THE WAR FOR THE UNION.

CHEERING NEWS FROM MISSOURI.

Advance of Fremont's Grand Army.

OCCUPATION OF SPRINGFIELD.

GREAT REJOICING BY THE CITIZENS.

The Crushing Charge of the Body Guard.

MURDEROUS FIRE BY THE REBELS.

SEVERE LOSS ON BOTH SIDES.

TWO REBEL COLONELS KILLED.

The Pathfinder's Pursuit of Price.

REBEL STAMPEDE FROM SPRINGFIELD.

Major Frank White's Gallant Exploit.

GEN. FREMONT'S HEADQUARTERS,
Camp Lyon, Springfield, Mo., Monday, Oct. 28, 1861.

Gen. Fremont and staff arrived here yesterday, and the Benton Cadets, Col. Carr's cavalry, Major Holman's sharpshooters, and Gen. Sigel's command at different periods during the same day, finding no professed rebels in the place. Our troops were received with delight, the Stars and Stripes being displayed at numerous houses, and men, women, and children waving handkerchiefs from almost every doorway.

Maj. White of the Prairie Scouts, whose command started with Maj. Zagonixi for Springfield, had been quite ill, and was captured by the Rebels while riding in a buggy, and after the fight was taken several miles out of town by a guard of 20 Rebels, but was rescued by a party of Green County Home Guards, and is now here.

The loss of Gen. Fremont's body guard, in their desperate charge of Friday last, was 15 killed, 23 wounded, and 26 missing. Three of the wounded have since died. Doubtless many of the missing will soon report themselves.

The Rebel loss is stated at from fifty to sixty killed, and forty to fifty wounded.

The Rebels were commanded by Cols. Johnson, Frazier, Price and Turner, the latter two of whom are said to have been killed.

Gen. Fremont will probably remain here until the other divisions of the army arrive.

Gen. Price is still reported to be in the vicinity of Carthage, but nothing definite is known of his whereabouts.

From correspondence in St. Louis papers we gather the following details of the war in Missouri:

WARSAW, Wednesday Evening, Oct. 23, 1861.

At last accounts Price was in Jasper County, and it is probable that the two armies, by this time, are united somewhere in the vicinity of Carthage. Whether they will consider themselves, with their combined forces, strong enough to give us battle, of course remains to be seen. But, be it as it may, it is probable that an expected battle is, by this retrograde movement, put some little ways in the future. The reports as to the strength of McCulloch's force are not positive, but it is generally supposed to be about 15,000. Price's effective force is about 23,000.

The army of the latter is reported to be suffering severely from sickness, want of clothing and shoes. It is said there are at least 2,000 men unable to bear arms on account of sickness, and that the entire force is greatly discouraged.

A gentleman who arrived here yesterday from Fort Scott reports Vernon County swarming with Secessionists north of the Osage, and to the west of here. However, there is no interruption of travel, and the County is generally very quiet.

James McMurty, a citizen of this place, left here for Fort Smith two or three days before Sigel's arrival, and, it is said, to return from the Fort with 1,300 wagons of clothing, shoes and provisions for the rebel army. McMurty took 60 wagons from this place.

Gen. Lane has made another successful swoop upon a transportation train of the enemy in the vicinity of Butler, in Bates County. He captured the whole concern, baggage wagons, horses, commissarist and all, and took the escort prisoners. Among them were a Capt. Whiting and Lieut. Vaughn. The General also reports to headquarters that he has found a large number of the sick of the Rebel army at Rose Hill, in Johnson County, in a starving condition. He attended to their wants. Lane is still in Osceola. Sturgis probably united with him to-day.

Gen. Fremont last evening returned to Sigel's camp, where he will await the arrival of his staff to-day. The army has begun moving, and we shall be fairly under way for the south again to-morrow.

There is a small portion of Price's army at the mills a few miles south of Stockton, but there is no doubt whatever as to the main body of the army having gone south. This force at Stockton mills is probably Price's rear guard.

The army has been passing over the bridge since about 11 o'clock.

CAMP HASKELL, Hickory Co., Mo., 26 miles south of Warsaw, Thursday evening, Oct. 24, 1861.

The sudden pulling up of stakes on the part of Price induced a further movement from Warsaw—I think rather sooner than was at first intended. The bridge over the Osage was ready for the passage of troops by 11 o'clock on Thursday morning, and was immediately put to use by infantry, artillery and cavalry, and the various *impedimenta* of the army, who continued to file across its creaking timbers till late in the evening.

After a week's sojourn in quarters camp life possessed quite a novelty to us again. The camp—named after Maj. Frank White, of the staff, whose recent services at Lexington are of a creditable nature—was most beautifully located on the broad prairie, extending as far as the eye could reach. As the darkness set in it was brilliantly illuminated, far and near, by the camp-fires of the regiments encamped about us. The dry grass in the tents and of the entire prairie about us was breast high, and considerable apprehension was entertained that some of the many camp-fires might communicate to this and involve us in something of a prairie conflagration.

The *reveille* sounded long before the stars had disappeared, and while the moon was still shining down upon the encampment as peacefully as at midnight. Breakfast was disposed of by candle-light, and tents were struck, and together with baggage, stowed away in the wagons, and everything got in readiness for a start, at an early hour. Before leaving, Gen. Fremont caused Capt. Haskell to read a dispatch announcing the defeat of Jeff. Thompson's forces at Fredericktown, to the different regiments in our vicinity; and many were the cheers which rang out upon the morning air thereat. A march of six miles southward, over the prairies, brought us to Quincy, a little village in the north-westerly portion of Hickory County. Quincy, like most of the villages hereabout, has the usual impress of war. Although at the best it contains but a dozen or twenty buildings, nearly one half of these were closed and their occupants departed. Some had fled to the North and some to the South, and are now engaged in the great drama being enacted in our midst. The General having decided, in view of the larger portion of the army being still in the rear of us, to make but a short day's march, the members of the B B concluded to take possession of one of the empty log houses of the place and establish squatter sovereignty, till matters in the camp, to be pitched some miles ahead, should have become settled somewhat. A building was easily found, and was duly swept and cleaned, a fire started in its capacious fireplace, a table procured from one building, and a lot of chairs from another, and with the horses relieved of their saddles, and quietly munching corn in the yard, we were soon very comfortably fixed.

Camp Haskell, from which I now write this, is located six miles south of Quincy and twenty-six south of Warsaw, in Hickory County. It is named in honor of one of the most active and efficient of our staff officers, Capt. Leonidas Haskell. Captain H.'s nominal office is that of Provost-Marshal, but his real duties embrace at least half a dozen. He sees that the tents and transportation train is got fairly under way in the morning, and that the camp is properly selected and pitched at night. He is, beside, Quartermaster, Commissary, and I do not know what else—in fact, is the leading working spirit of the entire staff. Whenever any person wants anything done, Capt. Haskell is the man who is called upon, and is generally, too, the man who does it. There has been a disposition in certain quarters to cast an indefinite imputation upon the character and efficiency of Capt. H. What these imputations are I do not know; but this I do know, that we have no more efficient or valuable man among us than this gentleman; and it gives me great pleasure to have an opportunity to testify to this fact. Capt. Haskell was well known to Gen. Fremont in California, and was selected by the General for the peculiar duties which he now so ably performs.

Gen. Sigel's Division to-night is about five miles in advance of us, which position he will keep. We get but little information from other regions we have left behind us, and the whereabouts of the divisions which are to follow us are but imperfectly known. It is generally supposed, however, that they are not far behind us, and that McKinstry, Hunter, and Pope will all be with us in a day or two.

Gen. Lane is but about twelve miles to the west of us to-night, and is progressing towards the south in conjunction with the main body. His men seem to be as actively employed as ever, as at last accounts he had seized a quantity of lead, which he was transporting to Forts Scott and Lincoln, in Kansas.

Gen. Price, notwithstanding his junction with McCulloch, is reported to be still retreating. He was moving south in the lower portion of Jasper County when last heard from. It is the general opinion of the staff that we shall get a battle out of him in the course of eight or ten days. The information from the eastern portion of the State has greatly encouraged our troops, and they will march forward with renewed energy.

CAMP MORRISEY, Hickory Co., 34 miles south of Warsaw, Friday evening, Oct. 25, 1861.

We made a short march to-day, traveling but about half a dozen miles, and getting into camp again soon after noon. It is understood that the General has concluded to make this his halting place for two or three days, to allow of the concentration of the different divisions of his army, which I supposed would take place at Warsaw. Gen. Sigel, who was encamped near us last night, has passed on a little in advance, which position, as I have before stated, he will retain. Gen. Asboth's division is immediately in the rear of us, and Lane is on the Osceola road, leading south, some eight or ten miles to the west of us. Gen. Pope's division is probably within a day's march; while Hunter and McKinstry are doubtless by this time crossing the Osage. Two or three days hence our forces will be in supporting distance, and ready to move forward in a solid column against the enemy, wherever he may be found.

Major Zagonyi, with all of Gen. Fremont's body-guard, with the exception of twenty, in connection with Major Frank White's scouting battalion, left camp last night for Springfield, and are probably in possession of that place ere this time, unless the enemy in that vicinity prove to be stronger than was supposed. Our information was that the place was held by but about 300 men.

The march hither to-day was characterized by no particular incidents of interest. A short distance from our camp of last night, we passed the residence of a Union man, who about a week since was aroused from his sleep one night and called to the door, when he was shot dead in his tracks. A more cold-blooded and dastardly deed has not been perpetrated during the war.

As I came up, a company of mounted Home Guards were about starting across the country a mile or more, to the residence of a man suspected of being an accessory, and I joined them; but our only discovery was two wounded rebel soldiers of Parson's division, who were thus placed *hors du combat* in a little skirmish in this vicinity, about a week since. The owner of the place protested that he individually had never taken up arms, and as nothing suspicious could be found about the house, of course all that remained for us was to gallop back again.

Gen. Sigel's division not moving till nearly noon to-day, our route hither also brought us through his camp. The military neatness of everything about that camp was universally commented upon, as were subsequently the military bearing of his men as, after we arrived here, they passed us again to take up their position in advance. They passed by Gen. Fremont's headquarters with colors flying and bands playing, and were reviewed with evident satisfaction by the General, who, together with Gen. Sigel, was stationed upon the piazza. I shall be much mistaken if Gen. Sigel and his division does not take a prominent part in the coming encounter.

While writing the above, Gen. Sturgis has arrived from Osceola, where his force is still located. He will probably move south, over the same route pursued by Lane. In the course of a day or two Lane and Sturgis will probably unite with the main body of the army in the vicinity of Bolivar, Polk County.

There has been no intelligence of importance received to-day in regard to the enemy. There are some doubts entertained as to McCulloch's junction with Price, but I think the information will not fail to be more fully confirmed in the course of a day or two.

I inclose you with this Major Frank White's official report of his operations at Lexington and vicinity. The State flag captured by him was the one taken by Jackson from Jefferson City.

CAMP RICHARDSON, Bolivar, Polk Co., Saturday Night, Oct. 26, 1861.

Gen. Fremont and staff arrived at Bolivar, Polk County, 16 miles from Camp Morrisey, and encamped this evening on the outskirts of the town. Bolivar, like nearly all the towns in Southern Missouri, is almost entirely deserted, the stores being all closed and many of the houses abandoned.

It is now ascertained that the loss of Fremont's body guard in the brilliant charge at Springfield was six to eight killed and some fifteen to twenty wounded. A number of most brilliant instances of daring were shown on our side. One Sergeant had three horses shot from under him; and a Rebel placed a pistol to Zagonyi's breast, and was in the very act of firing when the Major severed his arm from the shoulder and laid him dead at the horse's feet.

Concerning Major White nothing reliable is known. Some say he was taken ill, others that he attacked the town on either point, and lost nine, and that he now holds it. One story in camp is that Zagonyi left 40 men in Springfield to attend to the wounded, and that they were at last accounts still holding the place.

Col. Carns's 3d Illinois Cavalry and Major Holman's Sharpshooters have left here for Springfield, and one regiment of Sigel's division will march there at midnight.

Gen. Fremont and staff and Sigel's division depart by forced marches for Springfield at daylight to-morrow morning, and will probably arrive there in the evening.

Gen. McKinstry was two miles north of Warsaw last night. Gen. Pope was this side of the Osage, Hunter in advance of him—all marching to this point.

I understand that in the forthcoming battle Lane and Sturgis will have the left wing, Hunter the right, Asboth the main column, and McKinstry will form the reserve—Sigel taking the advance.

Nothing further from Price, and no news of McCulloch, but it is believed a general engagement will occur within two weeks, unless the Rebels retreat into Arkansas.

The Secessionists have probably gone some distance from Springfield.

ROLLA, Thursday, Oct. 28, 1861.

The gentleman from Springfield, who was expected at the close of my last letter, arrived about noon day before yesterday. He left Springfield on Monday evening last, and brings some items of general interest, though nothing very new or important. All the Secession troops had left Springfield several days previous to his departure. Several small bands of them had passed through the place, on their way to join Gen. Price's army, which was said to be at or near Greenfield, 35 miles north-west of that city. He represents that on Friday night, the 18th, a general stampede took place among the "secesh," occasioned by the reception of the news that Sigel, in command of the advance guard of Fremont's army was approaching the town. Of course the alarm was unnecessary at that time, but served a good purpose in ridding the town of a worse than Egyptian plague, and leaving the citizens to breathe once more the air of freedom. For a while the wildest confusion reigned. Not only the troops quartered there left, but nearly all the "secesh" citizens found it necessary, in their own estimation, at least, to leave their homes and take up their march for parts unknown. At the time our friend left the town there were but three or four Secession citizens remaining, and he thinks it probable that they, too, have ere this joined their departed friends. A large number of the rebel wounded were still there, however. Seven wagon loads of their wounded from Lexington had been brought in, whether with the intention of leaving them there or not he is not able to state.

The evacuation of the town by the Rebels left the Union men at ease, and it may well be supposed there was great rejoicing at the prospect of a speedy change in the states of affairs, though quiet was still maintained by them, as the surrounding country was not yet entirely clear of the enemy. The Federal wounded, however, could not wholly restrain their feelings, and on one occasion as many of them as had sufficiently recovered had assembled for the purpose of having a drill once more. Having no guns, each one procured a stick, and marching out to the old parade ground of Gen. Sigel, went through a regular drill, declaring that they were afraid they would forget how, as they had not drilled for so long a time.

The gentleman referred to met the ambulance recently sent after our wounded, twenty-five miles this side of Springfield. He saw no troops on the way, and was not interfered with in any manner. On Monday night, however, he camped about four miles from a company of Rebels, under Col. John H. Price, numbering about 40 men. This company was at that time encamped on the road from Springfield to Hartville, and he was told they were on their way Westward. They were said to be moving with great caution and would probably pass south of Springfield, as it was generally believed in the country that the Federal troops were in possession of that place.

A gentleman who left the vicinity of Hartville reports the same state of feeling in that section. Rebel bands were constantly moving southward and westward, taking with them all their movable effects, and driving off all the stock they can get in their possession.

A messenger from Gen. Wyman's command arrived here Saturday evening. Gen. W. had received orders to proceed to Bolivar, Polk County, and had gone forty miles from Linn Creek, in that direction, when the messenger left him. The general supposition is that he will go to Springfield from Bolivar.

Capt. Williams, with his company of cavalry, will start westward this morning, to join Gen. Wyman's command, to which the company belongs. He will probably pass through Lebanon on his march.

A company of about fifty citizens of Southwest Missouri will leave here this evening for their homes. Judge Orr is among them.

The telegraph line was completed to this place yesterday, and is now in working order.

A messenger arrived last night about 11 o'clock, directly from Gen. Wyman's command. He left Wyman at Bolivar on Friday night, the 20th inst., where he joined the advance guard of Gen. Fremont's command.

Price's army was reported to be at Carthage, about sixty miles from Bolivar.

There is a flying rumor this morning that 400 Secessionists are congregated on Piney, about twelve miles from here, to protect a lot of lumber recently confiscated by Col. Dodge. The report is not believed.

TIPTON, Monday, Oct. 28, 1861.

A scout who came into Sedalia yesterday, reports that Price is moving for Springfield with his whole command, where it is certain *he intends to make a stand.*

McCulloch is reported on Grand Prairie, with 10,000 men.

Price's men are represented to be so dissatisfied with the prospect of leaving the State, that they will force him to make a stand. They say they are State troops; that they enlisted to fight in the State, and they won't go out of it without a fight.

The Secessionists offer to bet largely that Price will give Fremont battle, and whip him.

Gen. Kennedy, who has just returned from Price's army, to Sedalia, reiterates the same thing, and says Price will have more re-enforcements than the Government dreams of.

Gen. Lane entered Pleasant Hill the other day, and after planting the United States flag, called the citizens together and made them a speech, in which he told them that that flag has been your protection, and shall be still. *So long as it remains here you are safe; but if it is cut down, by the Eternal, I will return and burn your town.*" He then withdrew with his men, and although the inhabitants are all Secessionists, and this affair occurred two weeks ago, *that flag is still waving over the town.*

Large numbers of Secessionists are returning to this part of the country every day from the Rebel army, and their increasing strength is exciting considerable alarm among the Union citizens, who fear that as soon as the troops leave, they will renew their depredations.

A Secessionist was heard to say in Sedalia the other day that if the Government were going to send any more stores up there, they had better keep two or three regiments to guard them.

Such notorious rebels as Dr. Newland and Geo. Kennedy of Georgetown, who have fought with Price in all the battles since Boonville, are allowed to return on their parole.

Oren Priest, who was taken with such papers on his person as would have hung him as a spy, has been released.

These things are exciting bitter comment among the Union people here.

Some of them are leaving again. Among them John Philips, member of the Convention, who, I am informed, gives as the cause, the danger to himself and family in a place so full of Secessionists as Georgetown.

The telegraph was completed yesterday to Sedalia.

Capt. Turnly and four men of his party, wounded from an ambush last week, are recovering. There are only 15 sick now at Georgetown, the rest being either recovered or sent to St. Louis.

At Otterville there is still quite a number of sick; 500 of the 25th Indiana alone. Col. Worthington, who has been to Jefferson City for several days, superintending the forwarding of transportation to Gen. Pope's Division, has returned with the last train.

All quiet here. The rumor is revived again that Johnson has come into this State again from Tennessee, with reinforcements for Price, and taken command of his army. It does not receive the attention, however, which its importance would demand if true.

The pickets of the 25th Indiana were fired upon a few nights ago, by returned Secessionists, it is supposed.

MAJOR WHITE'S OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE RECAPTURE OF LEXINGTON, &c.

CAMP LOOKOUT, QUINCY, Mo., Oct. 24, 1861.

MAJOR-GENERAL FREMONT: On the 5th instant I received your orders to organize a scouting cavalry squadron for special service, and organized one by making the following details: Company L, 1st Missouri Cavalry, Capt. Charles Fairbanks, 65 men; Company C, 1st Missouri Cavalry, Capt. P. Kehoe, 65 men; the Irish Dragoons (independent), 51 men.

We left Jefferson City on the 5th instant, and, after a severe march, reached Georgetown, our men in good condition, on the afternoon of the 8th.

Our horses being all unshod, and consequently unfit for travel, we procured a few shoes and a quantity of old iron, called for blacksmiths from our ranks, took possession of two unoccupied blacksmiths' shops, and in five days shod our horses and mules, 232 in number.

Our scanty supply of ammunition having been destroyed by the rain, and having two small bullet-molds in our possession, we procured lead and powder, and turning a carpenter's shop into a manufactory, made 3,000 cartridges for our revolving rifles.

On the 5th inst. Col. Hovey, commanding at Georgetown, received a dispatch from Lexington stating that a valuable baggage train had left the vicinity of Lexington, destined for Price's Rebel army; also, a private dispatch from Col. White, stating that if he and his fellow-prisoners were not relieved within twenty-four hours they would be assassinated by the Rebel marauders infesting Lexington.

As Col. Hovey's command was under marching orders, and therefore could not go to their relief, my command volunteered for the service, and Col. Eads of Georgetown tendered me 70 men from his regiment.

Accompanied by Col. Eads I started at 9 p. m., on the 15th inst., my whole force being 220 strong.

By a severe forced march of nearly sixty miles, we reached Lexington early the following morning, drove in the Rebel pickets without loss, and took possession of the town. We made from 60 to 70 prisoners, took 60 stand of arms, 25 horses, two ferry boats, a quantity of flour and provisions, a large Rebel flag, and other articles of less value. The Rebels fled in every direction. The steamer Sioux City arrived at Lexington the following morning, and was seized by us.

Our first care was to rescue our fellow-soldiers captured at Lexington by Price, viz.: Col. White, Col. Grover and some twelve or fifteen others. We placed them on board the Sioux City with a guard, and dispatched them to St. Louis. After administering the oath of allegiance to our prisoners we released them.

As the Rebels were recovering from their alarm, and beginning to rally around us in force, we evacuated Lexington after holding it 36 hours. As soon as the Rebels were satisfied of our departure, they attacked our deserted camp with great energy. We then proceeded to Warrenburg, making a few captures on the route. The evening of our arrival at Warrenburg we easily repulsed a slight attack, and by threatening to burn the town if again attacked, remained two days unmolested.

We next proceeded to Warsaw, and are now on our route to Stockton. Among the interesting articles taken at Lexington were Price's ambulance, Col. Mulligan's saddle, and the flag I have the pleasure of sending you.

I have no casualties to report, and my men are all in good health and anxious for further service. I cannot commend in too high terms the faithfulness and courage of the officers and men detailed on this service from Col. Ellis's 1st Missouri Cavalry, and of the Irish Dragoons, commanded by Capt. Naughton.

Very respectfully,
FRANK J. WHITE, Major and A. D. C.,
Commanding 1st Squadron Prairie Scouts.

THE CAMPAIGN.

From The St. Louis Republican, 29th.

Gen. Fremont may now be said to be in the heart of what was lately the enemy's country. On Saturday night he was encamped at Bolivar, in Polk County. His advance was expected to occupy Springfield Sunday night. The forces under Gens. Hunter, Pope, and McKinstry were rapidly moving ahead, and were beyond Warsaw on Saturday. They will not be far behind when Gen. Fremont reaches Springfield, where we anticipate our next information from his command will be dated. Thus progresses in Missouri the irrepressible army of the Union!

The daring exploit of Maj. Zagonyi with his little battalion of Body Guards, in charging upon an immensely superior force of the enemy, and planting the American flag on the Court-House of Springfield, was a circumstance to arouse the valorous enthusiasm of all the Federal soldiers. It sets a pattern of heroism that, we doubt not, will stimulate thousands of the troops to deeds of glowing courage. There will be no lagging now, no drooping of spirits among the toil-worn volunteers; but as the columns move on from point to point in their victorious march, past reverses will be forgotten, and the welkin made to ring with triumphant shouts. Missouri is to be redeemed, the invaders driven from the soil, the loyal citizens protected in their homes, and the State assured to the Union beyond any peradventure!

The Fremont Body Guard was composed of men just fit for, and likely to engage in such a combat as that which has been announced—some additional particulars of which are detailed in our dispatches to-day. Originally, this Body Guard was composed of 300 picked men, and better ones never went into a battle. Commanded by a Hungarian who had seen much service, one company of a hundred was composed almost entirely of Kentucklans; and the others made up of Missourians, German naturalized citizens, and others. They were, as we have said, picked men. The horses—blooded bays—were in keeping with the men. But their armament, if we may so speak, was better still. Each man had with him two of Colt's six-barrel navy revolvers, one five-barrel rifle, and a saber. They could shoot these seventeen times without stopping to load, and then resort to the saber to finish up their work. Is it surprising that, thus armed, they created a panic among the mass of badly-armed troops opposed to them, and that a rout ensued.

Little is known of the movements of the enemy in the South-West. His advanced guards in several of the little towns above Springfield were last week withdrawn to the last-named place and concentrated there, to cover the removal of stores and munitions further south, which removal, at our latest advices, was precipitately going on. The appearance of Fremont's van, no doubt, hastened these arrangements pretty considerably. The whereabout of Gen. Price is still involved in doubt—our last intelligence locating his army at Greenfield, in Dade County, but still fleeing. As he does not seem to have directed his steps toward Springfield, it is inferred that he is seeking an outlet at the extreme south-west corner of the State, through Newton and McDonald Counties. The long-talked-of junction with McCulloch had not, it is believed, yet taken place up to Wednesday or Thursday last, though Gen. Price was in diligent search of that warrior.

We have heard so much of the Confederates making a stand, with so many subsequent contradictions of their intention of doing so, that it appears useless to speculate upon a subject of such uncertainty. We have come to the conclusion that Price will make a stand only when he is compelled to do so. It is curious that, if he actually meant to give the Federal forces battle, he did not halt on the south bank of the Osage and dispute the passage of that stream. It may be that now he designs to take position among the hills of McDonald County and endeavor to hold Fremont in check, as the natural defenses of that region are strong. We cannot see how he can afford to depart the State without abandoning the war in Missouri entirely. Once retreated to Arkansas, he will have acknowledged the weakness of his army, and the acknowledgment will fall heavily upon his soldiers, who have been petted with the belief that Jefferson City and St. Louis were to be taken, and everything, indeed, swept before them like chaff.

Having fallen back to Arkansas, these Disunion champions will be scoffed at and contemptuously treated throughout all Dixie's land, and the *commiseratory* terms in which Ben McCulloch has spoken of the *courage* of the Missourians will find frequent repetition among the fiery Southerners. Besides, the Arkansas people will protest against subsisting this runaway army out of their drained and depleted resources. So, whichever way Gen. Price turns, a dilemma stares him in the face. Which will he prefer—the disgrace and contumely of having made a gigantic failure (the certain political death of any General), or the humiliation of a decisive defeat in the field, which is equally as inevitable in case he decides to fight? Time will answer, and we shall see.

CONDITION OF THINGS IN THE MISSOURI-KANSAS BORDER COUNTIES.

From The St. Louis Democrat, Oct. 29.

The cars which arrived from the West on Monday evening brought here several families from Barton County. Among them were those of Mr. Allen, formerly of New-York, and of Mr. Rose, formerly of Ohio. These gentlemen have been living for some time in Lamar, the county seat of Barton County, and doing business there; Mr. Allen had a store there. They are now taking their families to homes in the East, intending that they shall remain there until the return of more quiet times in Missouri. The account they give of the condition of the more southern counties bordering on Kansas is a most painful one.

Early in June, Gov. Jackson's army came through Barton County, and pressed a great deal of property of various kinds, giving State scrip in exchange for it. Horses, mules and cattle were taken; groceries, dry goods, &c., flour, wheat and grain. After they left, the Kansas "jayhawkers" entered the country from neighboring counties across the line and seized stock belonging to Secessionists. Large quantities of animals were driven off. In one of these forays, three men who were on their way to join Jackson were taken by them and shot. The revenge for this was the hanging of two of their men at a subsequent time. As an offset to these jayhawkers, a force was got together in Barton and adjoining counties. These men did a great deal of plundering at the expense of friend and foe, not limiting their seizures or rather robberies to farm stock or stuff, but robbing stores and dwellings. Every store in Lamar was emptied of its goods either by Jackson's men or by this "Home Guard." The destitution which has followed these successive scourges is extreme. There is hardly anything in the shape of subsistence left in the county.

The horses and cattle have been driven off; the wheat and grain have been seized, used up, or wasted; and there is an utter destitution of sugar and coffee, and even of salt. There are but few hogs left—the most of them having been killed for food, or wantonly destroyed. There is some, but not much, corn in the county—the crop having been destroyed by the destruction of fences. There is also a great destitution of clothing. The prospects for such of the people there as are obliged to remain in that county the coming Winter is a gloomy one, and there must inevitably be a vast deal of suffering.

The population of the town is reduced to about a tenth of what it was, and that of the county more than one-half. The condition of Barton County is very much the same as that of Vernon, Jasper, and many adjoining counties. The town of Carthage was deserted a short time since, when the inhabitants heard of the approach of the Federal troops.

Probably no part of the United States ever before presented so extensive a scene of devastation. Wasted now by one party and then by another; pillaged by banditti as well as plucked by military requisitions, the suffering inhabitants have been kept for months in a continued state of alarm and terror. Hundreds and thousands have not dared to sleep in their houses more than half the time. Such valuables as they could put out of sight they have hid away, and many families would now be starving had they not concealed necessary supplies of food. In some cases all they have to support life is corn. No description of the actual destitution would give an adequate idea of the amount and intensity of privations and distress through that whole region of country.

A LETTER FROM MAJOR ALLEN.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: A friend calls my attention to the following paragraph in the editorial of a recent number of your paper:

"We learn that Major Robert Allen, lately appointed Quartermaster-General, attached to the staff of Major-General Fremont, was one of the squatters on the Mariposa estate, and resisted every effort of the proprietor of the estate for his ejection with unequaled bitterness and pertinacity. It would seem that he must have been appointed to his new position without any knowledge of this fact on the part of the Administration; for it can hardly be supposed that the War Department would intentionally have assigned to service on the staff of Gen. Fremont one of his worst enemies, unless indeed the intention was not to aid but to nullify any efforts of his in the service of the country."

Now for the facts: I was one of a company that built a *quartz mill* in Mariposa County, California, before the title to the estate of Gen. Fremont was confirmed, and long before the estate was surveyed or its boundaries defined. The enterprise proved a failure, and the premises, without citation or dispute, were quietly, peaceably and voluntarily abandoned. Not a word was passed between Gen. Fremont and myself on the subject.

The spirit of the paragraph quoted makes it proper that I should remark, that I was assigned to duty on the Western Department against my earnest remonstrance, and it is certainly not from choice that I am here, or that I remain.

ROBERT ALLEN, Major and Quartermaster.
St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 27, 1861.

INCIDENTS OF THE BALL'S BLUFF FIGHT.

From Our Special Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 29, 1861.

I note a few detached incidents of the action of the 20th Massachusetts Regiment in the engagement at Ball's Bluff. Undoubtedly the experience of other regiments would furnish a host of stirring anecdotes, but it is not easy either to find the participants, or to collect their narratives, when they have a purely personal relation.

After all was finished, and the fragments of the regiment were brought together at the water's edge, it was determined to push upward along the shore, with the uncertain hope of finding some means of recrossing to the Maryland side. In the event of meeting the enemy, however, it was determined to surrender at once, since any contest under the circumstances would be a useless sacrifice of life. After progressing a mile or so, the officers (Capts. Bartlett and Tremlett, and Lieuts. Whittier and Abbott) discovered a mill, surrounded by cottages, about which numbers of persons were seen moving. Here it seemed that they must yield themselves. The officers ordered a halt, and directed the men to cast all their arms into the river, so that the enemy should gain as little as possible by the surrender. "Shall we be accountable if we throw them away?" asked one or two. "Guess not," said others, "if an officer orders us;" so everything went over. Lieut. Whittier walked on in advance with a white handkerchief tied on his sword, to be used when occasion should demand. The first person met was an old negro, who, though greatly terrified at encountering so large and unexpected an assemblage, contrived to reveal that an old boat was stored near the mill, which might be bailed out and used to convey the fugitives across the river. A gift of five dollars insured his services, and the boat was in due time launched and ready for use. It was small, and only a few could pass at each trip. Until dawn it passed back and forth, until all were transferred in safety. One officer went over in the third boat, to keep the men well together on the Maryland side; the others waited till the last.

Many of the survivors of the fight escaped by swimming. Capt. Crowninshield, long known in Harvard as the stroke-oar of the boat club, swam to Harrison's Island, without clothing, and saving nothing but his watch, which he carried in his mouth. Being greatly fatigued, he turned in beneath the most convenient hay-rick, and slept till morning, when, in the hurry of departure, and the especial anxiety of procuring clothing, he departed without giving a thought to the watch which he had taken such pains to keep possession of the night before, and which he had tucked away beside him before going to sleep.

A German sergeant, on seeing his Captain fall, toward the close of the fight, collected four or five files of his company, about a dozen men altogether, and crying, "Boys, we can only die once; we'll avenge the captain's death," led them fighting into the very heart of the enemy's position. He immediately disappeared, and nothing was afterward seen of him or any of his band.

When most of our force was driven back in confusion, the 20th men lay down at the edge of the steep river bank, guarding themselves until a rally could be made. Some of the officers remained standing. Col. Lee called to them to lie down also, and especially urged Lieut. Whittier not to needlessly expose himself, but take shelter, as he was doing. Lieut. Whittier then dropped to the ground, and at almost the same instant a rush of bullets all around and above him told that he had been taken as a particular mark, and that another second would have been too late to save his life.

Before starting upon the expedition on Monday morning, the men had left their knapsacks and blankets upon Harrison's Island. In the retreat it was impossible for more than a few to gather them up again. A lieutenant volunteered on Wednesday, after the island had been visited by the Rebel scouts, to go over with five and collect what remained. He did so, and returned with more than a hundred knapsacks and blankets, to the great comfort of many of the men who had suffered from the icy weather. While there, the men scoured nearly the whole island, but could not be persuaded to enter the building which had been used as a hospital, in which so many corpses of their former comrades lay.

SAILING OF THE GREAT EXPEDITION.

From Our Special Correspondent.

STEAMER ATLANTIC, Oct. 29, 1861.

Everything must have an end—even contrary winds, and still more contrary waves, currents, and tides. And so, at the last, we who for eight disconsolate days have lain here, tossed, tumbled, and semi-sickened by the malignant waves, are at last doubly gladdened, firstly, by a subsidence simultaneously of the winds and waves, and secondly, by an order, which from certain encouraging circumstances we are disposed to believe the last of the season, emitted by the General Commanding of the fleet, to the effect that the fleet will sail to-morrow morning at 5 o'clock. And the winds, waves, tides, clouds, and airs and waters of every sort and description, seem to have amicably come to a meteorological agreement to give all favorable opportunities to the fleet to go forth and do its perfect work.

This morning there came into this port in wretched plight a number of vessels, so torn and knocked to pieces by the gale we should have inevitably encountered had we gone to sea on Saturday, as we so ardently desired, that as we looked on the forlorn, dilapidated craft, as they limped mournfully by, we each and every one murmured a thanksgiving that our large fleet had not been caught in a storm that would certainly have scattered us and separated us widely from each other, and not unlikely have driven to wreck and ruin a number of those which can be least readily spared. But now, in the opinion of our best seamen, the gale has blown itself out, and we may in safety put to sea. Certain it is that the water has little more motion than a mill-pond, and that the clear sky, resplendent moon, and brilliant stars, seem to give promise of bright and happy days to come.

We were somewhat astonished and exceedingly well pleased to find how universal was the desire to have the fleet sail on a Sunday. From the commanding General down to the private, there could scarcely be found a man who did not express in terms more or less emphatic his sincere pleasure that it was so arranged that we were not to embark on a hostile expedition on Sunday. And the day was joyously passed in singing hymns rather than in ramming cartridges, and the innocent, old-fashioned steel tuning-fork was brought into constant requisition, to the utter neglect of the older-fashioned steel bayonet.

So to-morrow we hope to go, for we are all of us tired of remaining idly here—a target for the impertinent telescopes of our Sewall's Point friends, but are desirous of proceeding northward, southward, upward, downward, or whereverward may be our destination, and to strike quickly whomever it may be decided by the Fates that we shall strike.

Two o'clock, a. m., Tuesday—At 5½ we sail certainly, unless an inopportune gale comes up. Today rations have been served out to all the men for 3 days (13,000 only).

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

From Our Special Correspondent.

FORTRESS MONROE, Old Point Comfort, Oct. 29, 1861.

The Great Southern Expedition has sailed. This morning at sunrise a gun was fired from the flag-ship, and soon after there was a general movement. It was, however, fully two hours before the first ship stood on her course, followed by the entire fleet of frigates, gunboats, and transports, in order as regular and precise as an army of regiments on shore. The Atlantic, flanked by two gunboats, closed the cavalcade as it left the Roads at 12 o'clock and stood on its course through the Capes out to sea. It was a sight to see, a privilege that occurs but seldom in a long lifetime—the most imposing naval demonstration ever witnessed from the shores of this continent. I went down the bay with the Quartermaster and a few friends to bid adieu to those who, though detained many days beyond their time, finally sailed with every favoring prospect of wind and weather; and as we shouted good-by, and God bless you, the cheers that went up from the crowded deck of the noble Atlantic evinced that these last words were responded to not less heartily than they were uttered. Running side by side for a few moments, near enough to distinguish many familiar faces, now lighting up with hope and expectation, we dropped astern to return to the Fortress, while the noble steamer stood on her course. An hour after every hull was down and a forest of masts was all that could be seen in the distance.

The destination of the expedition is now less a secret than it was, though probably not generally known. I will not run the risk of being the first to announce it in print, though, judging from what has already appeared in the papers, the secret is probably out by this time.

The ranks of the contraband were swelled by the arrival of 45 recruits last evening. They were picked up in the Chesapeake Bay by the tug Rescue. Thirty-six were in one large flatboat, and the remainder in a small-boat. The wind was blowing almost a gale, and the boats had become considerably separated. They were from near Matthew's Point, up the Rappahannock River, and with the exception of one woman, were all fine, able-bodied young men, worth in good times in any slave market not a cent less than $75,000. They said they left because they were to be taken to Richmond. Others were preparing to leave, and there is no doubt that there will be large accessions as the cold weather approaches.

The Rebels burnt the fine dwelling of Baker Lee, about six miles from Newport News, a leading Secessionist, a few nights since, for no other reason than because it was near enough to our lines to be a convenient resting-place for our scouts. Thousands of cords of wood, and much other property has been destroyed in the same way, on the principle that Hampton was burnt, because it might possibly be of some value to us. The Rebel leaders have undertaken to cultivate a fanatical sentiment in favor of self-immolation. Since the sacrifice is their own no serious objection can be offered.

To-day Gen. Wool was between three and four hours in the saddle, extending the boundaries of the pickets toward Fox Hill. He was accompanied by Col. Cram, Capt. Whipple and others of his Staff, beside a body of cavalry.

To-morrow he will review the troops at Camp Hamilton.

[By Telegraph.]

FORTRESS MONROE, Wednesday, Oct. 30, 1861. Via Baltimore, Oct. 31.

The destination of the great fleet is known at Point, and can be safely revealed by Saturday n[illegible] One of the tugs returned this morning, the cap[illegible] reporting that his vessel could not stand the he[illegible] weather outside the capes.

Forty contrabands came in yesterday from Glou[illegible]ter, opposite Yorktown, and report great suffer