IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON.

Position of British Subjects in Reference to the Draft.

Letter from Secretary Seward to Mr. Stuart.

The Object of Garibaldi's Movements in Italy,

&c., &c., &c.

WASHINGTON, August 24, 1862.

BRITISH SUBJECTS AND THE MILITARY DRAFT.

The following is a recent letter from the Secretary of State to the British Charge d'Affairs:—

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, August 20, 1862.

SIR—Having informally understood from you that British subjects who had merely declared their intentions to become citizens of the United States had expressed apprehensions that they might be drafted into the militia, under the late requisition of the War Department, I have the honor to acquaint you, for their information, that none but citizens are liable to military duty in this country, and that this Department has never regarded an alien who may have merely declared his intentions to become a citizen as entitled to a passport, and consequently has always withheld from persons of that character any such certificate of citizenship.

I have the honor to be, with high consideration, sir, your obedient servant, WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

To Hon. H. M. STUART, &c.

MOVEMENTS OF BISHOP HUGHES—HIS INFLUENCE IN EUROPE.

Bishop Hughes left the city yesterday morning, and thus disappointed thousands who anticipated that he would officiate to-day in one of our churches. The Bishop's presence here as the guest of Secretary Seward, and his protracted interview with the President, recall the interesting fact that he visited Europe at the instance of the Secretary of State, with a view to represent the true state of things existing in this country before, as well as since, the beginning of the rebellion. It is probable that his revelations to the President were in detail, while his speech in New York dealt in generalities. It should be stated, to the credit of Mr. Seward, that when one of the agents of our government in Europe, whom his sagacity had employed, and who had a sleepless eye upon the operations of the emissaries of the rebels there, wrote hither declaring the necessity of counteracting their machinations in the English clubs and French salons, &c., Mr. Seward at once addressed letters to a score of leading men in the country, asking them to visit Washington. Of those were Bishop Hughes, Thurlow Weed, Bishop McIlvaine, Edward Everett, J. P. Kennedy, &c., and their subsequent appearance at the capital was attributed to a desire to observe military demonstrations as first exhibited in a large way on this continent. After interviews with Mr. Seward, most of them crossed the ocean, and that they did good service in enlightening leading spirits in all elements of society abroad as to the true issues between the government and those who, from motives of ambition, sought to overthrow it, there can be no doubt.

It may be that the failure of foreign intervention in the behalf of the rebels may be attributed largely to the influence exerted in all ranks of society by the gentlemen referred to. It is certain that before their mission took effect, the emissaries of the rebels were successfully poisoning public opinion at its very springs.

THE PRESIDENT'S COLONIZATION PLAN.

The President's colonization scheme is actually moving onward. Numbers of negroes have signified their willingness to avail themselves of the opportunity to form a colony. Senator Pomeroy has undertaken a mission of investigation to the designated region in South America, with a view to ascertain the correctness of the representations made in reference to it, and to protect the government and the colonists from any tricks by land speculators.

THE SECRET OF GARIBALDI'S EXPEDITION UNFOLDED.

Letters received by persons connected with the European leaders in Italy and Hungary give some new information on the subject of Garibaldi's expedition, which materially changes its character. According to these letters, the plan of the great Italian leader is not to strike a blow at Rome, a deed which, however successful, would still leave Italy shorn from her finest province, but to attack Austria, which is the only foe of his country and her only oppressor. In consequence, he is said to have had an understanding with Kossuth, who is going to move upon Hungary at the head of an army of Serbs and Montenegrins, whilst he (Garibaldi) will direct one of his corps upon some of the Austrian provinces on the border of the Adriatic, and the other in some other places still unknown. The object of that treble expedition is to connect the cause of Italy, Hungary and the Danubian provinces into a great demonstration against Austria, to revolutionize all the dissatisfied provinces of that empire, and to make it so busy at home that it will have no strength left to defend Venetia, which will then fall into Garibaldi's hands. Once the Italians are master of that province, and of the whole navigation of the Adriatic, nothing can prevent Rome from becoming the seat of the government; for Italy will then be one of the strongest nations of the continent, and perfectly capable to obtain by herself the justice and the rights to which she is certainly entitled.

THE BATTLE OF BLADENSBURG AND REMINISCENSES CONNECTED THEREWITH.

This day is the anniversary of the battle, or rather the foot race, at Bladensburg a half a century since. It is worth while to refer to the fact, because the population here then could not produce troops sufficient in number and courage to resist the advance from a landing in the Chesapeake of a thousand or two British troops. And these troops were the subjects of that country which is now shocked by alleged irregularities in warfare by the federal forces, but whose armies then indulged not only in firing the Capitol and public departments, but in destroying the office of a newspaper and other private property. So, too, they fired and laid waste towns upon the coast, and some time subsequently gave out at New Orleans the war note of "Beauty and Booty."

THE POSTAL CONVENTION WITH GUATEMALA.

The postal convention has been concluded between the United States and Guatemala, providing for the regular exchange of mails by the ordinary route of communication via the Isthmus of Panama. The arrangement goes into operation on the 1st of September, 1862—New York and San Francisco being the offices of exchange on the side of the United States, and Guatemala city the exchange office on the side of Guatemala.

COMPLAINTS IN REFERENCE TO THE ARRANGEMENTS OF THE PROVOST MARSHAL OF ALEXANDRIA.

Complaints are made of inadequate provost guard arrangements at Alexandria, where there are several hospitals, and convalescent soldiers anxious to rejoin their regiments, find great difficulty in procuring the necessary authority. There are in the hospitals here a number of men permanently disabled, whose discharge would greatly decrease hospital expenses and also afford room for other cases. It is also stated that the Paymaster's Department has neglected the payment of soldiers in hospitals, and cases are cited of sick and wounded soldiers who have not been paid off for from four to seven months, for the reason that they were in hospital instead of being with their regiments on pay day.

POSTPONEMENT OF THE NEW YORK APPOINTMENTS UNDER THE INTERNAL REVENUE LAW.

The New York appointments under the Internal Revenue laws have not yet been made. An enormous batch of recommendations lies upon the President's table. The red tape with which it is bound has not been untied, and the President has not yet had time to look at the recommendations. It will take at least one whole day to dispose of these appointments.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE ABOLITIONISTS.

Senator Foot, of Vermont, is in the city. The abolitionists in office here are much disgusted at the President's patriotic letter to Greeley, and they are counting the minutes when the *Tribune* shall arrive with a response.

THE PERSONNEL OF THE NEW YORK MUSTERING OFFICE.

Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Isaac V. D. Reeve, First United States infantry, is assigned to duty in New York city as mustering and disbursing officer. Captain Larned, the officer at present employed on that duty, will still continue there, under the orders of Colonel Reeve.

PUNISHMENT FOR NEGLECT OF DUTY BY AN ARMY OFFICER.

First Lieutenant Ulysses Westbrook, Third regiment Ohio Volunteers, having, while in command of a picket, allowed three of his own men to pass beyond the lines, where they were ambuscaded, and one reported to be killed, his name is, by direction of the President, stricken from the rolls of the army.

APPLICATIONS FOR PENSIONS.

There have been filed in the Pension Bureau, under the act of July 14, 1862, about two thousand two hundred applications of invalids for pensions, growing out of services in the current war.

A DISLOYAL DRUGGIST ASSIGNED A POSITION IN THE OLD CAPITOL.

Thursday morning Captain Lansing, of the Georgetown Provost Guard, arrested Dr. John P. Stone, a druggist, on the charge of being disloyal and concerned with aiding the rebels. He was taken before the Provost Marshal and sent to the Old Capitol.

A SOLDIERS' RELIEF ASSOCIATION AMONG THE WASHINGTON NAVY YARD WORKMEN.

The plumbers in the Navy Yard have formed themselves into a relief association for the benefit of the families of soldiers who enlist from the District, and have agreed to set apart so much of their pay each month for that purpose.

THE SPECULATING PAYMASTERS TO BE PUNISHED.

The War and Treasury Departments are determined to ferret out and punish the paymasers who have sold specie furnished them for the purpose of giving some small change to soldiers, and have used government funds in speculating in cotton and other articles.

AFFAIRS IN GEN. CASEY'S DEPARTMENT.

Brigadier Generals John Cook and A. A. Humphreys are ordered to report for duty to Gen. Casey in this city.

INTERESTING FROM TENNESSEE.

The Plans of the Rebels and Operations of the Guerillas,

&c.,

Our Cairo Correspondence.

CAIRO, August 20, 1862.

Movements of the Rebels in West Tennessee and Kentucky—Occupation of Clarksville—Anticipated Attack on Fort Henry—The Importance of the Tennessee River as a Military Highway—Trial Trip of the Eastport—Arrest of Prominent Citizens, &c., &c.

About three weeks since I sent you a plan which I then knew to have been adopted by the rebels to regain possession of Western Kentucky and Tennessee. A portion of the plan was subsequently abandoned as unfeasible. I alluded to that part of it proposing the recapture of Fort Pillow. This was abandoned after a force of 20,000 men had been pushed by the rebels to within striking distance, and the main portion of the force was withdrawn. I do not know the reasoning by which the rebel leaders were led to believe the plan unfeasible, nor am I at all positive that it has been really abandoned. All I know is that it looks so now, although the military authorities are somewhat alarmed in anticipation of an attack there.

But other parts of the plan are being vigorously pushed. Clarksville, on the Cumberland river, has already fallen into rebel possession. This movement menaces Nashville; it is true; but it also menaces Fort Henry. Gen. Grant is in possession of information to the effect that Forts Heiman and Henry, on the Tennessee, are the real points threatened, and further, that large bodies of the rebels are rapidly concentrating and marching to operate against these fortifications. This information is of such a nature that the troops stationed here, excepting a mere local guard, and those from Smithland and Paducah, have all been sent to Fort Heiman to reinforce the garrison there. The reinforcements were called for by telegraph last evening, and sailed on one hour's notice.

That this blow is impending is further foreshadowed by the destruction night before last of three transport steamers on the Tennessee, a few miles above Fort Henry. Two of them were burned by the rebels, and the other sunk. They were all loaded with supplies for General Grant's army, and the loss will be a heavy one. We have no further particulars of this affair here, nor of the occupation of Clarksville, than the mere announcement received by telegraph by the commandant of this post.

The Tennessee river would be the main dependence of General's Grant and Buell, should their railroad communications with the North be cut off. General Buell has already lost his railroad line of retreat, and supplies and reinforcements can only reach him by the river route. One or two of the bold guerilla operations in which the rebels seem such experts would place General Grant in a similar predicament. Hence the importance of retaining the control of this river.

The gunboat Eastport made her appearance at the naval wharfboat off this city to-day. She is somewhat of an anomaly in naval architecture, and any description I might give of her would fail of conveying the correct idea of her appearance. The drawing I sent you a few days ago is a faithful representation of her. On her trial trip to day, which was the first time her wheels had been turned, she made a distance of thirty miles, ten of which were against the current. She carried but half a head of steam—that is, she being high pressure, is designed to carry one hundred and forty pounds of steam as her ordinary working power. To-day she carried but seventy, as her boilers and machinery all being new it was not considered wise or prudent to give her a full head. But with this half head of steam she made the above run of thirty miles in three hours and a half—an average of about eight miles per hour.

Commodore Davis accompanied her on the trial, and expressed himself as most highly pleased with her in every respect. She moved very quietly, her machinery producing no perceptible jarring of the vessel, and working with but little noise. Her several apartments are so constructed as to afford good ventilation, while her boilers are so confined on all sides by heavy bulkheads that their superfluous heat can only escape upwards, where conductors convey it away from the ship, thus leaving all parts as cool as the climate will admit of.

In the description I sent you of her I omitted to state that an extra heavy timber bulkhead extends across the vessel directly in front of her machinery, so that should a ball by any possibility penetrate her casemates into the gun deck it has yet to find its way through this massive bulkhead before it can strike any part of her steam apparatus or machinery. Such a thing as a ball entering a porthole and raking her from stem to stern, as has been frequently done on the old boats, is here completely and effectually prevented. The Eastport is now receiving her crew, furniture and ammunition. The Commodore's pennant already floats from her flagstaff. Lieutenant Commanding Phelps, Acting Flag Captain, now of the Benton, will have the immediate command of her. Her other officers have not yet been assigned formally, and cannot, therefore, be now given. It is expected that she will join the fleet in about three days.

A portion of our fleet, under the direction of Flag Captain Phelps, moved down on Monday. They were accompanied by Major General Curtis and a portion of his command. Nothing has been heard from the expedition since it moved down.

The recent arrest of Hon. J. H. Allen, member of Congress from this district; Judge Mulky, of the Circuit Court of this county, and two or three other prominent citizens of this region, has created considerable of a fluttering hereabouts for several days past. The gentlemen arrested claimed to be wholly ignorant of the grounds of their arrest, and make no hesitation in proclaiming their loyalty and devotion to the government. They have been allowed the freedom of the town on parole since they have been here. To-day they were granted a partial hearing before the Provost Marshal. The testimony adduced against them seems to implicate them in some dark lantern movement—most likely, if any, the Knights of the Golden Circle. No witnesses were brought forward, but the affidavits of sundry people were read in evidence against the prisoners. The prisoners demanded that these witnesses should be placed before them, and an opportunity be given them to cross examine them; but this was denied. The prisoners then proposed to give evidence to impeach the witnesses whose affidavits were produced; but I am informed that this was not allowed them.

Our Nashville Correspondence.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., August 14, 1862.

Colonel Miller Has Another Brush with the Enemy near Gallatin—Movements of the Guerillas—The Whereabouts of Morgan—Colonel Boone, &c., &c.

Since closing my letter of yesterday I have learned that while Colonel Miller, with his force, was making preparations to return to this city from Gallatin, about six o'clock last evening, he was attacked by guerillas to the number of about two hundred. They were concealed behind trees, bushes and in cornfields. The attack was sudden and unexpected, and was made from several quarters. Colonel Miller immediately placed his force in position, planting his artillery on an eminence, whence the guerillas were shelled with fine effect. A number were seen to fall. A portion of our infantry was then deployed as skirmishers, and after a few brisk volleys, with the aid of the artillery, the enemy were forced to fall back in every direction, some taking refuge behind haystacks, others in barns and wherever shelter could be found. The firing was kept up whenever a rebel head was seen. A barn in which a number of rebels had taken refuge was fired by our shells, and the occupants compelled to beat a hasty retreat, leaving their killed to be consumed in the flames. The fight lasted about an hour, when the enemy were dispersed. The enemy's loss could not have been less than forty killed and wounded. The Unionists lost one killed, a private in Company G, Sixty-ninth Ohio. Colonel Miller's forces consisted of the Sixty-ninth Ohio, Colonel Cassilley; part of the Eleventh Michigan, Colonel Stoughten, and four pieces of Bush's Indiana battery.

Colonel Miller, supposing it to be the enemy's intention to keep him engaged, while a large force was to get in between his troops and Nashville, and destroy bridges, thus cutting off his communication with the city, concluded to return, reaching here about eleven o'clock last night.

The Union troops behaved in the most gallant manner, creditable alike to their courage and discipline. The battery was served with great skill and effectiveness.

A gang of men, with a force of some two hundred troops, leave here to-day, for the purpose of repairing the bridges destroyed in this the latest raid of John Morgan. The telegraph lines will be reconstructed at once, and a station established within three miles of Gallatin, at Camp Creek, where the last fight occurred.

There has been no train from Louisville for two or three days. Postmaster Lindsley will send a mail North to-morrow, by way of Clarksville. A messenger will also be sent by Adams' Express Company.

A report that Morgan had burned the bridge over Green river obtained circulation this morning; but it requires confirmation. A great many vague rumors are afloat. Among others, there is one that Morgan has declared he will "drink his whiskey in Nashville within ten days."

A pleasant banquet was given at Basset's Cafe Tortoni last evening complimentary to Lieut. Wharton, of the Nineteenth Illinois regiment, on the occasion of his retiring from the post of Ordnance Officer, a position he has satisfactorily filled for some time past. The Mayor of the city presided, and speeches were made by his Honor, Col. Browning, the Governor's Private Secretary; Mr. Lindsley, of the Governor's staff; Major Harding, commanding the Nineteenth Illinois, and others. It was a handsome compliment to a worthy officer and gentleman.

Col. Boone, who was in command at Gallatin, and who surrendered to and was paroled by Morgan, took a wagon and proceeded to Kentucky immediately after the affair. He had been expecting a raid for some time, and reinforcements were asked for. A number of the most prominent Union citizens have also appealed to the authorities for better protection, assuring them that a dash would certainly be made into the town at almost any moment. The country all around there requires better protection, for guerilla bands infest the region, and are continually committing depredations upon unoffending citizens.

Morgan confined his depredations while in Gallatin to the destruction of the railroad bridge, the buildings on the fair grounds, and a train of freight cars. All the prominent Union men were arrested, but subsequently released unconditionally.

Musical and Theatrical.

Nothing is as yet positively known in regard to the operatic arrangements for the winter. Ullman has not been heard from directly; but we have seen letters from Paris which throw great doubts on his being able to bring out either Ristori or Titiens this season. It is but fair to state, however, that his partner, Mr. Palmer, is confident that he will secure the latter. He says the preliminary arrangements have been completed, the money required to be paid in advance all deposited, and that a failure to fulfil the contract will subject Mdlle. Titiens to a penalty of $10,000. It is decided that Maretzek's troupe will not perform here previous to their departure for Havana. He prudently calculates that it would not be worth while to incur heavy responsibilities for the sake of giving at most three or four weeks of opera, which he must do if he secures the Academy or Niblo's. It is said that Medori is not to join him after all. His company will, therefore, be limited to Madame Charton Demeure, Mdlle. Pradier and Signors Mazzolini, Minetti and Bellini, to be subsequently reinforced by fresh artists should matters assume a more encouraging appearance. Even should Ullman fail in his present mission, there are vocalists enough in the country to make up a very excellent troupe for the coming winter. As regards *prima donna*, we have Madame Borchard, an artist fresh to our public, and whose debut this spring was eminently satisfactory; Miss Carlotta Patti, who, after a successful career as a concert singer, is about to make her first appearance on the operatic stage; Miss Kellogg, who holds a high place in the esteem of our public, and Madame de Lussan, who has been studying hard to repair the partial check which she received at her debut. Then there are Brignoli, Susini and Amodio—all of them admirable artists and ever welcome to our public. With such *materiel* at hand we cannot starve for opera, and therefore we await with patience the result of Mr. Ullman's European negotiations.

At Wallack's Mr. Florence's summer season is approaching its close. Although he has made no money by the speculation, it is satisfactory to learn that he will lose none. His Sickles, Meagher and Corcoran nights will pull up for the deficiencies in receipts, which threatened to leave him heavily out of pocket at the end of the season. There is some talk of a complimentary benefit to him. He deserves it; for he has worked hard to please the public, and it is but right that something should be done for him in return. Mr. Wallack is still at Long Branch. It is not as yet settled when he will open the fall season. Mr. Blake has deserted his standard and gone over to Laura Keene. There were indications of a misunderstanding in the relations of the parties during last season. Mr. Blake's place will be filled by Mr. Mark Smith. No other changes in the company are announced.

Gabriel Ravel and his troupe have been doing an excellent business during the week, although they have been rehashing all the old pantomimes with which the public are familiar. Mr. Wheatley commences his dramatic season on the 10th. He is going largely into the show piece line, in which his artistic taste and nice eye for effects have already gained him reputation. After the Ravels leave he will open with "Marguerite and Faust," one of this attractive class of entertainments. He is said to be lavishing a good deal of money on the *mise en scene*.

The Winter Garden opens on Monday next with Miss Bateman in "The Hunchback." The programme of this establishment for the winter promises us, in succession, Edwin Booth, Barney Williams and wife, and Forrest. We are glad to learn that Mr. Jackson has had that large leak stopped in his gas apparatus. It will make the house look a little more cheerful.

Laura Keene has put out no announcement as yet as to her plans for the season. Her theatre opens on the 8th, with, it is said, a new play by herself—we presume an adaptation.

The new comic pantomime "The Golden Egg" is the *piece de resistance* at Cremorne Gardens. A complimentary benefit to Mr. Nixon is announced for the 8th.

Chiarini, of the Havana Circus troupe, is at present in this city. He takes out with him from here in the fall several of our best riders and acrobats, and after his next season in Cuba will probably visit this country with his company. We see by the *Cuban Herald* that amongst the attractions recently added to his establishment are two juvenile equestrians—a negro boy and a girl—who filled the position of pages at the court of the Emperor Soulouque, and who appear in the ring in their fantastic court dresses. Barnum should bespeak the reversion of these lastest African novelties.

Matilda Heron (Mrs. Stoepel) will not accept any engagement for the present. She is inconsolable for the loss of her child. Her husband resumes his baton at Wallack's.

Miss Emily Thorne commenced a fresh engagement at Buffalo on the 20th.

A new ballet troupe is being organized by Signor Rontzani and Mlle. Annetti Galletti for a tour in Cuba, commencing in November next.

J. S. Clarke, the comedian, has returned from Europe, and is at present in Baltimore, where his mother has just died. It is not as yet settled at what theatre he will make his *rentree*, but it will probably be at the Winter Garden. His recent sojourn in Paris will no doubt be of great benefit to him in a professional point of view. Nothing tones down the exaggerations of an English or American comic actor like a study of the French stage. Let him once see such comedians as Samson and Arnaut, and he will be disgusted with his own buffoonery.

The People's theatre, Hartford, Conn., is to be opened on the first week in September. Its interior decorations are highly spoken of. It will seat comfortably about a thousand persons.

A new English actor, Mr. Verne, makes his first appearance in this country at the Holliday theatre, Baltimore.

The arrangements for the erection of a new theatre in Philadelphia are said to be finally concluded, and the work will shortly be entered upon. The location is in Chestnut street, on which it will have a front of sixty-five feet, with a depth of one hundred and fifty-five. The stage is to be sixty feet wide and sixty-five deep. The Walnut street theatre opens on the 23d, and the Arch street on the 30th. Mr. R. Randall has leased the Continental for a season of three months, commencing on the 15th of September.

The Boston Museum opens on the 25th, with "Men of the Day," Kate Reignolds leading as first star.

The National theatre, Cincinnati, has been undergoing extensive alterations and embellishments. Commencing with what was once the pit, there has been constructed a neat, elegant and commodious parquet, approached from the dress circle by two avenues, and furnished with armchairs—a decided improvement on the old, uneasy style of bench. In the arrangement of the lower circle the architect has hit the "golden mean," for while every seat, or row, is luxuriously inviting in cushioned comfort, they are so admirably arranged that the spectator in the rear will have as perfect a view of the mimic world beyond the footlights as those who occupy the front. Pink and silver facings upon a pure white ground are the prominent features of the framework of the circles and the proscenium, while throughout, to the dome, the same chaste and agreeable result marks the progress of the brush. The National opens to-night.

Wood's theatre is also being renovated and altered so as to seat a greater number of persons.

Miss Nina Foster delivered a lecture on Monday last at Lake Mahopac. She went from thence to Newport, where she proposes giving several of her readings.

Gottschalk is stopping at Belmont Hall, Schooley's Mountain, N. J.

Adah Isaacs Menken commences an engagement at the New Bowery on the 15th.

The complimentary benefit to Mr. W. J. Fleming will come off at the Academy of Music early next month.

Mr. Falconer's Irish drama, "The Pee o' Day, or Sixteen Thousand Thousand Thousand Million Thousand Thousand Million Thousand Thousand Million