FROM THE BURNSIDE EXPEDITION.

BEWILDERING THE REBELS.

A BRAVE JERSEYMAN.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

CONDITION OF THE SICK AND WOUNDED.

THE NEGRO QUESTION.

From Our Special Correspondent.

ROANOKE ISLAND, March 3, 1862.

The advantage of having the two branches of the service, military and naval, working in coöperation, is especially noticeable in this Department. While the Army has been arranging its affairs on the land, placing the Island in a complete state of defense, and bringing on reënforcements and supplies, the Navy has swept the waters of the two Sounds, and menaced a dozen points in turn. The panic created by the brilliant naval fight at Elizabeth City had hardly spread throughout the State, before the affair at Winton gave fresh cause of alarm to the Rebels, and the more recent expeditions to Currituck River, Plymouth and Edenton, have completed the work of demoralization which the Navy took in hand. Of the large fleet of gunboats under Commodore Goldsborough's command, only four or five are kept at anchor off the Island, the remainder being sent, up Albermarle and down Pamlico Sounds, to threaten the towns and villages where large forces of the enemy are likely to be concentrated, and bewilder them as to our real point of attack. We have reason to know that this result has been attained, and that troops have been moved from points that we wish to attack, to others that the Rebels think we do. They will not be long left in doubt as to our intentions, for the embarkation of troops for the grand move of the campaign commenced at 10 o'clock this morning, and the blow will no doubt be struck by the time this letter reaches you. Despite the careful preparations which have been made for our reception, the conviction is entertained here that the enemy has no stomach for a fight. The impressment of all able-bodied men has been going on throughout North-Carolina, especially in the seaside counties, for the past two or three months, and since the capture of this Island has been pushed with great vigor. It is easy to believe the reports which refugee whites and negroes bring us, that these involuntary recruits, torn from their families and farms, serve without zeal, and are ready to lay down their arms when fortune turns against them on the battle-field. On our part we see our regiments becoming more perfect in drill every day, and more eager to take the field. The same spirit of cheerfulness and confidence noticed in my last letter, pervades the command, and the engineers say that the slightly wounded in hospital make light of their wounds in the hope that they may be able to return to the ranks. The most remarkable case in hospital is a man named John Lorence, of Gloucester County, N. J., a corporal of Company K, 9th New-Jersey, who had both legs carried away by a canister shot in the battle of the 8th ult. One leg was amputated by Dr. Thompson, Surgeon of the First Brigade, and the other by Dr. Rivers of the 4th Rhode Island. The brave fellow had hardly recovered from the effects of the chloroform administered when the wild cheers of the army told the story of our success. He raised himself up on his arm, and, with an enthusiasm which thrilled the bystanders, waved his cap in the air and gave three hearty cheers for the Union. Since the battle, he has lain on his bed and borne his sufferings with unmurmuring patience, expressing to all visitors his desire to be well again, so that he may go on his stumps and have another chance at the enemy! Gen. Burnside and all his Brigadiers have been to see him, and all speak in eulogium of his pluck. Men like him, who reap a small harvest of glory, are your true heroes, rather than Generals and Colonels who are caressed if they win battles, and publicly mourned if they fail.

But while speaking of bravery and brave men I should be recreant indeed if I omitted to mention two instances which occurred in the naval fight at Elizabeth City. During the engagement the gunboat Valley City was fighting two Rebel boats at once, working her guns at both sides, when a shell entered her port bow, passed into her magazine, knocked the head off a half-barrel of powder, and exploded in a locker which was filled with blue-lights, rockets, and Coston signal-lights. The fire-works were ignited at the instant, and, in the close box, burnt with fury, filling the magazine with sulphurous fumes. The Quarter gunner, instead of leaving his post, as most men would have done at such a terrible juncture, immediately sat upon the open barrel, to keep the sparks from falling in the powder. Captain J. C. Chaplin, commander of the vessel, called all hands to fire quarters, but seeing that this would take too many from the guns said he would go into the magazine himself and extinguish the fire. Without a moment's hesitation he jumped into the perilous place and, giving orders to keep up the fight, he passed up powder with one hand and buckets of water down with the other, until the fire was quenched. On entering the magazine and seeing the gunner sitting so quietly on the powder-barrel, he thought he was either shirking his duty or bewildered by fear, and asked him sternly what he was doing there. "Ain't Sir," said the splendid fellow, "this 'ere shell have stove off the head of the barrel, and if I got up a little spark might fall in and blow us all to smithereens in a minute." Courage like this of Capt. Chaplin and his quarter gunner has seldom been shown in any navy, and their conduct should be noted among the brightest incidents of this war.

Washington's Birthday was observed at this port, as in all others throughout the country: at noon, a national salute of 34 guns having been fired at Fort Reno by Lieut. Flagler, Ordnance Officer. The departure of our force from this point making it necessary for Lieut. Flagler to place the ordnance and ordnance stores in other hands, Gen. Burnside has detailed Lieut. Jas. W. Lyons of the 4th Rhode Island for the office, and he is already performing the responsible duties of Ordnance Officer of Roanoke Island. Beside our own ordnance stores, Lieut. Lyons has receipted to Lieut. Flagler for $25,000 or $30,000 worth of property captured from the Rebels. Included in the list are 24 smooth 32-pounders, worth $9,600; three rifled guns, worth $3,000; cartridges to the amount of say $4,000; three field-pieces, $2,000; and at least $5,000 worth of ammunition. These estimates, as any expert will see, are very low, but still foot up to quite a respectable sum.

Numerous changes have been made in the regiments since the battle. Those in the 21st Massachusetts are:

Major W. S. Clark to be Lieutenant-Colonel commanding, vice Alberto C. Maggi, resigned; Capt. J. P. Rice, Company E, to be Major, vice W. S. Clark, promoted; Company F, First Lieut. Solomon Ryder, Jr., to be Captain in Company F, vice Capt. Rogers, resigned; Company A, First Lieut. Chas. W. Hatch to be Captain in Company A, vice Wentworth, dismissed by Court-Martial; Company H, First Lieut. John B. Fraser to be Captain in Company H, vice Capt. Joseph P. Rice, promoted; Second Lieut. Allen J. Maxwell, Company D, to be First Lieutenant in Company H, vice A. McPartlin, resigned; Company K, Second Lieut. Woodbury Whittemore to be First Lieutenant, vice F. Fraser, Jr., promoted; Company C, Second Lieut. Ira L. Hutton to be First Lieutenant in Company H, vice Fraser, promoted; Company D, Orderly Sergeant Henry A. Rochelle to be Second Lieutenant in Company D, vice Hayward, promoted; Company A, Orderly Sergeant Frederick M. Sanderson to be Second Lieutenant in Company A, vice John Brooks, jr., promoted; Company C, Orderly Sergeant Frederick A. Fenils to be Second Lieutenant, vice Ira J. Kelton, promoted; Company E, Orderly Sergeant Chas. Coolidge to be Second Lieutenant in Company E, vice Whittemore, promoted; Company K, Orderly Sergeant Harrison Aldrich to be Second Lieutenant, vice John B. Williams, resigned; Company A, Second Lieut. John Brooks, jr., to be First Lieutenant, vice Chas. W. Davis, promoted.

The changes are of course made subject to confirmation by Gov. Andrew. They appear to give great satisfaction in the regiment. The resignation of Lieut.-Col. Maggi has occasioned much regret throughout the Division, for having proved himself so gallant a soldier in the recent battle, his withdrawal on the eve of another engagement is felt to be a real loss. The cause of his resignation has not been publicly stated, but it is the general impression that it was the result of a feeling that his notions of strict discipline were mistaken by the regiment, and that justice had not been done to the gallantry displayed by the 21st under fire. The letter from Headquarters accepting his resignation so fully expresses the sentiments of the army, that I send a copy herewith:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA, ROANOKE ISLAND, Feb. 21, 1862.

Lieut.-Col. MAGGI, Commanding 21st Mass. Vols.

COLONEL:—It is with great reluctance that the General Commanding accepts your resignation. He remembers with pride your patient and intelligent care of your regiment during the trying scenes at Hatteras Inlet, and on the approach to Roanoke Island; and your brave and soldierly conduct in the action of the 8th.

And he desires to express his deep regret that the Union cause and his command should be deprived of the services of an experienced and gallant officer.

I am Colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
LEWIS RICHMOND,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

On the 26th ult., Col. Maggi reviewed his regiment on dress parade for the last time, and a better exhibition of drill was probably never shown by it before. After parade, the regiment was formed in hollow square, the order accepting his resignation was read, and the retiring commander, in reply to an address by Maj. Clark in behalf of the regimental officers, bade farewell to his men. He expressed his feelings of pride in their progress in drill, and regret at the parting, with all the fervor of an Italian soldier, and the scene was really affecting. The duties of commanding officer will be filled with fidelity and skill by the new Lieutenant-Colonel, who is a gallant soldier and a thorough disciplinarian. The new Major was Captain of Company H, but formerly Colonel of the 9th Massachusetts Militia. The bravery shown by Capt. Foster of Company D, and by Adjt. Stearns—who was slightly wounded twice in the head and once in the neck, but refused to leave his place by Maggi's side until the advance had planted the regimental colors on the Rebel battery—should have been noticed in a previous letter. Young Stearns is son of the President of Amherst College, a good officer, and a gallant young fellow.

Nothing is of more interest to friends at home than the condition of our sick and wounded braves, and a reference to the state of affairs in the hospital department, and the general climatic condition of the Island seems necessary. The topography of the country is perhaps already familiar enough to the public to make anything more than an allusion unnecessary. The surface of the island is hardly at any point more than five feet above the level of the Sound, if we except a very peculiar sand bluff on the northern shore, opposite Nag's Head. Naturally enough, there are large tracts of swamp land, wooded and open, which breed malaria, and load the chilly evening air with poisonous exhalations. The mornings and evenings being cool, and the noon-tides warm, the climate is one in which chills-and-fever, and bilious disorders generally are bred, and in which all diseases are apt to assume a typhoid character. The inhabitants show this in their persons, being mainly sallow, thin and cadaverous.

The accommodations for our sick and wounded, built by the Rebels but kindly vacated for our use, are believed to be ample for any future emergency. There are three large hospitals—one for each of the brigades, all furnished with stationary beds, fireplaces, dispensaries, and surgeons' rooms and cook-houses. At the present time they contain an average of 50 patients each, most of whom were wounded in the battle. The medical cases in campare treated in the regimental hospitals, which are smaller than the Brigade hospitals and far more comfortable than the large wall tents generally used for the purpose.

The health of the Division is remarkably good—more so than at Annapolis, where the measles prevailed to a serious extent. The illness at the present time is principally confined to coughs and diarrhea, which readily yield to medical treatment. There have been some cases of typhoid fever of a mild character. It is to be feared, however, that as warm weather approaches the same degree of health cannot continue.

The hospital of the First Brigade is in charge of Dr. Samuel A. Green of the 24th Massachusetts (to whom I am indebted for numerous facilities for obtaining information); that of the Second Brigade, under Dr. Cutter of the 21st Massachusetts; of the Third Brigade, under Dr. Potter of the 5th Rhode Island battalion. In the latter hospital an important operation was performed yesterday on a soldier of the 9th New-York, who had been wounded in the thigh. About ten days ago secondary hemorrhage took place, and the femoral artery was tied by Dr. White of the 9th New-York. Everything went well until the 1st inst., when hemorrhage recurred, and it was found necessary to take up the exterior iliac artery, which was done with complete success by Dr. Church, the Division Surgeon.

A large number of the sick and slightly wounded are going home on the steamer Terry, which will carry this mail. There will be about 75 in all, of whom 35 are from the first brigade. It is thought best, in view of our movement from the Island, to send these mild cases where they can receive the attentions of friends, and enjoy the comforts of home, in place of trusting to the chances of their escaping the typhoid fever, which may come in this climate.

Of the wounded in hospital at the time of my correct report, a number have subsequently died, of whom the following have been ascertained by personal application to the hospital stewards:

Pilsy Bartholomew, Co. H, 9th Conn.; Orville D. Owen, Co. D, 10th Conn.; Samuel Rose, Co. F, 21st Mass.; Jean Capel, Co. A, 9th New-Jersey; Richard Scanlon, Co. K, 9th New-York; Lucas Gardner, Co. E, 24th Mass.; Sands Johnson, Co. A, 9th New-York; Samuel L. Hall, Co. F, 9th New-Jersey; Wm. Alger, 23d Mass.; Wm. Z. Bullock, Co. A, 21st New-York; George T. Manning, Co. D, 21st Mass.; Geo. H. Matthews, Co. D, 21st Mass.; Gamaliel H. Morse, Co. F, 24th Mass.; C. W. Newman, Co. G, 21st Mass.

From hospital to cemetery the transition is, alas! too often sudden, and on this island it is so literally that the mention of one implies a description of the other. A short distance in the rear of the hospital of the First Brigade, Doctor Green selected a pretty grove of evergreens, and on a pleasant Sunday, two weeks ago, had it dedicated as "Roanoke Cemetery" with appropriate religious services. Plots of ground, divided by neat rustic fences, were appropriated to the various regiments, and at each soldier's grave a head-board inscribed with his name, age, regiment, and time of death has been placed. Instead of being tossed, coffinless, and without ceremony, into shallow graves on the battle-field, our soldiers have through the thoughtful kindness of Surgeon Green, a quiet resting-place under the fire and pines of this pretty rural cemetery. The ceremonies of dedication were interesting and solemn. They comprised a brief introductory address by Doctor Green, the reading of appropriate Scriptures by Mr. James, Chaplain of the 20th Massachusetts; prayer by Mr. Clark of the 23d Massachusetts; an address by Mr. Mellen of the 21th Mass., and the benediction by Mr. Ball of the 21st Mass., interspersed with sacred music by Gilmore's famous Boston band.

The comfort of the patients in hospital has been much promoted by the opportune arrival of stores from the Brooklyn Young Men's Christian Association, the Congregation of Dr. Tyng's Church, and other charitable bodies, in charge of Mr. Vincent Colyer and Mr. C. W. Woolsey. Mr. Colyer has dropped crayons, palette and easel, and devoted himself to the noble work of ministering to the necessities of our men in hospital. The packages contain clothing, wines, jellies, bed clothing, and reading matter, and coming at a time when our army hospital supplies were about exhausted, were especially welcome. Those who pass carelessly by the depots on Broadway, where the Sanitary Commission and these charitable associations collect their stores, have no idea of the good which contributions of linen for bandages, old clothing, warm socks, stimulants, bed clothing, night shirts, and such articles, which they can spare without feeling it, do in remote army hospitals, to perhaps their own friends or relatives. Mr. Colyer has not contented himself with visits to the hospitals, but has made the tour of the Island to examine the condition of the inhabitants. He has found numerous cases of destitution of a most pitiable character, of which perhaps the worst is that of the Beasely family, near the Sand Bluffs. The man is a shad-fisherman, 70 years of age, with a wife and ten children, of whom eight are at home. The husband, wife and three children are sick in bed, and two or three of the others have just recovered from measles and are suffering with a species of bronchitis. Beasely has heretofore gained a precarious livelihood from his nets, selling shad to our Northern traders, who packed them in the ice and took them to New-York; but the Rebel military authorities prohibiting all fishing, through fear that information might be conveyed to the Union forces, he with all others of his class had been reduced to abject poverty. The condition of this family was discovered by some men of the 51st New-York and 9th New-Jersey regiments, who for several days generously shared with them their rations, and afterward reported them to Dr. Green, who took steps toward their relief. Mr. Colyer carried them some clothing and stimulants yesterday, and Gen. Burnside has now given orders to supply them with food.

Thus far the number of fugitive slaves in our camps has not been large enough to make the matter of their maintenance a subject of prime importance. On Roanoke Island there were probably not more than seventy or eighty bondmen before our arrival, of whom the greater part are now in the harbor of refuge which our lines afford. Applications have been made by the owners for their rendition, but Gen. Burnside has uniformly refused to accede to the demand, turning a deaf ear even to the protestations of loyalty which they make, on the ground that if they had been really loyal, they would have shown it when we needed the assistance they could have rendered.

Several boat-loads of fugitives have come at different times from Elizabeth City, Plymouth, Edenton, and other places, to the northward, all of whom report that hundreds are hiding in the woods and swamps, in daily expectation of our arrival. In view of the probable large accessions to the number of our camp-followers, the contraband question promises to be as difficult of solution here as it has been elsewhere, and immediate steps should be taken to provide against the contingencies which will arise. First of all, these self-emancipated men and women need food, clothes, and blankets. The former can be supplied from our commissariat, but the latter must, at any rate now, be furnished by the benevolent. Donations of old apparel for males and females would be very acceptable to these persons; and as no depot has yet been established for the reception of such articles, perhaps the better plan would be to send them to the chaplains of the several regiments of this division for distribution. If we should remain stationary for any length of time on the main land, something will, no doubt, be done by the army chaplains toward the education of the contrabands, and it would be as well for the Relief Associations to provide for this contingency by sending with their hospital stores a number of primer-cards and spelling-books. We have all seen fugitives in Northern cities appealing for pecuniary relief, but the proportion of impostors is usually so large as to make a "runaway negro" rather an object of suspicion than of charity. It is quite another matter here in a Slave State to see them coming by squads into camp, having braved the perils of starvation and capture in swamps, and of drowning by water, and asking simply for an asylum and work. I have been surprised to find how frequent the reply to my question as to the motive of their flight, has been "Why, Mas'r, ef you was owned by a man who could sell you wife and chil'en any time, and make you work all de time, widout give you cent for yourself, wouldn't you try to run away for de sake of bein Free Man?" There is something truly touching in the spectacle of these people risking all and leaving all for the sake of liberty, the nature of which they can never have understood, except by the instinct which God implanted in their breasts. Some of the more intelligent have rendered us valuable service already in piloting gunboats, informing us as to the strength and movements of the enemy, and giving the location and strength of fortifications.

The violent gale which is blowing about my quarters to-night is so suggestive of the stormy experiences of Hatteras Inlet, that I am reminded of an unfortunate occurrance which transpired on the 23d ult. The Steamboat Louisiana having had all her damages repaired and got half way over the Swash, slipped anchor that day and came up to Roanoke under convoy of the gunboat Picket. The anchor by some means was washed into the channel, and lying there broke up, the Naval gunboat Seymour ran upon it when under a full head of steam and had her bottom ripped out so badly that in two minutes she had filled and sunk to her deck. She is now a complete wreck, and her loss at this juncture is to be regretted.

A recent gale from the north-west was so furious as to strand the schooners James T. Brady, Spencer B, the Maitland, and Gen. Foster's flag-boat Pilot Boy. The Brady was got off in good time, but the others remain hard and fast, unless the steamer was pulled off this afternoon, which was to have been attempted at all risks. No doubt I shall have to add in a paragraph at the end of this letter a list of similar disasters from the gale that is now blowing.

The same gale broke from their moorings two of the schooners sunk by the Rebels to form their barricade. One was driven on the beach near Fort Foster; the other drifted half way through the fleet, until, when alongside the schooner Eva Bell, she parted her chain, and then went rapidly with the current until she struck a shoal and lodged, a mile from the place whence she started.

The 11th Connecticut, 6th New-Hampshire, 85th New-York, and Capt. Belger's Rhode Island Battery reached this port from Hatteras yesterday. The New-Hampshire regiment, which was suffering severely from measles when landed at Hatteras Inlet, lost something like forty men in hospital within the past five weeks; but the health of the command is now improving. Capt. Belger's battery is in fine order, and will be called into active service within the next few days.

[By Telegraph.]

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Thursday, March 13, 1862.

A letter received here from a man in Gen. Burnside's division, dated Roanoke Island, 8d inst., announces that the report that the Rebels were evacuating Hamilton had reached Gen. Burnside. He will, therefore, be on his guard.

FREMONT'S HUNDRED DAYS IN MISSOURI.

SPEECH OF HON. S. COLFAX

OF INDIANA,

IN REPLY TO MR. BLAIR OF MISSOURI,

In the House of Representatives,

March 7, 1862.

[*Concluded from yesterday's Tribune.*]

FREMONT'S PROCLAMATION.

My friend has said that the proclamation of Gen. Fremont was bombastic. I cannot turn aside from this argument to analyze its sentences and to discuss the question whether it was bombastic or firm and decided; whether it was a mere flourish of the pen, or intended to prove that those who embarked in rebellion should find it a costly experiment, not only as to their lives but as to their possessions. The President modified it, as he had a constitutional right to do. I have never quarreled with the President because he saw fit to say that that proclamation must be changed. I regret that he was of that opinion. But I know Mr. Lincoln to be an honest man—as honest and as conscientious and true-hearted a man as walks the earth; and I know he must have taken this position because he felt, looking over the whole country, that that seemed to be his duty. Whether he erred or Fremont erred, I would be the last man to aspersе any of Mr. Lincoln's acts, when they are based, as all know they are, on his convictions. When the President ordered the proclamation to be modified, Gen. Fremont replied in a letter, moderate and not "bombastic," wherein he says that he prefers that if the President feels it necessary, he should himself modify it, and that he would bow to the order, as a subordinate should always bow, to the rebuke of his chief.

I think my friend might have spared the sarcastic remarks which he made about the threatened mutiny at Springfield when Gen. Fremont was removed from command. I have the assurance of a gentleman from Indiana whose word is as good as my oath, or any other man's oath—I mean Col. Hudson, the agent of the State of Indiana—who was there at the time, that there was sadness all over the camp when the news came that Fremont was actually superseded. This may have been unjust to his successor. It may have been unwarranted; but still the fact was so. The fact also exists that Fremont's utmost influence was given to preserve loyalty and subordination among his troops. He bowed, without a murmur, to the decision, though it took from him the coveted opportunity of vindicating himself against all who had attacked him, and he demanded that all under his command should cordially obey his successor. His farewell to "the Mississippi army"—which he had labored so earnestly against all adverse circumstances, to organize; which he had led, by forced marches that seem incredible, almost into the presence of the retreating enemy, and which was the only army of the Union that had, up to that time, been led fifty miles away from a railroad or a navigable water-course—has been read, not only in our own but also in foreign lands, even by men who, with the multiplied charges against him had doubted his capacity, with moistened eyes, as they saw how nobly that man, thus stricken down, bowed without a word of complaint, and closed his military career in the Western Department by stirring words of encouragement to the gallant soldiers from whom he was thus separated. Even one of the leading New-York papers that denounced him spoke in highly eulogistic language of the manner in which he met his fate. And when twenty thousand of the constituents of my friend from Ohio (Mr. Gurley), who had been on his staff, came thronging to honor the fallen General, and offered him an ovation in the City of Cincinnati, he declined it, and passed through without accepting any hospitality. Six months have passed since then. Has there been a man who bore himself so meekly? He visits New-York, after official consent was at last obtained for him to leave St. Louis, and refuses the complimentary reception that thousands would gladly have joined in. No word of bitterness or complaint falls from his lips. He comes to this city, subpenaed by a Congressional Committee, to testify as to his management of his responsible trust. He comes here, and bears himself as modestly as in New-York. Do you see any parade of his gaping wounds to the people? Not at all. He has not even prompted me to say a single word in his behalf, although he knows me to be his friend. I have not asked him for a single fact in reference to his case, because I wanted to speak independently here, as a Representative of the people. He doubtless longs to be in the service of his country at this hour of her peril. Any though he may chafe at inaction, as his heart bounds at the thought of being again at the head of advancing columns driving the enemies of his country before him, have you seen a single line of complaint from his pen against those who counseled his supersedure?

But to recur to his proclamation. Let me ask what difference was there in substance between that proclamation and the celebrated remark in Cincinnati of Andrew Johnson, that loyal, Jack-on-like and heroic Senator from Tennessee, whom all true men in the country cherish in their heart of hearts? He said, about the very time when Fremont issued his proclamation, "that no Rebel had a right to own anything." Fremont said that the real and personal property of Rebels should be confiscated to the public use, and that their slaves, if they had any, should be declared free men; and Andrew Johnson, a slave-holding Senator from a slaveholding state, said that no Rebel had a right to own anything. I can see no difference between the two, except that Fremont, as a commanding General, dealing thus to weaken the power and cripple the resources of the traitors, embodied it in a proclamation, as the Senator did in a sentence.

THE FALL OF LEXINGTON.

I come now to the siege and fall of Lexington. I think I have shown by Gen. Lyon's own statement, that he did not arraign Fremont for not being strengthened and succored, and I should have added then that Fremont arrived in St. Louis only fourteen days before Lyon's death. I have shown where Gen. Lyon thought the responsibility rested. I have shown the dispatch from Gen. McClellan, only six days before Fremont arrived at St. Louis, saying that there were only troops enough and arms to re-inforce Cairo, and that the troops he could spare, and but two regiments at that, must only be used to defend St. Louis, and then only "in case of absolute necessity." I will now leave that part of the subject and come to the surrender of Mulligan at Lexington. I think I can make out as strong a vindication for Gen. Fremont there. I am glad to see that my friend from Missouri is paying so much attention. The attachment between him and me has been such that it is the most painful duty of my life to have to differ from him to-day on such a subject. I would far rather meet any one else here in the collision of conflicting views; but we can differ, I know, as friends should differ when their roads separate.

My Friend said that troops could be got in every direction to defend Cairo. Now here is a dispatch from Gov. Morton of Indiana, in response to Fremont's pressing appeal, dated the 4th of August, three days after Fremont went to Cairo, and six days before Lyon was killed:

"Can send five regiments if leave is granted by the Department, as I am ordered to send them East as fast as ready."

Now, to show also how General Fremont was "aided" at that time, here is a dispatch from Washington, eight days before Lyon died, and when Cairo, from Gen. Prentiss's dispatches, was so bare of Artillery:

WASHINGTON, August 2, 1861.

To Major-Gen. J. C. FREMONT, Cairo:

This dispatch was sent yesterday to Commanding Officer Department, Ohio: Cincinnati: "Order two (2) companies 4th Artillery, with such batteries, under Howard and Arlington, to St. Louis, without delay.

WINFIELD SCOTT.
M. BLAIR, P. M. G.

I doubt not that Fremont's heart bounded as he read of this timely aid coming to his relief.

But here is another dispatch from Gen. Scott, *of the same day:*

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, Aug. 2, 1861.

To Gen. FREMONT:

Since ordering the two batteries for you yesterday, it appears one company has no guns and the other is in Western Virginia; neither can be withdrawn. The order is countermanded.

WINFIELD SCOTT.

I will not comment on the disappointment the General must have felt; but he toiled on with almost daily drawn battle like there.

I come now to Lexington. I happened on the 14th of September to be in the City of St. Louis, when the whole city was excited at the news which had just reached it that Price was marching on that stronghold and direct hold at Lexington; and when my friend spoke about the Home Guards which Gen. Fremont had under him, it reminded me that Col. Mulligan did not bear testimony to the efficiency of the Home Guards at Lexington.

Mr. BLAIR of Missouri made a remark, not audible to the reporters, in praise of the conduct of the Home Guards at Lexington, where three of the officers were wounded.

Mr. COLFAX—Col. Mulligan's testimony is the reverse of that. I was not there, and therefore do not know.

Mr. BLAIR of Missouri—These are the facts of the case.

Mr. COLFAX—I wish my friend to understand that I do not arraign the Home Guards at all. I do not arraign anybody. I am simply on the defense, and am stating the facts from history, and from official documents, which can be read by the whole country. I only made the passing remark that Mulligan did not regard the Home Guards as valuable auxiliaries in his defense, though my friend cites their number in various towns as part of Fremont's effective force.

When I arrived at St. Louis, on the 14th of September, I saw Lieut.-Gov. Hall. He told me that Price was marching through the center of Missouri, up toward Lexington, with 15,000 men, and that Fremont ought to send out a force for the purpose of intercepting and capturing them. I asked him how many men had Fremont in St. Louis. He said he had 20,000 men, and spoke with great positiveness as to the number. I thought if that was correct, there was no excuse for not sending them, and went to headquarters at once to see Gen. Fremont. I told him it was represented that he had 20,000 men in St. Louis, that Price was marching on Lexington with a large force, and urged that a force be sent without delay to cut him off. He replied: "Mr. Colfax, I will tell you, confidentially, how many men we have in St. Louis, though I would not have it published on the streets for my life. The opinion in the city is that we have 20,000 men here, and this gives us strength. If it were known here what was the actual number, our enemies would be promptly informed. But I will show you how many there are." He rang the bell, and his Secretary brought in the muster-rolls of the morning. I read them, and there were in the city and for a circuit of seven miles round less than 8,000 men, Home Guards and all. There were actually but two full regiments, and the remainder of the force was made up of fragmentary and undisciplined regiments of 250, 400, and 600 men. It was a beggarly array of an army in proportion to what was needed at that time for the defense of that city against enemies without or within, and I told him so. "But," said I, "can't you spare some of these men?" The tears stood in his eyes as he handed me two telegraphic dispatches, just received by him, which I read then with pain and sadness, and will read now, and the House can judge how they aided him in his plans for the re-enforcement of Mulligan, or the capture of Price's army:

WASHINGTON, September 14, 1861.

To Major-General FREMONT.

On consultation with the President and head of Department, it was determined to call upon you for five thousand well-armed infantry, to be sent here without a moment's delay. Give them three days' cooked rations. This draft from your forces to be replaced by you from the States of Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, &c. How many men have you under arms in your district? Please answer fully and immediately.

SIMON CAMERON, Secretary of War.

WASHINGTON, September, 14, 1861.

To Major-General FREMONT.

Detach five thousand infantry from your department, to come here without delay, and report the number of the troops that will be left with you. The President dictates.

WINFIELD SCOTT.

I have shown you before that there were regiments there waiting without guns, and yet, when under these desperate circumstances, Gen. Fremont bought guns, the best he could get, he was denounced because they were not Springfield muskets or Enfield rifles, or the best arms known to the service. He was not allowed to send unarmed regiments, to be armed after they reached Washington, or on the road. From these he could have filled the order easily. But they must be "well-armed infantry." And he had been begging for "arms, arms of any kind," the whole fifty days he had been in command in the West, but mostly in vain. And now, "five thousand well-armed infantry" were needed to swell the forces of the army of the Potomac. I do not allude to this to criticise. Like Fremont, I believe the capital of the country was, first of all, to be defended, and if he was foiled to his plans by demands like these, at such a critical moment, impartial history hereafter will show that it was his misfortune, not his fault.

Mr. BINGHAM—What is the date of these dispatches.

Mr. COLFAX—Saturday, the 14th of September: the very day I was there—just six days before the fall of Lexington—for I wish the House to remember that Mulligan surrendered Friday, September 20. I asked him what he would do, and my heart sank as I asked. There were the best of his forces ordered away to Washington. I told him I would, if in his place, telegraph to Mr. Lincoln that he had not the slightest of citizen soldiers in his department that rumor stated he had; that Missouri would be lost if the troops were taken away. "No," said he, "that would be insubordination, with which I have already been unjustly charged. The capital must be again in danger, and must be saved, even if Missouri fall and I sacrifice myself."

After that interview, after the noble and patriotic sentiment that fell from his lips, I should have been false to my convictions of right and justice if I had not stood up here to-day and defended the man who was willing, even at his own sacrifice, to save the Capital of the nation.

Mr. BLAIR (Missouri)—The gentleman says Gen. Fremont on that day took out the muster-rolls and showed him how many troops there were at St. Louis.

Mr. COLFAX—Yes, Sir; less than eight thousand.

Mr. BLAIR (Missouri)—It so happens that on that same day—the 14th of September—Gen. Fremont returned to Simon Cameron, Secretary of War, the following statement of the forces under his command:

St. Louis (including Home Guard)	6,000
Under Brig.-Gen. Pope (including Home Guard)	5,000
Lexington (including Home Guard)	2,000
Jefferson City (one quarter Home Guard)	3,000
Rolla	1,500
Trenton	3,000
Cape Girardeau	1,000
Bird's Point and Norfolk	5,000
Cairo (including McClernand's brigade)	4,000
Fort Holt, opposite Cairo, Kentucky shore	3,000
Paducah	2,000
Under Gen. Lane	2,000
Mound City, near Cairo	900
Total	35,400

Thus you will see that there were some twenty thousand men at and about Cairo; and you will further see, by reference to the documents, that, under the order the gentleman has read, not a man was sent out of Missouri, and but two regiments were started from his department at all. Two regiments, I believe, left his department, and went as far as Gen. Buell's department, and went no further. The order was countermanded, and no more troops sent. The two regiments started were, I believe, Illinois troops in or about Springfield. Gen. Fremont did not send a man out of Missouri, I repeat, under that order, and he was not required to do it. So that the explanation which the gentleman gives, and which Gen. Fremont gives, by way of excusing himself for not sending re-enforcements to Col. Mulligan, about this order to send five thousand men to Washington, amounts to just this: that no troops were sent to Washington at all under that order; only two regiments were sent from his department under it, and none from Missouri under it.

Mr. COLFAX—The gentleman from Missouri occupied two hours in his speech, and he has taken a considerable portion of my time since. I shall only ask to be allowed to go on after the expiration of my hour for the time that has been taken from me; and I do not know that the Committee will give me that. [Cries of "Oh, yes!"] I presume a majority of the Committee will give their consent, but a single member has the power to prevent it.

I will enlighten my friend from Missouri now on the point he has cited. When this order came to send five regiments to Washington, Gen. Fremont sent down to Carondelet and ordered the 24th Indiana Regiment, one of the only two full regiments he had in St. Louis or its vicinity, to proceed to Washington; but the officers of the regiment came up to his headquarters, and urged him to allow them to remain in Missouri; and that is the reason they did not go. He then changed the order, and, like a faithful subordinate, he telegraphed to Washington that he was preparing to obey the order—although it made his heart bleed. Here are the dispatches:

HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DEPARTMENT, ST. LOUIS, Sept. 14, 1861.

To Col. N. D. TOWNSEND, A. A. G., Washington City.

I am preparing to obey the order received this evening for the five regiments.

J. C. FREMONT, Maj.-Gen. Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS WESTERN DEPARTMENT, ST. LOUIS, Sept. 16, 1861.

To Gen. THOMAS, A. G., Washington City.

I am preparing to obey the order received this evening from the Secretary of War for the five regiments. I send messenger.

J. C. FREMONT, Major-General Commanding.

True, as the gentleman from Missouri says, the order was at last partially countermanded; but, when days were almost years, he was engaged in preparations for sending on three more regiments of "well-armed infantry." Beside the two he did send, for four days out of the six that elapsed between the order from Washington and the fall of Lexington, and engaged beside in the most vigorous efforts, out of his scattered forces in the vast area of disloyal territory they were holding, from Pacificah to the Kansas frontier, to re-enforce the imperiled Mulligan. Here is the countermanding order, after ten days and nights of anxious labors to comply both with duty on one side, and orders on the other, for which his reward has been a sad one indeed:

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18, 1861.

To Major-Gen. FREMONT.

Gen. Scott acquiesces in your wishes in your proposition to retain troops not already forwarded. He has telegraphed order to retain two regiments which have left for Cincinnati to wait orders for a few days, if they have not passed beyond that city.

E. D. TOWNSEND.

Let us return to Mulligan's peril. Thinking there might still be hope of obtaining re-enforcements by appealing to the Governors of States near at hand, for, if they could send troops immediately to St. Louis, he could order up all his available force there by steamboat toward Lexington, he telegraphed, on this very 14th of September, to Gov. Morton and Gov. Dennison, of Indiana and Ohio, for help. And these are the replies: (Mr. Coggeshall was Gov. Dennison's Military Secretary.)

INDIANAPOLIS, Sept. 14, 1861.

We have received orders to send all available forces to Washington.

O. P. MORTON, Governor of Indiana.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Sept 15, 1861.

No troops are ordered to Eastern Virginia. All our troops are ordered to Western Virginia. Dennison is in Washington.

W. T. COGGESHALL.

His only remaining hope was in his own men, his scattered forces, to weaken himself at some points on his long line to save Lexington, if possible. And what did he do? My friend says—and I have his exact words—"it cannot be shown that he moved one single man toward Lexington at all." Lexington fell on Friday, the 20th of September. I shall remember the day to the last hour of my life; for I watched, as did my constituents, day by day and hour by hour, for news from there, with a solicitude that excluded all thought of other questions.

Gen. Fremont telegraphed in every direction. He ordered Gen. Pope to come down to Lexington and re-enforce Mulligan there; he ordered Gen. Sturgis to come down and re-enforce him; he ordered Jefferson C. Davis of Indiana, Acting Brigadier-General at Jefferson City, to go forward and re-enforce him. He used every means in his power. The telegraphic wires were hot with his dispatches, sent in every direction, to secure the re-enforcement of Mulligan. See the columns of them of these eventful days in the official dispatches, at last published in THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE, and which attest his sleepless energy so strikingly. Now, four days before Mulligan surrendered, see what Gen. Pope telegraphs:

PALMYRA, Sept. 16, 1861.

To Major-General FREMONT:

From the paper just handed me, I learn for first time that important matters are occurring at Lexington. *The troops I sent to Lexington will be there the day after to-morrow, and consist of two full regiments of infantry, four pieces of artillery, and 150 irregular horse. These, with the two Ohio regiments of 4,000 men and four pieces of artillery.* Do you wish me to come down to St. Louis, or to go to Canton and Keokuk to finish matters in this section? The following force along this road: at Hannibal; At Kansas, 480; at Palmyra, 320 of Twenty-sixth Illinois; at Hudson, 420 of Taster's men; at Brookfield, 650 of Morgan's Regiment; at St. Joseph, coming east, 3,000 Iowa and Missouri irregular troops. Please answer to Quincy.

JOHN POPE, Brigadier-General.

So that Gen. Fremont had the promise that on the 18th, two days before Lexington actually fell, two full regiments, four cannon, and 150 cavalry should succor the brave garrison there holding out, and that by Thursday, the 19th, one day before Mulligan surrendered, the re-enforcement from Pope's forces for Lexington should be increased still further, to 4,000 men. That they did not arrive there and save it is not Fremont's fault, then.

Nor was this all. On the 13th of September, the day before I arrived there, it was supposed at St.