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WHOLE NO. 9847. NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1863.—TRIPLE SHEET. PRICE THREE CENTS.

NEWS FROM THE REBEL STATES.

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Our Baltimore Correspondence.

BALTIMORE, August 11, 1863.

Opening of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad—The Wheat Harvest at the South, &c.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was opened for through travel along its whole extent, from Baltimore and Washington to Wheeling and Parkersburg, this morning. The first train left here at eight o'clock, and a train carrying the great Western mail will leave every day hereafter at that hour.

The railroad company have the assurance of the government that the road shall be protected henceforward by an adequate military force, and I believe such a force is now stationed at the proper points along the road.

Fr m the sources of information indicated in my letter of May 20, I have learned to-day the following facts in regard to the harvest in the South, which has now been gathered for some weeks. It will be seen that they fully confirm the theory which I advanced in that letter in regard to an abundant crop this summer. Nay, the reality exceeds those estimates.

The wheat harvest in the South this year began about the 8th of June, and it was over about the 10th of July. The following table shows the amount of wheat actually harvested in the States named in the present year and in the year 1860. The figures of 1860 are from the United States census of that year. Of course the wheat of this year is not yet threshed; but the data from which I get these facts is made up by experts, who, having been on the spot, can easily compute the amount from the number of acres harvested and the condition of the crop:—

WHEAT HARVESTED IN THE SOUTH.

	Bushels. 1860.	*Bushels.* 1863.
Alabama	1,222,487	3,125,000
Arkansas	935,298	2,087,000
Florida	2,808	20,500
Georgia	2,544,913	6,234,000
Louisiana	29,283	432,000
Mississippi	579,452	2,345,000
North Carolina	4,743,708	8,456,000
South Carolina	1,289,631	4,180,000
Tennessee	5,409,863	9,264,000
Texas	1,466,275	5,634,000
Virginia	13,129,180	16,912,000
Total	31,366,594	59,639,500

The wheat in Louisiana and Arkansas will be taken to Texas, and, together with the wheat of the latter state, will be taken to Mexico. For what purpose this will be done I am not informed. Of the wheat raised in Virginia, that in the northwestern part of the State will not be available for the purposes of the South; but that does not amount to four millions of bushels. The crops in the Shenandoah valley, and in all those portions of the State below the latitude of Washington and the mouth of the Kanawha river, were abundant; and all of these (except in the direct track of the armies) have been gathered in good order.

Rebel Currency.

LETTER FROM MR. MEMMINGER.

The following letter from Secretary Memminger to Senator Hunter, relative to the currency, is published:—

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, CONFEDERATE STATES AMERICA, RICHMOND, August 24, 1863.

Hon. R. M. T. HUNTER, Lloyds, Va.:—

SIR—In reply to your inquiries about the finances I send you a condensed statement of the issue of Treasury notes and of the funding operations of the Treasury. You will see from this statement that the funding has been eminently successful, and you will learn also that the amount of outstanding Treasury notes is still within the limits of the depreciation which I reported to Congress at the last session. My report then estimated the amount of circulation which the country could probably bear at $150,000,000.

The statement now made shows that the outstanding Treasury notes used as general currency amount almost to three times this amount. But, when it is considered that a very large portion of these notes are across the Mississippi, it will be apparent that in the Atlantic States the estimate of three to one is rather over than under the mark. Two absorbents are now added which will keep down the excess from new issues—namely, the taxes and the sale of cotton bonds, and when the tax in kind begins to contribute its portion to the support of the army there is every reason to believe that the currency can be well sustained.

It is obvious, from this statement, that the popular notion of estimating the value of the currency by a comparison with gold, is altogether fallacious for, while the actual volume of currency has only been increased three fold, its proportion to gold rates at more than double that amount. The fact is, as you well know, that situated as we are, gold is as much a commercial commodity as platina or tin, and its price is governed by the law of demand and supply. As I have already shown, in the report referred to, wheat and corn afford much more reliable standards of value when their price is not controlled by some local obstruction, and, by referring to these, it will be seen that the currency has maintained itself at the ratio which the outstanding issues indicate. You will perceive, by the statement that, uniting all the various appliances for funding, there has been funded in bonds $252,404,670, to which, according to estimates, there is yet to be added about $70,000,000 more, which are yet in the hands of the Treasury officers to be funded, making in all about $302,000,000. Add to this $15,442,000, deposited in the five per cent call loan, and we have an aggregate of nearly $318,000,000 withdrawn from the currency.

This result is certainly very favorable, and shows that the measures adopted by Congress have been quite as successful as any of us had anticipated. It is somewhat remarkable that the Yankee government should have adopted exactly the same measures for withdrawing their circulation, and, according to a statement published in *Hunt's Merchants' Magazine* for July, they have funded, in call loan and bonds, not more than $300,000,000.

These figures show that there is no reason for distrust as to our currency, and if, when Congress meets, you will all address yourselves vigorously to measures which will restrain its further increase, we shall be fully able to maintain our cause. I would suggest to you two matters for consideration. One is the export duty which I proposed, and the other is a renewal of the call loan for all Treasury notes upon the same principle with the six per cent call loan which was reported at the last session.

It is worth the experiment to try whether, by allowing a deposit in the Treasury on interest, we may not be able to attract and retain there all the Treasury notes not actually required for circulation. Very truly, yours,

C. G. MEMMINGER,
Secretary of the Treasury.

STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING TREASURY NOTES, AUGUST 8, 1863.

Total of all kinds of general currency notes	$523,114,606
Estimated on hand for cancellation	70,134,000
Total	$452,979,806
And probably beyond the Mississippi	150,000,000
Total	$302,979,806

STATEMENT OF BONDS INTO WHICH CURRENCY HAS BEEN FUNDED, INCLUDING AVAILS OF THE PRODUCE LOAN.

Total of one hundred million loan	$100,000,000
Funded since February 20, 1863	124,318,370
Funded of notes, May 10, 1863	8,086,300
Total	$232,404,670
On hand to be funded, by estimate	70,000,000
Total funded	$302,404,670
Five per cent call, partly funded	15,442,000
Total	$317,846,670

Reported Defeat of Union Troops in Greenbrier County, Va.

The following rebel despatch was received in Richmond on the 28th ult:—

WARM SULPHUR SPRINGS, VIA DUBLIN, August 28, 1863.

To General S. COOPER:—

We met the enemy yesterday morning about a mile and a half from this place, on the road leading to the Warm Springs. We fought from nine o'clock in the morning to seven in the evening. Every attack made by the enemy was repulsed. At night each side occupied the same position they had in the morning. This morning the enemy made two other attacks, which were handsomely repulsed, when he abandoned his position and retreated towards Warm Springs, pursued by cavalry and artillery. The troops engaged were the First brigade of this army, Colonel George S. Patton commanding. The enemy were about three thousand strong, with six pieces of artillery, under Brigadier General Averell. Our loss is about two hundred killed and wounded. The enemy's loss is not known. We have taken about one hundred and fifty prisoners and a piece of artillery.

SAMUEL JONES, Major General.

Official: JOHN WITHERS, Lieut. Col. and A. and I. G.

The Next Battle.

(From the Richmond Enquirer, August 29.)

Probably the next great battle will be fought in East Tennessee, for the occupation of that important region. The late demonstrations of Rosecrans near Chattanooga may possibly be intended to feel the way round Bragg's left flank, and the towns of upper Georgia have been somewhat alarmed at the prospect of a horde of Yankees upon them; but from the best information we have been able to procure those demonstrations were a feint to disguise the real aim of a combined movement upon our great line of railroad communication through East Tennessee, to take possession of that country and of the portion of South-western Virginia through which the same line of railroad passes.

Up to the 25th of this month no very serious attempt had been made to penetrate our lines along the Cumberland Mountains; but the people of Knoxville and the neighborhood were quite on the alert, and preparations have been made of such a character—though we must not mention the disposition of our forces under Bragg and Buckner—as will be sufficient to effectually defend that most desirable country. General Buckner is in immediate command of the region north of the Tennessee river, including Knoxville, up to the Virginia line, and has bodies of troops disposed near all the passes through the Cumberland Mountains. We have received a letter from Knoxville which fully describes the operations of last week on the part of the enemy, and the greater part of which we extract:—

Friday last Bragg's headquarters—then in command of Lieutenant General Polk—were startled by a shot from the enemy from the opposite side of the Tennessee river, where the enemy had suddenly and unexpectedly appeared in small force, not exceeding two thousand. Shot and shells were thrown into the town throughout the day, with little damage either to buildings or persons. We replied with our field pieces (there are no siege pieces mounted there), but with little or no effect. Saturday the enemy resumed the firing, and continued throughout that day; this resulted in nothing. Friday, at about twelve o'clock, a column of cavalry and infantry, estimated at about ten thousand, entered the little county town of Washington, Rhea county. They destroyed the property of two or three citizens totally, and proceeded up the valley in the direction of Kinston. Saturday they had halted as if to rest. Where they are to-day I do not know. Saturday also a force of several (a few) thousand appeared before Harrison, and threw some shot across the river (so I am told) into that place. The enemy at this point have commanding ground, and have been throwing up earthworks. We have rumors of several other detachments on the north of the river, but these have nowhere made any imposing demonstration. Along with all this, Knoxville, I hear, is full of rumors, to the effect that Burnside is pushing one or two columns towards Knoxville. No portion of the enemy has made any threatening movement west of Chattanooga. Hence it appears that the time is at hand when the strife is to be for the occupation of East Tennessee.

General Bragg, I am happy to say to you, I believe has his troops admirably disposed. The passage of the Tennessee river at any point between Loudon and Bridgeport can be, I think, successfully contested. There are but two or three fords, and these can be easily commanded; and, indeed, along the entire river line, generally speaking, the low lands are on the north bank, while the commanding hills are on our side.

The General, I am sure, is hourly posted by his signal corps, extending their line for many miles up and down the river, and by a most perfect system of couriers; so that, with the railroad broken or the telegraph line interrupted, he will still have uninterrupted communication with the extremities of his lines on either hand.

The Army of Tennessee is now to have its opportunity to achieve as great, if not greater, fame than the Army of Virginia, and I feel sure they will do so. I cannot give you the exact strength of this army; it is, however, considerably inferior to that of Rosecrans. I understand reinforcements are arriving from Mississippi.

I believe it will be the policy of the enemy not to attempt the passage of the Tennessee at any point west of Loudon. These demonstrations I regard as mere feints. So I think you will hear that the bloodiest scenes will be in front of Knoxville, if Bragg shall choose to fight there; if not, Buckner will be constrained to yield the place, and with it all of East Tennessee north of the Tennessee. 'Tis true, the occupation of that portion of East Tennessee by the enemy might become to them a *cul-de-sac*, but I should distrust such strategy on our part.

So should we. By this kind of strategy the enemy might get into the whole confederacy by way of a *cul-de-sac*, and would never wish to escape from it again. East Tennessee and our great inland line of railroads are worth fighting for, and must be fought for. General Bragg has given up just about enough of Tennessee; and with the army that he now has, and in such condition, and driven to bay as he is, too, in the very heart of the Central Mountains, it is time that he turn upon the Yankees who thus board us in the fastnesses of our hills.

The Shelling of Chattanooga.

[From the Chattanooga Rebel, August 22.]

One of the most impressive scenes we have ever witnessed occurred in the Presbyterian church on yesterday. The services were being held by the Rev. Dr. Palmer, of New Orleans, and the pews and aisles were crowded with officers and soldiers, private citizens, ladies and children. A prayer had been said and one of the hymns sung. The organist was about, "and I will be thankful," continued the minister, "if some one in the congregation will raise the tune." The tune was raised; the whole congregation joined in singing, as in days gone by; the sacred notes in humble melody from the house of God, swelling their holy tribute to His glory, and dying away at last like the echoes of departed days. The second, or what is known as the long prayer, was begun, when out upon the calm, still air, there came an alien sound—the sullen voice of a hostile gun—ringing from the north bank of the river and echoing back and back among the far off glens of Lookout peak. It was sudden—it took every one by surprise; for few, if any, expected the approach of an enemy. The day was one of fasting and prayer; the public mind was upon its worship. Its serenity had not been crossed by a shadow, and it was not until another and another of these unchristian accents trembled in the air, and hied themselves away to the hills, that it was generally realized that the enemy were shelling the town.

Without a word of warning, in the midst of church services, while many thousands of men and women thronged the several places of public worship, the basest of human foemen had begun an attack upon a city crowded with hospitals and refugees from the bloody pathway of their march, and in no wise essential to a direct assault.

There was a little bustle and disturbance in the galleries; the noise in the streets grew more distinct and louder; near the doors several persons who had other duties, military or domestic to look to, hastily withdrew; the mass of the congregation, however, remained in their places, and the man of God continued his prayer. It was impressive in the extreme. There he stood, this exile preacher from the far south, with eyes and hands raised to heaven, not a muscle or expression changed, not a note altered, not a sign of confusion, excitement, or alarm; rangti but the calm, Christian face uplifted and full of the unconsciousness to all save its devotions which beams from the soul of true piety. Not only the occasion, but the prayer was solemnly, eloquently impressive. The reverend doctor prayed, and his heart was in his prayer; it was the long prayer, and he did not shorten it; he prayed it to the end, and the cannon did not drown it from those who listened, as they could not drown it from the ear of God. He closed, and then without panic or consternation, although excited and confused, the dense crowd separated whilst shells were falling on the right and left.

All honor to this noble preacher, and to those brave women and children.

[From the Southern Confederacy.]

The attack on this place, we are inclined to believe, is a general advance on the part of Rosecrans to take Chattanooga and Northwest Georgia, and drive back Bragg. As we understand the matter, our entire force is, and has been, on this side of the Tennessee river—making that river the line of defence. The whole country on either side of the river is very mountainous. The line of defence is a very long one—from near Huntsville on our extreme left far up into East Tennessee on the right. The shelling of Chattanooga on Friday, and at intervals since then, is, no doubt, a feint, the true object being to cross the river in force at some other point, either at Harrison, some twenty miles above Chattanooga, in East Tennessee, or at Bridgeport below. We hear that our forces have actually been defeated at Bridgeport and driven away, and that the enemy have thrown pontoons over the river, upon which they have crossed in considerable numbers. We cannot positively vouch for the truth of this report, but we believe it is correct.

We think a determined movement is now being made by Rosecrans to cross his army at Bridgeport and flank Chattanooga on the south, or to cross at Harrison and make a descent upon the State railroad at or near Chickamauga, and we shall not be surprised if a severe battle is fought on this side of the Tennessee river in a day or two.

The Late Capture of Union Vessels on the Rappahannock.

[From the Richmond Examiner, August 29.]

We alluded yesterday to some of the results of the secret expedition set on foot several days since, having for its object the destruction of the Yankee shipping in the Rappahannock. We learned yesterday that the Navy Department has received a report, detailing the facts, and styling the expedition an entire success. Two steamers were captured at the mouth of the Rappahannock, one carrying four thirty two pounders, and the other two, of the same calibre. Some seventeen Yankees were killed, and a few prisoners taken.

Considerable shipping was burned in the river, and altogether Captain Wood, commanding the expedition, has reason to be proud of the success that has attended it. Captain Wood and his associates in this daring enterprise are mostly Marylanders, selected for their coolness and courage.

The following is an official confirmation in part of the foregoing facts:—

CONFEDERATE STATES STEAMER SATELLITE, August 23, 1863.

SIR—I am thankful to report to you the capture, last night, off the mouth of the Rappahannock, of the United States gunboat Satellite, two guns, forty men; and the Reliance, two guns, forty men.

Lieutenant Hoge dangerously wounded.

Midshipman Cook and three men slightly.

Captain Waters, of the Reliance, dangerously pounded, and some seven or eight others of the enemy; only two killed.

* * * * * * *

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. TAYLOR WOOD, Lieutenant Commanding.

Hon. S. R. MALLORY, Secretary of the Navy.

ROME, GA., August 25, 1863.

Information has been received this morning to the effect that our brave marines, under command of Lieutenant T. Ward, of the President's staff, captured two Yankee gunboats, the Reliance and Satellite, off the mouth of the Rappahannock, on Saturday night last.

The gunboats, lying near each other, were captured after a slight resistance, by the Confederates, who approached in our boats.

Several of the Yankee crew were killed and a number wounded. Among them is Lieutenant Hedge of the navy.

Various trophies have been secured from the captured vessels and about sixty prisoners, who are now on their way to Richmond, including Captain Robinson, of the Satellite.

[From the Richmond Dispatch, August 29.]

The party of Confederates under the command of the gallant Lieutenant John Taylor Wood, on Tuesday last, in Chesapeake Bay, off the mouth of the Rappahannock, captured three Yankee transports, the Coquette, Golden Rod and Twin Brothers, two of them from Philadelphia and one from Maine. Two were laden with anchors and one with coal. The Golden Rod was destroyed and the other two carried to a place of safety. There were about fifteen prisoners taken on board the three. This makes ninety prisoners, two gunboats and three transports captured by Lieutenant Wood since he left Richmond on this expedition.

[From the Richmond Dispatch, August 27.]

Yesterday fifty-two prisoners from the Yankee gunboats Reliance and Satellite, including eight negroes and a dozen petty officers, were lodged in the Libby. J. R. D. Robinson, acting master, commanding the Satellite, was among the petty officers.

Jeff. Davis a Poor Logician.

[From the Richmond Sentinel.]

The President tells us he wants more men. In his agony for more men he appeals to the ladies for help, and grants a general amnesty to all deserters—advertising the said amnesty for twenty consecutive days in every newspaper in the confederacy, at a cost of thousands of dollars. General Lee appears to be of the same mind with the President. He, too, wants more men. He calls upon all his officers and men to join their respective regiments without a moment's delay, and even appeals to the people of the several States to send forth every man capable of bearing arms. One would suppose that two such high authorities would be apt to know what they are talking about. But the newspapers, including the President's own dear organs, are diligently engaged, day after day, in assuring us that the Yankee draft is a dead failure; that the Yankee armies are wasting away by disease, desertions, and expiring enlistments; that Lee's army is numerically greater than Meade's; and that Lincoln is on his last legs, in a military point of view.

Which are we to believe, the President and General Lee or the newspapers? We can't believe both; for if the newspapers are to be heeded there is no need for another man in our armies. All that we have to do is to stand perfectly still and see Lincoln's legions vanish into thin air. Then we will march to Boston without the slightest inconvenience or interruption; and we will be able to do that next fall. This is no time to trifle with the people. They are not arrant fools. Their spirits are not to be kept up by conflicting statements. They know that the new conscription of men up to forty-five, and the call of the President and the appeal of General Lee do not tally with the sanguine articles of the newspapers. What they want is no delusive hopes, but the assurance that the President intends to act with wisdom and energy. We do want more men. The Yankees are trying to play another trick on us. Just before the battle of Chancellorsville they assured us that Hooker's army was only seventy thousand strong, and just before Grant captured Grand Gulf they assured us that there would be no more general engagements during the war. Reliable gentlemen who have been through the Northwest brought news that peace and an alliance with the confederacy were positively determined on.

They are trying to fool us again. Reliable gentlemen, "just returned from Washington," arrive almost daily within our lines, to assure us that Meade is "receiving no reinforcements except a few negro regiments," &c. We have had enough of this stuff to satisfy even the administration. This is the calm before the storm. That storm will not wait for dog days to expire. Meade is constantly being reinforced and so is Rosecrans, and the first thing we know Lee will be attacked on both flanks, East Tennessee invaded by forty thousand men and Mobile invested by way of Pascagoula. The house must be set in order and kept so, for the storm will soon burst in all its fury.

The Rebel Volunteer Navy.

[From the same paper.]

When afloat there is little or no danger of these vessels being captured or interrupted, if wisely managed, and the cruising grounds be away from our coast, and out of the usual track of Yankee war steamers. Of the feathered bipeds that cause such perturbation in the fowl yard, not one in a thousand is destroyed by the unfeathered biped's gun; for he "keeps his weather eye open," swoops to his prey and is of like a shooting star. So with our sea hawks and eagles in the illimitable waters of ocean. Always on the watch, and swooping to their prey, and swift as the wind, they may roam for years without molestation and sweep the enemy's commerce from the seas as with a besom of destruction. Even the conspicuous Alabama and Florida, observed of all the world, and the special objects of Mr. Boodle's rage, and of pursuit by his cruisers, have never yet been overtaken, or met against their will. How much more will privateers, of all rigs and sizes, escape, cruising out of range of the enemy's war steamers, never seeking, but avoiding fights, and having the heels of a race horse? Our government and citizens should use every exertion in this behalf; and even if we lose all the land except enough to afford sovereignty a resting place these ships ought still to be put to sea; for they may, and probably will, largely contribute to our salvation. If we put forth all our efforts—the endeavors of patriots—whenever we can help the cause, we will prevail, and the signs are all in our favor. A united and determined people, in such a country, and fighting for such a cause, can never be subdued. Moreover, God fights for us; time fights for us; the elements fight for us; circumstances for us; the moral sense of the world is a host in our favor.

Rebel Accounts from the Southwest.

The following telegrams are published by the Richmond papers:—

JACKSON, MISS., August 25, 1863.

A gentleman from Vicksburg reports an important military movement on foot. Its character has not transpired. A person from Benton also reports a force of three thousand Yankees moving from Yazoo City towards Benton.

A party of our cavalry lately crossed the Big Black and went within eight miles of Vicksburg, where they met a line of negro pickets and chased them from their posts. The Yankee cavalry came up to their assistance, when our men retired.

JACKSON, MISS., August 26, 1863.

Grant has taken a force from Vicksburg up the White river, after General Price, who has lately given the Yankees a tremendous thrashing in that quarter.

Gen. Grant has lately issued orders to the citizens of Warren and Hinds counties to return to their homes and resume their usual avocations; he says that they shall be protected in all property except such as is necessary for the army; and that all property taken by the army shall be duly purchased by commissioned officers, and paid for. He advises the people to regard their slaves as free, and contract with them for labor, or dispense with their services. The order was to go into effect on the 25th.

Federal officers condemn the pillaging of their troops east of the Big Black, but say, if our cavalry is not withdrawn, they will advance with a large force and lay waste the whole country.

JACKSON, August 27, 1863.

The Yankees are in force four miles below Raymond. Four federal prisoners and one negro arrived here yesterday. No news from the front this morning.

The Late Traitor, J. B. Floyd.

[From the Richmond Dispatch, August 29.]

The death of General John B. Floyd, of Virginia, was announced in our last. The *Examiner* says he died of the effects of jaundice and typhus in their worst forms. Under these he has been suffering since April last. He received the sacraments of religion before he died, and remarked that he was "about to leave the world without any regrets and any fears."

General Floyd was a man of very superior talents and of commanding presence. His oratory we have heard described as of the highest order. We never had the pleasure of hearing him ourselves. His manners were frank and pleasing, and his disposition kind and generous. He was very approachable, and the humblest person was received with gentleness and respect. To his enemies he was placable, and to his friends he was as true as tested steel.

The flag of Virginia was yesterday at half mast on her Capitol, in honor to the memory of her distinguished son.

Federal Operations in North Carolina.

The following telegrams are published in the Richmond papers:—

RALEIGH, N. C., August 25, 1863.

The *State Journal's* Kinston correspondent says the Yankees are preparing to advance from Newbern. The force there is eight thousand strong, and reinforcements coming. They are provided with railroad iron to relay the track of the Atlantic Railroad. Cavalry and infantry have been falling our force near Barringer's ferry.

RALEIGH, August 28, 1863.

The *State Journal's* Kinston correspondent, in his letter of the 28th, says:—Our scouts report that the Yankees are relaying the track of the Atlantic Railroad, between Tuscarora and Clove creek, fourteen miles this side of Newbern, protected by three small regiments, under Colonel Gleason, of New York. On Wednesday two companies of cavalry and a section of artillery advanced from Newbern to Nethercutt's farm and returned.

A Yankee Tete-a-Tete.

[From the Richmond Examiner, August 20.]

David A. Pringle, a Yankee deserter, who should have died on the Rappahannock, and given the only aid in his power to Virginia, by enriching her soil, was charged with following out the instinct of his nationality, and associating with Charity, negro slave belonging to J. H. Heath. He was found on a pallet with the negro wench on the gentleman's premises, enjoying a *tete a-tete* in regular Yankee style, and something more.

The Mayor gave him occupation by enlisting him in the chain gang.

Charity, as a punishment for disgracing herself, was ordered fifteen lashes.

Fatal Affray.

[From the Richmond Sentinel, August 28.]

A fatal affair occurred on Wednesday evening last, at Mr. Thornton's, about one mile from this city, between Dr. James C. Currie, a clerk in the War Department, from Kentucky, and Mr. George Blanford, clerk in the First Auditor's office, from Georgia, which resulted in the death of the former by a stab from a knife. A coroner's inquest was held yesterday on the body, and a verdict of wilful murder rendered in the case.

Another Reported Yankee Raid

[From the Richmond Enquirer, August 27.]

A report prevailed in Lynchburg, Va., on Monday morning, that a body of Yankees, variously estimated at from five to ten thousand, was again threatening the salt works and the Tennessee Railroad, in the vicinity of New river bridge. The report was generally believed to be well founded, and the force at Lynchburg was ordered to be in readiness to answer any call which might be made.

A Rebel Piratical Organization.

The following advertisement is from the columns of the Richmond *Examiner* of the 24th ult:—

VIRGINIA VOLUNTEER NAVY COMPANY.

Having secured the services of a commander, of ten years' naval experience, the Board has determined to commence operations forthwith, and for that purpose requires the subscriptions to be paid up immediately. Persons desiring to subscribe are urged to do so without delay, as the books will be closed as soon as the capital is made up. J. L. APPERSON, Treasurer.

It would seem from the above notice that the rebels are about issuing letters of marque to private companies, and that they have their mind's eye fixed on one of the many privateer vessels now fitting out in England to prey upon our commerce.

The Price of Newspaper Literature in the South.

The Montgomery (Ga.) *Mail* says:—We observe that the newspapers of Atlanta, Ga., have just been advancing their rates, which are now as follows:—

Daily papers per month	$3 00
Daily papers per copy	20
To news dealers, per copy	12½

No subscriptions received for more than two months. Advertisements two dollars per square for the first insertion, and one dollar and fifty cents for each continuance.

Headquarters of General Pillow.

The Montgomery (Ga.) *Mail* of the 18th inst says:—The headquarters of General Pillow have been transferred from Marietta, Ga., to Columbus, Miss. The Selma papers mention that he passed through that town on his way to the latter place some days ago.

Trenchery in the Camp.

The Augusta *Sentinel* says that one of the Brooks guns lately forwarded from Richmond to Charleston was found to have been spiked on its arrival at the latter place.

Our St. Louis Correspondence.

ST. LOUIS, August 26, 1863.

Who is Quantrell?—Retaliation Proposed—Horrors of Guerilla War—Important General Order—Gen. Ewing Awake—Big Robbery, &c.

The Lawrence massacre still excites public attention. A meeting of merchants was held here yesterday to make arrangements for raising funds to relieve the sufferers. Sub-committees were appointed to collect funds and provisions.

Quantrell, or Quantril, the leader of the rebels in this horrible affair, has been frequently mentioned in the HERALD correspondence, is a dangerous man. He is an Ohioan by birth, and kept a school in Westport several months. He is about five feet ten inches in height, weighs about one hundred and sixty pounds, and well proportioned throughout. He is keen and unscrupulous. Had it been for his interest to join the Union side he would have done so without hesitation. He first appeared on the scene as a guerilla leader in December, 1861, and ever since has been more or less active. He has made frequent raids into Kansas on a small scale, and defied pursuit in Western Missouri. Nearly all of his gang have joined him in Jackson county, and the outrages on the Union people of the border form a thrilling chapter of the horrors of war. Some time ago Quantrell was in Richmond, Va., and made a speech, in which he boasted of having killed seventy Yankees with his own hands—a highly meritorious performance in the estimation of the rebels.

The question of retaliation for the burning of Lawrence is already mooted. Jeff. Davis is responsible for this gross violation of the laws of war. Quantrell has a Colonel's commission from the rebel War Department to raise, arm, equip and subsist a band of partisan rangers. His last crime is simply murder—wanton murder. No troops were stationed at Lawrence, and the raid was prompted by an infernal spirit of malice towards the property of Union men.

The great express robbery in this city on the night of the 23d or morning of the 24th caused considerable excitement. The United States Express Company is a sufferer by this adroit robbery to the tune of $60,000, but is abundantly able to sustain the loss. The details show culpable carelessness in leaving one of the windows open; but the grossest part of the affair was allowing a clerk to sleep with the safe key under his pillow. The robbers applied chloroform to the clerk and porter, and easily effected the robbery. They are safe as far as heard from with their booty. Detectives were notified before a single train left the city, but it is believed the money is lost irrevocably, as not the slightest trace of it has been discovered.

Guerilla uprisings are reported in all parts of North Missouri. Yesterday the telegraph operator at Sturgeon, on the North Missouri Railroad, notified the superintendent that the Union men were fleeing from that neighborhood on account of guerillas, and that he would not remain there. A large force of cavalry has been started from various points north and south to hunt up Cobb's guerillas. Cobb is second only to Quantrell in guerilla experience in Missouri, and if allowed to escape will cause trouble. He is reported now to have three hundred men in the saddle under his command. Guerilla outrages are innumerable. Guerillas rise up and disappear with the quickness of night and day.

General Schofield has issued a spirited general order warning all rebels returned from the South that, unless they surrender as prisoners of war, and are released under proper restrictions, they will be treated as outlaws. He authorizes Union citizens to bear arms in self-defence. General Schofield promises rebels who lay down their arms, and take an oath of allegiance, and give bond for good behavior hereafter, that they shall be released. This is deemed by some to be a violation of a general order of the War Department forbidding the release of rebel prisoners who take the oath of allegiance, unless they prove that they were impressed into rebel service, which very few Missouri rebels can do. The General threatens severe punishment to bushwhackers.

General Ewing, who commands the Kansas district and the western counties of this State, not only orders all armed bushwhackers to be shot down on sight, and their families sent South through our lines, but he promises all negroes belonging to disloyal persons that they shall have free passes and military protection across the river into Kansas if they apply to his headquarters in Kansas City. With General Ewing on their track on one side, and Jim Lane, Jennison, and all the rougher spirits of "bloody Kansas" on the other, the rebels of Western Missouri, if there are any left, will feel the iron heel of war very effectually. Negroes, whether belonging to loyal or disloyal masters, will be as valueless as stock in the celebrated moon hoax.

It is pleasant amid these scenes of carnage and woe caused by rebels to find one instance of really remarkable honesty on the part of a rebel. Such an instance is in my lot to record. The roommate of Mr. J. P. Dunn, the deceased correspondent of the HERALD, who died below Helena very suddenly, was a rebel prisoner named John D. Murphy, *en route* to St. Louis on parole. When Mr. Dunn's effects were removed from the boat at Helena his watch and fob chain were overlooked, having been left in his berth. After the boat left Helena Mr. Murphy found the watch and retained it in his possession, expecting to notify the HERALD of the fact. He was sent to Gratiot street prison on arriving here, and accidentally heard of the whereabouts of a HERALD correspondent, whom he sought for, and after satisfying the authorities it was all straight, promptly handed over the watch for transmission to Mr. Dunn's family. As no person knew anything of the watch but himself, and as detection was impossible, had he kept it, the honesty of the prisoner Murphy is highly commendable. He has taken the oath of allegiance and promises to conduct himself as a loyal citizen henceforth. The word of such a man, though a rebel heretofore, may be relied upon.

Several politicians were badly sold yesterday. A morning paper announced the arrival of Major General U. S. Grant from Vicksburg (Mrs. General Grant was intended), and during the day a fine brass band was hired, speeches prepared and arrangements made for a serenade. When night came the mistake was evident and the serenade was deferred.

Several steamboat captains have disgraced themselves on this river recently by a very contemptible practice. They engage contrabands down the river as deck hands, promising to pay them on arrival here. When the boats reach St. Louis the contrabands are turned ashore and payment refused. Measures have been taken to correct this abuse.

Information has been received that Colonel Cloud, of the Twelfth Kansas, with a force of mounted men, is on his way from Cassville, Mo., to the Indian country, to open communication for reinforcements from Springfield for General Blunt. Nothing had been heard from the latter of later date than August 10, when his situation was not at all encouraging.

Our markets are now supplied with the choicest fruits—peaches, pears, grapes, plums, &c., from Illinois and Missouri. The Southern cities along the river, instead of supplying the North with peaches, are being supplied this year from the North. The sutlers are shipping peaches to Vicksburg, Port Hudson, &c., by the hundred boxes by every steamer.

The weather is quite cool for the season, the air having changed twenty-six degrees in twenty four hours.

The investigation concerning the steamer Ruth has developed just nothing at all.

A BIG BLAST.—The Lake Superior *News* notices a remarkable blast which took place near Marquette a few days since. It says:—The most remarkable blast in the history of iron mining took place at the Lake Superior mine a short time since. In ordinary ones but one and a half inch hole in diameter is drilled, but in this case one of four inches and eighteen feet deep was made, distant from the edge of the cliff about ten feet, into which one keg of powder was put and exploded in a preliminary, on which had the effect to open a space to the depth of fifty feet. Sixteen kegs of powder were then put in at a fine charge, which threw down over three thousand tons of ore so completely broken up that the large fragments were small enough to load in the cars. The amount which can further be stated. This is certainly the last big thing.

Our Pontoons in Virginia.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

WASHINGTON, D. C., 1863.

In your paper is an article on the subject of pontoon bridges. In the opening sentence of that article you state "that the terrible disasters at Fredericksburg and other places, which resulted in such slaughter and disgrace to the Union, were caused by the abominable abortions called pontoons."

You also go on to state that "in this particular all the world is ahead of us!" that Great Britain, Germany and Russia have adopted a much better system, which came from an American, and which consists of light corrugated iron wagon bodies of such dimension and form as to serve as a wagon for the transportation of supplies—a boat with which the troops can cross rivers—a raft to carry heavy ordnance; but, most important of all, as a bridge.

You then ask, "Why is it that this or some better system was not, immediately after the late disasters, substituted for the miserable wooden scows, called pontoons, projected by imbeciles, under the Secretary of War, and which have carried such desolation to every family?"

If the people of this country could be made to believe that our recent disasters were caused by our system of pontoon bridges, that this system was projected "by imbeciles under the Secretary of War," and that this wicked abortion must continue to be made "to serve private interests, regardless of consequences," there can be no doubt but that they would at once demand a reform in this branch of our service; that the "imbeciles" should at once be disgraced, and that all "private interests" growing out of the present system should be sacrificed. Such, indeed, would appear to be the object of your article.

Now, Mr. Editor, I think you have been misinformed on this subject, and as I am responsible more than any other person for the system of pontoon bridges which we have in our service, and as the whole army knows that I am responsible, I must beg your indulgence while I undertake to correct the errors into which you may have inadvertently been led.

The questions which the public care to have answered are these:—

1. Are we behind the age in our system of pontoon bridges? I maintain that we are not.

2. Is our system the best that is known to the nations of Europe? I maintain that it is.

3. Was due inquiry made as to what was the best system of pontoon bridges now in use in England, France, Russia, Austria, Prussia and the German States before our present system of pontoon bridges was adopted? I maintain that it was.

4. Can this system be improved? I answer, all analogy teaches us that it can be, and that it will be hereafter.

5. Was the mechanical ingenuity of our people invited to improve, or suggest improvements, before this system of bridges was finally determined upon? I maintain that it was.

6. Is the War Department, or the persons, whether "imbeciles" or not, who are acting under it, now ready to adopt an improved system of military bridges if one can be found? I maintain that it is both ready and willing to do so.

A simple statement of the facts in the case will be the easiest way to show the grounds upon which I base my answers to these questions.

In the month of September, 1861, General McClellan sent for me and told me that he wanted me to get up ten or twelve bridge trains for our armies. I had not asked for this duty; I had simply to obey orders. I knew something of the subject before undertaking it, and I had the assistance of Captain Duane, of the Corps of Engineers, who had given it as much attention, both practically and theoretically, as any other man in the country. The General told me that he did not wish to "tie my hands," that he thought it best not to give me positive orders in writing—usually done in military matters—as to what I should do in the performance of this duty. He advised me to look well into the system of bridges now in use in Europe, and adopt such, or such combinations of several, as I thought best, with any improvements that might be suggested, keeping in view all the time the character of the rivers to be crossed, particularly in Virginia, the fact that the country was wooded, and therefore afforded materials for more substantial bridges than could be made by pontoons; that there would be great mechanical skill in the army, and that it would be supplied with all necessary tools.

Such, in general terms, were my instructions, and I set about executing them. After examining the different systems of military bridges then in use in Europe, I came to the conclusion that the French was the best. I accordingly adopted the French pontoon as the basis of our system. For this conclusion I respectfully protest against being called an "imbecile under the Secretary of War."

My own researches had led me to believe that the French pontoon was the best boat then used in making military bridges. The experiments that had been made with it at West Point had led Captain Duane to the same conclusion; and, besides this, General McClellan was of the same opinion. Now, General McClellan at that time probably had more knowledge of pontoon bridges than any other man in the United States. He had for many years been on duty, as an officer, with our only company of engineer soldiers at West Point. He there thoroughly studied the subject of pontoon bridges, both theoretically and practically. He afterwards travelled all over Europe, during the Crimean war, and examined the different kinds of military bridges then in use, giving the subject his particular attention. With all his knowledge about pontoon bridges, he concided in opinion with Captain Duane and myself, and, if imbecility must be charged to the employes of the War Department, he must share it with us.

It should be stated, however,