THE DAILY EXCHANGE.

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SEE FOURTH PAGE.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

The Stoppage of the Southern Mails—Obstruction to the Passage of Coal Trains at Harper's Ferry—Movements of Government Troops in Virginia.

WASHINGTON, May 25.—Western Virginia is an exception to the order of the Postmaster General for the stoppage of mails in the seceded States.—Every facility will be afforded for postal accommodations in that section.

There is a great deal of coal on the way from Cumberland, Maryland, to tide-water, the principal or only difficulty in the way of which is the refusal of Confederate troops at Harper's Ferry to allow boats to pass this point. From present indications this obstruction will not probably long continue.

It cannot be ascertained that anything of especial moment took place in Alexandria last night.—There is no doubt, however, that the Government has sent out advanced parties to take such measures regarding railroads, bridges, &c., as to impede the advance of Confederate troops.

Meeting of the Governors of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois.

INDIANAPOLIS, May 25.—Governor Yates, of Illinois, and Senator Trumbull, arrived here yesterday.

Governors Dennison, of Ohio, Yates, of Illinois, and Morton, of Indiana, had a long conference to-day. The result has not been made public.

Gen McLellan and the three Governors reviewed five regiments of United States troops and two regiments of State troops.

Gen. McLellan expressed surprise at the proficiency of the troops, and was highly gratified at their advancement.

Governor Morton has appointed Hon. Wm. Cumback Colonel of the Thirtieth regiment.

[*From the Evening Day-Book.*]

THE CONDITION OF MARYLAND.

From our inmost soul we pity the man who does not look with sorrow and shame upon the present humiliated condition of Maryland. The man that can rejoice in the sight of a sovereign State of the American Union so degraded and despoiled of her ancient honors, is fitter to be the subject of some despotic government, like that of Austria, than a citizen of a free and enlightened Republic. There are proud memories lingering around the Capitol of Maryland, which have made its history dear to every patriotic heart on this continent. It was in that Capitol that the Continental Congress once found a santuary in the days of the revolution, and it was there that Washington resigned his commission.

It will evermore bring a blush on the cheek of every man in this land, who is not lost to shame, to think that from the very chamber where Washington resigned his commission, the Representatives of a sovereign State were driven out by soldiers in the pay of the Federal Government, and that they were threatened with being followed to Frederick and dispersed at the point of the bayonet. Alas for Maryland! It is to this State that our country owes the first example of freedom and religious toleration. The Puritans of New England called themselves "friends of civil and religious liberty;" but a more impudent assumption, a more false claim to honor, was never made—for, on the first appearance of a man among them who was not of the Puritan faith, even though he was a harmless Quaker, these "friends of civil and religious liberty" set up a war-cry (more savage than the Indians ever had raised on these shores before) of banishment and death.

Even the first women who arrived in their colony who were not Puritans, were committed to prison, and stripped naked, under pretence of seeing whether they were witches, and such barbarities were practised upon them as decency forbids us to repeat. The historian says, "on the 22d of December, 1662, Ann Coleman, Mary Tompkins and Alice Ambrose, for being Quakers, were sentenced to be stripped naked, fastened to a cart-tail, and whipped on their naked backs, through eleven towns, a distance of eighty miles." (Sewell's History of the Quakers, page 171.) For being Quakers, both men and women were exposed naked in the streets of Boston, and publicly whipped from Boston to Dedham. As early as 1658, a law was passed by the "friends of civil and religious liberty," not only to whip every man and woman who were not Puritans, but also to cut off their ears, and bore holes through their tongues with a red hot iron! Hanging and drowning were also among the penalties of refusing to embrace the Puritan faith of Massachusetts. The heart sickens, and humanity hides its face in shame at the bare thought of the horrible cruelties which these "friends of civil and religious liberty" inflicted upon every soul who was not of their own faith. The reader who has the courage to peruse the damning record, can find it in Hinton's History of the United States, or in Sewell's History of the Quakers.

While the Puritans of New England were enacting these scenes of tyranny and cruelty, the colonists of Maryland were peacefully laying the foundations of *genuine civil and religious liberty.* It was here, in Maryland, that freedom began its march on this continent. As early as 1642 Lord Baltimore offered even the Puritans of Massachusetts an asylum, granting them "free liberty of religion," and the people of all beliefs were allowed an unrestricted freedom of opinion and of speech; and it was from the seed of equal rights thus sown by the colonists of Maryland, that the tree of liberty on this continent grew up, until it was transplanted into the Constitution of the United States, which delares that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press." When this clause was added to the Constitution, the Puritans of New England raved against the "licentiousness" of the document, and declared that the Convention had "voted Almighty God out of the Constitution."

By the adoption of the Constitution the principles of freedom, as first established by the Colonists of Maryland, were inaugurated as the basis of our government, and the Puritanism of the Massachusetts Colonists was deprived of its weapons of oppression and persecution. But, though cast down Puritanism was not destroyed. Though crushed, it was not conquered. And now what do we see, after seventy-five years have elapsed? A sight which painfully reminds us of the mutability of human affairs—even of the institutions of freedom and self-government. We see soldiers from the old Puritan stock of Massachusetts encamped upon the soil of Maryland. The decendents of the Endicots, the Mathers, and the women-whippers of Massachusetts, have their bayonets at the throats of the Calverts, the Howards and the Carrolls of Maryland.—What a picture of "self-government" is that! What a commentary upon "our fathers'" doctrines of "State sovereignty," and of "co-equal States!" What a stupendous lie it would make even the Constitution itself! A "sovereign State," "governing itself," with 30,000 bayonets at the hearts of its people, is a suggestive sight.

The occupation, for military purposes, of the cities, towns and soil of a State against the will of its people—the military invasion of a State, and the seizure of private property, and the interruption of business, in violation of private rights—the appropriation of horses, wagons and the occupation of houses and farms for "military barracks and fortified camps"—all this marching, and tread of hostile armies over the soil of Maryland, the old mother of civil and religious liberty on this Continent, and against her consent, what does it all mean? Why, it means that the Puritans could never be still—could never let the domestic institutions of other States alone—could never mind their own business; but must fight, intrigue, and agitate about negroes, until they goaded co-equal sister States to madness. That is what it all means. Had it not been for Puritanic Abolitionism, these States would still be going on prosperously and happily as they were started by our forefathers. Every effort to unite them and to bring back peace, while the cause of all the mischief, Abolitionism, is left intact, is simply to tamper with the Providence of Almighty God, who has made immutable the inexorable laws that exists between cause and effect. Invading the soil of Southern States will never bring peace. Invasion must stop, before peace can begin. Shooting men in the South will never restore the Union, but will only drive the dismembered fragments farther and farther apart. This Union may still be saved—not by invading armies—but by calling off the Puritan bloodhounds who have driven one-half of it into desperation and madness.

ARMY PECULATORS.

In these venal times, when men are not ashamed to live by levying black-mail upon legislation, we can conceive how it is possible for peculators to get between the Treasury and the Army, and, while seeming to be impelled by patriotic impulses, can bend all their energies to making money out of the existing war, by standing as middlemen between a hard pressed Government and its self-sacrificing defenders. As for example: by buying steamers for six or eight thousand dollars each, and chartering them to the Government for ten or twelve thousand per month, with a condition that they be paid for at the rate of $50.000 in case of loss; and by purchasing tents at $9 each, and selling them to the Government for $17; and by laying in wait at cattle pens watching opportunities to get lean beeves at a low figure, which they have contracted to the commissariat at round, fat prices, managing to give the hide and tallow to some favorite "striker" for butchering them, when he can get it done for half the value of those items, and generally, by hanging around the purlieus of tailors' shops, and tinners' shops, and coopers' shops, and all other kinds of shops, in order to levy contributions upon tradesmen who make proposals for furnishing the army with coats, and cups, and canteens, and all other articles for the camp.

We say, we can conceive of jobbery like this. Nay, more—we credit the well-authenticated reports, which come to us daily, implicating prominent names in such transactions.

But, how anybody but fiends can, for lucre, willfully palm off upon the Government, sleezy and rotten blankets, and rusty and putrid pork, to cover by night, and feed by day, our brave sons and brothers, who are enduring unwonted fatigue, and braving death, in defence of our country, passes comprehension. And yet, that such things are done by men who furnish equipments and supplies for some of the regiments now in active service, is beyond all doubt. We have heard names mentioned in connection with these infamous transactions. At present we forbear to repeat them. Something must be done to stop these outrages upon our brave troops. Vultures that prey upon the hearts of the dead on the battle field, are human compared with monsters who furnish rotten blankets and rotten meat to the living in the camp. They must be summarily dealt with, and at the very beginning of the war before their crime becomes chronic. Wellington's remedy would be effectual. In the Peninsula War, some peculiar commissioners, who made money by furnishing bad provisions to the army, were sent by him first to a drum-head court-martial, and thence to the gallows. Let New York and Pennsylvania traffickers, who palm off rottenness and putrescence upon our troops, profit by the example.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

SOUTH AMERICA.—The news from South and Central America is almost entirely devoid of interest, the wretched business condition of Chili being the most prominent feature. Several additional failures are reported, principally among landed proprietors. The Bank of Valparaiso, however, maintains its credit, and its shares are even quoted higher. Sr. Vara's refusal to accept the Presidency has induced the government party to select for their candidate Sr. Perez, who has not incurred any political odium, and, it is said, possesses many high qualities worthy of the eminent post he is called on to fill.

A soldier now at Fort McHenry writes to Boston as follows:—"I have visited Baltimore but once.—It is a hot secession hole, and nothing but the presence of federal troops keeps the unruly ones quiet."

WAR MOVEMENTS.

FROM WASHINGTON.

The Reported Capture of Sewell's Point—Suspension of Mails in the Seceding States—Army Movements in Virginia.

WASHINGTON, May 26.—The despatch sent hence, yesterday, of the reported capture of Sewell's Point by Gen. Butler's command on Friday, was based on the unqualified statement of the Washington *National Republican's* extra, there being no means at the time of ascertaining the precise truth of the statement which, however, needs official confirmation.

The steamer Yankee has not arrived here.

Postmaster General Blair has just issued the following order:

"All postal service in the States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas, will be suspended from and after the 31st instant. Letters for offices temporarily closed by this order, will be forwarded to the dead-letter office, except those for Western Virginia, which will be sent to Wheeling."

Copies of the following proclamation by General Sandford, of the New York State Militia, in the service of the United States, have been extensively circulated in Fairfax county to-day:

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF FAIRFAX, VA.,
ARLINGTON HOUSE, May 25, 1861.

Fairfax county being occupied by the troops under my command, I deem it proper to repeat publicly the assurances I have personally given to many of the good citizens about me, that all its inhabitants may return to or remain in their homes and their usual pacific occupations in peace and confidence, and with assured protection to their persons and property, as the United States forces in Virginia will be employed for no other purposes than that of suppressing unlawful combinations against the constituted authorities of the Union, and of causing the laws thereof to be duly respected and executed.

By order of
Major General CHAS. Y. SANDFORD.
George W. Morell, Division Inspector.

Major Haskin, who is in command at Fort Washington, a few miles below Alexandria, on the Maryland side, has thoroughly strengthened his position. A battery will be erected on the hill, immediately behind the fort.

A gentleman from Alexandria says that in searching the city, several hundred muskets, rifles, revolvers and ammunition were found stored away in the theatre. A number of arrests were made during yesterday, of men with concealed weapons.

Accounts from Alexandria received through reliable sources, represent all quiet there during last night. The troops are comfortably quartered and ready for all emergencies. That city, it is represented, was free from the alarm which yesterday afternoon prevailed in this city.

Several District of Columbia volunteers have proceeded hence in the direction of Alexandria.

The Eighth New York and Fifth Massachusetts Regiments have moved into Virginia. All orders for the moving of the troops here are not only cheerfully but anxiously obeyed. Military veterans are lavish in their praise of them.

Between 10 and 11 o'clock this morning the report of cannon near the capital occasioned much alarm, which, however, soon subsided on learning that it was only a squad of the 2d regiment (New York), practicing with field howitzers, not being aware of the prohibition against firing in the streets. The squad afterwards went through their evolutions as they passed along Pennsylvania avenue, showing much skill.

From Fortress Monroe—Contemplated Movement against Norfolk.

PHILADELPHIA, May 26.—Capt Cone of the U. S. mail steamer John A. Warner, reached the city to day having left his boat at Wilmington to ascertain the truth of the report about the taking of Sewell's Point. He says he left Fortress Monroe on Saturday morning at 7 o'clock, up to which time no battle had taken place. He was in the Fortress on Friday evening and understood from conversation with Capt. Pendergrast that no movement would be made until further reinforcements arrived, when an attack would probably be made on Norfolk.

As Captain Cone was going out of the Bay, he saw 1500 troops coming in. He confirms the statement of the capture of Hampton with three hundred troops. He was lying in the Bay for two or three days previous to sailing. He doubts the reported arrival of the steamer Yankee at Washington yesterday, as she was at the fortress when he left, and it would take fifteen hours to make the trip. The steamer Kingston left on Friday evening with a large ship in tow, supposed to be a prize. Several prizes were being taken daily by the blockading squadron. Two or three vessels from Richmond for Baltimore had been released.

The flag-ship Minnesota, Commodore Stringham, had steam up when he left, and would soon sail under sealed orders.

On Friday evening the Captain visited Fortress Monroe and saw the dress parade. All the troops, between five and six thousand, participated in the parade. There had been an increase of nearly three thousand over the previous week. Two Massachusetts and one Vermont Regiment having arrived during the week. All were doing well.

Gen. Butler returned to the Fortress after the occupation of Hampton.

The Captain says he viewed the action at Sewell's Point on last Sunday. Five out of the eight guns in position there were dismounted. He does not think any lives were lost in the action. In other respects the Captain confirms the accounts of this affair previously published.

The Captain is certain he could not fail to have known of the engagement reported to have taken place at Sewell's Point on Friday, had such occurred. He passed the point on his way out on Saturday morning, when all was quiet there. An action was, however, soon meditated, on the arrival of more troops, and it was even expected that a speedy attack on Norfolk would be made.

Fortress Monroe.

There is but little news from Fortress Monroe. Gen. Butler still holds the pump which he captured on Thursday last. On Saturday 2,000 New York volunteers, and 275 Maine troops, arrived at the fort and encamped outside of the walls. The bridge leading from the peninsular to the main shore has been destroyed by the Virginia forces, notwithstanding Gen. Butler had a special guard on the bridge. It was generally supposed that an attack would be made on some particular point.

Arrival of the Steamer Philadelphia from Fort Pickens.

NEW YORK, May 26.—The steamship Philadelphia has arrived from Fort Pickens on the 14th via Tortugas and Key West. She brought Lieut. Slemmer and his command, and twelve women and children and as many mechanics. Everything was quiet at Fort Pickens when the steamer left.

The fleet was ready to co-operate with Colonel Brown, the commander of Fort Pickens, and was intercepting all inward bound vessels. The fleet consisted of the Sabine, Brooklyn, Powhatan and Waterwitch, while the Mohawk was at the east end of Santa Rosa Island to prevent vessels of light draft entering by the Eastern channel.

Lieut. Slemmer's company are much worn, and several have the scurvy, while others are suffering from attack induced by over exertions and want of proper food. Lieut. Gilman is also a passenger. It was evident that a change of location was necessary to restore the health of all.

The Philadelphia, on her outward trip, landed a large amount of subsistence stores at Fort Jefferson, Tortugas, and on her arrival at Fort Pickens, landed mules and beef cattle in safety, and most of the balance of her cargo was laying for three days within range of the guns of Forts McRae and Barrancas, which showed no disposition to attack her. On the teturn voyage, the Philadelphia landed the balance of her cargo at Fort Jefferson.

The transport steamer Cahawba arrived here today from Washington. She passed on Friday night, off the Rappahannock, three propellers bound up the Chesapeake, each having a vessel in tow. She spoke the gunboat Quaker City off Cape Henry.

Movements at Harper's Ferry.

CHAMBERSBURG, May 25.—Advices from Hagerstown state: The Railroad track has been torn up on both sides of Harper's Ferry by the Secessionists, and it is reported that there are not less than 10,000 troops at that point and in the neighborhood. There are no large guns on the Maryland heights.

Although reinforcements were being expected daily at Williamsport, none had reached there up to Friday evening. Provisions were scarce and the troops were without tents, and desertions were numerous.

Virginia troops were guarding all the Ferries between Harper's Ferry and Hancock.

This town is perfectly quiet and we have but little fear of an invasion. If it should occur, the invadors will meet a warmer reception than they expect. We need neither artillery dragoons nor infantry.

War Munitions Sent to Fort Pickens.

BOSTON, May 25.—The armed steamer South Carolina, Commander Alden, sailed last night for Fort Pickens.

She has a crew of 137 men and takes out one hundred seamen for the fleet. Also several ten-inch mortars, rifled cannon and other war munitions.

The Strength of the Virginians--Apprehended Attack on Cumberland Valley.

CHAMBERSBURG, Pa., May 24.—There are now, beyond all possibility of doubt, 9,500 troops between Point of Rocks and Williamsport, on the Potomac. Of these 2,500 are Alabamians, Mississippians, North Carolinians and Georgians. The rest are Virginians.

There can be no doubt that there are 300 Cherokee Indians, armed as Indians are usually armed, with tomahawk, scalping-knife, and rifle, among this number. These Indians resided partly in North Carolina and Georgia.

The Virginia troops along the Potomac line are well armed, but scarce of provisions. Between Point of Rocks, which is eight miles below Harper's Ferry, and Williamsport, twenty-three miles above there are scattered at various points thirty-five pieces of cannon. Twenty of these are brass field pieces.

Great apprehension prevails in Cumberland valley of an invasion from Virginia. Ten thousand head of cattle and five thousand horses along the valley could be seized by a sudden irruption of an expeditionary corps holding the valley for five days, even if driven back into Virginia.

Troops en route for the Capital.

NEW YORK, May 26.—The New Hampshire Regiment arrived here this forenoon and took the cars at Jersey city for Washington. Their reception here was most enthusiastic, and the complete camp equipage of the regiment excited unbounded admiration. The 9th and the 79th New York Regiments leave here to-morrow for Washington.

Missouri State Troops Disbanding.

ST. LOUIS, May 24.—The State troops at Jefferson city, numbering about 4,000 men, were ordered to disband yesterday, by Gen. Price. At first they refused to obey, but it is believed that they will quietly disperse and return to their homes.

A ten-inch howitzer, an eight and a-half-inch mortar and three hundred rounds of cartridges, ball, shell and canister were shipped from the arsenal yesterday, destined for Cairo.

[*From the Washington Star of Friday Evening.*]

Further Particulars of the Occupation of Alexandria.

Immediately on landing, the Zouaves marched up into the centre of the town, to the city flagstaff, upon which they immediately hoisted the American flag. Colonel Ellsworth then marched with a portion of his command to the telegraph office, which he seized and placed under a strong guard, in order to prevent any news of the movement of the Federal troops from being communicated to the disunion forces south of that city. While at the telegraph office, he discovered the secession flag floating over the Marshall House, and taking with him a squad of men, proceeded to the place, and in respectful language desired the landlord (Jackson) to haul it down. This request being refused, he proceeded with his squad to the top of the house and hauled it down, and was met on his return, on the stairs, by Jackson, who shot him.

When he received the shot, Col. Ellsworth dropped his sword, and seizing hold of his clothing over his breast, tore it entirely off, and looking down upon the wound closed his eyes and fell dead without uttering a word. The Zouaves, when they heard of the death of their commanding officer, were overwhelmed with greif and indignation.—Many of them burst into tears, and were so overcome by the event as to be utterly inconsolable. After a while the grief occasioned by his death was converted into such rage against the disunionists as that the officers in command of the several companies had much ado to keep them under control.

From other sources we learn that the fact of Ellsworth's death was kept for two hours from his men, (other than the immediate spectators,) who on hearing it were eager to burn the town, but no aggression was permitted on any one or anything.

A number of secession officers were captured in the Marshall House. They are held as prisoners.

The whole of Sherman's Battery (six pieces) crossed the Long Bridge in the advance during the night, two pieces going on to Alexandria, and four pieces turning off to the right, Arlington-way.

At noon to-day, Rickett's Light Artillery, (six pieces,) also went over the river from here.

Col. Wilcox, of the Michigan regiment, is now in command at Alexandria.

We hear that the line of steam ferry boats will soon resume their trips between this city and Alexandria.

Yesterday afternoon, Col. Ellsworth received an intimation that his regiment would be called upon for special service during the night, and the Zouaves were all mustered and received rations and forty rounds of cartridges from their officers. About midnight marching orders were received, and going on board the steamers, the entire regiment, with the exception of seventy-five men left to guard the tents, proceeded down to Alexandria.

Arrival of the Remains of Col. Ellsworth at the Navy Yard.

The remains of Col. Ellsworth were escorted up to the navy yard by the Mount Vernon, under Lieut. Pendergrast, and were placed in the neat little engine-house of the yard, the fire apparatus having been removed. The body was laid on a small bench, and covered with the national flag, with a wreath of flowers upon the breast. The building was draped in flags and crape, and a special guard of the Seventy first regiment placed on duty about it, with orders to admit no person; but as the doors and windows were all open, the crowd outside had a very good opportunity of viewing the body. The flags about the yard were all at half mast, and a spirit of deep grief pervaded the entire vicinity. It was expected the President would visit the yard, and preparations were being made to receive him when our reporter left.

The escort which brought up the remains breakfasted at the headquarters of the Seventy-first New York Regiment, and were besieged by visitors anxious to learn the details of the murder. Private Brownwell, who shot Jackson, seems the centre of attraction, and was compelled to rehearse the story again and again. His clothing was considerably stained with the blood of Jackson, which flew over him as the former fell.

After Ellsworth was shot, the body was examined, sewed up in a red blanket, borne by six soldiers on a door torn down for the purpose, and guarded sorrowfully through the streets by as many of the Zouaves as could be spared. In coming up the river the flag of the James Guy was lowered to half-mast, and all the shipping on the river displayed their flags at half-mast as the Guy passed them.

The Firemen Zouaves are now under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Farnham, formerly of the New York Seventh regiment, a brave and efficient officer.

More Wagons Sent Over.

To day, government is sending immense quantities of tools and fortification implements and requirements across the Long Bridge in train after train of wagons, on their way to Arlington heights and the high ground between that point and the Long Bridge.

Another Capture.

It is reported that Capt. James Roche and his company of Cooney disunion scouts were made prisoners by the troops that first crossed the bridge.

The Late Colonel Ellsworth.

Col. Ellsworth, who was killed at Alexandria, was a native of New York, having been born in Saratoga county in the year 1837. He was consequently but twenty-three years of age at the time of his death. Several years since he removed to New York city, but after a short stay determined to cast his lot among the people of the great West. He therefore settled in Chicago, Illinois, and procured a situation.

When about 21 years of age, he conceived the idea of forming a company of Zouaves, whose drill and discipline should be superior to those of any other organization in existence. Carrying his plan into execution, the Chicago Zouave Cadets were organized, and in about a year they were the admiration of the people of Chicago. Last summer they paid the principal cities of the Union a visit, and their march was one continual ovation. Returning to Chicago, Col. Ellsworth was received with great enthusiasm, and immediately became one of the lions of the town.

Determining to pursue a profitable occupation, he entered the law office of President Lincoln, and after that gentleman's nomination, stumped the State in favor of his election. After the contest he returned to his books, and left them again to accompany the President to Washington. He was very popular with Mr. Lincoln, who appointed him a second lieutenant in the army. This, however, he declined to accept, and he was then commissioned to raise a regiment of firemen, and succeeding, was the first to fall.

Col. Ellsworth was engaged to be married to a highly interesting young lady living in Rockford, Ill. Those who knew the deceased speak of him in the highest terms, as possessing social qualities of an elevated order, and a free and generous spirit.

The Effect in New York.

The news of the death of Colonel Ellsworth spread through the city of New York like wildfire on Friday morning, and roused afresh the excitement, which during the last week had cooled down. Col. Ellsworth is said to have had a premonition of his untimely end, he having remarked when leaving the arsenal in 35th street, where he drilled his men, that he never again expected to be in New York alive. Immediately on receipt of the news, the flags of the State Arsenal, City Hall, all public buildings, engine houses, hotels, and private establishments, were lowered at half-mast in token of respect to the deceased.

Ellsworth's Body.

The remains of the young chief of the Zouaves, Colonel Ellsworth, lay in state on Saturday in the East Room of the White House.

To this room, well known as the scene of White House festivities, immense crowds have flocked. All the military men that could be spared from duty gathered to the side of the pulseless corps.

A common sorrow pervades the people at the sad fate of the promising officer so ruthlessly cut down. The men in uniform freely shed tears as they gazed upon Ellsworth's remains.

The body was laid out in full uniform. The American flag, draped with mourning emblems, gave token of the general grief.

Through the city the fire and church bells tolled.

The President's Sorrow.

A visitor at the White House on Friday found Mr. Lincoln overcome with grief at the loss of Col. Ellsworth, who had been intimate with him and who had formed one of the Presidential suite and family. Mr. Lincoln shed tears freely, and said:

I will make no apology, gentlemen, for my weakness; but I knew poor Ellsworth well, and held him in high regard. Just as you entered the room Capt. Fox left me, after giving me the painful details of Ellsworth's unfortunate death. The event was so unexpected and the recital so touching, that it quite unmanned me.

Mr. Lincoln then related the incidents as they had been detailed to him, and added:

Poor fellow! it was undoubtedly an act of rashness, but it only shows the heroic spirit that animates our soldiers, from high to low, in this righteous cause of ours. Yet who can restrain grief to see them fall in such a way as this, not by the fortunes of war, but by the hand of an assassin. There is one fact that has reached me, which is a great consolation, and quite a relief after this melancholy affair. I learn from several persons, that when the stars and stripes were raised in Alexandria many of the people of the town actually wept for joy, and manifested the liveliest gratification at seeing this familiar and loved emblem once more floating above them. This is another proof that all the South is not secessionist; and it is my earnest hope that as we advance we shall find as many friends as foes.

[The vote on secession in Alexandria on Thursday last rather contradicts this.]

The remains of Col. Ellsworth will leave here for New York by special train at 5 40 this P. M.

Arrival of the Remains in Baltimore.

Soon as the funeral solemnities of Col. Ellsworth were concluded at Washington, preparations were made for the conveyance of the body to New York city. It was placed in the mail car of the passenger train, which left there at 2.30, and reached here shortly after four o'clock, under the guard of an officer and six men of the New York Zouave Regiment. The remains were immediately taken to the Philadelphia depot, and left in the regular train for that city.

Reception of the Body in New York--Great Preparations, Military and Civic.

Mr. Alexander Stetson sent a despatch to Col. Chas. A. Stetson, of the Astor House, Friday evening announcing that the body of the Colonel would leave Washington this afternoon at half-past two o'clock. In this case it will arrive in New York to-morrow morning, and be laid in state at the Governor's room, City Hall.

A meeting of the committee of the fire department, which was appointed to equip Colonel Ellsworth's regiment, was held yesterday afternoon, when resolutions were adopted expressive of their grief at the loss of the Colonel, and also making arrangements for the funeral. A committee of six was appointed to proceed to Washington to take charge of the body, and another committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements in this city.

The ex-members of the 71st regiment are requested to attend a meeting at the armory this evening, to take suitable measures for attending the funeral of Col. Ellsworth.

The Garibaldi Guard passed resolutions of condolence with the family of the deceased, and will attend the funeral ceremonies.

The Board of Engineers and foremen of the fire department will meet at Fireman's Hall this evening, for the purpose of making arrangements in regard to the funeral.

In Brooklyn nearly every flag in the city was half-masted during the afternoon.

The committee which meets at the Astor House this afternoon at five o'clock, will make all necessary arrangements to receive the body, which we were informed by a telegraph despatch received this forenoon at the Astor House, left Washington this afternoon, and will arrive in Philadelphia at 11 o'clock to-night.

There being no regular train from Philadelphia to New York on Saturday night, Chief Engineer Decker sent a despatch at 1 o'clock to the Superintendent of the New Jersey railroad, to send on a special train to bring the body to this city, which will probably arrive at two o'clock to-morrow morning.

In connection with the arrangements which will be made by the committee this afternoon, it is understood that Gen. Hall, with two companies, will take charge of the remains, on the arrival of the train, and convey them to the Astor House, where they will remain in state until the funeral obsequies take place.

This afternoon the balcony of the Astor House was draped in mourning, as a token of respect to the deceased, who was a warm friend of the proprietor of that house.

Reception of Col. Ellsworth's Remains at New York.

NEW YORK, May 26.—Col. Ellsworth's remains arrived here early this morning and were received by a deputation of "Fund Committee" and a delegation of the Fire Department and escorted to Astor House, where the body was placed in charge of the family of the deceased.

The body subsequently lay in state for two hours in the Governor's Room at the City Hall. The procession which escorted the remains to the steamer Francis Skiddy, on which they left for Troy, was large and impressive. The 11th, 55th, 1st and 3d regiments formed the escort, whilst the firemen turned out in great numbers. The streets through which the funeral procession marched was lined with people, who, by uncovered heads and other demonstrations of respect, paid a beautiful tribute to the deceased. In the midst of the procession, was the banner of the New York Fire Department, shrouded in mourning. The flags all over the city were also displayed at half-mast, and many were draped with black.

Arrival of the Parents of Colonel Ellsworth.

At six o'clock this morning the father and mother of the late Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth, arrived in the city on board the steamer Francis Skiddy, and proceeded to the Astor House. A great many friends and sympathizers of the family called at the hotel to condole with the bereaved parents. The waiters at the Astor House have seemingly received orders not to admit any one to their room.

Mr. Ellsworth is more composed than his lady. He says if his son had died amid the clash of battle, leading on his noble men, he would scarcely have thought hard of it, and would have considered the death of his boy a glorious one, and would have thought nothing of the sacrifice; but to be foully assassinated in the commencement of a brilliant career, overwhelmed him to such an extent that it completely unmanned him.

Some few friends present intimated that the gallant Colonel died in the discharge of his duties, and in defence of his country, but the old gentleman would not listen to argument. The old couple are anxiously awaiting the arrival of the remains, which will be transported by way of rail from Washington, leaving that place at half-past two this afternoon.

They reside at Mechanicsville, New York. The old man was at the telegraph office soon after the news of the occupation of Alexandria was received, and the first intimation of the fate of his son was received from the operator.

The City of Alexandria.

The city of Alexandria, Virginia, is on the right bank of the Potomac, seven miles below Washington. It is a port of entry, and contains a population of 9,000 inhabitants. The river at this point is nearly a mile wide and affords a commodious harbor for ships of the largest tonnage. It is also a place where ship-building is carried on to some extent. The city is regularly laid out, gas-lighted, and contains a court-house, twelve churches, three banks, two newspaper offices, and several large public schools. The place is important to Virginia as a convenient point for the export of corn, tobacco, and coal.

The trade of Alexandria has been materially increased of late by the opening of the canal to Georgetown, intersecting the Cheasapeake and Ohio Canal, and railroad ninety miles long, extending to Gordonsville, on the Virginia Central railroad. This connection is a most important one to the South, as the line extends without interruption through the Southern States to Montgomery and Mobile, and connects with branch lines to almost every prominent Southern city and port.

Movements from Georgetown Friday Night.

At 9½ o'clock, Capt. Rodier, with the Anderson Rifles, passed over the Chain Bridge and posted picket guards. At about 11½ o'clock the remaining companies of the Georgetown battalion, under Major Hollinsworth, crossed the Aqueduct to reconnoitre and secure the roads. About 2½ o'clock this morning the Sixty-ninth Regiment, Col. Corcoran, Fifth Massachusetts, Col. Lawrence, and Twenty-eighth, Brooklyn, went over and took position on the Virginia side. At an early hour this morning the Engineer corps of the Fourteenth Brooklyn Regiment went over, and the work of fortifying was commenced. The large flag of the Sixty-ninth was taken over to be unfurled at their post.

Last night, a picket guard of the Anderson Rifles heard a clattering of sabres in the bushes near them. They kept a sharp lookout, and soon two men appeared and said to the men on duty, "I guess you are our prisoners!" One of the guards cocked his rifle, and presenting it, replied, "I guess not, but reckon you are ours!" The two new comers were disarmed and taken into custody, and this morning lodged in the armory of the Rifles.—Their names are Ball and Kirby, members of the Fairfax Cavalry, Captain M. D. Ball. They were armed with regulation sabres and the old-fashioned rifled carbine altered for percussion locks. Lieut. Lipscomb, of the Rifles, came upon another named Smidt, whom he took as a prisoner. Smidt says he is very willing to fall into the hands of the government. It saves him the trouble of running away.

The uniform of the Fairfax Cavalry, worn by the prisoners taken by the Anderson Rifles, consists of a lead-colored flannel jacket trimmed with black, and large white bone buttons, pants of the grey country cloth, with a yellow cord down the sides. The prisoners are kept under guard, but are treated kindly; their youth and apparent lack of discretion secures for them the pity of their captors. They are cheerful, and do not appear to realize the position they occupy as prisoners taken in arms against the Government.

Rowing Down to Alexandria.

Some of the Firemen Zouaves who happened to be in this city last night, on hearing that their regiment had gone down to Alexandria without them, immediately set to work to get down by hook or crook to join their companions, and getting hold of some row boats, "worked their passage" down with oars, against wind and tide, to be in at the fight.

Reported Accident to a Zouave.

As we go to press we hear, without being able to verify the report, that a Zouave fell this morning from the top of a flag-staff in Alexandria, breaking his neck by the fall.

Prisoners Taken.

The following is a list of the Virginia cavalry troops taken prisoners:

Capt. M. D. Ball, Lieut. Grigsby, privates Ball, Monroe, Harrison, Smith, Uterback, Spriggs, Burk, Gean, Nelson, Burk, Heath, Kirby, Ball, Nelson, Kensalar, Warfield, Bell, Thompson, Walcott, Clomp, Stalcup, Moore, Smith, Ball, Butler, Ford, Alexander, Grigsbee, Cooksey, Reed, Faikland, Bell, Radcliff, and Williams.

They were placed in charge of Commander Dahlgren, at the Washington navy-yard, who will hold them until the Government shall make some provision for their retention or release. It is said that 45 members of an infantry company were also captured, and that Dr. Boyle, ex-Mayor Lenox, Captain Schaeffer, and Noble Thomas, of Washington city, are among the number.

A picket guard of the Anderson Rifles on Thursday night arrested two members of the Fairfax Cavalry, named respectively, Ball and Kirby. A man named Smidt, belonging to the same corps, was also arrested by Lieut. Lipscomb, of the Rifles, a little later.

Henry Nevitt and David Porter were arrested on the train stopped by the President's Mounted Guard, and brought to the city. They were examined by the military authorities, and committed to jail.

James W. Quinton, a man of about sixty years of age, was arrested, in company with a youth named Cluite, in the neighborhood of Ball's Cross Roads, by a squad of the President's Mounted Guard. When arrested, they were in full uniform, and were armed with old-fashioned carbines, sabres and navy revolvers, and were out as picket guard.

[*From the Star of Saturday.*]

The Telegraph Replaced.

In the course of yesterday the telegraph wires between Washington and Alexandria were replaced by order of the Commanding General, having been previously destroyed by the secessionists. The line is of course to be used for communication between General Mansfield and the troops in Alexandria. Ere daylight the wires of the telegraph upon the Orange and Alexandria Railroad were cut by the advance party of troops making the dash upon Alexandria.

Further Particulars.

The destruction of bridges, &c., on the Loudoun and Hampshire Railroad by the 69th, extends fifteen miles out of Alexandria.

We hear that the wife and children of General Robert Lee, commanding the disunion troops of Virginia, continue at their residence—Arlington House—and are therefore now within the lines of the troops of the United States.

James Jackson, who killed Col. Ellsworth, was a man of violent character, yet of generous impulses where his prejudices were not immediately roused. He headed the company that not long since cut down the Republican flag at Occaquan, and the Secession flag flying over his house was the first one thrown to the breeze in Alexandria.

As late as the day before yesterday, some of his neighbors remonstrated with him upon essaying to keep it flying in view of the fact that it was highly probable that the troops of the United States would very shortly occupy Alexandria, and it was well known that the disunionists authorities had ordered its evacuation, by the few disunion troops there, at the first moment they might make their appearance. He, however, swore that he would sacrifice his life in keeping it flying—and by daybreak the next day his oath was fulfilled.

The following was Jackson's Business Card:

MARSHALL HOUSE.
JAMES W. JACKSON,
PROPRIETOR,
Corner of Pitt and King streets,
Alexandria, Virginia.
Virginia is determined, and will conquer under the command of Jeff. Davis.

A company of United States dragoons yesterday forenoon took post at the Virginia end of the Georgetown Aqueduct, which it is evident they purpose to occupy permanently.

It is reported that the whole United States force now on the other side of the river is between sixteen and seventeen thousand men. This can hardly be true. Our estimate is but eight thousand, with as many more so placed as that the commanding General can throw them over there at an hour's notice.

The Defense.

At noon yesterday, the engineers having previously staked out the work, the New Jersey troop commenced throwing up defences at the Junction of the Washington, Alexandria and Columbia turns pike opposite Columbia Spring and Pavilon, andn ere nightfall another similar work was commenced by a different Jersey regiment on the next succeeding (and higher) hight on the road towords Alexandria.

The New York Seventh.

The New York Seventh are to-day (as yesterday) in camp upon the race course, from which position they command the immediate approach to the Long Bridge. They therefore occupy the position of a reserved guard. The three Jersey regiments continue encamped on the side of the turnpike between the end of causeway next the Long Bridge and Four mile Run.

The Sixty-Ninth.

The first duty with which the New York Sixty-Ninth was charged was that of destroying the connection between Alexandria and Leesburg by rail. To that end, ere sunrise yesterday morning they burned seven of the bridges and tore up some five miles of the track of the Loudon and Hampshire railroad; capturing, on its way down to Alexandria, a locomotive and train, with the passengers upon it. Among the latter were two disunionists, in uniform, who were duly held to await the orders of the Commanding General with reference to their disposal. In the course of the morning, they made prisoners of two disunion scouts, (of Captain Ball's company,) who, not knowing of the advance of the troops of the United States, and the consequent hasty retreat of the rest of their picket, came unsuspectingly within the United States picket's lines.

The different divisions of troops engaged in the affair, so soon as they reached their several destinations, commenced securing them for permanent occupation; most of them laboring from early daylight until nightfall with pick and shovel to that end.

The Batteries.

About 4 P. M., the detachment of Sherman's flying artillery that accompanied Col. Wilcox's command to Alexandria, having been relieved by a portion of Capt. Rickett's that went over the river at noon, returned to their quarters in this city, after having been some sixteen hours in the saddle.

Affairs in Alexandria.

At 9½ o'clock last night the body of Jackson was laid out in the parlor of the Marshall House, the corpse dressed in the uniform of the artillery company to which he had belonged. This company is resuscitated from a company in existence there many years ago, and the members wear the uniform worn then. The coat buttons bear the State coat of arms. There was no guard about the house, and no crowd. A few friends of Jackson were superintending the removal of the furniture to the country, and with that exception all was quiet in and about the place.

The people of the town at that hour wore on their faces an expression of anxiety, as if some fearful thing was about to fall upon the city, in consequence of the assassination of Ellsworth. Mixed with this expression of apprehension was a counter one of relief on the countenances of not a few, that the Federal forces had not attacked the city and reduced it to ashes, as had been pretty generally feared. The stores, and in fact all places of business were closed throughout the day, and the city wore an aspect as silent as that of the Sabbath. The business people expected however to resume their several avocations again this morning.

At the railroad depot, the railroad company had taken the precaution to run off all the freight and passenger cars, engines, etc., except a few which were being hastily loaded with railroad iron, (of which there appeared to be a considerable quantity at the freight office,) when the United States troops took possession. About the wharves and warehouses where hitherto the life and excitement of the business of the town has been concentrated, the silence was absolutely oppressive, and the only people to be seen were numbers of negroes who stood about the wharves and on the corners with frightened faces, talking in low tones to each other.

The disunion troops hurried out of town in order—to beyond the depot, where they jumped on the train, (half a mile out of the town limits.)—They numbered between four and five hundred, the Loudon Infantry, the Warren Rifles, the Mountaineer Rifles and the Old Dominion Rifles. The Loudon Cavalry and half the Fairfax company escaped on their horses.

The United States troops are occupying the same quarters occupied previously by the routed-out disunion troops, and many other buildings scattered over the town. Colonel Wilcox's quarters are at O'Neil's Railroad Hotel on King street, near the outer Orange and Alexandria railroad depot.

The Marshall House (where Col. Ellsworth was killed) is taken to-day for barracks for a portion of the Michigan regiment.

Jackson's body is to be buried to-day. It was at 9 A. M. in charge of his family and personal friends. This morning a Michigan seatinel continues in front of the house.

The retreating troops that escaped, fled by rail to Manasses Junction, where there are said to be four or five thousand of their comrades fortified.

Later.

FIGHT, NO FIGHT!—Shortly before 2 P. M. one of our reliable messengers reached the *Star* office from the other side of the river—direct from the camp and intrenchments being thrown up by the Twelfth New York regiment, whom he left (in their most advanced position south) about the time the telegram mentioned above was sent to headquarters there. All was quiet there at that hour.

On reaching (on his way to the *Star* office) the camps of the Jersey regiments, he found them rapidly forming into line for a movement to the relief of the New York Twelfth, in consequence of a rumor that that regiment had been attacked, brought them by some countryman who alleged that he had just heard much firing around their camp.

Traveling along towards Washington, on reaching the Seventh regiment's encampment (at the race course) he found that regiment had just heard that the New Jersey camp were in such commotion as to justify the belief that they had been attacked.

On crossing the Long Bridge he met detachments of Flying Artillery and other United States troops in full run for the other side of the river; and between the Long Bridge and the *Star* Office the Massachusetts Fifth and another regiment close upon them, running towards the alleged progressing engagement with trailed arms, as though eager to be in the fray.

The streets, house-tops, and every eligible seeing-place in the city is, at 2 P. M., lined with eager crowds, stretching their necks in the direction of Fight no Fight, and cheering company, battalion, and regiment, as they rushed past towards the Long Bridge; most of them running, in line, at the rate of five or six miles per hour.

THE LATEST.

WASHINGTON, May 25.—Some of the troops who so hastily crossed the river this afternoon have returned to the city disappointed in their expectation of meeting the enemy. The movements of the afternoon however demonstrated the facility and expedition with which forces can be thrown in o Virginia.

The President, while in the procession accompanying the remains of Col. Ellsworth to the cars, was informed by a courier of stirring hostilities on the Virginia side. General Mansfield was similarly advised, and this was the foundation of the military movements here to-day. A dense smoke was meanwhile seen on the line of the Arlington heights, and the sound of cannonading heard. The latter, however, proved to be minute guns, and the smoke arose probably from the camp fires.

The troops now here, have been ordered to hold themselves in readiness to march at a moment's notice, the utmost watchfulness on the part of military authorities to guard against the approach of secession troops, being everywhere manifest.

[A despatch telegraphed to Philadelphia, says the smoke seen on Arlington Heights, was caused by the burning of bridges in that direction.]

Bowery Dramatics in War.

It is generally known that the inferior grade of actors includes, at all times, a considerable number of young men, who had become stage-stricken while dead-heading the pit during a connection with a printing office. These coarsely and enthusiastically tragic minds, being just now starved out of the Thespian service, seem to be driven back to their original avocation. Hence, the war items and war-correspondence literature of the day exhibits a ludicrous tendency to assume the tragic style, and the most simple events are announced with the vulgar-heroic circumstance of Bowery play-bills. For example, the theatrical flourishes over the death of the Fire-Zouave chief at Alexandria, are reduced by the statements of a well-informed lady, just arrived from that city, to the following natural simplicity. Mr. Jackson, proprietor of the hotel, had lowered his flag, and while descending the stairs with it, was met by a party of armed soldiers, whose officer demanded the flag. Jackson replied that he had purchased and paid for it, and refused to surrender his property. The flag was then torn from him with violent language and blows. The injured man went to his chamber, and, returning with a bird-gun, avenged the outrage by shooting the officer in whose hands he saw his flag. Jackson was himself immediately shot, as he knew he would be. These plain circumstances are sensationized in a manner which presents Col. Ellsworth as a rival of Forrest in Spartacus. It is immediately telegraphed throughout the North that the Colonel reserved for himself the heroic feat of tearing down the flag, sword in hand, and "wrapped it about his person," in order to elicit the admiration of his pet lambs and the world at large.

Shooting at Grafton.

The Wheeling *Intelligencer* of Saturday says:

In reference to the shooting affair near Grafton, on Wednesday night, the volunteers report that one of Captain Latham's company, Baily Brown, went out in search of a gun towards Fetterman, and coming upon a piquet guard from the secession camp, fired upon him, (the guard,) the ball just grazing his cheek and taking a small bit out of his left ear. The guard shot at, or another near by, returned the fire, lodging three buckshot in Brown's left breast, and killing him almost instantly.

The following despatch was received at this office on Saturday:

A Skirmish at Little Falls Church, near Arlington.

WASHINGTON, May 25.—An account just received from Virginia, which seems to be truthful, says the cause of the alarm was that the Federal picket guard at Little Falls Church, near Arlington, were attacked and driven in by the secessionists.

The Federal troops rallied and the secessionists were soon put to flight.

The 69th New York regiment left their works at the entrenchments, and are now drawn up in line on the brow of the hill.

The troops which hastily left this city this afternoon are halting within a mile of the city.

The artillery and cavalry passed on in the direction of Alexandria.

We learn that the troops returned to Washington about five o'clock, without finding a fight.—The alarm was occasioned by soms shots fired by the picket guard. Four of the Federal troops were reported to be wounded.

[*From the National Intelligencer of Saturday.*]

Military Movements.

When we consider the limited term for which the Government can confidently expect, according to law, to retain the services of the extraordinary levies which have repaired to this city, we think it extremely improbable that any thing like a "campaign" into the heart of the Southern States can be seriously contemplated by the Administration, though on this point we speak with an ignorance of military operations only equalled by our ignorance respecting the real designs of the Government. If however, this forward movement has been made with reference to the occupation of a strategetic point deemed essential to the defence of this capital, we can readily understand the considerations which may have induced the step. It is known to our readers that large bodies of troops from the Southern States have been lately congregating at different points in Virginia, in such proximity to each other that a rapid concentration of forces could be easily effected at any moment.

In the presence of such hostile demonstrations the Administration may have deemed it prudent to occupy certain outposts, which a slight inspection of the map, and especially of the railroad connections between Alexandria and Richmond, will show to be of great importance to the security of this city. It was doubtless under the pressure of similar considerations, affecting the security of Harper's Ferry from apprehended attack, that the Confederate forces stationed at that point have lately advanced on the soil of Maryland, for the purpose of occupying eminences which, though lying outside of Virginia, were deemed the keys of the most important military position held within her borders. Our readers will recall the repeated statements which have been made in our columns respecting such "invasions" of Maryland, as also the remonstrances that have been vainly made on the subject by the civil authorities of that State.

If, however, the scope of the movement yesterday made should be wider than we have been led to infer, and if it be the initiation of anything like a regular campaign, directed to the suppression of the civil revolution that has broken out in the South, we must say, in justice to our convictions, that we cannot bring ourselves to perceive the expediency of any such policy, having regard to the single end proposed—"the restoration of the Union." As the military "subjugation" of the South is admitted on all hands to be equally impossible and contrary to the purposes of the Administration, which, we are assured by its most accredited organs, simply seeks to relieve the "Union men" of the Seceded States from what is believed by many to be the domination of energetic minorities favoring and upholding the secession movement, we shall at least learn from the reception awarded to the Federal troops in Virginia whether this expectation will be realized.

Our own impressions of the Southern character, and our own convictions in regard to the unhappy unanimity of the people in most, if not all of the States that have actually seceded, are not of a nature to permit the indulgence of such predictions. As we have constantly labored to prevent this deplorable state of affairs, and of public sentiment among our Southern countrymen, we need not add that we shall be greatly pleased to find that we have underrated the number of those who in Virginia and throughout the more Southern States, would gladly return to their allegiance if relieved from the pressure of rulers who have gained only a temporary ascendency.

Official Report of the Affair between the Steamers and the Sewell's Point Battery.

WASHINGTON, May 23, 1861.—The following official report of the action between the United States steamer Star and the Sewell's Point battery, on the 19th inst, has just been received:

U. S. STEAMER STAR, May 19, 1861.
Flag Officer S. H. Stringham,
Commander of the Home Squadron:

From the time I reported to you yesterday I kept a strict watch on the movements of the enemy in and about Sewell's Point battery. Several noises were heard during the night, but not distinct enough for me to trace them.

At half-past five, P. M., I heard distinct blows, as if from an axe securing timber platforms for gun carriages, inside of the embrasures, and immediately I ordered a shot to be fired over them. The rebels immediately hoisted a white flag, with some design on it, and fired a shot that cut the fore spencer guys near the gaff. I immediately went to quarters, and returned their fire, which was continued by them. I expended fifteen round of grape, twelve ten-inch shot, thirty-two ten-inch shell, ten shell for thirty-two pounders, and forty-five thirty-two pound shot; making a total of one hundred and fourteen shots, which I think did some execution among the rebels. I only desisted for want of ammunition, having only five eight-pound charges remaining for the pivot gun. I regret that want of ammunition compelled me to retire, as I am satisfied I could have silenced the battery in a short time.

I cannot too highly praise the courage and patriotism of the officers and men under my command. They acted nobly, and with great coolness, as the repeated firing will show. The action continued from 5.30 to 6 45 P. M., a duration of some hour and fifteen minutes.

The battery is masked; thirteen embrasures having been erected behind a sand-bank. The rebels had three rifled cannon, and fired several volleys of Minie balls, which struck the ship. The ship was struck five times by the rifled cannon shot in the hull and upper works. The damage can be repaired by ourselves.

I herewith enclose the report of the medical officer of the ship, by which you will perceive that two men were slightly wounded during the action.

I cannot close this communication without calling the attention of the Flag Officer to the valuable services of Lieutenant Daniel L. Braine, who had charge of our pivot gun, and who, during the whole action, displayed great coolness and skill in the management.

HENRY EAGLE, Commander.

[*Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.*]

From Harper's Ferry.

The work of fortifying the neighboring heights being of the greatest importance, deserves the first attention. This work is progressing rapidly and substantially, a large body of men having been engaged for some time, both on the Virginia and Maryland side, and although little can be seen from Harper's Ferry proper, yet a more favorable point of observation will convince any one that no time has been lost in the work of defence.

A military road is now in progress, and nearly completed to the Pinnacle, which is the highest point on the Maryland Mountain, and to-morrow an additional number of laborers and mechanics will proceed to that point, to hasten on the work of fortification.

The Pinnacle commands all the approaches on both sides the Ridge, on the Maryland side, as does the opposite height the Virginia approaches.

But the attention of our commander is by no means confined to these two points of defence.

Large guns have been planted on the hills back of the Ferry, which sweep the valleys of the Potomac and Shenandoah.

An enemy is not looked for from any particular direction; we are guarded on all sides, and scouting parties are out for miles in every direction.

Besides the troops employed in building and throwing up fortifications, a large number of negroes have been sent in by the neighboring farmers, and if needed, the number will be largely increased as soon as the corn planting is over.

Provisions are plentiful—we are fed on the finest beef, with bacon, bread, coffee, &c., in abundance.

Troops are arriving every day. Two Regiments of Mississippians were among the last. They are a fine looking body of men, very tall—are armed with rifles and well supplied with camp equipments. Each company has one or more negroes along to do the cooking, &c. One old gray-headed negro boasted that he helped to dig the foundation of the first house erected at the Virginia University, and declared that he had come to defend his old home from invasion, which he seemed quite intent upon doing with his gun in hand, and cartridge-box by his side.

The daily arrival of cannon is fast supplying our wants in that line. Several fine brass pieces came down the Winchester Railroad to-day, and others of a larger size will reach there to-morrow.

The troops are in fine spirits, and good health.

Rumor of an Important Arrest.

It was currently reported Friday night that while the Sixty-Ninth regiment of New York, (Col. Corcoran,) was reconnoitering on the Orange and Alexandria railroad, a rumbling noise, like the movement of cars, was heard in the distance, which caused the regiment to lay in ambush along the road, in order to discover, if possible, what it might be. In a short time, two locomotives, with twenty-two cars attached, approached, when they instantly stopped, and those within, reported to be three hundred and fifty armed secessionists, were arrested by order of Col. Corcoran.

THE VOTE IN VIRGINIA ON SECESSION.

A gentleman who arrived in this city from Richmond, furnished us with a copy of the Richmond *Examiner* of Friday, in which we find the following returns of the vote on the secession ordinance:

[*Special Despatch to the Examiner.*]

PORTSMOUTH, May 23—Midnight.—Polls are closed and result announced. There were only 75 votes against secession cast here to-day.

The county is nearly unanimous for secession.

Harper's Ferry (Jefferson county) votes 812 in favor, and 365 against, secession.

SALEM, (Roanoke county,) May 23.—The polls at this precinct closed with the following result: For ratifying the act of secession and amending the constitution, 850; no one voted against either.

LYNCHBURG, May 23.—The polls are closed. For ratifying the ordinance of secession, 1,426; against it none. Davis and Saunders are elected to the House of Delegates. For amending the constitution, 1,385; against it 69.

Other points, as far as heard from, give a similar vote.

ALEXANDRIA, May 23.—The polls are closed. For ratifying the ordinance, 957; against it, 106. Thosmas and Cazenove are elected.

Fairfax has gone almost unanimously for secession.

MANCHESTER (Chesterfield county) PRECINCT.—The polls are closed, and the following is the result of the vote at this precinct: for ratification, 390; against it, none.

FREDERICKSBURG, May 23.—The polls are closed. For ratifying the ordinance of secession, 717; against it, 2.

NORFOLK, May 23.—This city is unanimous for ratifying the ordinance of secession, save 6.

CHARLOTTESVILLE, May 23.—Two precincts in Albemarle county heard from, which give 816 for ratification, none against it.

SCOTTSVILLE, (Albemarle county,) May 23.—This precinct polled 230 for ratifying the secession ordinance; none against it.

KEYSVILLE, (Charlotte,) May 23.—For ratifying the Ordinance of Secession 144; against it none.

GORDONSVILLE, (Orange,), May 23.—For ratifying Secession Ordinance 128; none against it.

HENRICO, C. H., May 23.—For ratifying secession ordinance 1,086; none against it.

BOTETOURT COUNTY.—Not a vote against the ordinance in this county as far as heard from.

STAUNTON, May 23.—As far as heard from, in Augusta county, the vote stands: For ratifying the Ordinance 3,300; against it 6.

Mr. Charles H. Upton received 10 votes at Ball's Cross Roads for the Congress of the United States. The vote upon the secession question was for the Union 79, for Secession 33.

At Occaquan, Prince William county, the vote was about 90 for disunion to 60 for the Union.

RICHMOND.

RICHMOND CITY, with the exception of one ward, was for ratification of the ordinance 2,499, against it 2. The ward to hear from is expected to poll from 1,000 to 1,200 in favor of the ordinance. The *Examiner* expects the whole vote of the State to give a majority for Secession of 100,000.

RICHMOND, May 23.—Robertson is elected to the Senate, and Stegar, Robertson and Wynne to the House. The vote against Ratification is very trifling.

The Wise Dragoons, Captain Adams' company, from Fairfax county, who have been stationed near Occoquan, voted unanimously for secession.

FAUQUIER COUNTY.

Returns from this county show a unanimous vote for Ratification as far as heard from.

Scott and Payne are probably elected to the Legislature.

CAMP ELECTION.

But ten Union votes were cast at the camp of Col. Allen, in Berkeley county, to 252 for secession. The Border Guards, Berkeley Cavalry, and Hedgesville companies, voted at Falling Waters. The sense of the Jefferson companies was taken for members of the Legislature, showing about 120 majority in favor of Andrew Hunter and A. R. Boteler, who are elected.

The Rockbridge Rifles, under the command of Capt. Letcher, and now stationed at Martinsburg, voted unanimously for secession, as did the Cavalry Company from Augusta county.

From Harper's Ferry we learn that the Union vote was less than 100, and that the vote for secession was 4,200.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

Virginia Election.

WHEELING, May 25.—Twenty counties in Western Virginia have been heard from, and all give a large majority against secession.

Secession troops are now quartered at Grafton. The number is not known.

A despatch from Frankfort, Ky., says the Border State Convention meets on Monday.

[SECOND DESPATCH.]

MARIETTA, PA., May 26.—The following election returns have been received here from Western Virginia, showing Union majorities, as stated: Berkeley county, 700 majority; Harrison, 1,000; Wood, 1,690; Morgan, 400; Ritchie, 378; Loudon, 1,000; Jackson, 400; Wirt, 300; Pleasants, 150; Doddridge, 550; Barbour, 350; Taylor, 700; Marion, 150; Wetzell, 1; Mason, 1,700; Cabell, 650; Kanauha, 1,200; Wayne, 800; Preston, 500.

The office of the Parkersburg *News*, a secession paper, was completely demolished on Friday night by a crowd of Union men, who said they considered it their duty to put a stop to its issue.

SEIZURE OF PRIZE VESSELS.—The U. S. Distric Attorney in New York has received communication from the flag officer of the blockading squadron, dated Hampton Roads, 21st inst., stating that he had forwarded to New York a number of prize vessels loaded at Richmond with tobacco, &c., among which were several English vessels. He desired they should have early disposition. He states that he does not think the English vessels desired to defy the blockade, but that they merely sought to secure the high freights and large cargoes they had in.

The Pioneer, one of the vessels seized, is owned, ship and cargo, at Richmond. The Tropic Wind, another of the prizes, claims to be an English vessel, but is commanded by Capt. Born, originally of Massachusetts, but more recently of Maryland.

Ship North Carolina, of Norfolk, Foster, from Havre for Norfolk, has arrived at New York, a prize to the United States ship Minnesota. She was taken while going into Hampton Roads.

Several captures having been made in Hampton Roads before the expiration of the fifteen days' notice given by the Government of the blockade, restitution has been ordered in such cases.

Twenty vessels in all are said to have been seized by the squadron off Old Point. The blockade is vigorous, and all attempts to evade it are unsuccessful.

PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY (O.S.)

THE WAR QUESTION AT ISSUE.

Exciting Debate on Dr. Spring's Resolutions.

EIGHTH DAY.

The order of the day was taken up, being the resolutions of Dr. Spring, of New York, advising the appointment of the 4th of July next as a day of general fasting and prayer for blessings on our rulers and the Congress of the United States, and for the restoration of a "speedy and honorable peace." Also,

"*Resolved,* That in the judgment of this Assembly, it is the duty of the ministers and churches under its care to do all in their power to promote and perpetuate the integrity of these United States, and to strengthen, uphold and encourage the federal government."

In consequence of the announcement that the resolutions would act as a test question with the Assembly, the house was densely filled with persons of every denomination, and they took the deepest interest in the proceedings. A large portion of the audience was composed of ladies.

The Rev. Dr. Thomas took the floor on a point of order, as a motion had been previously made to lay the question on the table. He advocated the resolution at considerable length, arguing strongly in favor of supporting the federal government. We have, he contended, been protected by its power, and now if our blood is demanded for the maintenance of this government, we, as the people of the Presbyterian Church of the United States, should freely pour it out for its support. [Applause.]

The chairman here interrupted and remarked that no such manifestations could be permitted.

Dr. T. continued, and alluded in strong terms to the effect that the action of the synod would have upon the brave hearts who, faithful to their country, stood proud and erect upon the decks of our navy, and those who had shouldered the musket, resolved, through all hardships and trials, to stand faithful to the last. Did the Synod but adopt the resolutions, the hearts of these patriots would be cheered, and their arms strengthened, and no obstacle should interfere to thwart their noble resolves.

In conclusion, the speaker alluded to the course of Bishops Whittingham and McIlvaine, of the Episcopal Church, who demanded the recognition of the President of the United States. Public sentiment will condemn that General Assembly which will not sustain the Government.

Dr. Gillespie was the next speaker. He thought Dr. Spring's resolutions would be like igniting a magazine. They would produce an explosion. Let us save the church; let us confine ourselves to those things which pertain to the church. Look at what outside questions have done for the Methodist and Baptist churches. They are rent! Shall we rend our noble fabric? Our union is our beauty, strength and glory, and woe to him who would cause divisions in the church. He would be willing to sacrifice his life to bring back the Union of our fathers unbroken. He loved Cæsar, but he loved the God of Cæsar and the Church more than Cæsar. He thought the government would not be strengthened by these resolutions, and it would create a bad feeling at the South. The North and South do not understand each other; and if the masses of the people in both sections understood each other, the present troubles would be obviated in thirty days.

Rev. Mr. Hopkins, of Ky., condemned the "sophistry" in Dr. Gillespie's speech. He denied that the passage of the resolutions would cause the explosion of the magazine.

Mr. Bergen, of Philadelphia, followed. He deprecated the introduction of the subject. He was pained to see it introduced by the Reverend Father who did it. Not that he did not love his country. He had voted to lay the resolutions on the table.—They were couched in courteous terms, and the men voting against them would be placed in a false position. Men must vote against them who love the Union, and he would, if it were possible, like to see them withdrawn, and leave the question they involve to be answered by the broad history of the church.

Rev. Mr. Lee, of Indiana, asked who was the "dead" that are to be "buried." Thank God it is not the government of the United States, and Jeff. Davis will find it out. [Hisses and applause.]—A question of order was raised. The Moderator decided that all expressions calculated to cause disorder are not in order. An appeal from the decision was taken but withdrawn.

Mr. Lee then resumed. He reiterated his assertion that the general government is not numbered with the dead. He trusted that when the vote was taken, all would vote as God dictates us to vote. Let us sustain the government, and let us sustain the soldiers of the government.

Dr. Hodge said this General Assembly was not afraid to announce its allegiance to the general government or to the constitution and laws, and he therefore thought no member thereof need be excited, in order to force him to do his duty in this respect. No one doubted the loyalty of the Presbyterian Church. It had always stood by the government in all its former troubles, and no one would doubt it now. A member of the President's cabinet, on being consulted on the subject, said "the best thing you can do for the Union is to keep unbroken the unity of your Church."

Dr. Backus, of Schenectady, here rose and said that other members of the cabinet wished the Church to preserve its unity. This fact had been learned by telegraph. [Sensation.]

Dr. Hodge resumed, saying that it the Church split, it tended unquestionably to help the dissolution of the national Union. This process has been begun. The Methodists and Baptists have yielded. The Old School Church has yet preserved its unity, from Maine to Louisiana. Every man of us would say with our brother from Tennessee we would lay down our lives for the Union. If this bond be broken, our blood flows with it. The fate of the Church lies in your hands brethren. Differences of political opinion do not interfere with Church membership. I am fully convinced that the interests of our church, and of religion generally demand and require that we remain one body.

Dr. Hodge thought the resolutions of Dr. Spring were not needed; they were out of place, and would only increase the ill feeling which might exist among some of the members now. He asked leave to introduce a series of resolutions as a substitute, which he had prepared. The main tenor of the substitute is that the General Assembly take no active part in the present distressed state of affairs, either upon one side or the other, by looking forward steadily to the time which they pray may soon come when a peace honorable to all may be consummated, &c.

The question of postponement of the debate on the previous question then came up, but as there was no call of two-thirds for the postponement the debate was proceeded with.

Dr. Anderson, of California, obtained the floor, and advocated the resolutions of Dr. Spring. He thought it would be eminently honorable, consistent and even Christian and orthodox, to stand by the federal government in its hour of trouble, to say nothing of the obedience we owe to the warning voice of twenty millions of freemen and Americans, at the least calculation. He said it was useless to try to drown the Assembly with such milk-and-water sophistry as that contained in the substitute. It was entirely too weak. It was composed of about one gallon of milk to one hundred barrels of water. [Great laughter and applause in the galleries.]

He would not like to go back to California and tell the people there that the Old School Presbyterian General Assembly had refused to lend its voice in prayer and supplication to sustain the Federal Government, and that it was afraid to announce its loyalty to the world.

Dr. Spring next took the floor. He said he would give something, however, to know what caucusing and prying was used to get that member of the President's Cabinet to say what was accorded to him. And he would like to know if the gentleman said just that and nothing further. He would not be personal, but he ventured to say there was a falsehood somewhere. [Sensation.] If there was any union in the Church it was in the Northern and Western States, and these loyal States had more than a majority of the communicants, and they must be respected.

Pass the substitute of Dr. Hodge, and he would not like to say how much of the Synod of New York would meet on friendly terms with the General Assembly. He thought the church was all on this side of Mason and Dixon when unity was spoken of, and he thought that every church could stand unmolested with his resolution in its hands.

He spoke at some length, and in conclusion said that this was probably the last time he would ever meet his brethren of the General Assembly again on earth, as he was now old and feeble, but he would depart in peace if it be recorded that in his last moments he raised his voice and cried, "Long live the Union!"

Judge Ryerson, of New Jersey, was the next speaker. His argument was forcible, and favored the resolutions of Dr. Spring.

The debate was continued up to the hour of adjournment.

Presbyterian General Assembly.

PHILADELPHIA, May 26.—The discussion in the Presbyterian General Assembly on the state of the country, was continued yesterday with unabated interest. A telegram received from Secretary Bates, was read, stating that in his opinion and that of other members of the Cabinet, the best thing which the Assembly could do to sustain the Government, was to preserve the unity of the Presbyterian Church, by abstaining from any deliverances on the present troubles.

Dr. Wines offered a series of resolutions in accordance with these views, when they were earnestly supported by the Kentucky delegate and others. Adjourned till Monday.

HON. J. W. CRISFIELD.—Hon. J. W. Crisfield, nominated as a candidate for Congress by the Union men of the First District, accepts the same in a long letter expressing his views on the condition of National affairs. One paragraph of the letter reads as follows:

"That the distinctive doctrines of the Chicago platform are sectional, inconsistent with national harmony, and ought to be abandoned; that the course of the Administration, has not been characterized by wisdom, prudence, and a proper national spirit, and ought not to be approved, and is not approved by the people of Maryland.

The Belton (Bell county) *Independent* of the 4th instant, says:

Wheat is being harvested this week, and will continue until finished. Never was there such a vast amount of grain in Texas. Oats and barley are in a fair way to make the largest yield we ever saw. Corn will now be made without additional rain, but we are certain of showers after this. Providence has indeed favored us with his bountiful smiles, and as a Christian people we should feel truly grateful.

THE ARMY AND NAVY CONTRACTS.—We copy the following paragraph from the New York *Times*:

"Very general, and, we fear, well-grounded complaints and apprehensions exist of great corruption and wastefulness in contracts for our army and navy. We have heard of several cases of direct jobbery, and of most improvident transactions, which will enormously swell the expenses of the war. We wish to say nothing to discourage the spirit of enthusiasm which exists, but it is evident that we shall need every penny we can get, even if honestly expended."

SPIRIT OF THE MARYLAND LADIES.—A gentleman from Maryland informs us that a number of federal soldiers visited the house of Major Bond, in Anne Arundel county in that State, a few days ago, in search of arms. The captain rapped at the door and was met by a daughter of Major Bond, a young lady about 15 years of age, who demanded the reason of his visit. He remarked that he came to search the house for arms, whereupon he was told that he couldn't come in. He said he was bound to do so at all hazards. Miss B. replied, "If you do so it shall be by brute force, for I intend to stand here." The captain turned upon his heel and remarked, with an oath, that if the women act in this way what will not the men do. His party then left without the search.—*Alex. Sentinel.*

REFUSAL OF A PASSPORT.—Mr. F. W. Center, a citizen of the United States, applied a few days since to Mr. Nones, commissioner of deeds, in New York, for a passport, as he intended visiting his friends in Paris. After waiting a few days he finally received a despatch from Secretary Seward, saying that a passport could not be given him. The New York *News* says he subsequently received a communication from the Union Defence Committee, requesting his presence before them. He, in company with Mr. Nones, called at Pine st., and was questioned by that committee. They asked him where he was born. Mr. C. stated that he was born in Florida, but at an early age left there, and for the past twenty-five years had been a resident of New York and California; he now claims the latter place as his home. He had to satisfy them that he was a Union man, although in his affidavit before the commissioners he had sworn that he was an American citizen, which was substantiated by a fellow-citizen of his who had known him from his boyhood. Still it appeared that this did not satisfy the Government, and they had therefore ordered him for examination before the Union Defense Committee. Here he had to swear again that he was not a secessionist, and that he would support the Federal Government.—After making them these statements, the Committee gave him a pass, which was signed by two of its members, and told him in case he should receive any impediment in leaving the city, that pass would protect him, and in case his passport should not arrive in time, that the pass would be recognized by the American consul in London, who would see him all right to Paris. The next day, however, he received his passport from Washington, it having been forwarded upon receipt of a despatch from the Committee, saying that all was right.

LETTER FROM MRS. A. J. DONELSON TO GENERAL SCOTT.—The following letter, addressed by Mrs. A. J. Donelson to Gen. Scott, appears in the Memphis *Bulletin*:

MEMPHIS, April 29, 1861.

GENERAL SCOTT—*Dear Sir:* I address you not as a stranger. I was introduced to you in 1834 in the White House, by President Jackson, as "my niece, Miss Martin, of Tennessee." In 1835 I married Lewis Randolph, a grandson of President Jefferson. In 1837 he died; and in 1841 I married Major Andrew J. Donelson, whom you will remember. In 1852 I saw you frequently in Washington.

I write to you, Gen. Scott, as the only man in the country who can arrest the civil war now begun. When it was announced that "Gen. Scott had resigned," a thrill of joy ran through the South. Cannon told the glad tidings, and my heart said, "God bless him." Now it is said "you will never fight under any other than the Star-Spangled Banner." We have loved that banner. We have loved the Union. But the Union is gone, and forever; and I wept as each star left the field of blue, and set in night. Now we have another field of blue, and soon our fifteen stars will shine upon our right. The stripes are all that is left of the banner you have borne victoriously in many battles.

Of *you* I may ask it, but not the usurper and his Abolition band, who now desecrate the honored place once filled by our Washington, Jefferson and Jackson—of General Scott I ask it—stop this war. Say to the North, you shall not shed your brother's blood. The sons of Tennessee and the South have buckled on their armor, and are ready for the fight. We will fight this battle, every man, woman and child, to the last cent in our pockets, and the last drop of blood in our veins. The North boasts of its strength. If this boast be well founded, it were *cowardice* to destroy the weak. But "the race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong!" God will defend us when our husbands and sons go forth to repel the invaders of our homes, our rights, and our soil. Then count the cost, Hero of Battles, and let after ages bless you.

ELIZABETH A. DONELSON.

NEW YORK GETTING FRIGHTENED.—The following communication is published in the New York *Express* of Thursday evening:

WAR WITH ENGLAND—MAKE PREPARATIONS SEASONABLY.

I see from the published proceedings of the Union Defence Committee, in to-day's city papers, that a resolution has been unanimously adopted by them calling the attention of the General Government to the necessity of strengthening the defences of New York city. This is a step in the right direction, and it cannot be taken a moment too soon. Almost every day seems to strengthen the probability that we shall have war with Great Britain, and possibly with France, within the next six months. Those unsrupulous and ambitious Monarchical powers have no special attachment for our free institutions—and the recent enactment of the Morrill Tariff (which virtually excludes from our market many kinds of British goods) has excited bitter prejudice against us. Superadded to this the English and French Governments are almost compelled to have the cotton, tobacco and naval stores which are produced by the Southern States; and if these cannot be obtained by fair and peaceful commerce, the chances are that they will be acquired even at the hazard and expense of war. Already do British ships begin to run the blockade of Southern ports, and complaints are being heard against British consuls and British agents.

If the complication arise with Great Britain, as seems now most probable, our city is by no means secure against attacks from her powerful Navy—and if France should league with her, it will require all our watchfulness and strength to ward off the damaging blows which will be aimed at our commerce and our cities upon the seaboard. Let us therefore take counsel from prudence and our fears, and be well prepared for whatever contingencies may arise.

IMPORTANT FROM SYRIA.—A Syrian correspondent of the Boston *Traveler* sends the following important information, under date of Beirut, April 22:

"Beirut is in great commotion to-day, not on account of fresh massacres or any of those terrible displays of Moslem fanaticism which spread consternation among the people during the first part of the past year—far otherwise. The time has not yet come for the re-enactment of those well-remembered scenes, and I think we may comfort ourselves in the belief that it is not even very near at hand. The present cause of excitement is the arrival of no less than twelve thousand Turkish troops, four thousand of which are cavalry; and as I stood on the terrace and looked at them as they passed through the square, I did not wonder at the excited countenances of our Arab servants when they rushed into the breakfast room, while we were at our morning meal, and told us the news. The cavalry bore great numbers of little red flags fluttering in the hot sirocco wind, which is one of many we must expect to endure during the forthcoming hot season. The five men-of-war on which the troops came make a very pretty display in the harbor, but not so the soldiers themselves, whose mien and accoutrements are looking particularly indifferent in contrast with the gay costumes, the beautiful chargers, and the gallant bearing of the French soldiers. The French and English boats aided them in debarking, and their timely assistance will no doubt again be called in requisition on the arrival of two more line-of-battle ships, which are expected to-night."

THE SACRED REMAINS.—We have already inserted (says the *National Intelligencer*) a contradiction of the sensation falsehood which was recently imposed on a New York paper, that the remains of the Pater Patriæ had been removed from Mount Vernon by the late proprietor of the estate; but we yield to the request of the esteemed Regent of the Ladies' Mount Vernon Association to give a place to the following:

"We are requested by the Ladies of the Mount Vernon Association to state that the assertion, which appeared in a New York paper of the 15th instant, to the effect that Col. J. A. Washington had caused the removal of the remains of Gen. Washington from Mount Vernon, is utterly false and without foundation.

"Never, since first laid in this, his chosen resting-place, have the remains of our Great Father reposed more quietly and peacefully than now, when all the outer world is distracted by warlike thoughts and deeds. And the public—the owners of this noble possession—need fear no molestation of this one national spot, belonging alike to North and to South; over it there can be no dispute! No individual or individuals have the right, and surely none can have the inclination, to disturb this sacred deposit.

"The Ladies have taken every necessary precaution for the protection of the place, and it is their earnest desire that the public should feel confidence in their faithfulness to their trust, and believe that Mount Vernon is safe under the guardianship of the Ladies of the 'Mount Vernon Association of the Union.'"

THE CROPS IN MARYLAND.—From all parts of our county we hear of the most gratifying accounts of the appearance of the growing wheat. The prospect for a heavy yield we are told could hardly be more flattering. The spring has been in many respects altogether favorable to its growth, and it is now so far advanced, especially in the better qualities of soil, as to place it quite beyond the ravages of the insect.—*Kent News.*

Owing to the cold and wet weather, the corn has not come up well, and the cut-worm is very destructive. Much re-planting will have to be done.—The wheat fields look promising in this county. If no disaster befalls the crop, it bids fair to be a heavy one. From present indications the peach crop will be an average one, the young fruit presenting a healthy appearance.—*Cecil Democrat.*

The wheat crop in this county looks remarkably well, and promises a full harvest. Mr. P. T. Hambleton, of St. Michaels, left at our office last Friday a sample of North Carolina blue stem, four feet six inches high, and he says the crop in that district looks remarkably well.—*Easton Gazette.*

COL. FREMONT COMING HOME.—A letter from Paris says that Col. Fremont is about to renounce his Mariposa negotiations to go home to place himself at the service of his Government. He has been organizing, by letter, an army among the dare-devil knife and revolver boys of California, with which to make a diversion into Texas; but if there is not time to carry this project into execution, he will take service at any point Mr. Cameron may assign him.

A WAR BREEZE ON THE AFRICAN STATION.—Mr. Binnie, the U. S. naval storekeeper at Loando, W. C. Africa, had occasion to turn out of his office a Portuguese shipmaster, who had presented a false account of lumber delivered. For so doing he was arrested by the town authorities and confined in one of the forts. At last accounts the American squadron on the station were contemplating the bombardment of the forts, with the steam gunboat Mystic, and steam sloop San Jacinto, and the flagship Constellation.

The last accounts respecting the earthquake at Mendoza are even worse than those previously received, as it has been ascertained that upwards of eleven thousand people perished in this dreadful catastrophe. The details of the sufferings of the survivors are very sad, but throughout Chili everything was being done to relieve the distress.

The government having some twelve thousand muskets of old style bore, at Columbus Ohio, determined to have them rifled. The contract was accordingly advertised and strange to say two prominent lawyers (good republicans) obtained the same. How the work is to be performed is not stated.

The Northern papers state that Norfolk will be attacked as soon as a sufficient quantity of troops arrive at Fortress Monroe. There are but three thousand men there at present, but in ten days it is expected that the number will be increased to fifteen thousand.

The Philadelphia *North American* says that the real sentiments of the English people are now only spoken by the religious press of that country—that is that the journals are thoroughly abolitionized.

Parker B. Cookman, Esq., of Harrison county, (Va.) has expressed his willingness to give one hundred head of fat cattle to feed the Virginia troops, and one hundred more if need be.

One of the members of the Presbyterian General Assembly, now sitting in Philadelphia, had his pocket picked on Wednesday of a portmonnaie containing $125.