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WASHINGTON, August 1, 1861.

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THE POLITICIANS AND GEN. McCLELLAN'S OFFICERS. The timely exposures in the Herald yesterday, of the tricks and machinations of the politicians in both houses of Congress and the administration, to foist upon Gen. McClellan more politicians to important and high military command, will, it is hoped, prevent the carrying out of their scheme.

THE TOMB OF WASHINGTON DESERATED BY THE REBELS. The prompt and emphatic manner in which Gen. McClellan treated this insinuation augurs well for the future of this able and gallant general. He gave them to understand that unless he could choose his own subordinates he would resign his command. He is a Napoleon, and is hourly infusing new zeal and confidence among the soldiers.

ARRIVAL OF A PRISONER FROM MANASSAS. Mr. Julius Bing, a Prussian by birth, but a naturalized British subject, who was taken prisoner at Bull Run, returned here to-night. He is not communicative. He says that from respect for his neutral position he does not feel at liberty to give any information regarding the operations of the rebels, except the simple narrative of his own adventures. He went upon the battle field on Sunday in company with Hon. A. B. Ely, of New York. He was taken prisoner near the Warrenton bridge, about six o'clock in the afternoon. He was recognized immediately by Col. Lay, formerly an aid of Gen. Scott, now an officer in the rebel army. Col. Lay gave directions that Mr. Bing should not be harmed. He was taken to headquarters at Bull Run, when he subsequently was taken to Washington, D. C., and was advised to obtain an interview with Gen. Beauregard, and make known his position as a British subject. On Monday night he was sent on to Manassas, and placed under guard, with seventy other prisoners. He was unable to obtain an interview with Gen. Beauregard until Monday night, when, after a verification of his statement, he was dismissed, and furnished with a pass through the lines of the rebel army. It was his intention to come back by way of Centerville, but he was advised by General Beauregard that the route would be dangerous, and he had better go by way of Richmond, to the Point, whence he could proceed to the Maryland side, and proceed safely to Washington. On the way to Richmond he was arrested at Gordonsville, upon the ground that British subjects had been acting as spies, and was detained there until the signature of General Beauregard to his pass was proved to be genuine. He remained some time at Richmond, and finally got back to Washington by way of Manassas Point.

THE SENATE MILITARY COMMITTEE have reported nearly all of the army appointments back to the Senate for confirmation. There are a few, however, that still hang fire. It appears that the President has not yet sent to the Senate Colonel Emory's appointment. He has been informed that Colonel Emory's appointment will not be confirmed, and hence he is holding it back.

THE APPOINTMENT OF COLONEL BUELL, of the United States Army, to the position of Brigadier General is viewed with great favor. It is understood it was made mainly at the suggestion of General McClellan, which shows not only his admiration of the part of the officer, but a disposition on the part of the government to bestow high promotion on a meritorious soldier. Colonel Buell is now in command in California, and has been telegraphed overland to report himself forthwith at Washington.

THE CONFERENCE OF THE HOUSES. The Conference Committee of the two Houses have been in session for upwards of twenty-four hours on the various tariff and tax bills before them. They have finally agreed upon a general bill, which will be reported to-morrow morning. It takes the House tariff bill, changing the duty on liquors and silks—the latter an increase of ten per cent. from the present bill, and an increase of twenty-five cents on iron and tin. It also increases the duty on sugar from ten to fifteen cents, and from forty to fifty per cent. on various other articles. They also adopt the House tax bill. They then adopted the Senate's income bill, with a reduction of five cents to three cents on all incomes over eight hundred dollars. The committee are of opinion that this bill will be satisfactory to both Houses.

NO DOUBT is entertained that Gen. McClellan will strike as soon as he is ready, without waiting for the weather. His plan of operations will not be disclosed until the precise moment for its execution. It is regarded here as an evidence of preparation for bold and energetic action that the military authorities decline to give any information whatever to the press.

ARMY ORDERS—SEARCHES OF REBELS' HOUSES—DESTRUCTION OF THE TOMB OF WASHINGTON BY REBELS. The following orders have just been promulgated:— GENERAL ORDERS—No. 12. Searches of houses for arms, traitors or spies, and arrests of offenders in such matters, shall only be made on authority of the special authority of the commander thereof, except in extreme cases admitting of no delay. By command of Lieutenant General SCOTT. E. D. TOWNSEND, Assistant Adjutant General.

IT has been the prayer of every patriot that the tramp and din of civil war might at least spare the "precious relic" in which repose the sacred remains of the Father of his Country; but this pious hope is disappointed. Mount Vernon, so recently consecrated anew to the immortality of Washington by the ladies of America, has already been trampled under foot by the constitution of the United States, and the ark of freedom and prosperity, are prepared to tempt the avarice of him to whom we are all mainly indebted for these mighty blessings. Should the operations of the war take the United States troops in that direction, the General-in-Chief does not doubt that each and every man will approach with due reverence, and leave unimpaired, the tomb, but also the house, the groves and walks, which were so loved by the host and greatest of men. By command, WINFIELD SCOTT. E. D. TOWNSEND, Assistant Adjutant General.

A REBEL EXPEDITION IN PREPARATION AT AQUA CRESCENS. Captain Rowan, of the Fawcett, has received the following letter:— ALEXANDRIA, July 29, 1861. Sir—I learned last evening that a person arrived here from Aqua Creek, who states that the Confederates have taken all the upper works of the steamer Page, and have put six guns on board her, and that all the flatboats on the Rappahannock have been brought over to the Potomac, the party saying that they had a great many in the creek. I suppose their object is to intercept some of the propellers on their way up the river with stores, &c.

UNION. The Eighth regiment arrived here shortly after eleven o'clock this morning. They were met at the depot by the Second Battalion as an escort, and an immense crowd of citizens. The regiment marched through several of the principal streets—meeting on the route with a most enthusiastic reception—to the Common where a colation awaited them. The Eighth regiment was mustered out of service this afternoon, and the companies, several of which belong to Essex county, departed for home, where a cordial public reception will be given them by the local authorities.

COLONEL HULLS made a feeling and eloquent speech to the regiment before departing. Sixty and a half companies, having made a long stop in Worcester, where a salute of cannon, an enthusiastic reception by the people and authorities and a beautiful dinner welcomed the soldiers. At the depot the regiment were met by the Second Battalion and escorted to the Common. Much noise has been felt in this regiment, as it was the very first in the country to start for the protection of Washington, and their reception was of that marked character characteristic of the gallant Sixth and the citizens of Boston will long remember. After partaking of the colation the regiment was furnished with quarters in the city for to-night, and will leave for Lowell to-morrow. It is understood that they will be mustered out of service in the morning.

ORNBOLD F. NIMS has been appointed Captain of the Company's splendid Light Artillery, which was mustered into service yesterday. Capt. Nims formerly commanded Co. B's battery, and has acted as drill officer of the company which he has now been chosen to command. He is a good and popular officer.

THE NEWS FROM GEN. BANKS' ARMY. It is most encouraging. He is rapidly reorganizing his army, and placing it in an impregnable position. He has no fear of an attack from Gen. Johnston, and if attacked is sufficiently strong to defend himself against all comers. There is no reliable information that the rebels are concentrating in any considerable force either at Winchester or Leesburg.

THE LOYALTY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES. A misapprehension exists as to the practices and powers of the Select Committee (Mr. Butler, Chairman) to examine into the loyalty of government employes. They have no instance directed the arrest of any one. In cases where the evidence is satisfactory to them, they report the fact to the proper authority, and then the functions of the Committee ends.

ACTIVITY IN THE RIFLED CANNON MANUFACTORIES. The government has made arrangements at four manufacturing establishments to have sixty rifled cannon turned out a week

reported a bill, which was passed, authorizing additional arms for the army for three years, or during the war, so as to place it in complete efficiency for active service.

THE DEFENSES OF WASHINGTON. Mr. STEVENS, (rep.) of Pa., from the Committee on Ways and Means, reported a bill, which was passed, appropriating \$100,000 for field fortifications for the defense of Washington.

THE SUPPLEMENTAL LOAN BILL. Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Conference on the Supplemental Loan bill, made a report explaining that the disagreements of the two houses had been compromised by striking out nine per centum in certain cases and substituting six; also modifying the Treasury act, so that instead of gold and silver being immediately paid into the Treasury, as now required, the money derived from the loan may remain in solvent banks until it shall be drawn out in pursuance of law.

MR. F. A. COWAN, (rep.) of N. Y., inquired whether the Treasury desire to make the Treasury pay for tea, coffee, sugar, &c., as a pledge for the loan.

MR. STEVENS replied that the Senate would not consent to the Treasury paying for such articles, but the committee had agreed to abandon that clause.

THE REPORT WAS ADOPTED BY 85 AGAINST 34.

MR. STEVENS reported a bill to suspend part of the operations of the laws of March 1845, relative to revenue cutters and steamers, so as to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to apply so much of the appropriation for the collection of the revenue to the charter or purchase of vessels for the revenue service. Passed.

MR. ELLIOT, (rep.) of Mass., from the Committee on Commerce, reported a bill to suspend part of the operations of the laws of March 1845, relative to revenue cutters and steamers, so as to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to apply so much of the appropriation for the collection of the revenue to the charter or purchase of vessels for the revenue service. Passed.

MR. ELLIOT, (rep.) of N. H., offered a joint resolution