NEWS FROM THE PENINSULA.

Interesting Correspondence from the Union Camps.

A Great Battle at Malvern Hill Frustrated.

Important Order from Gen. McClellan Relative to Rebel Property and Negroes, &c., &c., &c.

Our Special Army Correspondence.

CAMP NEAR HARRISON'S LANDING, August 9, 1862.

The Union Dead at Malvern Hill Decently Buried—The Draft—Value of "Greenbacks" in Richmond—The Camp Police, &c., &c.

At Malvern Hill our honored dead, who but enrich rebellious soil, have been decently buried. Over their remains have been raised slabs indicating each Union heroes burial place, with these words written on them—"Federal soldiers. May their souls rest in heaven." These graves may be found near Mattert's House, in the vicinity of Malvern Hill, and when this impious rebellion is crushed out, and the Union banner floats over a restored and rejuvenated Union, these little slabs will not only mark the resting place of those who fell in defence of the Union, but serve to show the cost at which rebellion is being crushed and the Union restored.

The stench arising from the decomposition of the bodies of horses and mules killed at the bloody battle of Malvern is represented by our officers and men who participated in the recent movement as being absolutely unbearable—sickening to the last degree.

The news of the calling out of 300,000 men additional to those called for before, and the determination of the government to secure the whole number immediately by a draft, has infused a feeling of cheerfulness and hope in the breasts of our soldiers. The first call upon the people to volunteer to the number of 300,000, and the offering of price or bounty money as an incentive to patriotic action, excited quite a universal spirit of indignation and disgust in this army, where the men enlisted and have served their country for long months, endured the hardships of camp and marching and stood the shock of battle in every form. They think that the raw recruit in the new regiments, under, in most cases, uneducated officers, as receiving favors which they have never received, though of all men most worthy of the highest regards the general government, States or individual generosity could bestow. For these and many other reasons the soldiers in the decimated regiments in the field hail with joy the drafting process, and trust it may reach many who consider this war an interesting and profitable affair; in fact, a "big thing," in soldier parlance.

The sickness among the horses in the army has become so alarming that stringent measures have been taken to secure some immunity from this pestilence among these best friends of the army—the horses. All horses with diseases of a malignant, infectious or contagious character, likely to terminate fatally, are, by an order, shot, thus preventing the spread of a pestilence in the cavalry. It is known that a large number of the horses die from sheer cruelty on the part of grooms and masters. This is also to be corrected. Cavalry guards are now stationed at intervals along each travelled road, with orders to arrest any rider who drives a government horse at a faster pace than a walk, orderlies and messengers on important errands excepted.

I have had many interesting interviews with the released Union prisoners who have returned to their camps. They all concur in the statement that the rebels give our soldiers who fall into their hands the best their commissariat affords—as much as their own soldiers receive. Many of these soldiers acknowledge the bestowal of favors upon them by the citizens of Richmond, many of whom expressed sentiments of indignation at the tyranny exercised by the Jeff. Davis government. The Union sentiment is not an outspoken one. It manifests itself, however, on every favorable occasion, in condemnation of the acts of the arch conspirators who have assumed the reins of a bogus government, and would crush the liberties of a free people. Many of the conservatives of Richmond, as they are called, express the sentiments of the Unionists of the South in deed, if not by word—"We desire no change, and, least of all, such a change as you would give us." Those of our soldiers who had money in United States notes—and they were numerous, the most of the regiments having been visited by the paymaster before the late battles—fared in a more sumptuous manner than they could have done on prison fare alone. True, they had no opportunity offered for them to purchase personally; but proxies generally accomplished what they desired with United States notes. An instance is cited to show the distrust with which even loyal citizens of Secessia regard their government. One of our soldiers, having a quantity of Treasury notes, exchanged them on his arrival at Richmond for Confederate States money. After tasting prison fare, his stomach craved for the delicacies which good money or credit can secure, even in the most deserted and impoverished localities. A messenger was despatched to a merchant in the vicinity of the prison, who had waxed fat and rich on the sufferings and Treasury notes of United States prisoners, for those little niceties which every good purveyor is supposed to keep constantly on hand. Alas, the fatal mistake of our Union soldier. The good and loyal subject of Jeff. Davis refused to sell on the faith and credit of his august master, though repeatedly before answering to the call of Union soldiers with a "greenback" as collateral.

Six of our men, who were obliged to fall out on the march from Fair Oaks, were captured by the rebel cavalry scouts, and carried to Richmond. This was after the enemy, under Jackson, had turned our right under Porter and McCall. Intense excitement raged in Richmond; suspense was depicted on every countenance; wagons were engaged in removing furniture and valuables of the citizens, and Richmond resembled New York city on the 1st of May. These cavalry scouts were the first arrivals at Richmond with intelligence. Crowds of excited and impatient men, women and children swarmed around the cavalry scouts, asking innumerable questions as to the result of the battle. The general answer to questions was, "On, all right, we have six Yankees here, and will have their entire army in a few days." After this intelligence the populace gave vent to the wildest enthusiasm and revelry—how soon to be turned "to bitter ashes on their lips."

Nothing but the strictest regard to proper sanitary regulations secures our army from the ravages of disease. The policing of the camp is a matter attended to with a watchful eye, and the severest punishment meted out to him who would offend the laws of health and cleanliness in the slightest particular. It is hoped that this praiseworthy vigilance on this most vital point may preserve the health of our soldiers during the continuance of the sickly season on this peninsula. The supply of fresh vegetables to the army at intervals has had a wonderful effect to diminish diseases of a scorbutic character. It must be confessed, however, that the quantity issued is vastly inadequate to a general distribution. One half of a tomato, bean or onion only whets the soldier's appetite for more of the same sort.

WESTOVER LANDING, VA., August 11, 1862.

Return of General Butterfield's Brigade to Camp—What They Discovered During Their Expedition—The Regimental Bands—The New Ambulance Corps—How Recruits Can Join Borden's Sharpshooters—Passengers From Dixie, &c.

Yesterday General Butterfield's brigade returned to camp, after having been on duty on the opposite side of the river for several days. They met with no startling adventures while there, and did not meet any opposing rebel force. While there a document of some interest was discovered in the house of the elder Rufin. This was a telegraphic despatch from Charleston, S. C., sent just before the rebel attack on Fort Sumter. I have not been able to get an exact copy; but the purport of it is that "Virginia is sound. Come to Charleston immediately." It will be remembered that this heavy hooded traitor was the individual who touched off the first gun fired against Fort Sumter, thus securing to himself the infamy of having been the first to commence actual hostilities, and to con[illegible] the reign of civil war in the country which had honored and protected him during a long life. Doubtless this document called him to Charleston to give a dramatic commencement to the awfully tragedy about to be inaugurated. Most of the [illegible] have not been incorporated into the march army. The women were at first very much alarmed at the appearance of the "Yankee Vandals," but soon recovered their usual calmness when they found that they were not the terrible monsters they have been made to believe them. There was considerable objection to taking the oath of allegiance, but this was extensibly for fear of the consequences that might be experienced from the rebels should they go.

At the negro encampment, near Harrison's Landing, there were yesterday the usual religious services. These benighted brethren seem to recognize pretty nearly the rank and sentiment of the army. They appear to enjoy their religious privileges exceedingly, and are very earnest in their devotions. The idea of a despotism who presides over this flock is very current and urgent in his exhortations, and their place of meeting has become one of the standard attractions of the sabbath in this locality.

Four of the late regimental bands went down the river yesterday, having been mustered out of the service in accordance with the new law. I believe the regimental bands with this army have now nearly all been discharged, and such of their members as were not required, or would not volunteer in the brigade bands, have been sent home.

The ambulance corps of this army has just been entirely reorganized, so as to be more effective and useful when its services are needed. It will hereafter consist of a first lieutenant from the division to which it is attached, who will have the charge of the ambulance service in time of battle; a second lieutenant, one sergeant and ten men from each regiment. The privates in this corps will wear as a uniform a green band two inches wide around the cap, and a green half chevron above the elbow of each arm, and will be armed with revolvers. Non-commissioned officers will wear the same band as the privates, with the chevron two inches broad and green. No persons except those belonging to this corps will be allowed to take up wounded or sick men from the battle field, and this there will not be an excuse for three or four sound soldiers to take them wives to the rear to carry a wounded comrade. This is a very important reform, and will add to the efficiency of the service, and secure more certain and speedy attention to the wounded soldiers in the event of a battle. There will be furnished one transport wagon, one four horse and two two horse ambulances to each regiment, and one two horse ambulance to each company of artillery.

A number of officers and men have already gone home, and more are soon to be sent, to recruit for the regiments now in the field. It has been the practice to employ invalid officers for this service to a great extent; but this has been found not to work well, and a different system has been inaugurated. The plan now is to send one line officer, one sergeant and two men from each regiment on recruiting service, and this plan, it is believed, will work much better, and secure a great many more recruits, and at less expense to the government, than heretofore. It is essential that these old regiments should be filled up promptly if we would insure efficiency in the next campaign. Some of the best and most serviceable of the regiments are now but skeletons, and would absorb a large number of men with advantage to all concerned. Among other regiments which have suffered very much from hard service, sickness and battle is the First regiment United States Sharpshooters (Col. Berdan's). As this regiment is made up from different States, and is not, like most of the others, a state organization, there has heretofore been great difficulty to recruits in entering its ranks, as there was no arrangement for receiving and forwarding them to the regiment. Under the new regulations for the recruiting service, any good rifleman desiring to join this regiment can apply at any recruiting station and designate the regiment and company, if he prefers to do so, and he will be at once forwarded to the state rendezvous and be mustered into the service, and forwarded immediately, singly or in squads, to the regiment. There are now on hand a large number of sharp's rifles, made expressly for this organization, ready for use, besides a supply of Colt's repeating rifles. The ranks of the regiment have been very much reduced, and it is essential that they should be filled up at once. They are employed principally on detached service on scout and picket duty, and as light troops. It is confidently believed that there are large numbers of good rifle shots in the States who will be glad to avail themselves of the facilities now offered, and fill up the ranks. New recruits have already commenced to arrive from Wisconsin and other states, and it is to be hoped that soon the regiment may present as full ranks as it did when the siege of Yorktown, in which it bore so conspicuous a part, commenced.

This morning, by order of the President, minute guns were fired in honor of the memory of ex-President Van Buren, and a gun will be fired every half hour during the day and flags be exhibited at half-mast.

A steamboat bearing a flag of truce arrived last evening at Harrison's Landing from Richmond, bringing sixteen men, women and children, who, claiming to be British subjects, had been allowed to leave the rebel capital. Excepting two men, all took the oath of allegiance and were allowed to come within our lines. The two refusing were sent back. They claim to have lived in Baltimore, say they have taken no part in the war on the rebel side, and do not wish to take any against them, which they consider would be the case were they to take the oath of allegiance.

Our Fortress Monroe Correspondence.

FORTRESS MONROE, VA., August 10, 1862.

The Want of Excitement at the Fortress—Admiral Goldsborough to be Relieved from Command—Arrival of the Chippewa—Military Officers' Movements, &c.

We have no excitement here. The enemy are so far away from us that no one thinks of seeing them in our neighborhood; and with the arrival and departure of the Baltimore steamer dies out all the feverish excitement we are blessed with. We all sigh for more stirring times in our immediate neighborhood.

It is a fact, I believe, that Admiral Goldsborough and Captain Case have asked to be relieved from their commands. I understand that their wish has been gratified by the Secretary of the Navy, and that some other and more active officers will be placed in command of the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron. I think that the change will be gratifying as well to the public as to the Admiral. Commodore Wilkes is spoken of as the next Flag Officer of the squadron; but other names are mentioned as having high claims upon the government.

The gunboat Chippewa arrived yesterday from Wilmington, N. C. I believe there is nothing new from there worthy of mention.

There is no special news from the blockading squadron in the North Atlantic.

Quite a large number of officers are arriving daily from the Army of the Potomac, on their way North on recruiting service. Captain Hopper and Lieutenant Smith, of the Tenth New York Volunteers, left for New York last night to establish a recruiting office. From the high reputation of the regiment for efficiency and courage, it is not doubted that its depleted ranks will soon be filled.

Major Windsor B. French, of the Saratoga regiment, also went on last night on recruiting service. Major French has won his position by arduous labor and gallant and meritorious conduct in the battle field. The descendants of the brave men who met and vanquished Gen. Burgoyne at Saratoga will not hold back, but will join their comrades in the field.

Brigade Surgeon R. B. Bentecou and Surgeon Hunt, who have long been stationed in the hospitals at this point, are ordered to and will leave for the front in two or three days. Their scientific skill as surgeons will be a valuable acquisition to the corps with the Army of the Potomac.

The revenue tug Resolute, Captain John McGowan, arrived from a cruise in the bay yesterday. She remains here for a few days to keep an eye on sutlers' and other trading vessels. The Resolute has been of immense service in breaking up the illicit commerce between Maryland and Rebeldom during the past year, and will continue, no doubt, to be as active and efficient in her field of labors for some time to come.

FORTRESS MONROE, August 11, 1862.

The Expedition to Malvern Hill—A Great Battle Planned and Frustrated—Excitement at Norfolk, &c., &c.

In regard to the occupation and evacuation of Malvern Hill by the federal troops, little has been said. Our reconnoitering division took possession on Tuesday, and on that day all the generals of the army went up, and Gen. McClellan sent back for the greater part of his army, but the messengers took the wrong road, and thus delayed so long that the troops did not reach Malvern Hill until it was too late, and only a portion of those sent for arrived at all, and those only in season to beat a hasty retreat. This was on Wednesday morning, and on that day a great battle would have been fought had our forces arrived in season. But as some of them were approaching, and in sight of Malvern Hill, there was a very large force of rebels seen coming from Richmond, numbering at least 100,000 men, filling all the roads, passage ways and vacant lots as far as the eye could reach. A retreat was consequently made to Harrison's Landing.

General McClellan had planned for a great battle, but the enemy were not asleep, and have taken possession of Malvern with an immense army.

Norfolk has been in a state of excitement. A few days since an officer of the Provost Guard applied to General Mansfield, of Suffolk, for permission to search a house in that city for arms. Authority was given, and arms and ammunition to some extent were found in a private dwelling near the General's quarters.

Last night, in Norfolk, a triple guard was put on duty. This has not been done until many of our guardsmen have been shot at and some that down.

It is understood that all the inhabitants of the district in the vicinity of Norfolk, Suffolk and Portsmouth are to be put to the test of either taking the oath of allegiance to the United states or to leave for rebeldom.

The small boat is just in from Harrison's Landing. The general appearance there is that a move of the whole or a large part of the army is taking place.

Commodore Porter's mortar fleet still remains at anchor in Hampton Roads.

The Blue City, and Kennebec came down to day with sick soldiers from the army hospitals. The Kennebec has two hundred and eighty one on board, and proceeds immediately to Philadelphia.

The mail boat was completely loaded with passengers, including some discharged soldiers, some recruiting officers and about [illegible] hundred musketeers, who have been mustered out of the service.

FORTRESS MONROE, VA., August 11, 1862.

The Exchange of Prisoners—General Thomas' Mission—Captive Generals to be Released—An Expedition to the Cherokee River—A Union Company of North Carolinians Formed—The Country East of the Chowan Free From Rebel Forces—Contraband Troubles, &c.

Adjutant General Thomas, with a number of officers of the regular army, arrived this morning on a special boat from Washington, and will proceed to City Point, James river, via Harrison's Landing, to-day. The object of his mission is understood to be the exchange of prisoners, more especially the surrender of our officers now in the rebel prisons. He will meet to-morrow the officers deputed by the rebels to carry out the understanding which was reached between Major General Dix and General Hill, and will make final arrangements for the immediate release of our officers. We may look for nearly all of the officers who are now in rebel custody by the end of this week. When the negotiations are concluded, General Thomas will leave for Corinth, and there perfect the exchange of such prisoners as have been taken on either side in the West, and an entire exchange will be effected before the 1st of September. The generals who will be released on the part of the rebels are Generals Marshall, Crittenden, Prentiss and Reynolds. Marshall and Reynolds will be delivered up at City Point, and Crittenden and Prentiss at Memphis.

The little expedition from Suffolk to the Chowan river, North Carolina, proves to be a very brilliant and successful affair. It consisted of two companies of Dodge's Mounted Riflemen, and a rapid march was made to a point on the Chowan river, which a small detachment of the enemy was found, which was performing picket duty. The rebels were surprised and driven across the river, with what loss is not known. After performing this feat our men destroyed all the boats they could find on the river, in order to prevent the crossing of the rebels for some time to come, and then the bold riders enjoyed a repast furnished by the inhabitants, mostly Union, of that region. A young man, the guide for our troops, who had been driven from his home by the rebels some time since, started out and joined the hunting parties of a large number of Union men who have sought in the secession of the forest that safety which could not be found at home. These men speedily congregated, and thirty-seven of them enrolled their names to form a Union company in the United States service. Others will soon unite their fortunes and fate with this gallant little band of loyalists, and the company will soon be one hundred strong, and will be able to protect the lives of their families and their property against the raids of foragers thereabouts.

The country between the Nansemond and the Chowan is now entirely clear of rebels, and it frequent depiction through it by Dodge's mounted men will keep it free, we shall hear little more of rebel incursions in that direction.

A large number of contrabands—men, women and children—continue to pour into Suffolk from North and South Carolina, and not unfrequently from Alabama. Sometimes fifty or sixty of these creatures come in per day, and it is becoming somewhat of a problem to find out what shall be done with them. They are all happily possessed of the power of making away with a full ration daily; but, unfortunately for them, they have a caronic antipathy to any labor which shall enable them to earn a small part of what they eat. Of course, this is a very disagreeable state of affairs for both Sambo and Sam, with the odds against our colored brethren. If any one will produce a theory by which it can be made to appear that it is an even thing a reward will be paid that friend to mankind in the shape of a Confed. postage stamp, ornamented with a picture of Jeff. himself.

Important Order from Gen. McClellan.

GENERAL ORDERS—NO. 154.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, CAMP NEAR HARRISON' LANDING, VA., August 9, 1862.

The Major General Commanding directs the attention of the officers and soldiers of the Army of the Potomac to the following Executive order by the President, which has been officially published:—

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, July 22, 1862.

EXECUTIVE ORDER.

First—Ordered, that military commanders within the States of Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas, in ordinary manner, seize and use any property, real or personal, which may be necessary or convenient for their several commands for supplies, or for other military purposes; and that, while property may be destroyed for proper military objects, none shall be destroyed in wantonness or malice.

Second—That military and naval commanders shall employ as laborers, within said States so many persons of African descent as can be advantageously used for military or naval purposes, giving them reasonable wages for their labor.

Third—That, as to both property and persons of African descent, accounts shall be kept sufficiently accurate and in detail to show quantities and amounts, and from whom such property and such persons shall have come, as a basis upon which compensation can be made in proper cases; and the several departments of this government shall attend to and perform their appropriate parts towards the execution of these orders. By order of the President.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

No official copy of this order has been received at these headquarters, and the General Commanding has for this reason delayed the issuing of a general order to carry into effect the views and directions of the President. Some recent occurrences in this army have, however, shown that it has become necessary to do so, to prevent this executive order being made a pretext for military license.

The order of the President accords so substantially with the course uniformly pursued by this army on this peninsula, under the orders and instructions of the General Commanding, that no material change in any respect is required thereby in its conduct and government.

Personal property necessary or convenient for supplies or other military purposes of this army will be, as heretofore, seized and used by the proper quartermasters or subsistence officers, upon the orders of commanders of army corps; or, in case of troops employed on detached service, where army corps commanders are not accessible, by order of the officer in command of such detached force.

In all cases the officers thus making the seizures shall take an account showing the kind and quantities of property seized, and by whose command; the amounts of its estimated value, and the names of the persons from whom the same shall have come. Whenever circumstances admit of so doing, receipts will be given to the owners or their agents, specifying simply the particulars above mentioned. Copies of all such accounts and receipts will be transmitted in the usual manner, by the officers making them, to these headquarters.

All officers and soldiers of this army are enjoined and ordered to abstain from all seizures of private property except in the mode above prescribed; all other appropriations will be regarded and punished as pillage. The idea that private property may be plundered with impunity is, perhaps, the very worst idea that can pervade an army. Marauding degrades as men and demoralizes as soldiers all who engage in it, and returns them to their homes unfitted for the pursuits of honest industry. This army is composed mostly of young men; and the General Commanding, to whose care they are entrusted, owes it to the parents who have sent their sons and to the communities that have sent the flower of their youth into the military service of their country, to warn and restrain them from an evil so pernicious.

The order of the President requires the application of a similar rule in the use of real property. This, however, does not apply to such uses as are inseparable from military operations—to wit: marches, camps, pasturage, hospitals, depots, quarters and damages occasioned by active hostilities; but no use should be made or injury done to real property beyond what is actually necessary or convenient for military purposes.

The destruction of any species of property in wantonness or malice is expressly prohibited by the President's order, as well as by the Articles of War and the usages of all civilized nations. All commanding officers are earnestly enjoined to exercise the utmost vigilance on this subject. Straggling and trespassing are the invariable indications of a tendency to this description of crime.

Inhabitants, especially women and children, remaining peaceably at their homes, must not be molested; and wherever commanding officers find families peculiarly exposed in their persons or property to marauding from this army, they will, as heretofore, so far as they can do so with safety and without detriment to the service, post guards for their protection.

In protecting private property, no reference is intended to persons held to service or labor by reason of African descent. Such persons will be regarded by this army, as they heretofore have been, as occupying simply a peculiar legal status under State laws, which condition the military authorities of the United States are not required to regard at all in districts where military operations are made necessary by the rebellious action of the State governments.

Persons subject to suspicion of hostile purposes, residing or being near our forces, will be, as heretofore, subject to arrest and detention, until the cause or necessity is removed. All such arrested parties will be sent, as usual, to the Provost Marshal General, with a statement of the facts in each case.

The General Commanding takes this occasion to remind the officers and soldiers of this army that we are engaged in supporting the constitution and laws of the United States, and in suppressing rebellion against their authority; that we are not engaged in a war of rapine, revenge or subjugation; that this is not a contest against populations, but against armed forces and political organizations; that it is a struggle carried on within the United States, and should be conducted by us upon the highest principles known to Christian civilization.

Since this army commenced active operations persons of African descent, including those held to service or labor under State laws, have always been received, protected and employed as laborers, at wages. Hereafter it shall be the duty of the Provost Marshal General to cause lists to be made of all persons of African descent employed in this army as laborers for military purposes, such lists being made sufficiently accurate and in detail to show from whom such persons shall have come.

Persons so subject and so employed have always understood that after being received into the military service of the United states, in any capacity, they could never be reclaimed by their former holders. Except upon such understanding on their part, the order of the President as to this class of persons would be inoperative. The General Commanding therefore feels authorized to declare to all such employes that they will receive permanent military protection against any compulsory return to a condition of servitude.

By command of Major General McCLELLAN.

S. WILLIAMS, Assistant Adjutant General.

Frauds in Enlistments.

SPECIAL ORDER—NO. 18.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, SIMON'S A'S EMPIRE BRIGADE, LAFAYETTE HALL, 595 Broadway, August 13, 1862.

Sergeant George Marshall, having been honorably mentioned to me by Captain F. S. Larned, United States Mustering and Disbursing officer, for prompt measures taken to prevent a gross and deliberate fraud upon the government, by checking the re-enlistment of a soldier into a regiment in the field, who had already been mustered in a regiment of this brigade, and thereby obtaining double bounties: Therefore ordered, That the General commanding hereby pays the tribute due Sergeant Marshall for his successful effort in detecting the fraud, and that Sergeant Marshall's name will be borne on the list for promotion for a commission should his future conduct sustain the part. Colonel James C. Burke, commanding Fourth regiment, Empire brigade, will promulgate this order by sending a copy of it to the commandant of brigade camp at East New York, there to be read on parade. By command of Brigadier General

P. H. SPINOLA.

P. J. CLAYSON, Col. and Insp'r General, Empire Brigade.

"Empire Camp, Mountain Grove," 75 Water Street, Boston, August 12, 1862.

COLONEL—I beg to formally to represent to you the very creditable and honorable conduct of Sergeant George Marshall, Fourth regiment Empire Brigade, in bringing to the notice of this office an attempt that was made to defraud the government by an enlisted soldier of your brigade, who had deserted, and had enlisted in another regiment to obtain the bounty of twenty five dollars.

Sergeant Marshall deserves especial notice for his successful course in detecting this fraud, it affords me much satisfaction at enabling you of his conduct. I am, very respectfully, your obedient.

L. S. LAIRDS, Captain, Twelfth Infantry, United States Mustering and Disbursing Officer.

Brigadier Gen. SPINOLA, Commanding Empire Brigade.

The Colored Men of Massachusetts to be Drafted.

BOSTON, August 13, 1862.

The instructions of Governor Andrew to the city and town assessors throughout the State of Massachusetts are to make it their duty to include the colored citizens, as well as the white ones, in the roll of those subject to draft for the war.

Military Law In Massachusetts.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S HEADQUARTERS, BOSTON, August 11, 1862.

Notice is hereby given that on and after the 16th of August current, all officers or privates belonging to the regiments or corps of Massachusetts Volunteers, who come within the rule established by the order of the President of the United States, dated War Department, July 31, 1862, who may be found within the limits of this Commonwealth, will be arrested.

The following are the only persons belonging to the volunteer forces exempt from this order:—

1. Those having furloughs granted by the War Department.

2. Those who have furloughs granted by Lieutenant Colonel Day, commanding at Boston.

3. Persons disabled by wounds or disease from complying with this order. Such disability must be proved by the certificate of a medical practitioner of good character and standing, which should certify that the officer or private is disabled by wounds or disease from reporting in person at Boston. Said certificate should be upon honor, and should be accompanied by a certificate from a justice of the peace that the physician certifying is of good character and standing.

4. Officers and privates on recruiting duty within the State.

CHARLES F. BLAKE, Major and Acting Provost Marshal.

Escape of Union Prisoners from Richmond.

INTERESTING DETAILS OF THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY EFFECTED THEIR ESCAPE.

Lieutenant F. Murphy, of the Sixty-seventh New York Volunteers, who was taken prisoner at the battle of Savage Station, while an invalid in the hospital, and who subsequently, in company with Captain Ockey, Fifth Pennsylvania reserve, Lieutenant William Riddle, First regiment Sickles' Brigade, and a Mr. David McAvery, a Union citizen of Richmond, who, since his arrival, joined the Fifth Pennsylvania cavalry, made their escape, relates the following very interesting narrative of the manner in which they eluded their enemies:—

We escaped from Richmond Prison—a place heretofore used as tobacco warehouse No. 6—on the morning of the 7th, by tearing off a board from the rear of the house which led into an alley. When we reached the alley, our hearts palpitated to the utmost degree, fearing that the sentry would discover us, but after carefully reconnoitering a few moments, we found the coast clear, as we thought. The first sentry lay asleep across the alley, and the second, a very short distance off, stretched on his back, with his head reclining on his arm snoring soundly. While groping our way in the darkness of the night in the most silent manner, so as not to wake the sleeping sentries, we discovered another wide awake in front of the prison. This made us so cautious and nervous. One of our party stumbled over one of the sleeping sentries; but, as luck would have it, he was so stupified that he was unable to distinguish what hit him, and, concluding it was his comrade, while we were skedaddling, went up and struck him; but hearing our departing footsteps the alarm was given and chase was made. We ran up Eighth street, and in a short time, finding that the sentries were not to be heard, we consulted as to what was best to be done. Finding the coast was clear, we slept on a cellar door all night. Early the next morning we visited a house occupied by a lady of the most thorough going Union sentiments, who furnished us with food and clothing. We also met other Union friends here, who did everything in their power to aid our escape. So complete was the disguise afforded by these friends we were enabled to visit the fortifications of the city, which enabled us to get the positions of the forts, what part of the country they commanded and the number of guns they mounted. They report the earthworks to be similar to those at Yorktown, but as the information has already been given to General McClellan, and is of so important a character, we are unable to give further particulars. In order to escape from here successfully they forged exemption tickets, which represented them to be employes on government contract work in the Eagle Works. Finding those would not work, General Winder being the only person who could issue a pass, they were obliged to turn back, and tried another point to the left of the city. They had not proceeded far when they were hailed by a sentry, to whom they made the excuse that they were blackberrying. Finding they could not pass this way, after satisfying the sentry they were all right, they returned towards the city; but when out of sight, concluding that to the left was their safest direction, they took that route through the woods, and after footing some four miles were overtaken by a severe rain storm, which lasted so long they were obliged to lay concealed in the woods until morning. When the sun rose they discovered a cavalry picket some fifty feet distant, but avoided discovery by stealing cautiously away. From here they took a northeasterly course, crossing the Chickahominy at Private Bridge. They pursued this course until night set in, and took shelter in an old school house for the night. They pursued the same course next day until they reached the Pamunkey river, keeping in the woods all the time to avoid cavalry scouts, hunting deserters. Not finding any boats at this place they swam across the river to a point a little above Newcastle ferry, which they reached about dusk. Up to this time they lived upon blackberries and huckleberries, which they found in the woods. This night they slept in a wheat stack, and the following morning started on a voyage of discovery for something to eat. After traveling some distance, and almost completely exhausted, they reached a negro dwelling, where they procured some ash cake and a bowl of milk each. They were informed here that the cavalry scouts were after them, so they started across the country immediately, keeping the same course until they reached King William Court House, where they put up for the night at Powell's Hotel. They succeeded in deluding the landlord here so well as to procure a good supper and lodging for the night; but, when they entered the breakfast room next morning, were somewhat surprised to find a cavalry officer seated at the table. Nothing daunted, they coolly sat down to breakfast, shortly after they commenced operations the cavalry officer departed, and not being prepossessed with his appearance and manners, they made all haste and took their departure. When leaving the hotel, they saw this same cavalry officer standing by his horse, and concluding that something was up, they started off lively down the old West Point road, and after being out of sight, entered the woods for the purpose of reconnoitering. They were not here more than five minutes, when two cavalry officers, accompanied by two privates, came galloping along. When out of sight, they ventured on the road again. Here they met three colored women, who informed them that the cavalry officers were after them. They again returned to the woods, and a few moments afterwards the cavalry officers returned with four more privates, and drew up directly opposite where they were concealed. The officers and privates held a consultation as to what course they should pursue. They concluded to send four down the old West Point road, two toward Powell's Hotel, and two down the West Point road. Lieutenant Murphy and party finding this location peculiarly unhealthy, struck out in a northerly direction. After travelling some distance they reached the Mataponix river, where they found a boat, about a quarter of a mile from it. This they lugged down and launched, but waited until dark under the shade of the bank, when they started off down stream with only one oar. They continued their course down the river until they reached a deserted house on the right hand side of the stream, owned by a man named Fendall Sutherland Gregory, about twenty miles from West Point. Here they found two oars and some other effects, among which was the following portion of a letter, which we append as a curiosity, dating so far back as it does:—

KING WILLIAM, Oct. 13, 1832.

You patter with us in a double sense,
That keep the word of promise to the ear,
And breaks it to our hope.

In these times it becomes difficult to adapt our sense of duty as patriots to our conceptions of constitutional rights. There is in the South the element of a bold defiance to the unjust and unauthorized encroachments of the federal government. And the weight of talent does not preponderate in favor of those who would pour oil on the troubled sea. But whilst we admit the existence of this dangerous state of things, we are bound by our duty to truth to say that there is a redeeming love of country which stands ready to save this Union; when that great duty shall have been accomplished the power and virtue of the same patriotism will assail the tyranny in its own intrenched camp. In a free country the progress of despotism is marked by its attacks on the property of the citizen; this is the commence of its dark design.

They pulled from here to West Point, where they arrived at three o'clock the following morning; after securing their boat to a stake, being wearied and exhausted, they slept soundly until six in the morning. When they woke they discovered the town, but not knowing whether it was in the hands of friends or enemies, were somewhat puzzled as to what course to pursue. They concluded finally to pull for the town, and had not been under way but a few moments when two men jumped into a sailboat and gave them chase. They succeeded, however, in reaching the shore at the point where the Mattaponix and Pamunkey rivers form the York. They unexpectedly came across some pickets here, whom they supposed rebels, but the lieutenant who was in command of them recognizing Captain Oakley as an old friend, their tale were brought to a close. They were furnished with horses here and taken to Williamsburg, where they were treated with the utmost kindness by Colonel Campbell, of the Fifth Pennsylvania. Next day they went to Jamestown Island, where they took boats for General Sucklan's headquarters. They gave him some very valuable information, and received furloughs to go home and recruit their health.

City Intelligence.

FIRE IN WEST STREET.—Shortly after twelve o'clock on Wednesday morning a fire broke out on the third floor of building No. 171 West street, in the bag manufactory of H. I. Vanderhoff. The flames extended to the fourth and fifth floors and roof, and also destroyed the roof of No. 170, adjoining. The damage done to the stock of bags, machinery, &c., will amount to about $1,500, and to be insured. The first floor is occupied by Ackerman & Pratt, flour and feed dealers. Stock damaged by water about $1,000; insured for $3,500 in the Etna Insurance Company of Hartford. Henry V. Schenck, fish dealer, No. 111 Murray street, has sustained about $600 damage to his stock by water; insured for $10,000 in the Merchants' and Broadway Insurance Companies. The store on the corner, No. 170 West street, is occupied by William H. Wheeler, as a porter house; loss by water about $500; insured for $1,500 in the Importers' and Traders' Insurance Company. Mr. Wheeler also occupied rooms on the second floor of No. 111 Murray street as a dwelling; his furniture is damaged by water; insured for $500 in the Importers' and Traders' Insurance Company. The buildings Nos. 170 and 171 West street are owned by A. Dominick. They are damaged about $1,000, and are insured for $15,000.

THE NEW ENGLAND ROOMS.—An unfounded report has been circulated to the effect that the New England rooms of the Soldiers' Relief Association were about to be closed. This report has, in some instances, prevented the reception of donations intended for this excellent institution. The rooms are still open, and will be kept open until the close of the war, for the reception and care of sick, wounded and distressed soldiers, whether from New England or any other of the loyal States. An average of thirty men a day receive the benefits of this model institution, those lately having been soldiers, returning to their regiments, who stop over night, and discharged sick soldiers returning to their homes. The association is a voluntary one, and hundreds of letters, teeming with grateful thanks from relatives of soldiers from Maine and Wisconsin who have been cared for under its roof, have been received by Colonel Howe, which sufficiently attest the usefulness and efficiency of these rooms. The ladies are always ready to receive and acknowledge such donations as the charitable may send.

TROUBLE AMONG THE FANCY.—Yesterday morning at an early hour an encounter occurred between Joe Coburn and Andrew Hinces, alias "Figsey," on the corner of Broadway and Prince street, in which several blows were struck, but the parties were speedily separated by friendly bystanders. No arrests.

SHIPPING NEWS.

ALMANAC FOR NEW YORK—THIS DAY.

SUN RISES	5 09	MOON RISES	eve 9 07
SUN SETS	7 07	HIGH WATER	morn 11 16

Port of New York, August 13, 1862.

CLEARED.

Ship Isaac Jeanes, Stinson, San Francisco—R M Cooley.
Ship Albert Gallatin, Delano, Liverpool—G Grinnell.
Ship American Congress, Woodward, London—Grinnell, Minturn & Co.
Ship Victor Emanuel (Ital), Pragrio, Cork for orders—P S Kenway.
Ship Thomas Nye, Jenkins, Havana—W W Russell & Bro. (Cleared 11th.)
Bark Harvest Queen, Ellery, Hong Kong—C B Fessenden.
Bark Saine Boisall, Leavitt, Bristol—Brett, Son & Co.
Bark Depositie (Prus), Frignitz, Gloucester—Brett, Son & Co.
Bark Norumbega, Halma, Glasgow—W & A Nelson.
Bark Amelia, Gandlish, Corz, &c—E Zirlsin.
Bark Robert Leonard (Br), Corning, Londonderry—Edmiston Bros.
Bark Tempest, King, Pernambuco—D C Murray.
Bark Rudd, Clemens, Vera Cruz—Harrison & Co.
Brig Stella (Italian), Monastes, Palermo—Chamberlain, Phelps & Co.
Brig Avesette (Br), Turo, Porto Cabello—M Call & Fclib.
Brig Grace Werthington (Br), Stevens, Belize and Kinston—F Alexander & Son.
Brig Eliza, Williams, St Croix—P Hanford.
Brig Valerie (Br), Guerin, St Pierre—King & Godillot.
Brig T W Wilson, Walker, Matanzas—Master.
Brig C F O'Brien, Drinkwater, New Orleans—H D Brockman & Co.
Brig J C Coale, O'Leary, Baltimore—Merrill & Abbott.
Brig Hunter, Steam, Rockport—Tapp, son & Hunter.
Schr Eathen Cortis, Gandrees—Miller & Houghton.
Schr Arctic (Br), Robinson, Nassau—Jas Farran.
Schr W E Rogers, Nickerson, Key West—N L McCready.
Schr Mary Frances, Hallett, Washington—Bentley, Smith & Co.
Schr Rio Grande, Shaffer, Savannah—Master.
Schr J G Warden, White, Indian River—Master.
Schr Compromise, Andrews, Quaker—B N Fox.
Schr M Porter, Lizzard, Washington—Master.
Schr Cerbulo, Davis, Philadelphia—Master.
Schr Sarah, Gaskill, Philadelphia—J G Bentson & Sons.
Schr D Hall, Cooklin, Philadelphia—Master.
Schr S J Talbot, Armstrong, Elizabethport—Brett, Son & Co.
Schr Ann Amelia, Hodges, Augusta—Baker & Dayton.
Schr B Hudson, Lincoln, Boston—Master.
Schr Cora, Kelley, Fall River—Master.
Schr Mary Rebe, Smith, Providence—Master.
Sloop Rob Roy, Means, Little Egg Harbor—Master.

ARRIVED.

Steamship Bavaria (Ham), Meier, Hamburg, July 27, and Southampton 30th, at 3 PM, with mdse and 293 steerage passengers, to Kuhnadt & Co. Had W winds and winds for the first 8 days; latter part favorable wind and weather. 24 inst, lat 51 48, lon