

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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Volume XXVIII.....No. 263

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING. NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—Orpheus.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—Hamlet.

NEW HEBREW THEATRE, Bowery.—Night Demon.

ROBERTS THEATRE, Bowery.—The Merry Wives of Windsor.

BARON'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—The Egyptian.

RYAN'S MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broadway.

WOOD'S MINSTREL HALL, 54 Broadway.—The Egyptian.

AMERICAN THEATRE, No. 44 Broadway.—Salome.

IRVING HALL, Irving Place.—The Stereotype.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 69 Broadway.

HOOVER'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—The Egyptian.

New York, Monday, September 21, 1863.

IMPORTANT BATTLE IN GEORGIA.

A desperate engagement between the forces under General Rosecrans and the rebels took place during the forenoon of Saturday last near Chattanooga. The rebel attack was made on the Union left in force, and on the right by a feint. The fight on the left was of a very desperate character and the rebels were repulsed; but on being reinforced regained their position, from which they were not again driven until after a severe engagement of an hour and a half. The Union troops then charged upon the retreating rebels with good effect.

About two o'clock in the afternoon a fierce attack was made by the rebels on the Union center, driving it and scattering the troops. The wings of Rosecrans' forces then closed upon the center, and after a hard fight received the lost ground. The whole general engagement, which was almost entirely fought with musketry, lasted about seven hours.

The plan of the rebels was to get between Rosecrans' army and Chattanooga, but in this maneuver they were completely foiled. They were commanded by Generals Hill, Polk, Longstreet and Johnston. The fight was expected to be renewed on Sunday. Advice from the Potomac Army states that Ewell's corps has also gone in this direction.

Our map will be found very useful in showing the locality of the scene of strife.

THE SITUATION.

Skirmishing still continues along the banks of the Rapidan between the Union cavalry of Meade's army and the rebels. It is currently reported among the troops of the Union army that Lee's forces had gone south en masse, and it is said that this fact had been definitely ascertained by the Union scouts and by advice direct from Richmond. Ewell's corps is said without doubt to have gone to the reinforcement of the rebel army opposed to Rosecrans.

The statement of a refugee from Richmond puts us in possession of Southern news that cannot be gleaned from the rebel journals. From it we learn that the shells from the marsh battery of General Gillmore did some considerable damage to the city and created a general alarm. It also appears certain that the rebels have determined not to surrender Charleston; but prefer rather that it shall be destroyed entirely either by the Union missiles or their own torches. Our map designates the positions where the four shells fell into the city.

One of our Washington correspondents furnishes us with certain statements of an extraordinary character made to him by a gentleman recently arrived from Richmond. It is to the effect that an alliance has actually been made between the French Emperor and the rebel confederacy, by which the former undertakes to supply his navy and an army of three hundred thousand men to the service of the confederacy, and the latter agrees to turn over to him the whole of the trans-Mississippi region—when it can get it.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

Our European files by the steamship Danubius, from Liverpool on the 3d of September, reached this city yesterday evening. The contents of the papers have been fully anticipated by the mails of the Arabia and City of Cork.

Our correspondent in Atlanta—in the Danish Duchy of Holstein—sends us an important letter, dated on the 15th of August, on the subject of the critical state of the relations which exist just now between Denmark and the duchies of Schleswig and Holstein, and which, it is expected, will produce a renewal of the war between the King's government and the dependencies—a conflict which may in the end involve the great Powers of Europe. The King of Denmark agrees with and approves of the action of the King of Prussia to

wards the late German Congress; while the duchies—Holstein, particularly, with its German population—support the Austrian propositions for a reform of the Bund. Prussia and Denmark being absent the German constitution could not be changed, as a unanimous vote of the Bund is required for that purpose. In return the German Princes have demanded of Denmark the restoration of the provincial form of government, both to Schleswig and Holstein. Denmark has replied that this will be effected only at the point of the bayonets of the Germans. She seeks to ally herself with Sweden to prevent it; and a great civil struggle, even a European war, may ensue from the facts stated by our correspondent.

We give to-day a very interesting and conclusive statement from Colonel Sir Percy Wyndham, the brilliant cavalry officer of the Army of the Potomac, in reply to a communication published in the Herald on Wednesday last, signed "Percy B. Wyndham, M. P."

The Lindell Hotel, now nearly completed, in St. Louis, will be the largest on this continent, and will exceed in dimensions any other hotel in the world, except one in France. It will cost five hundred thousand dollars, is 275 feet front, 237 feet deep, seven stories high, and will be capable of accommodating one thousand four hundred guests.

The draft in Albany, which was to have commenced on the 15th, has been postponed. General Ben. F. Loan, member of Congress elect in Missouri, has given up the sword and opened a law office in St. Joseph.

Emancipation movements are very lively in Missouri. Slaves go into Kansas at the rate of one hundred and fifty a day.

The stock market was dull on Saturday, but very strong, especially on New York Central. Gold rose to 135 and exchange to 118 1/2. Money was only at 4 per cent for call loans.

Cotton was active and advancing on Saturday. Flour, wheat and corn were more sought after and higher in price. Provisions were firm, with a fair inquiry. Whiskey was heavy and a trifle cheaper. Coffee, tannin and molasses were in moderate demand, while sugars were in brisk request at rising prices. There was more doing in hay, hops, wool, tallow and tobacco, which were quoted firmer. Hides, leather and skins were in fair demand. Man's hemp was inquired for. Fish attracted more attention. There was less activity in the freight market.

Important from Rosecrans—Severe Battle near Chattanooga.

The news from Chattanooga, given in another column, is important. The great conflict in that section between Rosecrans' Union army and the combined rebel forces of Johnston, Bragg, Hill, Longstreet and Polk, began on Saturday morning, and is probably in progress now. The first day's fighting was in our favor. For some days past the reports and rumors of the depletion of the rebel army of Virginia, to strengthen Bragg in Georgia and Beauregard at Charleston, have been thickening upon us, until at length they are magnified into the statement, at Fortress Monroe, that the enemy are evacuating Richmond. Nor do we think this information to a certain extent incredible, considering the present desperate situation of the rebellion, although we adhere to the opinion that Richmond and Virginia will not be surrendered without another struggle.

We have heretofore explained to our readers the vital importance to the rebellion of those lines of railroads which centre at Atlanta, Georgia—that with that point in the possession of Rosecrans, and with Charleston in the possession of Gillmore, the Davis confederacy will be cut in two again as effectually as it was divided upon our reopening of the Mississippi river. In this connection we have shown the danger to the rebel establishment in Virginia from the active and unmistakable reactionary Union movements which are agitating the people of North Carolina, and the urgent necessity on the part of General Lee either to advance once more against Washington or to detach at least a portion of his army to the relief of Bragg and Beauregard. Any intelligent observer of the late events of the war will now perceive that Lee cannot afford to stand simply upon the defensive, watching the movements of the Union army in his front, while Rosecrans, Burnside, Gillmore, Foster and the people of North Carolina threaten his destruction from the rear.

Hence we believe these numerous concurrent reports from Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia, that Bragg's army has been materially strengthened from the army of Lee, and that a desperate effort will be made to crush the army of Rosecrans or to prevent its further advance. But it does not follow that to secure this object Richmond and Virginia are to be absolutely abandoned. On the contrary, while it is probable that the local demands of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi for their own troops for their own defence have resulted in the movement of those troops to the assistance of Bragg, Johnston and Beauregard, we do not think it probable that the forty or fifty thousand rebel soldiers in Virginia, whose homes are in that State, have been, or will consent to be, employed in the defence of a confederacy which involves the abandonment of Virginia to the "old Union." We know that when Bragg abandoned Tennessee his soldiers from that State abandoned him by hundreds and by thousands. They had been fighting for a Southern confederacy; but what was this confederacy to them with Tennessee left out in the cold? The same was the case in Kentucky and Missouri, and more recently in Mississippi, with the overthrow of the rebel armies therein.

We conclude, therefore, that the Virginia soldiers of the rebel army will remain in Virginia still to fight for their sinking cause, while they concede the justice of allowing their confederates from Georgia, &c., to return home to defend their States against the invading "Yankees." This arrangement may involve the removal of the rebel government from Virginia to some safer point farther southward; but still the advance to an occupation of Richmond by General Meade will be stoutly contested by the rebel forces belonging to Virginia. Thus the rebel leaders may calculate that the advance of Meade upon Richmond, and beyond that city, may at least be delayed until the heavily reinforced columns of Johnston and Bragg shall have destroyed the army of Rosecrans, and in season for a junction of Johnston and Bragg with Lee and his Virginia veterans for the destruction of Meade and a victorious march upon Washington.

This, in all probability, is the present programme of Jeff. Davis. It is a desperate game; but it holds out the possibility of a rescue, and it is the very best game which the desperate situation of Jeff. Davis will justify. In this view, therefore, we recognize the importance of vigorous measures on the part of General Meade and the co-operating Union forces on the Richmond peninsula. A range of fortified hills on the Rapidan, occupied by detachments of the enemy, should not, we are inclined to think, be allowed to delay the advance of General Meade, when by a flank

movement, he can at once make himself master of the position. Our correspondent at Newbern, N. C., advises us of a large and very mysterious increase of the rebel forces in that State. We suspect that this increase is from the army of Lee, and en route to Georgia. We have great confidence in the skill and sagacity of General Meade; but we cannot forget how Joe Johnston slipped out of the Shenandoah valley, nor how Beauregard slipped away from Corinth, nor the consequences which followed at Bull Run and at Richmond.

Now is the time for action. If he is not in Richmond before December, experience has shown that General Meade will be embroiled in the muddy soil of Virginia till May. In the meantime the late conjectures of a probable treaty of alliance, offensive and defensive, between Jeff. Davis and Louis Napoleon are beginning to assume the shape of positive and circumstantial statements. Thus it is at length announced that, for the equivalent of Texas, Alexander H. Stephens, the so-called Vice President of the so-called Confederate States, has secured from Louis Napoleon the promise of his armed co-operation, to the extent of three hundred thousand men, in behalf of the independence of said confederacy. And why not? What is Texas to Jeff. Davis or to his confederacy while he holds the Mississippi? And what is Mexico to Napoleon with the Union restored? And why is it that, with the armies of the rebellion defeated, routed and retreating on every side, their leading newspaper organs should still be so defiant and confident of the final result as ever, if they do not confidently count upon a rescue by Napoleon, with the consent of England? How is Napoleon to back out of Mexico without disgrace? How can he hold Mexico without a bargain with Davis, including Texas?

Let Bragg and Johnston be sufficiently strengthened from Lee to overthrow the army of Rosecrans, and let this disaster be the consequence of this conjunction, and we may expect it to be accepted by Louis Napoleon as a sufficient justification for armed intervention in support of Davis. At all events, with Rosecrans down in Georgia, between the great rebel Army of Virginia and two or three armies concentrating in his front, his success, and the speedy success of the Union cause, depend upon the superior fighting qualities of his troops and the Army of the Potomac. The news which we publish this morning from Chattanooga is of the most cheering character, and the telegraph to-day may bring despatches telling of a decisive victory of Rosecrans over Johnston and Bragg.

THE RELIGIOUS ELEMENT IN OUR ARMY.—The English journals cannot conceal their mortification at the fact that the young men of Ireland prefer coming out to enlist in our army to remaining to garner the harvests of their revilers and oppressors. The consequence is that their unusually abundant crops will this year be partially lost from the want of hands to gather them in. The English have themselves to thank for this. Although Catholic disabilities have been nominally removed, they are still, as regards the English army, practically in force. The Irish soldier, but especially the Catholic, has no chance of promotion in it. His religion is an effectual bar to his advancement, and there are but few instances of the brave Irishmen who have fought the battles of England on so many bloody fields being raised from the ranks. Here the case is different. Our constitution recognizes no religious disabilities, and the Roman Catholic, the Universalist and the Jew stand upon the same footing as the Protestant. So little is even prejudice allowed to interfere with the religious rights of the American citizen that it was only the other day, in a dispute for precedence between the ministers of different persuasions, one of our military commanders decided in favor of a rabbi, on the ground that the Jewish was the most ancient of the creeds.

It is extraordinary, then, that Irishmen, who have a natural taste for the military career, should prefer a service in which there are neither national nor religious obstacles to their advancement? They have seen many of their own countrymen, since the commencement of the war, rise from the humblest to the highest positions in our army. And so far is Catholicism from being a barrier to the promotion of the deserving soldier that four of our most important military departments are commanded by Roman Catholics—namely, South Carolina, by General Gillmore; North Carolina and Eastern Virginia, by General Foster; the Army of the Cumberland, by General Rosecrans; and the Army of the Potomac, by General Meade. These distinguished officers set an example in their personal habits which we wish was more generally imitated. Before Gen. Gillmore went to South Carolina he might have been seen regularly receiving the sacrament at the Roman Catholic church of St. Peter's, Brooklyn; and one of the first acts of General Rosecrans after the success of his brilliant strategic operations in Tennessee was to have a high mass celebrated in Cincinnati in devout thankfulness for the favor accorded to his efforts by an all-ruling Providence. With such facts before them it is not surprising that young Irishmen should be eager to embrace a military career in this country. They are the only recruiting agents that the United States has employed at the other side, the assertions of English Tory journals and seceder organs to the contrary notwithstanding. If England were to treat Irishmen with but common justice the inducements to emigration which are stripping the United Kingdom of its best fighting material and field labor would not now be operating in such force.

THE CROPS.—In another column will be found a brief summary of the condition of the crops for the month of August, extracted from the last monthly report of the Commissioner of Agriculture. It will be seen that but for the frost of the 30th of August the crops of corn, tobacco, sorghum and buckwheat, would all have been excellent. The general average injury from the blight in question is calculated at about one-third, or thirty-three per cent; but this is believed to be greatly above the mark. The September circular will give us the result more accurately, and it is hoped that the above estimate will be greatly reduced by it. The flax crop is uninjured, and will, it is expected, reach a general average of one hundred and twenty per cent more than that of last year. Of the injury done to cotton in the States which are experimenting in its culture we have nothing specific in this report. The speculations that have been published on the subject must therefore be accepted with reserve.

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The News from Sabine Pass—Perry and Caldwell Opposed to Fortifications. It has long been an established fact that wooden ships, armed even with the heaviest ordnance, cannot be successfully opposed to fortifications constructed of stone, brick, or iron earth. When we speak of wooden ships we refer to properly constructed men-of-war, vessels that are as perfect as can be made for the purpose for which they are intended. History furnishes no instances of forts being destroyed by ships where the guns ashore were equal in number and calibre to those afloat. The attack on the fortifications of Sobotopol by the combined squadrons of France and England fully demonstrated the folly of attempting to demolish, or even materially injure, works of such magnitude with ships, although of the heaviest class.

The bombardment of the Fortress of Kinbura, in Russia, by the same squadrons, was more successful, because, for the first time in naval warfare, iron-clad floating batteries were employed, which were proof against any ordnance in use at the time. The work was compelled to surrender, not, however, without inflicting serious injury to the wooden vessels engaged in the attack. The works at Hatteras Inlet and Fort Royal were compelled to surrender by an attack made with wooden vessels, but only for the reason of the ships being kept in motion, thus destroying the accuracy of the fire from the guns ashore, and on account of the superior number and calibre of the armament brought to bear against forts that were armed only on barbets, exposing the gunners to the hail storm of bullets that was hurled against them.

With all the experience we have had, not only in all former wars, but in the present, we do not appear to have profited much by it. We yesterday gave an interesting account of the capture of the United States steamer Clifton and Sackem by the rebel forces at Sabine Pass, because of their having been disabled by the fire of heavy batteries on shore. That the public may know the character of the vessels composing the naval part of the expedition for the invasion of Texas, and how utterly unfitted they were for the work to be performed, it may be well to say that the Clifton was an old States Island ferryboat, the Sackem a flimsy propeller, the Arizona a side-wheel steamer, and the Granite City a captured English blockade runner. In all these vessels the boilers and machinery were above the water line, exposed to shot and shell, and it was by reason of injury to these—the only propelling power of the two vessels—that they fell into the hands of the enemy. It may be well also to state that the channel over the bar and into Sabine is very narrow and intricate, and the water there shoals, not being over eight feet at high tide.

Here we have a case in which the success of a military expedition, composed of several thousand men, depended upon the work of four small and comparatively worthless steamers. They were expected to engage and destroy the fortifications of sand bags—none the weaker for that, however—and effect an entrance, in order that the troops might land and establish a foothold. What was the consequence? Not only was the entire affair a failure, but we lose two vessels, their officers and crews, and furnish the enemy with fourteen heavy guns wherewith to make their position far stronger than ever it has been. It may be said, however, that there were no other vessels in the Western Gulf squadron fitted for the duty. This is true. But why make an attempt with such material, when it must have been known that every chance was against success? We do not know who is responsible for this failure, nor do we care to inquire at present. Rip Van Winkle Welles must be informed on the subject, and all we ask is that he may profit by the experience thus afforded, and, before permitting again any such wild goose chase, provide such vessels as are fitted to carry on the projected operations with some slight hope of being successful, and not let us hear again of canal and ferry boats being opposed to strong earthwork fortifications.

DIFFERENCE IN THE TREATMENT OF UNION AND REBEL PRISONERS.—In another column will be found a revolting account of the manner in which Captains Sawyer and Flynn—the two Union officers under sentence of death at Richmond—are treated by their rebel jailors. It is furnished by a young officer recently released from the Libby prison, and is no doubt reliable. Those unfortunate gentlemen are, it appears, confined in a sort of wooden cage, measuring six feet by eight, light and air being only admitted through an aperture in the ceiling about a foot square, through which also their food is passed. The condition of this den is described to be horrible, no arrangements being made for either cleaning or ventilating it. What a contrast is this to the treatment of General Lee and Captain Winder, held by us as hostages for the safety of those unfortunate officers. Not only have they every comfort in the way of food and clothing, but they are taken out regularly every day for exercise, and have even their cigars and tobacco furnished them. The barbarous manner in which Union prisoners have been treated since the commencement of the war will reflect eternal disgrace on the Southern chivalry. And this is done under the directions of a ruler who is always denouncing Northern inhumanity, and who rivals Oliver Cromwell in his sanctimonious invocations to the Almighty. How any cause can expect the blessings of Heaven which is stained by so much hypocrisy and cruelty is difficult for us God-fearing people of the North to understand.

ENGLISH JEALOUSY OF AMERICAN RIVALRY.—We publish elsewhere a remarkable statement from the foreman and delegation of the Manhattan Steam Fire Engine Company, who went to England on the invitation of the Chief of the London Fire Brigade, to compete at the recent "contest between the steam fire engines of the world." No parallel can be found for the meanness and trickery practised towards the American company on this occasion, except that which has marked the conduct of the English government and press towards us as a people since the commencement of the war. It will stir the blood of every American to think that any portion of our countrymen should have been seduced by expectations of fair treatment into such a trap. It is plain that we shall have to do with the English as we are doing with the rebels—namely, whip them into respect and commonly decent treatment of us.

MEADE'S ARMY.

Continued Skirmishing Along the Front.

POSITION OF THE REBEL LINE.

Troops from Lee's Army Moving Southward Through Richmond.

Ewell's Corps Gone to Reinforce Bragg.

Mr. F. G. Chapman's Despatches. HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Sept. 20, 1863. RECEIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

Yesterday was a quiet day with the Army of the Potomac. We lost three even skirmishes were shot between the lines of Lee and Lee P. M., as follows:—Elwin Elliott, Company B, Fourteenth Connecticut, and George Joy, alias Charles Eastman, of the same regiment, shot in the second corps; Private George Van, Company B, Twelfth New York infantry; Corporal Jacob Wierda, Company G, One Hundred and Nineteenth New York, in the Seventh corps; Privates Cornelius Smith, Company K, Seventy-eighth New York, William Smith, Company K, Seventy-eighth New York, and Albert Jones, Company K, Third Maryland, in Twelfth corps.

There was considerable heavy firing yesterday in the direction of Raccoon ford, on the Rapidan, but I cannot learn the result of it. The Rapidan raised several feet yesterday, and it would seem impossible for either our own or the rebel army to cross to either bank until it recedes. The rebels appear to be preparing to contest the occupancy of the country south of the river to the last ditch; but what we can learn of their movements must not be taken as certainly indicating their designs, nor need people be disappointed if so great battle takes place immediately in this vicinity. The rain yesterday and Thursday has so softened the roads and swollen the small streams as to render land transportation extremely tedious, and some delay will be inevitable.

I had a vastly improved state of health about noon I was here a year ago with General Pope. The rebel people are not so sanguine of success now, and my own were then rabidly in favor of fighting to the last man, but I had a very different state of mind. This change in sentiment may be partly ascribed to the presence of a few anti-rebellious Virginians, chief among whom is John Lincoln Bots, whose residence is near here.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Sept. 20, 1863. OPERATIONS AT THE FRONT.—This morning there was but little skirmishing at the front yesterday. The storm had cleared away, and we have the promise of a few days of fine weather. The roads are getting in good condition for marching.

Our entire loss in the skirmishes during the past week amounted to only ninety-three men and five officers, killed, wounded and missing, instead of two hundred, as stated in your Washington despatch.

Our troops were never in better condition or more anxious to go forward. Most of the wounded in the recent skirmishes were sent to-day to Washington.

Mr. J. H. Vonburg's Despatches. COLUMBIA COLLEGE, N. Y., Sept. 19, 1863. I have been principally known during the present war in connection with the rocket-like career of Major General Pope as commander of the Army of Virginia. Since that time the vicinity of the town has been almost constantly occupied as the camping ground of Stuart's rebel cavalry, one of the terror of Union pickets and owners of horses in Maryland and Pennsylvania, but whose glory has now apparently forever departed. The doings of much of the equine portion of the force is sufficiently evidenced to the officers in this neighborhood.

The town of Gettysburg and the surrounding country are well known as among the most beautiful in Virginia, to go no farther to seek comparisons. The lovely natural features of the scenery still remain; but in respect to adornments strictly human, and particularly in the town of Gettysburg, the devastations of war are sadly apparent. Like everything which the rebellion has touched, the town is woefully defiled. It is not now by any means a beautiful place, but a very dirty and desolate one.

There are many inhabitants left; but they generally try to keep aloof from the present dominant party, and show, by every means in their power, that they have a truly chivalric detestation of the Yankee race. I have met in this place two conditional Union men, persons of intelligence, to whom has not yet been demonstrated the lovely results of secession. One of these men bewailed the falling off of the inhabitants in respect to morality, which retrogradation he characterized as shocking. Such a state of things as he described is really saddening, but probably an inevitable consequence of the continued occupation of a place by an army, particularly an army of friends, and more especially an army of the chivalry.

A little more than one year ago General John Pope led the newly formed Army of Virginia through this region, his assumption of command being betrayed by a universally echoing blast from the press. Yet among the preparations by which Pope's campaign was to be made the most brilliant of the war, was the order prohibiting any correspondence of the press from accompanying the army. It was long time before the public was well informed in regard to this really and dreadfully disastrous campaign, in consequence of being deprived of accurate information through its usual and trusted source of information—the press. A few days since it was learned that the present campaign was to be inaugurated by similar non-sensational orders respecting the press, the authorized medium between our brave army and the intelligent public in the North, which wishes to know and has a right to know what the army is doing, and whether it is properly geared.

It is certainly a very different man from General Pope for his present campaign may be as much more satisfactory as his personal character is admirable. General Meade is not chargeable with the recent hesitating and timid attempts to prevent the people from knowing the truth in regard to the present campaign. He has no desire to attempt to deceive the people, nor is he desirous to obtain any credit that history will not confirm.

It seems to be a settled and discouraging fact that the moving always keep within the Army of the Potomac. We have no ill-founded conclusions from this, and the heavy storm which commenced last evening and still continues, was to have been longed for at this season, had it not been so early.

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Mr. George H. Hart's Despatches. NEAR THE RAPIDAN, Sept. 19, 1863. A RECONNOISSANCE.

A reconnoissance made this day by Captain Robinson, with a detachment of the Sixteenth Pennsylvania cavalry, discovered the rebels fifteen hundred strong, at Ely's Ford, on the side of the Rapidan. The disparity of numbers of course precluded the captain from making any demonstrations, but he, however, succeeded in capturing three prisoners. The rebels are not believed to be in force across the Rapidan.

Our Washington Despatches. WASHINGTON, Sept. 20, 1863. A lady who has just reached Washington from Richmond confirms the report of the passage through General Meade's army. It was generally conceded when she left that the destination of these troops was the Southwest, where the rebel authorities hope by a bold coup to recover some of the ground they have recently lost there. Meade has recovered from his wounds and is as active as ever.

Theaterial. Manager Jackson begins his fall and winter season at the Winter Garden this evening. We suppose that he will conduct it with his "customary liberality." Mr. A. H. Davenport will be stage manager. Mr. John O'Grady leads the orchestra. Mr. Jackson, the second, attends to the treasury department, and we hope he will have plenty to do. Mr. Edwin Booth is the first star, and appears in "Hamlet" this evening. It is almost his worst part, as an artistic point of view, but it draws money. Mr. Booth will be heartily welcomed.

Mr. Forrest plays Othello to-night at Niblo's Garden for the last time this season. We are very glad to hear it. We can cordially praise Mr. Forrest in melodramatic parts like Motamor and Spartacus; and it is much to be regretted that he is not in Shakespearean parts, and it is much to be regretted for all concerned that he should rather prefer the latter. Mr. Forrest is losing that vigor which used to cover all his defects and redeem them by his physical peculiarities. His Hamlet and Othello now excite smiles instead of admiration. Let him confine himself to those melodramatic characters which he has fairly created and he will be as immortal as he desires to be, and will draw crowded houses up to the very night before the day of Judgment.

At the same theatre Bradman repeats his Harlowe this week for the last time. We are not glad to hear this. The play is admirable, and Mr. Bradman's acting is so fresh, natural and powerful as to excite the attention and admiration of even the most fastidious gentlemen. After Bradman we are to have Festal, who will make her first appearance in English drama on the 25th inst. The play will be "Goneril, the Jewish Father," translated from the French of Moliere by Misses Haven. Mr. Robert Stoopel has composed the incidental music, which consists of three songs by Ventrali and a Sea Chorus, and "The Duke's Motet" at the conclusion of this engagement.

Mr. Wallace announces that he will shortly reopen his theatre, "repeated, reformed and re-reformed." "Shorty" means next Monday, we believe. As to the refiging, it is not that "gilding refined gold." Mr. Motamor seems Stoopel's piece in the orchestra. Miss Ann Burke and Mr. Day have been added to the company. Miss Burke is very pretty and very clever, but why Mr. Day? The opening piece is a new drama by a well known author, who has suddenly become so modest that he does not want his name mentioned in the Herald at all. In consideration of the extreme rarity of this phenomenon we shall gratify the gentlemen in question. The most of the old-cast members have been retained, and we hear rumors of a young dramatic talent belonging to one of our first families.

Mr. John Wood will open his Olympic theatre about the 10th of October. The house is being altered and refurnished, and will undoubtedly be as handsome as Mrs. Wood herself. Mr. Charles Walker, Mr. Davidge and Mr. Zees are to be members of the Olympic company. The specialty of the theatre will be burlesque, travesty and burlesque, and we hope that Mrs. Wood will cordially attend high comedies and low melodrama—the sky and Charlyth of such an establishment. A revival of the favorite old Olympic, with all the modern improvements, cannot fail to succeed. Paris and London have such theatres, and they are crowded nightly. There is no reason why New York should not be similarly blessed and amused, and of all our actresses Mrs. Wood is the one who has the best capabilities for properly conducting such an institution.

Mr. Mady, having completed his long engagement at the New Bowery, Manager Lindgard now again adds Mrs. W. C. Jones, an admirable actress, to his stock company. She will make her debut this evening, supported by Mr. Boniface and the illustrious Verrecks, the great gymnast, is also engaged, and will perform those wonderful feats which he could not attempt at the Alhambra circus because his trousers could not be properly arranged. Mr. Fox still runs the Ghost at the Old Bowery, and it is attracting such crowded houses that he cannot withdraw it. This may be a matter of regret to conscientious critics; but Mr. Fox does not see it in that light. A melodrama and a capital pantomime complete the programme at the Old Bowery to-night. Certainly this is enough for the money.

At the Park Theatre, Brooklyn, "Beauty and the Beast" will be produced to night. This theatre has made a hit, and promises well. Miss Mary Shaw is the attraction. A new second tier entrance will be arranged shortly. At the Brooklyn Academy of Music Miss Laura Keane begins a series of performances this evening with "Hanks and Fanny." Fog Bottom is one of Miss Keane's best parts. The play is delightful, and will be supported by a good company, who will do ample justice to the comedy. A new burlesque, burlesquing the Ghost, will be brought out on Wednesday. It is written by Mr. Frank Wood, and is called "The Marble Maiden." Miss Keane will build a new theatre in this city next year.

Barum still has his ghosts, his Indians, his snakes and his fishes on exhibition. There is no change in his establishment except what is taken at the door. The New York theatre has achieved a success. The performances are excellent and the house well managed. The "American theatre" has its little ghost, which hundreds of people go to wonder at nightly. The Spectator will be exhibited at Irving Hall after this week. Go early.

Mr. and Mrs. Florence are at the Boston theatre, exhibiting the "hub of the universe" laugh with their farces and burlesques. "Fra Diavolo" has succeeded, as it deserved. Mr. Florence is intimated in this travesty. "Kathleen Mavourneen" are announced for this week. The Florence will appear at the Winter Garden on the 24th of November. Manager Glen is making money at the Norfolk theatre. He has the Ghost and Mr. Neale and Miss Mary Mitchell, and has engaged Mrs. Gladstone, Edwy and the Webb sisters. These sisters will probably produce a new vaudeville by De Nye, called "The Pet of the Family."

Mr. Don Houston writes that his wife (Miss Agnes Robinson) will leave Liverpool for this country on the 14th of October. She has engaged to perform in Boston and Philadelphia during December. If Mrs. Robinson will well received here—and why should she not?—Mr. Houston will probably follow her with several new comedies in his pocket.

Found Drowned at Port Hamilton. FINE HARTUNG, L. I., Sept. 20, 1863. George Bennett had an inquest last afternoon upon the body of a man found lying on the beach. The deceased was about thirty years old, had good teeth, black hair, whiskers under the chin, and was dressed in gray striped pants, gray mixed overalls, plain flannel shirt and coat, shoes the Jersey variety, the vest, "Found drowned."