

THE WAR FOR THE UNION.

FROM KENTUCKY.

The Position of Affairs.

From Our Special Correspondent.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Sept. 28, 1861.

Since my last the Legislature has been endeavoring to perfect a military bill, authorizing the calling out of 40,000 volunteers and 1,500 foot and mounted sharpshooters and scouts, but, at every step, the suspicious which attach to the loyalty of the Governor are a serious impediment to proper legislation. If Gov. Magoffin should be authorized to accept the services of volunteer companies we have no assurance that he will not give the preference to those which have been organized in secessionist localities, and are now striving to make their way to the camp of the Confederate invaders. There is not a single man with whom the Governor is on confidential terms who is not an open secessionist. His Secretary of State left here last Friday, and the general opposition is that he has succeeded. Breckinridge fled as soon as he heard of the arrest of Morehead, and I learn that he is now engaged in forming a Rebel camp in the vicinity of Hazel Green, in Morgan County. Humphrey Marshall, excited by conscience from his own home, in Henry County, has gone over into Owen, which is to Kentucky what Berks is to Pennsylvania, or the Sixth Ward to your City of New-York—the receptacle of all the scum that disfigures the name of Democracy, and in that congenial neighborhood he, too, is raising levies—a cavalry regiment, I understand. Never since the days of the venial Falstaff has there been such a waking mass of lechery, debauchery, selfishness, and ingratitude. He resembles his great prototype in everything but his congenial wit and inexhaustible humor. Humphrey is a scholar and a profound thinker; one of the most accomplished men in the country, but "the spotted traitor spoils" all his scholastic attainments. No fall of a bomb-shell into a quiet tent, or a sudden clap of thunder in a cloudless sky, ever caused such a start and a scattering as did that arrest. "The thief doth fear each bush an executioner," and every secessionist apprehended that Marshal Sued or his deputies had a warrant from Justice Catron for his arrest. The effect of this has been to search the smoke temporarily, but we have not killed it. Its coils will soon again be fastening around us if we do not take the most decided measures. The Legislature has lost valuable time, for which I do not censure them, but it is deeply to be regretted. They are now in the fourth week of the Session, and this week's work ought to have been accomplished in the first. Every day's delay has emboldened the enemy to organize and strengthen his position and thus made him all the more formidably to encounter, while we are unprepared. The Legislature must take into consideration that we are dealing with lawless and unscrupulous foes, who resort to means which are not recognized in honorable warfare, and Gen. Buckner has, in report speaks true, other incentives than ambition to spur him on. I have heard that he is "contracted" the subjugation of Kentucky and is to receive ten millions of dollars for the job and all expenses paid. This may account for the heretofore unaccountable defection of some men, who now it seems were stamping the State for peace when they had Confederate commissions in their pockets. I know of but a very few men who have turned traitors, who are not needed, and like true chevaliers of industry they have flown at the first game that offered. They would have picked pockets or cut throats with equal alacrity, but that a whole some dread of the law has deterred them.

Another serious embarrassment is felt by our Legislature, and may perhaps induce them, if it cannot be removed in a satisfactory manner, to remain in session permanently. This is the belief that should they adjourn for a recess, Gov. Magoffin might take advantage of their absence, recognize the Rebels which Marshall and Breckinridge are raising, the traitor Buckner and the invading Confederates under Zollicoffer, as the State troops of Kentucky, and employ them to drag the State out of the Union and into the jaws of the Crocodile Confederacy. It may strike you at a distance as strange that with this distrust of the Executive, the Legislature does not impeach Magoffin. But he possesses a facility for hypocrisy and a species of cunning which enable him to cover his tracks as completely as an Indian will obliterate the foot-prints of his moccasins. We all know that he is faithless; he exaludes the very odor of treachery, and all his surroundings are felt with rank political corruption, but a Governor cannot be impeached upon suspicion, and it would, therefore, be difficult to lay counts in an indictment. If there were a single clue to the discovery of his treachery, if he had left one single point in his armor of duplicity unguarded, or if he were to disobey the wishes of the Legislature without carrying them out most grudgingly, he would not remain in office one hour. He would have short shift and leave to retire to keep company with Breckinridge, Col. Marshall; seek out some sequestered abode, and there mourn over their degradation, or else plot more mischief. By our Constitution he is Commander-in-Chief of the Militia, but fortunately it does not empower him to take the field in war, except upon invitation of the Legislature, which he is not likely to get. He has submitted to more degradations already than many men would do to hold on to his office. His "power and his command are taken off" to the very last verge of the Constitution. Fearing that he might remove Inspector-General Crittenden, who is by law his military executive agent, the Legislature named that officer expressly in the resolutions ordering out the militia of the State; he has been deposed from the Military Board, not that he was not attentive to his duties, but through apprehension that he was a spy upon their actions, in the interests of the Confederates. The Board now can arrange their plans in secret and prevent his Excellency from knowing any of their movements until they are executed. The man who would hold on to office when such reflections upon his honesty and probity, such imputations and eloquent swears of distrust and such brandings, as it were, of his duplicity, are matters of daily occurrence, loves official position with a loving passion that of woman. He holds on by mere endurance, and the fact is that he plays the part of the "artful dodger" that you might as well try to hold an eel by the tail as to catch him openly at his tricks. You will see by these remarks that the embarrassments which surround our Legislature are of no ordinary character, and will require some dexterity to be avoided.

A Committee of the two Houses have just returned from Harrisburg, whether they went in obedience to a joint resolution to inquire into the causes of the detention there of Senator Irvan, and Messrs. Ewing and Silvertooth of the House. The Committee found the "prisoners of war" comfortably lodged in a hall-room, under guard. The House Guard had detained them as suspicious persons. Their names were not on the stage war-bill, the information had not reached the town that they had been allowed leave of absence, and it was conjectured that they had taken French leave of the Legislature in order to make their way to the Confederate camp. The Committee met old Silvertooth maddening with tears and whiskey, Ewing in a high state of nervous excitement, and Irvan cool and calm as a Summer's morning. When their captors learned that they were traveling with the sanction of the Legislature, they

were immediately discharged, and permitted to go on their way rejoicing. Their persons or baggage were not searched. I have heard that when Ewing was preparing to leave he burned some letters and papers, saying it would not do for the Union men to see them, for their contents would hang him. If he saw the pluck he will soon be found coming back again to Beckner's "army of liberation," but I think he is an arrant coward.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Sept. 28, 1861.

Mr. Andrews from the House Committee on the Judiciary, has made a report, adverse to the proposition to take a vote of the people at a special election, upon paying the war tax imposed by Congress. It argued that Congress exercised its constitutional duty in assigning to Kentucky her share of the expenses of the war, and that Kentucky was bound, while a constituent part of the United States Government, to pay her debt by a direct tax upon her people, or by its assumption by the Legislature. I have not learned how our Committee on Ways and Means will provide for its payment, but its repudiation was rejected by a very large vote. Another proposition based upon the necessity of raising means for the prosecution of the war, has been the suspension of the collection of the Common School tax for two years. I am happy to say that upon this the Committee on Education made an adverse report, which was sustained by the House. The bill for suppressing and punishing rebellion has passed both Houses, and been sent to the Governor for his veto. It provides that any citizen who, as an officer or soldier of the Confederate army, may invade the State, shall be liable, upon conviction, to imprisonment and fine, and also to any person who shall induce or persuade any one to enlist in the Confederate army, shall be subject to like penalties. This act is to go into effect in twenty days after its passage, and it is hoped that it will exercise the most beneficial influence in arresting the spread of the rebellion in our State. There is one singular fact in relation to the madness of this secession movement. Hundreds of deluded citizens have gone to the Southern armies, leaving their families totally unprotected, and depending upon the charity of the friends of the Union. Their lawful guardians and protectors have cruelly deserted them, and more cruelly are endeavoring to come back armed with fire and sword against the loyal homes which are giving them shelter. Instances have come to my knowledge of the most aggravated cases of this kind, where men with the most cold-blooded deliberation have abandoned their wives and children, leaving them penniless, and in some cases after having squandered the fortunes which they obtained with their wives in marriage. In every aspect in which this horrible epidemic is viewed, it is the most reckless, heartless, and damnable frenzy that has ever seized mankind. Reason seems to be entirely dethroned; passion and blind prejudice have usurped its place, and they are bent on destruction; but

the devil they serve.

Has not as yet deserted them. He is the friend who drags for him, as the blind man was aided by the guide, who led his shepherd. Over rough and smooth, will he reach the brink of the hell precipice—has he not his downward?

The Senate this morning had under consideration the report of the joint Committee sent to Harrisburg to investigate the causes of the arrest of Messrs. Swan, Ewing, and Silvertooth, members of the Legislature. These men, upon leave of absence granted, left here for their homes, which are in Caloway, Logan, and Hickman Counties, in the extreme western and south-western parts of the State, while they were stopped in Mercer County, the very center of the State, by Home Guards of that county and the adjoining one of Boyle, but at a point where they could go readily to the camps of either Zollicoffer or Buckner. Their suspicious conduct, arising from their unusual anxiety and excited purpose to hurry away, and the offer of unusually large sums of money for a wagon to convey them, by an unusual route, in the direction of the rebel army then in an adjoining county, fully justified Lieut. Col. Barbee of the Home Guard in stopping them until they could give a proper account of their proceedings, and exculpate themselves. There was probably cause for the arrest, and I therefore think the Committee assumed too much when they proposed a resolution that it was illegal, unwarranted, and is disproved. What divinity lodges a member of the Legislature that he can belch forth his treasonable speeches, and denounce our Government as a corruption here in the State Capital for weeks, and then start in a back-line for the camp of an invading foe, and claim exemption from arrest because of his representative position? If Col. Barbee had hung them on the first tree, and left their wife carcasses as food for the mountain eagles, he would have been fully justified, and it is deeply to be regretted that any false courtesy to the Legislative Committee induced their release. The Senate postponed the resolution. I deprecate this as a piece of moral cowardice; it should have been voted down, and the thanks of the people of Kentucky returned to the vigilant citizen soldiers who are guarding the mountain passes to prevent recruits and supplies from reaching the invaders.

That whole region swarms with traitors, who are seeking by paths and devious ways to make a communication with Zollicoffer, and a large number of them have been arrested. To-day's train takes down a contingent to Louisville as political prisoners, among them James B. Clay. To think that a son of Henry Clay should pass through the State which his father loved so well and adored so much, under the guard of United States soldiers, as a traitor to his country; Clay was arrested by the picket guards of Camp Dick Robinson, and he was decoyed into their lines by a young lad, who, feeling like the captives of Andre, that "he didn't like his looks," adopted an offer to lead him by a secret path, and conveyed him into camp. It is said when Clay discovered the ruse he threw some money to the lad, telling him it was his reward for being one of the smartest boys in the United States. There was another person in company with Clay, supposed to be John C. Breckinridge. He jumped from his horse, however, plunged into a corn-field, and escaped. The late candidate for the Presidency of the United States, and the Representative of Kentucky in the national Senate, flying like a thief through a corn-field, is a subject worthy the attention of some historical painter. What a splendid companion-piece it would make to the picture of Marion feeding the British officer on sweet potatoes in his swamp fastness! The career of Breckinridge is now ended; he can never return to Kentucky unless he repents in sackcloth and ashes his scoured designs of polluting its soil with civil strife, and no punishment can be meted to him commensurate with his crime, except to let him live the remnant of his miserable life in exile, with the culture of remorse ever gnawing at his heart.

Among the prisoners who were taken down with Jim Clay are sons of Brutus Clay, a patriotic Union member of the Legislature, and of Judge Brent, one of the soundest patriots of the State. Thos. B. Scott and Col. Harris are of the number also. They were guarded by a platoon of twenty-five soldiers, under Capt. Samuel McKee, from Camp Dick Robinson. There will be an advance movement by Gen. Thomas upon Zollicoffer in a very few days. Gen. Mitchell is sending over regiments with all dispatch, which have been sent to support those in camp, and the movement will be made with at least 15,000 men, while all the Home Guards of the mountain counties, now well provided with the best rifles and plenty of ammunition, will hang on Zollicoffer's flanks, and serve his thieving band as the Rheingau,

the early tenants of the hills of Switzerland, did their invaders.

From Our Special Correspondent.

LOUISVILLE, Sept. 29, 1861. A SUGGESTION.

If this war is to use railroads for purposes of transportation, it strikes me the Government could take no better thought for the morrow than to direct military commanders to have bridge timbers in readiness. Bridge burning is the main feature of secession warfare, and the rapid movement of our armies by rail must depend on the speedy reconstruction of railroad bridges. There are doubtless thousands of good workmen idle in the United States, who have been thrown out of employment by the general stagnation of trade, and there is no lack of skillful mechanics to direct their labor. Would it not be well, therefore, to have five hundred or a thousand men employed in connection with each division of the army, as it advances, to make ready, so far as may be, timbers for bridges, so that reconstruction may be the work of a few days only in each case, instead of several weeks? Several bridges on the Louisville and Nashville road have been destroyed already; and while the enemy is evidently weak in his position, and disposed to recede, our brave Gen. Sherman cannot advance till they are reconstructed. On the bridge at Rolling Fork, which is an important one, there are but forty or fifty hands employed. They are superintended by a competent builder, and it may not be possible, under the circumstances, for him to employ more force. But this is only the beginning of bridge work, if we advance to Nashville—and surely the Government can contemplate nothing less. When Green River and Barren River shall have been reached, there will be the same impediment at each. Unless some provision be taken like that which I have suggested, there must be a long delay to rebuild at every bridge, that transportation may be certain and speedy in rear of the army.

BUCKNER'S VANDALISM.

Gen. Buckner is subjecting the people around Bowling Green to the most relentless system of pillage and oppression. A large quantity of salt and coopership belonging to a pork-packing house, one of whose members lives in Louisville, was seized soon after he took possession of the village, and sent to Nashville. The value could not fall short of \$10,000. That the owners were considered secessionists did not exempt them. Citizens are even robbed of their family stores. I have information of a particular instance, in which a family, in moderate circumstances, was forced to give up all the provisions about the house. The father was absent, and the son was required to choose one of three alternatives—to join the army, go to work for the Confederates, or be shot. So rapidly have the soldiers consumed the country, that bacon is worth 35 cents per pound in Bowling Green, though the place is situated in a most productive region of the State.

CONDITION OF THE REBEL SOLDIERS.

Numerous advances have reached this city of the destitution, nakedness, and disaffection of Buckner's army. From the most reliable information at my command, I set their number down at 10,000. Many of them have indifferent arms, such as shot-guns, common rifles, and flint-lock muskets; and some are destitute of arms. Guns of every description are taken from the citizens, to equip the men. All the arms of the Home Guards were appropriated at once. From the family mentioned above, as being robbed of provisions, they took the only gun they possessed. All accounts agree that the Kentuckians who joined the expedition were deceived; that Buckner represented to them, before setting out, that in removing them to Kentucky he only proposed to establish a military encampment for instruction, and would not make war against the State. A lady who resides in Louisville received a letter from her son, who was in Camp Boone before he fled to Kentucky, in which he complains bitterly of his destitute condition, declares he was reduced into areas against his native State, and expresses an ardent desire to escape. This is said to be a fair index of the feeling among the Kentuckians in camp at Bowling Green. There will no doubt be numerous desertions whenever opportunities occur. Indeed, I am now satisfied if Gen. Rousseau had been permitted to encamp in Kentucky, instead of being placed over the river—as if United States soldiers had no right to encamp in this State—many of these rash young men would have joined him. They were restless youths, who wished to enlist, and knew nothing of their duty, save what they inferred from glib-shop parrotism about "the North" and "the South." If Rousseau had been in this State, doubtless many would have split the difference, and gone for Kentucky.

O, what a war this is for officers! Already the streets of Louisville glitter, of a sunny day, with the bright, glazed caps of generals, colonels, captains, and lieutenants; but the soldiers of Kentucky are yet to be raised. Beside Rousseau's brigade, and the little army at Camp Dick Robinson, whose hands are full with caring for Zollicoffer, what have we? Doubtless we will have a fine army, when each officer gets his men. But time, and the rapid movements of starved invaders, will not wait for all this.

The Cincinnati Commercial of yesterday said well that "the Governors of Ohio and Indiana, and the authorities at Washington, should spare no effort, but exercise the most sleepless activity and vigilance, and stop at no expense in forwarding the troops and arms that are needed." We have Home Guards, who would fight the devil in harness, just for the fun of a fight. But these are soldiers of a moment. We must have an army for the war. If the right sort of army be placed in Kentucky, upon the line of the Nashville Railroad, the work of Generals McClellan and Fremont will soon be easy, and the disjointed Rebels will begin to look, every man, to his own State—the doctrine of State Rights will give the key-note of discord, selecting her own verses of "Dixie" for melody to march by.

THE UPPER CUMBERLAND.

While an advance upon Nashville with a heavy column cannot fail to paralyze the rebellion east and west, a thorough occupation of South-eastern Kentucky, and the adjoining counties of Tennessee, will secure to the Government the use of Cumberland River during the winter, or at least draw constantly on the Rebel force for their defense. Put them on the defensive everywhere and you scatter them. Let them have the embarrassments of which Gen. Fremont complains in his recent letter. During the winter, and often far into the beginning of summer, the Cumberland River is navigable by small steamers as high as Walden, Pulaski County, Ky. The region of country along its banks, both in Tennessee and Kentucky, has been supplied with merchandise of every description from Nashville, and has shipped its products to that market. If the main points on the upper waters of Cumberland be possessed by our forces, the people of those regions must take one horn of a dilemma—either they must occupy all their time in guarding their stream, which is their only channel of commerce, or they must join heartily in the war for the reestablishment of the Government and the maintenance of order upon all our Western rivers. There are no railroads in the whole region of country lying along this stream above Gallatin, Tenn., and the rough common roads over a hilly country render transportation by wagon exceedingly tedious and expensive to the farmer and merchant. While the river is low, the merchants and traders buy up all the produce of the country at low prices, and sell their goods, shipped up during the winter freshets, at enormous profits. Many have realized fortunes in

this traffic, and have then established themselves in large wholesale houses in Nashville, to supply in turn their up-river successors. From these upper Cumberland traders is obtained much of the supply of jeans, linseys, woolen socks, bacon, corn, &c., which must now be tooled more important to Nashville than ever before. Whenever Nashville shall be possessed by the Government forces, the hardy inhabitants of all the upper country, both in Tennessee and Kentucky, have a market opened with the civilized world, which will have the effect, after the hardships they must suffer in the interim, to bind them more closely than ever to the United States. And these sections of both States contain the most warlike of their people.

James B. Clay was brought here a prisoner yesterday evening. I suppose he will be put through the slow process of our Court. What a pity he could not have been placed at once on Gov. Morton's fast line, and sent to keep company with Morehead, Barr, and Dunnet, at Fort Lafayette. There is nothing of moment from our army upon the railroad. How long a forward movement will be prevented by bridge-building, I am unable to say.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

Special Correspondence of The London Times.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3, 1861.

The two events of the week, in a political point of view, are Mr. Chase's appeal to the people for a national law, and Gen. Fremont's proclamation of martial law in Missouri and the liberation of the slaves belonging to rebel owners. The military event is the success of the expedition to Cape Hatteras, which is also of considerable political significance. While the partridges are having a bad time of it in England, which scarcely permits them to be properly thankful for their day of grace yesterday, there is a full-scale rising up here from the outposts beyond the Potomac, rising up like which comes from thirty-four miles away. But the advance of the enemy is really intended to exercise their men, and to find ground for their fresh troops. On this side nothing will be done for three or four weeks to come. Mr. McClellan is at present incapacitated by a strain received when out riding, a consequence of the constant marching and counter-marching by which he has endeavored to largely the progress of the army, officers and men, toward efficiency. But the machine is fairly moving and in working order, and by the time the season is favorable and other combinations are ready for execution the army will justify the expectations which are entertained of it, and will deserve some of the eulogies passed on it by anticipation. Never, perhaps, has a finer body of men in all respects of physical and moral character, and more in the line of the march, been seen in any army. The march is being made in the most judicious manner, and the troops are being kept in the best of order. The march is being made in the most judicious manner, and the troops are being kept in the best of order. The march is being made in the most judicious manner, and the troops are being kept in the best of order.

The news from Cape Hatteras, which was received here yesterday, contains great expectations. The paper as a "grand battle" is certainly a great success, and it has been achieved as easily as the original design of the expedition has been abandoned, and instead of blocking up the entrance and destroying the passages, Gen. Butler and Commodore Sirrahman arrived at the much more sound conclusion to occupy the works, which they found ready built to their hands, which of course offers the promise of the most serious defeat to the enemy, and a terror and dismay to North Carolina. I do not see the influence of this coup will be felt at Richmond and Manassas, and it may probably induce the Confederates to risk an attack on Washington, or a march into Maryland. It must certainly lead to a diffusion of part of their forces to watch the rivers and cities of North Carolina. It will be observed that the Confederates are not only in a state of confusion, but are looking over the inventory of the captured material, it certainly appears as if they had only ten 25-lb. shells, and no round shot at all. They were humiliated at from more than two weeks' unbroken fighting, and they had had a very little chance indeed in an open work without casualties, while their retreat was cut off by the fire of the ships along the coast and by the landing of the troops on the beach. It is very doubtful whether the President or the politicians of the extreme Republican party will approve the capitulation, inasmuch as the officers and men surrendered on condition that they were not to be treated as prisoners of war. They are not rebels, or to be treated as such. Again, and perhaps more important, the articles of capitulation are signed by "S. Barron, flag officer, C.S. Navy, commanding naval force of Virginia and North Carolina," although Gen. Butler, in his report, observes he was determined "not even to give an official title to the officer in command of the Rebels." Strange indeed! In that same document, and immediately before that very statement, there are not only the titles of capitulation inscribed for officers and men, but the treatment due—not to "Rebels," but—to "prisoners of war," but after the words "Benj. F. Butler, Major-General U. S. A., commanding," come the style and title of Flag-officer Barron of C. S. Navy. This matter is of greater consequence than it may be supposed. It is not a mere verbal criticism. Hitherto the authorities at Washington have resolutely and earnestly endeavored to negotiate for an exchange of prisoners, and to treat the rebels as such, and have preferred to let their officers remain in captivity rather than make such an admission of equality and independence as would be implied by an exchange for which, indeed, they had scarcely any materials. The capture of these officers and men will nearly give them an equivalent, and it is probable the wishes of the officers of the regular army and others will be in some sort attended to. Indeed, unless the act of General Butler, at Cape Hatteras, be repudiated, it is not easy to see how we can justify the Government in continuing to treat the rebels as such, and to let their officers remain in captivity rather than make such an admission of equality and independence as would be implied by an exchange for which, indeed, they had scarcely any materials. The capture of these officers and men will nearly give them an equivalent, and it is probable the wishes of the officers of the regular army and others will be in some sort attended to. 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