THE WAR IN VIRGINIA.

Continued from First Page.

share the breakfast he had laid at his open-air head-quarters on the hill-side, behind Matthews's Battery. Our table was the wet ground, our table-cloth an india-rubber blanket, but we had coffee, and hard biscuit, and a bit of Secesh roast-pig, and if that wasn't a meal fit for the gods, what could have been? For our sauce we had appetite, for our relish, the delicious uncertainty whether or no the Rebel batteries would drop shells on the meat-platter between us. From the crest of the hillock we could see the gray-coated cavaliers and musketeers deployed in full sight, and, while we were watching, every now and then there would come a little puff of smoke and a sharp, cracking noise, and one of the Rebel horsemen would either flinch or fall as the bullets of our sharp-shooters grazed or hit him.

The positions of our batteries near the bridge, on this side of the river, were chosen in advance for enfilading those opposite in case they should be abandoned, but when our guns had fairly got to work and driven the Rebels away, our men found that on their part the enemy had, during Friday night, constructed their batteries so as to command our new positions; and so, after suffering some loss in men and horses, and having two of Matthews's guns dismounted, Gen. Ricketts gave the order to limber up and file off a little more to the right to get out of range. Prior to this, Lieut. Godfrey of Matthews's Battery, while teaching the fuse man "No. 6" at a gun how to cut his fuse, was struck by a shell, which came from a battery two miles off, exploded as it struck him, and shattered his left leg, so as to make amputation necessary. I saw the brave fellow afterward, and found him doing so well, that he made light of his injury and jestingly talked of dancing waltzes again.

As on Thursday and Friday, so on Saturday, the enemy kept working up toward Warrenton White Sulphur Springs, on the south side of the Rappahannock, with the view of flanking us, and we moved further and further away from the railroad to baffle their design. As on preceding days, so on Saturday, the grand artillery duel went on from right to left and left to right, the cannonade being heavier now at McDowell's position, now at Sigel's, now at Banks's. We were guarding, and successfully guarding, the whole river bank, and all the fords from Kelly's to Warrenton, and the enemy, with any army of 100,000 to 150,000, had been held in check by Pope with a much inferior numerical force. Their great game was to turn our position, take us in rear, whip us, and then rush on with streaming flags to Washington. Ours the desperate task of showing fight, and yet not fighting, of playing with our monstrous antagonist until he lost his golden time, and until our re-enforcements from Fredericksburg, the Peninsula, and the North would so strengthen us that we could crush his armies and capture his Capital. If we could save ourselves until Saturday night, we would be safe. *And the greatest crisis of this war occurred between Thursday morning and Saturday night.* It is passed, and we are safe. Washington is safe, our army is safe, the nation is safe. For Pope's artillery is now guarding the line of the Rappahannock, and Fitz John Porter, with a very heavy force, joined Pope on Friday evening, and a host of regiments have joined and are joining him now, by way of Alexandria. And now look for the grand movements of the war within thirty days. Do not forget that Burnside has massed a large army at Fredericksburg, and Pope is nearly or quite as strong as Lee and Jackson, and McClellan is freed from the net which—whether self-woven or not—held him in its meshes on the Peninsula.

Some fun was caused in camp—and a thousand times more in Washington, I fancy—by a sudden raid of Rebel guerrillas upon Catlett's station, under cover of the night. The devoted band dashed in upon our small collection of tents and wagons, and stampeding a lot of officers and servants and teamsters, burned seven wagons, ran off a number of horses, and took some a hundred prisoners. The most serious part of the business is that they took Gen. Pope's personal baggage and money, and all his official papers, orders, evidence, etc., which happened to be in one of the wagons which had been sent to the rear. The particulars of this affair have already been sent you by another correspondent.

In the attack at Catlett's station, twenty supply trains were destroyed, or their contents injured, by the Rebels. Many wagons were too wet to burn. Capt. Wittard, the Commissary in charge, escaped, remained all night in the woods, and reached Manassas on Saturday.

The skirmishes on the Rappahannock extended over such a long line that it was impossible for our reporters to compile a full list of the casualties. The whole number of our killed and wounded up to Saturday is computed by high authority at less than six hundred, of which not more than one hundred are killed. This small loss is attributable to the fact that the fight so far has been mainly an artillery duel at long range.

All the private papers and letters of Gen. Pope, copies of dispatches and reports, memoranda relating to the campaign and to the army, copies of telegrams sent, all dispatches received from the President, Hal-leck and the War Department, orders issued to Generals of corps and divisions, all maps and topographical charts, containing information of the greatest value; in a word, the whole history and plan of the campaign, the numbers and disposition of troops, all are revealed to the enemy by this disaster. Its results cannot be estimated. It is taking the Rebel General into the confidence of Halleck, and may render it necessary to change the whole campaign.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24, 1862.

Gen. Pope's position at the railway bridge across the Rappahannock—the position deemed to be of greatest strength along the river—was attacked in force on Saturday morning. The hill, redoubt and block-house, on the southern bank, had been held up to that time by a portion of Gen. Hartsuff's brigade, the 12th and 13th Massachusetts, and two batteries of artillery. The bridge had not been destroyed—was considered impregnable. But with the swelling stream came down so much timber that the bridge was endangered. Gen. Pope therefore determined to withdraw his forces on the opposite bank and destroy the bridge. The movement was accomplished in order and without loss, and the bridge was burnt. But the position which was thus abandoned was valuable, to the enemy not less than to us, and when its evacuation was discovered, the Rebels immediately advanced in force to occupy it.

On this side the Rappahannock, and to the right of the railway, is another hill and redoubt—the hill of about the same height with the other, and commanding the ground beyond. From this hill, and from the high ground adjacent, the advance of the enemy was met by a heavy fire of artillery. They moved in line of brigade, and with successive masses steadily advancing, covered also by their own artillery, pushed forward in spite of losses that must have been immense, and possessed themselves of the hill. They were driven from it more than once, and so long as our artillery kept its position, could not retain it. But it was discovered that our batteries were enfiladed by a distant fire from the other side, and they were finally moved to a more secure position. It is understood that the Rebels hold the hill on the opposite bank, but that the crossing is still held on our side. There is a ford just below the bridge, which, I suppose, *must* be held at any cost and all hazards, unless the line of the Rappahannock is to be wholly abandoned; for to give up one ford is to give up the whole.

There have been attacks also at several of the fords above and below, and the inference is irresistible that the Rebels are swarming along the whole line of the Rappahannock, dashing at whatever point offers a chance of passage. The repetition and desperation of these attacks show also that the Rebel Generals, determined to cross somewhere, regardless of the cost in lives, are hurling masses of their troops against batteries. If they can succeed in gaining and holding a ford or bridge, they break the line, and cutting our armies in two, may hope to fight them in detail, as they originally intended. The Rappahannock, from Fredericksburg to Warrenton Springs, is a long line to hold, but unless it is already severed, there ought to be force enough at every point to-day to hold it against the South.

The account given above is gathered from different sources. All of it, however, is from persons who left Gen. Pope's army only last night or this morning. It is, of course, only an outline, and though I believe it correct as far as it goes, I cannot fully understand the cause or the probable result of some movements connected with the battle—movements which I cannot state. An abandonment of the position on the southern bank, or an attack upon it by the Rebels, were the last things thought of when I left headquarters on Thursday night.

The whole staff train of Gen. Pope has been captured at Catlett's Station. This information, at least, is authentic. My account is from a Quartermaster's clerk who arrived here last night, and was with the train when it was attacked. His statement is in substance as follows:

Gen. Pope on Friday sent back his train, which mustered 53 wagons, to Catlett's, a station on the railway about two miles this side of Warrenton Junction, and at least twelve miles to the rear of the army. The tents were pitched and the wagons in park. About 8 o'clock Friday evening Mr. Brown was lying in his tent with a light burning. He was roused by a volley of musketry and the sound of cavalry charging. The camp had a guard of infantry, its usual escort, whose muskets were in the wagons! and was protected also by four companies of the Bucktail Rifles under Lieut.-Col. Kane. There were no pickets, not even a sentry. The first notice of the approach of the Rebels was the volley of musketry.

The infantry escort ran at once. The Bucktails, surprised, but not wholly unarmed like the others, scattered at the first fire, but rallied beyond the camp. The Rebel cavalry poured in unopposed, took complete possession of the camp, pillaged and plundered its personal effects, carried off the contents of all the trunks of Gen. Pope and all his staff, and took with them on their retreat all the horses of the train, about 200, and also those belonging to the staff which were not in the field at the time. Some officers were in the camp, but Gen. Pope and most of his staff were in front, twelve miles away.

Col. Clary, Chief Quartermaster, and Capt. Goulding, Asst.-Quartermaster, were both there in charge of the property. Both were thought to have been captured, but Col. Clary returned on Saturday morning. Capt. Goulding has not since been seen or heard of at the station, and, unless he went to the front, is probably captured. One account says that he was shot; but there is no confirmation of that report. Col. Butler, Aid-de-Camp to Gen. Pope, came out of the tent with a brace of revolvers, and did not retreat till he had fired twelve shots, then got off safely.

The Bucktails were finally rallied by Col. Kane, and drove back the Rebel cavalry, regaining possession of the plundered camp. The Rebels seemed to have had full time to carry away the spoils. They knew that it was Gen. Pope's, for they were heard to ask repeatedly, Where is the General? and they neglected everything else to plunder his trunks. They got also the papers and money in all the others, the Adjutant-General's and the Quartermaster's. There were $7,000 or $8,000 in Capt. Goulding's safe—all lost. Papers of the utmost importance must have been found among Gen. Pope's effects, and in the Adjutant-General's desks—the muster-rolls of the army, for instance.

For these papers, for the money, and for the plunder of a Major-General's baggage, the Rebel raid was doubtless partly directed, but it must also have been meant to destroy the railway bridge near Catlett's over Cedar Run, a stream now so swollen that it cannot be forded. The rally of the Bucktails drove them off while they were plundering, and the delay saved the bridge. There were four regiments of cavalry, as was learned from a Lieutenant taken prisoner. Several men in the camp were killed and wounded, and nearly all the teamsters were captured. Probably the whole night have been saved and the attack repulsed if there had been pickets or even sentries about the camp. But there has not been a guard mounted at headquarters since Gen. Pope took the field—a piece of carelessness for which he has paid a heavy penalty.

This raid was by way of Warrenton Springs. Four regiments of cavalry have succeeded in turning the right flank of Gen. Pope's army, and dashing in upon his trains 12 miles to the rear, and an equal distance within his lines from their extremity. I have no wish to excite unnecessary alarm, but I think I ought to say that such a movement is significant of far more important results than the pillage of a camp. I know that Gen. Pope considered his right out of danger on Thursday. A movement then made by Gen. Sigel is conclusive evidence of that. Subsequent disposition of his forces may have anticipated the consequences of previous exposure. At least, he may have become convinced that his right bank cannot longer be left to take care of itself.

I repeat none of the rumors that are flying all over the city, but there can be no doubt that there has been going on for two days, certain hostile movements at some points, and over such an extent of ground as to excite a fear that somewhere the Rebels may have had a success. But, in all I can learn, I believe it to be true that up to last night Gen. Pope still held the Rappahannock line unbroken. I trust we may hear no news from the Shenandoah. It not, and if the right of Gen. Pope has been made secure, I see no reason for apprehension. The Rebels are making desperate efforts, but if all fire is send as well as on Thursday—and in some respects they must be better—the position of our forces ought to be impregnable.

This news would be let leaked if it were possible, but the orders of Gen. Halleck exclude from the telegraph everything relating to the Army of Virginia. The people of the North, it seems, are to be treated like children or cowards, who must not hear or dare not hear the truth.

From Our Special Correspondent.

FREDERICKSBURG, Va., Saturday Morning, Aug. 23, 1862.

Yesterday morning there was a report in this town that heavy firing was heard during the morning at Falmouth, and during the day it was reported that "Portable Force Jackson" was attempting to ford the river some eight or ten miles above this town, with the idea, it was said, of getting his forces in the rear of what remained on the opposite bank of the river of Gen. Burnside's troops. I went across the river to where the great body of our troops were encamped, and where the advance of McClellan's army were encamped, as they arrived from Acquia Creek, to learn if there could be any truth in the above-mentioned reports. On my arrival at the other side, the first sight that attracted my attention was six or seven regiments of the Pennsylvania Reserve in line of march toward Falmouth, which town is a mile up the river, on the other side. Shortly after, I learned that nearly 20 regiments had preceded them, and that the movement of troops in that direction commenced late the night before (Thursday). Yesterday, I witnessed the arrival of nine regiments of McClellan's army, just brought up from the Creek. They inquired of the pickets how that they were going into camp on the beautiful hill-sides and valleys they saw before them, but they were rather disappointed when they learned that a march of no one knew how many miles lay before them. Without a moment's delay they took the way of their comrades of the Pennsylvania Reserve. I rode with them up there, to Falmouth, and along the right bank of the Rappahannock, for some seven miles. Seeing that there was plenty of life, and my post being Fredericksburg, I turned homeward and met another long line of regiments, which had arrived since I had left. Now for the troops are gone no one knows; the supposition is that they went up to guard the fordable passages of the river, and that they would remain until the whole of McClellan's army should arrive here. The general impression is that they will fall back on this place, and that when the advance on Richmond is ordered a goodly number will go by this the most direct and regular road route to Richmond. Only a few regiments are now left on the other side. Among them are the Hawkins Zouaves, who have a splendid band with them; they are not niggardly in giving us a supply of delicious music, and yesterday the Secesh ladies of Fredericksburg had the pleasure of hearing some grand martial airs played by them "as they marched through the town," &c. No passes are now allowed to any of the citizens to go to the camps at the other side. Supplies of almost everything are very small in town. Tea is sold at $2 50 to $3 a pound, and some other things equally high.

The attention of the Government ought to be called to the railroad bridge crossing the Rappahannock at this town. The original bridge was destroyed by the Rebels; a temporary structure was erected by N. H. McDowell, esq., engineer on this road; two weeks after, it was swept away by a rise in the river. It was again built, and in a few weeks again destroyed by the same cause. It has now been built for the third time, and it is so constructed that a permanent structure could be put up in six days, at a very trifling cost. The original piers are 45 feet apart. All that is wanted is the heavy beams, which cannot be procured or sawed here, but could be at Alexandria, and brought here.

The present structure will bear any weight that can be put on it. It is built on piles, fifteen feet apart, but the foundation is sand, and the first rise in the river, which will take place when the Fall rains commence, which will be soon, the bridge will surely be swept away. Its destruction may happen just when we would want to use the bridge, and I need not say that a delay of ten or twelve days would cost the country one hundred times the cost of the bridge. At present the erection of the permanent bridge would not stop the trains for one hour. I might as well mention that we have some very large guns in position opposite this town, as also the gunboat Aroostook, which has an immense heavy battery. The weather is very warm, and up to this moment all is reported quiet on the Rappahannock.

D. J. S.

FROM ARKANSAS.

Reconnaissance by Gunboats to Vicksburg—Hovey's Expedition—Misrepresentations of Gen. Curtis's Policy—What Became of the Contrabands at Vicksburg—White Slavery in Helena.

From Our Special Correspondent.

HELENA, Ark., Aug. 19, 1862.

Yesterday morning, the gunboats Benton, Mound City, and Gen. Bragg, with the 76th Regiment Ohio Infantry, under Col. Wood, went down the river toward Vicksburg, on a reconnoitering expedition. No news has yet been heard from them.

Gen. Hovey's expedition has just returned from Clarendon on the White River. On the arrival there a troop of Rebel cavalry fled across the river and escaped, but an large force of the enemy was found. Some guerrillas fired upon our troops killing two men. They were fired upon in turn, but escaped. I heard that some of our soldiers, in retaliation, burnt several houses, and I presume this is true.

This affair has been magnified into a battle by some of the sensation newspapers, and published at Memphis and elsewhere as resulting in 50 killed and 70 Rebels taken prisoners. The whole story, like the one which appeared in *The Cairo Gazette*—that Gen. Curtis and Col. Fitch had left Helena, with 50,000 men to give Hindman battle—was a fabrication. Instead of cutting off a whole division, Hindman broke at that time for Little Rock, and Gen. Curtis and staff on their way to Cairo. When such statements are published, it is impossible to know what to believe.

MISREPRESENTATIONS OF GEN. CURTIS AND HIS POLICY.

One of the evils to which we are subjected in this division of the army is the incorrect, if not intentionally false, news, and the unfounded criticisms of letter-writers, and of certain editors who are misled or imposed upon by false rumors.

The following, from *The Chicago Tribune*, is an example:

GEN. CURTIS'S POLICY.

"The latest intelligence from Arkansas confirms previous accounts which reflect upon the Government for its neglect for care of the Rebels this concern for his own troops. The army were on short rations for weeks and the rebels taken here paid for at about double the prices the planters could get, if they hauled it to the river. The army had had plenty of skim-milking on the march, as Rebels invariably taking to the swamps before our troops could get them in a tight place; and these same Rebels probably were the same men Curtis has been paying so liberally for the little stock of provisions he has been able to procure from them. The past mode of dealing with the Rebels was not calculated to subdue them very soon, or hurt them much."

The whole of this paragraph is a tissue of falsehoods.

The policy of Gen. Curtis during a march of 800 miles, through Arkansas, has been to confiscate and give free papers to all slaves of Rebels who come within his lines, or who have in any way been used in the service of the Rebellion. At Batesville, a considerable number received their freedom, and have reached the Free States in safety, and thousands at this place are in the employ of the army, as teamsters, servants, or laborers, and have already, or will, receive their free papers.

During the whole march, corn, bacon, molasses and everything that was found useful or necessary to the army, were taken from Rebels without pay, receipts being given with the understanding that only those who could prove their loyalty to the Government of the United States would receive compensation.

For weeks the whole army subsisted mainly upon the country, after its supplies were cut off at Batesville. The only protection has been given to loyal men and their families, and even these have endured much suffering on our account. Provisions taken from them were paid for only at half the market rates, and along the whole route of the army the inhabitants have suffered as a matter of necessity, and with all the restrictions a proper discipline could enforce—as much, one would suppose, as the most intense hatred of Rebellion could exact. Under the circumstances, the progress of our army through a country is a scourge to the inhabitants, both friends and foes, and those who are crying out in favor of loosing our armies a ruthless mob and allowing them to pillage and destroy without discrimination, know not what they speak of, nor the destructive influence upon the army itself of such a course.

Since the army arrived at Helena, large quantities of cotton belonging to Rebels have been confiscated, and sent to St. Louis for the benefit of the Government, and its presence here has driven the disloyal away from the place, through fear of arrest and punishment. All this does not look as if General Curtis exercised "greater care for the Rebels than for his own troops." No commander, in my opinion, could show greater interest in having his troops properly cared for, and a healthy discipline maintained among them, than Gen. Curtis has done since he took his present command, and this statement is strikingly verified in the fact that his whole army is for the healthiest of any command in the service of the United States. The armies of the Potomac and on the east side of the Mississippi will bear no comparison with it in this respect.

Gen. Curtis is well known for his calm, well-balanced judgment, his administrative ability, his coolness and determined courage on the field of battle, and his high moral and Christian character, and these slanders upon him and his policy as a commander are injurious to the public service, discouraging to enlistments and the filling up of our thinned ranks, and we therefore expect the loyal press of the country to correct these misrepresentations, and to exercise greater care in giving currency to such irresponsible and injurious representations.

FAST OPERATIONS OF THE FLEET AT VICKSBURG.

I continue to receive information of gross negligence on the part of the commanders of our flotilla in the abandoned siege of Vicksburg. The morning the Rebel ram Arkansas came down the Yazoo, she was heard firing her cannon for an hour previous, and word came to our fleet that she was coming, but the commander would not believe it, or could not be aroused to the importance of the emergency, and so the formidable monster escaped. The universal testimony is that there was ample warning and time for preparation, and yet somebody was caught "napping," and our boats were without a requisite force of steam. This may now be set down as an established fact. What particular commander was to blame I know not; but this I know, that there is a decided tendency to carelessness in many places where there should be constant watchfulness and energy. We are not half awake to the desperate character of the foe, and too easily fall into an overweening self-confidence, and a false security.

WHAT BECAME OF THE CONTRABANDS AT VICKSBURG.

It will be remembered that Commodore Farragut had several thousands of negroes employed on the canal, by which he hoped to change the channel of the river at Vicksburg. It will scarcely be believed that these poor people after being employed in our service for weeks, many of them having come of their own accord, were left by both our fleets to their fate. An eye witness informs me to-day that he saw many of them begging with tears and lamentations not to be left behind, abandoned without the least regard to their future condition, or the fate that inevitably awaits them, of a severer bondage than that from which they supposed themselves rescued by our arms. It would seem as if a little forethought, and a decent regard to justice and humanity, might have provided some means for these innocent people to be transported to some place of safety, without leaving them to be recaptured and re-enslaved by their Rebel masters.

WHITE SLAVERY IN HELENA.

I was greatly surprised the other day by the declaration of a person with whom I had been conversing in the Post-Office of this place, when, in reply to a suggestion of mine about his loyalty, he answered, "Why, my dear Sir, I am a slave. I belong to Dr. ——. I looked in his face, unable to believe my own eyes. His complexion was whiter than my own; his eyes a blue gray; his hair and features Caucasian; his language free from the negro dialect. I asked him again, "Is it possible that you are a slave? Why don't you go North and claim the privileges of a freeman?' He answered, 'I have a wife and children, and I don't want to go till I can take them with me. I have been allowed by my master to follow the business of a barber in this place, and, by giving him a stipulated sum, have been permitted to enjoy a semblance of freedom, and to possess a little property of my own. As soon as I can realize something of this property, I intend, while the opportunity exists, to secure the freedom of myself and family.'

Our conversation had commenced upon a written document which he had been showing me, and which he could read as well as myself. When he left me I wondered greatly that such a man, at least 40 years of age, evidently a quadroon and a Christian, could be held a slave, and another white man be allowed to take his place in writing at night in a Christian community. And then I remembered that the modern doctrine of the South, as taught by *The Richmond Enquirer*, and other expositors of the system, attributes slavery is not based upon complexion or race, but that capital should own labor, and the best condition of society is that in which the entire laboring population are slaves. This is the doctrine on which the leaders of the Rebellion are striving to establish a Southern Confederacy, and thousands of laboring men in the South are blindly led to give their life and by fighting against the interests and their fathers from mere sectional hatred and prejudice.

When the Rebellion shall be crushed, and the South opened to free institutions and a higher civilization, the people who will be most benefited by the change are those who are now, by consumption and ignorance, arrayed in battle against us. May God speed the day when their eyes shall be opened, and they shall be able to discern between friends and enemies!

GUILBERT.

More Rebel Correspondence—Gen. Hindman to Gen. Cooper—He is Supplied with Arms and Ammunition—We have 18,000 Armed Troops in Arkansas!—Is raising an Army of 10,000—Gen. Magruder Appointed to the Western Department—Threatens to Annihilate Gen. Curtis and Invade Missouri!

From our special correspondent.

HELENA, Ark., Aug. 19, 1862.

Another batch of Rebel correspondence has fallen into our hands, including letters from Major-Gen. Hindman to Gen. Cooper, the Rebel Adjutant-General at Richmond, revealing at the place of Hindman, his present force, and his intended operations. From these letters it will be seen that he has obtained the arms and batteries for which he lately so piteously begged the Rebel Government, that more are on the way to him, and that by conscription he has succeeded in raising a formidable army.

Under these circumstances it is important that Gen. Curtis should be further reinforced, and heartily sustained by the War Department in his present position and future operations.

GEN. HINDMAN TO GEN. COOPER.

HEADQUARTERS TRANS-MISSISSIPPI DISTRICT, LITTLE ROCK, ARK., Aug. 5, 1862.

GENERAL: I come time since made an earnest appeal to Gen. Bragg to send me the old refuse arms and batteries now lying idle in arsenals on the other side of the river. This was before the storm sent by Captain Hart and General Parsons reached me, and before I was advised of Major Bankhead's success in getting arms and ammunition for me.

I have authorized the raising of independent companies among the people, and have placed these companies under charge of the Provost Marshal's department. I inclose you copies of my orders on the subject. These companies have proved to be of benefit already, and could be made vastly useful, if I had guns, even old flint guns and rifles, to give them.

As you are probably aware, nearly every gun in the State has been purchased or impressed by the Government, and many men not subject to conscription withhold themselves from the independent companies, only because they have, and can get, no guns.

This organization is not only useful now in matters of police, but may be more so in future as a powerful reserve, to be called into play when necessity requires it. If you can arm them now, you fasten and secure it. For that reason I make the same appeal to you which I made to Gen. Bragg. Let me have the old shot-guns, rifles, condemned muskets, and a close cannon which I have mentioned, to place in the hands of my independent companies. I can make them useful. They are doing and will do no good where they are. I can use the old batteries along the streams which the enemy's boats may attempt to navigate. If you can send them to me, I urge upon you to do so, as soon as possible. Very respectfully,

T. C. HINDMAN, Major-Gen. Comdg.

To Gen. S. COOPER, A. G., Richmond, Va.

SECOND LETTER OF GEN. HINDMAN TO GEN. COOPER.

HEADQUARTERS TRANS-MISSISSIPPI DISTRICT, LITTLE ROCK, ARK., Aug. 7, 1862.

GENERAL: Your dispatches of the 15th ult. have been received. It is impossible for me to forward you formal reports, as the blanks for which I have repeatedly written have not reached me. I am rejoiced to hear that a separate department has been created of the country west of the Mississippi River, and that Gen. Magruder is coming to assume command. Until his arrival, I shall, of course, report directly to you.

I doubt the propriety of my hazarding an attempt to report my strength and plans, but your order to give you at least a general statement of the number and condition of the forces with which I expect to operate against the enemy "in front of Little Rock" is so peremptory that I shall of course comply. Your order, however, to move against the enemy at Helena *at once* being, as I conceive, based upon an erroneous idea of my strength, I have taken the responsibility of delaying its execution.

I have now in camp at this place about eighteen thousand effective men, well-armed. I have in camp of instruction between six and eight thousand men either wholly unarmed or else armed with guns that are of little use, such as shot guns, rifles, carbines, &c., &c. The arms brought over by Capt. Hart, together with those brought by Gen. Parsons have relieved me of embarrassment, and enabled me to make effective the greater part of my command. If Major Bankhead arrives safely, as I think he will, I can then arm the balance of my men. I am waiting anxiously to hear of that officer's arrival upon this side of the river.

I have six batteries, containing forty brass pieces, and one battery of iron guns. I have a company of artillery, camped near this place, to which I will give the eighteen batteries, coming in charge of Major Bankhead. By some blundering mistake a box of friction primers intended for me was left at Grenada. I have sent a courier to meet Major Bankhead and if he has not a full supply of them the courier is to go on to Grenada to request Major Chambliss to send forward those left by Capt. Hart.

I have on the other side of and along White River a force of about 3,000 cavalry; near Brownsville I have 500; at and near this place I have 500; south of this place and along the Arkansas River I have about 2,000. If, therefore, Major Bankhead reaches me in due time, as from your dispatch and Major Chambliss's letter, received by same courier, I am led to believe he will, I will have, in a short time a force of from 26,000 to 29,000 infantry, about 6,000 cavalry, and 54 pieces of artillery. With that force I could, of course, annihilate any force the enemy has, or is likely to have, on this side of the Mississippi River.

As at present situated, however, I deem it the better course to remain where I am. Should I move upon Curtis at Helena, with the force I now have armed and equipped the chances of success and failure are about equal. He is in position there, with a force estimated to be even larger than mine. He would receive information of my approach by the time I got fairly across White River, and could re-enforce at pleasure, and the Mississippi flotilla could be ordered there to assist him, and finally rescue him, if defeated.

Upon the other hand, if he advances, the advantages are decidedly with me. It has been my purpose to allow him to advance into the interior, and away from his boats, it he would, when, with even my present armed force, I could, I am confident, annihilate him.

Furthermore, when I advance at all, it will be, of course, with the intention of making Arkansas secure, and then pushing forward into Missouri. My present armed force is sufficient for the latter purpose, if the other object can be attained. It can be done if Curtis is crushed and destroyed. She do it I succeed in my purpose, after arming my whole command, I expect to push forward toward the Missouri river with the greater vigor. It was to make that object sure that I have delayed the execution of your order, and have thus given you my reasons for taking that responsibility. I hope my motives will be properly construed and appreciated.

I am grateful to the Department for its prompt and liberal compliance with my requests. As I have said before, it would have been better to disband my force than to have kept it here without arms. Being now supplied, however, almost to the extent of my wants, I expect soon to commence active operations, and will try to give my Government a satisfactory return for its promptness in relieving my distress and anxiety. Very respectfully,

T. C. HINDMAN, Major-General Commanding.

Gen. S. COOPER, Adjutant-General, Richmond, Va.

In another communication I will give some further private correspondence of considerable interest, showing how little confidence can be placed on the conscript troops, the number of their desertions, and the severe measures resorted to to prevent desertion, shooting of deserters, &c. But enough for the present.

GUILBERT.

Rebel Correspondence Captured by Gen. Curtis's Scouts.

From Our Special Correspondent.

HELENA, ARK., Aug. 19, 1862.

In looking over a lot of recently-captured Rebel correspondence, I find many facts of interest in private letters that throw light on the progress of the rebellion, and modify the more confident and boastful statements of the official correspondence between the leaders. For instance, Gen. Hindman reports to the Adjutant-General at Richmond that he has 18,000 well-armed troops, 6,000 cavalry, and 4,000 men in camps of instruction. But he does not report what we discover from private correspondence, that a large portion of the force are conscripts serving against their will, and they are deserting daily taking their arms with them. Here is a letter from a private in the rebel army. Let us see what he says. His letter is dated August 1, at Camp Texas, near Little Rock:

"I have seen today a terrible sight on this side of White River, four deserters executed by order of Gen. Hindman. Deserters are leaving us constantly, going in companies of eight or ten in the same way. The company that I am in and Texas and Rusk's men are put together. I will tell the story as they frame it, and that is all I know of them. There is a great deal of dissatisfaction in this brigade. There was 10 left Marshall's Battalion last night. They take their arms with them. They are doing so all the time. They will all be gone. There is no other way to put a stop to it, but to put them to death."

The rest of the letter is devoted to domestic affairs. I might give the writer's name, but he writes so coolly that it might bring him into trouble, and as he is probably a conscript, and in the Rebel service against his will, I suppress it.

Several of the letters written about the same date refer to the execution in similar terms, and mention the fact of large desertions. The circumstance is also corroborated by the arrival of many conscript deserters in our own lines.

A few days ago a party of twenty-three reached Helena from Pond Bluff, and immediately enlisted in Col. Morgan's 1st Regiment of Arkansas Mounted Rangers, in the United States service. This regiment has already received 200 recruits in Helena. These 23 men had been pursued by men and bloodhounds, such are used for hunting slaves, but as they had brought their arms with them they turned upon their pursuers and stopped the pursuit. When they reached Helena their bruised and swollen feet were a sight to behold.

One poor boy writes his mother: "I am nearly crazy to hear from home, and imagine you are so to hear from me. I am well, I believe, with the exception of the colic. Ma, you must send me some clothes—shirts, pants, drawers, &c."

Another soldier writes his wife: "I am well, but don't know how long I shall remain so, for we get nothing to eat but beef and bread and the meanest beef you ever saw. And you know how it is cooked. I tell you that camp life is the hardest life I ever lived, but we are in it and must make the best of it we can. Our men are deserting every day or two."

Here is a specimen of Rebel patriotism, orthography and all:

LITTLE ROCK—ark Aug the 6th 18 & 62

DEAR BILL: I take my pen in hand to rite you a few lines. I am all the family is well and hopes these few lines will find you enjoying the same blessing. I have joined the army, cause this is a time when all men should rely around the flag of their country, while the heesian soldiers are role Abe Hickon is being quiet. I have joined bill spencer's regiment

all the boys got there new guns a few days since so that is delighted. I am nearly froze to try a screwed [Rebelled] on a duckman. You see I was the crack shot in all our settlement could hit the moon I cut every time 2 hundred yards and I have got a bet with tom spencer our captain's brother, that I can cut the nite I luv the 1st Yankey or duchman I draws head on.

no more at present, but yours till death do us part.

J. S. STONE.

Another, a Texas soldier, writes his mother in a strain of great boasting from Desark, puts his figures of killed and wounded Unionists at most extravagant numbers, and extols the bravery of Col. Parsons and his men from Texas. He says:

"We have not got a General but that can assume any command and be worth three dead Yankees. Col. Parsons has done every thing that has been done here in the way of fighting, our regiment has been in four engagements since we have been here. Our loss at Shout 25 killed and about 60 wounded. When we got to Little Rock, their was but one hundred and 20 killed there. Our regiment and them had to keep back about twelve thousand Federals. They was then within 50 yards of the piece. On our side none was killed, one of 250, twelve died on nights. Our loss was 3, and our number that fought was 104 Texans and 40 Arkansians. I was back that evening on the field, and the ground looked black with Dead."

The writer is very deficient in dates and places, and evidently intends to astonish his believing mother. He manages, however, to get in a little truth in the next paragraph:

"The next battle was on Cache River, close to where we now are encamped. Our old A.G. General had us into an ambush where the dole were. They fired on us about a half an hour before we saw them. Their number was about 10,000 at least, we at 4,000. The Arkansas troops run before they got in the field, and old Gen. Rust ran with them. Our regiment was in the advance, Col. Fitzhugh's next, and when they encountered fire from us, the old General run back with his coat of bravery in his pocket. He said afterward he went to send us reserve regiments, but he did not find them. When he got away he stayed away. There was but two regiments in the fight, and we had to retreat. Our loss was 16 killed and wounded."

It appears from the letter as well as from other sources, that the Texas troops have a great contempt for those of Arkansas. This was one of the difficulties that drove Albert Pike to resign his command. He appeared to think the Texans a mean set of fellows for riding their horses home on a thirty-days furlough, and all of them coming back with them mounted, to have that "nice little job," as he called it, done at the expense of Government. There is really but little unity between the Southern States, and their mutual antipathies would soon bring their Confederacy to an end, based as it is on the doctrine of Secession, if it were not destined to a speedy overthrow by the Union arms. GUILBERT.

FROM THE SOUTH-WEST.

Stirring News Expected.

ST. LOUIS, Monday, Aug. 25, 1862.

The Democrat of this city learns that on Thursday last Gen. Rosecrans, with an army of thirty or forty thousand men, proceeded south-west toward Jamtown, where about fifteen thousand Rebels are lying, under Gen. Armstrong. Gen. Price is at Tupelo, on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, with a force of twenty-five thousand men.

It is probable that, on being threatened, Gens. Price and Armstrong will combine their forces, and give Gen. Rosecrans battle.

The withdrawal of the forces under Gen. Rosecrans does not leave Corinth exposed, as enough men remain for all emergencies.

We shall likely have stirring news from Gen. Grant's army in a few days.

Movements of the Rebels in Kentucky.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Aug. 24, 1862.

A skirmish occurred yesterday between the Union forces under Gen. Metcalf and the Rebels, at Big Hill, Madison Co., Kentucky.

After a brief engagement Gen. Metcalf's forces withdrew to Richmond.

No particulars are given of the loss on either side.

There has been no telegraphic communication north of Russellville, Ky., since Thursday afternoon.

ONE DAY LATER FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE HIBERNIAN OFF CAPE RACE.

COTTON CONFERENCE IN LONDON.

Reception of the New Spanish Minister at Paris.

Napoleon on the Relation Between France and Spain.

MOVEMENTS OF GARIBALDI.

Another National Demonstration in Poland.

CAPE RACE, Saturday, Aug. 23, 1862. Via HALIFAX, N. S., Monday, Aug. 25.

The steamship Hibernian, from Liverpool on the 14th, via Londonderry on the 15th inst., passed this point at 4 o'clock this morning en route to Quebec. She was boarded by the news yacht of the Associated Press, and a summary of her news obtained.

The dates per the Hibernian are one day later than those per the Kangaroo.

England.

The Union gunboat Tuscarora suddenly left Kingstown at 12 o'clock on the morning of the 13th inst. It was reported that the cause of her leaving was an intimation from the Collector of the Customs that she was required to leave the harbor without delay. Her destination was unknown.

At a meeting of the Sheffield Town Council, an address was adopted to Lord Palmerston on the occasion of his recent visit to that town. A paragraph in the address favorable to the mediation of England in the American war was withdrawn, on the ground that Lord Palmerston had manifested the relations of England with such consummate wisdom and ability that he might safely be entrusted with the future course of events.

A conference on the subject of cotton supply had taken place in London. A deputation from the Cotton Supply Association met Commissioners from the countries which sent cotton samples to the International Exhibition. Representatives from Italy, Portugal, Spain, India, Australia, and sundry South American States were present. All made more or less encouraging representations of what those countries were capable of in the production of cotton.

The London Daily News has an editorial on the rapid expansion of the "emancipation scheme" in the proclamation of the American war. It says: "It was not to be expected that the Northern people would see at the outset that the extinction of Slavery was their true aim and the only practicable issue to put an end to the war. The extinction of Slavery is now undoubtedly becoming the master element of the struggle. The crisis is passing. Every moment makes new Abolitionists, and when there are enough of them to satisfy President Lincoln he will "speak the word and make the sign which will save the Republic."

At a meeting of the British North American Association in London, a resolution was passed highly approving of the colonial policy of the Duke of Newcastle.

France.

Gen. Concha, the new Spanish Embassador to Paris, had presented his credentials to the Emperor. He expressed the desire of Spain to maintain friendly relations with France, but made no allusion to Mexico.

The Marquis of Peppoli had arrived in Paris from Turin.

It was believed that his mission was to submit to the Emperor a plan for the occupation of Rome by a mixed garrison of French and Italian troops.

The Paris Bourse was firm and advancing. The closing price of the Rentes were 66f. 50c.

The Moniteur of the 13th inst. publishes an account of Gen. Concha's reception by the Emperor. The Emperor said:

"I have neglected no opportunity of testifying my lively sympathy for her Majesty the Queen of Spain, as well as my profound esteem for the Spanish nation. I have been surprised as well as grieved at the divergence of opinion which has arisen between the two Governments. It rests with the Queen alone to find me always a sincere ally, and the Spanish people a loyal friend who desires their greatness and prosperity."

Italy.

Garibaldi had returned to Caltanizetta on the morning