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JAMES GORDON BENNETT, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

- NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway... WINTER GARDEN, Broadway... WALLACE'S THEATRE, No. 344 Broadway... LAURA KENNEDY THEATRE, Broadway... NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery... BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery... MARY PROVOST'S THEATRE, 435 Broadway... BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway... BRYANT'S MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall... HOOLEY'S MINSTRELS, Subversant Institute... NIBLO'S SALOON, Broadway... MELODEON CONCERT HALL, 539 Broadway... CANTERBURY MUSIC HALL, 335 Broadway... GAITEIES CONCERT ROOM, 616 Broadway... AMERICAN MUSIC HALL, 464 Broadway... CRYSTAL PALACE CONCERT HALL, No. 45 Broadway... PARSIAN CABINET OF WONDERS, 523 Broadway... NOVELTY MUSIC HALL, 616 Broadway...

New York, Monday, March 17, 1862.

THE SITUATION.

The Address of General McClellan has been received with the greatest delight and enthusiasm by the whole army, and by the people in Washington generally. It appears that everything which the rebels could destroy in their retreat was consumed. The storehouses at Manassas, with a large quantity of flour, were burned, and the Warrenton station, together with the hotel and five or six dwellings. The bridge over Cedar creek, two miles north of Warrenton, was burned down, and a freight train of fifty-two cars, loaded with commissary stores worth \$20,000, was set on fire at Thoroughfare station, twelve miles from Manassas, on the road to Winchester, but were rescued from destruction by our troops before they were consumed.

The rebels are said to be strengthening the fortifications at Fredericksburg with the utmost speed. All the negroes in the vicinity are being driven in to assist in the work, and the white residents are being impressed as soldiers.

We learn from Fortress Monroe that the rebels are evidently intimidated by the presence of the monitor; and the constant passing to and fro of their steamers from Sewall's Point to Norfolk, for the last few days, indicates the fact that they regard the former place as untenable while the Monitor lies in Hampton Roads, and that they are removing the troops and munitions of war to some point on the Nansemond river. The frigate Cumberland, which was sunk by the terrible attack of the rebel monster Merrimac, still keeps her masts above water, and the Stars and Stripes are yet flying at the masthead of the lost frigate.

Our correspondence from the Lower Potomac to-day contains some highly interesting details of the late evacuation of the rebel batteries in that neighborhood and the operations of our vessels at Aquia creek. We give in another column a fac simile plan of the batteries on the Lower Potomac, picked up by some of our troops in the rebel camp.

We give some further particulars of the battle at Pea Ridge, Arkansas. The rebels, it is said, had thirty-five thousand men in the field, among whom were twenty-two hundred Indians under Albert Pike. The rebels acknowledge a loss of eleven hundred killed and nearly three thousand wounded. Our loss was six hundred killed and from eight hundred to one thousand wounded. We took sixteen hundred prisoners and thirteen pieces of cannon. In reply to a correspondence from the rebel General Van Dorn to General Curtis, asking permission to bury the dead at the battle of Pea Ridge, the latter states that, although he grants the permission required, he regrets to find that many of the Union soldiers who fell in that battle were tomahawked, scalped and otherwise shamefully mangled, contrary to the rules of civilized warfare, and expresses the hope that the present struggle may not degenerate into a savage warfare. The Indians of Mr. Pike's command are doubtless responsible for the hideous tomahawking and scalping business.

By way of St. Louis, last night we learn that the forces of Generals Smith, McClelland, Sherman, Wallace and Harbit, had arrived at Savannah, Tennessee. The force of the rebels in the vicinity was variously stated at from 30,000 to 100,000 men. The division of General Lewis Wallace advanced on Saturday to Purdy, in McNairy county, and burned the bridge and tore up the track of the railroad leading from Humboldt to Corinth, Mississippi, cutting off a train laden with rebel troops.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

By the arrival of the steamer Ariel we have interesting news from the Isthmus of Panama. The intelligence from the United States of Columbia is very important. Mosquera, with a large force, was advancing upon Antioquia, and great excitement prevailed. Large bodies of guerrillas had entered Bogota and devastated the city, seizing the patriarch crown of Bolivar, among other things. A decree giving full protection to foreign property had been promulgated by Mosquera. Canal's entire army had been cut in pieces. Three other Venezuelan provinces, besides Maracibo, had declared their independence and given their adhesion to the Colombian Union. An attack on Caracas was repulsed. Don Juan Romero de Tezanos, Duke of

Regia, died at Panama, of dysentery, on the 15th of February.

A very serious accident, caused by the breaking of a rail, occurred on the Hudson River Railroad, on Saturday, by which five of our noble volunteers, belonging to the Ninety-fourth New York regiment, on their way to the seat of war, were killed, and several others severely injured. The bodies of the killed were immediately returned home, and the wounded brought to this city and placed in the hospital, where they will be tenderly cared for until fully recovered. A full account of the accident, with a list of the killed and injured, will be found elsewhere.

We publish in our paper this morning a programme showing the manner in which it is proposed to celebrate the return of the anniversary of the birthday of the patron saint of Ireland.

The United States steamship Saranac arrived at Panama on the 3d inst. The British steamships Clio and Termagant, and the French corvette Galate and steamer Casini were in that port the same date.

Among the rebel commissioned officers taken at Fort Donelson and now confined at Camp Chase, Ohio, there are:

- Farmers.....79 Clerks.....8 Merchants.....29 Planters.....7 Physicians.....15 Teachers.....5 Mechanics.....10 Bankers.....2

According to a report made to the Adjutant General of Virginia it appears that the whole number of men drafted in one of the districts was two thousand one hundred and two; but of this number only five hundred and sixty-one were obtained.

The report says: Reported themselves.....561 Failed to report.....631 Government employes, exempt.....345 Physically disabled.....139 Employed substitutes.....216 Confederate States officers, exempt.....66 Virginia State officers, exempt.....29 Employed on railroads, exempt.....38 Police officers, exempt.....36 Freeman, exempt.....29 Bank officers, exempt.....9 Ministers, exempt.....3

Our armies have reclaimed one hundred and fifty thousand square miles of territory that one year ago were either in open rebellion or bordering on rebellion.

The Kentucky Legislature will adjourn to-day, to meet again on the 24th of November.

We learn that the government had paid the cost of the construction of the iron gunboat Monitor previous to her leaving this port, with the exception of twenty-five per cent, which was reserved as a guarantee that she should perform as represented. She has performed.

Twelve canal propellers are building at Rome, N. Y., to run on the Erie canal and North river, between that place and New York city.

William Leffingwell Foote, aged thirteen years, second son of Commodore Foote, United States Navy, Flag Officer of the Mississippi gunboats, died of scarlet fever at his father's residence in New Haven on the 14th inst.

Judge George W. Miller is up for Governor of Missouri. Sample Orr and James H. Birch are also candidates.

The salt works in Onondaga county, N. Y., manufactured last year 7,200,391 bushels of salt, 1,884,627 bushels of which was the product of solar evaporation, and the balance of artificial heat. The State duties for the year was \$72,000, and the expenses incurred by the State was \$45,000.

The cotton market was quiet, and sales moderate, having reached, in small lots, about 340 bales on the basis of about 27 1/2c. for middling uplands. Good middlings were scarce, and held at 29c. a 30c. The four market was without change of moment, and the sales moderate, and chiefly made to the home trade. What was finally sold, was the market was inactive and sales limited. Cotton was easier, while sales were tolerably active, closing at 55 1/2c. a 60c. for Western mixed. Pork was in some better request and firmer, with sales of new mess at \$13 75 a \$13 87 1/2, and at \$10 75 a \$10 87 1/2 for new prime. Sugars were steady, while the sales embraced 742 hhds. Cuban at full prices. Coffee was quiet, and no sales of moment reported. Freight was steady, while engagements were moderate.

The Order of the Day.

Major General McClellan, commanding in person the Grand Army of the Potomac, has issued, from his headquarters at Fairfax Court House, the following brief, stirring, Napoleonic Order of the Day, which we republish from our edition of yesterday:

SOLDIERS OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC:—For a long time I have kept you inactive, but not without a purpose. You were to be disciplined, armed and instructed. The formidable artillery you now have had to be created. Other armies were to move and accomplish certain results. I have held you back that you might give the death blow to the rebellion that has distracted our once happy country.

The patience you have shown, and your confidence in your General, are worth a dozen victories. These preliminary labors of many months have produced their fruit. The Army of the Potomac is now a real army, magnificent in material, admirable in discipline and instruction, and excellently equipped and armed. Your commanders are all that I could wish. The means for action are arrived, and I know that I can trust in you to see your faces the sure prestige of victory. I feel that you will do whatever I ask of you. The period of inaction has passed. I will bring you now face to face with the rebels, and only pray that God may defend the right!

In whatever direction you may move, however strange my actions may appear to you, ever bear in mind that my fate is linked with yours, and that all I do is to bring you where I know you wish to be—on the decisive battle. Know that it is my business to place you there. I am to lead you over you as a parent over his children, and you know that your General loves you from the depths of his heart. It shall be my care—It has ever been—It shall be my care—to see that you are never again to be separated from me. I know that, if it is necessary, you will willingly follow me to our graves for our righteous cause.

God smile upon us! Victory attends us! Yet I would not have you think that our aim is to be obtained without a manly struggle. I will not disguise it from you, that you have brave foes to encounter—foemen well worthy of the steel that you will use so well. I shall demand of you great, heroic exertions, rapid and long marches, desperate combats, privations, perhaps. We will share all these together, and when this sad war is over we will return to our homes, and feel that we can say no higher honor than the proud consciousness that we belonged to the Army of the Potomac!

GEORGE B. McCLELLAN, Major General Commanding.

This terse, emphatic, patriotic address quickens the blood like the call of a trumpet. Issued from the headquarters recently occupied by the retreating enemy, it is itself an earnest of the victories it predicts. It will inspire the army with invincible ardor, the nation with renewed confidence, the world with admiration. It points onward to victory. It demonstrates that all apparent inaction has been in fact the organization of success. It foretells the conclusion and the result of this sad civil war. To the army it says: Forward! You shall soon be face to face with the enemy! To the country it explains the motives of past preparation, the causes of the present advance, the certainty of ultimate triumph. To the world it announces that our generals and our soldiers have no other object but to conquer peace, no other ambition but to save the Union, no other desire but to return to the homes which patriotism has forced them to leave for the battle field.

Thus this comprehensive order not only inspires our soldiers with enthusiasm and nerves them for heroic exertions, fatiguing marches, desperate combats and hard privations, but it alike rebukes those fanatics who complain of past inaction, and those Europeans who declare that the issue of this war is uncertain and its probable finale a military despotism.

When McClellan took command the Army of the Potomac was to be disciplined, armed and instructed. It is now ready for action, "a real army," admirably disciplined, excellently armed and equipped. That heavy artillery, which Napoleon declared omnipotent, was to be prepared. It is now supplied, and is magnificent in material and formidable in numbers. The armies led by Halleck, McClelland, Wool, Buell, Thomas, Grant, Mitchell, Banks, Smith, Schoepff, Curtis, Sigel, Pope, T. W. Sherman, Burnside, Rosecrans, Lander, Mulligan, Canby and Geary, and the fleets and gunboats under Dupont, Goldsborough, Stringham, McKean, Farragut, Porter, Ward and Worden, had their preparatory work to do in Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Western Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina and New Mexico, and their results had to be accomplished before the Army of the Potomac could move to complete the plan. Now these results are attained, and McClellan moves. His armies have encircled rebellion like the coils of an anaconda, and now, like the head of the serpent, the Army of the Potomac strikes the death blow.

The abolitionists need no longer search in vain to find the master mind which has organized victory. They may read his name signed to this Order of the Day. General McClellan announces, what we have always claimed, that he alone has devised the great campaign which is to annihilate treason; has planned those preliminary results which the nation so heartily applauded; has held back his favorite division that it might be led by himself to glory; has so arranged his plans that, under his own command, the Army of the Potomac shall win the decisive battle, to which all others have been but preparatory, and which will save the country. Whether the rebels make a stand upon the line of the Rappahannock and Rapidan, or whether, dispirited and demoralized, the rebel army retreats and dissolves, is now of but little moment. The General who asked of us confidence and patience now announces our speedy reward.

The nation endorses the promise that henceforward there shall be no higher grade of honor than that of a soldier of the Army of the Potomac.

PROMOTION OF GENERAL WOOL.—We learn by intelligence from Washington, which we published yesterday, that in the executive session of the Senate on Friday afternoon a strong feeling was manifested in favor of placing General Wool in a more important position than he now occupies, and involving more active and comprehensive duties. This feeling was developed, it is said, in a marked manner during the discussion upon the confirmation of Major General McDowell. The truth is, that not only in Washington, but throughout the country, has the feeling been universal for a long time that General Wool is entitled to the position of Major General, and to the opportunity of active service in the field. He is only a Brevet Major General, an honorary title conferred upon him for distinguished services in the Mexican war. That title does not enable him to rank with Major Generals in the field. We think he deserves such promotion, not only from his long military experience and fidelity to the government, but for his efficient and judicious discharge of his duties since he assumed command at Fortress Monroe. No military blunder has since happened in that district. General Wool is better entitled to the full rank of Major General in the army than some who have been promoted to that position. No one will pretend to compare his military capacity with that of Fremont. Justice, as well as expediency, demands that he should receive the appointment without delay.

THE REVULSION IN SOUTHERN FEELING.

Hitherto wherever our troops have penetrated into the territory recently included in Rebeldom, whether Tennessee or Virginia, the people have taken to flight at our first approach. They had been told that our army would confiscate their property and free their slaves, and that they themselves would be given over to the worst passions of an infuriated and unbridled soldiery. No wonder, therefore, that the poor, deluded people fled when the Union forces marched into their cities. But when they saw that our men acted, as all the Union troops have done, like gentlemen, respecting persons and property, and protecting instead of destroying, and so presenting a remarkable contrast to the lawless and riotous conduct of their own troops, they saw that what had been told them was untrue, and with returning confidence they returned themselves, bringing with them their slaves and whatever other property they had taken away with them in their flight. Those who have returned feel perfect security, and their example is being followed by the remainder, who are flocking back to their homes without the slightest apprehension of danger. This has resulted in a great revulsion of feeling among the Southern people. They begin to see that we are not the monsters that the rebel leaders represented us to be, and the Union sentiment is spreading and developing itself with great rapidity, and there is every sign that this rebellion is on the verge of breaking down as suddenly as it appeared to spring up. Even the rebel newspapers assist us to this conclusion; and that the great bulk of the people are sick and tired of the war and its consequences, and would rejoice to be again at peace under the protection of the flag of the Union, we have abundant testimony from all quarters.

OUR GUNBOATS.—A number of wooden gunboats are now being constructed for the government by an order of an old date. Recent events point out the necessity of having them cased with iron, and the same remark applies to all our old vessels-of-war which are strong enough or capable of being sufficiently strengthened to bear the iron armor. The Western opposition to a powerful navy is completely overcome by the achievements of our gunboats in the waters of the Mississippi, Tennessee and the Cumberland, and there will be little difficulty now in carrying the measure we suggest through Congress. Let it be taken up at once.

ARTICLES OMITTED IN THE TAX BILL.—Coal and lager beer, articles of very general consumption, and which would bring a large revenue to the government.

The Lesson of New Madrid.

The evacuation of New Madrid conveys a lesson of great significance. It is a fatal symptom of the breaking up of the rebellion—a patent fact of its speedy dissolution. New Madrid was the last stronghold in Missouri. On Saturday we learned by official despatches from Generals Pope and Halleck that, after several days skirmishing and a number of attempts by the gunboats of the enemy to dislodge General Pope's batteries, the rebels evacuated the forts and intrenchments at New Madrid, leaving all their heavy artillery, field pieces, tents, wagons, mules and military stores. Nowhere now in Missouri floats the Confederate flag.

It may have been a military necessity to abandon this strong position, after recent events in Kentucky and Tennessee. But to leave all the heavy artillery and field pieces, consisting of twenty-five rifled twenty-four pounders of the former kind, and thirty-two batteries of field pieces, being two hundred and seventeen guns in all, together with several thousand small arms, so much needed by the rebel confederacy, an immense quantity of cannon ammunition, hundreds of boxes of musket cartridges, three hundred mules, tents for an army of twelve thousand men, and other property estimated as worth a million of dollars, is something not so easily explained, unless upon the hypothesis of a complete caving in of the rebellion and the utter demoralization of the disheartened troops. It is stated that, being surrounded by the Union army, and fearing an assault at daylight, just as in the case of Fort Donelson, the rebels escaped unperceived across the river in the night, during a violent thunder storm. Their force has been variously estimated at from 6,000 to 15,000 men. In escaping capture they have done somewhat better, owing to the lucky accident of a thunder storm, than the Fort Donelson men; but the result is not very different. For all the use these dispersed and disorganized troops ever will be to the rebel cause, they might as well have been taken prisoners. They are without arms and ammunition, and it is evident they had no confidence in themselves or their leaders; otherwise they would not have fled without a struggle. To surrender or fly, leaving their arms behind, seems to be now the order of the day with the rebels. At Port Royal, Roanoke, Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Fernandina, Brunswick, Columbus, Bowling Green, Nashville, Manassas, Winchester, and on the Lower Potomac, this has been the case, and now it again occurs at New Madrid. If the Confederates saved their cannon they might retrieve their fortunes; but without artillery what could the bravest troops do against the formidable batteries with which the insurgents will now have to contend. It is evident that there is a great scarcity of all kinds of arms at the South. The shotguns in the hands of the troops are about as numerous as rifles and muskets, and so scarce are the latter that at Florence the recruits were compelled to drill with wooden muskets, a specimen of which we have in our office. Cannon of the same material were found on the fortifications at Centerville. Among the guns found in the rebel batteries of the Lower Potomac was an Armstrong cannon, which was imported from England to Savannah, and brought thence to Virginia—a proof that cannon are far from abundant in Rebeldom. Owing to their hope of European intervention to break the blockade, if not to go greater lengths, the rebel government appear to have manufactured few cannon or small arms of late, expecting to get all they needed from abroad. Notwithstanding, therefore, the number of arms of all kinds stolen by Floyd, that big thief did not steal enough, and they have no time now to manufacture any, and they cannot get a supply from Europe. Their want of arms alone, therefore, would defeat them, if there were no other causes in operation to contribute to that result. Truly did Jeff. Davis say that they attempted too much. A battle in Virginia, if the insurgents will fight, will be the finishing stroke to the war.

WOODEN MUSKETS.—We have received, with the following letter from our Cairo correspondent, a rude imitation, in wood, of a musket, the barrel painted green, and the stock being a dirty brown, with a green butt. It has no lock, trigger, ramrod or nipple, and bears about the same relation to an ordinary fowling piece that a scarecrow does to a human being.

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JAMES G. BERRY, Esq., Cairo, Ill., March 5, 1862.

Sir—The accompanying manuscript was captured by our gunboats at Florence, Alabama, on the 11th of last month. It is one of about eight hundred seized, and was used by the rebels, in the absence of genuine arms, for drilling purposes. Commodore Foote has presented one to the Governor of each loyal State, and desires me to present this to you, with his compliments. I am glad that the flag I sent you to present to the city of New York, from Colonel Morgan L. Smith, has been received and presented. Colonel Smith desired me to thank you for taking the trouble you have in duty presenting it, and says he will endeavor soon to secure one for your own use. The manuscript I send you to-day would be a rich acquisition to P. T. B.'s cabinet. I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient, humble servant, FRANK G. CHAPMAN, Cairo Correspondent New York Herald.

The mere fact that the rebels have had to resort to such an odd contrivance in drilling their recruits shows that their supply of small arms must be unequal to their requirements; but, necessity being the mother of invention, they have made wood answer where steel was wanting. As a curiosity of secession it is almost as interesting as the flag of the "Blackland Gideonites," which was sent to us for presentation to the city a few days ago. As there are eight hundred of these timber dummies on their way to the loyal States, the public generally may soon have an opportunity of seeing with what manner of guns the rebels teach the young idea how to shoot.

POSTAL FACILITIES.—We are glad to observe that the Post Office Department is ready to establish, as soon as Congress shall give the authority, the free delivery of letters in cities, with uniform rates of postage for local and general letters. This is an improvement in our postal system of which we are much in need, and it will doubtless be fully appreciated by the public, and will contribute to the general convenience, have considerable effect in increasing the business of the department. At present there are so many drawbacks attending the employment of the Post Office, especially in the transmission of City letters, that the commercial and social intercourse of the community is seriously affected thereby. The people of all sections of the Union would be brought into closer relations by such a system as that which prevails in England, and we hope that it will not be long before the Post Office in America will become as popular an institution as it

PUBLIC TAXATION AND PRIVATE EXPENDITURE.—For nearly a year we have been crying out on a great war without individually contributing by taxation anything towards the cost. The national credit has thus far amply sufficed to provide the necessary means; but on the 1st of May next the new Tax bill is to come into operation, and we shall then experience the novelty of being really taxed.

Schedules will be left at our houses or offices, which we shall have to fill up with the particulars regarding our incomes and real and personal property, together with the names and salaries of our clerks, if we have any, and as much besides as may come within the scope of the bill. We shall have to pay three per cent upon our annual income, less six hundred dollars. Our gold watch will act as a perpetual reminder that we pay a tax of a dollar a year for the privilege of wearing it; our billiard table, if we keep one, will add to its original cost twenty dollars a year; and we shall otherwise begin to feel that we have arrived at the dignity of a national debt. We shall not grumble at the change, however. Taxation will never be so popular as ours. Every man will pay with patriotic willingness the cost of preserving our national integrity against the great conspiracy which we are now so rapidly and decisively defeating. We anticipate that there will be few or no attempts at evading the provisions of the bill, and that the effect of the latter upon individual incomes will be hardly perceptible. That it may lead to the curtailment of extravagance in living we think highly probable; but this is of itself highly desirable. We have been too long given to wasteful habits, and whatever measure is likely to check the evil and encourage moderation and thrift is to be commended. A vulgar love of display has been, and is still, one of our social weaknesses; and if the new Tax bill leads us to improve our taste in that respect, as we think it will, who can deny that it will be productive of much national good. Retrenchment in superfluities will be the order of the day, and it is to be hoped that our wives and daughters will be the first to set and the last to withhold the example. That the uses of taxation will not be confined to social life, but extend to every branch of the government service, we have little doubt; for, with a large national debt to pay off, a more general interest will be taken by our influential citizens in the political welfare of the country, and we shall be more careful than we have been hitherto as to whom we elect to represent us. The salutary effects of taxation are thus likely to be very widely felt, and we may congratulate ourselves on the prospect before us.

THE DEMORALIZED CONDITION OF THE REBEL CAPITAL.—The Richmond journals tell us enough about the deplorable condition of that city to show that it is a hotbed of vice and a perpetual scene of disorder. They remind us that before the beginning of the war it was the most quiet and orderly city of its size in America; that its streets were as silent at night as those of a village; that not a sound was to be heard save the deep roar of the river as it rushed over the falls. But since then a change has come over the capital of the Old Dominion; and such a change! The old population has been obscured by the vast influx of people from all ends of the confederacy, and these have brought with them such an amount of ruffianism, bloodshed and drunkenness as perhaps never before darkened any city in the world. Martial law may have done something to improve this condition of things; but Richmond affords us a good example of the fruits of rebellion. The same demoralization prevails, more or less, wherever that flag is, the rebel flag, it still to be seen, and a moral pestilence and the plague of tyranny overshadow the once sunny South. The Southern people now begin to see the suicidal folly of the rebellion; and well may it be said by their leading journals that the murmurs of discontent are becoming general, and that many are despairing of the end, and even anxious to renew their allegiance to the government at Washington. The days of the rebellion are fortunately numbered, and the people of the South have cause to rejoice at the prospect of being released from a condition of anarchy and ruin.

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS.

A notice to postmasters has just been issued by the First Assistant Postmaster General, as follows:—The Postmaster General has ordered the blank agency at Cincinnati, Ohio, to be transferred to Buffalo, N. Y., on the 1st of April next. All postmasters now supplied with blanks from Cincinnati will, after that date, send their orders to the blank agent at Buffalo, N. Y., where the printing is executed under contract, and whence they will be supplied.

DEPARTURE OF COLONEL CAMERON'S REMAINS FOR HARRISBURG.

Col. Cameron's body left on this afternoon's cars for Harrisburg. The bodies of one rebel captain and six privates, which the enemy in their flight from Manassas neglected to bury, were interred on Friday by a detachment of our troops.

THE MILITARY GOVERNOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

General Wadsworth to-day entered upon his duties as Military Governor of the District of Columbia, occupying the Provost Marshal's late office. AN INDEPENDENT STROLL AND ITS PROBABLE CONSEQUENCES. Lieutenant Baum, of the Twenty-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteers, acting as ordnance officer on General Hooker's staff, and John C. Gregg, telegraph operator, went to the Virginia side on Tuesday for an independent stroll and exploration of the late rebel camps. They succeeded in passing the Union pickets, and have no doubt been taken, as they have not returned to their camp. The wife of a Union man in the vicinity of Dumfries reports having seen the rebel scouts passing her house with two prisoners.

FEARS OF DISEASE IN WASHINGTON.

The physicians of this city are beginning to discuss seriously the probable effects of the dead horses and other offensive matters around the camps that encircle Washington. It is feared that a miasmata will be created in the weather by the decay of animal matter, prejudicial to the health of the neighborhood, when the army shall have gone South. The Sanitary Commission will be called upon to devise means for getting rid of the evil.

is in England, where almost every one looks out for his "daily batch of letters as regularly as he would for his breakfast.

THE THREATENED DESTRUCTION OF THE COTTON AND TOBACCO CROPS.—The rebel Congress, in passing a bill making it the duty of all military commanders in the so-called Confederate States to destroy all cotton, tobacco or other property which could be of use to the North, whenever, in their judgment, they are likely to fall into our hands, have planned an outrage upon the civilized world, which, if carried into execution, will brand the leaders of the rebellion with fresh infamy, and consign to still more hopeless ruin the people who have been drawn to take part in this gigantic conspiracy to dissolve the Union. The desperate resolve of the desperate men who have staked their all, present and future, upon the success of this unholy revolt against the federal authority, may be ranked with the worst acts of the Goths and Vandals. It is an atrocious design, worthy of the bridge burners, and shows an unlimited appetite for wanton destruction. The Jacobins of France were never actuated by a worse spirit than the ringleaders of this rebellion, who would destroy everything and sacrifice every interest of those around them for the sake of aiding their own diabolical ends.

What will be thought of such a scheme of destruction in Europe we well know. It will excite, as it deserves, general disgust and indignation, and show to the world what manner of men the rebel leaders really are. Yet these are the individuals who held out to the South the prospect of a better state of things than existed under the protecting away of the Union. Not content with devastating the land by the sword, they wish to lay it waste by fire, and so consume the last vestiges of the substance of those who have been forced to drift with the tide into the sea of troubles in which they at present find themselves. But it is to be hoped that our troops will be able to prevent the perpetration of this barbarous crime, and capture before the hand of the destroyer has time to burn. For the sake of civilization, we trust that the evil designs of these traitors will be frustrated.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, March 16, 1862.

MAJOR GENERAL HITCHCOCK CALLED TO WASHINGTON. General E. A. Hitchcock, who recently declined the appointment of Major General of Volunteers, was summoned here from St. Louis some days ago, when he was visited by Mr. Stanton, the Secretary of War. What transpired at the interview has not been announced; but it was of sufficient importance to the interests of the country to induce General Hitchcock to reconsider his declaration of the Major Generalship. Having all considerations of a personal nature, he consented to accept the appointment. After this he left for New York, but was almost immediately ordered to report himself to the President. He arrived on Friday, and will now have his permanent place here. Though Secretary Cameron had nearly deprived the country of one of its oldest and ablest military commanders, yet it is now a source of satisfaction to know that the President and Secretary Stanton have near them one whose military judgment cannot but be of the greatest possible advantage at this time.

THE ADDRESS OF GENERAL McCLELLAN TO THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC AND ITS EFFECT.

The promulgation of the address of General McClellan to the Army of the Potomac has occasioned intense delight here. It has aroused the enthusiasm not only of the rank and file of the army, but among the masses of the people. These demonstrations have greatly chagrined and terrified the fanatical section that has been basking at the heels of the Commanding General. The indignation against these mischief makers in this community is daily increasing. The Northern traitors and their aiders and abettors shrink from the further prosecution of their schemes. The folly of their attempts to detract from the merit or the high position of General McClellan is apparent to all men of sense, who know that it is in the power of the General at any moment to refute all their falsehoods by the simple publication of the military orders and instructions issued by him from the time he assumed the duties of General Commanding.

THE TAX BILL AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS.

To-day has been devoted in a great measure to lobby work upon the Tax bill. Delegations are here from the New York Chamber of Commerce, the Boston and Philadelphia Boards of Trade, in consultation with the Committee of Ways and Means and other members of Congress. The drug interest is powerfully represented, and the effects of the bill upon patent medicines are being set forth by them. They have prepared a memorial showing that the proposed taxation will raise the price of proprietary medicines from one hundred to two hundred and fifty per cent, and that their trade will pay directly and indirectly under the bill, seven millions and seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars, while the banks and savings institutions pay only eight hundred thousand dollars. The manufacturing interests of New England are laboring with the committee. They complain that the bill imposes burdens upon production in opposition to true policy, and they contend that the effect of the tax will be to close a large number of the mills, and ruin much of the industry of the country; that under the bill taxes will be accumulated to eight or nine per cent, upon the same article, as it passes through various processes conducted by different manufacturers; that the highest degree of protection is obtained by a division of labor, and to this our manufacturing system is pending, but the proposed bill will, it is claimed, check this enlightened policy. The framers of the bill believe that the tax of three per cent will be paid by the purchasers of manufactured articles, but to this the delegation reply that the prices sometimes fall, while the raw material rises. Hon. Erastus B. Sigel, of Boston, will present to the committee a plan which he believes will simplify the bill one half.

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS.

A notice to postmasters has just been issued by the First Assistant Postmaster General, as follows:—The Postmaster General has ordered the blank agency at Cincinnati, Ohio, to be transferred to Buffalo, N. Y., on the 1st of April next. All postmasters now supplied with blanks from Cincinnati will, after that date, send their orders to the blank agent at Buffalo, N. Y., where the printing is executed under contract, and whence they will be supplied.

DEPARTURE OF COLONEL CAMERON'S REMAINS FOR HARRISBURG.

Col. Cameron's body left on this afternoon's cars for Harrisburg. The bodies of one rebel captain and six privates, which the enemy in their flight from Manassas neglected to bury, were interred on Friday by a detachment of our troops.

THE MILITARY GOVERNOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

General Wadsworth to-day entered upon his duties as Military Governor of the District of Columbia, occupying the Provost Marshal's late office. AN INDEPENDENT STROLL AND ITS PROBABLE CONSEQUENCES. Lieutenant Baum, of the Twenty-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteers, acting as ordnance officer on General Hooker's staff, and John C. Gregg, telegraph operator, went to the Virginia side on Tuesday for an independent stroll and exploration of the late rebel camps. They succeeded in passing the Union pickets, and have no doubt been taken, as they have not returned to their camp. The wife of a Union man in the vicinity of Dumfries reports having seen the rebel scouts passing her house with two prisoners.

FEARS OF DISEASE IN WASHINGTON.

The physicians of this city are beginning to discuss seriously the probable effects of the dead horses and other offensive matters around the camps that encircle Washington. It is feared that a miasmata will be created in the weather by the decay of animal matter, prejudicial to the health of the neighborhood, when the army shall have gone South. The Sanitary Commission will be called upon to devise means for getting rid of the evil.