THE NEW YORK HERALD.

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IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON.

Six Hundred Thousand New Troops Called Out.

DRAFTING FOR THE ARMY.

Official Order from the War Department.

The Draft to Commence on the Fifteenth of August.

THE PROCESS OF DRAFTING IN NEW YORK.

Interesting Particulars, Laws and Regulations in Relation to the Same.

WHO ARE EXEMPT AND WHO ARE NOT.

THE NEW MILITIA LAW,

&c., &c., &c.

WAR GAZETTE.

OFFICIAL.

The Order from the Secretary of War.

WASHINGTON, August 4, 1862.

The following order, calling for militia from the several States, has just been issued:—

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, August 4, 1862.

Ordered, First—That a draft of three hundred thousand militia be immediately called into the service of the United States, to serve for nine months, unless sooner discharged. The Secretary of War will assign the quotas to the States, and establish regulations for the draft.

Second—That if any State shall not by the 15th of August furnish its quota of the additional three hundred thousand volunteers authorized by law, the deficiency of volunteers in that State will also be made up by a special draft from the militia. The Secretary of War will establish regulations for this purpose.

Third—Regulations will be prepared by the War Department, and presented to the President, with the object of securing the promotion of officers of the army and volunteers for meritorious and distinguished services, and of preventing the nomination and appointment in the military service of incompetent or unworthy officers. The regulations will also provide for ridding the service of such incompetent persons as now hold commissions.

By order of THE PRESIDENT.

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

The New York Militia Law.

The officials recently passed around from house to house, taking down the names of those who are subject to military duty, in preparation for carrying into operation the law passed by the last Legislature. The following synopsis will furnish an idea of its principal features, which will be of interest at this time:—

WHO ARE TO BE ENROLLED FOR MILITARY DUTY.

The act provides that all able bodied white male citizens, between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years, residing in this State, and not exempted by the laws of the United States, shall be subject to military duty. All persons liable to military duty within the State, who are not already members of the organized militia, are to be enrolled as often as once in every two years, by the commandant of the company district in which they reside. The rolls are to be filed with the Adjutant General, town or city and county clerks, on or before the 1st of July in each year in which the enrolment is made. Tavern and boarding house keepers are enjoined to give information as to the names of their lodgers who are liable to be enrolled, upon the application of the officer authorized to make the enrolment. Falsity or refusal to give the information so required is punishable with a fine of $10, to be recovered in any court of competent jurisdiction.

WHO ARE EXEMPT.

1. All persons in the army or navy or volunteer forces of the United States.
2. Ministers and preachers of the Gospel.
3. The Lieutenant Governor, members and officers of the Legislature, the Secretary of State, Attorney General, Comptroller, State Engineer and Surveyor, State Treasurer and clerks and employes in their offices, judicial officers of this State, including justices of the peace, sheriffs, coroners and constables.
4. Persons being of the people called Shakers or Quakers, professors, teachers and students in all colleges, and professors, teachers and students in the several academies and common schools.
5. Persons who have been or hereafter shall be regularly and honorably discharged from the army or navy of the United States, in consequence of the performance of military duty, in pursuance of any law of this State, and such firemen as are now exempted by law.
6. Commissioned officers who shall have served as such in the militia of this State, or in any one of the United States, for the space of seven years; but no officer shall be so exempt unless by his resignation after such term of service duly accepted, or in some other lawful manner he shall have been honorably discharged.
7. Every non-commissioned officer, musician and private of every uniformed company or troop raised or hereafter to be raised, who has or shall hereafter uniform himself according to the provisions of any law of this State, and who shall have performed service in such company or troop for the space of seven years from the time of his enrolment therein, shall be exempt from military duty, except in cases of war, insurrection or invasion.

Sec. 2. If any member of such company or troop, who shall have been regularly uniformed and equipped, shall, upon his removal out of the beat of such company or troop, or upon the disbandment thereof, enlist into any other uniform company or troop, and uniform and equip himself therefor, and serve in the same, whenever the whole time of his service in such companies or troops, computed together, shall amount to seven years, he shall be exempt from military duty in like manner as if he had served for the whole period in the company or troop in which he was first enrolled.

Sec. 3. Idiots, lunatics, paupers, habitual drunkards and persons convicted of infamous crimes shall not be subject to military duty.

EXEMPTION.

All persons claiming exemptions are to file a written statement, verified by affidavit, in the office of the town or city clerk, or of the county clerk, as the case may be, on or before the 15th of August; otherwise they lose the benefit of the exemption, unless they have been especially exempted by the act of Congress. If any person swear falsely in his affidavit, he shall be deemed guilty of perjury. The annual inspection is to take place on the first Monday of September in each year. Non-attendance at the parade will involve a fine of one dollar.

THE STATE MODE OF DRAFTING.

Sec. 298. Whenever the Commander-in-Chief shall order a draft from the reserved militia of any company district, to raise the company of the national guard therein to, and maintain the same at, either the minimum or maximum number provided by this act, or whenever a general draft of the militia shall be made by order of the Commander-in-Chief, or of the President of the United States, such draft shall be determined by lot, to be drawn by the clerk of the county in which such roll has been filed, in the presence of the county judge and the mayor of any city, or the supervisor of any town or ward, upon the requisition of the commanding officer of the regiment within whose bounds such officer may reside.

Sec. 299. Any person so drafted may, within five days after receiving notice of the same, present to the county judge of such county his certificate of exemption, or other proof of his non-liability to military duty, which shall be duly verified, and if such county judge shall decide that such person is exempt or not liable, he shall be discharged and another person shall be drafted in his stead, in accordance with the provisions of this act.

Sec. 300. Any person so drafted, in accordance with the above provisions, may offer a substitute at the time of the rendezvous of the drafted military force and militia, and such substitute, if he shall be an able bodied man, of the age of twenty-one years and upwards, and shall consent in writing to subject himself to all the duties, fines, forfeitures and punishments to which his principal would have been subject had he personally served, shall be accepted by the commandant of the company of drafted militia to which his principal may belong.

Sec. 301. Whenever the President of the United States or the Commander-in-Chief shall order a draft from the militia for public service, such draft shall be made in the following manner:—

1. When the draft required to be made shall be a number equal to one or more companies to each brigade, such draft shall be made by company, to be determined by lot, to be drawn by the commandant of brigade in the presence of the commanding officers of the regiments composing said brigade from the military forces of the State in his brigade, organized, uniformed, armed and equipped, according to the provisions of this act.

2. In case such draft shall require a number equal to one regiment, such shall be determined by lot in the manner above prescribed.

3. In case such draft shall require a larger number than the whole number of men composing the military force of said brigade, such additional draft shall be made of the requisite number to supply such deficiency, from the military roll of the reserve militia of each town or ward, filed in the office of the city, village or town clerk, as hereinbefore provided.

Sec. 302. The Commander-in-Chief shall prescribe such rules, orders and regulations, relative to the distribution of arms, ammunition and military stores to the militia, when called into actual service, as he may deem proper.

Sec. 303. The command of any military force, called into service under the provisions of this title, shall devolve upon the senior officer of such force, unless otherwise specially ordered by the Commander-in-Chief.

MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM STRENGTH.

The minimum strength of companies is put at thirty-two non-commissioned officers and privates, and the maximum at one hundred. Every company is to have one captain, a first and second lieutenant, four sergeants, four corporals and three musicians, except in companies of artillery and cavalry, which may have two second lieutenants. Any company, however, exceeding fifty rank and file may have five sergeants and eight corporals.

Each division is to consist of not less than two brigades, each brigade not less than two regiments, and each regiment is to have ten battalion companies. The non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates are forbidden to join any fire company "now raised or hereafter to be raised in any city or county."

MINORS.

No person under the age of twenty-one years shall hereafter enlist in or join any uniformed troop or company without the consent of his parent or guardian, master or mistress, unless drafted in accordance with the provisions of this act.

UNIFORMS.

The act leaves it optional with the officers and members of a company as to providing their own uniform, &c., or being furnished the same at the expense of the State. In the latter case they must be left at the company armory for safe keeping.

THE OFFICERS APPOINTED AND THOSE ELECTED.

The Governor is to nominate all major generals and the commissary general, and they shall be appointed by him, with the consent of the Senate. The staff of the Governor remains as formerly. Captains, subalterns and non-commissioned officers of organized regiments shall be chosen by the written or printed votes of the members of their respective companies; field officers of organized regiments and battalions, by the written or printed votes of the commissioned officers of their respective regiments and battalions; and brigadier generals and brigade inspectors by the written or printed votes of the field officers of their respective brigades, if organized. In time of war, or when the military forces of the State are in actual service, resignations are to take effect thirty days from the date of the order of acceptance, unless otherwise specially ordered by the Commander-in-Chief. Provision is also made for the appointment by the Governor of a military board or commission to examine into the physical ability, moral character and capacity, attainments, general fitness for the service and efficiency of such commissioned officers as the Commander-in-Chief may order; to be examined by said board, or who may be reported for examination to the Adjutant General by colonels of their regiments or general officers commanding their brigades or divisions, and upon such report may be ordered to be examined by the Commander-in-Chief. If the decision of said board be unfavorable to such officer, and approved by the Commander-in-Chief, the commission of such officer shall be vacated, provided always that no officer shall be eligible to sit on such board or commission whose rank or promotion would in any way be affected by its proceedings, and two members at least, if practicable, shall be of equal rank with the officer to be examined. The officers constituting such board shall receive the same pay and allowances for travelling expenses as members of courts martial.

OF THE ORGANIZATION OF BANDS OF MUSIC.

The commanding officer of each regiment or battalion may, in his discretion, organize a band of musicians, and by warrant, under his hand, may appoint a leader of such band.

THE PARADES AND DRILLS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND COMPENSATION.

The annual parades are to take place between the 1st of May and the 1st of November, in addition to which there shall be six drills, three of which must be by regiment or battalion. No parade or rendezvous of the National Guard shall be ordered on any day on which a general or special election shall be held, nor within five days previous to such election, except in cases of riot, invasion, &c. The term of service for non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates is seven years. There is the usual exemption as to jury duty and taxation also included. Provision is also made for the formation of camps of instruction once in each year after 1862, in each of the division districts of the State; but they are not to continue for more than ten days. The militia, when in actual service of the State, in time of war, insurrection or invasion, are to receive the same compensation, rations and allowances for clothing as now are or hereafter may be established by law for the Army of the United States. The following is the schedule for compensation:—

1. To all non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates, one dollar.
2. To all commissioned officers of the line below the rank of captain, two dollars.
3. To all commanding officers of companies, three dollars.
4. To all field officers below the rank of colonel, four dollars.
5. To all commanding officers of regiments, five dollars.
6. To all regimental staff officers, two dollars and fifty cents; and to all non commissioned staff officers, one dollar and fifty cents.
7. To all brigadier generals, six dollars.
8. To all brigade staff officers, four dollars.
9. To all major generals, eight dollars.
10. To all division staff officers, five dollars.
11. All mounted officers, and all members of any company of cavalry or artillery, mounted or equipped, shall receive one dollar per day for each horse actually used by them.
12. To each military storekeeper, such sum, not exceeding twenty-five dollars per annum, as the Commander-in-Chief shall think proper to allow.

CAMPS OF INSTRUCTION.

There shall be a camp of instruction once in each year after the present year, in each of the division districts of this State, if the Commander-in-Chief shall so order, to be held at such time and in such manner as he shall direct; and the Commander-in-Chief is hereby authorized and empowered to order such companies and regiments from such division districts, respectively, to attend such camps as he may deem proper, but in such manner that all the companies and regiments therein shall be ordered to attend such camp from year to year in rotation: Provided, always, that not more than ten thousand men in any one year shall be ordered to attend said camps; and in case suitable ground cannot be found in any district for said camp, the same may be held in the adjoining district.

Such camps shall continue for a period not exceeding ten days, and shall be governed by the rules and regulations of the army of the United States.

COURTS MARTIAL, FINES AND PENALTIES.

The act contains lengthy provisions in regard to courts martial and the imposition of fines. In time of peace every commissioned officer, for disobedience of orders, neglect or ignorance of duty, &c., or failing to furnish himself with a uniform, &c., within six months after receiving his commission, shall be tried by court martial, and on conviction be cashiered, incapacitated from holding any military commission, or fined to an amount not exceeding $100. Non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates are to be fined $2 for every non-appearance at company parade; do. at regimental or battalion parade or encampment, from $3 to $6; and do. at place of rendezvous, when called into actual service, a sum not exceeding a year's nor less than a month's pay. For the non-payment of fines imposed by courts martial, the president of the court shall, within thirty days after the fines have been imposed, make a list of all the persons fined, designating the company to which they respectively belong, and the sums imposed as fines on each person, and shall draw his warrant under his hand and seal, directed to any marshal, sheriff or constable of any city or county (as the case may be), thereby commanding him to levy such fine or fines, together with his costs, of the goods and chattels of such delinquents; and if any such delinquent shall be under age, and live with his father or mother, master or mistress, then to levy such fine or fines, with the costs, on the goods and chattels of such father or mother, master or mistress, as the case may be, no property now exempt by law shall be exempt from the payment of such fines, and in case the goods and chattels of any delinquent, or the goods and chattels of the father or mother, master or mistress of any delinquent under age, cannot be found, wherewith to satisfy the same, then to take the body of such delinquent and convey him to the jail of the city or county wherein he shall reside.

In case the marshal, sheriff or constable be unable to collect the fines or arrest the delinquents within forty days after the receipt of the warrant, a new warrant may be made out at any time thereafter within two years. The fines are to form a portion of the regimental fund of the regiment to which the delinquent belongs.

FINES AND HOW TO BE COLLECTED.

If the fines for non-attendance are not paid to the county treasurer by the 1st of December, then they are to be collected by the collector or receiver of taxes, and the supervisors are to annex a list of the delinquents to the assessment rolls of the towns and wards, with warrants for the collection of the fines. No property now exempt from execution is to be exempt from the payment of such fines. On the 15th of March in each year the county treasurer in each county is to pay to the comptroller upon his order, a dollar for each person enrolled, who does not appear from the roster to have attended the parade. And in case he shall not, on the presentation of such draft, have received all or any of the money directed by this act to be collected and paid to him, he is hereby authorized and directed to borrow an amount sufficient to pay said draft upon the credit of the county; and the sum borrowed shall be a county charge to be assessed by the Board of Supervisors of said county at their next annual meeting, upon the taxable property of said county, and collected. And it shall be the duty of the county treasurers of the several counties and the commanding officers of the several regiments to report and certify, under oath, to the Board of Supervisors at their annual meetings, the deficiencies arising from the non-collection of military fines within their respective counties and regimental districts. Any deficiency arising from the non-collection of the fines is to be a county charge, to be raised by the supervisors by taxation upon the real and personal estates in the county, in the manner provided by law. Should the officers charged with the collections, &c., of the fines, refuse or neglect to perform their duties, they will be liable to a fine of from $25 to $100 for each offence.

THE CUSTODY OF ARMS.

When a company numbers the minimum amount provided by the act, the supervisors of the county, upon the demand of the captain of the company, countersigned by the colonel, shall erect or rent, for the use of the company, a suitable armory, drill room, &c., the expense to be a portion of the county charges. In case the supervisors fail to furnish the requisite accommodation, the commander of the regiment may rent a room or building as an armory at a rent not to exceed $250 for each company in the several cities of the State, and fifty dollars for companies not located in cities—the expense to be a county charge. Provision is made for the appointment of an armorer, who is to receive a dollar a day for the time actually employed in cleaning the guns, &c.

THE REGIMENTAL FUND.

The act provides that the Comptroller shall annually draw his warrant upon the Treasurer in favor of the county treasurer of each county for the sum of five hundred dollars for each regiment and battalion, certified by the Adjutant General, to be organized according to the provisions of this act, within his county; which sums, together with the fines collected from delinquent officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates, shall constitute a military fund of such regiment.

THE RESERVE CORPS.

The persons enrolled as above described are to form the reserve militia of the State, those between the ages of eighteen and thirty years are to constitute the reserve of the first class, and those between thirty and forty-five the reserve of the second class. In case any company of the National Guard does not reach the minimum number of thirty-two non-commissioned officers and privates by the 1st of October next, or in case it should at any time fall below that number, or in case a sufficient number of persons do not volunteer to organize new companies in the unorganized company districts, then the Governor may order a draft of a sufficient number of persons of the reserve militia of the first class to raise a company to and maintain it at the minimum number. The persons so drafted are liable to all military duties, unless they find substitutes; but no new company may be organized in time of peace, if thereby the entire force shall exceed thirty thousand officers and men.

SUSPENSION OF OFFICERS.

In time of war, insurrection, &c., when the militia is in actual service, the Governor, if he deems it necessary, may suspend any officer for cause, and fill the vacancy by appointment; but no such suspension is to continue for more than thirty days, unless a court martial shall have in the meantime been ordered for the trial of the officer or officers.

RIOTS AND INVASIONS.

In case of invasion or insurrection, the Governor can direct the acceptance of volunteers to the amount of the maximum number, and if enough do not offer, then a sufficient number is to be drafted from the reserve militia. The Governor also, in such case, can order into the service of the State such number of companies or regiments of the National Guard, or of other militia of the State, as he may see proper, the same to receive like pay and rations as United States troops. In case of riot, resistance to legal process, sheriffs and mayors are authorized to order out the military force. County judges are also empowered to order out the military for the suppression of insurrection. Every person who, while in active service of the State, shall be wounded or disabled in opposing or suppressing invasion or insurrection, is to be taken care of and provided for at the expense of the State. If wounded, &c., in cases of riot, tumult and so forth, the county is to provide for them.

THE MILITARY FUND.

The moneys received from the several county treasurers, under the provisions of this act, are to be kept separate and apart from the current and ordinary finances of the State, and shall be applied to the purposes mentioned in this act, and to no other.

For the purchase of uniforms and equipments, pay of officers and privates and other expenditures authorized by this act, the sum of three hundred thousand dollars is appropriated from the moneys mentioned in the preceding section, and from any other money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

NOTICE OF FILING OF ENROLMENT.

To be published by the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors once a week for four weeks previous to the first day of August, in a newspaper published in the county.

Notice is hereby given that the enrolments of persons liable to military duty in the several company districts of this county, have been completed and filed in the offices of the several town clerks therein (or in the office of the city or county clerk), and that any person who claims that he is, for any reason, exempt, shall, on or before the fifteenth day of August next, file a written statement of such exemption in such office, verified by affidavit, in default of which such person shall lose the benefit of such exemption.

Dated ——

——, Clerk of Board of Supervisors, County of ——

FORM OF VERIFICATION OF EXEMPTION.

County of ——, *ss.*

——, being duly sworn, doth depose and say that he is the same person named in the foregoing statement of exemption, and that the matters therein stated, upon which his claim for exemption from military duty is founded, are true.

Sworn to before me, this —— day of ——, 18—

Mode of Drafting by the National Government.

Whenever the President of the United States or the Commander-in-Chief shall order a draft from the militia for public service, such draft shall be made in the following manner:—

When the draft required to be made shall be a number equal to one or more companies to each brigade, such draft shall be made by company, to be determined by lot, to be drawn by the commandant of the brigade, in the presence of the commanding officers of the regiments composing such brigade, from the military forces of the State in his brigade, organized, uniformed, &c.

In case such draft shall require a number equal to one regiment (to a brigade), it is to be determined in the same manner.

In case such draft shall require a larger number than the whole number composing the military force of such brigade, such additional draft shall be made of an equal number from the military roll of the ununiformed militia of each town or ward, filed with the city, village or town clerk, &c.

When such a draft is ordered, all males residing in regimental districts are compelled to enroll themselves; the enrolment is then to be filed (in cities) in the city clerk's office. On the day appointed the mayor or supervisor of the ward, in presence of the regimental commander of the district, draws by lot from this list a number of names, in accordance with the number called for by the draft. Any male thus drawn may provide an able bodied man as a substitute, who is then taken in his stead. No persons of the required age are exempt from this drafting, except clergymen and those incapacitated by reason of bodily ailments. The old militia law of the United States, passed in 1792, exempts the Vice President, judicial and executive officers, members of Congress, custom house officials, post officers and officials connected with the mail service, inspectors of ports, pilots and mariners in actual service.

State Order in Relation to Who Are Exempt.

GENERAL ORDERS—NO. 60.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, STATE OF NEW YORK, ADJ. GENERAL'S OFFICE, ALBANY, July 12, 1862.

Inasmuch as the enrolling officers, under section 11 of the Militia law, are constituted the judges, in the first instance, of the validity of the claims for exemption, from military duty, it is deemed proper at this time to furnish a few general rules for their guidance in the performance of their important and responsible duties:—

I. Physical disability is a good ground of exemption and should, in all cases of doubt, be established to the satisfaction of the enrolling officer by a physician's certificate, as well as the affidavit of the party.

The following imperfections are proper causes of disability:—Wounds of the head, which impair the faculties or cause convulsions; serious impairment of hearing, speech or vision; anchylosis, or active disease of any of the larger joints; the presence of pulmonary disease or organic disease of the heart; irreducible hernia; fistula in ano; large hemorrhoids; large and painful varicocell or varicose veins which extend above the knee; the loss of a limb, or the thumb and forefinger on the right hand, or of any two fingers on either hand; the loss of the great toe; any marked physical imperfections which would unfit for active service.

In addition to the word "exempt," the words "physical disability" should be entered in the enrolment books opposite the name of each person not liable to military duty for any of the reasons above stated.

II. The following persons are exempt under the laws of the United States, by reason of their office or employment, and the enrolling officer will, therefore, enter opposite the name of each in the enrolment books the words "exempt," and a memorandum of his office or employment:—The Vice President of the United States, the officers, judicial and executive, of the government of the United States; the members of both houses of Congress and their respective officers, all custom house officers, with their clerks, all post officers and stage drivers who are employed in the care and conveyance of the mail of the Post Office of the United States, all ferrymen employed at any ferry on the post road, all inspectors of exports, all pilots, all mariners actually employed in the sea service of any citizen or merchant within the United States.

III. Firemen in active service and those who have served their time as firemen are exempt, except in case of insurrection or invasion. The enrolling officer will, therefore, enter such exemption, and note the word "fireman" opposite the names of such persons in the enrolment books.

IV. The duties devolving upon the enrolling officers are at once delicate and important, and should be performed without fear or favor. In all doubtful cases a statement should be transmitted to the Judge Advocate, General William H. Authon, at his office, No. 16 Exchange place, in the city of New York, who will render an opinion thereon.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief.

THOMAS HILLHOUSE, Adjutant General.

PATRIOTIC BENEFIT AT WINTER GARDEN.—A benefit will be given at the Winter Garden, on Wednesday evening next, in aid of the recruiting fund of Sickles' Excelsior Brigade. Many prominent artists have volunteered their services on the occasion. Among them is Miss Jane Coombs, who will make her first appearance since her arrival from Europe, in the "Hunchback." Madame Strakosch, Mademoiselle Carlotta Patti and Miss Emily Thorn are likewise among the list. Besides these attractions the gallant soldier, Brigadier General Sickles himself, will deliver an address, and the whole affair, from the arrangements made for it, promises to be unusually interesting and attractive. The brigade has behaved heroically in the field in the war against treason, and its banners still wave there untarnished by any distress or calamity. Let the public show their appreciation of its claims upon to-morrow evening. The following named gentlemen are some of the executive committee in the management of the entertainment:—General Hall, D. F. Tiemann, Colonel S. W. Cone, Douglas Taylor, &c., &c.

NIBLO'S GARDEN.—The *rentree* of the celebrated Gabriel Ravel to the American stage, after an absence of two years in his native country, attracted to Niblo's Garden last evening the most crowded and delighted audience we have witnessed since the advent of the dog days. Parquet, dress circle, private boxes, and, in fact, every part of the theatre, was filled to repletion, and the reception given to the renowned pantomimist was of the most cordial and flattering character. Gabriel appeared in his inimitable *role* of Bebe, in "The Four Lovers," supported by the Marzetti family, Tophoff, Axtel, and other members of the old Ravel troupe, in the subordinate parts. Though out of practice for nearly two years, Gabriel has lost none of the suppleness of limb, drollery of face and pantomimic power by which in former times he was wont to convulse the American public. Age seems but to perfect his wonderful genius instead of impairing it. At the conclusion of the pantomime he was forced to make a speech, consisting of half a dozen sentences, in which he thanked the audience for their welcome, said it was "the most happiest moment of his life," and promised never to forget America and the Americans. The attraction of the night was greatly enhanced by the reappearance of Thos. Placide in one of his comic farces, and the debut of Young America in his perilous leaps on the three flying trapeze. This rival of the famous Leotard and Hanlon is not more than eight years of age, and the astounding courage and agility which he displays are all the more remarkable. His feats are fearfully hazardous, and fully equal to those of either of his predecessors.

Damage to the Erie Canal.

ALBANY, August 4, 1862.

A despatch dated Medina, Orleans county, to-day, says that part of the culvert and sixty feet of the towpath at Knowlesville have gone out, and that navigation, in consequence, will be delayed three days.

GENERAL POPE'S OPERATIONS.

The Splendid Reconnoissance of General Crawford.

IMPORTANT FROM POPE'S ARMY.

Orange Court House Occupied by His Forces.

Defeat of Two Rebel Cavalry Regiments Under Gen. Robertson.

Eleven of the Enemy Killed and Fifty-two Prisoners Captured.

THE UNION LOSS VERY SLIGHT.

Reported Evacuation of Richmond by the Rebels,

&c., &c., &c.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY OF VIRGINIA, August 3, 1862.

Major General HALLECK:—

The reconnoitering column under General Crawford crossed the Rapidan and pushed forward to Orange Court House yesterday and took possession of the town, which was occupied by two regiments of the enemy's cavalry, under General Robertson.

Eleven of the enemy were killed and fifty-two taken prisoners. Among the latter are one major, two captains and two lieutenants. Our loss was two killed and three wounded. The enemy retired in such haste as to leave their wounded in our hands.

The railroad and telegraph line between Orange Court House and Gordonsville were destroyed.

JOHN POPE, Major General.

Richmond Again Reported Evacuated.

GENERAL POPE'S HEADQUARTERS, August 4, 1862.

Informations from various sources tend to confirm the belief that the enemy have really evacuated Richmond, and taken up the south bank of the James river as the line of thir defences.

The rebel cavalry under General Robertson are believed to have been withdrawn from the Shenandoah valley, leaving that part of the country to the defence of the guerillas alone.

WASHINGTON, August 4, 1862.

It has been believed here in some quarters for several days that the enemy have been evacuating Richmond, there being a reasonable suspicion that a pestilence has broken out in that city.

INTERESTING FROM THE RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER.

Seizure of the Schooner Mail, of Brooklyn, and Other Craft—Capture of a Rebel Mail—Arrival of Refugees and Prisoners at Washington, &c.

WASHINGTON, August 4, 1862.

The steamer Wyandank has brought up eight prisoners and five refugees from the neighborhood of the Rappahannock. The prisoners were taken during the past week and were engaged in transporting goods across the Chesapeake and Rappahannock to the rebels.

The Wyandank, a few days since, overhauled the schooner Mail, of Brooklyn, for violating the blockade by trading with the inhabitants south of the Rappahannock. She was loaded with an assorted cargo consisting of shoes, salt, &c., and had also a large quantity of wheat on board. Martin Rainor, the captain, and H. Chamberlain, who appeared to be the business man, were taken on board the Wyandank and brought up with the other prisoners. The schooner was towed up to the yard yesterday by the Leslie.

One day last week Acting Master's Mate Sheridan, of the Wyandank, with a boat's crew from the Freeborn, captured, off Georges Island, two canoes, which were conveying salt. They were accompanied by two men, who were making their way towards the land of Dixie. The two men were sent on board the Wyandank and brought up to the city.

The Reliance a few days ago captured a canoe in the Rappahannock, in the neighborhood of Urbanna with a mail of about forty letters, addressed mostly to officers and men of the Fiftieth Virginia regiment, near Richmond. The letters seem mostly to be of a private character, and from the fact that many of them are enclosed in envelopes which have been turned, and on the inside bear directions to parties at Heathsville, Northumberland county, Va., it is quite certain letters have been forwarded from that neighborhood. Several of them have the postmark "Baltimore" on the inside, and were undoubtedly sent from that city, to be forwarded from Heathsville. One of them is directed to Captain Hiram Cole, and asks him to send some of Uncle Sam's "green backs" from Richmond, the writer being under the impression that the officers and soldiers of the rebel army made themselves rich by robbing the killed and wounded Union troops of the money they had on their persons.

Several refugees came up on the Wyandank. They all reside in Middlesex county, and were at one time in the Fifty-fifth Virginia regiment, but when that regiment left Fredericksburg for Richmond they deserted and returned to their homes, where they have been living for two months past, sleeping nightly in the woods or in a boat on the river, being in dread of roving bands of cavalry who have been scouring the country in search of them and other deserters. On Monday last, hearing that the rebel cavalry were to scour the woods, all but one made their escape and came off to our gunboats for protection.

THE ABSENTEES FROM THE ARMY.

Letter from General Pope to Captain Harrison—Two Lieutenants Advertised as Deserters.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF VIRGINIA, WARRENTON, VA., July 30, 1862.

Captain SAMUEL L. HARRISON, Ninety-fifth regiment New York Volunteers:—

Your communication of July 27 is received.

It is not necessary to inform you that a commissioned officer, by absenting himself without leave, is guilty of desertion, as well as a non-commissioned officer or private, and is subject to the same process of recovery, and to the same punishment for the offence. Nor do you need to be told that neither your colonel nor any other officer, except such as are designated by law and regulation, has any right to accept your resignation, nor, under existing orders of the War Department, to give you any leave based on such tendered resignation. You state that you received some injury on the railroad, and that the medical officers of your regiment advised you to resign. This may be true; but until your resignation be accepted by proper authority you are not discharged from your obligation as an officer of the army. Neither your resignation, the certificates of the medical officers (if there were any), nor any other papers bearing on the subject, have ever reached this office.

It is needless to tell you, as you must of necessity know it, that under these circumstances you are a deserter from the service of the United States. In time of active operations in the face of the enemy it is not possible to try an officer for such offences, especially is it not so where he is beyond the immediate reach of the military authorities of this army, and his company is about to march upon the enemy without a captain. It is therefore my deliberate intention to adopt the course which seems most effective to prevent such desertions. Every officer of this army absent without authority will be advertised in the public papers, and disgraced before his people, if it is possible to do so.

No resignation of any officer whatever will be accepted except upon medical certificate of the most conclusive character, or proof of worthlessness. It is therefore to be distinctly understood that any officer of this army whose resignation has been accepted without medical certificate has proved himself worthless and incompetent.

Neither with credit to himself nor with any sort of fair dealing towards the private soldier can any volunteer officer tender his resignation. The soldier has agreed to go into the service of the United States with the understanding that certain persons who persuaded him to enlist shall continue to command him. If he had thought otherwise there is no doubt that in many cases he would have declined to volunteer. When he has been sworn in he is bound for the whole term of service, and there can be no reason why his officer should be exempt; nor so far as I can control this army, shall he be exempt from the same restriction in that respect which has been imposed on the private soldier. A large part of the dissatisfaction justly felt by the private soldiers of the volunteer regiments has arisen from this very practice. As soon as a commissioned officer grows tired of the fatigue and hardship of service he tenders his resignation, and in very many cases he has found means to have it accepted. A private soldier has no such means of freeing himself from an obligation which he imposed upon himself, with the full understanding that the officer who persuaded him to volunteer was equally bound with himself, and would remain with him. The practice of abandoning the private soldiers who have volunteered at their instance reflects little credit upon officers, and will only be tolerated in this army when can no longer control it.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. POPE, Major General Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY OF VIRGINIA, NEAR SPERRYVILLE, VA., August 4, 1862.

First Lieutenant Winfield Simpson, of Company K 102d New York Volunteers, and Lieutenant William Ellen of Company A, Twenty-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteers are reported by their Colonels and Commanding Generals as having deserted the service.

The usual reward will be paid for their apprehension By command of MAJOR GENERAL POPE.

GEORGE D. RUGGLES, Colonel and Chief of Staff.

IMPORTANT FROM M'CLELLAN'S ARMY.

Highly Important Reconnoissance Towards Petersburg.

The Thirteenth Virginia Cavalry Attacked and Ingloriously Defeated.

They Rally at Their Camp and Are Again Whipped.

Their Encampment, with Its Material, Burned.

The Union Gunboats Shelling the Shore Above City Point,

&c., &c., &c.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, August 4, 1862.

Ever since the firing upon our shipping at the mail boat landing by the enemy's batteries, our troops have occupied the opposite shore. Yesterday a reconnoissance was made from that point back into the country, to within fourteen miles of Petersburg. It was conducted by Colonel Averill, and was composed of 150 of the Fifth United States and 150 of the Third Pennsylvania cavalry, with four companies of the First Michigan infantry. Captains Castor and Bowen, of Gen. McClellan's staff, accompanied them.

At Cox's Mills, five miles from the river, they encountered the Thirteenth Virginia cavalry drawn up in line. Our men charged on them, when they broke and ran. They drove them to their encampment at Sycamore church, two and a half miles further, where they again formed, but were ingloriously put to flight, leaving behind all their tents, camp equipage and commissary stores, which our troops gathered together and burned. The rebels had two horses killed, six men wounded and two taken prisoners. Our loss was one horse killed.

After securing the country a short distance further, they returned to the river. There is no further evidence of rebel gunboats on the river this side of Fort Darling.

Information received here goes to show that the new Merrimac will not be ready to operate for three weeks yet.

Two of the gunboats were yesterday afternoon engaged shelling the opposite shore above City Point.

The health of the troops has improved ever since they began to receive fresh vegetables, which were ordered to be issued to them by General McClellan.

FORTRESS MONROE, August 2, 1862.

The steamships Baltic and Atlantic, and one other steamship, name unknown, came up Hampton Roads this morning, and anchored abreast of the fort. They have on board three thousand rebel prisoners from Fort Delaware. The physicians from Fortress Monroe have been on board the vessels, and cared for the sick and wounded, of which there are several hundred. They selected from them such as were not able to return via City Point, and thence by land to Richmond, and placed them on a transport to go up the river till they meet the rebel transport, which will take them to Richmond by water. General Pettigrew, of South Carolina, and Colonel Drake, of Mississippi, are among the prisoners. They are to be exchanged.

The steamship Belvidere arrived at noon to-day from New York, with a load of horses, which are to be discharged at Fortress Monroe, as the vessel draws too much water to go up the river.

The mail boat from Harrison's Landing brought down seventeen rebel prisoners to-day.

Last night there were two regiments of regulars sent across the river opposite the landing, who cut all the trees away on the ground where the shelling was done the night before, and burned all the buildings on what is called the Ruffian plantation. The regulars destroyed everything in that vicinity that could shelter the rebels in their night operations.

Nothing new has been heard to-day from the gunboats which are up the river.

FORTRESS MONROE, August 3, 1862.

About twenty five rebel prisoners arrived here from Baltimore this morning. They are going up the river to be exchanged, and came here under guard of a detachment of the Eighth company of the Seventh New York regiment.

The mail steamer arrived at three o'clock. There is no news from our fleet on the James river or the new Merrimac.

A Card.

DAYTON, Ohio, August 1, 1862.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, ESQ., EDITOR NEW YORK HERALD:—

SIR—I thank you for your former courtesies, and am sorry to trouble you again. But persistent lying demands continual contradiction.

The statement in the Columbus (Ohio) *Despatch*, in your Tuesday's issue, that I was "arrested," and that I was implicated in "treasonable plots," or in any other thing "disloyal," is an impudent fabrication of the anonymous scoundrel who telegraphed it. How long is the telegraph to be prostituted to such infamous falsehoods?

C. L. VALLANDIGHAM.

Large Robbery of Chronometers and Watches in Boston—Arrest of the Robbers.

BOSTON, August 4, 1862.

The store of Messrs. Simon Willard & Son, well known dealers in watches and chronometers, No. 9 Congress street, was broken into and robbed of a large number of valuable chronometers and gold watches yesterday morning, valued at from $5,000 to $6,000. The rogues made an attempt to open a safe which contained a large amount of valuables, but were unsuccessful.

Last night detective officer Leeds got upon the track of the robbers, and arrested them while getting aboard the express train at Framingham, and recovered the property.