FROM ARKANSAS.

Gen. Curtis's Army Still Remains at Helena—Health of the Army—Death of Capt. Abercrombie — Hovey's Division at Clarendon, on the White River—Helena the Base of Future Operations—Unfortunate Appointment of J. S. Phelps as Military Governor—Skirmishes—Cotton Speculations—Negroes from Mississippi Escaping to Helena.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

HELENA, Aug. 14, 1862.

Gen. Curtis and his staff have returned from Cairo. His family came down with him, consisting of Mrs. Curtis and a younger son and daughter, and also the lady of Major H. Z. Curtis, the Assistant Adjutant-General. Gen. Curtis looks much recruited by his trip, and after a long separation from his domestic circle he will enjoy their visit here exceedingly. The mansion of the Rebel General Hindman, occupied as his headquarters, is a spacious and elegant building, situated on an elevation back of the town, having a fine prospect of the river and the neighboring country, and the family of the General, with the presence of the accomplished ladies of his household, will form an agreeable society.

Very soon, however, the whole army will be called to active operations, and these pleasant interludes in the occupation of war must cease. Many a poor soldier in our camps is yearning for a similar privilege to see his wife and little ones, but cannot be indulged. No furloughs have thus far been granted, except in cases of sickness; but a liberal construction of his power has been adopted by our Brigade Surgeon, and many have gone home and returned who were not very sick, greatly benefitted, however, by the indulgence. Many sick soldiers have also been transferred to the hospitals at Memphis.

The health of the army still continues good, but I fear if we remain here, on the marsh of the river and the adjacent bottom-lands, another month, I shall be called to report a different tale. Cases of intermittent fever are already occurring, and camp diarrhea is prevalent.

There is much difficulty in procuring good food. The army rations do not include vegetables, milk, and butter, and these articles are very scarce. During a month's stay here, I have not seen milk. Butter in sealed cans is sold at $1 a pound at the sutlers' stores, and potatoes are seldom to be had. The neighboring country is inadequate to a supply, many of the Rebel inhabitants having fled, and the gardens and fields are not much protected from that sort of destruction which results from the soldiers helping themselves—a poor economy, by which the few are glutted with plenty, and the remainder are cut off from all future supply.

A sudden and unexpected death occurred recently, on the downward trip from St. Louis, of Capt. James Abercrombie of the 3d Missouri Infantry, Lyon Regiment. Capt. Abercrombie had gone home on sick leave and was returning, in apparently good health, when, on the passage between St. Louis and Cairo, he was found dead in his berth. His body was taken on shore at Cairo, and returned to his family at St. Louis.

Capt. Abercrombie was an excellent soldier, and enjoyed the undivided love and confidence of his men. He was a Scotchman by birth, had seen 20 years' service in the British army in India, and having been for several years an adopted citizen of the United States, he immediately offered his services to the cause of the Union on the breaking out of the Rebellion, and after serving honorably in the three months service, raised the first company for the 19th Missouri Volunteers, which was afterward consolidated with the 3d Missouri Regiment. In this regiment, composed of American and German troops, under Col. Isaac F. Shepard, he has always stood high as a gentleman and a soldier, and his death will be deeply lamented by this body of brave troops—the best disciplined among the volunteer soldiery.

An important movement has already been made in the direction of Little Rock. Gen. Hovey's division is now in possession of Clarendon, on the White River, on the road leading directly to the State Capital, and another portion of the army is at Old Town, about half way between this place and the mouth of the White River. At the latter place there has been some skirmishing with Rebel cavalry, the latter having attempted to burn some cotton in that neighborhood, in which there were several Rebels killed, and two or three men on our side wounded.

Helena, it is now thought, will be the base of our future operations in Arkansas. It is favorably situated on the river, with a good road to Little Rock, and it is impossible that we should wait here for the rise of the river, which does not occur till late in the Fall. We may, therefore, reasonably expect an early movement upon the Capital, and this once in our possession, our new Military Governor, J. S. Phelps of Springfield, Mo., can be installed into his place, and organize the loyal elements of the State.

The appointment of Mr. Phelps is a most unfortunate one. His intense Pro-Slavery feeling will prompt him to do the very thing for which the Rebellion is waged, namely: Conserve the interests of Slavery, hinder the tendency to emancipation, and give aid and comfort to the enemy in this particular, winning golden opinions from them, and disappointing the friends of a regenerated State Government, in which Slavery shall not be the controlling interest.

Throughout Arkansas there are many of this class, who ardently wish to see Slavery put in course of ultimate extinction, that the State may rise to an improved civilization, and assimilate to the institutions of freedom. In our march through Northern Arkansas I found many such, and I was struck with the fact that the large slaveholders and slavetaking interest were in the Rebellion, and the loyal inhabitants were either non-slaveholders or had but little interest in the institution, and were perfectly willing to see it swept away and followed by a new order of things. They often professed themselves heartily tired of its tyrannizing dominion, and its utter suppression of liberty of speech, of the press, and even of privately expressed opinion.

This class of inhabitants I believe to be much larger in Arkansas than is generally supposed, and it is most unfortunate for them, as well as for the future interests of the State, that J. S. Phelps of Missouri should have been appointed by the President as their Military Governor.

What had J. S. Phelps done that he should have merited this honor? He has opposed the President's plans and policy from the beginning. He has been the most intensely Pro-Slavery of all the old Democratic Congressmen from the Slave States. He was the open apologist and justifier of the border-ruffian raids upon Kansas; and there are loyal men in his own district in south-west Missouri, his former supporters, who openly declare that he was at first in full sympathy with the Rebellion, and would have joined the Rebels if he had not held a seat in Congress, and, from his habitual caution, waited to see which way the contest was likely to turn. Was this an appointment fit to be made? Verily the magnanimity of our honest President is great!

Over the Mississippi, opposite this place, our troops are bringing a large amount of confiscated cotton. Four hundred bales and 200 negroes were brought over to-day. Two of our men were shot a few days ago by some Rebel cavalry, and several of the latter were taken prisoners. One of our soldiers was found hung up to a tree with his head downward, and his body cut and mangled in a horrible manner. The wretches who could perpetrate such a deed seem to be numerous in the ranks of the Cavalry. But they are preparing for themselves a vengeance which they do not foresee. Every such act as this deprives them of all sympathy, and our troops are being wrought up to a pitch of frenzy, not only against the slave-masters in the rebellion, but against the pet institution which has produced the war.

Our landing is covered with cotton bales, and purchasers are plenty. The levee for a mile is lined with steamers, while the naval fleet occupy the middle of the stream at anchor. The speculators are making money, but the cotton mills will obtain quite a respectable supply.

Our camps still swarm with contrabands. They are now coming largely from across the river in Mississippi. What is to be done with them I do not know. O that there was a place of refuge—a land which they could easily reach and become industrious and happy freemen!

The youngest and able-bodied men express not only a willingness but a desire to be organized into regiments, and permitted to fight for the Union, and their own liberty, but a suicidal policy at Washington forbids, the prejudices of the people of the Northwest excludes them from emigrating thither, and the only thing they can do here is to remain with their masters, or become stragglers and followers of the army, except a certain number employed as cooks and teamsters. I trust the events of the war will at last develop a humane and Christian policy toward these people, and that they may not be forever peeled and trodden under foot. GUILBERT.

FROM MEMPHIS.

Rebel Deserters—A Fight in Mississippi—Jeff. Thompson Getting Desperate—Cotton Trade Opened—Breckinridge at Baton Rouge.

From Our Special Correspondent.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., August 14, 1862.

DESERTERS COMING IN.

Not a day passes without bringing its deserters from the Rebel army in Mississippi. Lonely fugitives, or in squads, the sons of Tennessee, Arkansas, and Missouri, are stealing away from the ranks of the Confederate regiments, and by dint of much dodging and considerable false representation, make their way through the enemy's lines and enter ours. Five deserters from the camp at Tupelo took the oath of allegiance to the United States Government at the Provost Marshal's office yesterday. They represent that Polk's division left Tupelo on the railroad northward on the 29th ult., and that Hardee's division followed on the 27th. Gen. Price was still in camp at Tupelo, and the prevailing opinion was that his division would remain at that point for the present. The camping grounds are far superior to those occupied at Corinth, with a sufficient supply of water.

THEY KNOW THEIR FRIENDS.

The deserters invariably inquired of the slaves concerning the whereabout of the Rebel pickets, and the best way to avoid them. The faithful negroes fully comprehended the nature of the case, and never failed to give right directions, and to honor the confidence of the fugitives. A young man from the 8th Arkansas Infantry, says the "niggers treat the white men a d——d sight better than the white men do the niggers, when they try to run away."

TREATMENT OF SOLDIERS.

The Confederates are four months in arrears on soldiers' pay, with no prospect for an early discharge of the indebtedness. Gen. Villipigue's Division have been for several days on half rations of fresh beef, corn bread, and water, with a very slight sprinkling of salt. No coffee has been rationed for four months. The clothes are miserably tattered and torn, with no prospect of a change.

FIGHT IN MISSISSIPPI.

On the 11th inst., a scouting party, consisting of Company H, 2d Wisconsin Cavalry regiment, crossed the river at Helena, and went out 11 miles into Mississippi. While they were feeding their horses and lying on cotton bales resting, a party of 150 of Jeff. Thompson's men discovered them, and, dismounting, crept up to them and fired on the sleeping men before they were aware of their presence. Our forces, under cover of the extemporized breastworks, made by the cotton bales, soon rallied and poured in such a deadly fire, that it put the guerrillas to route. The guerrillas carried off one of our lieutenants, his back and head hanging on one side of the saddle, and his legs on the other. A command, with 10 days' rations, has been sent in pursuit of Thompson's men, which will not be likely to return until they have done something effectively to rid the country of these terrible marauders. The Union loss was seven killed and fifteen wounded, that of the Confederates, one killed, two wounded and three prisoners.

GIVE UP THE NIGGER OR FIGHT.

A few days ago Jeff. Thompson sent a flag of truce to Col. Hovey, whose brigade is doing garrison duty at Old Town, demanding of him the surrender of all the negroes within his lines, or "to prepare to fight."

The negroes in question are such as have come in from their Rebel masters, and are employed in throwing up intrenchments. The masters are members of Thompson's cotton-burning marauders, and naturally enough seeks to regain possession of their slaves, either by bluster or by fight.

Col. Hovey has taken the matter under consideration, and in the meantime has gone out to meet the Rebel scare-crow, supplying his men with ten days' rations. The determination is, if possible, to find and fight, and "clear out" the nest of guerrillas infesting that portion of the State.

THE COTTON TRADE.

Gen. Sherman has published the following order on the cotton trade in this department:

The following orders have been received from Department Headquarters, and are published for the benefit of all concerned:

In pursuance of orders from Headquarters of the Army at Washington, all restrictions on the sale of cotton, and prohibition of the payment of gold therefor, are hereby annulled. Every facility possible will be afforded for getting cotton to market. By order of Major-Gen. U. S. GRANT.

JOHN A. RAWLINS, A. A. Gen.

This will put a stop to the many complaints and charges of dishonorable motives against post commanders, that have been going the rounds in the Army of the West. It will also facilitate the transportation of cotton northward, and, judging from reports, that have the semblance of truth, of the quantities of the staple still in the swamps, a decrease in prices may be expected.

REGULAR COMMUNICATION.

Commodore Davis has re-established the line of navy dispatch boats between the fleet and Cairo, and henceforth daily and trustworthy communication will be kept open with the North.

GUNBOAT EASTPORT.

This new and powerful gunboat is expected to arrive off Memphis to-morrow, having on board Flag-Officer Davis, who will at once proceed to the fleet at Helena.

THE WHEREABOUT OF BRECKINRIDGE.

The reports seem to confirm the rumor that Breckinridge, with a force of 5,000 men, made an attack on Baton Rouge on the 7th, and was repulsed with heavy loss. The Rebel forces then fell back 10 miles, and camped on Amite River. The report that they afterward advanced, and in a combined land and water attack captured the city, was simply a smoke raised for the purpose of screening from view the Utopian exploits of the Rebel vice President General. For the Arkansas never reached Baton Rouge, but was destroyed, according to Breckinridge's dispatch, four miles up the river. J. R. S.

Battle on White River—Gen. Hovey's Division Engaged—Seven Hundred Prisoners Captured—Rebel Ram Arkansas—Important Arrest.

From Our Special Correspondent.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Aug. 15, 1862.

BATTLE ON WHITE RIVER.

Day before yesterday, on White River, near Clarendon, an engagement took place between the division of Gen. Hovey, consisting of six regiments of infantry and eight regiments of cavalry, and a part of Hindman's force which had been sent forward from Little Rock to check the advance of the Union army. The battle raged some time with destructive results. The 11th Indiana Regiment lost seven men killed. How many fell in the other regiments engaged we have not been informed. At length the contest ended by the defeat and route of Hindman's men, and the capture of 700 prisoners. Gen. Hovey managed his men with great skill and courage. He has furnished ample evidence to his command that the author of "General Order No. 1" is an officer of great resources, and of bold, original, and successful achievements. They will follow anywhere in Arkansas that he may lead them.

SKIRMISH BELOW HELENA.

Yesterday, while a scouting party were out after a lot of cotton, a few miles below Helena, a Rebel guerrilla party suddenly pounced on them, expecting to gobble up our boys without notice. In this, however, they had wrongly reckoned. The scouting party dexterously avoided the enemy's charge, and then "turned in" and drove him from the field. There was no loss on the Union side.

REBEL GUNBOAT ARKANSAS.

Lieut. Reed, of the ram Arkansas, gives the following account of the destruction of the boat, published in *The Jackson Mississippian:*

The Arkansas left Vicksburg at 2 o'clock on Sunday morning, and steamed leisurely down the river, having ample time to reach Baton Rouge at the appointed hour. When she arrived within 15 miles of Baton Rouge, her starboard engine broke down. Repairs were immediately commenced and at 8 o'clock were partially completed, though she was not in a condition to engage many of the Yankee vessels on account of the injury received.

At 4 o'clock almost to a minute, Gen. Breckinridge opened the attack upon Baton Rouge. A messenger was dispatched at 8 o'clock to ascertain the strength of the enemy's fleet, and the Arkansas proceeded to a point five miles above Baton Rouge, when she was cleared for action.

We learned from the guerrillas on shore that there were only three gunboats. On rounding the point the starboard engine again broke down, and the ship drifted ashore in sight of Baton Rouge, on the Arkansas side. Repairs were immediately commenced, and the ship got afloat at 8 o'clock the same evening. The engineers reported that the engines were untrustworthy. It was determined to make a trial trip up the river to test the strength of the engines; proceeded some 500 yards up the river, when her engines again broke more seriously than ever. The crew were engaged all night in repairs.

THE ATTACK OF THE ESSEX.

Next morning at eight o'clock, the lookouts ashore reported the Union fleet coming up. The ship was moored, head down stream and cleared for action, and in this condition she determined to fight to the last. At nine o'clock the Essex came round the point and opened fire. At this moment the engineers reported the engines ready, and that they would last half a day.

THE ENGAGEMENT.

The lines were cut, and the Arkansas started for the Essex with the intention of running her down. Proceeded about 500 yards in the direction of the Essex, and the starboard engine suddenly stopped. She then makes for the bank, her stern down the Essex pouring a hot fire into her. In this condition we opened fire with the stern. The Essex continued to advance, and when within 400 yards the crew of the Arkansas were ordered ashore, and the vessel fired. After all hands were ashore, the Essex fired upon the disabled vessel most furiously. In an hour after her abandonment the fire communicated to her magazine, and all that remained of the noble Arkansas was blown up.

PROGRAMME NOT CARRIED OUT.

Lieut. Stevens was in command of the Arkansas, and displayed remarkable coolness under the most perilous and distressing misfortunes. Lieut. R. states that but for the misfortune to her engines the expedition would have been a most brilliant success; and the Yankees would have been driven from New-Orleans in a few days.

REPORTER ARRESTED.

Mr. Isham, the Memphis correspondent of *The Chicago Times*, was arrested last night on an order from Gen. Grant, for publishing "to be in fact and pernicious in tendency." He is now in the military prison in this city, but will be sent to the penitentiary at Alton for confinement till the war is over, unless sooner relieved.

It was Mr. Isham who first reported the appearance of ten iron-clad steamers in Mobile harbor, and again reported the confirmation of his first dispatch.

MOVEMENTS OF GUNBOATS.

The gunboat Pittsburg came down from Cairo early this morning. She lay to a short time off Memphis, and then passed below. The Eastport will soon follow. J. R. S.

FROM MISSOURI.

A Righteous Judgment—Slaves of Rebels Emancipated—Guerrillas in St. Louis County—A Camp Attacked and Broken Up—Arrest of a Brother and Sister-in-Law of the Rebel Gen. Joe Johnston—Guerrillas in the Country Scattered—Fear of Price Subsided—Movements Near Springfield and Elsewhere—Paroled Prisoners at Benton Barracks.

From Our Own Correspondent.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Aug. 17, 1862.

A forward movement—this time in the right direction—has recently taken place in this Military District, which is worthy of imitation elsewhere. The Provost-Marshal General has seized and emancipated twenty-two slaves claimed to belong to Willis Hoard, Wm. Gardner, and one Doran—all active and noisy Rebels, who have been arrested and confined in the Gratiot Street Prison. The negroes, on Friday, received their free papers. There were twelve of them in one family, women and children included. It was reported yesterday that kidnappers were on their track, trying to persuade the delighted creatures to go into the interior of Missouri, on the promise of comfortable homes and good wages; but this game was blocked by the efforts of a few intelligent free colored men, who provided them with means to reach a safer locality. The conduct of Provost-Marshal General Farrar in this instance, shows what an officer can do who has the least disposition to respect the Confiscation act passed by the last Congress. It is clearly the duty of every officer knowing the law to obey its precepts, whether he has had explicit official instructions on that particular point or not.

Gen. Curtis has been engaged in quietly carrying out the Confiscation act for months, and is probably far ahead of any other of our Generals now in the field in this respect. The miserable subterfuge by which such Pro-Slavery Generals as Buell, McCook, and others, avoid their plain duty, is another lesson in the "How Not to Do It" policy. Hereafter, we have a like policy in Missouri. The example set by Gen. Fremont twelve months ago, and successfully imitated within a few days by Provost-Marshal Gen. Farrar, will teach Rebels that the day for protecting their human chattels has gone by forever.

The most interesting event of the week in this vicinity is the discovery of guerrilla camps within a few miles of the heart of the city. The inhabitants of the country a few miles beyond the city limits are generally disloyal. There are several fine streaks of loyalty in Carondelet and in St. Louis townships, but the rest of the country proper is rotten with treason. The key to this fact may be found in the assessors' returns, which show that out of 4,500 slaves held in St. Louis County, upward of 3,000 are held in servitude outside the city limits. The free-soil air of the city itself does not agree with Slavery, and the farmers (planters they call themselves) and property-owners of the county, who own slaves, are five-sixths disloyal. The topography of the country is exactly suited to the concealment of guerrilla camps. Woods, ravines, elevated plateaus and deep valleys abound in every direction, and the facilities for hiding away 200 or 300 men and their horses are admirable. The remains of three camps have been discovered. One camp, located near the Nine-Mile House, on a cross road leading from the turnpike to Clayton's ferry, across the Meramec, to the Manchester turnpike, was surprised before all the Rebels had time to escape, by a detachment of infantry and cavalry, about 50 strong. The Rebels fired a few shots, and fled. Four were killed, and three taken prisoners, and some 38 horses captured.

These discoveries have led to the most searching investigations as to the accomplices of the Rebels in the city, and some interesting evidence implicating several parties has been obtained. In the course of the investigation it was deemed expedient by Gen. Schofield to order every house in the suburbs, whether its inmates are loyal or disloyal, to be searched for arms. This order led to the arrest of a brother of the celebrated Rebel Gen. Joe Johnston and his wife, Joe's sister-in-law. The woman was arrested first for a insive and highly-insulting and indecorous language toward the Provost Guard who visited her dwelling. After she had been arrested, Edward Wm. Johnston, former Librarian of the Mercantile Library Association, called at the Provost-Marshal's office for a permit to visit his wife. He was informed that all visits to military prisons were prohibited. Whereupon Edward Williams, who is of an exceedingly excitable, nervous temperament, became furious, and speedily subjected himself to arrest likewise. He has gone to keep his wife company. Mr. Johnston is fifty years of age, of cultivated taste, and extensive literary knowledge. He is an undoubted Rebel at heart, but has had sufficient sense to keep quiet of late, and excepting for the unfortunate temper of his wife, would have avoided imprisonment so long as he lived in this city.

The pursuit of the Rebels in the interior has been kept up briskly for the last week. Porter and Pondexter, after the battle in Calloway County, about the first of the month, separated; but subsequent movements indicated their intention to reunite at some point not positively known. This intention has been frustrated, and the Rebel Colonels have been hunted with bloodhound perseverance from place to place until their forces have been dispersed probably into fifty different squads. Porter is now flying as fast as fresh horses can carry him to avoid capture. Poindexter first started west. Col. Geiger overtook and detained him at Compton's Ferry, on Grand River—capturing all his ammunition and extra arms, and killing over fifty of his men. The guerrilla Colonel then started northward, and actually crossed the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad. Gen. Loan, however, pursues him so vigorously that he turned around, recrossed the railroad, and tries to make his way to the Missouri River, hoping probably, to join Quantrel between Lexington and Independence. Col. Guitar again met him, however, on the Chariton River, and sent him flying westward.

The fear frequently reiterated at home and abroad concerning Missouri guerrillas is that they will remain at home a few days, and then as soon as quiet is restored, they will rush to arms again. This fear no longer exists. The recent organization of the State Militia has been responded to in the country much more cheeringly than the Union men of St. Louis expected. The former disloyalness of interior Unionists of Missouri has disappeared. Militia companies are forming in every county and in every township. The leading citizens who have suffered by the raids of guerrillas no longer stay at home talking peace, but everywhere are encouraging enlistments. What Morgan did for the military fever in Kentucky by his last raid—Poindexter, Porter, Quantrel have done in Missouri. An intense hatred has sprung up in a majority of counties toward guerrillas and their sympathizers, and the inevitable result will be that when the bushwhackers who have recently acted with marauders return to their homes, they will be spotted and killed by loyal neighbors. Several instances of this kind have already been reported in Howard, Boone and Cearton Counties.

Fears for the reappearance of Sterling Price on the Arkansas frontier have been entirely dispelled by the intelligence, recently received, of the activity of Gen. Curtis's army in the vicinity of Clarendon and Duvoll's Bluffs, on the White River. The threatened raid by McBride through Taney, Stone, Douglas, and other southern counties, has evidently been postponed for the present, and McBride has retired to a better foraging country. Rains, with 1,500 men, was reported at Neosho on the 10th, and fears have been entertained that Major Hubbard, with 200 men of the First Missouri Cavalry, would be caught in a trap by Rains. The notorious Col. Coffee, however, seems to possess the lives of a cat. His camp has been broken up, his horses and stores bagged and ammunition captured, at least six times within six months; yet he has managed to collect 500 men and come as far north as Osceola. He probably relies on his usual good luck to extricate him from the several traps which have been set for him, and which seem at times so sure to catch him.

South-East Missouri has been comparatively quiet since the attack on Col. Daniels last month at Bloomfield and the fight in Bollinger County. Col. Boyd's Missouri regiment is still encamped near Pitman's Ferry, on the Arkansas line, and seems able to keep the country quiet south of Greenville. Volunteer Cavalry and State Militiamen are constantly scouting through the country south of Ironton, on the road to Pitman's Ferry, and from Fredericktown and Bloomfield to Girardeau and New-Madrid.

The Rebels held Independence only thirty-six hours. They judiciously retired on the approach of Col. Burris and an expedition from Leavenworth and Kansas City. They are hovering in that vicinity, however, and mean mischief. They will have to move lively, however, to avoid pursuit.

The action of Gen. Loan, in St. Joseph, in levying an assessment of $5,000 on the Secessionists to support the families of Union volunteers is strongly commended. The St. Louis Secessionists are very much flattered to know what humiliation is in store for them. Having been exempted from State Militia service they expect something horrible in the shape of a "General Order" very speedily. It has been suggested that they cannot be exempted from United States service by Gen. Schofield, and that it would be a proper punishment to draft them to fill up the old regiments and then prohibit substitutes in their stead.

There are at the present time 2,137 paroled Union prisoners at Camp Benton, representing the following regiments: The 2d, 3d, 6th, 7th, 8th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, and 16th Iowa Regiments—370 men. The 9th, 11th, 12th, 14th, 17th, 20th, 27th, 28th, 35th, 40th, 41st, 43d, 45th, 46th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 52d, 57th, 58th, 59th, and 61st Illinois Regiments—469 men. The 7th Cavalry, 18th, 21st, 23d, and 25th Missouri Regiments—340 men. The 2d, 10th, 14th, 16th, and 18th Wisconsin Regiments—137 men. The 1st and 3d Minnesota Regiments—631 men. These prisoners were captured at Bull Run, Winchester, Shiloh, Murfreesboro', and Arkansas. The greater portion were taken at Shiloh and Murfreesboro'. The 3d Minnesota Regiment was captured at the latter place and subsequently paroled.

Boldness of the Guerrillas—How to Surprise Them—Necessities of Having a Commander-in-Chief—Vicksburg—Importance of Reopening the Mississippi—The Germans—Fremont—Col. Fisk's Regiment—Soldiers' Graves.

From Our Special Correspondent.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Monday, Aug. 18, 1862.

The guerrillas grow bolder and bolder. One of their camps was recently broken up in this county; and on Friday night they captured an old citizen, at his own house, within seven miles of town and actually within sight of the St. Louis Court House! All our experience in the West demonstrates the truth of THE TRIBUNE's recent editorial upon this subject. Wherever we are engaged in vigorous offensive warfare, we have no trouble from guerrillas.

Capt. James B. Eads is building six new gunboats for the Government. His works at Carondelet, six miles below St. Louis, are the largest of the kind in the United States. Two of the boats will be ready for service in sixty days.

Every day proves the urgent necessity so often pointed out in THE TRIBUNE columns of placing some commander-in-chief at the head of the Western armies. With Curtis, Grant, Buell, and the flotilla, all acting independently, and without concert, we must continue to expect failures and reverses.

Just now an important movement is commencing in Curtis's command. Whether it means Little Rock or Vicksburg is not yet developed. We hope the latter, for the abandonment of the siege of Vicksburg is universally regarded as lamentable. When the navigation of the Mississippi from St. Anthony to the Gulf was obstructed at only one point, and a land force of 50,000 or 20,000, acting in conjunction with the flotilla could have taken that, it was certainly unfortunate to abandon it to the enemy. Next to the capture of Richmond, the thorough reopening of the Mississippi is the deadliest blow we can strike at the Rebellion. Its moral and material advantages to the national cause would be inestimable.

Recruiting in the interior still goes on rapidly, but not in the city. The Germans, who under favorable auspices would contribute immensely to the new regiments, are doing little, for there is no leader to rouse and animate them. At one of their great mass meetings, lately, a speaker alluded to this, and remarked that the only thing needed was a name to rally around. He mentioned a General, but the response "FREMONT!" "FREMONT!" instantly came from thousands of throats, and the assembly rent the air with the heartiest cheers for the Pathfinder. The Germans are true to their first love, to this day Fremont's name stirs more enthusiasm among them than would the presence of all our other generals of American birth. The same is largely true with every class of Loyalists throughout the North-West. In a very able and stirring discourse, preached yesterday to a large congregation in the Union Methodist Episcopal Church of this city, the Rev. George Jocelyn, President of the Iowa University, spoke of Fremont as "the greatest and best of our Generals"—an allusion which received the most emphatic indorsement at the close of the service.

The "Merchants' Regiment" is filling up rapidly, and will doubtless be ready to take the field in less than thirty days from the time when authority was issued to Col. Fisk to recruit it. Its first religious exercises, conducted in Benton Barracks, by the Colonel, yesterday, were peculiarly interesting. Grave, earnest, thoughtful men, of intelligent faces and excellent physique, they evidently know what they are going to fight for, and have set their mark high.

In the Wesleyan Cemetery of this city are the graves of 2,300 Union soldiers—a fraction of the 100,000 young men of the Nation—its most promising, braves, and best beloved—who have already gone down among the dead men, under the Juggernaut of Slavery. When shall we learn that the highest right is the highest expediency, and strike at the cause instead of the effect? A. D. R.

LOCAL MILITARY MATTERS.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF THE 113TH REGIMENT.

This regiment left Albany at 9 p. m. on Tuesday, on two barges in tow of the tugboat Syracuse, and arrived in Jersey City at 2½ p. m. yesterday. There are about 1,000 men in the ranks, some of whom are as yet ununiformed. The following is a list of officers:

Colonel, Lewis O. Morris; Major, Edward A. Springsteed; Adjutant, Frederick F. Ingham.

Captains—Murphy, Jones, Morris, McCulloch, Moore, Bell, Shannon, Onyx, Maguire, Ambie.

First Lieutenant—Stickles, Kennedy, Rogers, Sharr, Lockwood, Wright, O'Hare, McKewen, Dushane, Barclay.

Second Lieutenants—Reed, Orr, Bell, Conlon, Mount, Mullins, Bellinghe, Pettit, Crank.

ARRIVAL OF THE 108TH N. Y. REGIMENT.

The Monroe County regiment left Rochester at 6 p. m. on Tuesday, and arrived here at 7½ p. m. yesterday. They number nearly a thousand men, many of them being hardy young farmers. They are a greatly superior class to those enlisting in our large cities. The men are as yet supplied with arms, but expect to receive Springfield rifles in this city to-day. Paymaster-General Bliss advanced the State bounty to the men on his own responsibility. The following are the principal officers:

C. H. Palmer, Colonel; ——, Lieutenant Colonel; Geo. B. Force, Major; John T. Chumasero, Adjutant; Joseph S. Harris, Quartermaster; J. F. Whitbeck, Surgeon; M. L. Townsend, First Assistant Surgeon (resigned); Dr. Avery, First Assistant Surgeon; W. S. Ely, Second Assistant Surgeon; James Richmond, Chaplain; Charles E. Ayers, Surgeon-Major; Theron E. Parsons, Quartermaster-Sergeant; A. Truax Weis, Commissary-Sergeant; W. Y. Andrews, Hospital Steward; Bernadine Hasson, John Saunders, Principal Musicians.

Company A, Capt. Williams; Company B, Capt. Hogeboom; Company C, Capt. Andrews; Company D, Capt. Crancer; Company E, Capt. Cutler; Company F, Capt. Pierce; Company G, Capt. Yale; Company H, Capt. Fuller; Company I, Capt. Grover; Company K, Capt. Deverell.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF THE 16TH MAINE REGIMENT.

The steamer Bay State yesterday afternoon brought to this city the 16th Maine Regiment, Col. Wild, 1,040 men. They have been encamped at Augusta, Me. The men are armed with Enfield rifles, and appear well qualified, physically and intellectually, to use them. The following are the chief officers:

Colonel, A. W. Wild; Lieut.-Col., C. W. Tilton; Major, A. B. Farnum; Adjutant, A. R. Small; Surgeon, Chas. Alexander; Assistant-Surgeon, J. Baxter; Chaplain, the Rev. Mr. Fullen; Quartermaster, ——. Tucker; Co. A, Capt. I. Wilkins; Co. B, Capt. Charles K. Hutchins; Co. C, Capt. Dust. Marston; Co. D, Capt. Hamlin; Co. E, Capt. A. O. Leavitt; Co. F, Capt. Belcher; Co. G, Capt. Thos. Whitwerth; Co. H, Capt. J. Ayer; Co. I, Capt. W. H. Waldron; Co. K, Capt. Whitehouse.

Col. Wild was a member of Gov. Washburne's staff, and is a civil engineer by profession. Lieut.-Col. Tilden and Major Barnum were formerly Captains in the 2d Maine Volunteers. The regiment left last evening for Washington.

THE POLICE REGIMENTS.

Yesterday Commissioner Acton and Superintendent Kennedy, accompanied by the Hon. F. A. Conkling and other guests, paid a visit of inspection to Riker's Island, where is encamped the 1st Regiment Metropolitan Guard. Everything was found to be in a satisfactory condition. Baskets of fresh bread, barrels of new potatoes and other vegetables, with quarters of beef, &c., taken up on the boat, evidenced that the trencher department was well supplied. As in many other regiments, some of the men would prefer fish at least once a week on Fridays; and as a Shaker or Quaker, from his peculiar tenet of faith, is allowed to be exempt from military duty, there seems no good reason why the man who prefers to lie in the service of his country should not have a claim to have his scruples respected in this small matter; it is, therefore, believed that this request will be granted. One man was in the guard house for having unduly prolonged his bathing exercise; he was, in fact, taken on the opposite shore, in the act of desertion. A second regiment, under the auspices of the Police Commissioners, is quartered at Staten Island. This, with the exception of the Colonel, is to be officered from the Department. It is rapidly filling up; for policemen joining it are assured of their places in the Department on their return from the war, and others joining it will be entitled to the first chances for filling vacancies in the force, which is nearly equivalent to insuring all who join this regiment the nice little salary of $850 a year when they come back from the service. The commissioners have adopted a plan which really puts over 2,000 efficient recruiting officers in the field, at the same time making each station-house a recruiting office, without expense to the Government. The whole force is thus engaged in recruiting business; and now, to make it still more effective, the Commissioners are raising a fund to support the families of volunteers; to do this officers will canvass the various precincts, and all subscriptions will be duly acknowledged. It is necessary that demands of this kind should meet with a liberal response, or else this city will inevitably suffer the disgrace of a draft. Heretofore men have gone to Boston and other places where inducements for enlisting were more tempting than in the metropolis; a greater drain will ensue from the proposition of our sister city to pay $60 in addition to all other bounties paid the recruit. But the men must be had; and the plan in question seems one good way of effecting this result. The police department leads off with a contribution of about $25,000 to this object, to be increased by monthly installments from each member of the force. The Commissioners are fully assured that, if this fund is made what it ought to be, there will be no difficulty in raising several regiments. They have already two more than half filled.

MILITARY AFFAIRS IN BROOKLYN.

The city was all alive yesterday. Recruiting officers were seen everywhere, some with one, two, and even with six or eight men on the way to the different headquarters. The recruiting tents in the City Hall Park increased to nine, and the drums in front of each kept up the music from morning till night. Tents have also been pitched in Washington Park, the City Park at the Navy-Yard, and at other eligible points. The whole city, in fact, begins to wear a military aspect. The people are aroused; the wealthy men are coming forward with their contributions, and the consequence is that men of the right stamp are enlisting in squads.

The scene about the headquarters of the Empire Brigade and the Senatorial Regiment was animating. Yesterday recruits came flocking in so fast that it was with difficulty that they could all be attended to. Sixty-nine men were sworn in for the 1st Regiment, Col. Jourdan, and 78 were passed by the Surgeon of Col. Conk's regiment from the day previous. The four regiments of the Empire Brigade now average 800 men each, and it is confidently anticipated that 1st Regiment will be filled within a week. At the present rate of recruiting it will be more than filled within that time.

Col. Conk, of the Senatorial Regiment, has been laboring under a number of disadvantages, which up to this week has greatly retarded his progress. He has as yet no permanent quarters for his men. Some are kept at the City Armory, some at the Arsenal, and others at headquarters, corner of Court and Joralemon streets. An order has been made for a sufficient number of tents, which it is expected will be received on Friday or Saturday, when a camp will be promptly formed on Fort Greene, the site occupied by the Fourteenth Regiment eighteen months since.

Mayor Kalbfleisch has on his own responsibility ordered 108 A tents and 14 wall tents for the officers and men of the First Regiment of the Empire Brigade. They are to be furnished on Friday, when a camp will be formed on the parade ground at East New-York. The barracks are becoming too crowded, and it is therefore necessary to provide other quarters. The regiment is ordered to parade on Friday, as will be seen by the following order:

HEADQUARTERS 1ST REGT., EMPIRE BRIGADE, Aug. 20, 1862.

GENERAL ORDERS No. 1.—All commissioned officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates of this regiment are hereby ordered to assemble at the barracks at East New-York, for the purpose of attending a regimental parade, on the afternoon of Friday, the 22d inst. Every member of the regiment must be present, unless previously excused.

By order, JAS. JOURDAN, Col. Com'g.

J. HANLEY, Adjutant.

The Mechanics' Bank of Brooklyn yesterday cashed 175 checks for bounties to recruits, and the day previous 93, amounting to a total of $7,000.

The friends of Lieut. Underhill of the First Fire Zouaves, who was captured at the battle of Bull Run, will be gratified to learn that he has been exchanged, after thirteen months' imprisonment, and is expected to be in Brooklyn on Friday of this week.

Gen. Duryea has received a letter from Julien Allen, Purser of the U. States transport steamer Baltic, a citizen of Brooklyn, inclosing $50 as a contribution to the enlistment fund, which has been handed over to Mayor Kalbfleisch.

Mr. Charles Christmas has contributed $200 to aid in recruiting and rendering a draft in Brooklyn unnecessary. The sum is to be paid as special bounties to the first 40 volunteers who sign the rolls between the hours of 9 and 10 o'clock this morning. The first 20 men who join Col. Jourdan's regiment will be paid $5 each, and the first 20 who join Col. Conk's regiment will receive a like amount.

Capt. J. Davenport is raising a company of "Monitors" in Brooklyn. His recruiting office is on the corner of Oxford street and Fulton avenue. The experiment of enlisting church members has been so successful in New-York, that the captain has been induced to try the experiment here.

The Ward Committees appointed by the Board of Supervisors, for the purpose of aiding in raising the quota of the county without resorting to a draft, have commenced work in earnest. The Committees will meet every night this week and perfect all necessary arrangements. The First Ward met last evening and appointed a Committee to collect subscriptions. The Eleventh Ward Committee will hold a meeting at the Park Presbyterian Church, on the corner of De Kalb and Carlton avenues, this (Thursday) evening, at 8 o'clock, the object being to raise the quota of volunteers required (414) without resorting to a draft. A recruiting office will be opened on Washington Park, arrangements having been made to erect a small wooden structure for that purpose. The most prominent citizens of the ward have taken the matter in hand.

The smith department of the Navy-Yard have formed a relief association, the object being to raise a f