

All quiet at the Front—Firing heard on James River—Orders about loss of Colosse in Battle.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Tuesday, Sept. 29, 1864.

Quiet still prevails in front of Petersburg, broken only by the usual picket firing and occasional artillery duels, the effect of which is to consume a large quantity of powder on both sides.

A good deal of heavy firing was heard yesterday and today in the direction of James River, and is supposed to be from the gunboats.

A large body of Rebel cavalry was reported this afternoon to be moving on our left. If so, their object has not yet been developed.

Three scouts were arrested within our lines yesterday and evidence has been obtained which is said to be strong enough to convict them.

Two officers have also been arrested on the charge of giving aid and comfort to the enemy.

An order has been issued in relation to the loss of colors in battle, as follows:

REGTS. ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Friday, Sept. 23. The following order of the Commander of the Second Division having been transmitted to these headquarters for the consideration of the Commanding General, the same is approved and confirmed, and it is announced that hereafter no regiment or battery that loses its colors in action, will be allowed to carry them again without the authority of the Commanding General; and such permission will not be given in cases where it shall appear that a regiment or battery has lost its colors through misconduct in battle, until such troops shall have been fully retrained, and their colors restored.

By command of Major-General MEADE.

WILLIAMS, Asst. Adj. Gen.

HEADQUARTERS 2D DIVISION, 2D ARMY CORPS, Tuesday, Aug. 29, 1864.

The following named regiments having lost their regimental colors in action, are hereby deprived of the right to carry colors until by their conduct in battle they show themselves competent to protect their colors. The regiments named are: The 10th New York Volunteers, and the 5th Wisconsin Volunteers. The officers and men of the command should understand that their colors should be the last thing surrendered, and that in all well regulated military operations it is considered a disgrace for a majority of the command to retreat from the field without them.

By command of Major-General GILLESPIE.

A. HERRY, Capt. and A. A. Gen. An order has been issued that officers who have served three years may be mustered out of the service, the time during which they may have served as privates not counting.

FROM SHERIDAN'S ARMY.

The Pursuit of Early—Sheridan at Harrisonburg—The Late Cavalry Fight.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, Sept. 28, 1864.

The Republican extra of to-day has the following:

“Dispatches received by the Government this morning, containing the latest report from Gen. Sheridan, announce his arrival at Harrisonburg on Monday, and his intention to follow up the pursuit of Early, who was hastening toward Staunton with the shattered fragments of his defeated and demoralized army. “Every attempt of Early to take advantage of the gaps in the Blue Ridge Mountains to annoy Gen. Sheridan’s rear, has been defeated with great loss to the Rebels. “On Saturday Torbert’s Cavalry met the Rebel Cavalry near Laray Court House, and after a spirited fight which lasted several hours, routed them with a loss of several hundred killed and wounded and about eight prisoners. The Rebels were commanded by General Workman. The Rebels retreated up the Valley. “On Sunday our cavalry effected a junction with Sheridan’s infantry near New Market.”

FROM THE SOUTHWEST.

Harassment Checked by Rosecrans at Pulaski, Tennessee.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, Sept. 28, 1864.

The Republican has issued an extra containing the following important intelligence:

“We learn officially, that the advance of the Rebel Gen. Forrest has been suddenly checked at Pulaski, Tennessee, to which point northward he pressed, after destroying the Railroad bridge near Elk River.

INTERESTING FROM GEORGIA.

The Evacuation of Atlanta—Destruction of Property by Hood—Destitution in Georgia—The People Sick of the Rebellion—A Mutiny in Hood’s Army—Moving Appeal by the General—His Promises to the Soldiers—The Rebel Conscription—Gen. Brown and the Peace Propositions—The Governor’s Determined Rebel—The Rebel Vote of the Election.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Sept. 27, 1864.

From a gentleman who arrived here yesterday from Atlanta I have obtained much interesting and important information concerning the condition of affairs in and around that humiliated city.

A large portion of my informant’s property and family are still in Jeff. Davis’s dominions, it would be manifestly improper to disclose his name; but to show that it is a man of intelligence and good social standing, some statements of fact and opinions are entitled to such credit and weight, I may say, without prejudice, in out to the Rebel tyrants so closely as to endanger themselves at home, that before the Rebellion he served several terms in the Legislature of his State.

Mr. — was merely sojourning at Atlanta at the time of its fall. His plantation is many miles farther south, but believing that Sherman would penetrate to and reconquer it from the Confederacy before the end of October, he determined to avail himself of the privilege of coming North to await the march of the event, and the 17th instant he left the captured stronghold and came direct to this city where he has a married daughter residing.

The population of Atlanta at the time of its capture consisted of women and children and men too aged and crippled for military duty, together with four or five hundred trusty servants who were permitted to remain with their owners. Several days before evacuating the city, Gen. Hood caused most of the negroes of the town and adjacent country, thousands of whom had been employed on the fortifications and in the work shops, to be removed, and they were driven off in herds, like so many cattle, and set to work in thousands of diverse works further South.

With the capture of Atlanta Sherman came very near capturing the main body of Hood’s army. The defeat of Hood at Jonesboro left him incapable of rendering any assistance or support to the army at Atlanta under the immediate command of Hood, who, deprived of all communications in his rear, was completely hemmed in. In view of his critical situation Hood held a council of war. Every member of the council agreed that if they remained longer in the town the necessity of surrender would only be a question of time, and that to attempt to rejoin Hardee, or with our forces intervening on the Atlanta and Macon Railroad, would expose them to an attack while marching in column, and probably result in their annihilation. The emergency was a desperate one, and it required no little nerve to decide calmly on the course to pursue. Several of the council it is reported in Atlanta, believing escape impossible, proposed to offer terms of capitulation. But Hood, although a great General, is a bold and determined fighter, and resolved to rejoin Hardee or perish with his army to the attempt. By a flank movement after the style of Sherman and Grant—except that it was retrogressive—he accomplished his purpose, and escaped for a time the destruction and humiliation which will surely overtake him and his followers at so very distant a place.

The amount of public property destroyed by Hood before he evacuated the town is represented as follows: Most of the machinery, &c., in the positions

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was knocked to pieces, a large number of locomotives were blown up by shells being exploded in them and under them, and over two hundred cars, many of them laden with quartermaster’s commissary and ordnance stores, were set on fire and consumed. A dozen or two barrels of flour and a few boxes of shoes and clothing, though damaged, escaped entire destruction, and soon after the army left were eagerly seized by the half-starved and half-naked poor of the town. The Mayor, hoping to avoid the destruction of such subsistence stores as could not be removed, suggested to Gen. Hood the propriety of allowing them to be distributed among the indigent citizens; but for some reason neither known nor appreciated by the people the general refused.

The greatest destitution and distress prevails throughout Georgia. Not only is food for man and beast extremely scarce, but shoes, clothing, and all articles necessary for the comfort of man are entirely beyond the reach of the poorer classes. The immense demand and distress last winter for alimentary supplies, induced farmers and planters, in the hope of avoiding another famine, to devote their labor and lands this year, as far as possible, to raising cereals, beans and potatoes, and in producing live stock. Georgia is considered to be the whole the best agricultural State in the South. According to the census of 1850, it produced more swine and more wheat than any other State, and nearly as many milch cows and sheep as Virginia. It produced for more sweet potatoes than any other State, and, with the exception of Virginia, more Indian corn. By employing the great plantations hitherto devoted to the cultivation of cotton and tobacco, for the production of articles of food, Georgia would yield far more than any State in the Confederacy. Last winter, as has been stated, the farmers and planters determined to do as much in this way as possible; but great difficulties met them at the threshold. They could not procure the necessary amount of seed grain, potatoes, &c., to put into the soil. The sweeping impoverishment of subsistence for the Army forced the people, in order to save themselves and negroes from starvation last winter, to devour the remaining left in their granaries and cellars, which should have been preserved for seed. As planting time approached and one neighbor applied to another to buy or borrow seed, it transpired that nearly all were in the same predicament. Nor was this their only difficulty. Most of the horses in the State had been impressed for army purposes, and more than one-half the working oxen had been slaughtered, along with other cattle, to sustain the soldiers and people the year before, so that comparatively few teams remained last Spring to plow the soil. Consequently, thousands of acres of the most arable land have laid unutilized throughout the Summer. The actual production of the soil this year will be less than in the year previous, while live stock, not excepting swine, is nearly exhausted throughout the State.

Yet it is not the fixed population of the State alone who have to depend on these scanty supplies; but the large army of Hood—and it must be remembered that one hundred thousand soldiers are fully equal to three hundred thousand ordinary consumers—has to be subsisted from them, while thousands of white refugees, with their thousands upon thousands of negroes from Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Louisiana, shown by official report to amount in the aggregate to one hundred and eighty thousand souls, must also be fed from them or starve. It is absolutely impossible for the people or army in that State to draw any supplies worth naming from any other State. Now, then, unless Jeff. Davis proves a second Moses, and draws down showers of bread and quails from Heaven, is a problem not easy to determine.

It is not surprising, that, as stated by my informant, the people, realizing that they have been allowed for their “debt” to the do of hunger, should begin to murmur against their leaders. In Georgia the entire people are tired and sick of the Rebellion, and each day become louder in their demands that it shall cease. Men who were once bitter Secessionists and freely gave their sons and treasure to carry on the war, now pray for peace and the Union, and from the bottom of their hearts curse the leaders who, by sophistry and elegant rhetoric, led them into treason and a Utopian Confederacy. Many who, as delegates to the Convention, voted for the resolution of secession, would now, if a similar Convention were held, gladly vote their State back into the Union. Thousands of soldiers, volunteers as well as conscripts, feel that they have been deceived and are fighting in an unholy cause, and are ready to accept any terms of peace.

Day by day desertions become more numerous. About six weeks ago two entire regiments in Hood’s army, one from Alabama and the other belonging to Georgia, mutinied, declaring that they would serve no longer and intended to go home. They were thereupon ordered under arrest, and refused to submit, a whole brigade was ordered up to re-act on them and reduce them to submission. But the order was unheeded. Rebels though they were, they had had enough of the war and bloodshed and declined to murder their disaffected comrades. There was imminent danger of the mutiny becoming general, and Gen. Hood himself was urged to check it. He knew better than to employ troops for force. In a speech, during which the tears rolled down his weather-beaten face, he begged and implored them to return to duty. He assured them that negotiations for peace and the independence of the Confederacy were in progress between Mr. Davis and Mr. Lincoln, and would in all probability succeed; but that if Lincoln should insist upon disaffection in their army the negotiations would end and the cause of the South be forever lost. He further assured them that if the negotiations then pending should fail, if they would only prove true to their cause until November, the Democrats of the North were certain to elect a President of their own choice, and that the Confederacy would soon after be able to make peace on their own terms. In view of these prospects he appealed to them as soldiers not to disappoint their Government and country, as men of pride not to return to their homes and have to announce to their neighbors that they had, on the eve of honorable peace, cowardly abandoned the cause for which so many of their companions had poured their blood. His speech proved successful, and the divided soldiers returned to their ranks and duty. My informant learned this fact from the lips of a nephew, a Major in Hood’s command, who with his own eyes and ears witnessed the whole transaction.

Still the conscription is being remorselessly enforced. The Rebel leaders know that there is nothing but war in store for them during the rest of this administration, and they are making most desperate efforts to hold out and to be able to show a strong front on the incoming of a new administration next March. The moment a young man attains the prescribed age he is forced into the ranks. Hundreds who were once passed by the conscription officers as unfit for military duty, are now being gathered up. My informant says that under his own observation, citizens too blind to discern by aid of the most powerful lens, a difference between a man and an ox at a distance of twenty yards—others too deaf to distinguish with an otacoustic at each ear, a word of command from a clap of thunder—others with only a thumb and little finger on the right hand to lead a gun and pull a trigger—others crippled, and from childhood obliged to wear a cork shoe, on which they could not travel three leagues a day—others for years afflicted with rickets and compelled to wear trusses, together with confirmed invalids, have recently been indiscriminately conscripted with the able-bodied, and hurried off to camps of instruction. It is useless for the victim of oppression, unless he is rich in lands or slaves to retrograde with the conscription officers, or appeal

to the authorities. He is only told that he is no better to fight for his country than his neighbor, and that he can be made very useful. If he cannot see well for a long distance, he can see for a yard or two, and will do well enough to help work heavy guns. If he can not hear the word of command he can see when others load and fire and follow their example. If lame and unable to walk nimbly he will answer for the cavalry. If ruptured or infirm he will do well enough for garrison or hospital duty. None are allowed to escape. Gen. Grant only told half the story when he declared that the villains had robbed the cradle and the grave.

The reports that Gov. Brown, of Georgia, has offered propositions of peace to Gen. Sherman, the gentleman I have referred to confidently pronounces purely fictitious. He is well acquainted with the Governor, and is quite familiar with his views and sentiments in regard to the war. Although he is not so desperate or dispirited as a Rebel as the Louisiana advocate of perfidy, he would make no overtures for peace without the consent and approbation of his master, Jeff. Davis. Brown, like Davis and all the other leaders of the Rebellion, has not the slightest notion of submitting to any peace at present not involving the recognition of the Confederacy. They entertain strong hopes that the Democrats of the North will elect their President, in which event they know that they can dictate their own terms of peace. They believe that if this hope falls them, better terms can be obtained by the States acting in concert with any propositions they see fit to make than by moving separately. Therefore no peace propositions will be received from Jeff. Davis, or any one else with his sanction, until the result of the Presidential election is known.

Well-informed people in the South all understand that the reflection of Lincoln will impose on them four years more of war or unconditional submission to the Federal Government, and they generally believe that of the two alternatives the Rebel leaders would choose the latter, or that the army and people would turn against them. My informant heard Gov. Brown say in July last, at a social gathering in Macon, that in no event would the war last a year longer, that if a Democratic President should be elected at the North they would be all right, but if not, that they must conquer a peace within a year, or return to the hateful Union on the best terms they could obtain. He announced that these views were shared by most public men in the country, and that superhuman efforts would therefore be made during the short time left them to crush the invader, and by carrying the war into his own territory, compel him to sue for peace. He added that they must all be prepared to make the crowning sacrifice; that every one then present was still young enough to stand a six-months campaign, and that they must be ready at a moment’s notice to join their brave boys in the field. The enrollment of old men has been proceeding in Georgia for some time, so that Governor Brown will no doubt soon have a brigade of detours to lead to glorious graves.

The Rebels are mightily perplexed as to what direction Sherman will move next, whether he will steer for Montgomery and Mobile, or Macon and Savannah, or Augusta and Charleston. Some are of the opinion that he is to receive immense reinforcements, and send an army in each of these directions at the same time, thus depriving them of power to concentrate a formidable army at any one point, and this opinion derives much plausibility from the extensive preparations he is making at Atlanta to constitute it a base suitable for such gigantic operations. But the Rebels have not been idle. Before the evacuation of Atlanta they began the erection of fortifications around Augusta, Macon and Montgomery, and threw up works at all defensible points between those towns and Sherman’s Army. At the Appalachee River on the Georgia Railroad, at Bernsville on the Macon and Atlanta Railroad, and at the Chattahoochee River on the Atlanta and West Point Railroad, very formidable works were laid out before and in anticipation of the fall of Atlanta.

But I must close for the mail, leaving many interesting subjects for another letter.

THE INVASION OF MISSOURI.

No Communication with Pilot Knob—Despatches of the Rebels—A Train Captured and 21 Union Soldiers Murdered.

St. Louis, Wednesday, Sept. 28, 1864.

Nothing has been heard from Pilot Knob since 11 o’clock yesterday morning, when the Big River bridge, about 50 miles from here, was burned by the Rebels, since which, communication has been cut off. Up to that time Gen. Ewing had successfully repulsed the attacks of the enemy and succeeded in sending two trains of commissary stores away. At last accounts it was believed that Ewing could maintain his position, unless assailed by overwhelming numbers, or unless the enemy should plant cannon upon Shepard Mountain and other eminences which command our positions. He has plenty of provisions and a good supply of water.

Gen. Smith’s Infantry advance has been withdrawn from Mineral Point to Desdo. A train of 50 empty wagons sent from Pilot Knob yesterday morning to Mineral Point had not reached that place before communication was cut, and it is supposed that these wagons were captured.

It is now believed that the demonstrations on the Pilot Knob and Iron Mountain Railroad are feints to cover the movement of Price’s main force in another direction, probably against Rolla, and thence to the central part of the State.

It is also believed that Shelby’s cavalry will make a desperate effort to dash into St. Louis, in the same way that Forrest dashed into Memphis.

A passenger train, which left here yesterday morning on the Northern Missouri Railroad was captured at Centralia by Hill Anderson’s bushwhackers, and 21 soldiers were taken out and murdered.

Price’s Invasion Looking Serious—Gen. Rosecrans on the Alert—Guerrillas Joining Price—Copperhead Infamy—Fremont and A. J. Smith for Lincoln—Fremont’s Withdrawal—Political Items, &c.

From Our Special Correspondent.

St. Louis, Saturday, Sept. 24, 1864.

The advance of Price’s army in this direction is no longer doubtful—the evidences are clearly multiplying, that the peace of the State is menaced by a strong Rebel army, commanded by Price in person. The advance of this army has already entered the State and occupies a half-dozen counties in the Southeast. It is probable that Price with the main body is watching closely the developments of certain movements on the part of Gen. Steele near Little Rock. Price knows very well that when he advances beyond the White River, Gen. Steele can move upon his rear, destroy his communications, and, in cooperation with Rosecrans from the North, rout the Rebel army.

Price, therefore, is waiting for the Union forces in Arkansas to make a movement, or if they are another column of Rebels is marching toward Little Rock from the South, to occupy the attention of Gen. Steele while Price enters Missouri. But whatever he may be waiting for, it is well known by Gen. Rosecrans that an invasion of the State is threatened more seriously now than at any time since the battle of Lexington. Several fights have taken place in the South-east between portions of Shelby’s Rebel cavalry and our scouts, with the advantage usually upon our side. A report was received yesterday that Ebenfeld, in Steadard County,

had been occupied by the advance of Shelby’s forces. Capt. Lile, who was in command at that place, evacuated it on Wednesday night. He was pursued by the Rebels and overtaken on the White-water bridge. A skirmish ensued, in which our forces, some two hundred in number, were roughly handled. The Rebels have also threatened New Madrid. A gunboat is stationed there to keep open the river.

Cape Girardeau has been menaced by the Rebels, and in anticipation of an attack the garrison has been reinforced. The fortifications have also been strengthened. All through the South-East great excitement prevails, and refugees are flying rapidly to Cape Girardeau and Pilot Knob. Shelby has his headquarters at Douglas, in Dunklin county, and sends out guerrilla parties to hunt up foraged supplies for his command. His advance has been slow to accomplish much mischief. The designs of the Rebels, whatever they may be, will be thwarted.

In the light of this invasion, we see now how it was the guerrilla gangs, so repeatedly broken up in North Missouri, were called to come together again, and keep up their organization with so much vigor. When Thornton took Halls City last July, he told the people that Price would soon be in Missouri, and Bill Anderson told the people along the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad the same thing. The guerrillas have waited long for this event, so long indeed, that many of them have been finally dispersed. Anderson at last report crossed the river from Carroll county last week. No new outrages have been heard of since that event. So the inference is drawn that Anderson and his gang are on their way to Dixie to rejoin Price. He has lost and gained many men during his guerrilla career. One of the objects, however, of keeping up guerrilla warfare, was to recruit agencies for the Rebels. A prominent Rebel told the Provost-Marshal sometime ago that Price had obtained 1,500 recruits from this State in fifteen weeks.

The troops are well posted to drive back Hill. The two divisions of the 16th Army Corps, commanded by Major-General A. J. Smith, all ready to take the field in this time fighting trim, are a desirable accession at this time to Rosecrans’s department. We have strong garrisons at Pilot Knob, Rolla, and a few other points where the Rebels may strike. There are many fortified posts in the South-East which may be held as outposts till the presence of the main force of the enemy is developed. No fears or apprehensions need be felt for the result whenever the conflict comes. It is a desperate undertaking on the part of the Rebels under Price to try to invade Missouri with any hope of success. One of the supposed points in the Rebel programme is to select a convenient location on the Mississippi River, and build a battery to obstruct navigation, as a diversion in favor of movements in other directions. Gen. Rosecrans is master of the situation, and has full details of the strength of Price’s army, its organization, and supposed plan of operations. As an evidence of the deep rooted sympathy between the Copperheads and Rebels, the McCallian papers have published a statement that the story of Price’s advance on Missouri is without foundation, and that it was invented by the Lincoln Government as an excuse for filling up the State with soldiers. This is an allusion to the presence of A. J. Smith’s Corps, and the idea sought to be conveyed is that Lincoln designs to control the election in that State by means of the military. This is truly infamous in view of the skimming which has been going on in the South-East for several days, and the positive evidence that Price is near the State line.

Among the Copperhead lies which have been started in this section is one referring to Gen. Rosecrans. It is said Rosecrans will support McCallian. This lie has not been printed but it is industriously circulated in the hotels and bar rooms, and warmly believed by many Copperheads. It is a slander of course. Gen. Rosecrans will support Lincoln though he is a soldier and he has no taste for dabbling in politics, who deprived him of the honors of winning the victory at Rich Mountain and Beverly by claiming the credit as his own. All the honor claimed for McCallian in Western Virginia belongs by right to Rosecrans and the latter has no cause to love Little Mac for his efforts to gain renown on another’s skill and bravery.

The Copperheads were badly sold on Major-General Smith lately. He was formerly a slaveholder, and the McCallian men sent one of their number to pump him, who reported through some misapprehension that Smith was all right. Then they got up a serenade to draw out the general in a speech. But lo and behold he gave the Corps a terrible scolding and defended President Lincoln warmly. The Corps left in disgust.

The withdrawal of Fremont and Cochrane from the Presidential contest was a lucky thing for Missouri, as the unfortunate division in the Union party threatened to throw the State into the hands of the Rebel Copperheads. The faces of Union men the day before yesterday wore a smiling aspect, when Fremont’s letter was made public. The leading Germans of this city who were friendly to Fremont advised his withdrawal. Nineteen-twentieths of the party will give Lincoln and Johnson a hearty support. A few scoundrels, including Col. C. C. Moss, editor of The Medical Democrat of this city, will go for McCallian.

The action of soldiers indignant at the disloyalty manifested at the McCallian meetings in this city, he called forth a special order from the 1st commandant, regulating the conduct of soldiers at political assemblies. They are allowed, when properly off duty, to attend such meetings, but are under the same bonds to keep the peace as civilians. They will be arrested when caught in riotous acts and severely punished. A guard is ordered to be present at each political meeting to enforce order.

The sets of few soldiers was the pretext for the formation of a Plug Ugly association, composed of young men banded together to protest free speech by force, if necessary, at McCallian meetings. Of course such a crowd merely precipitates a riot without the power to quell it.

The draft for two populous wards in this city has proceeded quietly for four days and is temporarily suspended in order to notify those whose names have been drawn. It is believed there are a large number of skeddaddlers gone, and that when the lists are all returned, the draft lists will yield only twenty five per cent of the men. The price of substitutes ranges from \$600 to \$900.

Hon. R. W. Wells, United States District Judge for Western Missouri, died in Kentucky a few days ago. Judge Wells received his appointment from Andrew Jackson, who was a devoted Democrat until the rebellion, when he became a Radical Emancipator, and presided over the Emancipation State Convention held in Jefferson City. He was one of the proudest men in the State, and respected by everybody.

The Radical candidate for Governor, Col. Thomas C. Fletcher, is now in the field at the head of a regiment, looking after Rebels. His opponent is making Copperhead speeches. Col. Fletcher will shortly write a letter in support of Lincoln. The Copperheads are welcome to the pro-slavery Claybanks when they are claiming as converts from Lincoln to McCallian.

FROM BALTIMORE.

Gen. McClellan’s War Letter—How the Peace Platform was Received in Baltimore—Why McClellan Rejected It—A Consultation—Why Peace Men will Vote for Him—Who is to be Chastised.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

BALTIMORE, Friday, Sept. 23, 1864.

The wrath which has been excited by the Copperhead platform in this city and State by the reputation by Gen. McClellan of the platform upon which he was nominated, can only be equalled in intensity by the satisfaction it has produced in the ranks of the war Democrats, and the merit it has occasioned among the Unionists. Though a fortnight has elapsed since the General’s extraordinary letter made its appearance, the excitement it created has not in the least diminished, (do where you will—to the Government departments, to the various political headquarters, to the “Penter Mugs,” around the newspaper offices, on the corners of the streets—and you will find the anomalous proceeding of the gallant General still the chief subject of conversation. Malcontents the most profane, denunciations the most bitter, praise the most fulsome, explanations the most absurd, everywhere break inharmoniously upon the ear. No public set of Gen. McClellan’s, none of his numerous military blunders, ever abused half the constant and criticism that have been provoked by his awkward and extraordinary debut on the political stage.

As soon as it was known that he had been nominated on a peace platform, the Copperheads throughout the State, who have long lain dormant in their holes, suddenly crawled out and commenced hissing and spitting their venom at their loyal neighbors. They declared that their candidate, with a fair election, would carry the State by an overwhelming majority, and that any attempt on the part of the Administration, or State authorities, by test oaths, or otherwise, to prevent a free expression of public sentiment at the ballot box—that is any attempt to prevent traitors from voting—would be regarded as the bitter end. Many even expressed the hope that a fair and free election would be prevented, that the Democratic party might have an excuse to inaugurate, agreeably to one of the planks of their platform, a revolution in the North. With “the young Napoleon” for their leader, they were ready and eager for the fray. They would have nothing to fear from the army now in the field, for, if sent against them, the soldiers on meeting their old Captain would join him, as the French troops sent to oppose the old Napoleon on his return from Elba joined him. Such were the fond hopes and boasts of the traitors of “My Maryland.” They zealously entered upon the work of organization, and dens of the vipers sprang up in every ward in this city, and in every town in the State. Arrangements were made for a grand ratification for the evening of the 17th inst. in Monument Square, when the traitor orators could spot their treason in the face of Gen. Wallace and his soldiers, and tell them to “make the most of it.”

But a few days later “the young Napoleon’s” letter of acceptance came upon them like a thunderbolt from Jupiter, and dashed their hopes and calculations to the ground. Hence grief, hence tears, hence maledictions, hence denunciations, and hence no grand ratification meeting in the Monumental city.

But how come Gen. McClellan so disappointed his friends? It is well known that the peace plank of the platform adopted by the Chicago Convention, was submitted to him verbatim *in literis* long before his nomination, and that he expressed his approbation both of its letter and spirit. It is therefore not surprising that any amount of speculation is indulged in to account for his extraordinary conduct in ignoring it now. Some say that although he was a strong peace man, because of the belief and hope that the South could not be subjugated, he has recently had his eyes opened to the fact that the rebellion is at the point of death, and that the people will insist on its being fairly killed, and he has renounced his peace proclivities in the hope of obtaining, by the suffrages of the people, a position over the fallen Hydra, that by giving it the final blow, he may be regarded as the Hercules who conquered it. Others, more charitable, say that he was no politician, and didn’t know that in accepting the nomination he was bound to stand by the platform. Others again insist that he purposely deceived the Peace men in order to secure the nomination. Others, that he repudiated the platform because, and only because, he knew that to stand on it would ruin him with the army; while not a few declare that the whole thing is a Copperhead indignation to chafe and check the onward way voting for their candidate.

Now, of all these speculations which is right? Some of them must be right. Let “must be” be italicized—for it is capitalized, for some of these speculations *MUST* be right. The McClellians are welcome to their choice of them. It will not do to say that “Little Mac” never was a Peace man. We know Seymour, Wood, Long and Vallandigham too well to believe that they could have been induced to declare for him without having had the best of evidence that his sentiments accorded with their own. We know these men too well to believe that they could have been deceived. We know them too well to believe that they would support McClellan now if he had deceived them. The truth is, that the whole arrangement is a trick of McClellan and his Copperhead friends to impose on the people. In a few days the traitors in this State who have not yet been let into the secret will be reassured, and McClellan will again be their idol.

But let us have a few facts on this point. After being selected by the Chicago Convention as its candidate, “Little Mac” promptly took measures to ascertain how his nomination was received by the army, in view of the Peace platform upon which he was expected to stand. I state this on authority of an officer of rank in the regular army (whose name I give you *sub rosa*) and a political friend of McClellan, who made the statement as of his own knowledge. Several days were of course required to obtain the sense of the soldiers in the various departments, and “Little Mac” patiently awaited the reports of his friends before wording his letter of acceptance. He was at length informed by several corps and division commanders that none of the soldiers under them, except a few would-be deserters and bounty-jumpers, would vote for him upon the Peace platform. Gen. Hancock, one of the officers with whom he advised, assured him that if he gave countenance to the Peace platform he would lose the friendship votes, and influence of those officers of the regular army who would otherwise support him and glory in his success.

At the same time the platform went to the people. None but Copperheads received it with favor. Of the War Democrats thousands upon thousands denounced it, while the rest declared that they would support the candidate upon it only because the proceedings of the Convention had been regular, and as they men, they felt bound to abide by them.

The Seymour, the Woods and Vallandighams quickly perceived that their platform would not suit the people, and that to run their candidate upon it would be to get shamefully distanced in the race. McClellan saw this equally well. He had learned by reading the papers how his nomination on the traitor platform had been received by civilians at home, and knew from the reports of his military friends how it had been received by soldiers in the field. To use his own expression, he saw that he stood “a better chance of being struck with lightning than of reaching the White House on that platform.”

Therefore, something must be done. What could be done? For days and nights he and the leading Copperheads wriggled in the agony of despair, when at length the ingenious but ignominious shift we have since seen—the repudiation by the candidate of his party platform—was proposed and adopted.

This expedient was not suggested by a War Democrat, for politicians of that class were not admitted to the conference; but by one of the most venomous Copperheads in the Empire State. It may be asked how I know this. I had it from the lips of one of McClellan’s most confidential friends; one of the most prominent, most respectable, and, so far as veracity is concerned, one of the most trustworthy Peace men in this State. The information he disclosed was not intended for my ears, but was addressed to several prominent Peace men who were disappointed with McClellan’s letter, to show them that it was only a piece of his strategy in this, his greatest campaign, and that while appearances were against him, he was “all right.”

Yes, “Little Mac” is “all right”—he is so good a Copperhead as ever. An explanation of his strategy is being stealthily disseminated among the Copperhead leaders, who, not being in the secret at first, were alarmed by his letter of acceptance and ambiguous platform. The “small fry” leaders will show their followers why they should give their suffrages to “Little Mac,” the regular nominee. They will take the speech of Fernando Wood at the grand mass meeting in your city the other night as their guide. All Copperheads, all Peace men will vote for “Little Mac.” So will the War Democrats vote for him, if they are not made to see the trick that is being played upon them. So may some loyal, patriotic citizens, who care for no party, and are ready to give their suffrages to any candidate whose election promises them the restoration of the Union and peace at an early day.

Let all honest and patriotic men be understood. Let them understand that “Little Mac,” if elected, can find an excuse for retreating from his letter of acceptance as he found for retreating from his first of Richmond in the Summer of 1862. He would not be long in “changing his base” to the Chicago platform. He would make immediate efforts for “a cessation of hostilities,” and would end in recognizing the Southern Confederacy.

Some may ask why, if this is so, The Daily News does not support him? The answer is plain: because that would spoil the grand trick—that would satisfy everybody that McClellan is a traitor. It would be as ruinous to his chances of success to have The News advocate his election as to have The Richmond Enquirer, or any other traitor sheet in the South, do so. The News can only help him by appearing to condemn him. Its editor no doubt flatters himself that he is playing his part well; but he may rest assured that he will soon be thoroughly unmasked.

It is gratifying to know that “Little Mac’s” strategy will not succeed with the army. Within the past week the officers and soldiers of nearly every regiment around this city have amused themselves by holding elections, and in no case has “Little Mac” received one-third of the votes. It is well known that he is even less popular with the soldiers at the front.

Local Military Matters.

THE QUOTA OF NEW-YORK CITY POLICE.

The County Volunteer Committee announced, in an official communication to the Board of Supervisors yesterday, that the quota of this city and county under the last call was full. This result has been achieved at an expense of \$400,000, of which \$100,000 has been paid in bonuses. Our quota under the last call was 23,140, against which we were entitled to be credited with a surplus under the previous call of 1,137, leaving a balance to be raised of 24,277. Volunteers in the army and navy and recruited men who have received a bounty of \$100,000, of which \$100,000 has been paid in bonuses, have been 753. Credit has been allowed for bounty enlistments from April 15, 1861, to April 4, 1864, for which no bounty was paid, amounting to 1,477. For substitutes and recruits not receiving the bonus a total of 22,631, leaving a surplus over all demands of 28. The following is the order of Gen. Hays, acknowledging the filling of our quota: OFFICERS OF THE A. A. PROVOST MARCHAL GENERAL, AND SUPERINTENDENT VOLUNTEER RECRUITING SERVICE. Circular No. 28, of the county of New York, to all calls of the President for volunteers having been filled, the A. A. Provoost Marchal General directs the Provost Marshal of the County of New York, to cause to be called up, from the United States service, unexpired orders, recruits and substitutes, to be credited to any district in the State of New York which such recruits or substitutes are entitled to receive, and to substitute so mustered receive the full amount of bounty provided by the local authorities of the district to which they are assigned, without delay, with a statement of the amount of bounty which they are entitled to receive, and whether such bounty is wholly or partly payable in specie.

H. H