New-York Daily Tribune.

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OUR LATE VICTORIES

A Day of Public Thanksgiving.

Recommendation of President Lincoln.

Public Thanks to the Army & Navy.

OFFICIAL—FROM SECRETARY STANTON TO GEN. DIX.

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, Sept. 5, 1864—11 a.m.

To Major-Gen. JOHN A. DIX: The President has issued the following recommendations and orders in relation to the recent successes of the United States forces at Mobile and Atlanta.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Sec. of War.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON CITY, Sept. 3, 1864.

The signal success that Divine Providence has recently vouchsafed to the operations of the United States fleet and army in the harbor of Mobile, and the reduction of Fort Powell, Fort Gaines and Fort Morgan, and the glorious achievements of the army under Maj.-Gen. Sherman in the State of Georgia, resulting in the capture of the city of Atlanta, call for devout acknowledgments of the Supreme Being in whose hands are the destinies of nations. It is therefore requested that on next Sunday, in all places of worship in the United States, thanksgiving be offered to Him for His mercy in preserving our national existence against the insurgent Rebels who have been waging a cruel war against the Government of the United States for its overthrow, and also that prayer be made for divine protection to our brave soldiers and their leaders in the field, who have so often and so gallantly periled their lives in battling with the enemy, and for blessing and comfort from the Father of Mercies to the sick, wounded and prisoners, and to the orphans and widows of those who have fallen in the service of their country, and that He will continue to uphold the Government of the United States against all the efforts of public enemies and secret foes. ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, Sept. 3, 1864.

The National thanks are tendered by the President to Admiral Farragut and Maj.-Gen. Canby for the skill and harmony with which the recent operations in Mobile harbor and against Fort Powell, Fort Gaines and Fort Morgan were planned and carried into execution; also to Admiral Farragut and Maj.-Gen. Granger, under whose immediate command they were conducted, and to the gallant commanders on sea and land, and to the sailors and soldiers engaged in the operations, for their energy and courage, which, under the blessing of Providence, have been crowned with brilliant success, and have won for them the applause and thanks of the nation.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, Sept. 3, 1864.

The national thanks are tendered by the President to Major-General William T. Sherman, and the gallant officers and soldiers of his command, before Atlanta, for the distinguished ability, courage and perseverance displayed in the campaign in Georgia, which, under divine power, resulted in the capture of the City of Atlanta. The marches, battles, sieges and other military operations that have signalized this campaign must render it famous in the annals of war, and have entitled those who have participated therein to the applause and thanks of the nation. ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, Sept. 3, 1864.

ORDERED: *First*—That on Monday, the 5th day of September, commencing at the hour of 12 o'clock, noon, there shall be given a salute of 100 guns at the Arsenal and Navy Yard at Washington, and on Tuesday, the 6th of September, or on the day after the receipt of this order at each arsenal and navy yard in the United States, for the recent brilliant achievements of the fleet and land forces of the United States in the harbor of Mobile, and the reduction of Fort Powell, Fort Gaines and Fort Morgan. The Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy will issue the necessary directions in their respective Departments for the execution of this order.

Second—That on Wednesday, the 7th day of September, commencing at the hour of 12 o'clock, noon, there shall be fired a salute of 100 guns at the Arsenal at Washington, and at New-York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Pittsburg, Newport, Ky., and St. Louis, and at New Orleans, Mobile, Pensacola, Hilton Head, and Newbern, the day after the receipt of this order, for the brilliant achievements of the army, under command of Maj.-Gen. Sherman, in the State of Georgia, and the capture of Atlanta. The Secretary of War will issue directions for the execution of this order.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Rejoicing over the Fall of Atlanta.

WASHINGTON, September 5.

A salute of 100 guns was fired to-day by order of the President, in honor of the victory at Atlanta.

TRENTON, Monday, Sept. 5, 1864.

Governor Parker has ordered the firing of 31 guns in honor of the victory of our troops at Atlanta, to-morrow, at 12 o'clock. One hundred guns were fired this evening by the loyal citizens of this city in honor of Sherman's victory. A public meeting, called for this evening, was postponed to Friday evening on account of the prevailing storm.

FROM THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC

Affairs near Petersburg—Reports of Rebel Deserters.

WASHINGTON, Sept 5, 1864.

There is no news of importance from the army of the Potomac.

Deserters from the Rebel army report that Atlanta is in our possession, with a large number of prisoners; that Richmond papers contain accounts of a battle there on the 31st of August, and that our troops were at first repulsed, but finally drove the enemy back with heavy loss, including three Generals, viz: Anderson, Patten and Hardee.

The Rebel deserters further state that their loss in the fight with the 2d Corps, on the Weldon Railroad, was very severe, but that they took a large number of prisoners.

General Lew. Wallace, in company with General Grant, visited General Warren at the front yesterday. Rumor gives him an important command in that department.

Five Days of Quiet—The Fall Season and the Soldiers—Tobacco for the Army—How our Boys Crave It—Gen. Butler and the Negro Soldiers—Picket Humor—Army Hospitals—The Paymaster.

From Our Special Correspondent.

HEADQUARTERS GEN. BUTLER, Sept. 2, 1864.

To-day has been the fifth consecutive day of absolute quiet—of entire cessation from firing of guns large and small—of weather comparatively cool by day and exceedingly chilly by night. Last night especially was very cold—toward morning uncomfortably so, unless one had an extra blanket within reach. In this latitude as the Fall comes on, mid-days may be of scorching heat, while mid-nights shall be shivering cold. It may be owing to this fact that September is considered the most unhealthy month of the year—more so than the excessive heats of July and August. Still, I doubt if it will be much worse for these soldiers. It will be no worse for them, and perhaps much better, if the Fall clothing can be given out—say everything but greatcoats, which will not be needed for some time yet—immediately. One fortunate circumstance is, that this is a wooded country, and a few such nights as the last will set a fire to blazing for every corporal's guard in the army; and these densely-grown pine-lands will be rapidly cleared when a hundred thousand men set to chopping fuel for twenty thousand fires in the open air.

In the July dust we longed for rain. With August came rain—rain every day. Some of us thought that a little too much fell, but anything was preferable to the dust. Some one apostrophized a late storm, after the manner of the forbearing lover to his mistress, thus:

"With all thy *faults* I love thee still."

Yet the waters scarcely diminished the heat, and some of the most trying marches the army has known have been over earth, slippery wet, and between fitful showers, but in air stifling as the blast of a furnace, and enervating and emasculating as sniffs of chloroform.

But now with the first days of fall, that, too, is past, and there are hours after each sunrise, and hours before each sunset so deliciously bracing, hours when the air is brave with strength and life, that one would almost risk the fever bred of sultry noon and chilly daybreak, for the sake of wantoning in lusty life the rest of the time. Why, the very horses feel the difference, and manifest it with a pawing delight, an eager spirit of go, an airiness of carriage, a snuffing of the air of inhalation and a snorting of the air of exhalation, which tempts to the saddle, while it dissuades from the spur.

Two days ago, while threading my way through a camp, a good-looking, cleanly dressed, full-bearded soldier, attracted my attention by a gesture which was half salute and half beckon. Reining up, for I thought I detected a desire to speak with me, the man advanced and, folding his arms and standing at his full length, began: "Sir, do I look like a beggar? Look at me and say if I appear as if I were in the habit of begging?" I answered in the negative, and desired to know whether he had anything to beg for then—and I got his story. Said he, "Do you chew or smoke? Now I don't know whether you are an officer or a chaplain, or a sutler, or a quartermaster's clerk, but if you have any tobacco with you, for God's sake divide with me. You see I have not been paid for five months, so I can't buy any, and I *must* have a smoke—can't stand it any longer, am home-sick as a school-girl, be hanged if I haven't come confounded near deserting. (Here he stopped to light a cigar I had handed him, along with a more-or-less of Killikinnick). When (puff) I get back (puff, puff,) to Connecticut, I mean to raise, (puff, puff, puff,) raise tobacco by the acre, and, hang me, (puff, puff,)—hang me if I don't give it all away to poor devils that haven't money to—(puff, puff, puff)—poor devils that haven't money to buy any. Conversing with him further, he declared that he would re-enlist if he could be sure of obtaining tobacco regularly, and he would not re-enlist unless he could be sure of it.

The moral to this incident is easily enough deduced—tobacco for the soldiers.

The negro soldiers believe in Gen. Butler with all their might. Some weeks ago a squad of them presented themselves at the office of Lieut. Brown, then mustering officer here, and demanded to be mustered out. They had heard that Gen. Butler's "time was out," they had enlisted to fight under him and they "w an't goin' t' hab any udder man generalizin' fer dem," and they were quieted only by the assurance that Gen. Butler's time was not out.

The humor that crops out between pickets furnishes a good many funny incidents. Major Ludlow was lately showing his lines to a party of civilians, one of whom was conspicuous for his hat, a tall, silk tile hat, new from an establishment beneath the Astor House. The individual of the hat had just said to the Major: "Is that man in drab clothing, just out there under the tree, one of your pickets?" when the "man in drab clothing" brought his gun to his shoulder and shouted: "Say, you feller with the stove-pipe hat! if you don't take that hat off d—d suddent, I'll shoot ye!" And he of the hat *did* take it off "suddent," and for the rest of the way carried it something nervously in his hand.

Not long since Surgeon R. K. Smith reported for duty to Gen. Butler in person. The Gen. told him he should order him to Norfolk to report to Gen. Shepley, who would direct him to inspect all the hospitals in that vicinity, with a view to clearing them of all convalescents fit for duty. The doctor asked if in every case he should use his own discretion as to whether a man was fit for the field, "Yes, sir," said the General, "and you are not to credit any yarns they may tell you, I'll give you a good rule to work by, I'll take it from Hoyle, 'Whenever you are in doubt, *take the trick!*'" Dr. Smith proceeded to the different hospitals about Norfolk, and has already sent nearly or quite a battalion to their regiments. It is not to be doubted that were the hospitals throughout the North subjected to a thorough overhauling the army would be the gainer by some thousands. The difficulty is that the men once in hospital, even those slightly wounded, who, when a few weeks have healed their wounds are hardy and able, do not come back. They are absorbed in a dozen different ways. Some become nurses, some wardmasters, some cooks, others are taken up as hospital guards, as orderlies for the surgeons, as musicians for the hospital band, which has been organized to swell the importance of the surgeon in charge—until in many hospitals there are as many well soldiers as sick ones. And so it is that stalwart man, trained veterans, who should be in the field, toot serenades, simmer broths, bend over wash-tubs, polish surgeons' boots, carry *billet doux*, for young M.Ds., even scrape their chins and mend their stockings, if the soldier should once have been barber or tailor. I repeat, a thorough overhauling of all the Northern hospitals would send to the field some thousands of good soldiers.

At last we have the Paymaster among us. Several millions of dollars have been paid to this army within a fortnight, and how the sutlers do thrive. Communication with the North is so easy, and the army being quite permanently located, sutlers and their goods are allowed to come to the front, that all the luxuries of the season abound. One may see any morning at City Point and Bermuda Hundred heaps of mellow apples, peaches and vegetables that would not discredit Washington and Fulton markets. Fresh fish, not twenty-four hours from the sea; fresh figs, not twenty-four hours from the tree, ("In the name of the prophet, *Figs*,") and "Syllabubs and jollies, and wines, piss, and other such lady-like things," all brought from the vicinity of Norfolk may be had of your enterprising sutler, if one will bear the swindle. Mr. Sutler often deals in literature. He will sell you the *Atlantic* or *Harper's* for half a dollar, the latest novel for twice the sale price printed on the cover, or he will sell you a half-dozen rolls of cough candy, or quinine by the dose, or a pair of spurs, or a shirt, or perfumed note-paper, fix for letters to your sweet-heart. He keeps postage-stamps. He deals in bibles. He has several cords of canned fruits, and half a dozen barrels of eggs, nature's own device in the way of canned fruit. In the way of cutlery, pocket-knives and cork-screws he is sure to have, scissors usually, and surgical instruments occasionally. Great is the sutler. Like Shakespeare he is a "many-sided man." Like Sam Slick's wife, one cannot live without him nor scarcely with him. Like the Miller's Daughter, he has "grown so dear, so dear." Like Robinson Crusoe, "his right here is none to dispute." G. A. P.

FROM SHERIDAN'S ARMY.

A Sharp Fight at Berryville.

Special Despatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Sep. 5, 1864.

The following dispatch has just been received at the TRIBUNE Bureau here, from Mr. J. C. Gray:

HARPER'S FERRY, Sep. 5, 1864.

The advance of Sheridan from his position beyond Charlestown early on Saturday morning, resulted in a brief but sharp encounter at Berryville, between the rear of Early's Army and the command of Maj.-Gen. Crook.

The attack was made by the enemy, who achieved a temporary success by forcing us back on the Town. A gallant and determined advance was then made by Crook's command, and the enemy finally driven back beyond his original position.

Cavalry reconnoissances had been made almost daily prior to the advance, and the intelligence was that the enemy, despairing of an opportunity for attacking us advantageously, had finally retired slowly across the Opequan towards Winchester. Accordingly, early on Saturday morning, Sheridan's army was moved in two columns towards Berryville, in order to maintain its vigilant surveillance over the movements of the enemy. The command of Gen. Wright formed the right column, marching via Summit Point, and the corps of Crook and Emory on the left, moving on the Berryville road.

Our cavalry, which for several days previous, had occupied Berryville, engaged the enemy's cavalry on the Cedarville road in the morning, driving them back after a brisk skirmish of two hours during which we sustained a loss of thirty or forty wounded. The brigade of Gen. Devin, temporarily commanded by Col. Nichols, of the 9th N. Y. cavalry, was principally engaged, and with the aid of Captain Maynadier's battery, inflicted severe punishment on the enemy, who retired in the direction of Cedarville. Our cavalry then followed, and up to this time have not been heard from. It is believed, however, that a good account will soon be received from them.

On the arrival of Crook's command at Berryville, the 23d Ohio was thrown out beyond the town on the Ashby's Gap road, and the 123d Ohio on the Winchester road, with orders to picket and hold the positions until morning. This done, the command having reached their destination were preparing to go into camp when the 123d Ohio were suddenly and impetuously attacked by a portion of Early's force which had been sent back from Winchester, on ascertaining the movements of our troops.

Unable to retain their position against the superior numbers of the enemy, the regiments mentioned fell back hastily to the main body, lying outside and west of the town. So sudden was the assault of the enemy, that before our line could be formed he was upon us, and had compelled us to retire toward the town. Thorburn's Division was formed on the right of the Winchester road, and ordered to charge the enemy, which was done in gallant style, and the enemy driven back in confusion beyond his former position. Duvall's Division had, meanwhile, advanced on the left of the Winchester road, and acted in conjunction with Thorburn in repulsing the enemy.

Dupont's Battery, posted on the right, was also a powerful auxiliary in accomplishing the success mentioned. At dark a heavy rain-storm put an end to the engagement, although the enemy continued to shell us until eight o'clock.

Our loss in this engagement does not exceed two hundred. One hundred and five were brought in yesterday and are now in the hospital at Sandy-Hook. Capt. Austin, of the 23rd Ohio, Capt. Selby and Lieut. Phillips of the 36th Ohio, are among the wounded.

The 6th and 19th Corps arrived at Berryville soon after dark, and were posted in good positions around the town. Some skirmishing occurred yesterday morning, but our troops still maintain the positions assumed on Saturday.

An ambulance train of thirty-four wagons was attacked, and thirty captured, yesterday, p. m., by one of Mosby's bands, on the Berryville Road, near Charlestown.

The train, under charge of Lieut. Griffin, of the 116th Ohio, had come in unmolested from the front yesterday morning and was returning without an escort when set upon by the guerillas. The drivers were compelled to unhitch the horses and ride them rapidly into the woods, closely guarded by the guerillas; but nevertheless twenty or more succeeded in making their escape, some bringing their horses with them. Surgeon Shilling of the 34th Ohio, who accompanied the train, is supposed to be captured, but Lieut. Griffin made his escape.

Two citizens on horseback who joined the train at Halletown, were afterwards discovered to belong to Mosby's gang, as, when the train was attacked, they drew revolvers, and were seen to assist in the capture.

A squad of Union cavalry, coming down the road toward Charlestown, on learning of the capture, immediately set out in pursuit of the guerrillas, capturing ten of the party and about twenty of the horses.

For the past two days the roads to the front have been vigilantly guarded by Col. Mosby; no one, without imperiling his liberty and perhaps his life, could communicate with the front, and why an ambulance train, unguarded by a single musket, was sent through a country infested by guerrillas, is the theme of universal astonishment.

This morning everything indicates that Early has again retreated still further up the Valley. Speculation, however, has gone so wide of the mark of late that it cannot be ventured upon with any degree of certainty.

Lieut.-Col. Parnell of the 4th N. Y. Cavalry has been appointed Commissary of Muster for Harper's Ferry, and has entered upon his duties.

Beta sends the following to the TRIBUNE Bureau here, from Harper's Ferry, under date Sept. 5th:

Our infantry marched to Perryville on Saturday, where they arrived just before night. Our pickets took possession of some abandoned Rebel earthworks, when they were furiously assailed by the Rebels; but the 9th Virginia and 36th Ohio charged and drove them back. The Rebels then massed at least two divisions and charged and re-charged our lines, by this time supported by Duval's and Thorburn's divisions, but were repulsed in every assault, the fight lasting till after dark.

Our men spent the night in constructing earthworks, and now occupy a strong position. The fighting was done by Crook's Command, losing some three hundred. The loss of the enemy is known to be much greater, including a battle flag and fifty prisoners.

From cannonading heard in the direction of Bunker Hill, it is supposed that Averill's advance was also opposed.

To the Associated Press.

BALTIMORE, Sept. 5.

The following special dispatch to the *American* is furnished in advance of publication:

HEADQUARTERS, MIDDLE MILITARY DIVISION, NEAR BERRYVILLE, Sunday, Sept. 4, 1864.

Gen. Torbet's cavalry corps, which has encamped at Rippon's store on the Charlestown and Berryville pike, left camp at 9 o'clock Friday night, and proceeded to Berryville, reaching there at midnight, where they went into camp until daybreak next morning, when they moved out through Berryville on the Winchester pike, taking the road to the left about seven miles beyond Berryville, and were still advancing when last heard from, at 10 o'clock yesterday morning, meeting with little or no opposition.

The Infantry, consisting of Crook's command, the 6th and 19th Corps, broke camp at 4 o'clock yesterday morning, and moved in three parallel columns towards Berryville. Crook's command was on the left, the 19th Corps in the center, and the 6th on the right. Crook's command reached Berryville first about 12 o'clock in the morning, and rested in line of battle, with arms stacked, for a couple of hours, while pickets were being posted on the different roads leading from Berryville.

The 23d Ohio was sent out on Snicker's Ferry road, and the 36th Ohio on the Winchester pike, running to the right from Berryville. Crook's command went into camp and had just finished pitching tents at about 4 o'clock, when heavy skirmishing was heard on picket line. The whole command rapidly turned out and was formed and moved to the support of the pickets who had been driven from behind some entrenchments which they had occupied.

The 36th Ohio and 9th Virginia were formed and charged the enemy, driving them out of the entrenchments. A desperate struggle now ensued, the Rebels being determined, if possible, to regain possession of the entrenchments. With this object in view they massed no less than two divisions, and hurled them with their accustomed ferocity against our gallant little band, which was supported by both Duvall's and Thoburn's divisions. They were handsomely repulsed every time they charged. The conflict lasted long after the sun had set, and artillery firing was kept up until 9 o'clock.

The whole army has been busily engaged all night in digging entrenchments and throwing up breastworks, and now occupy a strong position. The whole of the fighting so far has been done by Crook's command, which captured fifty prisoners and a stand of colors.

Our loss will amount to about 300 killed and wounded, whilst that of the enemy is at least one-third greater. The following are some of our casualties:

Capt. Selby, 36th Ohio, wounded in the leg; Capt. Barker, ditto; Lieut. Philips, ditto, thigh; Quartermaster's Sergeant E. Hasson, 3d Eastern Shore Maryland Volunteers, killed; Sergeant J. W. Moorford, ditto, left arm, amputated; Corp. J. McClary, Co. A, same Regiment, and Private Henry Webster, same Company, slightly wounded.

Heavy firing was heard yesterday in the vicinity of Bunker Hill, supposed to be Averill advancing.

Early trying to Escape—Why Sheridan Doesn't Pitch In—Capture of a Wagon Train by Averill—Advance of Sheridan—How Chicago Takes with the Army.

From Our Special Correspondent.

HARPER'S FERRY, Sept. 4.

Notwithstanding the statements published in the Baltimore and other journals to the contrary, you may nevertheless rely upon it that Early's sole intent is now to escape. That his entrenching, his show of force and various movements indicative of a tarry, are mere blinds to cover an entire withdrawal of his forces from our front. This much our cavalry reconnoissances have settled beyond a doubt, while our infantry forces have been held in quiet reserve, and stationed at such points as not to jeopardize either muscle or morale. The impatient country may demand the usual interrogatory—"Why don't our forces *pitch in* and *drive* them off—or capture and rout them?" The correspondent is always expected to hide his superior wisdom under the profoundly mysterious statement that it would be "*contraband* to reveal all he knows of army movements," yet the averment is so openly made by officers of every rank, that Gen. Sheridan has acted throughout under instructions, and has obeyed those instructions to the letter, that no harm can come of giving the home reader the benefit of the prevailing impression here. One thing is certain, Gen. Sheridan belongs to the fighting school of soldiers, and moreover is thoroughly in earnest in his desire to "crush the military power of the Rebellion," and it may be depended upon that he will let no safe opportunity escape of striking the enemy a damaging blow.

Our cavalry under Averill, overtook a part of Early's wagon train yesterday, protected by Vaughn's cavalry. We captured 25 wagons, two battle flags, quite a number of the guard, and a small herd of their beef cattle. Our main forces were ordered to advance, but appearances do not indicate that any severe or general engagement will be fought here. On the contrary, it is believed that the lighter trim, the superior celerity and distinct impression of the rebels that they have business engagements of a most pressing character near Richmond, will have thrown them so far in our advance that by the time we shall again reach Martinsburg in force, it will be deemed idle to pursue the chase any farther. Another "line" than this will, in such an event, see it fought out upon, though so uncertain are all things in war, that before this shall reach you, all of the prevailing impressions here, at present so well grounded, may go for nought, and we find ourselves in a hand-to hand and fierce combat with the disappointed, sullen, yet relentless foe.

The dull routine and monotony of camp-life, bereft of active movements, has been most singularly and thoroughly invaded the past week. Did the world ever witness such an army as this? A mass convention of *sovereigns, politicians, voters!* Probably, not even from the New-York Hotel up to its graduating 6th-ward corner grocery, has Chicago, its platform, its candidates, &c., been more generally the all-absorbing topic of discussion for the past week. At the mess, around the boiling camp kettle, wherever you may have seen a group of "one and another feller"—you were sure to have overheard a more or less animated discussion of the merits and demerits of "Little Mac," and his unique platform. That the Presidential candidate *per se* of the peace-men, has many friends in the army of the Potomac is unquestionably true, but that the *platform* and unnatural alliance which attaches *George H. Pendleton*, (who voted against all supplies and even money for the pay of the soldiers) is received with no other feeling than chagrin and disgust, is equally true. Said a prominent general officer yesterday—himself a democrat of the natural kind and a West-Pointer,—"I should go McClellan on any decent platform, but no man who has served in the army can be fooled and trifled with by any such child's play as the Chicago Platform. The cause, for which we are fighting, received such unequivocal *results*, and the cause for which our enemies are contending, such *tender consideration* and downright *approval* by the leading spirits in that Convention, that it will sink the ticket in the army," ending with the significant averment "*and it deserves it.*"

Another chronic McClellan officer remarked, as we got the Atlanta news last night,—"that knocks our stocks down 10 per cent,"—and so on, to the end of the chapter. I have been much interested in these army expressions of opinion, and give the above, as truthful indications of the *prevailing* sentiment here, among those whom we might naturally suppose would be friendly to any nominee of the Democratic party. Among Republican officers and men, the feeling is exultant, and entirely hopeful and assured of the result in November. Let those at home who may have supposed that a majority, or even a *quarter part*, of the voters in our army can be coaxed or cajoled into the support of a party so nearly allied to the authors of all our woes, both in sympathy and sentiment, rest easy and do whatever proselytizing may be necessary at home; such efforts are not needed here. It is due to truth to admit that there are many true soldiers who have strong personal preferences which would lead to the selection of another candidate than Mr. Lincoln, were it longer an open question; but the paramount and predominant conviction that the managers at Chicago sold out, wholly and unequivocally, to haters of the war, open and avowed friends of Jeff. Davis and his bloody crew; and its flimsy platform, and its candidates, and all its surroundings, associations, connections, and alliances, aggregate and singular, are so wedded to open, defiant *treason*, that no margin is left for longer variance, and the soldier will vote just as he will fight—with and for those who uphold the cause of the Union.

The claptrap of politicians may do very well to mix in with poor whiskey, at some bar-room gathering at home but out here, on the skirmish lines and in the trenches, away from wife, children, and home, suffering in hospitals, and dying upon the field, in defense of the Government and a great principle, is quite another affair, and means something. The Commander and Chief of the Armies of the Union must be a man of no doubtful loyalty, or uncertain surroundings. Would God that the people at home were as sound and resolute, *politically* and patriotically, as those brave, enduring men at the front. BETA.

FROM FLORIDA.

A Successful Expedition—Gathering of Contrabands—Relief of Refugees in the Swamps—Magnolia, Pilatka and Gainesville Occupied.

From Our Special Correspondent.

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA, Aug. 20, 1864.

Military affairs in this district have been quite lively since your last dates from the Department.

Our forces have been hard at work for the past few weeks, and have succeeded in annoying and harrassing the enemy, as well as crippling him in his material resources to no trifling extent. The last expedition of Gen. Birney succeeded in recapturing the Railroad town of Baldwin and driving the enemy from his fortifications there and at Camp Milton. Baldwin was at once occupied by our forces as a base for raiding operations.

It was held by us until Sunday night last, when it was voluntarily evacuated for a more advanced position. The forces then under command of Col. Noble, of the 7th Conn., took up their line of march for Pilatka on the river, distant a four days' march. It is here understood that the object of the expedition was to emancipate slaves enough to recruit our colored regiments, and clear the country of Dickinson's cavalry, who infest all this portion of the State, and have become a terror to all of its inhabitants without distinction of party; the secesh among the population being quite as much in fear of them as the Union people. They have now fairly systematized the business of conscription, and are taking every male inhabitant between the ages of fourteen and sixty—the halt, the lame, and the partially blind in some instances, not excepted.

We have now a force at Magnolia, formerly known as *The Springs*, and once a summer resort of some note, about twenty-two miles up the river. A sort of depot has been established there for contrabands and refugees coming into our lines; from thence they are brought to town by boats; our camp then has come to be familiarly called among the contrabands, "*Abraham's bosom.*"

We received from these on Saturday last a small instalment of contrabands, poor white trash, and Rebel prisoners, consisting of two scouts and a secesh doctor, and seven white refugees, with a party of eight colored people. The scouts and doctor were captured by a party of the Massachusetts cavalry, and were evidently not as well pleased with the result of their trip as the rest of the party. The doctor is a man of some importance in his way, which at the time of his capture was not exactly within the line of his professional calling. His occupation for the time being was none other than the collecting of slaves and running them to the upper part of the State, or over into Georgia—out of reach of the Yankees. He had already secured several squads and deposited them safely at Madison. He was about to start with more—when chancing to come within range of a Yankee rifle, and finding his heels (though a good pair and well used) incompetent to save him, he sulkily acquiesced in an invitation to join the party coming in. His appearance and general bearing bespeak him a man admirably adapted to his late calling. With the scouts we captured one of the Spencer rifles lost by our men at the battle of Olustee last spring.

The white refugees report that they have abandoned their homes and lived concealed in the swamps, to avoid conscription, some of them for the past three months. They came in armed with shot-guns, determined, as they say, never to be taken alive. They say many others to their knowledge are now living in the same way. They give as the strength of Dickinson's force three hundred men; other troops in the State between nine hundred and a thousand. They confirm the reports that Dickinson's son, a non-commissioned officer in his father's company, was killed by our forces in a little skirmish at Pilatka, on the 4th inst. They seem unanimous in the opinion expressed by one of their number who said: "I was mighty glad to meet up with your folks shoo-ar."

THE EXPEDITION TO GAINESVILLE.

Our forces under Col. Noble pursued their course from Baldwin toward Pitalka without interruption or noteworthy adventure, for a distance of some fifteen miles, when Col. Harris, of the 75th Ohio Regiment, with one company of cavalry from the first battalion of the 4th Massachusetts Regiment, and a detachment of fifteen men from Capt. Hamner's 3d R. I. Artillery light battery, with one howitzer, were sent upon a reconnoissance in the direction of Gainesville, and the rest pursued their way to Pitalka.

Col. Harris, with his command, succeeded in capturing and destroying some railroad cars and a quantity of provisions and other stores at the town of Stark, and met no enemy until his arrival at a point some two miles from Gainesville, where, upon Tuesday night last (16th inst.), he encamped. On Wednesday morning some forty of the enemy's pickets were discovered near the suburbs of the town. A charge was made upon them by our cavalry and they fled. Col. H. with his force pursued, and had approached the outskirts of the town, when a force, variously estimated at from five to eight hundred of the enemy, opened a sharp fire from ambuscades on each side of the road, which at this point is cut through a hammock and densely wooded on either side. The enemy had both infantry, cavalry and artillery, and having evidently chosen their ground with great care, doubtless counted upon quite an annihilating the little force of Col. H.

But they certainly reckoned without their host. Our men were, as may be supposed, thrown into great disorder at finding themselves so suddenly in the midst of a heavy and well-directed fire—for a moment they wavered, but rallying, returned the leaden compliments with interest, as they retreated from their perilous position. The Rebel artillery consisted of three six-pounder guns on light field carriages, only one of which did they succeed in using, and that was dismounted by the second shot from our howitzers.

After hotly engaging them, under every disadvantage, for nearly two hours, Colonel Harris finally ordered a retreat, which was effected in good order, not, however, without considerable loss.

The casualties in the action are not known, no official returns having yet been made. As soon as they are received a copy will be forwarded to you as usual.

Col. Harris fell back to Magnolia with his men and is safe.

Lieut. Col. Morgan and Major Fox, of the 75th Ohio, have not yet been heard from.

The foregoing is all that can yet be learned of the affair, and comes entirely from unofficial and irresponsible sources, though I think it may be relied upon as in the main correct.

Present appearances indicate the prospect of an active campaign during the summer and fall.

Our naval squadron in the St. John's has recently received quite an accession in the new double ender Mingoe, Commander Creighton. She is now senior ship in the river, and said to be the fastest vessel in the South Atlantic squadron.

Acting Asst. Surgeon Jno. N. Whitney, of the Norwich, was drowned while bathing near the ship on the evening of the 16th instant.

You may expect further and important news from this section at an early day.

THE DRAFT.

Credit Given for the Naval Enlistments.

As stated in our columns yesterday morning, the long pending question of the credits due to New-York for the Naval Enlistments, has at length been officially and definitely settled in our favor, thanks to the untiring energy of Mr. Blunt, to whom we are principally indebted for escaping the excitement of the draft. The following correspondence explains itself:

SUPERVISOR BLUNT'S LETTER TO THE COMMISSIONERS.

HEADQUARTERS, COUNTY VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE, New-York, Sept. 3, 1864.

J. B. STONEHOUSE, Assistant Adjutant General, and Lieut.-Col. FRED. TOWNSEND, Commissioners, &c.:

GENTLEMEN: In support of my claim already made for credit for the county of New York for Naval Enlistments from the 15th of April, 1861, to the 24th of February, 1864, I have the honor herewith to transmit additional evidence, consisting of transcripts of the records of the receiving ship North Carolina of all men enlisted in New-York city and county, and received on board said ship from the 15th of April, 1861, to the 24th of February, 1864, with supporting affidavits, as to the correctness of said lists, as copied and herewith presented.

These lists embrace twenty-six thousand four hundred and eighteen names. The number claimed in my letter of August 22, as having been enlisted in the city and county of New-York between the 15th of April, 1861, and the 24th of February, 1864, was twenty-five thousand four hundred and fifty-one. There therefore appears to have been nine hundred and sixty-seven more men on the books of the receiving ship, as from New-York, than there were reported to you as having been enlisted at our rendezvous. This discrepancy is easily explained by the fact that men are sometimes received from other vessels for ships in New-York, who pass through the receiving ship and are credited as New-York enlistments, although they may not have passed through the New-York city rendezvous. As that class of men are credited on the books to New-York, the same as if enlisted at a New-York city rendezvous, it is almost impossible to separate them, and hence the difference in the figures.

It is hoped that this question of naval credits may be determined as soon as possible, that we may know just how the quota of New-York county stands; and, trusting that the additional evidence of our claims hereby tendered may be found sufficient and satisfactory, I am, gentlemen, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ORSON BLUNT,
Chairman County Volunteering Committee.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL STONEHOUSE'S REPLY.

ALBANY, Sept. 3, 1864.

To ORSON BLUNT, Chairman of County Volunteering Committee:

Commissioners report by telegraph this morning. It gives New-York eighteen thousand four hundred and forty-eight (18,448), Brooklyn six thousand and forty-six (6,046), the balance to other portions of the State. Total navy enlistments, twenty-seven thousand seven hundred and forty-six (27,746). This report has been approved by the Secretary of War, and General Hays has been instructed to enter and allow the credits at once.

I shall probably be at the Astor House to-morrow. Rolls not required now. J. B. STONEHOUSE.

The 18,448 naval enlistments just credited, the surplus of 1,137 over the last draft, and the men enlisted at the County Volunteer offices and the offices of the District Provost-Marshals, amount in all to 22,010, to be deducted from our quota, 23,124, leaving a deficiency of 1,114 men yet due from the city. A slight difference from these figures is observable in the report of Gen. Hays, who, on Saturday, received a dispatch from Washington, asking how many men had been secured in this city since July 18, when the call for five hundred thousand men was issued.

The General replied that, including the excess of 1,137 men on the previous call, 2,938 men were to be credited to this city, leaving a deficiency of 21,202 on the present call.

With the credit of 18,448 naval enlistments, the city would still have to recruit 1,754 men; but from this number has to be further deducted 572 men recruited in the Eighth District, and not included in Gen. Hays's report, which will leave 1,174 men to be raised, according to Gen. Hays. It is not at all likely that a Draft will take place for the 1,114 or 1,174 men still due, as the revision and correction of the enrollment, yet to be made, will, it is expected, result in the erasion of several thousand names, and would reduce the quota by nearly 1,000 men, leaving only one hundred or one hundred and seventy to be raised by the draft: a number that could be far more easily raised by the ordinary methods of recruiting.

The only persons who will be likely to regret the turn which affairs have taken, will be those intending substitutes, who have been holding off in anticipation of the high rates which would have been offered for substitutes had the draft really taken place, and the substitute brokers, who will find the best part of their occupation gone, but the sorrows of these classes will not meet with much sympathy from the public they had hoped to victimize. The griefs of these persons may be somewhat mitigated by the following correspondence between Col. Townsend and Col. Fry in reference to the bounties at present paid by the government.

STATE OF NEW-YORK, OFFICE OF THE A. A. P. M. G., ALBANY, Sept. 3, 1864.

Brig.-Gen. JAMES B. FRY, *Provost-Marshal-General, Washington, D. C.*

I beg to be informed whether the bounties authorized by Circular No. 27, P. M. G. O., will be continued after the 5th of September, 1864.

(Signed) FRED'K TOWNSEND.
Lieut.-Col. 9th U. S. Infantry, A. A. P. M. G.

[Copy.]

By telegraph from WASHINGTON, D. C., September 3d, 1864.

To Lieut.-Col. F. TOWNSEND, *A. A. P. M. G., Albany:*

It will be continued until further orders.

(Signed) JAMES B. FRY,
Provost-Marshal-General.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 5, 1864.

GEN. CROOK TAKES GEN. HUNTER'S COMMAND.

Maj.-Gen. Hunter has been relieved at his own request from the command of the Department of West Virginia, and Brevet Maj.-Gen. George Crook assigned to the command in his place.

THE VICTORY AT ATLANTA—SALUTE OF 100 GUNS.—A salute of 100 guns was fired in the Park at 12 o'clock Monday morning by Capt. Mauby on behalf of the Union Central Committee, in honor of the capture of Atlanta. This demonstration shamed the Copperhead authorities at the City Hall into hoisting the stars and stripes, for the first time since the McClellan Peace Convention at Chicago.

DELEGATES TO THE UNION STATE CONVENTION.—The following are the Delegates and Alternates elected at the Convention at Roslyn yesterday, from the 1st District of Queens county, to the State Union Convention:

Delegates—Samuel T. Taber, L. Bradford Prince, Leonard F. Coles. *Alternates*—Isaac Cocks, V. H. Hallock, Joseph Coles.