THE SITUATION IN KENTUCKY.

A Week of Turmoil and Excitement—Gen. Buell's Removal and Reinstatement—How it was Brought About—His Record—Unpopularity with his Army—The Fusion and Reorganization of the Armies of the Ohio and Kentucky—The General Advance Toward Central Kentucky, &c.

From Our Special Correspondent.

LOUISVILLE, Oct. 1, 1862.

Such turmoil—such excitement—such agitation as has been convulsing the military and modern world of these parts during the last ten days! There were first, the profound apprehensions and general defensive preparations in the early part of last week, consequent upon the intelligence of the advance of the united Rebel armies from Green River in the direction of Louisville. To the universal alarm and commotion created by the rapid concentration of a large army of old and new troops, and the general arming and impressing of the inhabitants for work upon the fortifications erecting night and day for the defense of the city, was added the noise and confusion of the advent of Gen. Buell's host of veterans. Then came the order of Gen. Halleck, directing the fusion of the armies of the Ohio and Kentucky for the purpose of reorganization into army corps, throwing the combined force of a hundred thousand men into a temporary state of chaotic dissolution, out of which to bring form and order in the face of the enemy, required ceaseless efforts on the part of the generals. Next, the tragic end of Gen. Nelson, at the hands of Gen. Davis, produced intense consternation, immediately followed by the exciting news of the removal in disgrace of Gen. Buell and the succession of Gen. Thomas to his command, and hardly abated by the subsequent reinstatement of the former. A chapter of history has been lived, the like of which Louisville will not again witness. Washington, in the most memorable pauses of its record of the last eighteen months, hardly furnishes a counterpart to it. The city was encircled by uninterrupted double lines of camps and bivouacks. The main streets were blocked up at all hours of the day and night with marching troops, long lines of artillery and endless trains of wagons. The sidewalks were constantly crowded with thousands of Buell's soldiers enjoying the long-missed comforts of city life during a brief relief from duty. The stores and markets were crammed with military customers from daybreak until dark. The hotels resembled vast beehives. But now the wild spectacle is closing. A day's march is already interposed between the bulk of the immense army that had tripled the population living within the limits of the city of Louisville. The deafening hum, clatter, and rumble of the last week is dying away from the streets, and in a few days the stir, pomp, and circumstance of war will again have given way to the comparative quiet, order, and regularity of the normal commercial life of the city.

Previous to the arrival of Gen. Buell, Gen. Nelson had organized the old regiments sent to him from Helena, and the new ones from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin into four divisions of three brigades each, under the name of the Army of Kentucky. He had just completed this work, when, with the advent of Gen. Buell, came an order from Gen. Halleck directing the fusion of the armies of the Ohio and Kentucky, and re-formation into three army corps of three divisions, each for immediate service in the field, with a proper reserve corps of new levies, which was to remain in camps of instruction at Louisville.

Gens. Buell and Nelson were occupied with acting upon the injunctions of this order, and the former likewise with providing for the manifold wants of his old army in pay, supplies, clothing, arms, ammunition, horses, &c., when they were both almost simultaneously cut short in their work—Gen. Buell, by an order, directing him to turn his command over to Major-Gen. Thomas, the officer next to him in rank by seniority, and repair without delay to Indianapolis to assume command of the paroled prisoners, and camps of instruction at that point, and Gen. Nelson by a bullet from Gen. Davis's revolver.

Upon the arrival of Gen. Buell in Louisville, a conflict of authority had necessarily ensued between him and Gen. Wright. Kentucky belongs to the Department of the latter, and hence all the Union troops within the State were properly subject to his orders. The matter was settled by the voluntary deference of Gen. Wright to Gen. Buell's superiority of rank by seniority. The order relieving the latter from command also defined the relations of his successor to Gen. Wright. According to it, Gen. Thomas was to have supreme control of affairs in Kentucky, while Gen. Wright was to continue in the chief administration of military matters in the other States belonging to his Department.

The facts transmitted to you by telegraph in regard to the mode and causes of the removal and subsequent restoration of Gen. Buell cover the case. It is well-known that for some months the popular sentiment throughout the States represented in the army of the Ohio has been most decidedly against him. Weeks ago, written and verbal requests for his removal were lodged in Washington by the most prominent men in the Northwest, including the majority of the Governors.

Gov. Johnson of Tennessee has also been earnestly at work for some time to secure the same object. Of late, many leading Kentuckians, in view of the Secession invasion and devastation of their State by nearly all the Rebel armies in the West, have added the weight of their influence to the pressure for the displacement of him whom they considered directly responsible for the present ruinous Rebel visitations of Kentucky. The voice of discontent from the army of Ohio likewise swelled the call for a change of its command. The estrangement of Gen. Buell from the confidence and good-will of his army since the battle of Shiloh has been complete. He was never what may be called popular with either officers or men, owing to the coldness and reserve of his personal and official manners and the distance at which he always kept those under him. He never knew nor found the way to the heart of his soldiers, which Gen. McClellan won so fully. He never visited a hospital or a camp kitchen—never since his army left Bowling Green even reviewed it in person, and confining his connection with it altogether to the issuing of orders. Now the want of sympathy between him and his command has grown into utter hatred and contempt on the part of the latter. I have visited almost every regiment of his old army since Saturday last, and am sincerely convinced that I state only the simple truth in saying that, with the exception of some of the Kentucky regiments nine out of every ten of the officers and men, from colonels down, expressed the most bitter dissatisfaction with his management since June last. The statement of *The Louisville Journal* that the majority of his division and brigade commanders joined in the request for his restoration is an infamous falsehood. I could name myself those of the former that rejoiced at his removal. I know also positively that two-thirds of the latter favored it. If the representations of Eastern correspondents as to the feelings of McDowell's command toward their General were true, the army of the Ohio and Gen. Buell furnish an exact counterpart to that sorry instance of repulsiveness of a general to his army.

It is understood here that Secretary Stanton has long ago become satisfied of the inadequacy of Gen. Buell to his trust, and was anxious for his removal, but that the President was disinclined to thwart the wishes of Gen. Halleck for his retention. How the objections of the latter were at last overcome has not authentically transpired, but it is presumed that the climax of Gen. Buell's inglorious, disastrous career in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama—the sacrifice of the garrison of Munfordsville—removed them.

It cannot for a moment be doubted that only the most conclusive evidence of incompetency, if nothing worse, can have induced the President not only to deprive Gen. Buell of his command, but also to disgrace him virtually by assigning him to the mentioned post at Indianapolis. Now, if Gen. Buell was both unfit and deserving of punishment, to what conclusions must not necessarily lead the fact that he was restored upon a simple telegraphic indorsement of his capacity by a few of the Generals commanding under him? Either that the charges against him were unweighty, and that, hence, his removal at the present critical stage of loyal interests in Kentucky was a grievous fault, or that the authorities in Washington are guilty of a readiness to forgive threatening the most fatal consequences to the cause. Whatever the reasons of the latter for their extraordinary course may have been, let it be remembered by the country that the restoration of Gen. Buell is due to the interference in his behalf of Gens. Thomas, Crittenden, Rousseau, Jackson and Wood, all Kentucksans. If the result of their efforts shall entail further disappointments upon the country, it will not be difficult to locate the responsibility for the replacement of the incubus that proved so disastrous during the Summer campaign in Tennessee and Alabama.

It will be well in this connection to state shortly the sins of omission and commission, that have been charged to Gen. Buell and formed the basis of the exertions for his removal and made him lose the confidence of his army. They are:

1. That all last Winter, with a force of over 60,000 men, he allowed himself to be held in check by the Rebel army at Bowling Green, having hardly encumbered his strength.

2. That, at the time of Gen. Grant's attack upon Forts Henry and Donelson, he utterly failed, although ordered and expected to do so, to make any movements with his immense army in support of the former.

3. That the advance of his army upon Nashville was slow and ill-managed.

4. That he idled away an entire month at Nashville, giving Gen. Johnson time to escape with the remnants of the Rebel army into Alabama, and concentrate his forces in the West at Corinth.

5. That his march from Nashville to Pittsburg Landing (120 miles in three weeks) was unnecessarily difficult—so much so that he came very near being too late to prevent the annihilation of General Grant's army at Shiloh.

6. That after marching his army into Northern Alabama from Corinth, he scattered it so as to render it incapable of offensive movements.

7. That it was in his power to take Chattanooga before Bragg arrived there with his army from Mississippi.

8. That instead of concentrating his army at once and moving upon Bragg's inferior force, he did not do so until Bragg commenced moving in a northward direction, and consequently was too late to prevent the former's invasion of Kentucky.

9. That by allowing himself to be occupied with the whole of his army by a portion of the Rebel force under Bragg, he enabled Kirby Smith's force to enter Kentucky, and render Gen. Morgan's position at the Cumberland Gap untenable.

10. That, although half of this army was at Bowling Green on the 21st ult.—three days before the first attack upon Col. Wilder's command at Munfordsville—and five divisions at Cave City, within a day's march of Green River, on the 15th, two days before the surrender, he made no effort whatever to come to the relief of the garrison, notwithstanding the urgent representations of several of his division commanders, but made no movement whatever for two days.

11. That although he was informed, after moving up to Green River, solely upon the assumption that the northward move of Bragg's army, that he was between the Rebels and their trains coming up from Tennessee, he took no measures to capture the latter, which would have been easy.

12. That although positive information had been laid before him by several of his Generals that Bragg's whole force did not exceed 30,000 with about 75 pieces of artillery, and although he had himself over 40,000 men with over twenty batteries, he did not attempt to force the enemy into battle south of Green River, which he could have done by simply moving forward, instead of lying still at Cave City, and hence enabled Bragg to increase his force by a junction with Kirby Smith and Marshall.

When the news of the removal of Gen. Buell became known in the bivouacks of his old army on Monday the most general satisfaction became manifest. Officers and men congratulated each other upon the consummation of their long-entertained wishes in the most enthusiastic manner. In many regiments the welcome tidings were received with cheers. The intelligence yesterday of his restoration, on the contrary, spread unmistakable gloom throughout the encampments.

The work of reorganization, temporarily interrupted by the removal of Gen. Buell and the death of Gen. Nelson, was resumed after the former's reinstatement, and, together with the re-outfitting of the old regiments, completed last night. It must be said that the immense labor thereby imposed was performed with remarkable rapidity and vigor. I doubt whether as much was ever accomplished in any Union army in so short a time as in the army around this city during the last forty-eight hours.

Under the new organization the army is now composed as follows:

FIRST CORPS—MAJOR-GEN. M'COOK COMMANDING.
Second Division—Brigadier-Gen. Sill (formerly Colonel 21st Ohio).
Third Division—Brigadier-Gen. Rousseau.
Tenth Division—Brigadier-Gen. Jackson.

SECOND CORPS—MAJOR-GEN. CRITTENDEN COMMANDING.
Fourth Division (Nelson's old)—Brigadier-Gen. Smith (formerly Colonel 1st Ohio).
Fifth Division—Brigadier-Gen. Van Dorn (formerly Colonel 2d Maryland).
Sixth Division—Brigadier-Gen. Wood.

THIRD CORPS—MAJOR-GEN. GILBERT (FORMERLY THOMAS).
First Division—Brigadier-Gen. Schoepff.
Ninth Division—Brigadier-Gen. Mitchell of Kansas.
Eleventh Division—Brigadier-Gen. Dumont.

Gen. Buell is Commander-in-Chief, and Gen. Thomas second in command of the whole.

Each of the divisions is composed of three brigades, with the exception of Gen. Jackson's, which is wholly composed of new regiments, of four old and one new regiments each. A powerful complement of artillery and cavalry is also attached to each corps.

The reserve force to be formed at this point out of raw regiments already arrived and to arrive, will be under the command of Brig.-Gen. Boyle. Two additional divisions, at least, will be organized.

A fourth army corps will be formed at Cincinnati, under Maj. Gen. Granger, to consist of the division of Gen. Morgan, from the Cumberland Gap, now on its way to the Ohio River over a route to the east of Lexington, and the new troops in camp at Newport and Covington. The fourth corps will operate along the Kentucky Central Railroad, and converge with the other three in the central part of the State.

With the 7th and 8th divisions of Gens. Negley and Paine, now garrisoning Nashville, the Army of the Ohio will consist, after the formation of the 4th corps, of no less than eighteen divisions—a force more than twice as large as that arrayed last Fall upon the soil of Kentucky.

It is understood that peremptory orders for immediate offensive movements, aiming at the expulsion of the Rebel armies from Kentucky, were received yesterday. A council of war of several hours' duration, composed of Gens. Thomas and Buell, and all their division commanders, was held at a late hour last night, and a plan for the campaign at once to be opened agreed upon. The troops had orders to be ready to march at a moment's notice since Monday morning, and immediately upon the adjournment of the council of commanders for a general advance at 6 o'clock this morning, and accordingly the immense columns, representing the three corps moved out the suburbs over three separate roads leading toward Central Kentucky. The troops will all move "light," that is, without knapsacks, tents, and baggage of any description.

The haste and energy with which military matters have been pushed on may be judged from the fact that many of the new regiments joined the old brigades only on the road this morning, and that paymasters, quartermasters, commissaries and ordnance officers worked all last night.

THE SECOND BATTLE OF BULL RUN.

Gen. Schenck's Report (by his Aid).

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17, 1862.

GENERAL: I have the honor to make the following report of the part taken by the 1st Division 1st Army Corps, Army of Virginia, in the battle of Friday, the 30th ult., at Bull Run:

On Thursday, the 29th ult., we left Buckland Mills, pressing through Gainesville, and proceeded on the Manassas Junction pike to within four miles of that place, and then turned easterly, marching easterly toward Bull Run. The scouts in advance reported a force of the enemy, consisting of infantry and cavalry, in front. We were hurried forward and formed line of battle with our right toward Centreville. Some few shells were thrown into a clump of woods in front, where the enemy were last seen, but without eliciting any response. Some two hours elapsed when heavy firing was heard on our left, which we concluded was from McDowell's corps and the enemy who had worked around from our front in that direction. We were immediately put in motion and marched on the Warrenton road and took position for the night on a little hill east of "Stonehouse," our right resting on the pike. On Friday morning early the engagement was commenced by Gen. Milroy on our right, in which we soon after took part, and a rapid artillery fire ensued from both sides.

For some time heavy columns of the enemy could be seen filing out of a woods in front, and gradually falling back. They were within range of our guns, which were turned on them, and must have done some execution. An hour after we received the order to move one brigade by the flank to the left and advance, which was done. We here obtained a good position for artillery, and stationed De Beck's 1st Ohio Battery, which did excellent service, dismounting one of the enemy's guns, blowing up a caisson, and silencing their battery. Unfortunately, however, they were poorly supplied with ammunition, and soon compelled to withdraw. Our two brigades were now put in motion. Gen. Stahl, commanding 1st brigade, marching around the right of the hills to a hollow in front, was ordered to draw up in line of battle and halt. Col. McLean advanced around the left of the hill, under cover of the woods, pressing gradually forward until he struck the turnpike at a white house, about one-half mile in advance of the stone house. Gen. Milroy's brigade arrived about the same time. We here halted, and sent back for Gen. Stahl, who took the pike and soon joined us.

We then formed our line of battle in the woods to the left of the pike, our right resting on the road, and then pushed on slowly. Milroy, in the mean time, had deployed to the right of the road, and soon became engaged with the enemy. Our division was advanced until we reached the edge of the woods and halted. In front of us was an open space (which also extended to the right of the road and to our right) beyond which was another wood. We remained here nearly an hour, the firing meanwhile becoming heavy on the right. The enemy had a battery very advantageously placed on a high ridge behind the woods in front of Milroy on the right of the road. It was admirably served and entirely concealed. Our position becoming known, their fire was directed toward us. The General determined, therefore, to advance, and so pushed on across the open space in front and took position in the woods beyond; we here discovered that we were on the battle-ground of the night before, and found the hospital of Gibbon's brigade, who had engaged the enemy. The battery of the enemy still continued. We had no artillery, De Beck's and Schirmer's having given out, and Buell's Battery, which had reported after a hot contest with the enemy (who have every advantage in position and range), was compelled to retire. It was now determined to flank the battery and capture it, and for this purpose Gen. Schenck ordered one of his aides to reconnoiter the position. Before he returned, however, we were requested by Gen. Milroy to assist him, as he was very heavily pressed. Gen. Stahl was immediately ordered to proceed with his brigade to Milroy's support. It was about this time, 1 or or 2 o'clock, that a line of skirmishers were observed approaching us from the rear; they were of Gen. Reynolds's Division. We communicated with Gen. Reynolds at once, who took his position on our left; and at Gen. Schenck's suggestion he sent a battery to our right, in the woods, for the purpose of flanking the enemy's. They secured a position, and were engaged with him about an hour, but with what result we were not informed. Gen. Reynolds now sent us word that he had discovered the enemy bearing down upon his left in heavy columns, and that he intended to fall back to the first woods, behind the cleared space, and had already put his troops in motion. We therefore accommodated ourselves to his movements. It was about this time that your order came to press toward the right. We returned answer that the enemy were in force in front of us, and that we could not do so without leaving the left much exposed. Gen. Schenck again asked for some artillery. Gen. Stahl's brigade that had been sent to Gen. Milroy's assistance, having accomplished its object under a very severe fire, had returned, and soon after Gen. Stevens reported with two regiments of infantry and a battery of four twenty-pound Parrott guns. With these reinforcements we determined to advance again, and reoccupy the woods in front of the cleared space, and communicated this intention to Gen. Reynolds. He, however, had fallen back on our left some distance to the rear; he was, therefore, requested to make his connections with our left. The Parrotts in the mean while were placed in position, and under the admirable management of Lieut. Benjamin, did splendidly.

Two mountain howitzers, also reported, and were placed on our right in the edge of the woods, near the road, and commenced shelling the woods in front of the open space, which were now occupied by the enemy, our skirmishers having previously fallen back.

The artillery fire now became very severe, and Gen. Schenck was convinced that it was very essential that he should have another battery, and so sent me to you to get one. I arrived to find one, Capt. Romer's, just starting. You also directed to order Gen. Schenck to fall gradually back, as he was too far forward. This he had perceived, and anticipating fell slowly back, placing his division behind the slope of the hill in front of the one we had occupied in the morning. Capt. Romer's battery in the mean while had taken position in front of the white house, on the right of the pike, a little in advance of the hill on which we were. Lieut. Benjamin's battery had suffered severely, so much so that he reported only one section fit for duty, the other having lost all its cannoniers. They were placed in position and fired one or two rounds at the woods in front of the position we had just left.

We were now ordered to descend the hills, cross the road, and take up our position behind the house, in front of which was Capt. Romer's Battery. This we did, deploying the brigades in line of battle, the 2d Brigade in front and the 1st Brigade in the rear. We remained so during the night. The above report is respectfully submitted, with the remark that it is made without any communication with Gen. Schenck, he being severely wounded, and prevented by his surgeons from attending to any business whatever. And although fully assured that the main points are correct, there may have been some orders or movement, of minor importance which, in my position as Aide-de-Camp, carrying orders, might not have come within my notice.

I am, General, your most obedient servant,
WM. H. CHESEBROUGH, A. D. C. & A. A. G.,
1st Div. 1st Corps, Army of Virginia.

To Major-Gen. F. SIGEL, Commanding 1st Corps, Army of Virginia.

Gen. Doubleday's Report.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST DIVISION, FIRST ARMY CORPS, Near Sharpsburg, Va., Sept. 19, 1862.

MAJOR: I have the honor to report that this Division left the Monocacy at 6 a. m. September 14, and arrived at the Catoctin about 12½ p. m. Here the column halted until 2½ p. m., when Brig. Gen. Hatch assumed the command in place of Gen. King, who was assigned to other duty.

The enemy's position was on the summit of South Mountain. To avoid the fire of his batteries, the Division was diverged from the main road, and struck off in a by-road to the right, which led to a stone Church at the foot of the Mountain, where we found Gen. Hooker and his staff. The Division at this time consisted of Doubleday's, Patrick's, and Phelps's (late Hatch's) Brigades, Gen. Gibbon having been detached with his Brigade on special service.

The general order of battle was for two regiments of Patrick's Brigade to precede the main body, deployed as skirmishers, and supported by Patrick's two remaining regiments; these to be followed by Phelps's Brigade 200 paces in the rear, and this in turn by Doubleday's Brigade, with the same interval. In accordance with this disposition, Gen. Patrick deployed the 21st New-York, under Col. Rogers, as skirmishers on the right, and the 20th New-York, under Col. Lord, on the left, supporting the former with the 23d New-York, Col. Gates, and the latter with the 23d New-York, Col. Hofman. By the Hatch's order, Phelps's Brigade advanced in column of divisions at half distance, preserving the intervals of deployment. My Brigade advanced in the same order. On reaching a road part way up the mountain, and parallel to its summit, each brigade deployed in turn and advanced in line of battle. Col. Phelps's Brigade, owing to an accidental opening, proceeded for awhile in line of skirmishers, but soon halted and advanced in line some thirty paces in the rear. Gen. Patrick rode to the front with his skirmishers, drew the fire of the enemy, and developed their position. They lay behind a fence on the summit, running North and South, fronted by woods and backed by a corn-field full of rocky ledges.

Col. Phelps now ordered his men to advance, and Gen. Hatch rode through the lines, pressing them forward. They went in with a cheer, poured in a deadly fire and drove the enemy from his position behind the fence, after a sharp and desperate conflict, and took post some yards beyond. Here Gen. Hatch was wounded, and turned over the command to me, and as, during the action, Col. Wainwright, 7th New-York Vols., was also wounded, the command of my Brigade subsequently devolved upon Lieut.-Col. Hofman, 23d Penn. Vols.

Phelps's Brigade being few in number and having suffered severely, I relieved them just at dusk with my Brigade, reduced by former engagements to about a thousand men, who took position beyond the fence referred to, the enemy being in heavy force some thirty or forty paces in our front. They pressed heavily upon us, attempting to charge at the least cessation of our fire. At last I ordered the troops to cease firing and lie down behind the fence, and allowed the enemy to charge within about fifteen paces, apparently under the impression that we had given way. Then at the word my men sprang to their feet and poured in a deadly volley from which the enemy fled in disorder leaving their dead within thirty feet of our line. I learned from a wounded prisoner that we were engaged with 4,000 to 5,000 under the immediate command of Gen. Pickett, with heavy masses in their vicinity. He stated, also, that Longstreet in vain tried to rally the men, calling them his pets, and using every effort to induce them to renew the attack.

The firing on both sides still continued, my men aiming at the flashes of the enemy's muskets, as it was too dark to see objects distinctly, until our cartridges were reduced to two or three rounds. Gen. Ricketts now came from the right, and voluntarily relieved my men at the fence, who fell back some ten paces, and lay down on their arms. A few volleys from Ricketts ended the contest in about thirty minutes, and the enemy withdrew from the field. Not, however, until an attempt to flank us on our left, which was valiantly met by a partial change of front of the 76th New-York, under Col. Wainwright, and the 7th Indiana, under Major Grover. In this attempt the enemy lost heavily, and were compelled to retreat in disorder.

While the main attack was going on at the fence referred to, Col. Rogers, with his own, and Lieut.-Col. Gates's Regiments—the 20th and 21st New-York Vols., of Patrick's Brigade—rendered most essential service by advancing his right and holding a fence bounding the north-east side of the same corn field, anticipating the enemy, who made a furious rush to seize this fence but were driven back. Col. Rogers was thus enabled to take the enemy in flank, and also to pick off their cannoneers, and silence a battery which was on their right and behind their main body.

Our men remained in position all night, sleeping on their arms, and ready for any attack, but with the dawn it was discovered that the enemy had fled, leaving large numbers of dead and wounded. Among the former was Col. J. B. Strange of the 19th Virginia, and some other officers whose names I am unable to report.

I desire to mention in terms of just commendation Gen. Patrick, whose long experience and cool bravery were never better attested; Col. Phelps, commanding Hatch's Brigade, and Col. Wainwright and Lieut.-Col. Hofman, commanding in turn my own Brigade. Their gallantry and good conduct did much toward winning the victory.

I desire, also, to mention Capt. E. P. Halsted, A. A. G., and Lieut. B. F. Martien, A. D. C., who carried my orders faithfully into the thickest of the fight, and who each spent several hours in the night in the difficult and dangerous task of verifying the enemy's position; also, Capt. George F. Noyes, C. S., who stood upon the fence during the hottest of the fire cheering on the men, and otherwise rendering me valuable assistance.

I inclose herewith a tabular statement of the killed and wounded. I am, Major, very respectfully,
Your obd't serv't,
A. DOUBLEDAY,
Brig.-Gen. Vols., Comd'g Division.

Maj. Jos. DICKINSON, A. A. G.

Gross Misrepresentations Corrected.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: The Port Royal correspondents of *The World* and *The Times*, in their issues of the 4th instant, have made some statements in regard to Gen. Saxton's administration as Governor of the Department of the South, which are not in accordance with the facts, and are apparently designed to prejudice the minds of the people to their and the Government's injury.

As the statements are substantially the same in both papers, I beg you will publish the following from *The World*, with the accompanying explanations:

The department consisting of Fort Pulaski, Fernandina, St. Augustine, Key West, and Tortugas, is under the command of Brig.-Gen. Terry, who has administered its affairs with great judgment. A few weeks since, Brig.-Gen. Rufus Saxton, Military Governor of South Carolina, ordered Lieut.-Col. Beard, Forty-eighth New-York, who is Provost-Marshal of the department, to proceed to St. Augustine and administer an oath of allegiance to all the residents, male and female, of the place and to transport all who refused to take it to Jacksonville, which is within the enemy's lines. He also ordered him to transport thither all of the women and children, whose husbands and fathers are in the Confederate service, without affording them the opportunity of taking the oath. By the way, the proposed oath was not merely in the usual form, but was one got up for the occasion, of tremendous stringency, exacting not alone of allegiance to the United States, but of hatred to the Confederacy, and calculated to leave them without the hope of mercy in case they, the jurors, should fall into the enemy's hands.

This step Gen. Saxton took without once asking permission of Gen. Terry, who is not alone the commander of that Department, within which Gen. Saxton has no show of authority, but who is also the senior in rank of Gen. S. The Provost-Marshal set out on his odious business, and found some 70 women and 60 or 70 children amenable to the proposed penalty. They were ordered to get ready to leave; so they hastily sold their little effects for whatever they could get, abandoned their almost ripened grapes, changed their money into Confederate notes, and were put on board the General Burnside, to be transported to Jacksonville. The whole movement was an act of gratuitous cruelty worthy of our enemies.

Meanwhile, Gen. Terry learned what had taken place and hastened to put a stop to the proceeding. The order was revoked, the women and children restored to their homes, and the commanders of posts were ordered not to receive any orders from Gen. Saxton.

The following is a copy of the instructions of Gen. Saxton to Lieut.-Col. Beard, in reference to the people of St. Augustine. The people can judge as to the justice and humanity, as well as warlike wisdom of the order:

Col. BEARD, Provost-Marshal-General, Department of the South.

SIR: It has recently come to my notice that there are females now living in St. Augustine, Fla., whose husbands are in the Rebel army, and in arms against the United States, and who are now receiving rations from our Government. You will please proceed without delay to that place, and arrest such persons and send them to Jacksonville, Fla., out side of our lines, that they may join their husbands. You are directed to administer the oath of allegiance to the United States to all other persons who are willing to take it.

All non-combatants, or persons not capable of bearing arms, who decline to take the oath of allegiance, will also be sent to Jacksonville. Tell those persons who are capable of bearing arms who will swear fealty to our Government that they will be sent North.

All those who take the oath of allegiance to the United States, except females whose husbands are in arms against us, will be allowed to pursue their usual avocations unmolested. I rely upon your judgment and discretion to carry out these instructions in the proper spirit, not harshly, but with that mildness and firmness which their delicate nature demands.

I am, very truly yours,
R. SAXTON, Brigadier-General U. S. A.

It will be observed that the females "whose husbands," not "fathers," as the correspondent asserts, are in the Rebel army and in arms against the United States, and who are now receiving rations from the Government, "were to be sent across the lines."

The only oath required of the people, as is seen by the order, was "the oath of allegiance," and not one "of hatred to the Confederacy," as the correspondent unfortunately asserts.

Again: the correspondent says this step was taken without asking permission of Gen. Terry, who outranks Gen. Saxton, and in whose command Gen. S. has no show of authority.

I beg leave to say

1. That Gen. Saxton outranks Gen. Terry.

2. That he was clothed with authority "to banish or retain" any and all civilians within the entire Department of the South, according as the interests of the Government, in his judgment, might demand, and in this his action was not dependent upon even the commander of the Department.

3. That for the banishment of the class of women referred to by the correspondent, Gen. Saxton had the positive sanction, not only of the General Commanding, but of the Government also, as I can bear witness.

It is to be regretted that the correspondent should so far misrepresent the facts, and with an apparent intention to prejudice the public mind against the administration of Gen. Saxton.

The people need no other assurances as to the wisdom and efficiency of Gen. S.'s management of the affairs of his Department than to know that his transactions have all been reported to and fully approved by the Government; and that now, with improved health, with extended powers, and the most cordial assurances of confidence and support, he returns this week to his field. I may be allowed to say, those who know him best only wish we had more like him.

M. FRENCH, Chaplain U. S. A.

New-York, Oct. 6, 1862.

OUR LOCAL MILITARY POSTS.

Description of Our Harbor Defenses, and How They Are Occupied—The Three Islands, Governor's, Bedloe's, and Ellis—The "Northern Bastile"—Fort Hamilton—Fortifications on Staten Island.

The necessity of providing more adequately for the defense of our city against even the possibility of a maritime attack, occupies the public mind spasmodically. Unfavorable political intelligence from England, rumored European intervention, or the appearance of a Merrimac, occasionally startle our citizens into the consideration of how far they are prepared to make a successful resistance against the powerful navies of England or France. Plans and theories are propounded by public men and private individuals, all of them perfect in the opinion of their originators, but none adopted. Meantime the General Government slowly continues the work of preparation which was commenced years ago, but suspended from time to time as appropriations became exhausted. It is only within the last twelve months that the Ordnance Department has been enabled to take in hand the work of providing suitable armament for the fortifications already existing and in progress around New-York. During that time about 300 guns have been mounted, and the work is still going on.

In view of the interest which naturally attaches to the fortifications which guard the approaches to this city, we append brief descriptions of the various works on the islands off the Battery, and of the forts and batteries at the Narrows.

GOVERNOR'S ISLAND.

This pleasant little island, although not the most important post for the protection of New-York, still stands first in both local and general interest, being the headquarters of the General Recruiting Service for the regular army, and having the largest permanent garrison of any stronghold in this vicinity. The area of the island is about twenty acres. It is well supplied with tolerable water—a new spring having just been discovered on the Western side of the island close by the beach—well stocked with shade-trees, and is in every other respect adapted for a depot for the reception, drilling, and equipment of recruits, and, what is of equal if not more consequence, for their retention after they are once safely landed there. The main fortification, and the one which would be of the most service in case of an attack on New-York is Fort Columbus, a star-shaped fort, in the center of the island, built on the site of old Fort Jay of Revolutionary memory, which was demolished in 1806. It mounts 105 guns, of which 87 are of heavy caliber. The permanent garrison of the island is inside Fort Columbus, which will accommodate about 500 men.

Castle William, commonly so called, but properly Castle Williams, as it is named after Col. Jonathan Williams (who died in 1815), a distinguished officer of Engineers, under whose superintendence it was constructed—Castle Williams is a circular building, situated on the western extremity of the Island, on the point of rocks. When it was built, now nearly half a century ago, it was supposed to be very strong, both for offensive and defensive operations, but the modern improvements in ordnance considerably lessen its power in these respects. Castle Williams has two tiers of casemate guns and one of barbette guns, representing a total of 78 guns, large and small. The quarters for the men are in the third story, between the second tier of casemates and the terreplein. Upward of 1,500 Rebel prisoners, principally from Hatteras and Newbern, were confined here for many months. The castle is now used as a receptacle or temporary prison for runaway volunteers, whom the military authorities, through the medium of the Metropolitan Police, are arresting when found at large without passes. Several Rebel prisoners of war are there also.

The third, and last, fortification on Governor's Island is the South Battery, mounting thirteen guns, and guarding the narrow channel between the southern extremity of the island and Brooklyn. The field musicians, to the number of about 120—drummers, fifers, and buglers—are quartered here, under the immediate charge of the Drum-Major. In addition to being taught the usual duties of music boys, they have to attend school three hours a day, and go to church (Episcopal or Catholic, as the case may be) on Sundays.

The New-York Arsenal—a general depot for ordnance and ordnance stores of all descriptions—is situated on Governor's Island, and is under the charge of Major R. H. K. Whiteley, of the U. S. Ordnance Department.

The troops stationed on the Island at the present date are: Companies A, E and F of the general service; a small company of general service recruits, unassigned; the nucleus of a battalion of the 3d and 7th Infantry; Co. B, music boys, and several regimental non-commissioned officers and men on detached service, the whole making an aggregate of about 500 men.

There are 17 officers attached to the post, some of them only temporarily. The principal officers are: Colonel G. Loomis, 5th Infantry, commanding; Dr. William J. Sloan, Medical Director of transports; Dr. White, Post-Surgeon; Captain William Clinton, 10th Infantry, Executive Officer; Lieutenant Billings B. Childs, 6th Infantry, Adjutant, Quartermaster and Commissary, and Lt. James S. Casey, 5th Infantry, Provost Marshal. The Post Chaplaincy is at present vacant, Dr. McVickar, the late Chaplain having resigned.

BEDLOE'S ISLAND.

Bedloe's Island, though not so large as Governor's Island, is a pleasanter place, having a clear sweep of the harbor up to the Narrows, and a fine view of the North River. It is strongly fortified. The name of the fortification is Fort Wood, called after Lieut.-Col. Eleazer D. Wood of the U. S. Corps of Engineers, who was killed September 17, 1814, in Gen. Brown's sortie from Fort Erie, while leading and directing a column on the British batteries and siege-works. Some years ago Bedloe's Island was the principal depot for general service recruits enlisted in the Eastern Department, the superintendent of the recruiting service having at that time his headquarters in State street, but of late years it has seldom been inhabited except by the ordnance sergeant in charge of the guns and ordnance stores. At the present time it is one vast hospital, more than 1,000 sick, wounded and convalescent soldiers being quartered there, the majority in hospital tents and temporary buildings, or shanties. Dr. Brown, son of Brigadier-Gen. Harvey Brown, is in charge, but will shortly leave for his regiment, the 4th Excelsior, of which he is surgeon.

ELLIS ISLAND.

For offensive purposes this Island would not be of much avail, although its complement of guns, in Fort Gibson, is fifteen, twelve of which are heavy. The fort is named after Col. James Gibson, 4th Rifles, who was mortally wounded in the same sortie where Col. Wood lost his life. Ellis Island is now a naval magazine, supplying powder to all our vessels of war leaving this port.

FORT LAFAYETTE.

This work, formerly called Fort Diamond, will stand prominently forth in the history of this rebellion, as the prison where suspected persons were confined for various terms, and then honorably discharged without trial. This fort mounts 26 guns, when fully armed, and would no doubt do some execution on Fort Richmond, on the Staten Island side of the Narrows, in case of invasion. Lieut. Charles O. Wood, of the 9th U. S. Infantry, has been in command of Fort Lafayette ever since it was used as a military prison. The present garrison consists of part of two companies of the 2d Battalion, 12th regular Infantry.

FORT HAMILTON.

This is the third fort of the same name. One was commenced on Rose Island, Newport Harbor, but never finished; the other was built in 1791, by Gen. St.Clair, at the crossing of the Great Miami, on the present site of the town of Hamilton, in Butler county; but it is now effaced. These forts were named after Major-General Hamilton. Fort Hamilton, New-York Harbor, is located on the left of the Narrows, on the bluffs overlooking Fort Lafayette. It is a strong fort, with casemate guns fronting the Narrows and barbette guns on the ramparts, and is also crenellated for musketry. It mounts forty-five heavy guns, and seventy-three of smaller size, besides a field battery on the terrace in front of the fort, opposite the main entrance. The redoubt of Fort Hamilton mounts twenty-six guns when fully armed.

Fort Hamilton is at present the headquarters of the 5th United States Artillery (new) and 12th United States Infantry (new). For the latter regiment new barracks were built last Fall, but half the building has been taken for a hospital for sick and wounded volunteers, the post hospital being a very small affair. The troops now at Fort Hamilton are, one company of the 5th Artillery, part of a company of the 12th Infantry, paroled prisoners belonging to the 3d Artillery, 12th Infantry, and other regiments; about two companies of the 3d New-York Volunteer Cavalry, and a number of sick and wounded regulars and volunteers, in all upward of 1,000 men. The principal officers stationed there are Brevet Brig.-Gen. Harvey Brown, Colonel 5th Cavalry and Military Commandant of New-York; Lieut.-Col. Martin Burke, 3d Artillery, commanding post, and also in general charge of political prisoners; Major Henry B. Clitz, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, wounded; Major Luther B. Bruen, commanding 12th Infantry; Lieut. Edwin M. Coates, Adjutant 12th Infantry; Lieut. Henry A. Du Pont, Adjutant 5th Artillery.

THE FORTIFICATIONS ON STATEN ISLAND.

The formidable range of fortifications on Staten Island will, when completed, make the Narrows as dangerous a place of ingress for any hostile fleet as stone and guns can make them. There will be a grand total of three hundred and fifteen guns—the concentrated iron hail from which would sink any vessel afloat. These guns are distributed as follows: Fort Richmond, 140; Fort Tompkins, 90; Redoubt of Fort Tompkins, 26; Battery Hudson, 50; Battery Morton, 9. The batteries are complete, and Fort Richmond nearly so—it is now in charge of an ordnance-sergeant, but is not garrisoned—but Fort Tompkins will require some time and labor before it is ready to receive its complement of guns. Fort Richmond takes its name from Richmond County, in which it is located; Fort Tompkins, from Gov. D. D. Tompkins, and Battery Morton, from Major-Gen. Morton, New-York State Artillery.

ANOTHER MONITOR.—The iron-clad Monitor Montauk will be launched from the yard of T. F. Rowland (Continental Works), Greenpoint, on Thursday morning, at 10 o'clock.

FROM PHILADELPHIA.

**Effect of the Proclamation—The End Coming—Two Striking Facts—Our Latent Strength—The Cor