New-York Daily Tribune.

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FROM GENERAL BURNSIDE'S ARMY.

The Enemy's Left Wing Strongly Re-enforced.

It Now Extends Far Beyond Our Extreme Right.

ACTIVE WORK IN FORTIFYING IT.

A FLANKING DEMONSTRATION ANTICIPATED.

Important Change of Position by Army Corps.

The Rebels Have 180 Guns in Position.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, Dec. 10, 1862.

The following was received to-day from one of our special correspondents with Burnside's army:

HEADQUARTERS RIGHT GRAND DIVISION, NEAR FALMOUTH, Dec. 9—10 a. m.

Observations made during yesterday and this morning from these headquarters confirm the belief that a large force has been added to the enemy's left within the last three days. That Rebel wing now extends on the opposite side of the river far beyond the extreme right.

The Rebel reinforcements have been incessantly at work since yesterday morning, notwithstanding the extreme hardness of the ground from frost, in strengthening their position by the construction of intrenchments, and posting of batteries. The presumption that they consist of Stonewall Jackson's forces seems correct.

During the last two days no information from the other side has reached these headquarters, neither through citizens or deserters, and our knowledge of Rebel doings is solely derived from occular sources.

The manifest massing of Rebel troops in front of and beyond our right, is looked upon by some as an indication of an extended flanking demonstration. The distribution of our forces, however, is such, that an attempt in that direction by the enemy cannot well be successful.

The weather moderated so considerably toward noon yesterday, that reviews, parades and drills took place in all the corps. Last night, however, was again intensely cold. Several soldiers are reported to have frozen to death since the commencement of the cold spell.

The general health of the army, however, continues good. Efforts to secure more comfortable quarters by the erection of log-huts continue throughout the army. The troops evidently doubt the probability of any early agressive movements. But there are, nevertheless, good reasons for the belief that they will have the benefit of the result of their labors only for a short time. The physical exercise involved in this general house-building tends greatly to promote the healthfulness of the army.

To the Associated Press.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Wed., Wednesday Dec. 10, 1862.

Gen. Burnside to-day visited Gens. Sumner and Hooker's commands. The troops on parade uproariously cheered him as he passed.

The energy of the Quartermasters of Commissaries, has placed the army in such a condition that no want can be anticipated for some time to come.

The hardness of the roads and increased facilities on the railroad have enabled the Quartermaster's Department to bring forward from the shipping points a large amount of supplies above the daily consumption. Should the army be put in motion at any hour, these departments will be found in excellent condition.

A large number of officers are daily arriving from furloughs and resuming their active duties in camp.

There has been considerable change of position of several army corps within the past few days, foreshadowing future movements of importance.

It is stated to-day by trustworthy observers that the enemy have 180 guns in position on the south side of the Rappahannock, some of which are of heavy caliber.

An Old Virginia Mansion—A Remnant of the Fitzhugh Estate—How its Negroes were Hurried Off—When the Great Battle—Strange Tactics by the Rebels—Deplorable Condition of the Rebel Army.

From Our Special Correspondent.

ON THE FRONT, 15 miles below Fredericksburg, Dec. 7, 1862.

I am writing again from one of the old mansions of Virginia, whose foundations were laid in the Seventeenth Century, but to whose superstructure additions have been made all along to the Nineteenth. It is a fine old place, commanding a beautiful view of the river and the valley for many miles to the east and west. Long lines of negro huts stretch to the north and south, but not a single inhabitant is to be found therein save a few poor old horses and cows, which have been placed there for protection from camp marauders. Many years ago its proprietor boasted of his thousands of acres, and his 200 or 300 negroes. Now, one of his descendants cultivates but a few hundred acres, and owns not a single slave. The only negro on the plantation is an active, intelligent fellow, who purchased his own freedom several years ago, and now receives for his labor $15 per month and his board. The plantation is one of the small remnants of that immense Fitzhugh estate, which, according to Bishop Meade, originally contained 54,000 acres. It has been cultivated for more than two centuries. Fields have been cultivated until they were worn out, then abandoned until dense pine forests covered them, then were again cleared and prepared for cultivation, and so alternating through the decades from timber to tobacco and wheat. Here, too, generation after generation, and crop after crop of negroes have been raised and sold, but instead of adding to the wealth of that proud old family, have at last almost impoverished it. The Fitzhugh family, as all know who are familiar with the history of Virginia, was one of the most aristocratic in Virginia. William Fitzhugh, the founder on this side of the Atlantic, lived really like one of the old English Barons, and during his life wielded quite as much power, having been a man of talent, culture, and force of character, as well as possessed of great wealth. But very little of his vast estate now remains in his family, although branches of it are found all along the valley, from Fredericksburg to the Chesapeake.

Last Spring, just before the advance of Gen. McDowell, 54 negroes occupied the huts I have just spoken of. Five of them were hastily packed in a big Virginia wagon, and trundled off in the direction of Richmond. The rest, more fortunate, anticipating the movement, escaped to our lines, and are now scattered through the North. The old mansion and the empty negro huts now look cold and desolate. And yet there is something attractive about it, and as the snow falls rapidly and the cold northeast wind shrieks and howls around the corners, and the log fire of pine knots crackles and snaps on the wide fire-place, I much prefer my seat before it than the most comfortable one under the most prominent General's tent—warmed and made pleasant as they are by many Yankee contrivances. My host, too, is a very pleasant, agreeable gentleman, and talks about his losses without cursing and swearing at the universe in general and the Yankee army in particular. As yet the present army now slowly approaching the river has disturbed him but little. His fences are in good condition, his stacks of wheat untouched, his cattle quietly eating corn-husks in the fields. But before the close of another week, as if a flock of Egyptian locusts had settled upon his plantation, he expects all to disappear. Patiently and philosophically he awaits the coming of the marauders. He has seen what has taken place in the vicinity of Fredericksburg, and has prepared his mind to witness a similar desolation of his own plantation.

In my last I predicted a battle before the close of the week. The week passed, and instead of a battle to describe I am compelled to fall back for material for my letter upon the minor incidents of the campaign. When there will be a battle I shall not again predict. Having failed twice, I think I should throw the responsibility of arousing public expectation upon some one else. Christmas is coming, and so I hope is Richmond, and that is all I shall now say about it.

Were a stranger to visit the Army of the Potomac, and remain but a day or two, he would report upon his return to civil circles that we were all going into Winter quarters. And so it appears to one who looks simply upon the surface of things. The woods from Acquia Creek to Fredericksburg for the past week have been ringing with the sound of thousands of axmen chopping down trees, and hewing logs for comfortable huts. And not alone in the camps of the common soldier, but around the headquarters of the commanding Generals the same indications are seen. The Chiefs of the Commissary and Quartermasters' Departments have had brick fire-places and chimneys erected in their tents, as if they, too, intended to make themselves comfortable for the Winter. A prominent officer, however, told me to-day that whenever Gen. Ingalls set his masons to work, it was a pretty sure indication that the army was soon to march.

Reports are flying about camp to-day, thick and fast, that the Rebels are leaving their stronghold on the opposite side of the river, and are falling back upon Hanover Junction. Also, that they are making an effort to flank us on the right and serve Gen. Burnside as they did Gen. Pope. This much I have learned to be positively true: The Rebel camp fires have almost entirely disappeared immediately in front of Falmouth, and no troops can be seen behind many of the intrenchments. A few days ago a vast cloud of smoke stretched from two miles above Fredericksburg to five miles below it. This morning an occasional camp fire only can be seen. Whether they are really falling back or are making a feint to draw us over the river it is quite impossible to tell as yet.

An intelligent lady who came over the river yesterday under flag of truce represents the condition of the Rebel army to be deplorable beyond description, and says they cannot possibly retain their position during the Winter. Quite one-third of the army, according to her statement, are without shoes, and hundreds are destitute of clothing to cover their nakedness. Six hundred in one regiment are said to be barefoot. Hard work upon the earthworks, insufficient food, and scanty clothing are sending regiment after regiment to the hospital. If these statements are true—and one of the most prominent Generals thinks they are—a few days' further delay in advancing cannot result very much to our disadvantage.

The same authority also states that many of the citizens of Fredericksburg, men, women, and children, are encamped in the woods back of the city, and dare not return through fear of being shelled from their homes.

Although the indications are that Gen. Lee is falling back, the fords upon the river and all the naturally weak points of the line are still strongly guarded. Our own pickets extend to fifteen miles below Port Conway, and at every mansion on the bank of the Rappahannock from Falmouth to Leedstown, guards are placed to protect property and watch the river. As the mansions are nearly a mile apart, and many of them more, of course there are many loopholes. Several planters have told me that their own troops have frequently, at night, penetrated our lines, and gone almost up to the headquarters of some of our leading Generals. That some of our own have been within a few rods of Gen. Lee's headquarters I happen to know to be true, and, when the proper time arrives, will write an account of what these brave and skillful fellows saw, and in what way they accomplished their end. N. Y.

All Quiet—Medical Examinations—Deaths in the Ninth Army Corps.

From Our Own Correspondent.

IN CAMP OPPOSITE FREDERICKSBURG, Dec. 4, 1862.

If you are as tired of that heading as I am, reader, you will desire most heartily to see a change. I hope to date very soon from further South. Meanwhile "All is quiet on the Rappahannock," only reviews and the minor incidents of camp life relieving the monotony.

I have of late attended two or three meetings of the Medical Board appointed to examine applicants for discharge. I wish the author of certain articles published in *The Springfield (Mass.) Republican* last Spring could have been present. The writer roundly abused the Medical Examiners at Worcester for rejecting many physically imperfect men who desired to enlist in a regiment then forming. If other officers had been equally strict, much useless expense would have been saved to Uncle Sam, much suffering would have been prevented, and a larger and more efficient army would now be in the field.

There came before the Board, here, many cases—the majority, in fact—of men suffering from complaints stated and apparent before they enlisted. One man lost all the toes of his left foot four or five years ago; he was not critically examined when he offered himself; his town was striving to outdo its neighbors; he put one hundred dollars bounty-money in his pocket; he has been about two months in the field, and he goes home, useless. He was told—what he must have known before—that he was a downright swindler. He belonged to a Massachusetts regiment.

Many of the cases are pulmonary complaints of long standing; one or two were *old age*; nearly all had received bounties. They were reprimanded and discharged, for, as a general thing, no man gets up to this final Board unless from good cause.

One or two of the men were suffering from honorable wounds, and for these a grateful country provides a pension. I saw one fine young fellow who received a wound in the chest at South Mountain. The ball passed out under his right shoulder-blade, leaving the joint nearly useless. Another had lost two fingers. In other cases old wounds began to be very troublesome, so much so as to render the performance of duty impossible. All these, of course, received honorable discharges.

There is literally no news that it is proper to publish. W.

Below I give a list of deaths in the 9th Army Corps for the month of November:

FIRST DIVISION.

Frank H. Weeks, I, 17 Mich.	Corp. Geo. E. Parker, D, 36 Mass.
James King, G, 17 Mich.	Corp. Geo. W. Perry, G, 36 Mass.
Corp. J. E. Jones, I, 45 Pa.	Wm. H. Swift, B, 36 Mass.
Henry Boozel, E, 100 Pa.	Arthur F. Fetrce, D, 36 Mass.
Austin H. Perry, G, 20 Mich.	

SECOND DIVISION.

Osborne Chamberlain, 6 N. H.	Saml. H. Brown, F, 35 Mass.
Nahala D. Leighton, H, 9 N.H.	—— Brackett, E, 35 Mass.
Joseph Pierce, K, 9 N. H.	Serg. Geo. Henry, E, 35 Mass.
Jos. J. Kenyon, A, 7 R. I.	C. S. Weis, I, 11 N. H.
Josephus Franklin, I, 7 R. I.	Benj. Covert, Bat. L, 2 N. Y.
George Dingler, B, 51 Pa.	Carl Wiedzman, Bat. L, 2 N.Y.

THIRD DIVISION.

Luigi Morelli, H, 103 N. Y.	Joseph White, H, 11 Conn.
S. Manchester, F, 4 R. I.	Corp. Chs A. Staples, G, 21 Conn.
Albert O. Perkel, B, 11 Conn.	John M. Brackett, D, 21 Conn.
	Charles H. Brown, H, 21 Conn.

The Affair at Hartsville.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Wednesday, Dec. 10, 1862.

No passenger trains left here for Nashville this morning.

The Journal says in the late Hartsville affair, 1,900 Unionists were captured, and that the number of paroled troops at Hartsville was 2,300. Col. Stewart was among the prisoners.

DANVILLE, Ky., Tuesday, Dec. 9, 1862.

Ex-Gov. Owsely died to-day.

The 25th Regiment N. Y. S. M.

ALBANY, Wednesday, Dec. 10, 1862.

The 25th Regiment N. Y. S. M. to-day elected Lieut.-Col. James Swift as Colonel, in place of M. K. Bryan, who resigned to take command of the 4th Regiment Corcoran Brigade.

FROM GEN. ROSECRANS'S ARMY.

SHARP FIGHT NEAR LAVERGNE.

A Foraging Party Attacked by the Enemy.

An Obstinate Resistance by Our Troops.

THE REBELS TWICE REPULSED.

Positions of Forest's and Kirby Smith's Corps.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

NASHVILLE, Wednesday, Dec. 10, 1862.

Col. Stanley Matthews, commanding a brigade in Vancouver's Division, had a sharp fight yesterday, five miles north of Lavergne, while foraging. He commanded the 51st Ohio and 35th Indiana Regiments, and the 21st Kentucky Infantry, with one gun of Swallow's 7th Indiana Battery, escorting 50 forage-wagons. Ten men and a Sergeant of the 21st Kentucky were left for guard at Dobbyn's Ferry, and the wagons were filled, when Wheeler's Rebel Cavalry Brigade, the 12th Tennessee Infantry, and a full battery, attacked in the rear. The 51st Ohio and 35th Indiana were taken back by Mathews at double-quick, and in thirty minutes the enemy was repulsed. The wgons were retired rapidly to camp, escorted by the 51st Ohio, the 8th Kentucky forming the rearguard.

Half an hour later the enemy attacked us again in our rear, and, after sharp fighting, were repulsed, and the brigade returned to camp without losing a wagon. Lieut.-Col. Balfe of the 35th Indiana had the bone of the left arm badly shattered. Adjutant B. R. Muller of the same regiment was killed. Lieut. Jesse McDaniel of the 8th Kentucky is supposed to have been killed; also two privates. Besides, we had 29 wounded men, 9 missing. Five wounded and one dead were left behind from inability to carry them off. They were conveyed to Dr. Charleston's residence near the field.

The Rebel loss was severe, but the number was not ascertained. We got one prisoner.

Gen. Rosecrans and other Generals assert that the affair reflected great credit on Col. Matthews. The troops behaved splendidly. Matthews was thrown from his horse in the action and badly bruised. His left arm is useless at present.

Forrest is reported with 3,000 cavalry in the rear of Clarksville. Kirby Smith's corps is at Lebanon. The enemy is active in front. No disturbance to-day.

Arrival of Troops in North Carolina.

The Worcester Spy has letters from the troops which left Boston a short time since. It says:

Letters have come from the 51st Regiment. It appears that the steamers Merrimac and Mississippi went directly on the voyage. Tuesday night after the regiments were taken on board. They arrived off Morehead City, near Beaufort, on Saturday; and on Sunday landed the men, who went to Newbern, 35 or 40 miles distant, by railroad.

At Newbern, the 51st was received and entertained by the 45th Massachusetts, Col. Codman, with great cordiality and hospitality. The 45th and 51st are brigaded together. The latest letter from the 51st was written on the afternoon of Dec. 1. The regiment was then encamped in barracks, on the River Trent, south of Newbern. This letter states that there was an alarm on the previous night a little after 12 o'clock, and that the "long roll" was beat, in consequence of a report that the Rebels had appeared and were firing across the river; but the reported Rebels could not be found. The men were all well and in good spirits. Some of them, however, were not greatly in love with sea voyages.

Civilians in Prison at Salisbury, N. C.—Released Prisoners Returned to Washington.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8, 1862.

The following is a list of prisoners returned, and the conditions; also the names of those remaining behind:

SPECIAL PAROLE OF THIRTY DAYS.

J. B. Kimes, Phila., Pa.	Geo. B. Rupley, Pa.
J. M. M. Cowan, Md.	Sanford Snoveder, Pa.
Jos. Winger, Pa.	Andrew Hartman, Pa.

GENERAL PAROLE TILL EXCHANGED.

J. Roth, Va.	O. McMorrow, Va.
A. Boughty, Va.	Samuel Gorum, Va.
J. Doughty, Va.	J. P. Ponson, Va.
A. Halbert, Va.	H. Dane, Va.
James Eling Va.	Jos. Light, Va.
A. Lydecker, Va.	J. Gross, Va.
F. A. Love, Va.	T. M. Olden, Wash., D. C.
Wm. Chambers, Va.	J. Visser, Wash., D. C.
L. P. Cook Va.	A. R. Lee, Wash., D. C.
George Cook, Va.	H. Smith, Ohio.
Samuel McNeely, Va.	J. Murphy, Ohio.
E. Long, Va.	J. Kirwin, Balt., Md.
Dr. L. Ohering, Va.	F. Matthews, Phila., Pa.
B. Woodrum, Va.	D. Watkins, Phila., Pa.
T. F. Breedeir, Va.	E. A. Hughes, Iowa.

STILL IN JAIL.

B. Warner, Va.	A. Megahs, Va.
B. F. Robinson, Va.	W. Smith, Va.
E. J. Robinson, Va.	W. H. Krantz, Va.
J. B. Moonaw, Va.	A. J. Hull, Va.
C. C. Moonaw, Va.	O. Fellows, Va.
B. F. Moonaw, Va.	Wm. Workman, Va.
James Morris, Va.	H. Walls, Va.
F. Stover, Va.	F. Jarold, Va.
J. Moles, Va.	Wm. Smith, Va.
W. W. Maxwell, Va.	J. Rose, Va.
A. B. Webster, Va.	A. McMerrow, Va.
J. Rush, Va.	J. W. Butler, Va.
L. Dowell, Va.	J. Brooks, Va.
F. Dowell, Va.	W. C. K. Smith, Va.
W. Connell, Va.	G. Richmond, Va.
J. B. Burgess, Va.	J. Richmond, Va.
W. Sites, Va.	H. Atkins, Va.
J. A. Sites, Va.	J. W. Waldron, Va.
J. Conrad, Va.	James Jordan, Va.
J. Bryan, Va.	Isaac Sites, Va.
E. Wimbit, Va.	A. Ballou, Richmond, Va.
W. A. Dolly, Va.	E. Fines, Va.
A. Lykens, Va.	J. McDonald, Va.
J. Lykens, Va.	W. Smith, Va.
D. Roberts Va.	J. Moles, Va.
S. Out, Va.	J. Keppligir, Va.
D. Sheets, Va.	J. Lukens, Va.
H. Ault, Va.	Thomas Meeks, Va.
J. McDonald, Va.	J. Delaney (crazy), Va.
N. A. Mann, Va.	D. S. Cully, Va.
Dr. G. A Thatcher, Va.	J. E. Leonard, N. Y. City.
S. Cutlak, Va.	H. H. Smith, N. Y. City.
Louis Ballard, Va.	—Ryder, N. Y. City.
Thomas Tutson, Va.	J. J. Sanders, Sag Harbor, N.Y.
S. A. Pancoast, Va.	J. Frost, Ellicott's Mills, Md.
B. F. Menix, Va.	A. Abbott, Mass.
Sol. Bile, Richmond, Va.	J. W. Kimball, N. C.
L. Coburn, Richmond, Va.	F. Taylor, N. C.
G. W. Pescher, Va.	E. A. Walker, Ky.
R. B. Wood, Va.	Wm. Worthington, N. C.
F. Genre, Va.	Wm. Lattingham, N. C.
E. Rose, Va.	Joseph Lattingham, N. C.
Samuel Hazard, N. C.	J. Williams, Ky.
Jesse Wood, N. C.	A. McFall, Ky.
J. Messer, N. C.	Dr. Wm. Thompson, Ky.
T. Messer, N. C.	N. Buchanan Ky.
K. Noble, N. C.	J. M. Leeds, Ky.
J. Griffin, N. C.	S. McClure, Ky.
Baker White, N. C.	E. Moon Ky.
J. Walker, N. C.	S. W. Ryan, Ky.
Wm R. Reed, N. C.	J. L. Brown, Ky.
J. Buck, N. C.	S. Tatham, Ky.
B. F. Buck, N. C.	P. Cheevers, N. C.
C. C. Perkins, N. C.	J. McCullough, N. C.
D. Morgan, N. C.	W. C. Hughes, Mich.
T. Dickens, Ky.	G. Custo, Scotland.
W. Dickens, Ky.	A. Leonard, Phila., Pa.
J. Dickens, Ky.	Jas. Graham, Vt.

And 100 others.

SHOULD IOWA BE DRAFTED?—It is a notorious fact that, including the 43 infantry regiments and six cavalry regiments which have been raised in this State, and the several thousand men who have enlisted in regiments already in the field, Iowa has furnished nearly if not quite 60,000 troops. The vote of this State at the last Presidential election was about 120,000. Can any other State show the same proportion of volunteers to voters?

THE BATTLE OF FAYETTEVILLE.

A GLORIOUS VICTORY.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF GEN. CURTIS.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, Dec. 10, 1862.

The official dispatch of the battle of Fayetteville has been received at the headquarters of the army here:

ST. LOUIS, Tuesday, Dec. 9, 1862.

Major-Gen. H. W. HALLECK, General-in-Chief, Washington:

My forces of the Army of the Frontier united near Fayettville, in the midst of a hard fought battle.

Gen. Blunt had sustained his position at Cane Hill until Saturday night, when the enemy, twenty-five thousand strong, under Gen. Hindman, attempted a flank movement on his left, to prevent the arrival of Gen. Herron's forces, which had been approaching for four days by forced marches.

On Sunday, about 10 a. m., the enemy attacked Gen. Herron near Fayetteville, who, by gallant and desperate fighting, held him in check for three hours, until Gen. Blunt's division came up and attacked him in the rear.

The fight continued desperately until dark.

Our troops then bivouacked on the battle-field, while the enemy retreated across the Boston Mountains.

The loss on both sides is heavy, but is much the greatest on the side of the enemy, our artillery creating terrible slaughter in their greater numbers.

The enemy had greatly the advantage in position.

Among the enemy's killed is Col. Stein, formerly Brigadier-General of the Missouri State Guards.

Both Gens. Blunt and Herron deserve special commendation for their gallantry in the battle of Fayetteville, Ark. S. R. CURTIS,

Major-General Commanding.

The Popularity of Gen. Herron Among his Troops—Scouting Operations—Destruction of Yellville—Capture of a Portion of a Train by Guerrillas—Gen. Blunt's Army—The Proposed Campaign.

From Our Special Correspondent

HEADQUARTERS, THIRD DIVISION, ARMY OF THE FRONTIER, TWIN SPRINGS, MO., Dec. 1, 1862.

The Third Division of the Army of the Frontier is now encamped two miles south of the classic battle-field of Wilson's Creek, at a place known by many as Twin Springs, by others as Moody Springs, and by the soldiers as Camp Curtis. Two copious fountains gush from the rocks, not more than two yards apart, in the midst of the camps, supplying an abundance of water for the entire Division.

Gen. Herron is now in command of the Second and Third Divisions of the army in this section of the country. Gen. Schofield and staff have left for St. Louis, "bag and baggage." I do not wish to appear invidious, but it is the general remark that new life has been infused into these two Divisions. Order has been brought out of confusion, and hope and contentment reign where there was only distrust, and almost insubordination. Our young commander is known throughout his army as the "fighting General," and is the idol of his men. He still retains command of the Third Division, and will continue to lead them in the field.

Immediately upon assuming command he sent a considerable scouting force, consisting of 600 or 700 cavalry, southward into Arkansas, to ascertain if possible the whereabout of the enemy. No considerable body of Rebels were encountered, and only eighty prisoners captured. The scouts returned yesterday morning, having been absent five days. They penetrated as far south as Yellville, Arkansas, which place they entirely destroyed by fire, with the exception of a few houses occupied by women and children, and one used as a hospital. This is the furthest south in that direction of any point reached by Union forces. It was Gen. Lyon's intention to go to Yellville, and he was only frustrated by the terrible battle of Wilson's Creek and his most unfortunate death. Gen. Curtis also planned a campaign and a march which was to make Yellville one of its points; but the battle of Pea Ridge entirely diverted his plans. It has been reserved for Gen. Herron to make a successful raid upon that ill-fated, euphoniously named town and lay it low. Had a similar expedition from the other side invaded our borders and resulted in as brilliant a series of adventures, the thing would have been sounded from one end of the North to the other as a big thing, but as it is, if it creates even a passing remark we shall be satisfied. Much valuable information was obtained, and horses. Every man had an extra horse on his return from this scout; so Uncle Sam may rest easy about his cavalry being well mounted in this locality. Horses are a cheap commodity here, and valued much more lightly than house dogs are in the Eastern States. Every animal in Southern Missouri able to carry a knapsack or haul a hundred pounds of baggage has been pressed into service long ago. A new field of operations in this line therefore is eagerly wished for by the boys whose horses are nearly worn out by fatigue and hard service.

The only items of interest that have occurred in this vicinity since last I wrote to you, are the capture of a portion of Gen. Fitz Henry Warren's commissary train and an engagement between Gen. Blunt and a small force of Rebels at Cane Hill. Gen. Warren is at a point 35 or 40 miles east of here and almost south of Rolla. He had a train of 17 wagons loaded with provisions surrounded by guerrillas and captured. This occurred some 15 miles from his camp, and proved a total loss. The drivers and escort were either killed or captured, the mules shot in their harness, and the wagons burned with their contents. The guerrilla force then evaporated, returning to their hiding places to await another similar opportunity for despoiling a train.

Gen. Blunt has a fine field for operation, being upon the very confines of civilization, just in the edge of the Indian Territory and the adjoining corners of Arkansas and Missouri. He has a splendid lot of troops, consisting of the flower of the Kansas Volunteers, than whom no better soldiers exist. He has also some 40 pieces of artillery and 3,000 or 4,000 Indians, who by the way do very effective service in some branches of warfare. They do good picket duty, guard trains, act the spy, are excellent scouts, and in battle are better as friends than enemies. There is a sufficiency of the slave element in their ranks to keep them faithful to the cause of freedom, and a sort of barbaric fondness for strife that renders a skirmish the most acceptable circumstance of life.

Blunt has for the past fortnight been comparatively isolated from the Second and Third Divisions, and it might be said out of hailing distance. After the two last-mentioned divisions had withdrawn from North-Western Arkansas, for the purpose of visiting spheres of greater usefulness, the Secesh closed in upon Blunt in hopes of making him an easy prey, or of driving him completely back. In consequence of this he has been imbroiled in several minor engagements, all of which have resulted in the defeat of the enemy and the firmer establishment of his foothold in the country! At Cane Hill, 25 miles south of Fayetteville, he brought on quite a protracted battle, in which he worsted the Rebels entirely. In the latter part of the day the Rebels sent in a flag of truce asking permission to bury their dead. Under the cover of this ruse they took advantage of the delay and withdrew the bulk of their forces over the Boston Mountains, saving their train and artillery. The full particulars of this fight have not as yet come through to us, but as far as it goes the intelligence is trustworthy.

The General has a telegraph office within 20 feet of his tent, and in my own tent there is a printing office in full blast. The troops are well provided with Winter clothing, tents and transportation, and I may add, they are enjoying extraordinary good health. They have great confidence in their gallant young general, and hope he may be granted permission to take them through to Texas this Winter. There is a splendid campaign waiting for some one to elaborate, and magnificent fields to be won by the fortunate general who is assigned to the duty of redeeming Western Arkansas and North-Eastern Texas. A detachment of 20,000 picked Western men, with pack mules for transportation, would march victoriously down to the Gulf of Mexico before Spring and cut off an important resource of supplies, completely dismembering the trans-Mississippi portion of Rebeldom. 'Tis said there are 20,000 Union men in Texas waiting patiently for an opportunity to throw off the yoke of Southern tyranny. It is due to these 20,000 loyal men that some effort be made to rescue them from absolute murder and wholesale massacre. No more acceptable task could be set for the Third Division of the Army of the Frontier than the Texas campaign.

Gen. Totten passed through here a night or two ago en route for St. Louis, where he goes for a short time. His Division is encamped eight miles south of us. He had a narrow escape from being captured between Springfield and Rolla, it seems. Some bold guerrilla chieftan doubtless learned of his intention of going through upon this road, and determined upon the romantic plan of making him a prisoner. An organized band of some 250 Rebels appeared upon the road in question at about the time he was expected, and captured a party of citizens. By a singular streak of good fortune the General had passed half an hour previously and arrived safely at his journey's end.

The humors of soldier life are varied, and sometimes very amusing. The other day the Commissary of the Third Division had occasion to pass out of the lines, and this he carelessly did without obtaining the countersign. Presently he was brought to a halt by a picket-guard of Indians. Here was a pretty pickle. He could not talk Indian, and the Indians were about as ignorant of English. Finally, putting on a bold face, he said "Advance, friend, and give the countersign." The aborigine thereupon said "Shiloh." "All right," replied the Commissary, and passed on.

A blundering son of Erin, fresh from the mortar beds of Chicago, was on duty one night, when some skylarking soldier endeavored to pass through the line. "Hold on there me bould sojer boy, or I'll give ye a taste of this baggonet." The invader of his beat explained to him that he had not the countersign, and tried to persuade him to allow him to pass without it. "Ah, none of your blarney, now," said Pat, "By the powers, unless you say *Potomac* ye can't go by this to-night."

Dec. 3.—We have just received marching orders for the South. The entire command, with the exception of the General's body-guard, left the camp at 1 o'clock p. m., and will march 12 miles before going into camp. To-morrow they will march 30 miles more, to Cassville, where the General and his staff will overtake the division. It is expected that we can make Fayetteville, Arkansas, 99 miles from here, by the night of the 6th inst. The Rebels are closing in upon Blunt in full force. FECIT.

The Banks Expedition.

The bark Mendi, from New-Orleans, which arrived here yesterday, reports, 5th inst., off Hatteras, passed an expedition. There were eight steamers steering due South. The destination of the expedition is of course unknown, but we shall soon hear from it.

Naval.

ENGINEER WHITTAKER'S GRAND DISCOVERY.

The Navy Department of the United States has been very cautious about believing in the great "discoveries" that inventors make daily. The most astounding of all, however, is now in course of development, by authority of Secretary Welles. It is no less than an apparatus which will, it is said, destroy iron-clads, the most impregnable of them being as unprotected against it as a wooden vessel against a 500-pound ball. The inventor is no "outsider." He is an engineer in the pay of the Government, has been in the Naval Engineer Corps for years, and while attached to the man-of-war Kearsarge, in the Mediterranean, conceived the idea, which, if practicable, will revolutionize even the latest modes of naval warfare. The gentleman alluded to was recalled from the Mediterranean, and arrived here some weeks ago. He visited the Navy Department, and laid before a somewhat incredulous Board the nature of his extraordinary plan. What pros and cons transpired during the interview it is impossible to say, but the result of the investigation "thickens the plot," and puts scientific and inventive curiosity on the tip-toe of excitement. So far from being scouted at, as was currently prophesied, the inventor's scheme is to get a fair and impartial trial, and an iron-clad man-of-war, now in course of construction, has been turned over to him that he may have his machine fixed to his satisfaction.

The inventor is First Assistant Engineer James W. Whittaker of New-Jersey. He entered the Navy in 1857, and made his first cruise in the steam-corvette Brooklyn in 1859. He is considered a clever professional man by his compeers, some of whom doubt the genuineness of his weapon.

Of course, the greatest excitement prevails in scientific circles as to the result of the experiments. The iron-clad war-steamer Ozark, building in Peoria, Ill., is to be provided with the new apparatus, and it is said that the Warrior or Gloire would not stand an hour before her when her novel battery is arranged. No one knows what the invention is like—whether it is to be a gun, or a projectile, or a ram; but even the wisest men in the service do not doubt that its effect on naval matters will be of the most revolutionary character. A letter from the Mediterranean fleet, to which Mr. Whittaker was attached, states that not an individual on board the Kearsarge believes that his experiment will prove visionary. It will probably be tested in a few months.

THE MONTAUK AT THE NAVY-YARD.

The iron-clad Montauk steamed yesterday from the Delameter Iron Works to the Brooklyn Navy-Yard. Her engines worked well. She will be ready to sail in about 48 hours. Several ladies were on board during the trip.

THE PASSAIC.

The report of the Passaic's trial trip was not written by Chief Engineer Stimers, as stated in a pamphlet yesterday. It was penned by our reporter, and no one, save the printers, saw it before publication.

LAUNCH OF A STEAM CORVETTE.

The new regular navy-built steam corvette Shenandoah was launched successfully on Monday, at the Philadelphia Navy-Yard. Miss Pascoe, daughter of the yard plumber, christened her. The Shenandoah belongs to a class of steam men-of-war, which had been called "half-corvettes and half-frigates." They have been confounded with another class, a little smaller, but very like them, "The Three Sister ships" of the Shenandoah are afloat, and thus situated:

Vessels.	*Condition.*	*Where.*
Sacramento	Afloat and fitting out	Portsmouth, N. H.
Monongahela	Afloat and fitting out	Philadelphia.
Canandaigua	At sea	Blockade.

The Juniata ranks with the Housatonic, and is about as much smaller than the above three, as the Lackawanna and Ticonderoga are larger. The Shenandoah is 1,378 tuns burden, the Juniata is 1,240, and the Lackawanna is 1,533. There is just barely difference enough to justify a distinction between the three classes. There is another, the Kearsarge, and Tuscarora class, very like the Juniata.

The dimensions of the Shenandoah are as follows: Length, between perpendiculars, 225 feet—the extremity of the beam is 38 feet, 4 inches; depth of hold, 17½ feet; extreme length over all, 243 feet, 6 inches; the diameter of the screw propeller is 15 feet, and it will have 4 blades.

The Shenandoah will carry no bowsprit. She is almost a fac simile of the gunboat Monongahela, only somewhat sharper. She will draw about 14 feet at the extremity of the lead line. She will also be able to travel at sea at the rate of 14 knots an hour, and presents all the elements of a fast and thorough sea-going vessel.

THE DRAFT IN NEW-HAMPSHIRE.—The Governor has ordered a draft, to commence Dec. 24, in towns which have not then filled their quotas.

REPORTED PEACE PROPOSITIONS.

Statement by the Bearer of the Proposals.

A General and Unconditional Amnesty

RESTORATION OF ALL FUGITIVE SLAVES.

EACH SECTION TO PAY ITS OWN DEBT.

What Davis Thinks of the Emancipation Proclamation.

The Whole Affair Pronounced a Humbug in Washington.

CHICAGO, Wednesday, Dec. 10, 1862.

J. Wesley Greene, formerly of Pittsburgh, publishes a long statement to-day in *The Times* of this city, to the following effect:

I was called on by a gentleman from Baltimore on October 22d, who informed me that Jeff. Davis greatly desired me to go to Richmond. After two or three interviews with this gentleman, I consented to go.

I arrived at Richmond on the 26th of October, and on calling on Mr. Davis, was informed by him that he (Davis) desired a termination of this war, and an amicable adjustment of the difficulties between the North and the South.

Mr. Davis said he wanted some person on whom he could rely who would go to Washington and present to Mr. Lincoln informally certain propositions which he (Davis) thought might lead to the desired end.

At first I objected to being the bearer of the propositions of Mr. Davis, fearing that I might be put in Fort Lafayette, but I finally consented to do so.

The propositions of Mr. Davis are in substance as follows:

First: A general and unconditional amnesty to all political offenders against the Federal Government, such as would place them in the position they occupied before the commencement of hostilities, respecting all their immunities, rights and privileges.

Second: The restoration of all fugitive slaves within the control of the Federal Government, and a guaranty that the General Government will give the entire weight of its influence and authority in carrying out the provisions of the Fugitive Slave law for the recovery of those fugitives who have passed beyond the immediate control of the Government.

Third: Each contending party shall be held responsible only for the debt incurred by it, in the same manner as if they had been recognized independent Powers.

These propositions, as Mr. Davis expressed it, are the basis upon which a restoration of the Union can be effected.

There were many other points upon which Mr. Davis spoke, but he said there would be very little difficulty in reference to them if the major propositions were agreed upon.

Mr. Lincoln's proposition to liberate the slaves seemed to annoy Mr. Davis, who casually remarked that "It would play hell with us."

This Mr. Davis explained by saying that if the proclamation of Mr. Lincoln was not suspended or revoked, it would only be a stimulus to an interminable and ruinous war.

Mr. Davis said that the proclamation of Mr. Lincoln was regarded throughout the South as a bid for a "servile insurrection."

Mr. Davis also remarked that, should the Administration of Mr. Lincoln be disposed to let these propositions drop, and the facts should become known to the people of the North, it would cause such a howling about the ears of the Administration as to compel them to do something toward arriving at a termination of the war between the North and the South.

Having returned to Pittsburgh, Mr. Greene wrote to President Lincoln on the 10th of November expressing a willingness to visit Washington if requested to do so.

On the 16th November Mr. Greene received a telegram from Mr. Stanton requesting him to come on to Washington.

On arriving in Washington, Mr. Greene called on President Lincoln and related everything in connection with his (Greene's) visit to Richmond.

The same afternoon Mr. Greene attended a Cabinet meeting, at which he repeated the statements made to President Lincoln.

The next morning Mr. Greene was again sent for by President Lincoln, and attended a second Cab