THE DAILY EXCHANGE.

VOL VIII---NO. 1,081. BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 1861. PRICE TWO CENTS.

BOARD OF TRADE.
Committee of Arbitration for month of August.
SAMUEL BEVAN,
WM DEVRIES, | JOS. C. YATES,
G. S. BROWN,

Monetary and Commercial Review.

BALTIMORE, August 29, 1861.

There was some little movement in Stocks to-day, but the transactions were not large. Sales were made at the Board of $1,500 Maryland 1870 6's inscribed at 81¾; $10,000 Northern Central Railway 1885 bonds at 44¾, a decline of ¼ per cent., on the price last obtained, and $500 do. at 45, but nothing was done in any of the other State stocks on the list. Railroad shares were heavy and Baltimore and Ohio was ¼ lower, the market for it closing at 44¼ bid, 44¾ asked regular way. Northern Central was offered as on yesterday at 41¼, but no bid was made for it. Northern Central bonds left off at 44¾ bid, 44½ asked for 1885's, and Baltimore and Ohio bonds closed at 42 bid, 43 asked for 1867's; 69½ bid, 70½ asked for 1875's; and 67½ bid, 70 asked for 1885's. City 6's were steady at yesterday's figures, 1870's closing at 89 bid, and 1890's at 81 bid, 81½ asked. There were no bids made for any of the Southern State stocks, but Maryland 1870 6's were offered at the close at 81¾, and 1890's closed at 81 bid, 82½ asked. Springfield Mining closed to-day $1 49 bid, $1 60 asked, and for Gardner Hill do. 45 cts was bid. Bank stocks closed at $85 bid for Merchants'; $28½ for Commercial and Farmers', full paid; $27½ for Farmers and Merchants'; $15 for Western; $13 for Mechanics'; and $6¾ for Citizens'.

The demand for foreign Exchange at the opening of the week was animated but for the last two or three days the market has been dull. We quote sterling to day at 107⅞ for bankers', and 105¾@106¼ for mercantile bills, and francs at 5.50 for short, and 5.35 for 60 day bills. We quote Bremen bills at 76@76¼; Amsterdam, 39¾@39¾; Hamburg, 35½; Cologne, 69¾; Frankfort on-the-Main, 41¾.

In New York to-day all the Southern State stocks were better, Virginia and North Carolina 6's advancing 1¾ per cent. each; Tennessees ¾; and Missouris ¼. Canton advanced ¼, but Erie declined ⅞, and Reading ¼. New York Central and Treasury notes both closed at the same figures as on yesterday.

SALES AT THE BALTIMORE STOCK BOARD.

THURSDAY, August 29, 1861.

$1,500 Maryland 6's '70 ..... 81¾
10,000 Northern Central R. R. bonds, '85 ..... 44½
500 do. do. do. '85 45

PRICES AND SALES OF STOCKS IN NEW YORK.
BY TELEGRAPH.
Through WILLIAM FISHER & SON, Stock and Bill Brokers. No. 22 South street.

	1st Board	2d Board.
Virginia 6's	55	00
Missouri 6's	41¾	41½
Tennessee bonds	63	00
North Carolina bonds	56½	00
Canton Company	9¾	00
Erie Railroad	21¾	21¾
New York Central Railroad	73¾	73¾
Reading Railroad	35¼	35
Treasury notes 2 years 6 per cents..	97¾	00
	firm.	firm.

The New York *Herald* of this morning says:

Stocks were lower yesterday on the news of General Taylor's defeat in Virginia, which produced an uneasy feeling in the street. New York Central, which is the barometer of the Stock Exchange, fell ¾ at the first board. Other stocks were irregular. Governments were generally steady at the prices of the day previous, but the 5's of 1874 fell off ¼, being supplied on account of the wants of the market from New England. State stocks were generally lower, with the exception of North Carolinas, which were firmly held. Missouris fell ¼, Virginias ¼, and Tennessees ¼. Bank stocks continue dull, and exhibited sale produces a decline in price. Illinois Central advanced ¾, Rock Island ¾, and Hudson River ¼, while Panama fell ¼, and Reading ¼. There is little or no business in these stocks; they fluctuate up and down in accordance with the daily necessities of the speculators, who are the exclusive dealers in them at the present time. At the second board Pacific Mail took a start of half per cent., on the strength of a rumor that the government had bought the Baltic and Atlantic, two fifths of which are owned by the Pacific Mail Company, and the whole market sympathized to the extent of ¼@¾ per cent.

There is no change in the money market. Paper of the best grades continues very scarce, and parties who are generally buyers are now turning their attention to Treasury notes.

The foreign exchange market closed dull at 107¼@¾ for bankers' sterling, and 5 27½@25 for francs.

Annexed is the latest statement received of the New Orleans banks:

	Aug. 10.	Aug 17.	Difference.
Short loans	$10,010,560	$10,009,452	Inc. 596 892
Specie	14,614,215	14,549,659	Dec. 64,556
Circulation	6,411	6,448,406	Dec. 23,125
Deposits	15,452,693	15,571,173	Inc. 65,046
Exchange	3,563,776	3,830,292	Dec. 23,424
Distant balances ...	763,213	704,203	Dec. 59,065
Total loans	18,550,378	18,581,963	Dec. 31,585

The movement of the banks in the four principal cities of the Union, in which weekly reports are made, as shown by their statements of last week, is as follows:

	Loans.	Specie.	Circul'n.	Deposits.
N. York, Aug. 17	48,168,717	49,733,950	8,521,196	92,046,208
Boston, Aug. 19	6,889,140	6,645,729	2,356,495	18,225,661
Phila., Aug. 19	24,951,848	4,766,171	2,016,555	15,555,811
N. Orl's, Aug. 17	18,581,963	14,549,659	6,448,406	15,557,173
Total	98,591,668	75,715,508	23,143,155	141,184,780
Last week	213,766,326	76,45,427	23,066,680	141,681,922
Last 3 years	247,973,444	40,645,187	20,958,362	122,476,374

The following table shows the exports of breadstuffs from the United States to Great Britain and Ireland, since the 1st of September, 1860, to the latest dates, from the several ports:

	Flour. bbls.	Meal. bbls.	Wheat. bush.	Corn. bush.
New York	1,725,962	2,943	20,252,468	8,296,621
New Orleans	183,671	400	88,151	1,784,012
Philadelphia	184,225	..	1,556,821	674,323
Baltimore	99,131	1	1,099,224	850,196
Boston	124,618	19	148,413	14,100
Other Ports	160,844	....	2,369,908	15,451
Total, 1860–'61 ..	2,533,731	8,431	25,267,500	11,574,103
Total, 1859–'60	684,728	944	4,685,125	2,224,682
Increase	1,849,008	2,487	20,582,377	9,239,421
Total, 1858–'59	102,032	23	468,788	320,681
Total, 1857–'58	1,360,966	607	6,658,639	3,372,444

TO THE CONTINENT.

	Flour. bbls.	Wheat. bush.	Corn. bush.	Rye. bush.
New York	117,631	3,607,237	69,696	343,342
Other Ports	7,796	34,949	3,642	.....
Total, 1860–'61	124,817	3,642,276	63,737	343,342
Total, 1859–'60	47,734	178,031	19,238	.....
Total, 1858–'59	51,388	57,845	25,519	.....
Total, 1857–'58	303,100	399,428	16,848	13,100

The Philadelphia *Inquirer* says:

We find about us, in all directions, sure and unmistakable signs of the revival in business about to take place this Fall, under the influence of the vast Government expenditures. The fifty millions of Treasury portion of the chief loan to the Government have hardly begun to be paid in as yet, and already people are laying off their gloomy views of the Fall trade, and laying their by for the belief that they will have a fair business all round. The stocks of goods on hand are light, and the importations have fallen off to a wondrous extent.

The Cincinnati *Price Current* of the 28th, says:

The money market has not changed. The demand from acceptable borrowers continues light, but an opportunity now being offered for a secure investment in the new loan, there is less complaint on the part of capitalists of the want of a safe investment. The demand for Treasury notes at 97@97½ has been more pressing from day to day, and but few on the market. There is no difficulty in borrowing money where the security is satisfactory, at 6@7 on call and 10@12 for time paper. There is no sale for paper not regarded perfectly satisfactory as regards security. Exchange has been quiet and nominally unchanged, alteration in the rates. The demand for gold is quite light.

The Boston *Daily Advertiser* of the 28th says:

The demand for money is increasing, in consequence of the government movement in the market, but the abundant supply prevents any increase in the rates, and the borrower in good credit finds an easy supply at low rates. There is a scarcity of first class paper offered. The price continues high for a certain class of borrowers, who are with difficulty supplied on any terms.

BALTIMORE MARKETS.

THURSDAY, August 29.

COFFEE.—We are again without transactions to note in Coffee, but the market although quiet is still very firm in tone, and holders exhibit no disposition whatever to press sales. We quote as follows, viz: Rio at 14@14¾ cts. for fair to good, and 15 cts for prime; Laguayra at 15@16 cts; and Java at 19@20 cts per lb. We note the arrival here to-day of the bark Clifton from Rio with a cargo of 1,454 bags Coffee, which increases the stock here to about 15,500 bags.

FLOUR.—There was some inquiry this morning for Flour, but nothing was done in it so far as we could learn. We have no change to note in the general condition of the market, and we continue to quote Howard Street and Ohio Super steady at $5, and City Mills do. at $4 87½@5 for standard, and $5 25@5 50 per bbl. for fancy brands. Extra Flour remains at yesterday's quote as follows, viz: Ohio at $5 25 for old; $5 37½@5.50 for new; Howard Street at $5.50; and standard shipping brands Baltimore City Mills at $6 25@6 50 per bbl.

FAMILY FLOUR.—Baltimore ground Family is still selling by the dray load to the trade at $7.50, and Baltimore high grade Extra at $7, but Ohio and Howard Street Family can be readily bought at $6@6 25 per bbl.

RYE FLOUR AND CORN MEAL.—Rye Flour may be quoted at $5 50@3 75, and we quote Corn Meal at $2.90 for Brandywine, and $3 per bbl. for Baltimore.

GRAIN.—Wheat was in rather better supply to-day than on yesterday, the receipts amounting to about 20,000 bushels Red was in good demand, but white was dull. For both descriptions prices were however well maintained. Red ranged at from 100 to 112 cts for common to prime, and white sold at 100@106 cts. for common, 110 @120 cts. for medium to good fair, 125@130 cts. for good to prime, and a lot of 600 bushels choice brought 135 cts. Corn continues dull, but there was some little movement in it to-day, sales being made of some 1,500 bushels white at 50@54 cts., and 500 bushels yellow at 45@47 cts. A lot of 500 bushels Maryland Rye sold at 90 cts., and we note sales of some 5,000 bushels Maryland Oats at 26@ 30 cts.

MOLASSES.—Molasses continues firm, but it is very quiet. We note however a sale to-day of 16 hhds. prime Porto Rico at 35 cts. We quote as follows, viz: Cuba at 25@29 cts. for clayed, and 24@27 cts. for Muscovado; Porto Rico at 32@35 cts., and New Orleans at 38@40 cts. per gallon.

PROVISIONS.—The Provision market continues very quiet, and we hear to-day of no sales worth noting. Bacon is selling in retail lots at 5¾@6 cts. for Shoulders, and 7@7¼ cts. for Sides, but for lots of any size these figures could not be obtained. Hams, which are in fair demand, range at from 8 to 11 cts. We quote Bulk Meat nominal at 4¾ cts. for Shoulders, 6@6¼ cts. for Sides, 6¾@7 cts. for Hams; Lard at 8¾@9 cts. for Western leaf in kegs and tierces, 11@11¼ cts. for refined; Mess Pork at $15; Prime do. at $10.50@11; Rump do. at $10@10.25; and Beef at $12 50 for Baltimore packed No. 1; $16 for do. Mess; and $14@14½ per barrel for repacked Western Mess.

RICE.—We continue to quote Rice firm at 6¼@7 cts. per lb. for good to prime, but there are no sales making. The stock here is very nearly exhausted.

SUGARS.—Sugars are quiet, but very firm. The stock here is unusually light, and holders are generally quite indifferent about selling. The sales to-day reach but 26 hhds. Cuba at $7, and 20 hhds. Porto Rico at $7.62½. We quote as follows, viz: Cuba at $6.50@7 for refining, and $7 25@7 75 for grocery grades; and Porto Rico and New Orleans at $7@7.50 for common to fair; and $7.75@8 25 for good fair to prime.

SALT.—Salt is firm with an upward tendency. Liverpool is now selling at 110 cts. for Ground Alum, and 100 cts. per sack for Marshall's, Worthington's, and Jeffrey & Darcy's fine, and we quote Turks Island at 25@30 cts. per bushel from store.

WHISKEY.—Whiskey is unchanged in price, and we continue to quote it at 18 cts. for City, and 18@18¼ cts. for Ohio. There are some small sales of Ohio making at the above figures.

BALTIMORE LIVE STOCK MARKET, Aug. 29.—CATTLE.—Beef Cattle were in good demand and steady to-day at about last Thursday's prices. There were about 350 head offered at the scales, against 375 head last week, 500 of which were driven to Washington, and the remaining 300 head were taken by Baltimore butchers at prices ranging from $3 to $ 25 per 100 lbs. gross for common to good lots.

HOGS.—Live Hogs were in better supply to-day than they have been for some time past, and the sales were made at $5 50@6 per 100 lbs. net, these figures being a decline of 25 to 50 cts. per 100 lbs. on last week's quotations.

SHEEP.—Sheep were in good demand to-day, and steady at last week's figures, viz: $2 25@2 75 per head.

DOMESTIC MARKETS.

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 28. Flour quiet at $4 25@4.75 for superfine Wheat firm; sales 7,000 bushels red, $1.14 @1 16; white, $1 27. Corn firm: sales 3,000 bushels, at 56@56 cts. Whiskey dull and unchanged.

BUFFALO, Aug. 28.—Flour unchanged. Wheat dull and no sales: Corn ½ ct. lower and dull; sales 6,000 bushels at 35½ cts. Imports—8,000 bbls. flour, 75,000 bushels wheat, 50,000 bushels corn. Exports—2,000 bbls. flour, 135,000 bushels wheat, 134,000 bushels corn, 18,000 bushels oats.

ALBANY, Aug. 28.—Flour dull. Wheat sells in car lots only, at $1.07 for red State, which shows a further decline, and $1 28 for white Michigan. Oats more active; sales 20,400 bushels Chicago at 32@32½ cts., and 11,000 bushels State at 33 cts. Corn very dull; sales 6,000 bushels Western mixed, in lots, 69 cts. Whiskey weaker; sales of 80 bbls. at 16¾ cts.

OSWEGO, Aug. 28.—Flour unchanged: sales at $4.75 for fancy from spring Wheat. Wheat dull; sales last night, 3,000 bushels No. 1 Chicago spring at 87½ cts.; today, 1,500 bushels Canada club at 90 cts. Corn and other grains quiet. Lake Imports—8,500 bushels wheat, 94,000 bushels corn. Canal Exports—1,160 bbls. flour, 35,000 bushels wheat, 37,000 bushels corn.

CHICAGO, Aug 28.—Flour active. Wheat advanced 1 ct. Sales at 63 cts. for No. 1, and 60 cts. for No. 3, in store. Corn firmer—21 cts. for mixed, in store. Oats dull. Receipts—7,500 bbls. flour, 110,000 bushels wheat, 217,000 bushels corn. Shipments—1,200 bbls. flour, 50,000 bushels wheat, 130,000 bushels corn. Freights unchanged. Exchange on New York remains unchanged.

BOSTON, Aug. 27.—The market for Flour continues steady and firm, with a small stock of the low grades and a fair demand. We quote sales of common brands Western at $4.25; fancy brands $4.50@4 62½; extras at $4 75@5; and superior at $5 25@7 per bbl., including very choice brands St. Louis. Southern Flour is quiet and prices are nominal. We quote common and fancy at $5.50@5.75; extras at $6@6.50; and superior at $7@7.50 per bbl. including choice brands of Baltimore. Corn is held firm but continues rather quiet. The sales have been at 57@ 58 cts. for Western yellow, but held principally at 60 cts; and 54@56 cts. per bushel for Western mixed, as to quality. Provisions—Pork dull and sales confined to small lots. We quote prime at $11@13, Mess at $15@16, and clear $17@18 per bbl., cash and 4 mos.

NEW YORK CATTLE MARKET, Aug 28.—The stock of Beef Cattle on sale at Allerton's on Tuesday was not increased by fresh arrivals, and the entire number were placed at the advanced rates noticed in our summary yesterday morning, the range being from 6@8¾ cts., with very few selling under 6¾@7 cts. Swine were slightly firmer, ranging from 3¾@4¼ cts. Other stock was unchanged. The total receipts were 2,225 beef cattle, 124 cows, 418 veals, 12,155 sheep and lambs and 5 204 swine.

NEW BEDFORD OIL MARKET, Aug. 26.—Sperm—Sales 3,100 bbls. for manufacturing at $1.24 per gallon; and the balance for export at prices not transpired. Whale.—Sales 1,160 bbls. for export at 41 cts., and 500 bbls. to the trade at 42@43 cts. per gallon. Whalebone—No transactions.—*Whalemen's List.*

MARKETS BY TELEGRAPH.

NEW YORK, August 29.—Cotton is firm—sales of 1,500 bales to-day. Flour is depressed—sales of 16,000 bbls. at a decline of 5@10 cts. State $4 20@4 30; Ohio $5; Southern $5@5.75. Wheat has declined 1@2 cts.—sales of 170,000 bushels. Chicago 92 cts @$1; Milwaukie Club 90 cts @1 06; red $1.10@1.19; white Kentucky $1 28 @1 34. Corn has declined 1 ct—sales of 203,000 bushels; mixed 44@48½ cts; yellow 49@50 cts. Pork is heavy—mess $15. Whiskey closed firm at 17@17½ cts. Sugar is firm—Muscovado 5¾@7 cts. Coffee is firm. Spirits Turpentine dull—$1.40 asked, $1 offered. Rosin dull at $4 50@4 62½. Rice is quiet. Freights are drooping—flour 28. 9d.; grain 11@11½ cts.

IMPORTS INTO BALTIMORE.

FOREIGN.

RIO DE JANEIRO—*Bark Clifton.*—1,454 bags coffee, Jas. A. Hooper.

Shipping Intelligence.

PORT OF BALTIMORE, AUGUST 29.

Arrived.

Steamship Ben Deford, Hallett, —hours from Boston—mdse and passengers to A L Huggins.

Steamer Georgeanna, Pearson, Old Point Comfort, Va—M N Falls.

Steamer F W Brune, Foster, New York—James A Shriver.

Steamer Richard Willing, Claypole, Philadelphia—James A Shriver.

Barge I. A Birely, Dorman, Havre de Grace—ice to W H Ofer.

Schr Wonder, Hallock, from New York—salt to Levering & Co.

Cleared.

Bark Amelia Gehring, (new—884 tons) Haynie, Bordeaux—John M Bandel.

Bark Industrie, (Brem) Hilcken, Bremen—F I. Brauns & Co.

Bark Contest, Allen, Cape Town, C G H—Jos C Yates & Co.

Brig Montrose, Shutt, Bahia—F I. Brauns & Co.

Schr Clara Belle, Mitchell, Port Deposit—Wm Applegarth & Son.

Schr Butterfly, Hubbard, Port Deposit—Wm Applegarth & Son.

Steamer Georgeanna, Pearson, Old Point Comfort, Va—M N Falls.

Steamer Richard Willing, Claypole, Philadelphia—Jas A Shriver.

Steamer Franklin, Dougherty, New York—J A Shriver.

Trus bark Stadt Frankfurt, Wulsten, Liverpool—F I. Brauns & Co.

Steamer Pioneer, Norman, Annapolis and West river, Md—Jas Hollingshead.

Early this morning the enemy opened with two rifled cannon on a hill two-quarter of a mile beyond Cross Roads, drove in our pickets, and followed them about half a mile.

General Franklin, with about 3,000 of our troops and five cannon, marched to a point near the cross-ing, and 500 were sent into a cornfield. The attack of pickets, under Lieut. Col. Washburn of the 31st, went forward. The enemy were seen about eight hundred yards beyond our advance guard, and fired upon them, but without doing any injury. Three Confederates were seen to fall. It is thought that the enemy is advancing on the Orange and Alexandria Road.

IMPORTANT ORDER FROM THE WAR DEPARTMENT

All Correspondence with the Enemy, Verbally or by Writing, Printing, or Telegraphing, Respecting Military Movements to be Punished According to the Articles of War.

WASHINGTON, August 29.—The Adjutant General's Department has issued the following important order:

"By the 57th article of the act of Congress entitled an act for establishing rules and articles for the government of the armies of the United States, approved 10th April, 1806, holding correspondence with or giving intelligence to the enemy, either directly or indirectly, is made *punishable by death*, or such other punishment as shall be ordered by the sentence of a court martial.

"Public safety requires strict enforcement of this article, and it is therefore ordered that all correspondence and communication verbally or by writing, printing or telegraphing, respecting operations of the army or military movements on land or water; or respecting the troops, camps, arsenals, entrenchments or military works, within the several military districts, by which intelligence shall be directly or indirectly given to the enemy, without the authority and sanction of the General in command, be and the same are hereby absolutely prohibited, and from and after the date of this order persons violating the same will be proceeded against under the 57th Article of War.

Major Belger.

WASHINGTON, August 29.—Serious charges having been preferred to the War Department alleging that Major James Belger, Assistant Quartermaster at the important depot in Baltimore, was abusing his charge by making his purchases from and employing as subordinate agents persons inimical to the Government, the matter was referred to Major General Dix for investigation. Calling before him some of the most prominent citizens of Baltimore, who were in frequent intercourse with Major Belger, and obtaining from them statements in writing of what they know as to his general course in matters pertaining to his duty to the Government, the General came to the conclusion that the charges against Major Belger are, "so far as they allege an intentional bestowment of the public patronage on disloyal men, utterly groundless."

McClellan and Russell in Virginia.

General McClellan went over the Potomac today, to visit the camps and inspect the troops. Mr. Russell, of the London *Times*, was invited to attend him. No other correspondent was favored with a pass.

No More Telegrams for the South.

The Secretary of War has ordered the stoppage of all telegraphic despatches for points South of Kentucky.

Recruiting and Discharging.

An order from the War Department just published, provides for the recruiting of the several regiments in the service, in order to keep their ranks full; it also directs that such of the soldiers as have been taken prisoners by the Confederates, and refused to parole, shall be discharged from the service.

Military Orders.

An order from the War Department provides that the commissioned officers of all volunteers and militia organizations, no matter whether established under the authority of a State or the United States, will be regarded as having been commissioned on the day when they mustered into the service of the United States, and will take rank in their respective grades; will be entitled to pay, and be obeyed as respected in their several positions from that date.

Hereafter no minors will be mustered into the service of the United States, as volunteers, without the consent of their parents or guardians.

Orders to Commanding Officers.

The War Department has issued an order requiring commanding officers of whatever regiments or independent companies, to take measures to keep the strength of their commands up to the maximum standard of organization prescribed by General Orders, No. 15 for cavalry and infantry; and General Orders No. 16 for artillery. For this purpose, they will detail from time to time, as necessary, one commissioned officer, or two if necessary, with one or two non commissioned officers or privates, to recruit in the district in which the regiments or companies were raised.

Dismissed from the Service.

Capt. Gurdin Chapin, of the 7th Infantry, a native of Virginia, having given proof of disloyalty, is dismissed from the service of the United States, to take effect immediately.

Affairs Across the Potomac.

It is extremely difficult to obtain reliable intelligence respecting the results of picket encounters, on the other side of the river, but there seems to be truth in the report that several of our troops were killed, and others wounded along our lines yesterday and last night.

Capture of Bancroft's Mills.

Last night the Confederates captured Bancroft's Mills, with 200 bushels of corn belonging to Lawyer Wiley, of Washington. Yesterday Col. McLain and his chaplain went across the bridge at the mills, and were fired upon. Upon returning, they found the floor of the bridge had been taken up by the Confederates. They leaped their horses across and escaped.

Condition of the Potomac River.

The steamer Philadelphia has just arrived from Fortress Monroe. She reports that the river is passable, and that although the secessionists are extremely lively on the Maryland shore, navigation is not in any way interrupted. As the steamer made her way up the Marylanders sent up a rapid succession of signals to notify their Virginia neighbors of the steamer's approach.

To Stay Arrests Abroad.

One million dollars were placed this day placed to the credit of the Barings of London, to be drawn against by our Ministers in France, England, Belgium, and Holland, in payment for the purchase of arms.

The Blockade by Hulks.

The hulks purchased at Baltimore for sinking in the entrance of the Carolina inlets numbered 20, and ranged in price from $400 to $2,000. The latter was for large vessels of deep draught. The total cost of this machinery for putting an end to European mercantile sympathy with the Confederates was $21,000—cheap enough.

Information for Postmasters.

The Post-office Department is much troubled by Postmasters failing to add the name of county and State to their letters, and by embracing different subjects belonging to different offices in the same letter. This necessarily delays action, and postmasters should correct that evil; particularly should no other papers be enclosed with the quarterly returns and post bills.

Foreign Mails.

Letters will, in future, be charged forty-five cents, and must be prepaid, when addressed to China, Japan, Java, the Philippine Islands, Labuan, Borneo, Siam, Sumatra, and the Moluccas, either via Southampton or Marseilles.

The mails are forwarded from England on the 4th and 20th of each month, via Southampton, and on the 12th and 28th via Marseilles. Those via the latter route are made up in England on the 10th and 26th.

Suspected Correspondence.

The amount of treasonable correspondence has become so great lately that the time of several clerks in the Government Departments is now exclusively occupied in its examination. All sorts of curious documents have been found upon the persons of traitors who have recently been arrested.

The Fortifications at Federal Hill.

A car loaded with entrenching tools, and accompanied by forty laborers, left Washington to day, for the works now in progress at Federal Hill, in Baltimore. It is the wish of the Government to hasten the work to completion as speedily as possible.

LATEST NEWS.

FEDERAL TELEGRAMS.

Accuracy not Vouched for.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Advance of the Federal Pickets to Bailey's Cross Roads—The Confederates Throwing Up Entrenchments.

WASHINGTON, August 29.—A messenger from the Virginia side this morning states that our picket forces advanced to Bailey's Cross Roads yesterday and drove the secessionists a mile and a half beyond, where it is said the latter have taken possession of a commanding eminence and are throwing up entrenchments. There was much firing during the day but without fatal results.

The inhabitants generally of that section have removed elsewhere, some of them to this city.

A dash of secession cavalry, it is reported by the messenger, was made at what they supposed to be a deserted cannon, after about twelve rounds had been fired at it from their howitzers. On a near approach, however, they discovered it to be a *sham*, some of the Michigan boys having for sport deceived the enemy by mounting a stove-pipe on an old pair of wheels.

Daniel Knipple, of the 2d Michigan regiment, was killed yesterday by the accidental discharge of a gun in the hands of a comrade.

Special Despatch to the Philadelphia Inquirer.

The Skirmishing at the Cross Roads—Federal Troops Repulsed.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 28.—On Sunday, we were in possession of Ball's Cross Roads, and Bailey's Cross Roads. These are two important posts, the former two miles west of Fort Corcoran, the latter five miles northwest of Alexandria, and six miles southwest of the Long Bridge. Col. Kerrigan's Regiment, (New York 25th,) attempted on Sunday to take possession of a field occupying a commanding position south of their encampment. They moved to the hill without proper reconnoissance. The consequence was, they did not discover a battery of the enemy's until the latter opened fire upon them. This battery appeared to be in a wood, west of the Cross Roads. Before the regiment could get back to their original position, two dozen shells from the Confederate battery came plumping among them, but I am unable to ascertain with what effect.

The men behaved with great coolness, and desired to be led against the enemy; but as his strength had not been ascertained, this course was not deemed prudent, and the regiment withdrew again to Ball's Cross Roads. Here they were reinforced by two regiments of General Franklin's New Jersey Brigade and the New York 24th regiment, and the whole detachment again moved forward to attack the battery. The latter opened fire upon them so severely, however, that being destitute of artillery, they retired out of range of the enemy's guns. Subsequent reconnoissances have shown that the battery consists of nine twenty-four and twelve pounders, and two rifled cannon.

We have no means of ascertaining, with accuracy, what strength they have, or what cavalry is behind their advance, which is now quite close up to our lines nearly all the way along the Potomac. It is safe to say, however, that it is not less than eighty thousand. No fear is entertained of their attempting to force their way through our entrenchments. Their second battery was fired on the country, even to within two and a half miles of Fort Albany and Fort Corcoran, our pickets having fallen back within the range of the guns at the fortifications.

From Special Despatch to New York Tribune.

Last night at 10 o'clock, General Franklin's brigade—the 15th, 18th, 31st, and 32d New York—were ordered to advance without knapsacks. They marched to within 2½ miles of Bailey's Cross Roads. Early this morning the enemy opened with two rifled cannon on a hill two-quarter of a mile beyond Cross Roads, drove in our pickets, and followed them about half a mile.

General Franklin, with about 3,000 of our troops and five cannon, marched to a point near the crossing, and 500 were sent into a cornfield. The attack of pickets, under Lieut. Col. Washburn of the 31st, went forward. The enemy were seen about eight hundred yards beyond our advance guard, and fired upon them, but without doing any injury. Three Confederates were seen to fall. It is thought that the enemy is advancing on the Orange and Alexandria Road.

IMPORTANT ORDER FROM THE WAR DEPARTMENT

All Correspondence with the Enemy, Verbally or by Writing, Printing, or Telegraphing, Respecting Military Movements to be Punished According to the Articles of War.

WASHINGTON, August 29.—The Adjutant General's Department has issued the following important order:

"By the 57th article of the act of Congress entitled an act for establishing rules and articles for the government of the armies of the United States, approved 10th April, 1806, holding correspondence with or giving intelligence to the enemy, either directly or indirectly, is made *punishable by death*, or such other punishment as shall be ordered by the sentence of a court martial.

"Public safety requires strict enforcement of this article, and it is therefore ordered that all correspondence and communication verbally or by writing, printing or telegraphing, respecting operations of the army or military movements on land or water; or respecting the troops, camps, arsenals, entrenchments or military works, within the several military districts, by which intelligence shall be directly or indirectly given to the enemy, without the authority and sanction of the General in command, be and the same are hereby absolutely prohibited, and from and after the date of this order persons violating the same will be proceeded against under the 57th Article of War.

Major Belger.

WASHINGTON, August 29.—Serious charges having been preferred to the War Department alleging that Major James Belger, Assistant Quartermaster at the important depot in Baltimore, was abusing his charge by making his purchases from and employing as subordinate agents persons inimical to the Government, the matter was referred to Major General Dix for investigation. Calling before him some of the most prominent citizens of Baltimore, who were in frequent intercourse with Major Belger, and obtaining from them statements in writing of what they know as to his general course in matters pertaining to his duty to the Government, the General came to the conclusion that the charges against Major Belger are, "so far as they allege an intentional bestowment of the public patronage on disloyal men, utterly groundless."

McClellan and Russell in Virginia.

General McClellan went over the Potomac today, to visit the camps and inspect the troops. Mr. Russell, of the London *Times*, was invited to attend him. No other correspondent was favored with a pass.

No More Telegrams for the South.

The Secretary of War has ordered the stoppage of all telegraphic despatches for points South of Kentucky.

Recruiting and Discharging.

An order from the War Department just published, provides for the recruiting of the several regiments in the service, in order to keep their ranks full; it also directs that such of the soldiers as have been taken prisoners by the Confederates, and refused to parole, shall be discharged from the service.

Military Orders.

An order from the War Department provides that the commissioned officers of all volunteers and militia organizations, no matter whether established under the authority of a State or the United States, will be regarded as having been commissioned on the day when they mustered into the service of the United States, and will take rank in their respective grades; will be entitled to pay, and be obeyed as respected in their several positions from that date.

Hereafter no minors will be mustered into the service of the United States, as volunteers, without the consent of their parents or guardians.

Orders to Commanding Officers.

The War Department has issued an order requiring commanding officers of whatever regiments or independent companies, to take measures to keep the strength of their commands up to the maximum standard of organization prescribed by General Orders, No. 15 for cavalry and infantry; and General Orders No. 16 for artillery. For this purpose, they will detail from time to time, as necessary, one commissioned officer, or two if necessary, with one or two non commissioned officers or privates, to recruit in the district in which the regiments or companies were raised.

Dismissed from the Service.

Capt. Gurdin Chapin, of the 7th Infantry, a native of Virginia, having given proof of disloyalty, is dismissed from the service of the United States, to take effect immediately.

Affairs Across the Potomac.

It is extremely difficult to obtain reliable intelligence respecting the results of picket encounters, on the other side of the river, but there seems to be truth in the report that several of our troops were killed, and others wounded along our lines yesterday and last night.

Capture of Bancroft's Mills.

Last night the Confederates captured Bancroft's Mills, with 200 bushels of corn belonging to Lawyer Wiley, of Washington. Yesterday Col. McLain and his chaplain went across the bridge at the mills, and were fired upon. Upon returning, they found the floor of the bridge had been taken up by the Confederates. They leaped their horses across and escaped.

Condition of the Potomac River.

The steamer Philadelphia has just arrived from Fortress Monroe. She reports that the river is passable, and that although the secessionists are extremely lively on the Maryland shore, navigation is not in any way interrupted. As the steamer made her way up the Marylanders sent up a rapid succession of signals to notify their Virginia neighbors of the steamer's approach.

To Stay Arrests Abroad.

One million dollars were placed this day placed to the credit of the Barings of London, to be drawn against by our Ministers in France, England, Belgium, and Holland, in payment for the purchase of arms.

The Blockade by Hulks.

The hulks purchased at Baltimore for sinking in the entrance of the Carolina inlets numbered 20, and ranged in price from $400 to $2,000. The latter was for large vessels of deep draught. The total cost of this machinery for putting an end to European mercantile sympathy with the Confederates was $21,000—cheap enough.

Information for Postmasters.

The Post-office Department is much troubled by Postmasters failing to add the name of county and State to their letters, and by embracing different subjects belonging to different offices in the same letter. This necessarily delays action, and postmasters should correct that evil; particularly should no other papers be enclosed with the quarterly returns and post bills.

Foreign Mails.

Letters will, in future, be charged forty-five cents, and must be prepaid, when addressed to China, Japan, Java, the Philippine Islands, Labuan, Borneo, Siam, Sumatra, and the Moluccas, either via Southampton or Marseilles.

The mails are forwarded from England on the 4th and 20th of each month, via Southampton, and on the 12th and 28th via Marseilles. Those via the latter route are made up in England on the 10th and 26th.

Suspected Correspondence.

The amount of treasonable correspondence has become so great lately that the time of several clerks in the Government Departments is now exclusively occupied in its examination. All sorts of curious documents have been found upon the persons of traitors who have recently been arrested.

The Fortifications at Federal Hill.

A car loaded with entrenching tools, and accompanied by forty laborers, left Washington to day, for the works now in progress at Federal Hill, in Baltimore. It is the wish of the Government to hasten the work to completion as speedily as possible.

Mail Correspondence of the Associated Press.

FROM THE UPPER POTOMAC.

Union Men Leaving Virginia.

HYATTSTOWN, August 27.—The First Brigade, under General Thomas, passed an inspection and review to-day. All arms of the service were represented. The regiments looked well, and but for a drizzling rain would have made a magnificent appearance.

A gentleman from Harper's Ferry to-day reports that the Unionists are leaving that locality in great numbers. There were no Confederate forces in that neighborhood, except about 150 cavalry under Col. Henderson.

Some Federal soldiers yesterday went over to Harper's Ferry and run up the Stars and Stripes, which action was viewed with interest by a considerable body of Union citizens of Maryland, on the Maryland heights.

HYATTSTOWN, August 28.—Advices from Martinsburg give the following intelligence: The Confederates succeeded in taking down and removing to Winchester, two of the Baltimore and Ohio Company's locomotives. They have also sent to the same place a portion of the machinery belonging to the company's workshops there, breaking up and disabling the remainder. It is also said to be their intention to take up sufficient of the track of the railroad to obtain material with which to construct a road to connect Winchester with Strasburg.

There was no strong Confederate force in either Jefferson or Berkeley counties. The property of the Union people had not yet been confiscated or molested up to the time my informant left. Vague rumors have been circulated here to-day to the effect that the enemy were about to make a demonstration at Edward's or Nolan's Ferry.

FROM MISSOURI.

LEXINGTON, Mo, August 29.—The Confederates, encouraged by the exaggerated reports of a battle near Springfield, are congregating in large numbers in this and the surrounding counties.

The Home Guards still occupy the fortifications here and are well supplied with arms and provisions, and can probably hold the place, but reinforcements are needed to operate against parties ravaging the country.

Reported Repulse of the Confederates at Fort Scott.

ROLLA, Mo., via Franklin, Mo., August 27.—Letters received from Colonel Boyd, by his wife, say that the report prevailed in Springfield that an attack had been made on Montgomery's force at Fort Scott, and that he