THE NEW YORK HERALD.

WHOLE NO. 9030. MORNING EDITION—FRIDAY, MAY 31, 1861. PRICE TWO CENTS.

THE INSURRECTION.

Important News from Washington.

Threatened Attack of the Rebels on Alexandria.

Active Preparations for Their Reception.

Appointment of N. P. Banks and John C. Fremont as Majors General.

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NEWS FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

Captain Engle's Reconnoissance of the Sewall's Point Battery,

Jeff. Davis and General Beauregard in Virginia.

Ninety-five Thousand Federal Troops at the Seat of War.

&c., &c., &c.

THREATENED ATTACK UPON ALEXANDRIA BY THE REBELS.

WASHINGTON, May 30, 1861.

A special messenger just came in from Alexandria, with intelligence to the secession residents of that city to leave the place forthwith, as it was the intention of the rebels to attack the city within twelve hours.

Immediately on the heel of this news we have information that General McDowell, commanding our forces in Virginia, has information that Colonel Lee, late of the United States Army, is advancing with twenty-five thousand rebel troops upon Alexandria. The precise point at which he now is I do not learn.

That General McDowell anticipates an attack is evident from the fact that the approaches to the city of Alexandria, from the direction of Manassas and Richmond, are being strongly fortified.

The Zouaves, Fifth Massachusetts and Michigan regiments have been hard at work nearly all day throwing up earthworks to protect the place.

Scouting parties have reported at headquarters to day that there are immense forces, not only at the Junction, but for fifteen miles this side of there. The reports are not credited, or at least they are regarded as greatly exaggerated. General Scott does not believe there are more than four or five thousand soldiers at Manassas Junction, and that these are poorly armed.

The military preparations to-night indicate important events.

To-night two regiments of the District Volunteers were ordered to arms, with orders to make preparations for a long march.

The Seventy-first New York regiment are ordered to be on arms to-night, ready for instant march.

To night nearly every regiment in the city is under marching orders. Should the few insane rebels at Manassas Junction attempt to move towards Alexandria before they could get within reasonable fighting distance of the place thirty thousand troops could be concentrated on the heights west of Alexandria to meet them. If they employ the usual means of communicating military intelligence, they must know this fact.

Since it is known that the South Carolinians are holding and commanding Manassas Junction, the federal troops are more anxious to get at them. Especially is this true of the Massachusetts troops.

Major General Banks, accompanied by Hon. George Ashmun, and John A. C. Gray, have made a tour to the various camps of the army of occupation in Virginia to-day. They visited the headquarters of General McDowell, at Arlington House, and Colonel Stone, at Alexandria. At the latter place they witnessed the men at work, two miles west of the town, throwing up breastworks, in the event of an attack such as is threatened.

General McDowell has positive information of the exact strength and position of the enemy. The notice from the rebel camp to the secessionists of Alexandria is viewed as a fine specimen of chivalric bluff. Besides, there are not not twenty persons in Alexandria who would not sooner trust themselves with the federal than with the rebel troops. The traders of that city begin to discover the difference in their pockets. Our forces pay cash, the rebels in promises.

CONDITION OF THE REBEL CAMP AT MANASSAS JUNCTION.

INTERESTING REPORTS RELATIVE TO THE REBEL FORCES IN VIRGINIA.

WASHINGTON, May 30, 1861.

A gentleman just arrived here from North Carolina, via Weldon, Petersburg, Richmond and Manassas Junction, reports the following interesting particulars:—

The rebel troops at the Junction were in great alarm on Monday, in anticipation of an attack upon that point from the federal forces. They had that day not more than twenty-five hundred men under arms, mostly from South Carolina. There are no earthworks or fortifications. The Junction is twenty-seven miles from Alexandria. General M. L. Bonham, late member of Congress from South Carolina, is in command there. At Centreville, six miles nearer, is the headquarters of the advanced forces of the rebels, Colonel Maxcy Gregg commanding. About fifteen hundred troops stationed there, including the Prince William (Virginia) cavalry. The cars on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad still run to Lee's station, within fifteen miles of Alexandria. There is a great want of discipline among the troops, and picket and vidette duty is very inefficiently performed. There are no rebel pickets nearer than within ten miles of Alexandria, and the rebels hold themselves in constant readiness to retreat still further into the interior of Virginia.

The number and effectiveness of the troops at Richmond and Norfolk are systematically exaggerated by the Southern press and by Southerners coming North.

A single decisive victory of the government in Virginia will be the defeat of South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia and other rebel States.

A gentleman who arrived this morning from the neighborhood of Centreville, Virginia, twenty-three miles from Alexandria, reports that he was informed there were about four thousand secession troops in that vicinity. He also confirms the report that prominent men continued to be seized and conveyed farther into Virginia as hostages for the safety of about forty secession soldiers now in Washington, awaiting the orders of the government.

VISIT TO THE FEDERAL CAMP IN VIRGINIA.

WASHINGTON, May 30, 1861.

At an early hour this morning your correspondent found himself at the camp of the Twelfth New York regiment, some five miles from Washington. Their camp is the most exposed one of any of the regiments now in Virginia. Colonel Butterfield has scouting parties constantly out within a range of some fifteen miles. His regiment has been designated by government as the "scouting regiment." Their position is greatly exposed, but they are constantly on the alert. This morning they heard some pretty sharp firing, and in less than ten minutes the entire regiment was in line, ready for action. When I left they had not ascertained the cause of their alarm.

I visited the Eighth, Twenty-eighth, Fifth and Sixty-ninth regiments, and found them all in excellent order and spirits. There are scarcely any of them on the sick list.

The following order was issued this morning, and placed in possession of the Colonels of the New York regiments:—

HEADQUARTERS, BRIGADE OF THE AQUEDUCT, May 30, 1861.

ORDER NO. 1.

The undersigned assumes command of the brigade consisting of the Fifth, Twenty-eighth and Sixty-ninth New York regiments, and other troops or detachments in the vicinity not otherwise assigned, agreeably to General Order No. 1 from the headquarters of the Department of Eastern Virginia. The brigade headquarters is at Mr Ross' house, near Fort Corcoran. Morning reports will be sent to these headquarters by nine o'clock from each regiment and detachment, and a staff officer from each will report for orders daily at the same time.

Lieutenant Chas. G. Halpine is appointed aid to the brigade commander, and will be obeyed and respected accordingly. He will detail such clerks from the command as may be necessary for the brigade office.

DAVID HUNTER,
Colonel Third Cavalry, Commanding Brigade.

The secession nest on the Leesburg turnpike, which I saw more of on Tuesday than is pleasant to myself or friends to contemplate, was disturbed by a detachment of loyal troops.

The gay and festive barbarian who was prevented from levelling a double barrelled shot gun at us by the stout arm of a very long negro woman was arrested, and is now a prisoner.

There were other rebels at the place who discarded the cross roads and took the woods

The negro woman mentioned above was not molested.

Between two hundred and three hundred barrels of flour were seized at the Arlington mills, six miles from Alexandria, this morning. The flour was intended for the use of the secession forces.

STOPPAGE OF THE SOUTHERN MAILS.

IMPORTANT ORDER OF POSTMASTER GENERAL BLAIR—THE SOUTHERN MAILS TO BE STOPPED AFTER TODAY.

WASHINGTON, May 30, 1861.

The following is the official order just issued by Postmaster General Blair:—

The letters and other matter are to be sent to the Dead Letter office. As you will see, the agents are instructed not to receive or send any more mail matter after the 31st inst. All postal service in the States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas will be suspended from and after the 31st inst. Letters for offices temporarily closed by this order will be forwarded to the Dead Letter office, except for Western Virginia, which will be sent to Wheeling.

M. BLAIR, Postmaster General.

THE FOURTEEN MILLION ISSUE OF TREASURY NOTES.

WASHINGTON, May 30, 1861.

No proposals for the loan of nearly $14,000,000, under the act of June last, were opened. There were offers for the Treasury notes, but as those for the bonds were restricted to par, and only six per centum allowed, it is not known that there were any bidders.

The thirty days' notice required by law before the power to issue Treasury notes could accrue expired to-day, and the Department will therefore avail itself of that means of meeting the wants of the Treasury.

The receipts into the Treasury for the week ending Monday last were $380,000.

NATHANIEL P. BANKS AND JOHN C. FREMONT APPOINTED MAJORS GENERAL.

WASHINGTON, May 30, 1861.

The President has appointed N. P. Banks and John C. Fremont Majors General of the United States Army. It is a mistake that Governor Banks accepted the post of Quartermaster General. Although ex-Governor Banks had signified his willingness to accept the office of Quartermaster General, with the rank of Brigadier General it was thought best, for reasons of State policy, to confer upon him that of Major General.

THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWS ON THE FUGITIVE SLAVE QUESTION.

WASHINGTON, May 30, 1861.

Colonel Butler, brother and aid to General Butler, left here this afternoon for Fortress Monroe, in charge of an immense amount of ammunition.

Colonel Butler had an interview with the President last night relative to the disposition to be made of the slaves that are flocking to the standard of our advancing column. The subject is one upon which the President was not prepared to act hastily. He was not inclined to question the course pursued by General Butler, knowing that he was compelled to dispose of such matters as they arise, until he received instructions to do otherwise from headquarters. The President said he viewed the question as a very grave one. While he could not see that our officers were obliged to leave their legitimate military business to pursue and return fugitive slaves, under a civil law which their disloyal masters did not recognise, at the same time he could not understand that our armies are obliged to receive, feed and clothe them, thereby diminishing the supplies of our armies in the enemy's country. If the negroes run away, they must do it upon their own responsibility. The army is under no obligation to protect them, and will not encourage nor interfere with them in their flight. The President, for the present, prefers to leave the whole matter to the sound judgment of General Butler, whom the President took occasion to compliment in high terms, than to act hastily in issuing instructions on the subject.

Since writing my former despatch the President has submitted to the Cabinet the question upon which General Butler asks for instructions, relative to the disposition to be made of runaway slaves seeking shelter within his lines. He has been officially notified of the approval of his conduct. He is, therefore, for the present, to put such slaves to labor, keep an exact account of its value, and of the expenses of their subsistence.

It is quite apparent that when our forces shall have advanced farther into the slaveholding country, and large crowds of slaves of all ages and both sexes shall fly to our forces for protection, that the question will then assume much larger proportions, and be surrounded by greater difficulties, and those cases must be met as they arise.

THE FORTHCOMING MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT TO CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, May 30, 1861.

The President is engaged upon his Message preparatory to the the extra session of Congress. It will be one of the most important and interesting State papers issued since the formation of the government. It will ask for a large increase of the army and navy, and appropriations of money to meet the crisis.

ARRIVAL OF NEW YORK TROOPS AT WASHINGTON.

BALTIMORE, May 30, 1861.

Two New York regiments, from Elmira, passed through here at six o'clock this evening. They came over the Northern Central Railroad, and took the cars for Washington. A secession flag was displayed by a lady on the line of march; a lady opposite threw out the American flag, which the officers saluted. No notice was taken of the other.

WASHINGTON, May 30, 1861.

The two Elmira regiments have arrived.

The Garibaldi Guard, of New York, marched to the President's House this afternoon, and were received by the President, General Scott and Secretary Seward. They afterwards drew up in line before the residence of the Sardinian Minister.

THE SEVENTH NEW YORK REGIMENT OR DERED HOME.

WASHINGTON, May 30, 1861.

General Scott has issued orders to Colonel Lefferts, of the New York Seventh regiment, to proceed with his command to New York, and designates an army officer at that place, who will muster them out of service, the object for which they were called to Washington having been accomplished. They leave here at six o'clock tomorrow evening, providing the threatened advance upon the federal forces in Virginia does not make it necessary to countermand the order. General Scott compliments the Seventh regiment for their promptness in volunteering, and the service they have rendered, and for the great willingness they have manifested to obey whatever orders emanated from the General-in-Chief.

The following order confirms officially my previous despatch relative to the movements of the New York Seventh regiment, Colonel Lefferts:—

SPECIAL ORDER—NO. 146.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANTS GENERAL'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON, May 30, 1861.

The commanding officer of the Seventh regiment of New York Volunteers will proceed with his regiment to the city of New York, where it will be mustered out of the service of the United States by Lieutenant M. Cogswell, Eighth Infantry.

It is the desire of the War Department, in relinquishing the services of this gallant regiment, to make known the satisfaction that is felt at the prompt and patriotic manner in which it responded to the call for men to defend the capital, when it was believed to have been in peril, and to acknowledge the important service which it rendered by appearing here in an hour of dark and trying necessity. The time for which it had engaged to serve has now expired, the service which it was expected to perform has been handsomely accomplished, and its members may return to their native city with the assurance that its services are gratefully appreciated by all good and loyal citizens; whilst the government is equally confident that when the country again calls upon them their appeal will not be made in vain to the young men of New York.

By order. L. THOMAS, Adjutant General.

COLONEL LEFFERTS, Camp Cameron.

The following has been issued by Colonel Lefferts:—

GENERAL ORDER—NO. 21.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH REGIMENT, N. Y. S. M., CAMP CAMERON, May 30, 1861.

Special Order, No. 146, Headquarters United States Army, is hereby promulgated and in compliance therewith this regiment will parade, fully uniformed, in overcoats, armed and equipped for the march, at half-past three o'clock P. M., 31st instant, blankets rolled and strapped upon the knapsack. Each soldier must carry his canteen and haversack. Pistols unloaded and must be packed in the knapsacks. The Commissary will provide two days' rations for each man.

By order of Colonel Marshall Lefferts.

J. H. LIEBENAU, Adjutant.

The last dress parade of the Seventh took place this evening, in the presence of the Secretary of War, who took occasion to thank Colonel Lefferts for the valuable service his command had rendered the country, by their moral example in being early in the field and ready to perform any service.

The Seventh Regiment Band serenaded Secretary Seward between eleven and twelve last night. They performed the "Star Spangled Banner," "Hail Columbia," and "Yankee Doodle," after which Mr. Seward returned his thanks, saying that he recognized in his visiters many of his townsmen. He said the Union is worth very little without the State of New York, and that State don't consider herself worth much without the Union. He was very thankful that the secessionists, who are so anxious to abolish the Union, cannot abolish "Yankee Doodle," "Hail Columbia," or the Fourth of July. He remarked that Congress is about to meet on the Fourth of July. The country is in a state of civil war. If it has occasion to meet on the Fourth of July, 1862, may it be said, he added, that it meets with the country in peace, and the Union restored to its original perfection and loyalty.

A PRESENT FROM THE REBELS TO GEN. SCOTT.

WASHINGTON, May 30, 1861.

General Scott received an ear of green corn, with the husks on, carefully enclosed in a sheet of letter paper, upon which was the following:—

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, MONTGOMERY, May 22, 1861.

Major General Scott, with the compliments of the Secretary of State.

W. F. ALEXANDER, Private Secretary.

The intention of this bit of diplomacy, evidently, is to show our military chief that the blockade will not entirely cut off all means of support.

At about the time, General Scott received this, an elegant bouquet was presented to him, with the compliments of Mrs. Lincoln. The General, with great promptness, requested his military secretary, Colonel Hamilton, to bear his kindest regards to Mrs Lincoln for her beautiful gift, and at the same time to present her the ear of corn, as the latest curiosity surrendered by the enemy, and to add, that from the appearance of the ear, if it was a fair specimen of the whole Southern crop, our army would be down there soon enough to gather it for them.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS FROM THE CAPITAL.

WASHINGTON, May 30, 1861.

The difficulties with the New York Fourteenth regiment, growing out of the trouble between the State authorities and the Union Defence Committee, have been settled, and the regiment will remain here.

It is understood that the Garibaldi Guard and New York Ninth regiment will very soon be ordered to important advance movements into Virginia.

It has been determined by the government to give every man, of whatever rank, serving in the army or navy a diploma, on fine parchment paper, signed by the President and heads of the departments.

The bids for beef contract were numerous and spirited. It will not be awarded to the lowest bidder, unless the most ample security is given to the government that the parties can perform their contract. The government do not believe that good beef can be supplied at the prices bid for by many of the contractors. Many of them are regarded as merely kite flying operations, and will probably be so treated. The government is determined to have a good article, even if they have to pay a little more for it. It is stated that Hugh Maher, of Chicago, has obtained the contract at $4 48 per cwt.

The new Military Department of Kentucky, to the command of which Col. Robert Anderson has just been assigned, embraced so much of that State as lies within one hundred miles of the Ohio river. His headquarters for the present is Louisville.

The revocation of the leave of absence of Carl Schurz was solely on account of the desire that the business of the American Legation at Madrid should not be suspended, the former Minister having left the Spanish capital.

A despatch from Exeter, N. H., to-day, says the Honorable Gilman Marston, member of Congress from that State, has been chosen Colonel of the Second Volunteer regiment from New Hampshire.

Governor Yates, of Illinois, has the promise of the government to accept eighteen regiments, of one thousand each, instead of seventeen. They serve for three years.

The Secretary of State to-night is again dispensing his hospitalities to various military officers, including some from the Second and Twenty-fifth New York; Fifth Pennsylvania and New Jersey regiments, together with sundry officers of the District militia and marine corps. Among other guests at the brilliant entertainment were the foreign ministers and cabinet officers.

Cards have been issued by the President for the first diplomatic dinner at the White House, to take place on Tuesday next.

William P. Wood, of New York, has been appointed Commissioner of Public Buildings.

A new Commissioner of Public Buildings will be appointed in a day or two, when the White House will undergo a renovating, which is much needed. The external appearance and internal arrangements of the building are not fit to be considered the residence of the Chief Magistrate of a great nation like this. Mrs. Lincoln, on her recent tour to New York, made several valuable purchases for the White House, which, at the proper time will demonstrate that elegance can be secured without sacrificing economy.

Col. Jonathan Amory has been appointed Despatch Agent at Boston for the State Department.

Lieut. De Hyse has been ordered to the steamer Philadelphia. He was lately attached to the Baltimore

Lieut. T. Scott Fillebrown, who for two years has been in command at Anacostia, has been detached and ordered to the Roanoke, which is commanded by Captain W. C. Nicholson. She is to be put in immediate commission.

Eleven steamers are gathered at the Washington Navy Yard, fitting out with ammunition, stores and guards, for some destination not publicly disclosed.

OPERATIONS IN WESTERN VIRGINIA.

Concentration of Federal Troops at Chambersbersburg—Retreat of the Rebels from Williamsport—News from the Harper's Ferry Region, &c, &c., &c.

GENERAL SCOTT'S PLAN OF OPERATIONS AGAINST HARPER'S FERRY.

WASHINGTON, May 30, 1861.

The plan of operations against Harper's Ferry, arranged by General Scott, was, when laid before the Cabinet, immediately acquiesced in, and the old hero has not thus far seen fit to deviate one iota from his original project. The impression among high military men is, that he will capture it without the loss of a man. In less than ten days he will have them completely surrounded and in his power, and no hope of their escape.

Intelligence received here to-night states that they were becoming alarmed, for it appears they had heard of the immense force which was marching upon them from the North west, under command of Gen. McClelland, and also via Chambersburg, Pa., under command of General Klem. The moment that the government gets possession of Manassas Junction there will be no hope of escape. The rebels will, therefore, concentrate a pretty large force at that point.

CONCENTRATION OF FEDERAL TROOPS AT CHAMBERSBURG.

CHAMBERSBURG, Pa., May 28, 1861.

The Sixth, Twenty-first, Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Pennsylvania regiments reached here early this morning.

Major General Klem and staff arrived at eleven o'clock.

Colonels Moorehead's, Lewis', Lyle's and the Scott Legion regiments, and the Philadelphia City Troop, are expected within the next twenty-four hours.

RETREAT OF THE REBELS FROM WILLIAMSPORT.

CHAMBERSBURG, Pa., May 30, 1861.

The secession troops have fallen back two miles from Williamsport, in the direction of Martinsburg. They have about five hundred men and two small swivel guns.

About one hundred desertions have occurred since the Williamsport camp was established.

There were three deaths there from smallpox this week.

Colonel Hayes' Cavalry is at Falling Water.

REPORTS FROM BALTIMORE.

BALTIMORE, May 30, 1861.

A private despatch to the American, dated Williamsport, May 28, says:—The camp opposite this place has fallen back from the Potomac about four miles to Falling Waters.

The church at Falling Waters has been occupied as a hospital.

Day before yesterday about two hundred Virginia troops reached Little Georgetown, seven miles above Williamsport, and have encamped there, using the church as a barracks.

There are twenty thousand troops at Harper's Ferry, and plenty of heavy artillery at every assailable point. General Lee was expected there to day.

A large number of Ohio troops are reported to be at Little York, Pa., this morning, on their way to this city.

One of the cars in the train which arrived this evening from Harper's Ferry is riddled with bullets, having been fired into by fifteen federal soldiers near Elliott's Mills. Some ladies narrowly escaped being shot. The soldiers were ordered to stop all trains from the West, and these cars did not stop when ordered.

GRAFTON OCCUPIED BY FEDERAL TROOPS.

CINCINNATI, May 30, 1861.

The Ohio and Virginia troops, under command of Colonel Kelley, occupied Grafton at half-past two o'clock this afternoon. The secessionists fled without firing a gun.

MOVEMENTS OF INDIANA TROOPS.

CINCINNATI, May 30, 1861.

The Sixth Indiana regiment, Colonel Crittenden, fully armed and equipped, arrived here at five o'clock this afternoon. They passed through the city to Camp Dennison, where they encamp for the night.

Their probable destination is Grafton. They were enthusiastically greeted.

Another Indiana regiment passed Dayton last night going East.

OUR BALTIMORE CORRESPONDENCE.

BALTIMORE, May 29, 1861.

News from Harper's Ferry—Bridges Burned—Construction of a Military Road to Maryland Heights—Important Movement from Ohio—A Battle at Grafton Probable—Important from Fortress Monroe, &c.

THE BALTIMORE ENCAMPMENTS.

The three Pennsylvania regiments still remain in camp here, but it is understood that they are to be sent to Fortress Monroe in a few days. The soldiers conduct themselves in a very proper manner, with rare exceptions. Serious complaints of disorderly conduct have, however, been carried to the officers in several instances, in one case it was said that a lady had been grossly insulted. Such conduct ought to be severely punished.

ARRIVAL OF TROOPS

Two regiments of Pennsylvania troops passed through here to-day, on their way to Chambersburg They are the troops that have done such good service at Havre de Grace and Perryville. They are commanded by Col. Charles P. Dare and Col. Negle. They constitute an aggregate of two thousand men. The Garibaldi Guard also passed through.

Several companies of the Second and Twelfth New York regiments passed through here this afternoon on their way home on furlough.

MORE ABOUT THE MERRYMAN CASE

The Merryman habeas corpus case continues to excite the deepest interest here. It was reported and generally believed to-day that Gen. Cadwalader had taken Merryman to Washington, but this is not so. It is the general opinion here, both among legal men and the citizens at large, that the case establishes a dangerous precedent. The solemn and deliberate declaration of Chief Justice Taney, that "the President cannot suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, nor authorize a military officer to do it, and that Congress alone can exercise that power," has made a deep impression here, and is regarded as law, as it undoubtedly is.

IMPORTANT FROM HARPER'S FERRY.

The train on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad came in as usual to-day. I learn some important news by this arrival, which will be found below. It is possible, however, that this is the last through train. Two of the bridges on the road between Wheeling and Grafton were burned by the rebels yesterday morning, and a portion of the track torn up between Grafton and Farmington. The bridges burned were about forty miles west of Grafton. The Postmaster here informed me to-day that up to this time the mails from the West over this road have arrived without molestation, but I have good reason to believe he is mistaken. It is certain that all mails to and from the West will now have to be sent by way of Pittsburg and Baltimore.

On yesterday the military road leading from Harper's Ferry up to heights on the Maryland side, which had been in progress for some days past, was completed. It was made in pursuance of orders from General Johnston, to facilitate the transportation of the cannon and howitzers with which he has fortified the approaches to the Maryland Heights from the country roads on the North.

Reinforcements had arrived at Harper's Ferry on Monday and Monday night from Kentucky and Tennessee. My informant saw a regiment of Kentuckians drilling. They were commanded by a little man with gray hair and whiskers, who rode a white horse. The men were of very large size, all six footers, and were dressed in blue hunting shirts, belted, with black felt hats with red feather at the side. They were armed with rifles, and appeared to be tolerably well drilled. Their movements were executed with celerity, but not with precision. While they were drilling, Colonel Preston, the Aid-de-camp of General Johnston, rode up to the man on the white horse, who appeared to be the Colonel of the regiment, and conversed with him a moment in a low tone. My informant learned at Harper's Ferry that Jeff. Davis was to be there to-morrow (Thursday), and would go thence to Richmond.

It is reported here, and generally believed, that five thousand Ohio troops have crossed the Ohio river at Marietta and Bellair, and are moving in two columns towards Grafton, where they will unite, and, it is supposed, march on Harper's Ferry, and co-operate with the attacking force to come from the North. I telegraphed to the HERALD on Sunday that such a movement was in contemplation, and it is by no means unlikely that it has now been made. It will be remembered, however, that there were three thousand Virginia troops at Grafton on Tuesday—that reinforcements were passing in that direction from Harper's Ferry yesterday, and that the communication between Wheeling and Grafton has been cut off by the burning of bridges and destruction of track—so that it is not improbable that a battle will be fought between that part of the Ohio army which crossed at Marietta and the Southern troops at Grafton. I learn from Washington that it is understood that General Mansfield is to conduct the expedition for the capture of Harper's Ferry.

OUR FREDERICK CORRESPONDENCE.

FREDERICK, Md., May 24, 1861.

Description of Harper's Ferry and the Position of the Troops—Preparations to Blow Up the Bridges—No Indians There—Troops Poorly Fed and Clothed—The Number and Quality of Their Arms, &c.

The following particulars relative to Harper's Ferry and the position of affairs there will be interesting, as they are based upon the actual observation of a resident of that place. The town of Harper's Ferry is situated on a point of land formed by the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers, and is entirely surrounded and overlooked by the mountains on the Virginia and Maryland side; the mount on the latter side, called the "Pinnacle," is the most commanding point of the vicinity, and is the key to the position. This point was soon occupied by the Confederates after they had stationed themselves at the town, and at one time six hundred and fifty Kentuckians held it. They were, and are still, poorly armed, however.

Nearly all the troops there have been withdrawn, at the urgent remonstrance of Maryland, and there are now but a couple of tents, a very small force, and two brass six pounders, upon the bridge, which is a covered wooden one. There is, of course, a guard, by which no one, without answering satisfactorily certain interrogatories, can pass into Virginia; nor can any one leave for Maryland without a pass from the Confederate commander. The bridge was prepared for destruction, in case of attack, by first placing tar barrels about it. These were removed, however, and cases of oak wood, firmly screwed together, and filled with powder, with a communicating fuse enclosed in a metal tube, are substituted. The cases are placed upon the stone abutments and beneath the timbers resting thereon; similar mines are placed upon the bridges above and below the ferry—there being one at Berlin, twelve miles, and another at Point of Rocks, sixteen miles below; also one at Shepherdstown, twelve miles above.

The town of Harper's Ferry is almost deserted by civilians, about four fifths of its population having left after a good deal of unjust and hard treatment, many abandoning their effects; the remainder, excepting five, are Union men, who, however, keep shady, and who would leave if they could. The condition of the troops there is anything but encouraging to their cause. There are men from Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia. The latter are the cream, being an intelligent, respectable and fine looking set. There are no Indians, but a good many white men who would readily pass as such, their habiliments and general appearance being of the roughest and most *outre* character. The supplies from Baltimore, intended for their outfit, having been seized by the federal troops, many are obliged to wear handkerchiefs and calfskin skull caps for hats of regulation pattern, and some are almost *nonsalables*; they are as cheerful as they can be under the circumstances, with nothing to do, kept upon the anxious bench, and having often to content themselves with one meal a day; their side arms have been taken away as dangerous to themselves and others, though they are improved in discipline now, as the liquor has run out, much having been destroyed by the officers pouring it out and pouring it in. In this latter way General Harper, who was superseded by Colonel Jackson, who, in his turn, has been superseded, is said to have made away with a good deal. The Southern regiments are very much mixed, some companies being handsomely equipped—gentlemen and others, regular rowdy looking "corncrackers." There are at Harper's Ferry about twenty four brass field guns upon carriages; but up to a couple of days since four 24 and one 32 pounder (this last is placed upon an eminence back of the mountain at the Ferry, and commanding the route necessary to approach it in the rear; it weighs 6,500 pounds) were the only heavy guns there. A rifle factory (Hall's), at the west side of the town, at the Shenandoah bridge, has been engaged in using the undestroyed *material*, stocks, barrels, &c., in manufacturing guns, turning out about forty to fifty per diem; but these are now exhausted, and many of the guns thus made are inefficient, as the steel of the lock springs has lost its temper, and the barrels are not to be relied upon either for accuracy of shooting or, indeed, for safety. There are 12,000 men at the Ferry, including 200 Baltimoreans. The Virginians have scouts out down the railroad to Point of Rocks (at which place there are a good many men in Virginia), and up as far as Hage's town, to give the alarm upon the approach of an enemy; and although secessionists are rather scarce about this section, yet there are enough to afford the Confederates great assistance in the way of information. The machinery at Hall's factory is now moved away; there is no sugar, coffee or molasses at the Ferry, and there are fears of a famine before harvest. A large proportion of the arms in the hands of the Southern troops are the old flint lock, and the gift of 2,000 stand of arms to Baltimore some time since, to promote secession in this State, is regretted now.

FREDERICK, Md., May 26, 1861.

Uneasiness Among the Rebels on the Potomac—Talk of Evacuating Williamsport—Vote of the Troops for Secession—Union Men on the Fence—Reported Defeat of the Federal Forces at Fairfax, &c

Since the capture of Alexandria there is a good deal of uneasiness manifested by the Confederates along the Potomac, who, believing they were to be immediately attacked from all quarters, took immediate steps to keep off the enemy. At the Point of Rocks the rails of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad were torn up, and a wide and deep gully dug across the road. A report was in circulation among the Virginians, also, that federal troops had advanced from Pennsylvania to Hagerstown and Frederick, and great activity was displayed in making ready to receive them at a point opposite Williamsport in Maryland, at which place there is a great bend in the Potomac towards Pennsylvania, and where it is believed the Northern troops, should they move in this quarter towards Virginia, would cross. There are some eight hundred Virginians there. There is no bridge here, the river being crossed by a ferry, though it is fordable, and it is by wading across that the soldiers on the other side, who are forbidden intercourse with the Marylanders, communicate occasionally with them, and make their escape when they get tired of soldiering. In view of the hot work reported to be going on down at Alexandria and Fairfax, some of these troops said to-day that they were about to abandon their present position and go south ward. They are like all the other troops I see—sick and tired of doing nothing. The county they are stationed in (Berkely), despite their presence, gave 700 majority for Union. This has a very discouraging effect upon the troops; and indeed it is in this their weakness chiefly consists, for they are well enough armed with Minie rifles, and are a remarkably fine looking body of men, well equipped in all respects. They cannot heartily fight for a cause, however, in which they are opposed by the majority of their fellow citizens, and when you sift them down there is generally some Union sentiment discovered.

At Shepherdstown there are a couple of companies of men, and more expected immediately. There is a bridge there well guarded, and a small battery of brass guns are stationed on the Virginia heights, commanding the Maryland approach and the bridge. The men here are Virginia mountaineers, well armed, athletic, active, intelligent men. Though engaged in the service of the Confederate army they are by no means anxious for a fight, and speak hopefully of a peaceful solution of the present difficulties. They say if the fight must come they will defend Virginia's soil to the last. They are from about the centre of Virginia, and their county gave a large Union majority at the time of the Convention election. Yet out of these soldiers (about 150) only three votes were cast for the Union. They are stationed in Jefferson county now, and the vote there on Friday was about 600 in favor of secession, though a great many Union men did not vote. There was no coercion in voting. Some jeers were thrown out, such as "are you going to vote for a nigger? I thought you was a white man," &c., &c.; but a large proportion of the Union men are on the fence, and, therefore, their action in not voting looked to the future and not the present. The people of the towns along the river are very much worried at their position, and are prepared for a stampede whenever necessary, and many are quietly disposing of their property so as to move to Maryland or northward.

There are a number of corps of youths in Virginia of from twelve to seventeen years, who drill constantly, and who are preparing to defend their homes. They are quite proficient in the drill and the use of arms.

A report of an engagement at Fairfax Court House, between the hostile forces, in which the federal troops were defeated with great loss, has been current in these parts for the last twenty four hours, and has created a great deal of painful anxiety in the Union men; but the secessionists openly betrayed their satisfaction.

The Virginians say they have plenty of caps and ammunition now. The foreign troops in Virginia did not vote, they say, on secession.

IMPORTANT FROM PENNSYLVANIA.

OUR HARRISBURG CORRESPONDENCE.

HARRISBURG, May 30, 1861.

The People in the Border Counties Fearing an Invasion by the Rebels—Appeals to the Governor—The Insurrectionists at Williamsport and Harper's Ferry—Smallpox and Desertion—A Pennsylvania Army Concentrating at Chambersburg—Twenty Thousand to be There by Saturday—Their Numbers to be Increased from Elmira, &c.

The people along the western border of this State have been excited and alarmed for some time by all sorts of rumors in relation to invasion from the rebels in Virginia. It is needless to say that these fears are groundless

Governor Curtin is daily imposed upon by these alarms, in the shape of telegraphic messages calling for troops and arms in the most beseeching terms. Last night no less than three such despatches were sent here. It is scarcely necessary to repeat that but one had any ground for fear. This relates to the occupation of Morgantown Va., a short distance from the Pennsylvania line, by the secessionists. Arms, however, have been ordered from Pittsburg to the frontier.

We have all kinds of reports from Williamsport, Va., and Harper's Ferry. I have sifted these, and give the following as facts:—

There had been no reinforcement of the rebels opposite Williamsport up to yesterday, and Colonel Allen, finding his position a precarious one, will fall back on Harper's Ferry. They will not attack the town, the inhabitants of which are in such trepidation.

Harper's Ferry has been reinforced by about two thousand secessionists and ten cannon. They consider the batteries on the Maryland heights as impregnable. What bridges remain on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad will be blown up to prevent the march of the federal troops. At all the approaches batteries are being thrown up. Our men, it seems, will have some hot work if the traitors stand their ground.

The smallpox and strife among the soldiers are carrying off the rebels. Two died on Tuesday, and one, an Alabamian, was shot in a fight. Desertions continue.

All the Pennsylvania regiments at Camp Slifer, Chambersburg, will be fully equipped by Friday. Troops from all points of the State are rapidly hurrying there. The Scott Legion and three other regiments from Philadelphia went in that direction last night. There will be twenty thousand troops there by the close of the week.

The government has taken possession of the Cumberland Valley Railroad. No other trains but passenger are allowed to pass over.

Five thousand troops from the camp at Elmira, N. Y., have been ordered to Chambersburg.

The projected camps at Easton and Erie have been abandoned, and one in Bedford and one in Fayette county have been ordered. This is a wise movement, for before the troops could march from the first named places the rebels could devastate the whole border and retreat into their own country.

The State Army Medical Board are in session examining candidates for surgeons and surgeons' mates of the different regiments. Orders have been sent to those who have already received their commissions and are at a distance to report themselves here forthwith for examination. There are two hundred and fifteen applicants.

PENNSYLVANIA INVADED BY REBEL TROOPS.

[From the Pittsburg Post, May 26.]

Yesterday intelligence arrived of apprehensions of an attack upon Morgantown. Mr. Clark Pickenpaugh, Colonel of a Virginia regiment, came in hot haste and applied to the Committee on Home Defence for men and arms to protect Morgantown, the citizens fearing an attack from the secessionists at Grafton. Colonel Pickenpaugh, who left Morgantown on horseback at eleven o'clock Monday morning, and reached here by midnight, reports that the utmost enthusiasm was evinced at Uniontown, Pennsylvania, and the military at once took measures to march to the support of Morgantown and vicinity. Two companies were to leave Uniontown on Monday evening for Morgantown. The secessionists had cut the telegraph wires between Morgantown and Uniontown, Pennsylvania, to prevent communication.

Mr. Veech, and other gentlemen, who arrived from Uniontown last evening, confirmed the intelligence of the occupation of Morgantown by the secessionists, though the particulars are meagre. A messenger arrived in Uniontown at six o'clock on Tuesday morning, and stated that a body of men were marching on Morgantown, and as he left he heard the firing of cannon.

A second messenger stated that three hundred armed rebels, under Colonel Heck, had entered the town about three o'clock in the morning and taken possession of it. As they approached, a small cannon, stationed on the bridge, was fired at them, but there being few arms in the town and the inhabitants not being fully aroused, no further resistance was made, and the assailants had an easy victory.

Morgantown is about twenty five miles from Grafton, where fifteen hundred of the rebels are stationed, and about the same distance from Uniontown, in this State. The inhabitants of the latter place fear an attack from the rebels, and as they are almost unarmed there would be as little difficulty in taking that place as Morgantown. The specie in the bank at that place might prove an incentive for attack, if no other object were in view.

Gentlemen from Uniontown now here are desirous, if threatening indications continue, of procuring arms and men for protection, and to this end they held a consultation with the Committee on Home Defence last evening. It is thought five hundred men will be sufficient to protect the town.

THE TROOPS AT THE SEAT OF WAR.

The Number of the Troops at the Seat of War, and Ready for Active Operations.

As far as can be ascertained by the recent despatches, the following table will show the location of the various regiments stationed around the boundaries and in Virginia, and the seats of war, and the estimated number