New-York Daily Tribune

TUESDAY, JULY 7, 1863.

THE GREAT BATTLES AT GETTYSBURG.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE, ready this morning contains full accounts of the three days' fighting at Gettysburg, with lists of the Killed and Wounded. Price five cents in wrappers ready for mailing.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE WAR.

—From Rebel papers and from Fortress Monroe dispatches we get some vague idea of the movements of our troops in the vicinity of Richmond. The Rebels say that "three regiments of cavalry and two howitzers left Truesdell's station on the evening of the 26th, appeared at Hanover Court-House, and fired on a train on the Central Railroad. They have possession of the Central Railroad, and will doubtless proceed to Ashland. The raiders reached the South Anna bridge, where they were resisted by the guard. The fight is progressing. The proximity of the Yankees to the city occasions no alarm in official circles. A gunboat was at White House on the 26th. The Yankees killed six and wounded fourteen at South Anna Station, and captured Gen. W. H. Lee, who was wounded at Brandy Station. Later information, deemed to be trustworthy, has been received at the War Department, that a large force of Yankees, estimated at 30,000, under Generals Dix and Keyes, was moving on the Peninsula." In addition to this we have extracts from a letter dated Baltimore Cross Roads, July 3, which says: "Yesterday there was a skirmish four miles this side of Bottom's Bridge. Sergt. Burnet, Co. C, 5th Pennsylvania Cavalry, was killed. No other casualties on our side. This afternoon, the Rebels opened on our advance brigade, Col. West's, with five pieces of artillery. A fight ensued. Our advance fell back until the reserves came up. There may be a fight at any hour. The force of the enemy is variously estimated at from 5,000 to 20,000. Our army is in excellent health and spirits, and amply able to cope with the enemy now in our front. The enemy are rushing forward re-enforcements by railroad. A slight engagement took place last evening. No decisive result. The 5th Pennsylvania cavalry captured twenty-five prisoners."

—The steamer Cahawba, Capt. Baker, arrived at Fortress Monroe on Monday morning, from New-Orleans, July 1, freighted with cotton and sugar, bound to New-York. She also brought 480 Rebel prisoners, whom she landed at the Fortress. She reports the bombarding of Port Hudson going on when she left. Our steamers were running up the river regularly with Gen. Banks's supplies. There is no truth in the report of his supplies being cut off. Great confidence is expressed that Port Hudson will soon fall. Deserters are daily coming into Gen. Banks's lines from the Rebel army.

—Rather old Rebel dispatches from Vicksburg say that "Our [Rebel] lines of defense extend about seven miles in a semi-circle around the city. Grant has made approaches to within 50 yards of our works. He has from 100,000 to 120,000 men. Gen. Johnston needs and I hear will have reënforcements. His forces are between the Big Black and Canton, and his headquarters are at Jackson. Gens. Dick Taylor, Kirby Smith, Price, and Marmaduke are all along the other side of the Big Muddy."

—A spy named Wm. Richardson, about 50 years old, was hung at Frederick, Md., on Monday morning. He was captured at Oxford, Md., but it appears that he had been previously captured, and had made his escape. It is reported he admitted the charge, and said that he had been in the business a long time. It is also said that important communications between Lee and Ewell were found on his person.

—*The Richmond Enquirer*, of July 4, says: "The Yankees are making a raid into Eastern Tennessee. A strong force was at Zequatchie Valley on the 2d inst. There has been no communication with Knoxville or Loudon bridge since. It is believed that important movements of Bragg's and Rosecrans's armies are in progress. No particulars have been received."

—About two weeks ago an unknown bark was burned by her crew off Barbadoes. She is supposed to have been a tender for the pirate Florida, and had a cargo of coal for that craft. Having hunted for her as far as the equator, the crew got tired and destroyed the bark, lest the coal should fall into the hands of the Union cruisers.

—More captures are reported to the Navy Department. The U. S. bark Pursuit, on the 23d ult., captured off Indian Inlet, the sloop Kate, from Nassau, with assorted cargo. The gunboat Tahoma, on the 18th, got the schooner Harriet, and the same day ran ashore and destroyed the English schooner Mary Jane.

—The Knights of the Golden Circle broke open the depot at Huntington, Ind., about 2 o'clock on Monday morning. They opened two or three boxes of guns and ammunition and distributed it among themselves.

—The enforcement of the draft in Massachusetts is to proceed forthwith. Those whose names are drawn will be notified at once, and then allowed ten days to appear, furnish a substitute, or pay $300.

—The town of Suffolk, Va., seems to be deserted; 6,000 contrabands recently left there, and afterward most of the non-contraband pale-faces went after the negroes.

—Official dispatches from Vicksburg are to the 29th ult. At that time all was well, and the seige progressed finely.

NEWS FROM EUROPE.

By the arrival of the City of Washington at this city, and of the Hibernian off Father Point, we have news from Europe to June 26—five days later than that received by the China.

The case of the Alexandra has been decided in favor of the defendants. The Lord Chief Baron's charge to the jury was strongly biased, and the sentence was received with loud applause. The Attorney-General tendered a bill of exceptions to the chief ruling, and the case is, therefore, not yet finally settled.

The new French project of intervention in the American war is attracting a great deal of attention. England has been invited to join France in the new move. *The Times*, which has always been opposed to schemes of this kind, is now veering around, and thinks that the joint European intervention in behalf of Poland is a precedent, amply justifying a similar step in behalf of the Confederates.

Mr. M. D. Conway, in a letter to *The London Times*, gives some explanations on the correspondence between him and Mr. Mason. He exonerates the Abolitionists from any responsibility for his proposals, and admits that the form of his proposition is objectionable.

The arbitration of the King of Belgium in the difficulty between Brazil and England is believed to be favorable to Brazil.

It is expected that Russia will not accept the proposition made by the Western Powers in behalf of Poland. Preparations for war are being made by both Russia and France.

GENERAL NEWS.

—At a meeting of the Board of Supervisors yesterday a communication was received from the Commissioners of Taxes and Assessments, showing the total valuation of real and personal estate in 1862 to be $572,654,995. In 1863, $594,154,543. Increase this year, $21,499,548. Total valuation in the County, $594,154,543; ditto south of Fifty-seventh street, $565,634,524. A communication was received from the Mayor and Controller naming *The Dispatch* and *Leader* as County papers.

—The Board of Councilmen met on Thursday afternoon. By the Controller's statement it appears that there was a balance in the Treasury on the 30th of June, of $1,608,719 38. The Mayor vetoed the resolution allowing "The Anthracite Coal Gas Lighting and Heating Company" to lay gas mains in the streets and avenues of the city. *The Sunday Dispatch* and *The Leader* were selected by the Mayor and Controller as Corporation papers.

—The Democratic State Convention of California meets at Sacramento on the 8th instant. It will be composed of Peace and War Democrats. The candidate most talked of for Governor is ex-Governor Downey. The most prominent candidates for Congress are ex-Senator Weller, Edward Stanley, and Joseph McCorkle.

—Two wrecks arrived at Halifax on Monday. The first was the wreck of the pirate bark Tacony, the other the wreck of the Copperhead faction of last Congress, in the person of Clement L. Vallandigham, who came passenger from Bermuda in the mail steamer.

—Mr. King's balloon, the Star-Spangled Banner, which left Boston Common on the afternoon of the 4th with five gentlemen, descended safely at Farmington, N. H., at 7 o'clock on Sunday night.

—The Pennsylvania Railroad has resumed business. All passenger and freight trains are running as usual. The road was not injured at any point by the Rebels.

—There were 396 deaths in this city last week. Of the deceased 100 were men, 74 women, 112 boys, and 110 girls.

—The telegraph is completed to the Glen House, White Mountains, and is open for business.

—The stock market was irregular yesterday. It opened steady and moderately active, with a look of firmness at the First Board, but toward the close of the morning session, prices on most of the railway shares fell off. Government stocks were active and strong at the First Board, Coupon 6s, of 1881, selling as high as 107, and Treasury 7 3-10 at 106¼. The market closed irregular, but generally steady. Freights are very dull and rates are easier. Money continues very easy at 6@7 ⅌ cent; ostly the latter rate. The market is less active than it has been. The news from the seat of war caused great excitement in the Gold market, and the crowd at the corner of William street and Exchange place assembled at an early hour and was very active in its operations. The market opened at 137¼ against 144 on Friday; then rallied to 139@139¼, and by 9½ o'clock had got back to 138, at which price one house purchased $80,000. At the First Board the sales summed $136,000, the range of prices being 138@138¾, closing at 138¼. At the Second Board $52,000 was sold at 139¼@139½, and the market closed at these figures. Foreign Exchange fell in proportion to the decline in gold. Most of the sales in the morning, which were moderate, were made at 152.

Late foreign news appears on the second page of this morning's paper. On the third page we give news from Rosecrans's Army, late Southern news, a letter from Japan, and local intelligence.

THE PURSUIT.

Gen. Meade's headquarters on Sunday were at Creagerstown, Md., twenty miles south of Gettysburg, and yesterday were at Frederick. We infer that to-day they will reach Harper's Ferry or Point of Rocks, unless it should prove that the Potomac is really impassable at the fords, and that all Lee's pontoons have been destroyed; in which event Gen. Meade may force at once, if Gen. French does not already hold, some one of the South Mountain passes, and compel the immediate surrender of the remnant of Gen. Lee's exhausted forces. It seems clear that the Rebel line of retreat was not by way of Cashtown to Chambersburg, but on the Fairfield road, through Waynesburg, direct to Hagerstown, in expectation to cross at Williamsport and the fords and bridges below. There are positions of great strength in the South Mountain ranges, Turner's, Fox's and Crampton's Gaps being probably the strongest, but they were successively turned when occupied before by the slowly retreating and then victorious army of Lee. What chance has he to hold all of them now with his beaten and shattered forces? Yet the loss of one is fatal, if the river bars his way.

If then the loyal Potomac has risen against the Rebel retreat, Gen. Meade has a plain path, and will unquestionably cross the mountains at once. If not, there are two and perhaps three roads on which he may advance to victory. Before looking at either, the apparent general purpose of the present movement needs to be stated.

After the victories at Gettysburg, and upon the retreat of Gen. Lee, which began early on Saturday morning, the obvious and easy course of Gen. Meade was to pursue the enemy. But what would have been the result? Supposing the Potomac passable, and that Lee's army had not wholly abandoned its organization, it was possible for that commander, by obstinately fighting, and perhaps finally sacrificing his rear-guard, to make good his retreat across that river. Moreover, if Meade threw his whole force in pursuit, and the Potomac could be passed, Lee might have issued with his army through the South Mountains, and marched straight upon Harper's Ferry, Point of Rocks, or the lower fords, crossing at either, according to circumstances, though an abandonment of the Shenandoah line would certainly be his last resort. But in either way escape was possible, and Gen. Meade does not mean that the Rebel army shall escape. Resisting, therefore, the impulse to pursue directly, the sagacious commander of the national forces has marched for Frederick, following a line not widely divergent from that of Lee's retreat, but which imminently threatens to cut off that retreat, by reaching and holding some point in the Shenandoah in advance of Lee's arrival. Gen. Meade may cross the Potomac at Harper's Ferry, and fling his army directly across the path to Winchester; or he may cross at Point of Rocks, or even at Edward's Ferry, moving thence by way of Leesburg and either of the Blue Ridge gaps, and so entering the Shenandoah at some point so far below as to make it certain that his impatient columns shall have outstripped the flight of the Rebel forces, and offer them the alternative of destruction or surrender. Meanwhile, the possibility of Lee's appearance east of the mountains is prevented by the movement on Frederick, and the only remaining question seems to be whether he shall be brought to bay north of the Potomac or in the Shenandoah Valley.

This well conceived and promptly executed plan of Gen. Meade is as satisfactory evidence of his stategic, as the battles of Gettysburg have been of his tactical ability. It might be said that the first advance upon Gettysburg, which has heretofore been pointed out as the key of the Pennsylvania campaign, was so obvious as to be inevitable, and therefore no particular indication of great talents. But there are few Generals who could have resisted the desire to pursue the retreating Rebels on their own line. To control that impulse, and to enter upon a wholly new combination with the grand object of capturing Lee's army, were perhaps equally difficult efforts. Gen. Meade has accomplished both, and we have far more confidence in his complete and immediate success than if we had heard that his advance was hourly engaged with the enemy's rear.

The mobility of the Army of the Potomac under its new leader is becoming more than wonderful, and already surpasses the most celebrated performances of Stonewall Jackson's corps. Fighting two great battles on Thursday and Friday, on ground which it had reached by protracted and continuous marches, it has no sooner won them than it is again on the wing, and we hear of it two days afterward thirty-five miles from the battle-ground and still in motion. Nothing but genius in its commander could have discovered such capacity of endurance in its soldiers. It would seem that in this campaign nine days marching at six miles a day, and one day's indecisive fighting, are *not* quite the limit of human endurance!

PRO-REBEL ATTEMPTS AT REVOLUTION.

That the more determined sympathizers in this vicinity with the Slaveholders' Rebellion have for months conspired and plotted to bring about a revolution in the North which should place the whole tier of Free States bordering on the Slave region in alliance with and practical subordination to the Rebel Confederacy, is just as certain as that we are involved in Civil War. Had Meade been defeated at Gettysburg—as these Copperheads had no doubt he would be—they would have been ready to raise the flag of rebellion and proclaim McClellan the head of a Provisional Government. Here follows one of their manifestoes which was extensively circulated through our city on the night before the 4th;

FREEMEN, AWAKE!

DECLARATION AND PROTEST OF LIBERTY AGAINST USURPATION AND TYRANNY.

"Who would be free, himself must strke the blow."

First: The only solid foundation for all government is the consent of the governed. Governments exist for the benefit of the people, and not the people for the benefit of governments.

A government which fails to promote the interests, and secure the affections of its people, does not deserve to stand.

These principles are the foundation of the Federal Union; to deny them is to undermine our own political structure, to slander the title by which we have a place among the nations of the earth.

Second: The people of the Southern States have, of their own consent, established a separate government, sustained it for more than two years with remarkable unanimity and devotion, under circumstances of great difficulty and trial.

We cannot consistently with our traditions and our principles, deny to that people the right of self-government, or oppose by force the existence of the government they have set up. If we cannot conquer them by the arts and arms of peace, we have no right to conquer them at all.

To speak of a "Union" by force is simply absurd; a piece of Puritanical hypocrisy.

Third: The glory of a nation is: To establish justice, unity, peace, and concord; to insure domestic tranquillity; to promote the general welfare; to secure the blessings of liberty and civilization; to cultivate the highest standards of morals and religion.

Territorial possessions may distract and weaken; wealth will enervate and corrupt; avarice, fanaticism, and revenge, must debase; and ambition generally destroys.

Fourth: When the present Administration was elected to office, among all the nations of the earth there was not one greater than the United States of America; not one more prosperous and happy; not one which conferred superior blessings on mankind. The people were proud of their Government, and loved it; they would not have exchanged it for any other on the face of the globe; they hoped to transmit the jewel, with untarnished luster, to remotest generations.

Fifth: Within the last two years, this Government has suffered a grievous change, a most disastrous and humiliating eclipse. It has become a filthy hybrid; a monster, smeared with the bloody sacrifice of its own children; a detestable compound of crimes and vices; a despotism which cannot fitly be described in decorous language: "the sum of all villainies;" a league with hell and a covenant with death.

The Administration is ignorant, conceited, and vulgar; cunning, insincere, and unscrupulous; fierce, sanguinary and cruel; full of all subtlety and all mischief; of all hypocrisy and deceit. It is without truth or honesty, without manliness or decency. Its avarice is insatiable; its corruption unbounded; for gain it will do anything, however infamous, oppressive and wasteful, and does not scruple to barter the whole country for profit. It is a bully, a braggart, and a coward; it domineers by terror over weakness; it shrinks from truth and daylight; it deals in pimps, spies, and informers, and fears an enemy in every shadow. With bands of armed men it strikes down the liberty of the citizen at the dead of night, when he is surprised, solitary and defenseless; wages war on women and young children.

It is barbarous and wanton, for it desolates peaceful and inoffensive lands with fire and flood; it destroys cities, towns, villages, and solitary dwellings; it plunders wherever its emissaries prowl, destroying what cannot be taken away. It does not spare the sacred monuments of art, science and literature; respects not the grave; has no pity for the shrieks and entreaties of helplessness and purity, and the instruments of its crimes are only less detestable than the crimes themselves, and the criminals.

In everything, and in the most stupendous proportions, is this Administration abominable; the stench thereof rises toward Heaven, as the stench of Sodom and Gomorrah. It is a foe to all goodness, and whosoever should destroy it would confer a blessing on mankind.

Sixth: The Southern people are fighting for our liberties, as well as for their own. No greater calamity could befall us, than their overthrow; the destruction of the one, would speedily be followed by the subjugation of the other.

Seventh: Should the Confederate army capture Washington and exterminate the herd of thieves, Pharisees, and cutthroats which pasture there, defiling the temple of our liberty, we should regard it as a special interposition of Divine Providence in behalf of justice, judgment, and mercy.

Eighth: No portion of this Union is entitled to public sympathy or assistance or protection from Southern defensive invasion, so long as it continues to be a party to the present aggressive war. There cannot be innocent accomplices in crimes at which humanity stands aghast.

Ninth: "The thirty pieces of silver," the price of blood and the general ruin, is not entitled to protection. Let those who have grown fat on the misfortunes of the land defend their own plunder, fight a little, steal and bellow less.

Tenth: So long as the present war continues and despotism prevails, we shall have no disposition to oppose a Confederate army, whether on our borders or in our midst—rather would we hail them as friends and deliverers.

Eleventh. We arraign Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, and the men of his council, before the bar of public opinion and National justice, for the following high crimes, felonies and misdemeanors:

For the country they have betrayed; for the oaths they have violated; for the Constitution they have trampled under foot; for the laws they have perverted or annulled; for the power they have abused and usurped; for the Union they have destroyed; for the precious hopes they have blasted; for the liberties they have taken away; for the rivers of blood they have shed; for the armies they have slaughtered; for the manifold, excessive and widespread defraudings, robberies, plunderings, desolations, wastes and cruelties they have perpetrated.

We arraign them for converting this once great, prosperous, free and happy land into a land of discord, strife and despotism—of ruin, misery and shame.

Twelfth: These pernicious criminals we propose to try by authority of all the laws their despotism has left us, by that very law of necessity and self-preservation which they maliciously, traitorously, and falsely have invoked, promulgated, and enforced. And we shall appeal for justice to that universal sentiment which passes judgment on all such as are enemies to the human race.

Thirteenth: Fellow citizens, in the name of the Thirteen Colonies, we say to you—"Resistance to tyrants is obedience to God." SPIRIT OF '76.

Fourth July, 1863.

BARBARISM IN WAR.

The World thus endeavors to parry our demonstration that the Rebels are the responsible initiators of the violations of the laws of War which have disgraced our struggle, and that the Democratic press habitually conceal the outrages perpetrated by the traitors, while they magnify the retaliatory acts of the Unionists:

"It is enough to make one's blood boil to contemplate these consequences of the wretched Abolition scheme of converting negroes into soldiers. Thus it is that brave and innocent white men suffer that the Abolition fanatics may try philanthropic experiments to give a quasi dignity to negroes. And THE TRIBUNE takes Democratic journals to task because they do not join in the Abolition ravings when their experiment produces its natural fruits.

"But what good can be accomplished by the furious invectives against the Rebels for not recognizing negro soldiers as entitled to the privileges of war? It was perfectly known beforehand that they would not so recognize them; and it was in the face of this known and fixed determination of the Rebels that the experiment was entered upon. The resolution of the Confederate Government on a subject which so inflames Southern prejudices is not likely to be shaken by the invectives of Northern newspapers to whatsoever party belonging. As the Abolitionists have produced the mischief by their pet project of arming the negroes, we wash our hands of all responsibility, and leave the whole subject with them and with the Administration which they control. As Democrats have in this matter neither responsibility nor power, they see no reason why they should throw themselves into idle contortions for the amusement of the Abolitionists."

The World has thus contrived to dodge completely our proof that "the wretched scheme of converting negroes into soldiers" was not of Abolition origin but the device of Pro-Slavery Rebels. We will therefore let Col. Bromlette, the conservative Union candidate for Governor of Kentucky, bring our frisky neighbor up to the bull-ring. Col. B., in his speech at Carlisle, Ky., on the 25th ult., said:

"You object to negro soldiers. Who began this business? Who raised the first negro regiment? Did Lincoln? Do n't you know that in the beginning of this strife, in New-Orleans, they heralded abroad that they had already organized two negro regiments to fight the Yankees with? Do n't you know that the first act in the Tennessee Rebel Legislature was to authorize the organization of free negro regiments? Do n't you know it to be a fact, furthermore, that they have regiments of Indians in their service, to tomahawk and scalp our women and children? And yet not one of you here assembled, I will venture to say, has heard these constitutional Union gentlemen object to *their* using negro regiments to fight *us* with. You never heard one of them object to enlisting the Indians against us. Why is it that you have grown so terribly repugnant to negro aid? You are willing it should be employed *against* us, but now that it is being employed to *help* us, you are terribly disturbed. The reason seems irresistible that then *they were fighting on the side you were anxious should win*; but as soon as they are employed *against* that side, you object.

"Suppose one of you were assaulted by robbers, who threatened to burn your house and murder your family if you did n't give up your money; that your neighbor came rushing to your assistance, and with him one or two stout negroes, with clubs, and axes and guns; that while you are engaged in a close hand-to-hand conflict with one of them, you should see that brawny negro hewing one of them down, would you say: 'Hold on, I do n't want any negro to help me. Here, Mr. Robber, I am not going to succeed in driving you off by any such aid as that; you may burn my house and take my property.' Is this what any sane man would do? But it is just in this way that Southern sympathizers—Constitutional Union men—talk. They would have us, because the President does not use just such weapons as they think proper, say: 'Here, Jeff. Davis, take all we have, and slay us as soon as you please; not another man or another dollar can we give till Lincoln quits fighting with these things.'"

—Now, neighbor! we could n't induce you to face *our* view of this matter; suppose you try to answer the "Democratic Union" candidate for Governor of Slaveholding Kentucky! Do n't be afraid to try!

POSTAL CHANGES.

A very important act regulating Mail Service, Letter Delivery, Franking, Rates of Postage, &c., was passed at the late Session of Congress and took effect on the 1st inst. It extends to forty-five sections, and would now be reprinted in full but for the pressure of War News. The following is a summary of its most important provisions:

I. The postage on each letter weighing half an ounce or less, if carried and delivered wholly within the United States, is henceforth three cents if paid in advance. [Hitherto, letters transmitted from the Atlantic to the Pacific States, or *vice versa*, have been charged *ten* cents, which is now reduced to *three*.]

II. Every letter delivered from the office at which it was mailed, or distributed therefrom by local carrier, is henceforth to pay *two* cents postage. [Heretofore the charge was *one* cent, with an additional cent for delivery by carrier. Hereafter, two cents must be paid on every "drop letter" mailed, and there is to be no charge for delivery.]

III. The Postmaster-General is instructed to take measures to extend the system of Free Delivery so fast and so far as he may judge expedient. [We presume that, under this clause, such cities as Troy, Syracuse, Utica, Hudson, &c., with great villages like Poughkeepsie, Newburgh, &c., will soon be blessed with a system of Free Letter Delivery from once to twice per day. We believe an immense increase in business and receipts, especially in the matter of "drop letters," will result from this reform.]

IV. There is to be no charge henceforth for the receipt of either Mail or Drop Letters at sub-post-offices, letter-boxes, stations, or wherever they may be called—and their conveyance thence to the central or city office. [The charge of one cent hitherto made for this service almost nullified the utility of these stations. The cent was of no consequence; but the inconvenience of paying it rendered it an unspeakable nuisance.]

V. Postage on newpapers must inexorably be paid in advance. Those casually sent must be paid for at the mailing office; all others at the office whence delivered, and for not less than one quarter at a time.

VI. The postage on each newspaper weighing less than four ounces thus sent, is—For a Weekly, 20 cents per annum; Semi-Weekly 40; Tri-Weekly, 60; Daily, $1 20, or (if issued on Sundays also) $1 40. No matter how far conveyed, if wholly within the United States.

VII. No package is to be received for and transmitted by the Mails of a weight exceeding four pounds.

VIII. Registered letters are to pay a registration fee of twenty cents, instead of the five now charged.

IX. For each newspaper or other periodical transmitted by mail to one who is not a regular subscriber, there must be paid two cents when mailed, for a weight not exceeding four ounces, and the same for each four ounces additional.

X. All books sent by mail must pay four cents for any weight not exceeding four ounces; one cent per ounce for all additional weight.

XI. Magazines and other periodicals, issued less frequently than once per week pay one cent in advance for the first four ounces, and the same for each additional four ounces or fraction of the same.

XII. Publishers of periodicals may inclose bills to their subscribers in or with their papers, or write, print or stamp on them a notice when their term of subscription or prepayment expired or will expire without charge.

XIII. Postmasters are authorized to remove the wrappers from all periodicals or other mailed matter which shall not have paid letter postage, to ascertain whether there be or be not any writing on the inclosure or matter therein concealed which would justify a higher postage.

XIV. Franking is greatly restricted by this act. Postmasters can frank none but letters on strictly official business, under penalty of $300.

XV. All Postmasters whose compensation exceeds $1,000 per annum are to be appointed by the President; the residue by the Postmaster-General.

XVI. Each postmaster and every other person employed in the collection, mailing, transportation, distribution and delivery of letters, to take an initial oath of fidelity to the duties enjoined on him by the laws, and to "abstain from everything forbidden" thereby. If he neglects or evades this requirement, he is to be punished precisely as if he had taken it.

XVII. Each postmaster must render his account quarterly, and pay over all dues. To retain any on pretext of offset or claim against the department is a misdemeanor.

Such are the main provisions of this important act, which is calculated at once to increase the efficiency, the beneficence, and the income, of the Post-Office Department. We believe the public is largely indebted for its provisions to the Hon. M. Blair, Postmaster-General, and to the Hon. Schuyler Colfax, Chairman of the House Committee on Post-Offices and Post Roads.

THE BUCHANAN SPECIES.

Only the other day we thought that Mr. Buchanan, if not actually dead, had at least passed into the limbo of history, and that, cloistered up in prayerful seclusion, he had ceased to trouble a world not in the least disposed to trouble him. But the fury of war denies peace even to the remainder bones of the departed. The invasion of Pennsylvania resurrectionized even Mr. Buchanan, as the discharge of great guns brings submerged corpses to the surface of the waters. When his own hen-roosts were in danger, the late President, in spite of his senility, could still exhibit a miraculous activity. He did, we are told, "all in his power for the defense of the State"—which means, we suppose, that he is did all in his power for the defense of his snug house, his well-filled barns and his populous stock-yard. His sympathy with the Rebels did not go to the extent of supplying them with gratuitous beef. He did not lay away the fine old wheat whisky—the bottled donations of distillers eager for a certificate—he did not stock his generous bins to quench the thirst of Lee's uncivil troopers. He could not hang out a white banner, to indicate that his house was a sort of retreat for invalids; for if he had done so, his neighbors might have lynched him, in spite of his fullness of years. He therefore reversed the terms of a certain proposition, and determined that valor was the better part of discretion. He cannot be expected, at his time of life, to lead a division; neither were the birds who saved Rome warriors; but, if cackling was salutiferous then, it may be of service now; and in this department of war, Mr. Buchanan's cackle has been as rapid and obstreperous as that of more juvenile warblers.

Unfortunately, if we may credit the correspondent of a certain city newspaper, Mr. Buchanan does not consent to make an invaluable fuss, without filing a sort of caveat, to the effect that he does not approve "the miserable war policy of the Administration." He encourages citizens to enlist—but he thinks that they will be employed in a miserable business. He cries at the top of his childish treble: "To Arms!" but he is not the less amorous of peace at any price. He sees no sort of use in fighting, but he is prodigiously pugnacious. He is a darling of consistency. He delayed the re-enforcement of Fort Sumter until re-enforcement was impossible; and he becomes marvelously military in spite of his disapproval of "the miserable war policy of the Administration," only when there is some danger that the troops of the Confederacy may be quartered in his front parlor.

But we have not dragged this unfortunate gentleman into our columns, for the purpose of stimulating either the pity or the laughter of our readers. He happens to be a representative man of a class which is not sweet in the nostrils of the patriotic and thoughtful, and whether he made the species or the species made him, it is unnecessary to inquire. There are many querulous and impossible-to-be-satisfied folk, who like Mr. Buchanan "do not approve the miserable war-policy of the Administration." They are heroes—in criticism! They are defiant—in speeches! They bleed and die—in the abstract! They demonstrate their patriotism—by growling at the President! Their sympathies are catholic—and the Confederacy gets a moiety or more of their good wishes. They have great faith in a steady and voluble damnation of the Abolitionists. Fernando Wood does not see why the Union may not be restored by a little sharp, oily caucus-practice; Gov. Seymour believes that all would be well if his party could but get in, having got the other party fairly out; Mr. Vallandigham, musing in his Southern retreat, thinks that concession is the veritable policy, and not combat—all three do agree that the "war policy of the Administration" is "miserable," or at least they confess that it makes them so. They think that they proffer a prodigious sacrifice of their favorite feelings if, at long intervals, they utter something which by a generous construction, may be regarded as a war-speech, in which, however, they always take care to say that we shall never again taste of national felicity until we have put down, first the Abolitionists, and then the Rebels. They are never betrayed into a grand, generous, spontaneous outburst of normal patriotism—not they! They never fail to let you know that in their classification the President of the United States and the President of the Confederacy stand upon a basis of equal estimation—*Arcades ambo*—traitors both! But their words against the Washington Government, contending with countless and cruel embarrassment, are always bitterer than their words against the Richmond Usurpation, which is all one concrete felony. They have a little patriotism but by no means enough to keep them sweet. Their treason can be smelt at a wonderful distance. Small school-boys find out their inconsistency, and sneer at their limping perorations.

It may be properly suggested to this Buchanan Species which we have been considering, that mere growling mends no broken bones, and that simple fault-finding is the ready resource of politicians, but not of statesmen. Presidents are human, and it is human to err. Nobody has a right to expect perfection in the astutest of Cabinets. We do not, therefore, object to a healthy, well-founded, and honorable opposition; but we demand definite and intelligible criticism, and not indiscriminate curses. Mr. Buchanan, for instance, is opposed to the war policy of the Government; but can he stammer and drivel out any other policy which it has been possible for the Government to pursue? The country is weary of this eternal prating, and this eternal absence of living principle and manly thought. If the Buchanan Species are nursing pet schemes of reconstruction, why do they not advertise them, that the people may either swallow them or spit them out? It is pretty hard to make Janus do duty with both faces at once. If Mr. Buchanan can no longer write legibly, why does he not employ an amanuensis to manufacture a manifesto telling us what we should do, and what we should leave undone? Why does he not do this? We answer, because he has no plan, no policy, no scheme, no resource, no idea—nothing but an old and retired ruler's natural hatred of his successor! He thinks, and the whole Opposition thinks, that sharp abuse of a Republican Administration will save the country. Give these masquerade Quakers office to-morrow, and like rats in a corner they would be forced to fight, or to die. If they wish to retain the precious privilege of growling, let them pray to be left in a comfortable minority!

GEN. EWING.—Last week Gen. Ewing, the new Commander of Kansas, addressed a meeting of the citizens of Oloathe and the surrounding country, expressing his determination to put down the independent bands who now prey upon property on both sides of the border. Said he, there are very many men in Kansas who are stealing themselves rich in the name of Liberty. These men must find some other mode of giving effect to their patriotic zeal. As they want to kill Rebels, let them join any old regiment, or either of the new ones about being raised. They can find in the service positions equal to their energy, daring, and talent, and can adorn the service and be honored in it. The Government will welcome them; it needs and has a right to the service of all men of enterprise who are at large, and it will not too closely discriminate against such men because of irregularities in the past. But, whether they enter the service or not, I now notify them that they will be compelled to quit stealing, or get out of this District or get me out of it.

THE 22D N. G. REGIMENT.—Mr. George Willets, who has heard from his son, a member of this regiment, states for the information of those having friends in it, that the command was, on the evening of the 3d of July, in Carlisle; that they had been twice under fire; had marched 25 miles on Wednesday, and were stationed within 200 yards of the Rebel batteries during the bombardment of Carlisle, and could distinctly hear them give their orders. They were shielded from the Rebel view by a high stone wall around a graveyard. The shells flew over their heads from 6 p. m. till 4 a. m. but none were hurt. They were under marching orders for Shippensburg, on the evening of the 3d inst.

A MAMMOTH PIC-NIC.—If proof was desired of the extent to which New-York enterprise carries out its purposes, the witnesses of a pic-nic excursion of the employees of Bradley's hoop-skirt factories on Friday last, to Dudley's Grove, a few miles above Yonkers, on the east bank of the Hudson, had satisfactory demonstration. Nearly 1,500 girls, and 300 young men, all employed in the establishment, the one with their lovers and the others with their sweethearts, numbering nearly 3,000 persons. To carry this crowd, nearly all young and full of fun and frolic, three of the largest barges in our harbor were required, and two steamers were needed to do the towing. By 9 o'clock the whole party had massed at the foot of Spring street, North River, and amid the playing of Wallace's Band, numbering thirty pieces, and the active movements displayed in 150 quadrille sets, the barges swung out into the stream and moved up the North River. At 12½ o'clock the boats reached Dudley's Grove, where party and provender were landed, and, accordingly as personal states, affiliation, or relationship dictated, the immense crowd divided into little circles of from half a dozen to a score or two each, making about 300 knots of people scattered over about 50 acres of land embraced in the grove. Table-cloths were quickly spread, eatables were displayed only to rapidly vanish, and then walks, talks, quadrilles, waltzes, polkas, scuts, and races, and the usual hilarity of pic-nics followed. The band divided itself into three—one for each dancing platform, and the dancing continued without interruption during the entire afternoon. One pic-nic is very much like another pic-nic in its general characteristics. This, however, was remarkable from its huge proportions, and the fact that 1,800 of those who participated in it were the employees of one industrial establishment, and 1,500 of them girls of from 12 years of age upward—all well dressed, many attired in silks and laces, scrupulously neat in their appearance, and each one enjoying the satisfaction of a material independence by means of an honorable pursuit, and each one, we may add, though that is not at all remarkable in these days of steel clad (for it is not to be presumed that they make hoop skirts without wearing them), and invulnerable except to the light artillery of love, and all bent on having a jolly good time. The Messrs. Wert and Mr. Bradley the proprietors, accompanied the party. They forgot their mercantile dignity and shared the general hilarity of their employees. At half past six the party again went on board of the barges, and dancing was resumed until dark, when singing became the order of the evening, which was continued until the barges reached the dock at 10 o'clock. Our reporter (his modest pencil blushes as he records the fact) attempted, by an arithmetical calculation, mind you, to get at the amount of crinoline that was concealed under the drapery of that immense crowd of girlish gayety. As the result of his computation, he has come to the conclusion that if all the crinoline on that excursion were put in a continuous wire, it would make a line of nearly forty miles in length. The rise of Bradley's skirt factory is remarkable. Everybody knows that about eight years ago, when Mrs. Louis Napoleon Bonaparte revamped hoop-skirts after they had been in disuse for three-quarters of a century, the female world was seized with an irrepressible desire to be coopered. Yankee genius set itself to work to make improvements, and increased demand followed improvements in quality and increased facilities of manufacture. Bradley's factory was begun in 1859 with six employees, against 1,800 now employed. Six thousand skirts are daily manufactured, in which 120 miles of steel wire are used—and all this because an empress, for personal reasons, took it into her head that one petticoat, if it could be made to give as much spread, was better than a half dozen.

OUR HONORED DEAD.—The Joint Committee on National Affairs of the Common Council held a meeting yesterday, Ald. Farley in the chair. After the transaction of some routine business, Aldermen Long, Mitchell, and Ottiwell, with Councilmen Brandon, Webster, and Haviland, were appointed a Committee to proceed to the seat of war, and obtain the bodies of Brigadier-General Zook and other New-York officers who were slain in the recent battles, and bring them to this city for interment. The Committee was also directed to extend whatever aid they could to our wounded soldiers. The Committee departed on their mission last evening.

Mr. S. Hotailing, recently returned from New-Orleans, will deliver a lecture at some place to be named, down town, in the course of the week.

It will be seen by advertisement that the Pennsylvania Central Railroad is in perfect order.