LETTER FROM ANDREW JOHNSON.

He Accepts the Nomination for the Vice-Presidency.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., July 2, 1864.

Hon. WILLIAM DENNISON, Chairman and others, Committee of the National Union Convention:

GENTLEMEN: Your communication of the 9th ult., informing me of my nomination for the Vice-Presidency of the United States by the National Convention held at Baltimore, and inclosing a copy of the resolutions adopted by that body, was not received until the 27th ult.

A reply on my part had been previously made to the action of the Convention in presenting my name, in a speech delivered in this city on the evening succeeding the day of the adjournment of the Convention, in which I indicated my acceptance of the distinguished honor conferred by that body, and defined the grounds upon which that acceptance was based, substantially saying what I now have to say. From the comments made upon that speech by the various presses of the country to which my attention has been directed, I considered it to be regarded as a full acceptance.

In view, however, of the desire expressed in your communication, I will more fully allude to a few points that have been heretofore presented.

My opinions on the leading questions at present agitating and distracting the public mind, and especially in reference to the Rebellion now being waged against the Government and authority of the United States, I presume are generally understood.

Before the Southern people assumed a belligerent attitude (and repeatedly since), I took occasion most frankly to declare the views I then entertained in relation to the wicked purposes of the Southern politicians. They have since undergone but little, if any, change. Time and subsequent events have rather confirmed than diminished my confidence in their correctness.

At the beginning of this struggle I entertained the same opinion of it that I do now, and in my place in the Senate I denounced it as treason, worthy the punishment of death, and warned the Government and people of the impending danger. But my voice was not heard or counsel heeded until it was too late to avert the storm. It still continued to gather over us without molestation from the authorities at Washington, until at length it broke with all its fury upon the country. And now, if we would save the Government from being overwhelmed by it we must meet it in the true spirit of patriotism, and bring traitors to the punishment due their crime, and by force of arms crush out and subdue the last vestige of Rebel authority in every State. I felt then as now, that the destruction of the Government was deliberately determined upon by wicked and designing conspirators, whose lives and fortune were pledged to carry it out, and that no compromise, short of an unconditional recognition of the independence of the Southern States, could have been, or could now be proposed, which they would accept. The clamor for "Southern rights," as the Rebel journals were pleased to designate their rallying cry, was not to secure their assumed rights in the Union and under the Constitution, but to disrupt the Government, and establish an independent organization, based upon slavery, which they could at all times control.

The separation of the Government has for years past been the cherished purpose of the Southern leaders. Baffled in 1832, by the stern, patriotic heroism of Andrew Jackson, they sullenly acquiesced, only to mature their diabolical schemes, and await the recurrence of a more favorable opportunity to execute them. Then the pretext was the tariff, and Jackson, after foiling their scheme of nullification and disunion, with prophetic perspicacity warned the country against the renewal of their efforts to dismember the Government.

In a letter, dated May 1, 1833, to the Rev. A. J. Crawford, after demonstrating the heartless insincerity of the Southern nullifiers, he said:

"Therefore the tariff was only a pretext, and disunion and a Southern Confederacy the real object. The next pretext will be the negro or Slavery question.'

Time has fully verified this prediction, and we have now not only the negro or slavery question as the pretext, but the real cause of the Rebellion, and both must go down together. It is vain to attempt to reconstruct the Union with the distracting element of Slavery in it. Experience has demonstrated its incompatibility with free and Republican Governments, and it would be unwise and unjust longer to continue it as one of the institutions of the country. While it remained subordinate to the Constitution and laws of the United States, I yielded to it my support, but when it became rebellious and attempted to rise above the Government and control its action, I threw my humble influence against it.

The authority of the Government is supreme, and will admit of no rivalry. No institution can rise above it, whether it be Slavery or any other organized power. In our happy form of government all must be subordinate to the will of the people, when reflected through the Constitution and laws made pursuant thereto—State or Federal. This great principle lies at the foundation of every government, and cannot be disregarded without the destruction of the government itself. In the support and practice of correct principles we can never reach wrong results; and by rigidly adhering to this fundamental truth, the end will be the preservation of the Union, and the overthrow of an institution which has made war upon, and attempted the destruction of, the Government itself.

The mode by which this great change—the emancipation of the slave—can be effected, is properly found in the power to amend the Constitution of the United States. This plan is effectual, and of no doubtful authority; and while it does not contravene the timely exercise of the war power by the President in his Emancipation Proclamation, it comes stamped with the authority of the people themselves, acting in accordance with the written rule of the supreme law of the land, and must therefore give more general satisfaction and quietude to the distracted public mind.

By recurring to the principles contained in the resolutions so unanimously adopted by the Convention, I find that they substantially accord with my public acts and opinions heretofore made known and expressed, and are therefore most cordially indorsed and approved; and the nomination, having been conferred without any solicitation on my part, is with the greater pleasure accepted.

In accepting the nomination I might here close, but I cannot forego the opportunity of saying to my old friends of the Democratic party proper, with whom I have so long and pleasantly been associated, that the hour has now come when that great party can justly vindicate its devotion to true democratic policy and measures of expediency. The war is a war of great principles. It involves the supremacy and life of the Government itself. If the Rebellion triumphs, free government—North and South—falls.

If, on the other hand, the Government is successful—as I do not doubt—its destiny is fixed, its basis permanent and enduring, and its career of honor and glory just begun. In a great contest like this for the existence of free government, the path of duty is patriotism and principle. Minor considerations and questions of administrative policy should give way to the higher duty of first preserving the Government; and then there will be time enough to wrangle over men and measures pertaining to its administration.

This is not the hour for strife and division among ourselves. Such differences of opinion only encourage the enemy, prolong the war, and waste the country. Unity of action and concentration of power should be our watchword and rallying cry. This accomplished, the time will rapidly approach when their armies in the field, the great power of the Rebellion, will be broken and crushed by our gallant officers and brave soldiers, and ere long they will return to their homes and firesides to resume again the avocations of peace, with the proud consciousness that they have aided in the noble work of reestablishing, upon a surer and more permanent basis, the great temple of American Freedom.

I am, gentlemen, with sentiments of high regard,
Yours truly, ANDREW JOHNSON.

NAVAL SIGNALS.

A Universal Code of Naval Signals.

From the Moniteur, Paris, July 7.

REPORT TO THE EMPEROR.

SIRE: The idea of a universal naval language, offering to all nations a uniform means of communication at sea, has been for a long time, in England as well as in France, the object of laborious researches.

The realization of this idea, which is possible at this day, thanks to the accord that is established on the subject between your Government and that of Her Britannic Majesty, will be a new sign of the civilization of our epoch. I now ask of the Emperor to be so good as to sanction it.

Already your Majesty, in approving the agreement concluded with Great Britain for establishing a system of regular lights on board of vessels of the navies, has been able, by your decree of the 25th October, 1862, to prevent many accidents.

The rules prescribed by this agreement, to which you have invited the other Governments to adhere—now observed by most of the maritime nations—have, in lessening the chances of serious collisions, saved commerce from many losses, and humanity from many regrets.

We have to hope, Sire, that there will also be obtained the adhesion of other countries to the regulation which has for its object the establishing of a code of signals understood by every maritime nation, and which has received the approval of the English Admiralty, the Board of Trade, and my Department. In some time, no doubt, all vessels, to whatever nation they may belong, or whatever language their crews may speak, will be able to exchange with each other, notices and requests, the importance of which will be measured by the wants and dangers of navigation. They will be able, when in sight of coasts on which lighthouses are established, to give useful information, to obtain those things which are necessary for their operations, to claim any assistance needed by them; lastly, to ask for the latest meterological notices.

It is to the works written during nearly the last fifty years, in order to get up a collection of general signals, that the commission named by the two Governments (French and English) should refer for the adoption of the unique code that it is its business to propose.

These works were many. Already in 1816 and 1820 there appeared in England, which was the first to enter into this enterprise, the commercial codes of Tyson and Squire; in 1856, that of Philip. The best known of these works has been for a long time that of Capt. Maryatt, the last edition of which (1864) is a cotemporary of the French code of Reynold, as well as the American code of Rogers.

But, in the midst of this variety of works, the need of a unique code was only the more manifest. Communications were still next to impossible among the vessels of different nations. Besides, did not the Board of Trade name a commission, composed of mercantile men and officers of the royal navy to study the question. This commission, in which were the names known to science of Admirals Beechy and Fitzgray, formed, in 1856, a project for a universal code. Issued, at the end of a laborious examination of 13 books of signals belonging to different nations, and arranged by Mr. Larkin, of the board of Trade, secretary of the commission, this code, which offered all the guarantees desired, both in the number of signals it embraced, and in the care with which they had been classed, was unanimously accepted by the commission as that which, after all, ought to be adopted.

However, the commission introduced into it some necessary modifications, in order that vessels might communicate at a great distance, and put themselves en *rapport* with the light-houses; and to-day, that which I have to tender to your Majesty contains a full collection of signals easy to be used.

By means of eighteen flags, joined two and two, three and three, four and four, there can be obtained more than 78,000 combinations, a number more than enough to express all the necessary communications at sea, and to signal the names of vessels of war and commerce of the various nations; lastly, for signals at a great distance, an equally sufficient number of combinations is contained by the use of three balls and two flags.

Thus, all vessels furnished with the necessary materials, the price of which is very moderate, will be able, when the code of signals and the list of vessels of the different countries will have been published and translated, to communicate with each other on all the seas of the globe.

It is, therefore, with confidence that I now submit to your Majesty a decree which sanctions the adoption of a unique code of signals between France and England. No doubt the other nations will hasten to adopt it in their turn, as they have done the regulation as to lights, and thus will be attained this object so long sought for, namely, the creation of the universal naval language, which responds so well to the liberal ideas of the Emperor.

I am, with the most profound respect, Sire, your very humble and obedient servant and faithful subject, the Minister of the Navy and Colonies, &c.,

P. DE CHASSELOUP LAUBAT.

THE DECREE.

Napoleon, by the grace of God and the national will, Emperor of the French:

To all present and to come, greeting:

On the proposal of our Minister of the Navy and Colonies in respect to the letter dated 17th of May last, by which our Minister of Foreign Affairs has made known to our Minister of the Navy and Colonies that the Government of her Britannic Majesty has given its definite assent to the proposal made by the Anglo-French Commission, charged to consider the question of universal naval signals.

We have decreed, and we decree the following:

ARTICLE 1. The commercial code of signals for the use of the vessels of all nations, such as has been adopted by the Anglo-French Commission, will be the only one used by French vessels for all communications exchanged at sea, either between themselves or lighthouses, or with foreign vessels.

ART. 2. Every vessel of our Imperial Navy and every lighthouse on the coasts of France will be furnished with a dictionary of the flags and other things necessary for the exchange of communications with French and foreign trading vessels, according to the system of signals determined by the said code.

ART. 3. Our vessels of war will continue to communicate with each other and the French lighthouses by means of the signals actually in use in the Imperial Navy.

ART. 4. There will be sent to the Chambers of Commerce at the ports, through the care of our Minister of the Navy and Colonies, copies

1. Of the dictionary of the commercial code of signals, as well as of the list of French and foreign vessels, and of their official numbers in the commercial code of signals.

2. Of the charts of the French lighthouses.

There will also be sent to the Chamber of Commerce Modes.

1. Of the universal series of flags of the commercial code of signals.

2. And of the black balls used for signals at a great distance.

ART. 5. These will be regulated by subsequent dispositions agreed upon by our Ministers of State, of the Interior and of the Navy, the details for telegraphic transmission of commercial dispatches received from vessels or by light houses.

ART. 6. An order of our Ministers of State and of the Navy and Colonies will fix the day from which the commercial code of signals will be exclusively used.

ART. 7. All contrary dispositions to the present decree are, and remain, abrogated.

ART. 8. Our Minister of the Navy and Colonies is charged with the execution of the present decree.

Dated at the Palace of the Tuileries, the 25th June, 1864. NAPOLEON.

By the Emperor,
The Minister of the Navy and Colonies,
CHE P. DE CHASSELOUP LAUBAT.

Rebel Accounts of the Late Raid.

From The Richmond Examiner, July 21.

There was no news yesterday until late in the afternoon, when an official dispatch was received at the War Office announcing an important Confederate victory in Northern Virginia. The following extract is as much of the dispatch as it is deemed expedient to make public at present:

A large force of Yankees crossed the Shenandoah at Snicker's on the 18th inst. At 6 o'clock p. m. they were attacked and driven across the river in confusion. Our loss is stated to be between 200 and 300; that of the enemy is much greater.

The fight took place on the eastern border of Clarke County, on the west side of the Blue Ridge, and about 20 miles a little south of east of Winchester, at what is known as Snicker's Gap, Hunter advancing from Winchester. From the western end of the gap to the Shenandoah River the distance by the road is from three to five miles. Along and across this road was the battlefield. It is about 90 miles due west from Leesburg. The Shenandoah River is here narrow and deep, and as the enemy were driven across "in confusion," their loss must have indeed been heavy.

This fight was brought on by an attempt of Hunter to prevent our return to the valley with the spoils of the Maryland campaign. After the sudden and evidently unexpected blow administered to him on this occasion he is likely to keep at a respectful distance, and allow our mysterious army, with its nameless commanders, to pass at their pleasure. Really Hunter's be wildermost must, by this time, be painful. A month ago he, with the utmost confidence, threw himself against Lynchburg, but, being hurled back with a strong hand, he fled in horror and amazement, not tarrying to learn who was his powerful antagonist. On Monday, having recruited and increased his forces, he attempts to crush a few thousand cavalry who are returning weary and heavy laden from their rioting and raiding through the fertile fields of Maryland, even to the gates of the capital of his nation. Again he is dashed back by the still unknown iron hand, and his men put to the rout.

Before taking leave of Hunter for the present, we must not fail to mention that this movement against our forces is doubtless the grand, magnificent, brilliant movement which, according to the statements of all the Yankee papers, Grant was about to spring upon as Rebels. This was the brilliant movement that was to electrify everybody, and bring this abominable rebellion to its last leg. It was very easily disconcerted, certainly. We will not discuss its brilliancy.

From The Richmond Examiner, July 21.

We have before us a letter from an officer, giving a sketch of the operations of the cavalry during the recent invasion of Maryland and the District of Columbia. We give below all of the letter that is necessary to the interest of the narrative; a part of it we consider it proper to withhold:

WHITE'S FORD ON THE POTOMAC, July 15, 1864.

We are back over the river after a ten days' sojourn in Maryland. What all the results of our expedition are I do not yet see, but suspect they are * * * In many respects the raid is certainly a success * * * We left Staunton about the 27th of June, the infantry passing down the valley pike, the cavalry along a road parallel and to the west of the pike. We (the cavalry) reached Winchester on the 3d, and on the 4th attacked Gen. Sigel at Leetown, from which, after a severe struggle he retired. At noon we struck the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and Telegraph, and immediately pressed on toward Martinsburg. On the 4th our infantry took Shepherdstown, from which the Yankees were driven with loss. We here took a flag from the 1st New-York Cavalry. On the 5th we crossed the Potomac and proceeded to Sharpsburg, and then marched to Boonesboro and Middletown, skirmishing a little with the Yankees at the latter place. On the 8th we drove them to the suburbs of Frederick, but our orders would not permit us to take the town; consequently we saw no one there. On the 9th we started on our raid. The army marched on Monocacy Junction, while we struck to the east for the railroads. Marching rapidly and changing horses as fast as they were broken down, we passed over the State. At daylight on the 10th we were at Relistertown, twelve miles from Baltimore, and at 9 o'clock a. m. we were at Cockeysville, on the Northern Central Railroad. Major Gilmor, with the 2d and part of the 1st Maryland Cavalry, pushed on, while we burned the bridges at Cockeysville. Next day Major Gilmor destroyed all the bridges on the Philadelphia and Baltimore Railroad, captured a train and Major-Gen. Franklin, and rejoined the command at Pocksville on the 13th. From Cockeysville Johnson's brigade swept around Baltimore, appearing almost simultaneously on so many different roads, at intervals from six to ten miles apart, that many different columns were reported to be advancing at once on Baltimore. On the 11th we struck the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at Woodstock, and on the 12th the Washington and Baltimore Road at Beltsville. At the latter place we fell in with the Yankee cavalry, which we routed in thirty minutes. By this time Mr. Abraham Lincoln did not know whether the United States had seceded or not. We cut all communication between Washington and the North. After routing the Yankee cavalry we caught a passenger train of nine cars and a commissary train laden with sugar and coffee. Several citizens told that Lincoln had gone over the road in a barden train a short time before our arrival. We remained at this place (Beltsville) until ordered to rejoin the army.

A party sent by Gen. Johnson burned Gov. Bradford's house, with everything in it except the ladies' clothing and the piano. Gen. Johnson ordered this to be done as a retaliation for the burning of Gov. Letcher's house by Gen. Hunter. It was a harsh measure as far as it affected the ladies of the family; but just vengeance can take no account of persons. The manner of the burning was, however, very different from that of Lexington. The young men engaged in it treated the family too. The young men assisted them in removing with the greatest respect, assisted them in removing their clothing, and carried their piano out for them. A quantity of gold found in the house was given to one of the young ladies on her assurance that it was her property.

Some of the incidents of our ride were amusing. We fell in with Painter's celebrated traveling ice-cream saloon, with a large quantity of ice-cream aboard. We took it, with a large quantity of ice-cream aboard. We had no rations, and vanilla, lemon and other ices were issued to the whole command, who ate until they could eat no more. This was the first time a whole cavalry brigade were ever fed on ice cream.

Our loss, from the time we left the army at Frederick until we rejoined it at Blair's house, was one officer, Lieutenant Edelin, Company B, 1st Maryland cavalry, killed or wounded, and two men captured. We started on Saturday, the 9th, and rejoined the army on Wednesday, the 13th, having been out of the saddle only twice during that time, and marched eighty miles at a stretch.

Richmond correspondence of the Mobile Register, July 13.

By the time you get this letter Abe Lincoln will know that Jubal Early, one of our best generals, is in the valley, pressing hard for Washington, so I need not keep the secret from you. Gen. Hunter, who is rampaging around Lexington and Lynchburg, will find himself in a trap; and, unless we are much mistaken, the counter irritant will prove strong enough to relieve the Yankee engorgement around this city. Rhodes, with his Alabamians, goes with Early; in fact the best part, if not the whole of Ewell's corps, is now permanently under Early, Ewell having relieved Ransom as commander of the Department of Henrico. The weather is unnaturally cool, but fine for marching, and Early's men will make good time. They started yesterday morning.

Rebel Review of the Recent Operations in Western Virginia.

From the Richmond Examiner, July 21.

Nor yet is the campaign fully understood which has occurred in that part of Virginia west of the Blue Ridge extending from the Potomac to the Tennessee and Kentucky lines. How that country has escaped utter desolation, under the military direction of the Aulic Council, which until recently issued orders from this city seems now an unfathomable mystery. The Central Directory seems to have been totally blinded in regard to the enemy's schemes, both for May and June in that quarter; and nothing but plunder and destruction marked the progress of the campaign, until three Yankee armies combined were actually thundering at the gates of Lynchburg, when our Generals in that quarter, fortunately and to the joy of the inhabitants, began to receive orders from another voice.

That the designs of the enemy upon the western country may be fully understood, it is proper to republish a sketch of Grant's plan of campaign for this reason, as divulged by one of their military correspondents, which was once before given in these columns, and which has been completely authenticated by the actual movements.

The writer several weeks ago, described as follows:

"The theory which limits General Grant's plan of the campaign to the capture of Richmond does but half justice. He may capture the Rebel capital without capturing the Rebel government machinery, and without overthrowing Lee's army. In that event further active and prompt operations will be necessary. Gen. Grant foresees this, and has provided for it.

"The second movement (Grant's being the first), is that of Sigel and Stahel up the Shenandoah Valley towards Staunton, with the view first of taking possession of the Virginia Central Railroad, and ultimately effecting a lodgment upon the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad at Lynchburg. The third is that of Averil moving towards the same great railroad, with a design of striking it at Salem. The fourth that of General Crook, who is moving with a strong force and large supplies from Charlestown towards Newbern (Dublin depot) on the same railroad. The fifth, that of Major Gallup, moving up on the Virginia side of the Big Sandy, towards Abingdon on the same railroad."

In one single particular did this writer commit an error. The movement from Kentucky by way of the Big Sandy, was a much more important one than to be entrusted to a Major. It was to have been made by an army of seven thousand troops—infantry, mounted infantry, cavalry and artillery—under command of a Major-General, and the General has since become known to fame under the name of Burbridge. In another particular was the plan altered and enlarged, namely: In the movement from Winchester entrusted to Sigel. It was altered by the defeat which that General received in May at Newmarket from Breckinridge; it was enlarged by the subsequent augmentation of its forces by several thousand troops, drawn from the extreme Northwestern States, and by the appointment of General Hunter, an officer of higher rank, to its command—the same Hunter, by the by, who inaugurated negro enlistments and miscegenation in the Department of Beaufort, South Carolina, as early as the first Winter of the war.

The invasion thus planned for Western Virginia comprehended a heavy aggregate of forces. First, there were the seven thousand of Burbridge from Kentucky, twelve hundred of whom actually got into Virginia through Pound Gap; next, there were the six thousand of Crook, which came from the Lower Kanawha. These last were joined by Averill, with twenty-five hundred cavalry, coming from North-West Virginia; and finally, there was the army of Sigel, afterwards commanded and reenforced by Hunter, whose strength was variously estimated, but was not less than twelve thousand. The grand aggregate of troops prepared for this invasion was not less than twenty-seven thousand men.

The design was that these different corps should strike the Lynchburg and Tennessee and the Central Railroads simultaneously at Abingdon, Wytheville, Dublin depot and Staunton, and should afterwards unite, centrally, west of Lynchburg, and march against that town. Subsequent orders from Gen. Grant to Hunter directed him to take and hold the town at any loss and at all hazards, and assurances were given of speedy reenforcements and supplies to be furnished at that point.

There were two movements, the first in May, which miscarried; and the plan was afterward amended and set for June. In pursuance of the original plan, at the very moment that Grant crossed the Rapidan, about the 6th of May, it was announced that Sigel was in motion upon Staunton, Crook upon Dublin Depot, and Averill upon Wytheville, with design, after destroying that town and the lead mines, to unite with Crook at Dublin for a march toward Lynchburg; but no news came of a movement at that early day by "Maj. Gallup," alias Maj.-Gen. Burbridge, upon Abingdon to Saltville. The sequel proved that we were poorly prepared to meet this concerted assault. Breckinridge had been ordered away from Dublin in a hurry, with all the troops he could collect at short notice, and sent down the Valley to confront Sigel, leaving nothing but a few scattered troops, afterward collected together by McCausland, to oppose Crook at Dublin.

Breckinridge defeated Sigel, and drove him back in dismay and rout. But McCausland, at Dublin (who was junior to Jenkins for a brief period, before that officer received a mortal wound), had met with which to resist Crook's 6,000. He fought bravely, however, and so shattered Crook's army as to destroy his design of proceeding toward Lynchburg, and compel a retreat as far as Meadow Bluff, in Greenbrier, for the purpose of recruiting his disorganized army and repairing damages. Crook left several hundred prisoners in our hands and all his wounded, but succeeded before leaving the region of the battle in destroying the important bridge over New River.

It so happened that we had a larger force at that time in the extreme south-west than anywhere else on the line of the Lynchburg and Tennessee Railroad. The fact was fortunate, for it enabled Gen. W. E. Jones, then commanding there, to spare Gen. Morgan's command for services farther east. Then it happened that Gen. Morgan, making a forced march from Saltville, arrived at Wytheville with his mounted men, in time to save that town from Averill, and to consummately defeat that boasted cavalry officer, with a heavy loss of killed, wounded, prisoners and horses. This defeat was very important, for it prevented Averill from joining Crook before the battle at Dublin, and before that General had found it necessary to fall back to Meadow Bluff. Averill arrived at Dublin two days after Crook had gone. It was still further fortunate that Gen. Morgan, at the same time that he marched from Saltville with his mounted men against Averill, at Wytheville, was able to send his dismounted men by the railroad to Dublin, which force arrived there just in time to take part with McCausland in the fight which sent Crook back to Meadow Bluff.

These occurrences took place in the early part of May, simultaneously with Grant's operations in Spottsylvania. Morgan's fight at Wytheville, McCausland's at Dublin, and Breckinridge's at New-Market, all occurred about the same time with each other, and simultaneously with the great battles of the Wilderness between Lee and Grant.

Subsequently to these events, for several weeks, as we have since found out to our cost, Crook and Averill were refitting and preparing at Meadow Bluff for an advance on Staunton and Lynchburg; Hunter, superseding Sigel, was organizing at Winchester heavy reenforcements for a second advance upon Lynchburg by way of Staunton; and Burbridge, in Kentucky, was getting ready to descend upon extreme South-West Virginia, so as to prevent any advance from that direction upon the rear of the combined armies about to move on Lynchburg.

It is frightful, even now, to recollect how inadequate our preparations were to meet these formidable enterprises of the enemy. Breckinridge, with the only army that could be called such, which we had west of the Blue Ridge, was ordered elsewhere, leaving nothing to confront 27,000 troops but a few small brigades of inferior cavalry, about two regiments of infantry, and a small brigade (Vaughan's) of dismounted troops acting as infantry. To supply the place of Breckinridge, McCausland's little force from Dublin was sent to the front of Staunton, and Gen. William E. Jones was ordered to take all the troops he could move from South-West Virginia to the same position in the lower valley. Accordingly Gen. Jones not only got together all the infantry west of the New River, but dismounted Vaughan's brigade of cavalry also, and took all to Staunton, leaving nothing in the extreme south-west but a few disjointed bodies of cavalry, and Morgan's command, to meet Burbridge, coming in from Kentucky. We all know what befell the heroic Gen. Jones at Staunton, commanding the little heterogeneous army, thus hastily thrown together. We all are informed of the dauntless service of McCausland in his long and laborious retreat, fighting every day, from Staunton to Lynchburg, and how the delay he produced in the enemy's march saved that town and that invaluable military position. He was one of the men who had learned to fight at Carnifex Ferry, Cotton Hill, Fort Donelson and twenty other battles.

But the service which Gen. Morgan rendered in the emergency of June is not so fully understood. Gen. Jones being ordered from the extreme South-West, together with all the troops he could transport, to Staunton, at the very time that South-West Virginia was about to be invaded by Burbridge, Gen. Morgan held a brief and hasty conference with him on the eve of his departure, in which it was agreed by both Generals that it would be in vain to meet Burbridge in front, and that, as the enemy had much more to lose in Kentucky than we had in Virginia, the only chance of saving the South-West was by Morgan's dashing boldly into the heart of Kentucky, and in that way drawing Burbridge away. The plan was carried into effect and completely succeeded. Burbridge was lured back, his army scattered and crippled, Southwest Virginia saved for the time, and the discomfited general set to reorganizing his command—a task which occupied him until the necessities of Gen. Sherman rendered all available reenforcements from Kentucky needful at Chattanooga.

These latter movements all took place in the first part of June, after the date of the battle of Cool Harbor. They were designed by Grant as auxiliary to his own movement upon Petersburg, and were a material part of the comprehensive plan he had formed for completely isolating Richmond. When these important movements west of the Blue Ridge, which had their focus at Lynchburg, are considered in connection with Sheridan's great raid in the same central direction, and with the enterprises of Wilson and Kautz against the Danville and Weldon railroads, all of them auxiliary to Grant's attempt upon Petersburg, we are obliged to accord to the enemy's plan of campaign for June the merit of unusual grasp and ability. Thanks to the miracles of Providence wrought for us on the west of the Blue Ridge, and to the valor of our soldiers and skill of our generals, so eminently displayed on the east, these formidable movements to encircle and overwhelm this city and State have completely failed, and Richmond is safe until new armies are organized and new plans of campaign devised.

CITY ITEMS.

A PORTION OF THE MISSING TAX COMMISSIONERS' BOOKS RECOVERED.—On Saturday afternoon last Christian B. Woodruff, one of the newly-appointed Tax Commissioners, appeared before Justice Dowling at the Tombs, and made application for a search warrant, stating that he believed a portion of the books which have been missing from the Tax Commissioners' office since the 5th of May last were in the possession of Mr. Theodore Kovner of No. 278 East Seventy-fourth street. These books he believed to be the Receiver's and Record Books of the 1st, 2d, 3d, 9th, 11th, 12th, 17th, 18th, 20th, 21st and 22d Wards of this City (two volumes each), one volume of the 10th Ward, two volumes of residents, and one volume of non-residents assessed for personal tax, together with vouchers and affidavits pertaining to the same. Officer Barkley of the Lower Police Court, searched the above premises, and on the parlor table found the Record and Receivers' Books of 1st, 15th and 20th Wards, together with the Field Book of the latter Ward. The missing property was taken possession of by the officer, and Mr. Kerner was arrested and brought before Justice Dowling, who held him for examination. He assigns no reason for having the books in his possession.

THE FREE SINGING SCHOOL.—A musical entertainment was given at St. John's Church, on Friday evening, by Mr. Gilder's free singing class. The programme included selections from the oratorios and secular pieces. The boys sang solos and choruses with considerable skill. The rector of Trinity Church, and other clergymen were present, with many of the personal friends of the little singers. Mr. Gilder reopens his class in September. Those who desire to learn to sing by note can join his classes without expense.

YACHT RACE.—On Wednesday next a match race between the yachts Restless, 20 tons, owned by ex-Commodore Jones of the Brooklyn Yacht Club, and the Annie Laurie, 20 tons, owned by Mr. McMonies, will take place for the sum of $500 a side, to start from the Club House at the Penny Bridge, pass through Long Island Sound, around Long Island, and return to the starting point. They start at 10 a. m.

COLORED SOLDIERS.—Since the courage of colored soldiers has been vindicated at Port Hudson, at Fort Wagner, in Virginia and elsewhere, under Banks, under Gillmore, under Butler and others, the Copperheads in this city do not hiss as they did formerly at the idea of organizing negro regiments. The black troops that were enlisted here and mustered into service a few months ago won the respect of their officers by their excellent behavior, their patriotism and their soldierly bearing. They did not get drunk, they did not attempt to desert, they did not consume the Government because they had been cheated by bounty-brokers. They left New-York with flying colors, honored with the most enthusiastic demonstrations. Banners were presented, addresses were delivered, and vast multitudes of our citizens escorted them to the wharf and cheered them heartily when the boat on which they left swung from her moorings. Since the late call for 500,000 more men a number of enterprising merchants and others have determined to do all in their power to lighten the load which falls so heavily on this city by enlisting black men in the Slave States, to aid in filling the quota demanded here, and preventing the necessity of a draft. Mr. Vincent Colyer, who has had experience as a teacher of negroes in North Carolina, and who acted as disbursing agent here to the negroes who suffered at the hands of the rioters last Summer, has been invited to assist in the accomplishment of this task. He has seen the Governor in relation to the matter, and today he is to hold a conference with Superintendent Hunt, and other members of the war committee—all of whom are known to be favorable to the movement. During the past week black men have been sought with as much eagerness as white men for substitutes, and as high a premium has been offered for the former as for the latter. Men who sneered at colored men in blue coats a year ago now argue that black men should do a share of the fighting, and help to win the freedom of their race, which is sure to follow in the wake of war, that we need the services of the industrial classes at home, so that the great loaf needed by the army may be provided, and the bill of expenses may be paid. Those who ventilate their opinions on the street-corners—in stage coaches, in saloons, and elsewhere—men who have heretofore looked upon color as a crime, have come to the sage conclusion that a bullet from a black man's rifle is as fatal to a Rebel as it would be if white fingers pulled the trigger.

FUNERAL OF MR. NATHANIEL MARSH.—The funeral of Nathaniel Marsh took place on Thursday afternoon at Clifton, Staten Island. The services were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Eccleston, who delivered an eloquent and touching eulogy on the character of the deceased. The steamer Pavonia, belonging to the Erie Railroad Company, with her colors at half-mast, took to the funeral the Directors of the Company and as many of the employees as could be spared from the line of works.

CRIMES.—William and John W. Addy were found in the liquor store of Michael Ryan, No. 164 West Broadway at an early hour yesterday morning. In the possession of the prisoners was found 75 cents, which it is charged they had stolen from the money drawer, after forcibly entering the premises. Justice Dowling committed them in default of $1,000 bail each.... Marta Woodruff and Louisa Payne, loose characters, were committed by Justice Dodge for stealing a gold watch and wallet containing $65 from Benjamin Hooker, proprietor of a restaurant at No. 216 Wooster street, while conversing with them in Greene street. They quarreled over the distribution of the plunder, and Louisa afterward gave their victim information which led to the arrest of both.... Marten Feeley, proprietor of a liquor store at No. 321 Hudson street, about a month since sent Joseph Farrell, a young man in his employ, to a savings bank to deposit the sum of $326. Instead of so doing, Farrell appropriated the amount, and fled to Baltimore, where he stayed until he had spent all the money. A day or two since he returned to the city, and was on Saturday arrested. Justice Dodge committed him for examination. He is a bar-tender, and lately resided at No. 288 Eighth avenue.... Washington Hanlon passed a counterfeit $10 bill on the Bank of West Winfield, Herkimer Co., N. Y., at the store of William Fisher, No. 311 Bleeker street, in payment for a trifling article. He also tendered like bills at the stores of Mr. Scudder, corner of Bleecker and Bank street, and Mr. Lackey, in Bleecker street, near Bank. At the latter place Officer Westerfield of the Ninth Precinct attempted to arrest him, but the rascal ran, and only after a long chase was he secured. Justice Dodge committed him for trial.... John, alias "Major," McAlpine, was arrested on Saturday evening by the United States Marshal of New-Jersey, on a warrant issued by the United States District Attorney of that State, on a charge of enticing and assisting Union soldiers to desert. He will be taken to that State for trial. He is well known to the Police of this city, and has already served a term of four years in Sing Sing.

CORONERS' INQUESTS.—Thomas Green was found lying dead yesterday morning under the hatchway of the building corner of Ann and Nassau streets. Deceased was a printer, aged 25 years, had been drunk for some weeks past, and had been in the habit of sleeping in the building. He had probably fallen from one of the upper floors through a hatchway, as they were all found open. Coroner Naumann will hold an inquest on the body to-day.... Cornelius Horan, while working on an ice barge at the foot of Canal street, fell through the open hatchway, and received such severe injuries that he died at his residence, No. 23 Desbrosses street, on Saturday last. Coroner Wilkey held an inquest.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.—Early yesterday morning John Downey, residing at No. 813 Grand street, attempted to commit suicide by shooting himself in the face with a pistol, causing a dangerous wound. He was conveyed to Bellevue Hospital.

[Advertisement.]

MARRIAGE.—Union of Opposites — Short Courtships, Matrimonial Customs—Odds, a Poser—Capacity of the Chest—Birds—The Throne of Solomon—A Policy of Industry—A Splendid Pleasure Trip, in the PHRENOLOGICAL JOURNAL for August. Newsmen have it. 20 cents, or $2 a year. FOWLER & WELLS, N. Y.

[Advertisement.]

BIXBY VS. DAY & MARTIN.—BIXBY'S LIQUID and PASTE BLACKING is the best in use, and 50 per cent cheaper than the English or French. Sold by all Grocers, Shoe Dealers, and Druggists in the country. Wholesale Depots, No. 475 4th av. and No. 19 Spruce st., New-York.

[Advertisement.]

The Rebels, while in Maryland, plundered the stores of their supply of EVANS' FAST INDIA COFFEE, thereby causing great distress. Wholesale orders filled at short notice at the General Depot, No. 154 Reade st. Sold by all grocers at 28 cents ℔ lb.

COMMERCIAL MATTERS.

Sales at the Stock Exchange—JULY 23.

1,000 U. S. 6s '81, Coup.	103	$50 Marines Min. Co.	41
5,000 do	102¾	100 Erie Railway	b30. 110¾
5,000 do	102¾	100 do	b10. 110¾
27,000 U. S. 6s 5-20s, Con.	104	100 do	110¾
25,000 do	104¼	1500 do	b3. 110¾
1,300 do	104¼	100 do	110¾
1,900 Tr. N. 7 3-10 G. & A.	102¾	100 Hudson River R.R.	126
1,000 do C. & A.	102¾	100 do	b3. 127
31,900 U. S. 6s 1-yr. Cer.	96	200 do	127¼
23,000 do	96¼	73 Pt., Pl., W. & Chi. Sc.	116
1,000 Mo. 6s Ia. & Pac. R.R.	72	10 Erie Preferred	107
47,000 Ohio & Miss. Cer.	4¾	850 Reading R. R.	132
10,000 Tennessee 6s '90	52	100 do	132¼
2,000 N. Y. Cen. 6s '77	118	100 do	b15. 132
3,000 Erie 3d Mortg.	124	100 Michigan Cen. R. R.	133¾
5,000 Erie 5th M. B.	120	150 do	134
1,000 Erie 4th M. B.	121	100 do	b10. 135
5,000 Mich. Cen. 6s Conv. 1st M. S. F. B.	126	200 Ill. Cen. R. R., Scrip	134
17,000 Alton & T. H. 1st M.	115	100 do	134
5,000 Mich. So. 7s M.	105	100 Cleve. & Pitts. R.R.	b10. 108
4,000 M. & P. du Ch. 1st M.	114	100 do	108
10,000 Mich. S. & N. I. G.	61	100 Chi. & N. W. R. R.	48
12,000 Alton & T. H. Inc.	22	100 do	48¼
7,000 do	21	100 Chi. & N. W. Pref.	82
5,000 Pitts. Ft. W. & C. 2d m.	117¾	100 do	b30. 86
10 Atlantic Bank	95	100 Cleve. & Tol. R. R.	117
100 Canton Company	34	200 Chi. & R. Is. R. R.	109
100 Cumberland Coal Pref.	60	100 do	109¼