BALTIMORE CLIPPER.

"THE UNION, THE CONSTITUTION, AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAWS."

VOLUME XLIX. BALTIMORE, FRIDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 30, 1864. NUMBER 77.

Latest News by Telegraph

TO THE

BALTIMORE CLIPPER.

FROM GEN. GRANT

Gen. Grant Advancing on Richmond by the North Side of the James River.

REBEL FORTIFICATIONS AND RIFLE PITS CARRIED.

15 Pieces of Artillery Captured.

ENEMY SCATTERED IN CONFUSION.

General Birney Advancing on the New Market Road.

FROM SHERIDAN.

OFFICIAL DISPATCHES.

THE CAPTURE OF STAUNTON

Our Cavalry Destroying the Central Virginia Railroad.

ALL QUIET WITH SHERMAN

The Draft Quietly Progressing

SOUTHERN NEWS.

SHERIDAN'S PURSUIT OF EARLY

ALARM AT STAUNTON.

REPORTS FROM GEORGIA

ETC. ETC. ETC.

From the Army of the Potomac.

WAR DEPARTMENT, Sept. 29, 1.05, P. M.

Major-General Dix, New York:

The following dispatch from General Grant announcing the movement of our forces against Richmond has just been received:

HEADQUARTERS, CHAPIN'S FARM, 10.45 A. M., Sept. 29.

To Major-General Halleck:

General Ord's corps advanced this morning and carried the very strong fortifications and long line of entrenchments below Chapin's farm with some fifteen pieces of artillery, and from two to three hundred prisoners. Gen. Ord was wounded in the leg though not dangerously.

Gen. Birney advanced at the same time from Deep Bottom and carried the New Market road and entrenchments, scattered the enemy in every direction, though he captured but few.

He is now marching on towards Richmond! I left Gen. Birney where the Mill road intersects the New Market and Richmond roads.

This whole country is filled with field fortifications thus far.

(Signed) U. S. GRANT, Lieut. Gen.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

Official Bulletin.

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, Sept. 29, 7.45 A. M.—*Major General Dix, New York:*—A dispatch from General Grant gives a telegram contained in yesterday's Richmond Whig, dated at Charlottesville, which states that our cavalry entered Staunton on Monday, at 8 o'clock, A. M. That our forces were also at Waynesborough, [twelve miles of Staunton, near Rockfish Gap.] That no damage has been done up to 4 P. M; but smoke indicated that we were burning the railroad track between Christian Creek and Staunton.

No direct communication has been had with General Sheridan for several days. Couriers to and from him are known to have been captured by the Guerillas that infest the country in his rear.

Despatches up to 9 40 last night have been received from General Sherman at Atlanta, but no movements at that point are reported.

From Nashville our despatches are to 9:30 last night. The enemy did not attack us at Pulaski, but took the pike toward Fayetteville, and was pursued nine miles by our cavalry. Gen Rousseau is returning with his infantry to Nashville.

The draft is quietly progressing in all the States. But desperate efforts will be made by the enemy to force Sherman from Atlanta by destroying his communications, and volunteer enlistments being more speedy than the draft, all loyal and patriotic people should urge forward rapid enlistments, in order to reinforce Sherman, and enable him not only to hold his position but also without delay to push on his campaign.

(Signed) EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

Southern News.

FORTRESS MONROE, Sept. 28—The Richmond papers of Monday, received here, contains the following items of news:

"On Saturday and on yesterday heavy cannonading was heard at Staunton, Va., in the direction of Harrisonburg. Gen. Early reached Keezeltown (five miles east of Harrisonburg) at 11 o'clock yesterday (Sunday). Opinions are divided whether he will make a stand at Keezeltown or fall further back."

"There is considerable excitement among the citizens of Staunton and many are leaving. All the sick and wounded and government stores have been moved to a place of safety. Sheridan may take Staunton, but the capture will avail him nothing. The Valley since the war has been a race ground. Sheridan has reached the *hither* end of the course and if he does not 'pull up" of his own accord he will be pulled."

"From Culpepper we hear that there is no enemy in that county, except the small body of cavalry that recently burnt the bridge at Rapidan station."

"President Davis arrived at Macon, Ga., Sept. 23. He made a speech at the Baptist church. He is going to Hood's army. There is nothing from Gen. Hood's army. No movements of the enemy reported up to the latest accounts. The expulsion of the citizens of Atlanta has been completed. It was reported yesterday that Hood's army was in Sherman's rear, between him and Chatanooga.

"A large force of mounted Yankees are collecting at Pound Gap, with the intention of making a raid on the Virginia Salt Works. This, we presume, is the same force that was at Lexington, Ky., two weeks ago. They number about 12,000 men.

CHARLESTON, Sept. 23.—A truce communication took place in the harbor to-day. Eighteen Yankee Surgeons and Chaplains were released by us, and a number of women and children were sent aboard the Yankee truce steamer. One hundred and fifty boxes of stores and clothing from the U. S. Sanitary Commission, for Yankee prisoners in our hands were received and brought to this city.

On the 1st of October an exchange of naval prisoners will take place in the harbor.

Four hundred more confederate prisoners had been placed in pens on Morris Island.

From Port Royal and Charleston.

NEW YORK, Sept. 29.—The steamer Fulton, from Port Royal on the 26th, arrived here this morning. The Fulton chased a large blockade runner on her passage home but gave up the chase at night, leaving the gunboat Gettysburg to take care of the rebel.

The Palmetto Herald states that a government clerk, at Hilton Head, has been arrested for selling passes to go North. The 54th Massachusetts was still guarding the rebel officers under fire on Morris Island. The rebels at Sumter have been lately stationing sharpshooters among the debris of the fort, but no casualties resulting from their fire they have been withdrawn.

Charleston has been suffering considerably, latterly, from the fire of our one hundred pounders, which have been more effective than the 30-pounders. Twenty-five hundred men are at work strengthening the old and new defences of Charleston.

From Missouri.

The Rebel Invasion.

ST. LOUIS, Sept. 29—Mr. Barnes, a telegraph operator, who left Pilot Knob disguised at noon yesterday, arrived at Desoto to-day. He reports that Gen. Ewing had concentrated his troops in front of the rebel position.

The enemy planted a battery on Shepard Mount, and were throwing shells into the fort, doing some execution.

The Federal force under Colonel Mills, at Mineral Point, were attacked last night by a large body of rebels. The enemy were repulsed, but our troops subsequently withdrew to Desoto.

Potosi was captured by the rebels last night. Smith's headquarters are still at Desoto, where he is receiving reinforcements. General Ewing was ordered to evacuate Pilot Knob, but the rebels cut his communications before he could get away.

About 18,000 militia are now under arms, which, with the independent citizen companies, make quite a formidable force.

THE REBEL RAID IN TENNESSEE.

NASHVILLE, Sept'r 28—Owing to the cutting of the telegraph wires nothing has been heard to day of General Rousseau's movements. It is believed, however, that a desperate battle for the possession of Pulaski has occurred, or may even now be progressing.—The rebel force, according to the latest advices, had advanced their lines preparatory to an early attack on our troops to-day. The fact of the wires being cut induces the belief that there are parties of rebels in the rear of Rousseau. The wires on the Chattancoga line were all down as far as Tullahoma, but have since been repaired, and are now working through.

Forrest's policy is to damage to the fullest extent, both railroads to the front. The amount of the Tennessee and Alabama road already destroyed will require several weeks to repair.

Later—4 P. M.—A courier just from Gen. Rousseau, has arrived, with despatches to the effect that during the night, Forrest withdrew his whole force from the vicinity of Pulaski, and is believed to have crossed to the Chattanooga. Rousseau reports the rebel loss during yesterday's fight at 200. Some twenty prisoners were also captured.

The Peace Humors.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29.—After careful inquiry, it cannot be ascertained that any importance is attached in official circles to the rumored peace propositions from Georgia.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29.—In consequence of an unavoidable delay in the printing and numbering of the money order blanks, the system cannot be put into operation before the middle of next month.

The time for receiving proposals for the mail steamship service between the United States and Brazil, is extended until the afternoon of the 10th of October.

It may not be generally known that the pay due to our soldiers in Southern prisons can be obtained by their wives on the presentation by the latter of the proper vouchers to the Pay Department in this city.

It is believed that Admiral Farragut will be immediately transferred from the command of the West Gulf to the North Atlantic blockading squadron, and that Admiral Lee will take command of the fleet in Mobile bay.

The War in Tennessee.

NASHVILLE, Sept. 27.—Skirmishing with the rebel force under Forrest continued all day yesterday. Gen. Rousseau fell back two miles from Pulaski, but re advanced and held his position and the town up to 7 P. M. To-day the enemy advanced his skirmish line to within half a mile of ours, and will probably advance his lines and attack in the morning.—Our loss in to-day's fighting will not exceed 80 men.

Prisoners captured in Marshall county, on their way to McMinnville, with despatches for Cerro Gordo Williams, who was to unite with Forrest, state that Forrest has twenty pieces of artillery and about seven thousand men. Six regiments were reported sent him from Wheeler's force.

It is rumored at Chattanooga that two trains were captured on Monday by the Rebel force at Big Shanty, on the Chattanooga Railroad. Officers from the front confirm this statement.

Governor Johnson made a forcible and patriotic speech last night, to a torchlight procession of the German residents, headed by the Fifth Regiment New York Volunteers, who have re-enlisted.

Colonel L. Donaldson, Chief Quartermaster of the Department of the Cumberland, has organized the entire force of the Department, amounting to over 7,000 men, comprising eight regiments. Arms and ammunition have been furnished them, and they are in readiness at a moment's warning to co-operate with the regular troops whenever occasion requires. Great praise is due to the Chief of this Department for the energy and zeal displayed in bringing into action this effective branch of the service.

The One Hundred and Seventy third and One Hundred and Seventy-sixth Ohio, one hundred day men, have arrived in the city.

Captain W. Thorr, Assistant Adjutant General on the staff of Generals Granger and Miller, has been ordered to the Potomac on the staff of Gen'l Birney.

A Lake Vessel Wrecked—Loss of Life

CLEVELAND, Sept'r 26.—The brig Sultan, which left Cleveland on Saturday, struck a bar and sank about five miles east of here—Her crew took to the rigging. The owners obtained a steamer at daylight, and rescued the mate, who was the sole survivor. Seven lives were lost. The vessel is a total loss.

Gold Market.

NEW YORK, Sept. 29.—Gold again met with a decline. Falling at the close of the afternoon board to 196, and at the evening exchange closing at 190¼.

JUDGE BLAIR ON THE WAR.

At the great Union Meeting lately held in New York, Judge Blair thus discussed the question of the war:

The speaker then alluded to the question of the war. He said it was not begun, as the Chicago nominee had said, to save the Union but it was begun by traitors to destroy the Union. ("That's so"—applause.) He then made a masterly analysis of McClellan's Harrison Landing letter, commenting thereon—He alluded to the prominent position Vallandigham had taken in the Chicago Convention. Tom Woods', Vallandigham, Jake Thompson, George Sanders, and the whole body politic of the rebels and sympathizers, all went for McClellan. They had other *August* names (laughter and cries of "Belmont") well known in the financial circle, and the representative of the potentates abroad, who unquestionably sympathize with this Chicago Union movement. They are taking an active and earnest part in this war.

England has no desire to see the magnificent navy of the United States grow any stronger, when it has already broken her high title to the rule of the ocean. You know, my friends, that the growth of this country is gall and wormwood to every sovereign in Europe.—They see the handwriting on the wall. At every one of their great banquets they talk with fear of the great Republic in the West. Jeff. Davis is in fact their agent, and would give you his next cotton crop if he could by so doing defeat you in this election In France to-day they have a standing army of 750,000 men, greater than the number of men we have to crush this rebellion. With such armies all over Europe, republican liberty is impossible, and should a separation take place here, there will be a standing army on both sides of the line, wherever that line may be established, and then away, my friends, with the name of civil liberty on the continent of America.—(Applause.)

GEN. DIX—This sterling patriot, because he declined to accept the Union nomination for Governor of this State, has been claimed by the Copperheads for McClellan. Going to Sandusky to catch piratical Copperheads, he takes occasion to make a little speech, wherein he says: "I can have no part in any political movement of which the Chicago platform is a basis" That seems explicit enough.—*New York Times.*

☞ The fall in gold, raised by the hopeful prospects of the rebellion, and the fall in prices of all marketable commodities, put up so high by war expenditures and war taxes, infallibly indicate the exhaustion of the rebel strength and the speedy triumph of the Union arms Thank God, too! they indicate the overthrow and extinction of the rebel sympathizing Democracy in the approaching election.—*New York Tribune.*

☞ Five persons were arrested in London on the 30th of August for attempting to commit suicide.

☞ In Ceylon, the ceremony of marriage consists of tying the couple together by the thumbs.

☞ The Episcopal Seminaries in the South are closed, all the inmates having been drafted into the rebel army.

☞ An eagle seven feet six inches long was shot at St. Albans, Vt., on the 7th.

THE EXODUS FROM ATLANTA UNDER GEN. SHERMAN'S ORDER.

A correspondent of the New York Herald, writing from Atlanta, Ga., under date of Sept'r 18, gives the following description of the exodus of the citizens of Atlanta under the recent order of Gen'l Sherman:

It is a quiet morning, the Sabbath bells are tolling their solemn chimes, yet they bring little peace or gladness to the troubled, weary hearts that hear them. An order has gone forth that the inhabitants shall leave and go North or South. The exodus has commenced, and a stream of human beings is daily pouring forth—wanderers on the wide world—all home ties and heart associations disrupted.—Therefore those who go forth to-morrow cannot rejoice to-day. If they pray, it is in sorrow and tears.

This order may at first sight appear hard, but it must be recollected that we are in the midst of an enemy's country, with the enemy's army close upon us, and that traitors and spies in our midst might be the cause of our ruin. Atlanta is to become a great military depot—the heart to supply the sustaining powers of our vast army during its future operations.—No wonder, then, that Sherman should provide that no spies nor incendiaries should endanger our supplies or safety, and thus sacrifice the army and the welfare of the country. It is true that many innocent will suffer with the guilty, but in this hotbed of Rebeldom how hard to discriminate; even better that a few innocent should suffer than the safety of an army be endangered. I have sent you General Sherman's correspondence with the Mayor, which fully explains his reasons; also his correspondence with Gen. Hood.

The houses of persons going North are taken charge of by the authorities, and will be safely kept until it will be deemed safe to admit their return. The houses of those going South and those in the rebel lines will be all converted to military use. General Sherman's chief quartermaster, Colonel Easton, and his assistant, Captain John Stewart, who have charge of all secesh property and all trade regulations, are giving general satisfaction.

Sherman seems to have the faculty of imbuing those around him with his own stern, methodical business way of doing things; or rather he has the clearness to select such men. Therefore all his details are conducted with extraordinary dispatch and simplicity.

THE CITY.

The city is garrisoned by the Twentieth corps—chiefly the First division, Gen. Williams. Everything is reduced to such system that property and life are as safe here as in any Northern city.

I have just returned to-day from accompanying the secesh exodus into the rebel lines. About twelve o'clock a train of about one hundred wagons, in charge of Capt. Cadwallader, Quartermaster First division, Twentieth Corps, started from Atlanta for Rough and Ready station.

These cars were loaded with a miscellaneous cargo. In some were crowded tottering old age and maids in blooming youth. The former fretted very much at being thus rudely torn away, root and branch, from the soil on which they grew, and soon hoped to rest their aged, wearied heads upon. The latter seemed to enjoy the thing very much; in fact, they treated it as a kind of sentimental journey. I fully understood this when we reached the rebel quarters, when I saw what a greeting, warm welcome, many of the rebel officers and soldiers had for them. Some carried their enthusiasm so far as to exchange warm kisses and embraces.

In addition to these the wagons were crowded with a heterogeneous mass of poodle dogs, tabby cats, piano, furniture, cross old maids and wondering children, all of which made anything but a pleasant traveling party. Rough and Ready is about ten miles from Atlanta

Colonel Cattison, with a small detachment from the Fifteenth corps, are encamped around the station. A flag of truce floats from the building in front. Separated from these about three hundred yards are the rebel quarters, under charge of Major Clair, of General Hood's staff. The men have few tents, but manage as well as they can. The contrast between their unprotected condition and the snug quarters of our men is strong indeed. Major Clair is a fine gentlemanly young man, with a good share of hauteur about him.

However, everything goes on in the most friendly way—visits are paid, exchanges are made, and everything done in the most friendly spirit possible. It was evening when we arrived there. The wagons advanced midway between the two lines, and all their living freight and chattels were soon transferred into the rebel bayous. This transfer was attended by very warm demonstrations, as I have before stated. The most affecting was between parents and sons who had been long separated.

ARRIVAL OF REFUGEES AT CINCINNATI.

[From the Cincinnati Gazette, Sept. 27.]

The steamer Science No. 2 yesterday arrived at this port with a large number of refugees from Atlanta, who chose to go North rather than South after the order was issued by General Sherman causing their exodus from that place. Most of them were in comfortable circumstances pecuniarily, but a few were taken charge of by the Refugee Relief Commission of this city. About thirty families in this party left Atlanta last Tuesday.

They state that, although Gen. Hood had three days' notice before Sherman shelled the city, the people were not notified, as that very humane general—see his recent letters—stated there were none but Union men in the place, and it made little difference how many were killed by our shells They made bomb proofs, dug caves and lived in culverts to protect themselves from our fire. After Sherman's order the old men and women went South; most of the young men, however, preferred the opposite direction. This is the first instalment we have received, and more are on the way.

JUNIUS BRUTUS BOOTH.—Mr. Ford has secured as his next star, M. J. B. Booth, eldest son of the great tragedian, the heir of no inconsiderable portion of his father's genius, and his counterpart in form and feature.—Those who remember the elder Booth, in the days of his highest fame, before time had marred the remarkable beauty of his face and countenance, will see in his eldest son "the father as he lived," and unless our memory is excessively partial, will recognize in his efforts the power and passion which shed fame upon the glorious name he bears. Mr. Booth has for fifteen or twenty years resided in San Francisco, where as actor and manager he achieved both fame and fortune. He at one time represented that city in the Legislature of California. His engagement at Holliday street Theatre, which commences on Monday next, will be the first he has filled since leaving the Pacific shore. Richard III. will be his opening character.

☞ A Washington detective had his pocket picked of $75 the other day, while riding in a horse car.

From Petersburg.

Active Operations Looked For—The Rebel Army in Motion—Disappearance of the Rebel Pontoon Trains—Lee's Probable Intention to Abandon the Line of the Appomattox.

CITY POINT, VA., Sept. 26, 1864.—Early's defeat in the valley has produced great uneasiness in the army immediately opposite to us, and results of considerable importance are looked for within a few days. That Lee is getting ready for some movement is very evident. During the still hours of the past few nights our troops on the front line could hear the noise and hum of trains and artillery in motion. To-day will no doubt develope the full extent and meaning of these changes on the part of the rebels. Lee is doubtless to aid Early. He stands aghast at the prospect of Sheridan's driving Early beyond possibility of holding the Central road, (the one leading to Lynchburg from Richmond,) and thence by contracting his lines around Petersburg hopes to be able to detach a force sufficient to reinforce and rally the demoralized army from the Shenandoah.

Both yesterday and the day before have been spent at the front by General Grant. On Saturday he spent several hours in close consultation with the commander of the Army of the Potomac. To day he has an interview with General Butler.

The leave of absence that had been promised to General Hancock was mysteriously withheld at the last moment, which will account for his not going North, as I mentioned in a late dispatch. The same has been the case with General Mott, who held his leave long enough to make arrangements for his journey, when it was suddenly revoked. These refusals to permit officers to leave are attributed to the results of General Grant's visit to the front.

THE REBELS GROWING UNEASY.

The movements of the enemy are full of promise. Uneasiness is manifest in all their operations There is no doubt that they are getting ready for a movement of some kind, the precise nature of which is yet to be developed. That it will be of a retrograde nature there is no question, the only doubt being as to the distance of their proposed retirement. In a former communication I have maintained that they designed abandoning merely their position on the right, and taking up the north line of the Appomattox as their line. I still think that this is all that is at present designed, though rapid and energetic movements on our part may compel them to continue falling back.

PROBABLE DESIGN OF THE ENEMY.

There is, however, information of a non-official character that they have determined to abandon the line of the Appomattox entirely, and fall back to Swift creek, the first of their lines between Petersburg and Richmond. However strongly the line of Swift creek may be defended, it can hardly be so defensible a position by nature, as, nor can it be made more impregnable than, the line of the Appomattox.

REASONS FOR THE EXPECTED WITHDRAWAL.

That they can remain in their present position any longer is not even a supposable case. They are aware that General Grant is constantly receiving large reinforcements. The fact is stated in every Northern paper. Their numerical strength, on the contrary, does not change for the better. The most they can hope to do is to hold their numbers good. They are now compelled to defend a line nearly ten miles in extent, necessitating the formation of their troops into so thin lines that they are liable to be broken at any point. They must shorten up. This is the first reason for their contemplated retreat.

Next, the country they now hold is nearly swept of its timber, leaving them nothing out of which to construct winter quarters for their men, roads for transportation of supplies or fuel for cooking purposes. Their enforced economical use of wood has already given cause for trouble on the last point, and much grumbling is indulged in by their men in consequence. The cold nights we are now having develope the necessity of wood for fuel, and they have none. A shelter tent is no longer a comfortable abode for a soldier. As the timber and wood required cannot be transported to a large army, the army must necessarily remove to the region where it abounds.

REMOVAL OF SIEGE GUNS TO THE NORTH OF THE APPOMATTOX.

The removal of their heavier siege guns from the south side of the Appomattox, the hasty completion of the new course of the Southside Railroad, the demolition and removal of their storehouses in and around Petersburg, are all strong evidences of their intentions. Other evidences that have been received need not be alluded to.

EFFECT OF EARLY'S DEFEAT.

It certainly will not be necessary to refer to the potential influence upon the movements of Lee's army the discomfiture and rout of Early will affect. Lee must send troops to Early to aid him in eluding, with any fragment of his command, the vigorous pursuit of Sheridan. Should he send away a single brigades and still attempt to maintain his present line the result would be certainly fatal to him. He must contract. The question of supplies is a serious one to him; but, like a drowning man clutching at a straw, Lee clutches at every chance. He cannot defend the Weldon road. Already it is useless to him. Therefore to defend it longer is a waste of time and men. He can still reach Danville, even if he falls back, by the Richmond and Danville road, while he has two roads to Lynchburg. He hopes by the greater concentration he will effect by falling back to be able to defend all these lines. At least he will make the attempt in his desperation—And if he loses one after the other of them he will still hold on to the last remaining hope, and use up his army in the defence of Richmond.

[Special to the Philadelphia Inquirer.)

Capture of Rebel Scouts.

NEAR PETERSBURG, VA., Sept. 27, via WASHINGTON, Sept 28.—Three rebel scouts, spies or men of some such enterprising vocation, were picked up during last night by running into a picket line, where it is to be presumed they did not expect to find our men. On being hailed they turned to run for the nearest timber, but a Minie or two sent whizzing after them soon brought them to a stand, and they were readily secured.

One of them was recognized as a young man not unknown in this neighborhood, bearing the name of Robert Batt. For some time past it has been entirely too easy a task for such men to work their way inside our lines, and once in it has been a matter of but trifling risk and slight difficulty to go wherever their inclination led them. This is now changed for the better, and those who seek to distinguish themselves by their services to the rebel bureau of information will hereafter be obliged to earn their distinction at a much dearer rate than heretofore.

REPORTS OF DESERTERS.

Several deserters were brought to the headquarters of Gen. Birney this morning, having entered the line of the Tenth Corps. They represent that a feeling of great despondency has been produced in the rebel army by the news of Early's discomfiture and severe losses in the Shenandoah Valley. They say that a new line of works is being constructed inside the present defences of Petersburg, having its left on the Appomattox and extending across so as to cover the Southside Railroad. The hope of retaking the Weldon Railroad appears to have been entirely relinquished, and this new line of works is being erected with the design, no doubt, of falling back to it in the contingency of being driven from the works now held.

FILLING UP THE ARMY.

Troops continue to arrive in increasing numbers, and the reinforcement of the army is proceeding quite satisfactorily. Many entire new regiments with the full complement of men have already arrived and been assigned to the different corps. There is no doubt that the same number of men sent out for distribution among the old regiments would add much more to the effective strength of the army, and this arrangement would at the same time operate advantageously by affording opportunities for the promotion of meritorious officers to such positions as they are capable of filling. In estimating the quality of these new regiments however, it must not be forgotten that although their organization is new they contain many veteran troops.

[From the Washington Star of Yesterday.]

FIRING IN FRONT OF PETERSBURG YESTERDAY.

The mail steamer Charlotte Vanderbilt, Capt. Colmary, arrived here this morning at half-past six from City Point.

She reports that early yesterday morning there was some firing along our lines fronting Petersburg, but not sufficient to indicate that an engagement was in progress.

The Vanderbilt brought up twenty-five rebel deserters who desire to take the oath and be released.

These deserters are mostly unassigned conscripts from the workshops at Richmond, and they say that the recent order of the Confederate authorities purging the government shops of mechanics, heretofore exempted, has caused a grand skedaddle among the workmen. A large government manufacturing establishment at Richmond, known as the Anderson Shop, has lost one hundred and eighteen men within the past few days, who have run away with the determination of coming North whenever an opportunity presents itself.

The conscripts assert that Early's defeat has caused the greatest gloom in Richmond, and that it is feared that Sheridan will make a movement on Lynchburg, from which point he can strike the Danville railroad, thereby cutting off their principal supply communication. These fears have caused a belief that it will be necessary to evacuate Richmond, and it is freely talked of upon the streets.

The Virginia troops, however, protest against the evacuation of Richmond, and should the rebel authorities do so, it would cause mutiny among the Virginians. These conscripts declare that it is not to be denied that the Confederates are making preparations which look very much like an evacuation. Several government workshops have been closed, the machinery of which has been removed further South. When these parties left Richmond, a few days ago, the machinery of other shops were being packed for removal if deemed necessary.

The enlisted deserters speak in the highest terms of the treatment they have received since reaching our lines, and say that if this fact was known to the rebel troops desertions would be more numerous.

The Confederate authorities, these deserters say, are filling up the depleted regiments with old men and boys, including those who have heretofore been discharged from the military service on account of wounds and other permanent disabilities. The conscripts are subject to much ridicule by the regular soldiers, and the desertions among them are quite numerous.

At Point Lookout a number of rebel officers were taken on board, who are to be transferred to Northern prisons.

FROM CINCINNATI.

A Murder, a Suicide, Two Fatal Accidents and a Riot.

CINCINNATI, September 26.—The draft in this State and Indiana is progressing quietly. Several new regiments passed through the city last week for the front.

A man named Nennen was killed in a billiard saloon on Saturday night.

A soldier of the 174th Ohio regiment committed suicide, yesterday, by falling on his bayonet.

A man named Crenier was crushed to death by the falling of a bank in Stoner's township. George Cadman was crushed to death by the overturning of an omnibus on the Deer Creek road.

The delegation from Covington and Newport, while returning home from the Union demonstration, in this city, on Saturday night, came in collision with a mob in the Fourth ward. Boulders and pistols were freely used. Two men and one woman were killed, and several others were wounded. The riot was soon quieted.

MURDERED BY GUERILLAS.—On Thursday of last week Adam Johnson's band of thieves and cut throats went to the house of an old man aged 64 years, named John Woodruff, in Hopkins county, Ky., and commenced examining his stables. He hearing them there, went out and inquired what they wanted.—They replied that they wanted his gun. He told them that he had a great affection for his old companion in many a hunt, and had promised that if any man, or set of men, came for it, that he would give them its contents.

He then went to the house and got his gun, and came to the door. As he made his appearance, eight shots were fired at him, four taking effect. He fell, but immediately raised and fired his gun, and lodged eight buck shot in the body of one of the guerillas, named James Jackson, who had been recruited by Adam Johnson in East Tennessee. Woodruff lingered until the next day, when he died. Jackson died on the following Sunday.—Woodruff was an honored citizen and a good Union man, and this outrage produced much feeling in the neighborhood.—*Louisville Jour.*

THE STRENGTH OF EARLY'S LATE ARMY.—A correspondent of the Cincinnati Gazette, who dates from Baltimore, says that General Sheridan's estimate of Early's forces, based on statements of prisoners and the like, was 27,000. On the other hand, General Grant had made an estimate from the carefully collected statements of prisoners as to the strength of particular brigades and regiments throughout the whole rebel army in Virginia, according to which Early could not have had over 19,000. It is not at all improbable that Early's loss in the two battles of last week may amount to fifteen or sixteen thousand, and, dividing the discrepancy between the two estimates given above, this loss will include over two-thirds of the rebel army in the valley.

☞ At a factory in Franklin, Mass., a boiler exploded and carried a young girl up to the ceiling of the room in which she was working without seriously injuring her.—Tough, but true.