INTERESTING FROM MEXICO.

DETAILS OF THE BATTLES BEFORE PUEBLA

Full Confirmation of Our Advices from Havana.

The French Fairly Whipped in Equal Combat.

Official Despatches from Ortega and Comonfort.

President Juarez with the Army of the East.

The Mexicans Prepared to Pursue the Shattered French Army,

&c., &c., &c.

[Translated from the Revista Quincenal of the city of Mexico of May 2 for the NEW YORK HERALD.]

Making their preparations with perfect calmness, moving with slowness and at their ease, allowing that they took one hundred and five days to advance twenty eight leagues—provided with everything which they required—the French, supposed in Europe to be invincible, arrived from Zaragoza in front of Puebla on the 16th of March, resolved to attack and capture Puebla without delay. Forgetting the results of the contest of the 5th of May, 1862, in which they were completely routed on the same ground, flying in the most shameful manner, their extraordinary commander—the general of twenty five campaigns—asked the strange question, "Who can resist my legions? Who can resist the dash of those soldiers who, in the Crimea and Italy, overturning every obstacle that came in their way, conquering the solid columns of their enemies, assaulting trenches and fortified positions, planted the glorious banner of France, of Bonaparte the Little; on the invulnerable works and fortified cities of the enemy, defended on every occasion by veterans who had gathered glory on many contested fields? Who? who?" inquired Forey once more. Who? say we. We know and we have seen. The men who have answered the question are Mexicans—men whom the French, in their absurdity, have affected to despise; the soldiers of a free people who defend their rights; improvised generals, chiefs and commanders, who prove their title to distinction by the points of their swords, their hearts beating with the purest patriotism; whose extraordinary valor and patriotism are now the admiration of the world.

From the 16th of March, as we have said, Forey began his attack on Puebla, marching from the city of Zaragoza; but up to the present moment the French have gone backward instead of forward in their scheme of conquest. France, through the caprice of the despot Napoleon Bonaparte, has lost, before the world—before Europe and America—the prestige which, as a civilized and powerful nation, she has hitherto enjoyed. Failing to keep the solemn promises and agreements pledged by her representatives, she has rather laughed at her responsibilities; and now, on the bloody field of fight, she has received the punishment which her acts have deserved, and in the complete rout of her boasted soldiers there is the proof that their fame and reputation are exaggerated, and that they do not deserve the consideration which has hitherto been extended towards them.

For forty eight days Forey has been besieging Puebla. Continuous firing, mines to blow up public edifices, shells, red hot shot, rifle and musket balls, all have been put into operation—all have been resorted to by the bloody French commander. And despite all this time wasted uselessly for the gratification of this army of slaves and their iniquitous master, the invaders have made no progress whatever. They have destroyed a fort, burned and ruined some buildings and blocks, and nothing more, while thousands of victims have been sacrificed to the unfortunate Bonaparte.

On the 23d ult. General Comonfort transmitted the following letter, received from General Ortega, Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the East, on the 21st:—

SAN GERONIMO, April 23, 1863.

TO THE MINISTER OF WAR:—

I have just received the following from General Ortega:—

QUARTER-PAST FOUR P. M.

To General I. COMONFORT:—

MY DEAR FRIEND AND FELLOW COUNTRYMAN—I write you now to explain that I could not communicate with you since the 15th instant, when I sent you the letter numbered "No. 5."

You will have heard of the sustained and continuous fire of the enemy on this city and of our reply to the enemy. The firing began about half an hour after the closing of my last letter.

On the afternoon of the same day (the 15th) the enemy received sixty wagons with ammunition and money, and two days afterwards ninety wagons more with ammunition and provisions.

It will be impossible for me to give you a detailed idea of what has passed during the last six days in this city, still less concerning the corps that have taken part in the struggle; therefore I will confine myself to the leading points.

On the 15th, late in the evening, I caused the first brigade of Zacatecas to leave Carmen, under the command of General Ghilardi, supported by one battery of artillery, with directions to proceed to La Teja, for the purpose of stopping the operations on the trenches which the enemy was erecting at that point with the view of assailing Carmen. This gave rise to a slight encounter which occurred at the above mentioned place, but which was terminated by the approach of night. Notwithstanding, while the combat lasted the firing became general on the one side and the other along the lines on the south of the city, the enemy's heaviest fire being directed against the parapets of our works defended by Generals Berriozabal and Diaz, and Colonels Auza and Sanchez, and more especially the works of Carmen, where General Alatorre was present, directing the movements against the enemy.

As soon as the enemy found that an active fire was being opened from the city upon La Teja, he broke up his southern encampments, even that of the Cerro de San Juan, and with great haste, by the nearest roads, sent to reinforce the troops which he had at that point.

As I said, night put an end to this encounter.

The fire, with more or less regularity, continued the whole night and the following day. During this last contest two bodies of the enemy's infantry were cut off, consisting, for the most part, of riflemen, and a good many of the enemy were dislodged from their positions, while others were beaten back.

The fire of the enemy's artillery had destroyed a part of the front of Carmen.

The fire continued during the night, the following day, the night of that day and the morning of the 18th with more or less interruption; but the fire of the enemy, although it extended along the whole line already mentioned, was more concentrated against the blocks on one side of the small square of San Augustin, in front of the plain. The Fourth battalion of Zacatecas, under Colonel Don Joaquin Sanchez Roman, defended the first. The Second division, from the same State, was directed by Colonel Auza.

After some days labor the enemy succeeded in erecting a series of breastworks, extending their parallels through the centre of the line of Morelos, which is situated, as you know, on the plain on the road from Santiago. These operations, however, were frequently interrupted by our riflemen within these blocks, and they even succeeded on one occasion in dislodging the enemy, capturing many of their engineering instruments and destroying the rest. This act was performed by some soldiers of the Fifth battalion of the soldiers of Zacatecas.

The enemy's works to which I refer are situated some seventy or twenty five yards from the ground which we defend. Our fortified position consists of the old houses to be found on the edge of this part of the city, which have the honor of contending as if it were a fortress. The enemy had, however, been mining our position and making preparations to attack it, erecting batteries, &c. We have, however, resolved to be equal in honor to the enemy, and I have determined to defend the city to the last, even though we be cut in pieces.

At four o'clock on the 19th inst. the enemy opened fire from his artillery on these blocks, making the cannonading general along the lines already mentioned, including the fort of Totimehuacan, where some French forces that came near were repulsed by the holiness of its fire. An hour after large breaches were opened in the blocks, which breaches were covered by crowds of our soldiers who could not be aided by the fire of our infantry, which had been silenced by the enemy's artillery, the front of the burning blocks facing the plains being also within reach of the fire of their guns. Soon after other blocks were attacked by the Zouaves. They were, however, defended by the brave General Porfirio Diaz, and the enemy were bravely repulsed two or three times; but being convinced that the works were not defensible I gave the order to abandon them.

Our loss was one hundred and thirty men of the Fourth Zacatecas battalion, and an equal number of each of the rifle battalions of St. Louis and of the First Aguascalientes, which two battalions belong to the brave division of General Negrete. The block occupied by Colonel Auza, between Vista Real and Canitas streets, was also fired at by the enemy, who succeeded in making several breaches in it. The commander defending them, according to his orders, was expecting the attack all the evening; but the enemy attacked only the blocks defended by Sanchez Roman. Very late at night I visited that block, and expecting that the enemy would destroy it I ordered Col. Auza to abandon and fire it, and then to retire to the next one, called Santa Ines, which forms part of the strong lines formed by me since the loss of San Xavier. I ordered Gen. Berriozabal also to set fire to the blocks occupied in the afternoon by the French, which order was instantly executed without the enemy being able to prevent it. I also, on the same evening, ordered this general to preserve the block opposite the Hospicio, called Cuarteles, and directed that if he were not attacked during this time he should abandon them after applying the torch to the buildings, retiring hence to San Augustin. This order was executed at dawn to-day. The firing was continued yesterday and to-day without any favorable result to us or to the enemy.

General Forey was yesterday at El Molino inspecting the southern part of the city.

He is concentrating pieces of heavy artillery and other elements of war to make a combined attack on Carmen, Santa Ines and San Augustin.

This same Forey labors under the idea that the city will be surrendered in six or twelve days, through the failure of provisions, which, as you know, is a great illusion, and the hopes of the French general will not be realized.

New trains have left for Orizaba to bring up more ammunition and provisions.

Be pleased to inform the Citizen Minister of War that I propose to give him an account of everything that has occurred in Puebla, and that at present I confine myself to writing him private letters through you.

All our generals have faithfully performed their duty, performing the parts assigned them during the siege in the most satisfactory manner.

I am very much fatigued, having been for some time without sleep. Besides my old aches greatly, and I must reserve many things for another occasion.

I send my sincere and patriotic thanks, in the name of the Army of the East, to Gen. Rosas Landa and Echeagaray for the exploits of the 14th inst.

I have just received a despatch from Gen. Rosas Landa, in which he informs me that from four to five thousand Frenchmen had just arrived at about a league from Huejotzingo on the way to the state called Chahuac. I am about to make my preparations for defence in case the said city of Huejotzingo should be attacked.

ORTEGA.

According to the following despatch our brave army gained a solid triumph on the 25th ultimo. From among the embers of their burning house the soldiers of the people sallied forth to punish the insolent foreign invaders, who, on the ruin caused by their cowardly mines had attempted to carry the city the Mexicans have so valiantly defended. Four hundred of their dead were left behind them on one spot, and an endless number of wounded; one hundred and thirty prisoners, among them many officers and men of distinction, were the splendid trophies of this decisive victory. Honor to the dead and to the victors! Subjoined is the despatch of the unpretending but noble young General Ortega:—

SAN GERONIMO, April 28, 1863.

TO THE CITIZEN MINISTER OF WAR:—

I have just received from General Gonzales Ortega the following letter:—

ZARAGOZA, April 26—6 P. M.

To General IGNACIO COMONFORT:—

MY DEAR FRIEND AND COMPANION—The excitement of the day prevents me from detailing to you all that has happened in this city. I will do it to-morrow, limiting myself at present to a few lines to announce the splendid triumph that our arms have just obtained. Yesterday at six o'clock, after a very copious shower of rain, the enemy, by means of mines, blew up a block of Pilimbi, occupied by the forces from Tolnca, under the command of Colonel Padres, in the lines defended by General Berriozabal.

A part of the Tolnca forces were buried in the ruins, and the rest heroically and enthusiastically defended the point under their protection, sending a vigorous fire over the breaches, and gallantly causing the enemy to fall back on the two or three occasions that he attempted the assault. The firing from both parties became general during the evening, and waxed stronger and more vigorous at half past five in the morning—the enemy soon after, by means of other mines, causing another block to be blown up. The ruins were levelled by their artillery, and strong columns were thrown into the interior of the block, which was defended by the Third and Fifth battalions of Zacatecas, under the command of the "brave among braves," Colonel Miguel Auza.

The battle then became very bloody, the ground being so firmly held by the contestants that they were firing at each other at arm's length without losing ground. The battle lasted more than seven hours, and at the end of these our forces remained complete masters of the field, with one hundred and thirty prisoners of the First Zouave regiment, including seven chiefs and officers. In respect to truth I will mention that these men fought like lions. They were only taken prisoners when they were already treading on the corpses of four hundred of their companions and after the rest of their regiment had fled, so that it was impossible for them to defend themselves sucessfully. I am at this moment removing the corpses from the ruins, as well as the wounded of both parties, for which we have no more beds at present in the hospitals. When the enemy were defending themselves in the interior of St. Ines they also attacked the centre of the line defended by General Alatorre. Each point is under the charge of General Regules. They were driven completely from all these points, as well as in their well regulated attacks on San Augustin and Carmen, all of which attempts were essayed during the seven hours' battle of which I have spoken to you. Many chiefs and officers have distinguished themselves in to-day's feat of arms. Among the latter, besides those who defended the city, I may mention the First battalion of St. Louis, under the commands of Colonels Escobedo and Garza, whom I sent to the help of the place, requesting the first to charge the French with the bayonet, when Colonel Auza and his forces were surrounded. This order was executed by Colonel Escobedo in an honorable and satisfactory manner. Two hundred men of Folrea, of the division under General Berriozabal, commanded by Colonel Casmano, had a part of the glory of the day's work, which force successfully aided in the rear the forces of Colonel Auza, and the Second battalion of Puebla, under the command of Colonel Juan Ramirez, which body, attached to General Negrete's division, I also sent to the assistance of the point attacked. They behaved as gallantly as the former ones, and in such a way that there is nothing left to be desired. The principal hero of this brilliant achievement is Colonel Auza, who, with the two battalions mentioned by me, defended the point that I entrusted to his courage in a manner that has astonished the French officers. This young chief was cut off for a few minutes by the falling of a building on him, caused by the artillery of the enemy; but his soldiers at last succeeded in rescuing him from the ruins. This act was performed by a few daring soldiers and officers of Puebla and Zacatecas, who exposed their lives as a testimonial to merit. Generals Diaz, Berriozabal and Llave contributed to the victory achieved this day by us; for, by the rapid fire of their respective forces, they prevented the enemy from moving on the columns thrown on Santa Ines, causing him great losses at the same time.

I will also mention that I have been highly pleased with the efficiency and promptitude with which these officers executed all my orders, as well as with the bravery and coolness which they showed during the battle. I am also, for the same reason, pleased with Generals Negrete and Prieto, who, being at the head of the reserves, carried out my orders with promptness and efficiency, thus contributing largely to our triumph. Of Generals Mendoza and Paz I will only say that they were, as usual, of the greatest service to me, and did not wish to leave my side even after the battle was ended, and when I, our forces being victorious, believed my presence in Santa Ines indispensable. General D. Francisco Alatorre, whose line was the one attacked to-day, carried himself as became his bravery and honor, as did also General Ghilardi and Colonels Manuel Costo and Ignacio Alatorre.

To-day's battle has been the most bloody and honorable to the armies of the republic. The four hundred French dead of whom I speak were the killed of Santa Ines alone. I will say, in conclusion, that the invading army has received a heavy blow. Be kind enough to forward this to the Minister of War, with the assurances of my friendship and esteem.

G. ORTEGA.

And I have the honor of transmitting the foregoing for the information of the Chief Magistrate of the nation, felicitating him upon the splendid triumph which the valiant defenders of Zaragoza have obtained over the invading army. Liberty and reform. I. COMONFORT.

HEADQUARTERS OF ST. GERONIMO, April 28, 1863.

The republic has continued, since our last review, manifesting in a more decided manner its resolution to defend the national territory, and on all sides troops are being raised and organized, who are arriving at the capital and afterwards sent towards the east.

Subscriptions continue to be opened even in the most insignificant towns in favor of the army.

OPENING OF CONGRESS—THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH.

The Congress of the Union opened its sessions with all solemnity on the 20th ult., and has already commenced to attend to subjects of vital interest. The citizen President of the republic delivered a speech, stating that the meeting of Congress is a fortunate event for the republic and for the government, whose business it will be to teach the invader that he can do nothing against our institutions. The citizen President continued in these terms:—

In performing the first of my duties, in satisfying my most earnest aspiration, in complying with the most sacred of my promises, I have assisted, loyally and assiduously, in the creation and development of our elements of defence, and, thanks to the magnanimous nation which has so nobly seconded the policy of the government, our attitude is daily more imposing, and in the gravest financial circumstances that we have ever had we can face a terrible war without foreign aid.

Some little difficulties, excited by lamentable errors, have been set aside at the voice of the government and of patriotism in the freest resolution to co-operate actively in the war, which the nation is sustaining with justice and vigorous effort. Outside of the long declared traitors, there is not desired or imagined in all the republic a prospect of greater happiness than the triumph over the invaders of our soil. Your authorized deliberations, those noble sentiments and the vote of confidence which the executive power requires and expects from you, will demonstrate once more to our enemies that, instead of the discords on which they calculated for the easy accomplishment of their most odious undertaking, the most solid union is apparent in the authorities of the country as well as in her sons, and that we postpone everything in the defence of the autonomy and dignity of the republic.

The whole world will acclaim our honor, because truly no people is contemptible which, divided and cut up by disastrous civil wars, has in itself strength enough to fight with dignity against the most powerful monarch of the earth. A people which, in this grave situation, maintains undisturbed its public law, gives proof of wisdom in its councils, gives evidences of its magnanimity, and yet allows no more advantage to its enemies than they get through their conquests, knowing well that in the present age that road is the way of dishonor and perdition, and that glory is only for those nations which, like Mexico, defend right and justice.

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

Mr. PONCIANO ARRIAGA, President of Congress, replied. He said:—

CITIZEN PRESIDENT—To give a new testimony of our national existence, to belie once more the base calumnies with which the Mexican republic has been sought to be dishonored, the same august constitutional assembly which I had the honor of presiding over on the 16th of December last is again met. And to make strong and powerful the ultimate consciousness of our rights, the incontestable superiority and the invincible moral force given by love of country, there are in Puebla de Zaragoza, in a sublime and heroic attitude, those who suffer and complain not, those who need and ask not, those who strive without anger and without hate, those who, possessed of an immortal spirit, compel the French soldier to fly and desert, resolved all to die before yielding a hand's breadth of land to the barbarous law of conquest. * * * * No; a people is not contemptible, is not miserable, does not deserve slavery, which, experiencing the disasters of civil war, bending under the weight of so heard of calamities, regretting everything dead and passing away, and fixing its view upon high and holy duties, has more and more risen when it appeared fallen, has multiplied its forces miraculously, breaks with foreign aid all the bonds of a much complicated situation, and, being already in possession of an immeriishable glory, will fulfil the promises which, in its name, have been made to the world, liberal, democratic and civilized, by Hidalgo, the 15th of September, 1810; by Zaragoza, the 5th of May, 1862, and by Gonzalez Ortega and Auza, the 25th of April, 1863.

So severe was the blow received by the French on the 25th ult. that up to five P. M. of the 29th, the date of the following letter from General Gonzales Ortega, they had undertaken nothing new of importance, so that our General-in-Chief determined to take the initiative. We know already that the reason why the French did not lose their colors in the route that they suffered, was that they did not carry them into the battles—a very sensible thing. If it were possible that the soldiers would not fight, they might avoid the risk of becoming prisoners or dying in battle. That is an excellent mode of escaping from leaving trophies in the hands of the enemy. Rare perspicacity is that of Forey! Foreseeing admirable talent, and worthy of such a braggadocio. The letter to which we referred, and which contains interesting statements, is as follows:—

ANOTHER LETTER FROM ORTEGA.

SAN GERONIMO, April 30, 1863.

Received in Mexico at five minutes past five P. M.

Senor MINISTER OF WAR:—

General Don Jesus Gonzalez Ortega, in a letter of yesterday, which I have just received, says:—

ZARAGOZA, April 29—5 P. M.

To General Don I. COMONFORT:—

DEAR FRIEND AND COMRADE—I send you all the documents and general orders that have been published in the army in regard to the action of the 25th inst. Have the goodness to forward them to the Minister of War, either by telegraph or express. Since the 25th the firing has been slack, and the enemy has not wished to take the initiative. I arranged on the 27th that General Necrete, with a strong column of the three arms, should proceed by the Santa Anita road to attack the encampments of the enemy on that road, that the whole south line should open its artillery and musketry on the enemy's line, and that all these operations should be made simultaneously—that is, at the moment when I should indicate by an understood signal from the tower.

I also instructed General Berriozabal that, as soon as the firing would be close, he should attack with a small force the orchard which Sanchez Roman formerly occupied, with no other object than that of burning the rubbish that had remained on it, and which the enemy was using in the construction of parapets and to cover himself from our fire.

All these orders were carried out exactly. In my letter No. 1, of the 25th instant, I omitted saying that on the 23d, 23d and 24th; the forts of Zaragoza, Tectimihuacan and Carmen had been fighting with the enemy, making some sallyways from those forts. Gen. Pinson, with the Guerrero troops; General Patoni, with the troops of Durango and Chihuahua, and General Ghilardi, with those of Zacatecas—these forces succeeding in dislodging the enemy from the points where he had earthworks to operate against the forts.

The enemy has continued to throw shells and other projectiles on the plaza, but slowly. He has also continued some earthworks, extending his parallels and covered roads to attack Santa Anita. He has already suspended the works which he had commenced against the Carmen fort. You will remember that to-day we have had forty-five days of siege and forty-one of opened trenches, and that in this month and a half the plaza has sustained many assaults—two only of which were favorable to the French arms, in which we lost a dismantled fort and an orchard. For thirty-one days there has not been lost a single hand's breadth of ground in the line which I have proposed to defend. On the other hand, our army still occupies many orchards, which the enemy has not attempted to assault, as I have endeavored to force him to. I enclose a letter addressed to me by one of the French officers taken prisoner. After the whole force that entered into Santa Inez was slain or captured our officers and soldiers were eagerly seeking the flag of the Zouave battalion; but they discovered that the flag had not been carried into the fight, and that it was in the hill of San Juan. This fact explains why the French forces lose no banners.

The army of the East is proud, my friend, for having fought a month and a half with an enemy as cunning and skilful as he is brave. As a matter of justice, I will say to you that if any other general than Forey had attacked this city he would have been already routed.

ORTEGA.

I have the honor of transmitting this for the information of the citizen constitutional President.

Liberty and Re'erm.

SAN GERONIMO, April 30, 1863. COMONFORT.

LETTERS FROM FRENCH DESERTERS.

We copy the following letter of thanks addressed to the President of the republic by some of the innumerable French deserters, before being marched to the interior:—

SENOR PRESIDENT—We do not wish to separate from our new sovereign without expressing to him our thanks for the kindness which we have experienced from the Mexican army.

Removed forever from our fathers, we met in your good hearts a new family. We are confident that our Emperor will abandon the error of having come to shed your blood unjustly.

Believe, Mr. President, that we are not cowards. If we have abandoned our colors it is because our conscience has so guided us. Frenchmen in heart, we have never regarded honor as a vain word. We are persuaded that good men will never feel that we have betrayed our country. If our sovereign had performed his duty he would not have had the unpleasantness of seeing so many deserters leaving the ranks of the French army. In the Crimea and in Italy soldiers did not leave their ranks, although they experienced great sufferings from hunger and cold. These they supported without a murmur and shed their blood willingly, because they had a just cause. To-day we are persuaded that among the twenty thousand men composing the army of Mexico, if it were not for the hope of returning to their families, you would see half the army come, as we did, to place themselves under your protection.

Why come three thousand leagues from our country to overthrow order and establish another government? Probably our Emperor was deceived, not knowing that the Mexican government is composed only of select and honorable men. We pray that your government may be as stable as it has always been.

We have the honor, Mr. President, to be, with the deepest respect, your faithful servants,

AUGUSTE TONNER,
JUAN BANTISTA OLIOT,
POCHARE.

Up to three o'clock A. M. of the 30th we have news from Puebla de Zaragoza. Up to that time nothing new had occurred. The French were evidently disheartened with their losses and repulses. There is the greatest enthusiasm there, and the firm decision of dying beneath the ruins of the heroic city rather than surrender.

Yesterday the citizen President of the republic and the Ministers of War and of Foreign Affairs set out from the camp of the Army of the Centre. The object of the journey is to hurry up the operations of the campaign.

Theatrical.

WALLACK'S.

Sheridan Knowles' play, "The Wife," will be acted for the first time at this theatre this evening. New scenery and costumes have been provided, and the cast includes the leading members of the company. To-morrow evening Mr. Bardon, the efficient doorkeeper, has his ticket night.

THEATRE FRANCAIS.

This evening Messrs. Albert Mary and Rousseau produce at Niblo's Concert Saloon—the Theatre Francais—Victorien Sardou's great comedy "Les Ganaches," upon the occasion of their benefit. These gentlemen, as able members of the French troupe, deserve a liberal benefit, and we hope they will have their theatre filled to-morrow night. The piece is produced for the first time in this country.

BARNUM'S MUSEUM.

We have no desire to claim prophetic ken or to aspire to the oracular tripod; but some time ago we ventured the prediction that Barnum would soon exhibit Mr. and Mrs. Tom Thumb again; and lo! it has come to pass. The little General and his little wife appear at the Museum today with Commodore Nutt and Minnie Warren. The comparison of little, less, least, will now be apparent to the dullest comprehension. The other curiosities, including the bearded lady, the performances in the pious theatre, and the immortal Barnum himself, may be seen, as usual, for a quarter of a dollar. It is difficult to say how one of Secretary Chase's postage notes can be more advantageously expended.

Controversy Between Wendell Phillips and Senator Wilson.

BOSTON, May 25, 1863.

At a meeting of the Emancipation League in Tremont Temple this afternoon a discussion took place between Senator Wilson and Wendell Phillips on the action of the Senate and the administration relative to officers who had manifested unfriendly feelings toward negro enlistments and the emancipation policy. Mr. Phillips charged that the Senate had never put its ban on any such officers. Mr. Wilson denied the assertion, and said it had often done so. Mr. Phillips said, if so, the public had no knowledge of it, and therefore the act was of no public value. The only case coming to public knowledge was that of General Stevenson, and he was promoted instead of being rejected. Mr. Wilson said that General Stevenson was confirmed on the express and urgent recommendation of General Hunter, in whom anti-slavery men had great confidence. The discussion was quite lengthy and spirited, but conducted in a friendly spirit.

Movements of Troops.

BOSTON, May 25, 1863.

The steamer Expounder, from Washington for Bangor, with the Second Maine Regiment, passed Cape Cod at 12:30 P. M. to-day.

The Second New Hampshire regiment left Concord this morning on its return to the seat of war, having been recruited and put in the best fighting condition. This regiment has passed through seventeen battles.

The Fifty-fourth Massachusetts (colored) leave Boston on Thursday for Port Royal, in the steamer De Soto.

The Fifty-fifth (colored), now forming, has about 300 men, and is rapidly increasing. The Governor of Ohio has made application to Governor Andrew to have Ohio men appointed officers in the colored regiments in proportion to the number of men furnished by that State. Advices from various sections of Ohio show that recruiting for these regiments is more successful than was anticipated.

INTERESTING FROM GEN. DIX'S DEPARTMENT.

The Cavalry Expedition Under Col. Kilpatrick Into Matthews and Gloucester Counties, and Its Success.

Operations at West Point and Fortress Monroe,

&c., &c., &c.

Our Fortress Monroe Correspondence.

FORTRESS MONROE, May 23, 1863.

The Baltimore boat to-day brought down eighty-four rebel prisoners, many of them wounded. They were transferred to the steamer Croton and conveyed to Fort Norfolk.

The United States revenue cutter Hercules arrived this morning.

The steamer Hero leaves this afternoon for Aquia creek with a load of contrabands. They are to be employed in the different government departments at that place.

FORTRESS MONROE, May 24, 1863.

Exchange of Prisoners (Officers)—The Officers of Streight's Command—What Is to be Done with Them—Desponding Tone of the Rebel Press—Congressional Wirepulling—The Election in the First District of Eastern Virginia—Fight at Antioch Church and Barbour's Corner—The Recent Reported Collision of Troops, &c.

Three vessels laden with released prisoners from City Point—viz: propeller John Rice, Captain Garvin; steamers Maple Leaf and C. W. Thomas; on the latter, Colonel W. H. Ludlow, United States Exchange Commissioner—arrived to-day from City Point. The number of officers brought down amounts to ninety-four; and to-morrow the balance of officers in the hands of the rebels, excepting those belonging to Streight's command, will be brought down by the steamer State of Maine, in charge of Captain John E. Mulford, flag of truce officer.

The officers of Streight's command, captured at Rome, Ga., are held on the requisition of Governor Brown, subject to an act passed by the rebel Congress relative to the capture and punishment of such officers who may command negroes, or incite a negro insurrection, &c. Notwithstanding this plea of the precious rebel Governor of Georgia is an exceedingly lame one, still Jeff. Davis is disposed to do anything to spite our government. The result of this detention of the ninety four officers will be a retaliatory act on our part; and thus crimination is followed by recrimination.

The tenor of the Southern press is decidedly desponding in regard to Vicksburg. While they admit of a heavy defeat in that region, spiced with a loss of thirty-nine pieces of artillery, they lay all blame on General Pemberton, whom they accuse of being a nobody.

On Friday evening last a large and enthusiastic meeting, to ratify the nomination of Hon. Joseph Segar as Congressional candidate for the First district of Eastern Virginia, was held at Willard's Hygeian Hotel, at Mill creek. The meeting was addressed at length by his Excellency Governor Pierpont of Virginia and the Hon. Mr. Segar. Governor Pierpont reviewed the state of affairs now existing in this State, and contrasted the forlorn aspect of that portion of Virginia in the hands of the rebel confederacy. Mr. Segar defined his position in a clear and lucid manner, and pledged himself to spare no effort in behalf of his constituents on the Congressional floors, if elected, in furthering the interests of the inhabitants of his district. The meeting did not break up until a late hour, and the speeches of Governor Pierpont and Mr. Segar were listened to with great attention and frequently most rapturously applauded. Next Thursday the election comes off, and no doubt exists as to Mr. Segar being the lucky candidate.

The news from Suffolk to-day is interesting. The enemy, consisting of three regiments of infantry, some cavalry and three pieces of artillery, attacked Brigadier General C. C. Dodge yesterday at Antioch church, five miles this side of Zuni, and was promptly and handsomely repulsed. Our loss in this affair consisted in having one captain killed and three men seriously wounded. We captured several prisoners.

At the same time the rebels made a demonstration at Barbour's Corner, about five miles from Windsor, and were likewise repulsed.

The collision between the Eleventh Rhode Island and Tenth New Jersey regiments was merely a trifling affair, and has been greatly exaggerated by the published accounts. The rumor prevalent here, and, as I am informed, published in some of the papers, that Suffolk is to be evacuated by the withdrawal of our forces, is a *canard*. I can assure the public that Major General Dix has no such intention, and instead of withdrawing any of his forces from there, he is strengthening his position.

Our Yorktown Correspondence.

YORKTOWN, Va., May 22—2 P. M.

Colonel Kilpatrick's Expedition into Gloucester and Mathews Counties, Va.—Great Success—General Keyes' Instructions to Colonel Kilpatrick, &c., &c.

About sunset on Tuesday evening, the 19th inst., the casual observer at Yorktown must have noticed the unusual number of persons on what are, par excellence, termed streets. The evening was beautiful and the air fresh, compared with that of a few hours before. The ladies of the fort were in the saddle or luxuriating in the old carriages of departed aristocracy.

I did not tarry long, for the steady column of "Harris light," "brave Harris light" cavalry, soon won their way through clouds of dust. I proceeded with them to the wharf, where they were to cross to Gloucester Point to join the Twelfth Illinois cavalry. Col. Kilpatrick was in command, of the forces. While these movements were taking place with the cavalry, two hundred men of the One Hundred and Seventy-ninth Pennsylvania Volunteers were embarked on the Winnisinet ferry boat, under command of Major Smith, and two hundred men from the Fourth regiment of Delaware Volunteers, under command of Major La Motte, were embarked on board the Commodore Morris.

These were the arrangements for a raid through Gloucester and Matthews counties, which have from the commencement of the war, besides furnishing a large proportion of men, grain and other materials for the rebels, been infested with a set of guerillas, termed by them "Chesapeake Partisan Rangers." But a short time since a company of them came down to Ware river to attack a boat's crew from a gunboat visiting the place. Through these small rivers the goods sent from Baltimore and along the coast of Maryland are received and thence sent up the country. The two counties had been scarcely visited before, and the only loss they had sustained was the occasional straying away of some of their negroes.

The expedition was gotten up under the orders and direction of Major General Keyes. The command of it was, of course, in the hands of Colonel Kilpatrick. Col. Suydam, the assistant adjutant general of the Fourth army corps, accompanied Colonel Kilpatrick.

The cavalry started from Gloucester Point about nine P. M. They were about twelve hundred strong, well mounted and in excellent spirits.

They crossed the country as far as East river, meeting the gunboat and infantry early on Wednesday morning. They were then divided into small bodies and sent in search of horses, mules, cattle and other forage. There were many difficulties to be encountered in capturing the horses, for the rebels have been very cautious of late and have sent their best stock into the woods. By night some three or four hundred horses and mules had been brought together, besides cattle, and the party then started through to Matthews' Court House, the gunboat following round into North river. Here again success attended our efforts. There is an immense satisfaction in going through this section of Virginia, for the stock is very fine.

The soil is, to a great extent, neglected; but little is raised, on account of the absence of male labor. Everything appears to be rotting, and yet the owners will tell you, in the most quiet and dignified way, that they are "determined on supporting the rebel government even though they lose the very clothes they wear."

One well-educated Southern lady, who had spent much time in New York city previous to the war, exultingly remarked to me that some of her personal friends in New York, holding high positions of trust, found means of sending them letters and she had their assurance that their cause was as good as ever. I need scarcely say that I did not discuss the question further.

Colonel Kilpatrick made his headquarters at Mr. John Taliaferro's, on North river, until he started on his return last night for Yorktown. Although Mr. Taliaferro was a great loser by the expedition, still he gave up in the most ready manner all that he had. The ladies of the family were courteous, and, to their credit, refrained from those condemnatory expletives too often indulged in by the gentler sex of the South towards what they are pleased to term Yankees.

About six o'clock a soldier belonging to the "Harris Light," named James Campden, came in wounded in the neck by a man some miles away. It appears he was sent to a house with a comrade to inquire what had been done with the horses. The man, a citizen of the place, answered by telling him to "go after them." He asked if he had any fire arms about the place. He said he had a gun. On being asked whether it was "loaded or not," he replied that he hoped it was, and started in the house. Campden dismounted, and was about to draw his revolver, when the man discharged his piece, which missed, and then drew a small pocket pistol and sent its contents into the left side of his neck. Campden tried to discharge his pistol, but failed and then jumped at him, striking him over the head with the loaded weapon, which resulted in his death. There were two women present when the man came up, and they cheered when he fired at our soldier. They now mourn the result. He was seen by the surgeon of the regiment, Dr. Charles E. Hackley, and sent to Yorktown on the Com. Morris, being cared for by Dr. M. H. Henry, of the navy.

The land forces came in this morning about two o'clock, and the boats about the same time. They were successful beyond expectation. The only disappointment they really felt was not meeting some of "Stuart's best," which we had reason to think were hovering in this vicinity. About six hundred horses and mules, large numbers of cattle and quite a baggage train was brought in. Their loss is our gain to the amount of at least one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. I dare not attempt, in this warm weather, to compute the amount or number of dollars it would reach in Confederate scrip. Our loss is summed up—none. The loss to them is incalculable. Stuart may well hide his head, and mutter *sic transit*, &c.

YORKTOWN, Va., May 23, 1863.

I send you this morning further news and a copy of the instructions guiding the officers on their raid through Gloucester and Matthews counties. The scenes through which some of our men passed are full of adventure, and will be heard with interest by many old soldiers in this corps whom fortune prevented from participating therein.

I hope in a day or so to send you the official reports. Many incidents of interest occurred by the way which, of course, in my hurried report of yesterday, could not be mentioned. A band of thirty guerillas was met by a small detachment of our own men near Matthews Court House, and were making such rapid movements in an opposite direction that our small force was compelled to let them go.

Five mills were destroyed on the return from Gloucester Court House to Gloucester Point. They were filled with grain. The evening was beautiful, the sky clear, the stars, and what little there was of moon, shedding just sufficient light to render the scene one of interest. The solemn tramp of the horses over the deserted ground gave rise to new thoughts and strange sensations. Those in advance kindled the fires; a slight breeze fanned the flames, and as the sails caught fire, and revolved again and again, and as the sparks and burning grain filed the heavens, and the thought of the cause of all this, was sufficient food for the mind for the rest of the journey home.

Many supplications were made to leave "just this horse" and "just this mule." On being closely questioned these supplicants turned out violent secessionists, and had sons and brothers in the rebel service. In many instances their appeals were listened to.

The wife of Brigadier General Taliaferro, formerly in the United States Army, and now in the rebel service at Savannah, asked, in the most naive way, whether we were making war on women and children because our cavalry took horses which she claimed.

The following were the instructions signed by Major General Keyes:—

A combined expedition will set out to night for Mathews county. The cavalry and a section of artillery, supported by two hundred infantry, to leave Gloucester Point at one A. M., will be under the immediate orders of Colonel Kilpatrick, commanding cavalry brigade. The gunboat and ferry boat, under command of Lieutenant Commanding Gillis, will have on board two hundred infantry, subject to the orders of Lieutenant Colonel C. C. Suydam, of my staff.

A small supply of intrenching tools will be on board, with some extra ammunition for the field artillery.

The infantry will carry one hundred rounds of ammunition per man, and all the troops will have two days' cooked rations.

Colonel Kilpatrick will consult with Lieutenant Colonel Suydam and Lieutenant Commander Gillis in regard to the movements necessary to insure prompt and effective co-operation.

Besides inflicting as much injury as possible on armed enemies, the detachments of the expedition will capture and bring in all animals and supplies needful to our troops that may be found, but will not wantonly burn or pillage anywhere.

(Signed, &c.,) E. D. KEYES,
Major General Commanding.

FORT YORKTOWN, Va., May 19, 1863.

I forgot to mention that Captain Mink, of the First New York Volunteer artillery, commanded a section of his battery on this expedition.

The weather in this section is decidedly hot, the thermometer ranging from 94 to 97.

The present medical director of this corps, Surgeon T. M. Getty, United States Army, will leave in a few days to take charge of the hospitals in one of the Western departments. His successor, Dr. Mulford, of New York, will take his place.

The Correspondence of Mr. Charles H. Farrell.

WEST POINT, Va., May 23, 1863.

The Richmond Papers on Our Position—Foraging Party—Seizure of Six Hundred Bushels of Corn—An Exciting Affair on the York River—Our Mail Boat Fired At—Our Gunboats Go to the Rescue—The Law of Retaliation Promptly Applied—An Affair in Camp—Adams' Express Company, &c., &c.

From late Richmond papers the rebels seem much excited on account of the occupation of this point by Union troops. They also seem in a quandary as to the number of our troops here and the character of our fortifications. They have made several attempts to ascertain the facts as to our movements and position, but as yet all have failed. Certainly they have not the least idea of our strength or position from anything that your correspondent has written, for he has been careful in all his letters in respect to giving indirect information to the enemy. One rebel officer, with a strong guard, was sent down from Richmond to reconnoitre our position. He came down to the banks of the Mattapony river, reconnoitered our position, returned to Richmond, and reported that we had fifteen thousand troops here. Another officer was subsequently sent, who reported that we had five thousand men. Which of the