provides that the non-citizens engaged in the army during the war shall be under the protection of the Confederacy, and shall have right to become naturalized and enjoy all the privileges of a citizen, upon taking an oath to support the Constitution of the State of which he is a citizen, and to serve the Confederate States, to maintain the Constitution and Laws thereof, and renounce all foreign allegiance. The oath may be made by all below the rank of colonel before the colonel or commanding officer of the regiment; of all above the rank of colonel before any commissioned officer of a higher rank than colonel. All the oaths are to be sent to the Secretary of War, and by him sent to the District Court of the State whereof said soldier desires to become a citizen.

House-burning on the Potomac.—The following extract from the Washington correspondence of a Northern journal indicates the character of the warfare which is being waged by the Government upon the banks of the Potomac. It is a fair sample of the exploits of Lieutenant Budd, who has earned for himself a reputation in this line among the people living on both sides of the Potomac, only equalled by that of Admiral Cockburn in the Chesapeake, during the war of 1812: "Last Saturday night the *Resolute*, Captain Budd, *burned down a house* and destroyed two scows just below Fort Washington, near the White House."

The Issue of Passes.—The rule is inflexible that passes will not, in any case whatsoever, be issued to persons desiring to go South.—*Wash. Cor. N. Y. Tribune.*

Affairs in and around Washington.—The Washington *Star* of yesterday evening thus explains the heavy firing heard yesterday in Washington, and which gave rise to the rumor of a general engagement. Living within rifled-cannon shot of the Confederate batteries does not appear to be the pleasantest thing in the world:

The heavy booming of cannon heard this morning created quite a buzz of excitement on the street corners and at the Centre Market, from which latter place some of the old lady customers scuttled away to their respective homes with half filled baskets and in a state of considerable trepidation. The first impression was that the firing was in the direction of Munson's Hill, and a good many glances were at once directed in that direction, but all seemed as quiet as a summer morning in that locality, with few Confederate soldiers visible, and those pursuing the even tenor of their way. All seemed equally tranquil at our own camps over the river, with the exception of a little artillery practice by one of our companies near the Potomac, this side of Alexandria. The heavy firing, however, was evidently in the direction of the Chain Bridge, and was soon set down by those posted as practice gunnery also. It was continued for two or three hours.

The correspondent of the *Star* gives the following intelligence of recent movements by the Confederates:

"Alexandria, Sept. 3.—The Disunion troops are erecting fortifications about a mile below Murry Mason's on the land of Levi Deming, (cottage farm, five miles out on the Little River turnpike.) The Southern pickets have possession of the upper part of the farm and the Union pickets the lower part of the farm. In the meantime Mr. Deming has thought it prudent to leave.

Near Lansdley, Fairfax county, Va., Sept. 2.—The Disunion troops continue to scout around this neighborhood in considerable numbers. A servant belonging to Craven Ashford (late a magistrate in your city,) who is hired near here, says that her master was shot, and killed, at Falls Church, on the 27th ultimo. I write you the fact, as he was well known in Washington.

Down the river, the Confederates appear to be making active preparations for breaking up the blockade, or rather establishing a new one of their own. Says *The Star:*

Fifteen or twenty vessels have arrived here within the last twenty four hours, and with one exception the crews report all quiet down the river, having seen no batteries and no men on the Virginia shore. The exception is the schooner *Charles West*, which arrived last night, and reports that while opposite Mathias Point the Captain had a fine glass, through which he was trying to get a peep at the Confederates, when a shell came whizzing over his head and dropped in the water about 400 yards beyond his vessel. He made no further observations in that locality. At Potomac Creek—below Aquia, and above Maryland Point—he noticed some commotion just above the old steamboat landing, at the mouth of the creek. Taking his glass he saw the "men as thick as blackberries," apparently throwing up entrenchments, and twenty or thirty horse and ox teams hauling earth. One team had six oxen attached, and appeared to be drawing a gun.

A Virginia refugee, who was picked up by the *Tigress*, reports that the Confederates are constructing batteries at Cock-pit Point, and opposite Budd's Ferry, about forty miles below Alexandria. He states that the officers in charge of the batteries have orders not to fire on any vessel until all the works are completed.

The results of the barbarous warfare carried on by the Federal Government, of which the house burning exploits of Lieutenant Budd of the *Resolute* may be accepted as a sample, are described as follows:

Officers of the flotilla state that, from Alexandria to the Rappahannock river—a distance of nearly 150 miles—not a soul is visible on the Virginia shore, the whole country bearing the mark of desolation. No horses, cattle, or animals of any kind are seen, and not a particle of smoke to note the habitation of a single individual is ever perceptible. Complete silence and loneliness pervades the whole extent of country, as though it had been devastated by a pestilence.

From the upper Potomac there is no news of moment. A correspondent of *The Star* writes from Conrad's Ferry—under date of Sept. 2:—

Conrad's Ferry, Montgomery county, Md., Sept. 2.—All has been very quiet in this vicinity for some days past.

According to the best information in our reach, Secesh continues to have at Leesburg about 3,000 infantry and 2,000 cavalry, and an aggregate of about 4,000 troops in and immediately around Drainsville.

A night or two since two young men from Baltimore endeavored to get across the river from this immediate vicinity in a small boat they brought with them, from we know not where. The boys on guard, however, put two minie balls clean through her, when they paddled back to this bank in double quick time. Our opinion here is that it is getting more difficult than formerly for direct communication between the Baltimore Secesbers and their fellows in Virginia. There are no signs of any movements on the part of the enemy in this vicinity.

The Condition on Kentucky.—Stirring events will soon take place in Kentucky, but a leader is wanted there. A general desire is expressed that Mr. Holt will immediately return and place himself at the head of the Union movement, with the commission of Major-General, or any other commission that may suit him. Prominent Kentuckians now in Washington, owners of large numbers of slaves, are jubilant over Fremont's Proclamation and its probable effects in Missouri and Kentucky, and express the hope that the same maxim will be adopted in the latter State if the necessity ever arises for it. Let the Government strengthen General Anderson, and loyal men will strengthen the Government, says the Union men. Camps should not be moved, but others established. The Legislature will hold a short session, assume the national tax, and issue bonds for paying it. The Rebels may attempt to intimidate the Legislature, but it will be firm. Our informant thinks that the North underrates the strength of the Rebel army; that Tennessee has 75,000, and Alabama 23,000 in the field.—*Cor. N. Y. Tribune.*

Mail Matter for Europe to be Subject to Examination.—While the Government is using every possible exertion to prevent communication with the Rebels, another important matter has recently been attended to. The transmission of intelligence and despatches from agents of the Rebels now in the North to Europe, it is believed, has been carried on extensively through the medium of the Canadian steamer. *This will be prevented in future by a close espionage of all mail matter sent over the frontier into Canada.* The self-styled commissioners of the Rebels now in England, will be forced to receive their instructions through other sources than the Government mails of the United States.—*Cor. Phila. Inquirer.*

General Fremont's Proclamation.—We yesterday heard the sympathetic response made by Pennsylvanians at the foot of the Blue Ridge to the decree promulgated by General Fremont, *that the slaves of Missouri Rebels were free.* It will be re-echoed in the departments and bureaus here, *and speedily grow into the policy of the Federal Administration.*—*Cor. N. Y. Tribune.*