dor at Vienna had insisted on a solution of the Hungarian question, but semi-official journals give a denial.

The alarming reports relative to the health of the Empress of Austria are too true.

INDIA.

The China mails already telegraphed had reached England.

Mr. Laing, the Indian Finance Minister, had taken a sea voyage, and partially recovered from his severe illness.

Mr. Baines, Foreign Secretary, is dead.

The famine had been effectually relieved.

There were slight disturbances in the south-western provinces of the Indigo districts.

The Calcutta Produce markets were more active; imports were affected by embarrassments occasioned by opium speculations. Freights languid.

HONG-KONG, May 12.—The British Minister at Pekin has declined for the present to grant passports to British subjects to visit the capital.

The capture of Hang-kow by the rebels is not confirmed, but the insurrection is spreading.

Trade is nearly inanimate at all Southern ports, but a good business is doing in Cotton goods at Shanghae for new ports. New Teas were appearing at Canton.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS.—Funds on the 16th were firmer, the late fall having induced purchasers.

Consols advanced ¼; money in moderate demand, 6 ⅌ cent generally demanded. Increased ease was anticipated.

The Board of Trade returns for May show increased exports over May of last year, notwithstanding the American crisis.

The Bank of Madrid has altered its rate of discount to 7 ⅌ cent.

THE VERY LATEST.

LIVERPOOL, June 27.

The R. M. steamer Shannon arrived off Hurst Castle this morning with the Mexican, West Coast, and West India mails.

The letters from India and China were delivered in Liverpool this morning. Those from Bombay will be here to-morrow morning.

Cotton was advancing in price at Bombay, and freights also were rising.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.—The sales of Cotton for the three days, including Wednesday, were 32,000 bales, of which 10,000 were to speculators and exporters. The market closed firm, at rates showing no change since the departure of the Persia.

STATE OF TRADE.—The advices from Manchester are unfavorable. The market was quiet, and quotations barely maintained.

LIVERPOOL BREADSTUFFS MARKET.—The weather was favorable for the crops—rather too warm.

Messrs. Wakefield, Nash & Co., and Richardson, Spence & Co., report Four quiet at 24s@25s 6d for American. Wheat steady, with a better tone, and more inquiry. Red, 10s@12s; White, 12s@13s 6d. Corn steady; Mixed, 28s; Yellow, 29s@29s 6d; White, 30s@31s 6d.

LIVERPOOL PROVISION MARKET.—Beef firm. Pork steady. Bacon quiet. Lard dull and nominal. Tallow in little inquiry, and prices weak; North American, 49s@50s.

LIVERPOOL PRODUCE MARKET.—Ilesin dull: Common, 6s 3d@6s 4d. Spirits Turpentine dull and nominal at 43s@43s 6d. Pot Ashes quiet at 34s; Pearls quiet. Sugar steady. Rice quiet. Coffee quiet.

LONDON MARKETS.—BREADSTUFFS declining. WHEAT dull, and 1@2d for inferior New, closing steadier. SUGAR quiet. COFFEE firm. TEA firm. RICE firm. TALLOW quiet, at 52@56s.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.—Sales of Illinois Central shares, at 300@300, discount; Erie shares, 21@22; New-York Central shares, 85.

LONDON MONEY MARKET.—Consols were quoted 89@89¾.

FROM MARYLAND.

Gen. Banks's First Victory—Gratitude to God—Symptoms of Returning Reason—The Chuckle of Treason at False News—Its Discomfiture—Arrest of two more Traitors—The New Police Arrangements and the Politicians—Incidents of the Fourth—Rumors and Expectations—Three Cheers for Speaker Grow!

From Our Own Correspondent.

BALTIMORE, July 5, 1861.

The first grand and substantial victory of the campaign has been gained by Gen. Banks in rescuing Baltimore from the iron grasp of the desperate conspirators, now imprisoned in Fort McHenry, and, as Gen. Scott has well said, its bloodlessness does not detract from its brilliancy, but rather adds to its glory.

And the truly loyal men of the town have ample cause of gratitude to the giver of all good, that they were permitted, through the agency of their benign and beneficent Government, to assemble yesterday under their own vine and fig tree, without fear or favor, to celebrate the eighty-fifth anniversary of the imperishable Declaration of Independence, and to renew their vows to uphold the cardinal principle, "that *all* men are created equal," not even excepting the black race, notwithstanding four millions of this Pariah race are still held in bondage by less than half a million of white despots, who are now in rebellion against the best Government under the sun!

The last three days and nights have gone off so quietly that a stranger would have imagined himself in some Northern loyal city, had there been a corresponding display of the national flag, but its general absence from the outer walls indicated too painfully the deep-seated disaffection to the Government. However, there were other agreeable symptoms of returning reason. The soldiery moved among the loyal people more freely, and fraternized with them more lovingly. The croakings of rebellion in the form of street cries for the sale of treasonable trash were less frequent, and, when heard, more subdued, except when the hour came for the boys to announce the publication of the pestiferous traitor sheets in our midst. Rebels were scarcer than usual on the thoroughfares, and, when seen, their faces wore a meeker aspect than formerly, with few exceptions. Searches continued to literally unearth buried and concealed weapons of war. Tuesday night told of but one attempt at burglary, which the vigilance of the new police arrested, coming within an ace of catching the rogues. The owner of the house, a rank rebel, was so grateful as to thank Col. Kenly for the success of his police in preventing his house, which is a first-class brown stone one, from being robbed. There are now on Col. Kenly's table 1,200 applications of respectable working men proffering their services in the new police, without pay or reward, as long as needed, and this is in addition to the thousands who are eager to serve in the usual way, having been thrown out of work by the rebellion. The whole force, 600 all told, comprises as good and as true men as are to be found in any community, and though there may be a few who are obnoxious to the silk-stocking rebel gentry, because of their former connection with ex-Mayor Swann's police, yet none of them have ever lifted up their hands against the dear old stripes and stars, or attempted to impede the march of United States troops to the defense of Washington.

On Wednesday, the sensation organ of the rebels, *The South*, started out on a foray upon the credulity of its sympathizing readers, so as to scrape together a few gray dimes for its exhausted exchequer, by the exclusive announcement of a terrific battle near Martinsburg, in which Gen. Patterson was beaten back into Maryland, with the loss of many thousands. The diabolical fiendishness that certain rebel faces put on at this false announcement, and the hoarse chuckle and demoniac rubbing of hands, told unmistakingly where the heart of rebellion beats in this town. It is under the vestments of men whose toilet speaks of the paradise of fashion and folly, of fast horses and yellow-wheel buggies, of Southern trade and contrabandism, of speculations in Southern stocks, and a readiness for rigandage in general. But this state of things did not last long, for *The Clipper* and *The America*, which are now ubiquitous, and the only reliable vehicles of correct intelligence in the city, soon made their appearance with Gen. Patterson's official announcement of his triumphant march upon Martinsburg, his route of 10,000 rebels, and his occupation of the enemy's camp. Like owls flitting from the light of day, to hide their ugly faces in some dark nook or corner, so fled the discomfitted rebels from the streets and street corners!

A day or two ago a steamboat left the Fort with a company of armed men on board. It returned on Wednesday evening, bringing prisoners of war—a Captain Lloyd Tilghman and another Rebel—from Talbot County, who were at once put in ward at the Fort. This Captain had organized a company of traitors against the Government, refused to surrender the State arms under the proclamation of the Governor, and was guilty of many other overt acts of treason. The arms were not recovered, but it will not be long before they will be. The prisoners were very insolent to the officer in command of the expedition, but their street soon cooled them down.

—Christophe once said of the white man, that he would descend to the hottest corner of the infernal regions for a bag of coffee, if he could not get it on any other terms! So, too, it may be safely said of the American politicaster, that he will pursue his noisome trade, even though the country were one vast waste and desolation. His pertinacity and ruling passion have been exhibited heretofore within the last few days, in relation to the new police arrangements about to be inaugurated by Gen. Banks. He has been beset by a tribe of unprincipled fellows, whose sole object was to worm themselves into power for ulterior political purposes, but the General has been too much for them. He measured their depths at a single glance, and brushed them aside just as he would so many troublesome insects. When he acts in the premises, he will act for the good of the whole community, and not suffer the new executive police authority to become a nursery of political scoundrelism, as it was under the late regimé of traitors. An equal and just administration of police law will ensue, let the consequences be what they may to miserable and scurvy politicians.

The display of flags yesterday, though it was the Fourth of July, was not such as to gladden the American heart. In the laboring quarters the houses were generally decorated with the glorious old emblem of our nationality; but in the fashionable quarters it was hardly to be seen at all. Now and then an ardent Union man threw it out from his windows, but it only served to mark the general disaffection more pointedly. The flagstaff of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad depot lay flat upon its roof, and you could count a hundred bare poles piercing the sky from the tops of Rebel manufactories and storehouses. *The Sun* newspaper came out in its morning edition with articles that would have graced the columns of THE TRIBUNE for loyalty and true doctrine, and the Federal flag floated from the top of its huge iron building. While the disgust at such tergiversation was universal, the sudden conversion of that street from rebellion to loyalty was no small cause of rejoicing. In the afternoon the loyal men of the town who had gotten up a flag for the 6th Massachusetts Regiment went out to the Relay House, and presented it by the hands of Samuel J. K. Handy, who was the orator of the occasion. Col. Jones responded in an off-hand speech, and then the citizens and the soldiers fell to singing several patriotic songs amid a general rejoicing.

The Fort gave the town a salute at sunrise, yesterday, of 102 heavy guns, while Major Cook, of the Boston Artillery, joined in the salvo from the West End. There was no military parade, but several thousands of loyalists gathered at Druid Hill Park to listen to an out-and-out Union speech from Stockett Matthews, whose only condition in this war of the Government for the preservation of the nation, was, that the Rebels should lay down their arms and restore the *status quo*, or in default thereof, that heavy doses of cannon-pills should be administered, till the requisite result should is obtained, to all which the assembly responded Amen! A more peaceful and quiet 4th of July, was never passed in Baltimore, thanks to the outstretched sword-arm of the Government. Col. Abel Smith exhumed a large lot of arms in the eastern portion of the town on Wednesday. If he were entrusted with the task of recovering the stolen Government arms, he would clean out this city in forty-eight hours, by a simple proclamation to the Rebels to give them up, for his name alone is a terror to all evil-doers.

The Rebels tore up some ten yards of the track, between the Relay House and Annapolis Junction, a few nights ago, and additional pickets had to be thrown out for its protection. There is a rumor in town that Henry May, member elect to Congress from this city, has gone to Richmond, to see whether he cannot cook up a compromise with the traitors, and that he obtained a passport from our Government! I do not believe the last part of this story, though the former is very probable. Mr. May was not in his seat yesterday. It is believed in many quarters that the Senate will not confirm the appointees to the Baltimore Customs, and that the President would submit to this decision with more than his usual grace. No act of the Senate would be hailed with greater gratification than this, by the whole Republican party of the country. It would enable the President to repair the gross wrong inflicted upon party fidelity by the existing appointments, in an hour of embarrassment and deception. Of course, the few Republican appointments will not be embraced in the expected rejections.

The election of Galusha A. Grow to the speakership of the new Congress gives unalloyed satisfaction to the Republicans of Baltimore. It stands out in such bold contrast with the unjust policy pursued toward the party here, that it gives strong hopes of the Senate's vindication of our party rights. While we should have rejoiced over Mr. Forney's continuance in office, if it had been possible, yet, we are sure, he is too much of a patriot not to yield his post cheerfully to a man like Emerson Etheridge. We all hope here that Anderson of Kentucky will be made Sergeant-at-Arms, simply because he is a man every inch of him. Grow's speech is an earnest of better times coming, and of the abandonment of timid counsels. I hope he will lay his mighty hand upon all whining peace men who shall dare open their mouths in Congress, from Crittenden down to the consonantal member from the Butler district in Ohio.

Col. Baker's Regiment embarked from this point yesterday, for Fortress Monroe, and Col. Kerrigan's passed through to Washington.

FROM GEN. PATTERSON'S COLUMN.

From Our Special Correspondent.

HAINESVILLE, BERKELEY CO., VA., Wednesday Morning, July 3, 1861.

Gen. Patterson's column commenced crossing the Potomac at Williamsport, early yesterday morning, and advanced about eight miles on the road to Martinsburg, to this point, where the troops encamped last night. This morning we go on to Martinsburg, five miles distant. The weather is fine, the temperature being moderately cool, and the roads in good condition.

By the kindness of one of the General's Division, I have accompanied his Staff. I had every advantage of position to observe all that has occurred on the march.

Before daybreak, yesterday morning, McMullin's Rangers crossed the river to reconnoitre, and nearly captured a squad of mounted pickets, posted at the toll-gate house opposite Williamsport, where they have been constantly stationed to observe our movements; it commands an extensive view over in Maryland, including our old encampments, as I noticed in riding by that point. The Rangers lost their prize, however, through an unfortunate mistake made by three companies of the 11th Pennsylvania Volunteers, who followed them over the river shortly after they crossed, to support them, if necessary. They saw McMullin's men creeping stealthily through a wheat field, and mistaking them for the rebel pickets, immediately opened upon them, repeating, in fact, the mistake at Big Bethel, fortunately, however, not with such disastrous results. Through the prompt action of the Captain, McMullin, who heard the word of command, and suspecting the error of the 11th men, he ordered his men to drop instantly on the ground. The bullets passed over them harmlessly. McMullin's men did not return the fire, but rose at once and advanced, calling out the countersign lustily; but, for some reason, not yet explained, the 11th men retreated some distance before an explanation was made. The men say that they were not scared, but obeyed orders, and the metal shown by the regiment, later in the day, would relieve them of any imputation of cowardice.

The Rebel pickets, being alarmed by the firing, escaped, and scampered off to report to their troops, who were encamped two miles beyond Falling Waters, near Hainesville, on the very ground occupied by our encampments last night. Gen. Cadwalader made his headquarters last night at the house occupied the night before by Colonel Stewart, commander of the Rebel cavalry.

The Rebels, being thus apprised of our advance, they prepared to meet us by coming forward a few miles. They posted themselves on high ground, on both sides of the turnpike, just on the approach to Hainesville. Their position was well chosen and commanding, and might have been held with tremendous effect on our solid columns, wedged in the narrow turnpike, if it had been well defended, but the coward traitors delivered only a few rounds, when they began to retreat. Their retreat was effected rapidly, and in good order, this being a favorite movement, in which the Rebels appear to be especially skillful.

The 1st Wisconsin Regiment was at the head of our advancing column. Companies A and B had been thrown out in the fields right and left, 20 or 30 rods in advance, as skirmishers. The Rebel infantry were hid behind cross fences, and the first known of them was a volley at the skirmishers. They returned the fire, and getting under cover of fences, held the enemy in check till Companies C and D deployed right and left to their support, while Companies E and F deployed also to their extreme right and left, to flank the Rebels. This movement was effected with great precision and effect, Col. Starkweather instantly dismounting and leading his men—the only way he could readily get out of the narrow road into the field. These were the only companies belonging to the Wisconsin Regiment which could get into the action before the Rebels retreated, but they made good use of their opportunity, and poured a hot fire into them. Two guns of Capt. Perkins's light artillery, under command of Lieut. Hudson, were up with the Wisconsin men, and at once got into position in an adjoining field; McMullin's Rangers and the 11th Regiment followed, and came up in time to partake of the fight as the enemy retreated down the road to Martinsburg. The Rebels are said to have had four regiments of infantry engaged, and four brass rifled 6-pounders. Their artillery was some distance in the rear of the infantry, and was planted in a field which commanded a long reach of the road where our men could have been severely handled, if their infantry had stood their ground, and allowed their artillery to get fairly to work, but it fired only one round, which passed over the heads of our men without injuring any one: the guns then bundled off as fast as the horses could travel. Lieut. Hudson sent shot and shell after the retreating rebels with his two pieces, but his position did not command much of the road, and exactly how effective was his fire is not known, nor do we know positively how many of the enemy were killed and wounded. They picked up their men as fast as they fell, and carried off all they could in wagons. It is known, however, that one of our shells exploded among them, and killed 13 men and one horse. They were found lying together in a hollow, with the fragments of the shell among them. After the action 8 more of the rebels were found dead on the field and one dangerously wounded—making 21 known to be killed. The Wisconsin men lost one man, killed at the first fire, a skirmisher named Drake, belonging to Company A. Nine of our men were wounded, and among them one of McMullin's men, slightly, in the foot; and one of the 11th Regiment was killed, making two killed. These were the only casualties on our side. Our men all behaved well who had any chance to participate in this affair, and those who had not only regret their bad luck.

The conduct of the Rebels was dastardly, as they chose their own ground, and came up to meet us with the evident and declared purpose of driving back the "Northern mercenaries." They were strangely ignorant, apparently, of the strength of our column, which would have overwhelmed them anyhow, but they fled before even two regiments and two pieces of light artillery could be placed in the field in battle array. They were commanded by Gen. Jackson.

Beside the infantry and four pieces of artillery, they had three or four hundred cavalry, commanded by Col. Stewart, which covered their retreat. Our cavalry could not get up in time, and the infantry could not follow in pursuit, the ground being so uneven that they could not see far ahead nor safely advance in a country of which they were ignorant, after an enemy the strength of which in reserve was unknown.

The Wisconsin men buried the dead found on the field with every attention to decency and the rites of religion, an Episcopalian chaplain officiating, near midnight. The wounded man was sent with our wounded to Hagerstown; he will probably die.

The troops all got into camp before night, ruining many fine wheat fields. I am sorry to say that some of our men, after the skirmish, which excited their feelings against Secessionists, entered the houses a little way off the road, and which had been deserted by the frightened inhabitants, and rooted them pretty effectually. They appeared to be actuated more by the spirit of mischief than desire of plunder, for, except in a few instances, they ransacked and destroyed rather than appropriated; what they did take was principally fresh meat—pigs and poultry. They committed no other outrages. I am happy to say, however, that strict orders have been issued to punish all future offenders with the severest penalties, even death. The men who were caught with plunder have been arrested, and are now under guard, to be dealt with as they may deserve. There was much alarm among some of the poor people on the approach of the Northern army, the rebels having sedulously inculcated the belief that we are all vandals.

MARTINSBURG, Wednesday Evening.

The column got in motion and left Hainesville this morning at 10 o'clock, coming on here, only 5 miles, and encamping about the town.

We learn here that the enemy passed through this town yesterday in full retreat, and are thought to be at Bunker Hill, but how far they went is not ascertained. They made flaming reports of their successful attack, stating that they had killed 300 and wounded any number of men, but had lost none themselves!

It appears that we met with a little mishap yesterday several miles off from the main road, by which 40 men were made prisoners, and one man killed, of Company I, 15th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers. A body of Rebel troops were reported to be trying to get into our rear, and Gen. Negley's Brigade was ordered to take a diverging road, about 2 miles from Falling Waters, to intercept them. A part of Company I was thrown out in advance, and while waiting in a piece of woods for the Brigade to come up, they saw a squadron of cavalry, one hundred or more, belonging to the enemy, which they thought were our own men, there being no perceptible difference in uniform. They were careless, and their Captain much to blame, for being entirely off their guard, so much so as to lay their arms on the ground, while some of them actually let down the fence for the cavalry to pass over.

Our men did not discover their mistake until the dastard villain who commanded the troopers shot down the man who let the fence down for him! This man is Bob Swan, a Marylander, who murdered Sprigg at Cumberland eight or ten years ago. He is a great scoundrel. Our men were completely taken by surprise, and sprung to their guns, while the cavalry dashed in among them. Forty men were cut of from their arms and made prisoners; the rest of our men discharged their muskets, and fell back upon the main body, while the troopers hurried off their prisoners. Our men, however, emptied three saddles, and captured two horses. One of the troopers was killed and left; the others were lifted in front of the riders, and carried off. This occurred quite early in the day, and they brought their prisoners through this town in advance of the retreating Rebel troops. Our men were tied with their hands behind, in couples. Some of the citizens here gave them food. They were greatly distressed by the forced march they had made.

Early this morning's small squad of our cavalry, out on picket duty, discovered a company of Rebel troopers scouting. They made a dash at them, and captured two with their horses and arms.

There are the most extravagant rumors afloat here of the strength of the enemy under Gen. Johnson, at Winchester, but lying, assassination, robbery and cowardice, seem to be ingrain impulses among the Southern traitors, and we don't believe their reports nor care for their numbers. It is said the rebels are intrenched at Bunker Hill, ten miles on the road to Winchester. Our troops are in good heart and condition. Capt. Doubleday's battery of two 24-pounders and one howitzer has come up, and Burnside's Rhode Island battery is not far in the rear.

I had time before dark only to take a glance at the ruins of the locomotives, great rusty skeletons, making a ghastly spectacle. Many of the people here have fled and left their houses empty. The stores are generally closed, more on account of the stock of goods being exhausted than lack of business. Groceries and all articles of daily consumption, not home made, are not to be bought in the stores at all.

I cannot say much for the Union feeling here; it seems to be very cool. We shall remain here for a day or two, before advancing further.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

The Case of Col. Allen—Burning of a Steamer.

From Our Special Correspondent.

FORTRESS MONROE, Old Point Comfort, July 3, 1861.

The arrest of Col. Allen, so far from being an act of doubtful justice, strained necessity, or false expediency, was one that the commanding officer could not have avoided unless he was prepared to see the regulations of the army violated openly and with impunity; his own authority subverted and set at naught, and conduct the most outrageous substituted for wholesome discipline. To the charge of wanton destruction of property in the burning of the wheat field, I understand that Col. Allen replies that the grain was about to be gathered for the benefit of the enemy, and that in order to prevent their receiving such aid and comfort, it was his duty to prevent their reaping the field. I am assured this is an assumption that not only overrode the safeguard of the Commanding-General, which the owner and reapers had, but is wholly at variance with the facts. There is, in Col. Allen's Regiment, excellent material, but since they came here, as I was yesterday assured by a regular officer, who has recently enjoyed (though I don't believe he really enjoyed them much) abundant opportunities for knowing, the corps has considerably degenerated. The men have not been looked after as they should have been. The blame should not fall exclusively on Col. Allen. He may have done his best, as in some things he appears to have done his worst. There is or should have been a power over him, which should have been exerted so as to render backsliding impossible. Unhappily, there appears to be no superior power, knowledge, or responsibility. No corps can fail to deteriorate unless the officers, from first to last, understand their duty, and knowing will do it.

Col. Allen will have a fair trial, which will take place probably within a week. If he is guilty, he will be punished. If he is not, he will stand all the higher for having passed through the ordeal.

If Col. Allen, or anybody else for him, has undertaken to benefit his case by assailing Gen. Butler's loyalty, he has done a very foolish thing. The country has not ceased to remember how like a deliverer Gen. Butler appeared at Annapolis; how he throttled rebellion there, and afterward at Baltimore struck a blow at the very instant when it told most, that stamped him as the clear-sighted, bold, executive man, that dared to shoulder responsibilities and knew how to use his power in sustaining the Government to the best advantage. Of course Gen. Butler, or any friend of his, can have not the slightest concern from such an issue. He has seen too much of the world to expect wholly to escape detraction, and he may count himself fortunate in having escaped so long.

The steamer Catiline was burnt to the water's edge last evening about 9 o'clock. She had just come down from Newport News with Gen. Butler, his family and staff, and had started to return, when she was observed to be on fire in the neighborhood of the steam-chest. She burnt very rapidly, and those on board had barely time to escape, some by jumping overboard and sustaining themselves by the rudder till rescued. She was an old boat, and was purchased about three months ago for $18,000, and chartered by the Government for three months, for $10,000 per month, with the provision that if lost the owners were to receive $50,000. The term for which she was chartered will have expired in about two weeks. The charter parties and owners are well-known politicians in the State of New-York, among whom are O. B. Matteson, Charles Stetson, and G. C. Davidson. The profit to the owners has been upward $7,500 per month. It is understood that she was insured for $25,000. Between the insurance and the $50,000 clause in the charter, the owners are not likely to be heavy sufferers by the speculation.

Recent scouting parties have gained much valuable information, and though our forces that have been recently pushed forward are for the moment in an exposed situation, it is believed that they will be able to cope with any force that is likely to make its appearance.

THE FIGHT IN WESTERN VIRGINIA.

The Washington Star of Friday evening has a special correspondence from Grafton, dated July 3, which says that a battle was fought near Buchanan, Upshur county, on Sunday night, and that the rebels were routed. The report seems to be true, for the same paper has a later special which confirms the first in most part. The correspondent says:

Shortly after I closed my letter to you of yesterday, we received information of a considerable fight, at least in its results, between Gen. Morris' column of this (McClellan's) army and the enemy, commanded by either Henry A. Wise or Bob Garnett (late of the United States army), in person. It took place to the right of Buchanan. Our troops engaged were mostly Ohioans; the Third and Fourth regiments, that had gone out by way of Clarksburg. The citizen bringing the news here says he could not learn (at Clarksburg) whether Wise or Garnett commanded the Disunionists, who retreated as hastily as possible, with the loss of twenty-three killed, two hundred prisoners, and seventy-one horses that Morris captured. On our side not a man was killed.

The action took place on Sunday night—that is, very early Monday morning, I presume. Such is the account of the affair received here, as explained above. Our troops, immediately after the fight, continued the pursuit of the retreating enemy. We have news from across the country that Gen. McClellan expects to come up with the enemy at Laurel Hill to-morrow, the 4th. A considerable portion of Wise's force is posted there, and as that force will probably by that time be joined by the force the Unionists whipped on Sunday night near Buchanan, if Wise will venture to fight anywhere it will probably be there. He (Wise) will do his best to make his men fight, if but because after his usual fashion, on his way out to this quarter he abused the Virginians who ran at Philippi recently most shamefully, for poltroons and cowards—not once but in a dozen impromptu speeches. If his command continues to run after he has selected his own ground for a battle, his denunciations of his friends engaged at Philippi will come back upon him, so that he will be the laughing-stock of the whole country.

His total force is about 10,000, of whom but 3,000 may fairly be called willing enemies of the Stars and Stripes, as they are the volunteers he brought with him from Staunton. The rest are nearly all men drafted in the Valley, and thus seemingly forced into the service at the point of the bayonet. More than half of them are doubtless Union men, rather than Secessionists, at heart. The force with which Gen. McClellan operates consists (I learn to-day on what I regard as good authority) of 19,000 men, in three divisions, under himself, Brigadier-Gen. Morris of Indiana, and Brigadier-Gen. Rosencrantz of Ohio. The latter is a West Pointer, who graduated at the head of his class, and is therefore a thoroughly educated and competent soldier.

All here are exceedingly anxious to hear of to-morrow's expected work somewhere about Laurel Hill. Gen. McClellan, on leaving Clarksburg with his column, took the precaution to prohibit any private dispatches whatever from being sent by telegraph from that point, to prevent the enemy from by any chance obtaining intelligence of his movements. Everywhere here there are parties doubtless in secret correspondence with Wise and Garnett by express, any of whom would carry to them, under whip and spur, whatever news of advantage to them they might be able to pick up. This prohibition, of course operates to prevent us here from promptly learning full particulars of McClellan's movements.

FIRE.—At eight o'clock, last night, some dry goods in a show window of the store of C. G. Hook, No. 106 6th avenue, took fire from a gaslight, and before the flames could be extinguished, goods to the value of about $1,000 were destroyed. The building was damaged about $100. Both were fully insured in various companies.

NIGHT NOTES.

THE COMET.

Astronomer—Sit here, sir, if you would like a view of the comet.

Reporter—It does not look so finely in the telescope as I expected. The nucleus appears scarcely so large as it does to the naked eye; and I can see nothing at all of the tail. What is that peculiar appendage attached to the upper side of the nucleus?

Astronomer—Fan-shaped?

Reporter—Yes, Sir.

Astronomer—It appears in the glass on the upper side, but it is really on the side toward the sun: the telescope reverses the image, you must remember. That is supposed to be matter of great rarity which the comet throws off under the influence of the sun. The diffused light which overspreads the field of view is all you can see of the train.

Reporter—What is the nature of the train?

Astronomer—It is supposed to be a vapor-like substance, into which matter at the surface of the cometary body is converted by the action of the sun. According to the hypothesis, the first effect is a violent discharge of this matter toward the sun which may be illustrated by the expansive action of steam. The second effect is the repulsion of this back toward the comet, and with such force as to drive it past the comet—or nucleus, as we must call it at this stage—in two streams, one on each side. These afterward uniting form the tail. As the comet recedes from the sun these effects cease, and the original conditions are restored.

Reporter—Is it not remarkable that a new comet, so brilliant as this, should burst so suddenly into view?

Astronomer—Yes, it is unusual.

Reporter—Has this one been announced by astronomers?

Astronomer—No; unless it is identical with Thatcher's Comet, which passed its perihelion on the 4th of June.

Reporter—Do you think it is?

Astronomer—Not unlikely. And yet, if it is the same, it has this remarkable feature, namely: that its apparent path has doubled upon itself. That is to say, it is going back into the depths of space through the same regions of the sky which it traversed when it emerged and went up to greet the sun. Thatcher caught it, a faint object something like a nebula, up yonder in the Dragon. It passed along between the four stars of the body of the Dipper; and now you see it is at one side of these stars, going back toward the Dragon. There is nothing strictly exceptional in this course, but it is a little unusual.

Reporter—If it is not Thatcher's Comet, how has it happened that astronomers should have missed it?

Astronomer—That does not often occur, and yet it may easily happen, as I will try to explain. In the first place, comets come bowling down into the regions of the sun and earth out of the distance and darkness of every part of interplanetary space. East, west, north and south furnish each its quota. The planets, you remember, all go round the sun from west to east, and in nearly the same plane. But the comets have a far greater license of motion—about one half of them go round from west to east, and about one half from east to west; while the planes of their orbits lie inclined at every possible angle to the plane of the ecliptic. Thus they are seen emerging from every quarter of the sky. Consider, in the next place, that they are very small until they come near the sun, which diffuses their substance—so runs the doctrine, that when passing near the sun they are overpowered by the solar effulgence, and are thus usually invisible alike to common vision and to the telescope; and that when making their solar or perihelion passage, as it is called, they move with incredible velocity and develop their nebulous appendages with wonderful rapidity. Now, if a comet should approach the sun on the opposite side from the earth, and in the line or nearly in the line of the sun and the earth, it would almost always escape detection by the telescope, till it had made its solar passage. If, after it had got two or three days distant from the sun, on the hither side, cloudy weather should intervene for a few nights, or a state of atmosphere unsuited to the delicate uses of the Astronomer, the body would very likely burst suddenly upon the common gaze, a full-grown comet, without having been professionally ushered in. Something like this has happened in case of the great comet which we are all now admiring. It has passed its perihelion, and is rapidly retiring into its long obscurity. Its train is already considerably retrenched, I think.

Reporter—It will probably not last long, then?

Astronomer—It may continue visible for weeks yet, though it is likely to become inconspicuous in a very few days.

Reporter—Have you determined what its orbit is?

Astronomer—No. These determinations require great nicety of calculation, and are often tedious. But few observers make them. The weather has been so fine for some nights past that we shall doubtless have the announcement in a day or two from the great observatories. Three good observations on different nights, or even on the same night, provided the comet is moving with sufficient rapidity, furnish all the data the computer wants to build up the splendid facts of the comet's motion.

Reporter—What sort of bodies are comets?

Astronomer—Planetary. They shine like the planets by reflecting the light of the sun. Of their physical constitution very little is known. There is various evidence, however, that but one kind of matter prevails throughout planetary space; that the earth and the moon and the asteroids are made of the same material; and that the planets and the sun and the comets are like unto them.

Reporter—Do you suppose their matter is the same as that of meteoric stones?

Astronomer—Very much the same.

Reporter—Then I don't at all fancy the idea of their irregular courses. You say they come from all quarters of the heavens, and move in every direction?

Astronomer—Yes.

Reporter—Is there not danger, then, of collision of these bodies with the earth? and would not such collision be attended with ruinous consequences?

Astronomer—The matter of comets, though probably similar in most, if not all, of its elements to that we are acquainted with on the the earth, is in them so tenuous that if a collision should occur, it would be scarcely, if at all felt like the fall of a heavy body. It would probably amount to nothing more than the commingling of the nebulous commetary matter with the earth's atmosphere. What the effect of such commingling would be is, it must be confessed, a very serious inquiry. The laws of matter are so perfectly poised, and things that are related to one another are adapted with such infinite harmony to each other's necessities that it would be fearful to think of the addition, for example, of even an ounce to the weight of a column of the atmosphere as it presses upon the human frame. But the possibily of such a collision and annexation does not trouble the reverent philosopher. The Framer of the universe has provided against every possible contingency. Indeed, this is putting it wrong end foremost. Each contingency is itself of his own providing, and all is provided for with a view to consummate order and beauty.

Reporter—Yes, that is a joyous reflection. But what are the probabilities of such a collision?

Astronomer—250,000,000 to one! according to the calculation of Arago. Consider further that only some six or seven hundred comets are on record. It is estimated, however, that not more than one in five becomes bright enough to attract general attention without the aid of the telescope. Four-fifths of all that visited the earth accordingly were invisible up to the commencement of the seventeenth century. That makes some three thousand or more which have visited us since history began. You can calculate how many ages must elapse at this rate before the single chance against us is converted into a fatal certainty, allowing the doctrine of probabilities to be an inexorable law.

Reporter—We may rest easy for a generation or two at any rate, I think.

Astronomer—And still we had a narrow escape in 1832; and so had Newton's contemporaries in 1680. Comets in each of these years actually dashed through the plane of the ecliptic in the very path of the earth; but fortunately—if we may so speak—the earth was quietly journeying along at a safe distance off.

EMINENT MEN DECEASED.

DEATH OF THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF ENGLAND.

The Great Eastern brings news of the death of John, Lord Campbell. He was born Sept. 15, 1781, at Springfield, in Fifeshire, Scotland. He was the second son of the Rev. George Campbell, a Scotch clergyman of ancient lineage, and was educated at the University of St. Andrews, with a view to clerical pursuits. The great Dr. Chalmers was his class mate. He chose the law as his profession, entered as a student at Lincoln's Inn in 1809, and was called to the bar in 1806. He soon got a considerable practice, being known as an industrious and painstaking lawyer; but he found time in his earlier years to publish reports of the most important cases decided in the Courts of King's Bench and Common Pleas, and thus made himself a name and place among advocates. In 1821 he married the daughter of Sir James Scarlett, afterward Lord Abinger. Being a strong Whig, he was not liked by the Tory Lord Eldon, and it was not until 1827 that he was invested with the silk gown of a king's counsel. In 1830 he was elected to the House of Commons; in 1832 he was made Solicitor-General, and in 1834 Attorney-General. Losing this office on the dissolution of the Grey Ministry, in November, 1834, he was sent to Parliament as a member for the City of Edinburgh, which he continued to represent until June, 1841. Meantime, in 1835, he had again become Attorney-General, which office he held till, in 1841, he resigned to accept the Chancellorship of Ireland and an English peerage. He held this office but three months, when he resigned, with the Melbourne Ministry, but retired with a pension of $20,000 per annum. His wife had previously been created a peeress in her own right—Baroness Stratheden. From 1841 to 1846 his public duties were limited to the exercise of his judicial functions in the House of Lords and in the Privy Council. In 1846 his party returned to power, and he was made Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. Meantime, he had devoted his leisure to the preparation of a work on "The Lives of the Lord Chancellors and Keepers of the Great Seal" of England, which was followed in 1849 by "The Lives of the Chief Justices of England," the last volume of which appeared nearly four years ago. In 1850, when in his seventieth year, he accepted the Chief-Justiceship of England, which he resigned on becoming Lord Chancellor in 1859. He was prominent in the House of Lords for his efforts to have the laws simplified; was noted as a clear-headed, shrewd and conscientious man, with a remarkable plainness of manners, which procured him the name "Plain John Campbell." He was always industrious, and had to the last immense capacities for work. He leaves two sons and four daughters. His eldest son and successor to his peerage and titles was born in 1824.

DEATH OF THE SULTAN OF TURKEY.

The death of Abdul Medjid, Sultan of Turkey, is announced in the news by the Great Eastern. The Sultan was born May 6, 1822. At the death of his father, Mahmoud II, in 1839, Abdul Medjid ascended the throne. He found the affairs of the empire in almost inextricable complication, and his naturally weak and pliable character would have secured his overthrow, but for the intervention of England and Germany against Mehemet Ali, who had led Egypt into revolt, and the Sultan's Grand Admiral, who treacherously surrendered all his fleet to the enemy. By the treaties of 1840 and 1841, Turkey was admitted into the political system of Europe, and from that day the Sultan has been passive in the hands of western diplomacy. By advice of Redshid Pasha, his Vizier, he made many important reforms in the administration of justice, the toleration of religion, the educational system, and the financial levies of the empire. He offered a sacred asylum to the refugees of Hungary, and rather than violate a Mohammedan's traditional hospitality, ran the risk of a serious war. For the last ten years of his life he has been destroying his nerve and brain by dissipation; and his long-expected death has at last come, as the result of that means.

LOCAL MILITARY MATTERS.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF SOLDIERS FOR THE SECOND MAINE REGIMENT.

Yesterday morning, the steamer Metropolis brought to this city, under command of Major Wiley, a company of soldiers belonging to the 2d Maine Regiment, Col. Jameson. They number 100 men, and have been in Portland ever since the regiment went to Washington (June 5). They principally belong to Portland and the surrounding neighborhood.

Accompanying them were two wagons, and 125 horses.

At 12 o'clock m., they left on the steamer Kill von Kull for Elizabethport en route for Washington via the New-Jersey Railroad to Harrisburg.

This addition will increase the 2d Maine Regiment to 900 men.

DEPOT OF VOLUNTEERS—GEN. YATES.

Since the completion of the organizations of the 38 regiments from this State, the duties of this office have consisted, in part, of forwarding such stragglers and invalids as are returning to their regiments. In the course of these duties the most harassing and extraneous questions are propounded, requiring all the characteristic urbanity of Gen. Yates and his Aid, Capt. Allcock, in explaining away doubts and fears. On Monday Capt. Allcock, A. D. C., will proceed to