THE MEMPHIS DAILY APPEAL.

Daily Appeal.

MEMPHIS.

FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 19.

LARGEST CIRCULATION IN THE CITY.

SEE FIRST AND FOURTH PAGES.

For Governor,

ISHAM G. HARRIS.

[Election First Day of August.]

MR. VALLANDIGHAM'S SPEECH.

We publish on our first page this morning, the late bold, fearless and eloquent speech of Mr. VALLANDIGHAM, of Ohio, delivered on the 10th instant in the lower house of the LINCOLN congress. Its ponderous blows no doubt fell upon the ears of the war party with as much force as the Philippic's of DEMOSTHENES before the enemies of Greece; and we bespeak for it the grateful perusal of every southern freeman, who detests tyranny and abhors its unlicensed usurpations as personated in the administration of LINCOLN.

HOW THE YANKEE WAR DEBT IS TO BE LIQUIDATED.

The reckless extravagance of LINCOLN's legislative underlings—as exhibited by the obsequious manner in which they have recently voted the exorbitant demands of their master—may be readily accounted for by an exposition of the new scheme which they have projected for the liquidation of the vast debt that is every day being accumulated in the prosecution of the war. If the people—the hard-working masses—whose daily bread costs them the sweat of their brows, were fully cognizant of the extent of that intolerable and oppressive burden of taxation which will soon fall upon their shoulders after a protracted and profitless conflict with the South, they would at once rise up in the majesty of their might; and hurl from power the present corrupt, vicious and profligate dynasty, with all its kindred abominations.

But by way of putting a quietus upon this slumbering, but none the less fearful, manifestation of popular disaffection, Mr. CHASE, as will be remembered, in that part of his late report on finances relative to the best manner of meeting the expenses of the war, makes a suggestion, whose simplicity and *naiveté* almost challenge our admiration. He meets the financial lion that bestrides his path with a single dash of the pen, in saying that "the property of those engaged in insurrection, or in giving aid and comfort to the insurgents, may properly be made to contribute to the expenditure made necessary by their criminal misconduct. As a part of the punishment due to the guilt of involving the nation in the calamities of civil war, and thereby bringing distress upon so many innocent citizens, congress may justly provide for the forfeiture of the whole or a part of the estates of offenders, and for the payment of the proceeds into the public treasury."

The abolition press, never revolting at anything, however barbarous, dishonorable or unjust, that will strengthen the backbone of tyranny and stimulate their marauders to deeds of vandalism and depredation, have caught at this very modest suggestion with remarkable voracity. The New York *Times*, in an article fully indorsing CHASE's utopian vagary, indulges in the very consolatory reflection that it will be "encouraging" to the country to be reminded that by the law and usage of nations, it is "entirely legitimate to make the property of the citizens of the rebel States, whose wickedness has provoked the war, pay the whole *debt* incurred by the nation in restoring the supremacy of the constitution and laws." It is maintained by this eminently pious sheet that it will be nothing but justice to "inflict a penalty on treason," and that the country will "demand" the recognition of this principle "by a special impost on the property of those traitors who have plunged the government into its present enormous outlays."

By way of adding some degree of earnestness to this new plan of finance, or at least to detract from its jocularity, the *Times* goes on to argue that the debt now being incurred by the Confederate States for the support of their independence, is "clearly without law and valid," and that they will be so treated by LINCOLN's courts. Taking this convenient view of the matter, it is asserted that "when the Union is restored," they will not be a charge upon the people of the seceded States, and it will therefore still be within the ability of the South to make up to the LINCOLN government the loss sustained by it; and that the revenues already devised by our congress, including the export duty on cotton, and all direct taxes, may properly be "diverted by the national congress from the support of treason to the extinguishment of the nation's war debt." The hint is also kindly given us, that this export duty on cotton will thus become "a permanent regulation of American commerce," and it is insisted that, as the English people, who are its chief purchasers, have no fault to find with the imposition of this duty by the Confederate States, it is not to be supposed that they will complain if it is adopted and continued as the settled policy of the LINCOLN government.

This philanthropic journal gives us to understand—despite its maudlin sentimentalism on the negro question—that it will in no wise be amiss for the Washington despotism to lay a special tax on that species of property in the South, which, it asserts, has more than any other been the cause of the present war. With a degree of forbearance and humanitarianism altogether unlooked for from such a source, the *Times* agrees to be satisfied with confiscating only a part, and not the whole of the estates of the "masses of the people found in arms against the government." This beneficence is explained upon the very plausible theory that its sole object will be, not to crush the industry of the South, but merely to punish us—and that the more innocent people who have been duped into a participation in the southern movement, may be "spared to repent and redeem the country, by honest industry, from the debt they have brought upon it." The "leaders," however, it is to be understood, are to have nothing left to them—"*perhaps*, not even their miscreanous lives."

Such is the very ingenious programme chalked out by the Thugs of abolitiondom for the eventual relief of themselves against the anticipated fruits of their present unaccountable and vicious folly. They are to involve the northern people in an overwhelming national debt, resulting in personal penury and governmental bankruptcy, with the promise that the toil, so recklessly contracted, shall be footed by the South. "It will greatly cheer the loyal States and their citizens," says the journal from which we have above quoted, "to know that the whole debt of $400,000,000 now to be incurred by the government to suppress treason, can and will be drawn ultimately, *every dollar of it*, from the property and industry of those whose wicked acts have made the expenditure necessary."

With such a welcome reflection as this in their heads, it may be expected that the Yankees will continue their atrocious war with increased manifestations of malignity and determination the deeper they are involved in debt, until the hopelessness of their cause shall be demonstrated by the unchallenged success of southern bayonets. The barbarism, inhumanity and brutality of this suggestion—while its feasibility is merely laughed to scorn—should give a renewed stimulus to the unfaltering energy of our people in prosecuting their war of independence. It need be regarded as no idle threat, in case the South should ever be brought again under the degrading yoke of the fiends who make it; but it is the calm, cool and calculating second sober thought of Yankee cupidity, when more rigorous injustice than is even intimated.

Under such peculiar circumstances, we feel confident, the people of the South will give the last tithe they possess, even though it reduce them to penury, for the maintenance of their liberties for their children after them, and for the perpetuation of the great and inalienable right of self-government. And before they will witness the abhorrent spectacle of a subjugated South—brought in as a hand-cuffed vassel at the footstool of a tyrant—they would rather take refuge from disgrace in the universal slaughter and annihilation of themselves and their resources.

JUSTIFIABLE RETALIATION.

The New Orleans *Delta* urges a more rigorous enforcement of retaliatory measures upon the North than the mere withholding of moneys due from the South. Reference is made to the fact that large amounts of property in the South is owned by individuals in the North; and among others of those who are now using their best endeavors to persecute us, the *Delta* mentions Gen. PATTERSON, in command of a large force now advancing on Virginia; Capt. ADAMS, who now commands the squadron which is now depredating on the property of southern citizens, and Dr. WOOD, the surgeon-general of the United States army. These officers own large properties in the South. Gen. PATTERSON holds a large amount of the paper of our planters. He is even now, through his attorney, endeavoring to execute a judgment for $30,000 on a plantation owned by a widow lady in Louisiana. Capt HENRY ADAMS has a large interest in a plantation and negroes, and Surgeon-General WOOD has a large force of negroes working on a plantation in Louisiana. We believe, as does our cotemporary, that there is no good reason why the interests of such prominent enemies to our institutions should be protected by those upon whom they are prosecuting a war which they declare shall be one of "subjugation."

THE VIRGINIA MILITIA.

We learn from the Winchester *Virginian* that there are about 4000 militia from the surrounding country encamped in Winchester, to strengthen the forces of Gen. JOHNSTON. They have promptly responded to the call upon them, without a murmur, leaving their wheat and hay in the swarth, and, in many instances no one left behind to protect their property from destruction. The ordering out of the entire militia is a severe drain in that section of the State, and the *Virginian* trusts that, in justice to all sections, the militia may be grafted, and each county be compelled to furnish the proportion of troops.

The same paper, in referring to Gen. JOHNSTON's position in the neighborhood, says:

This distinguished officer, on Sunday last, resumed his original position, and has again made Winchester his headquarters. He moved forward from here to meet Patterson's command, upward of a week since, and three times offered the invaders a fight; but they, protected by the petticoats at Martinsburg, declined to come out and test the temper of our Southern steel. After fruitless efforts to induce the enemy to give him battle, Gen. Johnston retired with his command to this point, where he is prepared to receive an attack or advance upon the enemy whenever they may be disposed to offer an engagement, without risking the lives of the women and children in Martinsburg.

☞ The force bill passed by the federal congress, in obedience to the behest of Lincoln, places in his hands the military and naval power to collect revenue in cases where there are any unlawful combinations against the laws of the United States; authorize him to close disloyal ports by proclamation, and provides for carrying on trade with any part of a State, as in the case of Virginia, in case of which the secretary of the treasury, as well as the paymaster-general, with respect to commerce and postal accommodations, has already acted.

☞ The county court of White county, Ark., has taken the necessary steps for the thorough and complete organization of the "Home Guard of Minute Men" in each township of the county. Col. L. S. Poe, of West Point, was appointed general commander. Col. Poe will devote his energies to the thorough organization of the Home Guard, and it will be an effective armed force, which will be powerful in case of invasion, and for suppressing and keeping down anything like insurrectionary movements.

☞ In an official proclamation issued by the federal secretary of State, he notifies Tennessee that she is entitled, under the new congressional apportionment, to eight members in the abolition house of representatives. Alabama is allowed six, Florida one, Georgia seven, Louisiana five, Mississippi five, North Carolina seven, South Carolina four, Texas four, and Virginia eleven. When the roll is called it will be found that neither of the States named will respond.

EXTRA SESSION OF THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE.—Gov. Pettus has issued his proclamation convening the legislature in extra session on Thursday, the 25th inst., for the purpose of making some provision to prevent a sacrifice of property by sheriff and other sales, during the existence of the war. We take it for granted that his recommendation will meet with the unanimous approbation of the legislature.

TENT FOR GEN. BEAUREGARD.—A splendid tent with a fine pole, the latter made of South Carolina cypress—both manufactured in Charleston—was sent as a present to General Beauregard by some of the citizens of Charleston a few days since. It is a small evidence, says the *Courier*, of the unanimous sentiment of regard which the Charlestonians have for the general's many noble qualities.

☞ The Charleston *Courier*, of the 16th inst., has the following significant item: "There are many vessels at sea from Southern ports, and the number will be largely increased, concerning whose movements and achievements good policy and patriotism forbid public mention."

A TERRIBLE EFFECT.—One effect of the blockade, the New Orleans *Delta* says, is that "flour is one dollar a barrel cheaper than it has been for ten years." Besides, the quality is a new and superior article brought from the illimitable grain fields of Texas.

☞ Mr. Breckinridge, who, by the customs and courtesies of the Senate, is a member of the committee on military affairs, had his name stricken from the list of members of that committee by the present Republican monopoly.

☞ The total exports of coffee from Rio de Janeiro during the month of May was 101,728 bags. At last accounts from Rio the British bark *Queen of the Eze*, Capt. Maxwell, was loading with 5,000 bags for New Orleans.

☞ The New York *World* publishes a list of twenty-four slave ships captured and brought into that port since November 12, 1857. In twenty two cases the owners or captains of these escaped or were discharged.

☞ The Bridgeport (Conn.) *Farmer* says: "A petition to congress, calling for a national convention, has been recently put in circulation in this city, and has already been numerously signed by men of both parties."

☞ At West Point, Miss., at a small meeting, thirty-five thousand dollars in cotton was contributed to the Confederate States. One man, through hard labor, raised four bales, of which he gave three for the cause.

☞ The southern bank convention which adjourned from Atlanta on the 3rd of June, meets at Richmond on the 24th of this month. Every bank in the Confederate States should be represented on the occasion.

☞ A Western paper says that the troops in Washington have been uproarious lately, owing to too much whisky. They incline to riots, and will be killing somebody next unless the supply is stopped.

☞ A letter from Fort Pickens says that the British war vessels have engaged all the coal to be had at Cuba, and that it will be impossible now to keep the United States vessels in the gulf.

Joint Resolution.

GINIA.

[Special Correspondence of the Appeal.]

The Battle at Rich Hill—Confused Accounts—Col. Hill and the Press—Those that live in glass houses must not throw stones—The Public and the War Department—The Secresy System—Invasion of East Tennessee—Removal of a Postmaster, etc.

RICHMOND, July 16.

The news from the north-west is so confused it is impossible to make out an intelligible account of what has happened. It is only certain, as I wrote you yesterday, that we have met with a serious disaster to a portion of Gen. Garnett's command, under Col. Pegram. All accounts represent it as a most desperate encounter, and the loss on both sides, considering the number we had engaged, was very great. For two hours and a half a force of 250 of our men, with one piece of artillery, kept at bay the advance of the enemy, numbering 3,000, and finally retreated, only when their ammunition was exhausted. Our men were cut literally to pieces. One company, under command of Capt. Carter Irving, lost thirty, including the captain and first lieutenant. The lieutenant in charge of the gun (whose name I cannot now remember) was also killed. The loss of the enemy is variously reported at from 400 to 800. Col. Pegram was wounded, and either killed or captured. The enemy had 10,000 men in the engagement. Pegram's whole command did not exceed 1600. The name of Capt. P. B. Anderson is mentioned as among the killed. This, it is believed, must be an error.

Col. D. H. Hill, commanding the First regiment North Carolina volunteers, who, it will be remembered, acquitted themselves with so much credit at the battle of Bethel, has issued a general order to the corps comprising the army at the post of Yorktown, where he is in command, in which he says: "A general order from the headquarters of the Army forbids newspaper scribblers from giving information to the enemy of the movements of troops, results of battles and skirmishes, the number of forces at particular points, etc.

"This order has been violated to the manifest prejudice of the service. It is, therefore, ordered, that commanders of regiments and detachments use their best exertions to prevent this foolish and pernicious itching for newspaper notoriety."

Now, your readers will remember that this is the same Colonel Hill, whose "itching for notoriety" induced him, immediately after the battle of Bethel, to make to the governor of an adjoining State to that in which the battle occurred, a lengthy and detailed report of the engagement, and the gallant and glorious part he and his regiment bore therein; and that this account was the first official report of the battle which appeared in the public prints. In this self-laudatory report of Col. Hill, (who, by the way, fully deserved all the praise he indirectly lavished upon himself,) by some unaccountable omission, not a word is mentioned of, nor a single allusion made to the presence of Col. Magruder, although it is currently reported and generally believed, that he was present and aiding and assisting, if not commanding in person. Col Hill's report reads for all the world as if the glorious operations of that memorable day had been conceived, undertaken and carried to a successful issue by himself, unaided, except by the inferior officers and soldiers of his command. This singular obliviousness of the presence of Gen. Magruder was calculated to excite, and doubtless did excite, surprise here and elsewhere. Yet, so far as I know, the circumstance has evoked no word of unkind criticism in any quarter, and Col. Hill has been permitted to wear, undisturbed, the laurels with which he has so profusely garlanded his own brow.

But it is said that Col. Hill is himself a member of that respectable *corps* of correspondents whom he cantly denominates "newspaper scribblers," and that he *scribbles* for a certain paper of this city, over the historic *nomme de plume* of "York'town." Shades of Cornwallis! can it be? I shall not undertake to vouch for the truth of the rumor, though it is repeated upon the authority of persons of unquestionable veracity. I must say, however, that the frequency with which the name of Col. Hill is mentioned in the correspondence of "Yorktown," gives to the rumor a high coloring of probability. If it is true, this allusion to "newspaper scribblers" has about it an air of coolness altogether refreshing.

When Col. Hill speaks of "pernicious itching for notoriety," I must recall to his memory the adage about persons who habitate in vitreous tenements. In a practice of fifteen years, I have not seen a more clearly defined case of *cacoethes*. He has the malady in its worst form. Lard and brimstone won't save *him*.

But, seriously, I see so many, such foolish emanations, from men eminent in the profession of arms, I sometimes almost conclude that, common sense and military science have shaken hands and parted forever. Why must our generals still adhere to the exploded theory that the public are to be kept in profound ignorance of all that transpires in the army? Why will our Government encourage a system, the only result of which is to keep the public mind in a state of continual suspense, in regard to the thousand and one exaggerated reports set afloat by the idle and vicious? Withholding from the public such reliable information as the Government may possess, does not prevent, but rather favors the dissemination of incorrect reports and groundless rumors. If the authorities hamper and restrict the agents of the press so as to prevent the gathering of full and reliable information in regard to events that are transpiring, they will publish such partial and incorrect accounts as they can obtain. The public demand to know all that can be communicated without detriment to the public service. It is a libel upon the patriotism and intelligence of the people to say they desire more.

The masses have a deep interest in this war. Besides the political stake they have hazarded upon the result, the precious lives of fathers, brothers, husbands, children, are involved. When intelligence comes of a battle, thousands of aching hearts throughout the land, are yearning to know the fate of those engaged. To the dissemination of such knowledge, what reasonable objection can there be? If the Government distrusts the discretion of the press, why may not the War Department publish an official bulletin of its own, containing such information as it may communicate compatibly with the interests of the public service? A move in this direction would be highly acceptable, and do much to foster in the public mind respect for a government which would thus exhibit a feeling of parental regard for its citizens. But here, too, alas! I fear "red tape" stands inexorably in the way of a much needed reform.

Intelligence, not very direct, reached us today that the Lincolnites, in some force, are making their way through Kentucky into East Tennessee, by the Cumberland Gap. I very much fear, as I wrote you some days ago, that we shall yet have trouble with the Union men in East Tennesseee. The leaders, who have so long used the people for ambitious purposes, are reluctant to lose their hold upon the scepter of authority. It is within the power of Nelson and Maynard, if they choose, to calm the storm they helped to excite, at least to a great degree. But as yet I have seen no manifestation of a disposition to do so.

If the report of the threatened invasion of East Tennessee is true, Gov. Harris, of course, has information of the fact, and will do his utmost to thwart the schemes of the enemy. The Postal Department, having been advised of the use of the post office at Cumberland Gap as a medium for the exchange of treasonable correspondence with the Lincolnites, has removed the former postmaster, and appointed in his stead a gentleman by the name of Patterson, a brother to the general of that name commanding a division in the federal army. The new appointee is a man of character, intelligence and probity, and withal a devoted friend of the Southern cause. Long may he flourish.

VIRGINIUS.

☞ Hon. Solon Borlan was elected commander of the Arkansas battallion of cavalry, on the 10th inst. The command moved for Pocahontas on the next day.

By Telegraph!

THE WAR NEWS!

BUNKER HILL, Va., July 18.—Gen. Patterson moved on Winchester Tuesday, reached there Tuesday night. His force was 21,000. It is supposed that Gen. Johnston will skirmish heavily, but will not fight a pitched battle.

ST. LOUIS, July 18.—The Missourians, under Col. Magoffin, attacked the federals between Sedalia and Georgetown, killing seven of them, and losing three. Magoffin has a force of 700.

Gov. Boernstein (appointed by Gen. Lyon) announces that he will administer no more oaths of allegiance, but will keep suspected persons confined.

WASHINGTON, July 18.—The advance guard of the federals reached Fairfax Court House at noon yesterday.

The confederate pickets retreated an hour before, falling back on Centerville, where they will probably make a stand.

GEORGETOWN, July 18.—Tyler's division moved from here early on Wednesday.

The Southerners fell back toward Centerville at 12 o'clock P. M.

Gen. McDowell and staff have arrived. Four divisions will move toward the Junction on Thursday.

NEW YORK, July 18.—The steamship Asia has arrived, with Liverpool dates to the 7th inst. She brings $110,000 in specie.

CINCINNATI, July 18.—Cox's Kanawha men fired at each other, killing two and wounding several.

About forty miles up the Kanawha, at Red House, the cavalry charged Cox's column, killing two and mortally wounding one.

WASHINGTON, July 18.—The bill to modify the tariff meets unexpected opposition in the house.

Seven thousand axes have been sent after the army in Virginia.

The action in the house with regard to Hon. Henry May, leading to his expulsion, on account of his visit to Richmond, was laid on the table.

LOUISVILLE July 18.—A large lot of leather was seized at Salt river.

Among the Southerners killed in western Virginia, were Capt. Skopwith, of the Richmond Blues, Lieut. Dowite, Dr. Taylor, Dr. Wolk. Capt. DeLaguel and his first lieutenant, wounded; DeLaguel escaped to camp, and was carried off prisoner. It is reported he can't recover.

WASHINGTON July 18.—*House*—The bill admitting fines where ships are unable to procure proper papers, was passed. The bill forwarding soldiers' letters without additional charge was passed. The bill to pay soldiers from the time of rendezvous sing was passed.

Senate.—Forney called the senate to order, announcing that Hamlin would be absent the rest of the session. The bill for an assistant secretary of the navy passed. Also a bill for the better organization of the marine corps.

WASHINGTON, July 18.—Nothing reliable or official has been received from Fairfax Court House up to noon to-day. A post courier from McDowell's headquarters reports that the army marched early this morning toward Centerville. Gen. McDowell said last night that he believed the rebels would fight there.

It is reported that Gen. Johnston is endeavoring to effect a junction with Beauregard.

Scouts report 30,000 to 40,000 Southerners at Manassas and Centerville.

LOUISVILLE, July 18.—The Cincinnati Commercial reports an engagement at Centerville, but it is not confirmed.

FORTRESS MONROE, July 18.—A steamer from Norfolk was seen landing troops at Sewall's Point, where, apparently, there was a formidable force, and preparations being made to annoy the federal shipping. Doubtless there are masked batteries at Willoughby's Point, and opposite the Rip Raps.

Two "contrabands" from Pig's Point report the Southerners in force opposite Newport News.

NEWS CLIPPINGS.

We have often heard of drafting to send to the wars, but never, until now, of a draft to say at home; yet such has been the rush to arms in Mississippi, that we have had drafting to keep men at home in sufficient numbers to protect the women and children.—*Oxford Intelligencer.*

Mr James Freeman, of Calhoun, Ga., one of the wealthiest men in the State, proposes to contribute all the proceeds of his crop to the confederate loan; and, if necessary, to sell his land and negroes, and give the whole to the Government in order to carry on the war, and secure our independence.

It is generally known, says an Arkansas paper, that Chicot county, in Arkansas, in proportion to its population, is the wealthiest county in the world. The population numbers 17,000; the taxable property returns $100,000,000, or nearly $5000 to every man, woman and child in the county. The number of bales of cotton produced this year will not fall short of 49,000.

The British squadron, now gathering in American waters, will outnumber, in men and guns, the entire United States navy, now in active service.

Mr. Gudon, who was arrested in New York by superintendent of police, Kennedy, for circulating a peace petition, has laid his damages against the superintendent at $20,000 for false imprisonment.

We notice in a communication in the Vicksburg *Sun*, a remark made by a plain, hard-working Irishman, that speaks volumes. A gentleman remarking the great success that would result to the South from the late raids extending, as they did, from Memphis to the Gulf, an Irishman, standing near by, said "that was God's contribution to the Confederate States." Was ever so much contained in so little?

The Illinois war loan is a failure. The commissioners got no bids they would accept, and the negotiation is abandoned for the present.

Dr. G. W. Purnell was instantly killed, a few days ago, near his plantation, in East Feliciana, by the discharge of a gun in his own hands.

Three Sicilian sailors have been arrested at New Orleans, charged with communicating with Lincoln's sea constables.

☞ A correspondent writing from Pensacola on the 5th says: "We had an amusing scene here yesterday. Fort Pickens, at 11 o'clock, A. M, fired a salute of thirty-four guns in honor of the fourth. When the twenty-third gun had been fired, Fort Barancas commenced and thundered away with eleven big ten-inch columbiads. This was another way of saying to Commander Brown—'You have fired as many guns as you have any right to fire.'"

☞ It is a noteworthy and significant fact, says the Atlanta (Ga.) *Intelligencer*, that our commissioner to Europe has been busy with his pen, in Paris, of late. Georgia will hold a high rank abroad. Her early participation, *as a State*, in the foreign relations of the South, will give her ten years the start in the race for commercial and industrial supremacy.

☞ Henry T. Clarke, Esq., governor *ex-officio* of North Carolina, arrived at Raleigh on Wednesday, and entered upon the duties of his office. He has long represented Edgecombe in the North Carolina legislature—the county most noted for its States rights and for its production of cotton.

☞ The Baton Rouge *Comet* says the proprietors of that paper lately sent an order to Richmond, Va., for type and printing materials, which was filled as well and as satisfactorily as it would have been done in New York or Philadelphia.

☞ Gen. Henningsen, of Nicaragua notoriety, we notice from our Virginia exchanges, is at present connected with Gov. Wise's legion in the western portion of that State.

☞ The Norfolk *Day Book* office is being supplied with young female compositors in the place of the types who have gone to the wars.

☞ A public meeting in Lauderdale county, held on the 12th, unanimously declared Governor Harris their choice for governor.

☞ A Mr. S N. Brown, of Montgomery, Ala., advertises that he will sell negroes and take confederate bonds in payment.

☞ The new telegraph line between Charleston and Savannah was put in operation on the 10th inst.

☞ San Antonio, Texas, has organized a full regiment for the field and a battalion for home defense.

☞ The New York *Courier and Enquirer* and the *World*, have been consolidated into one paper.

COL. GREGG'S REGIMENT.—This regiment, being the First South Carolina regiment, arrived in this city on Thursday *en route* for home. Their term of service having expired, they return home, it is understood, for the purpose of refitting, etc. It is said they will return in a short time and enter for the war.—*Raleigh (N. C.) Standard, 13th.*

RICHMOND ITEMS.

From the Richmond Dispatch, 16th.]

ARRIVAL OF PRISONERS.—Lieut. J. C. Schermerhorn, of the Alabama regiment, and corporal Collins, of the Orleans cadets, together with a squad of six privates, arrived in Richmond yesterday, via York river railroad, in charge of a number of prisoners lately captured in the vicinity of Yorktown. On their arrival they carried the Hessians before the adjutant general, who ordered them to be confined in the prison depot on Main street. Eleven of the prisoners were taken in the fight near Bethel last Friday; two are members of an abolition regiment formed of the scum of Baltimore, who were taken by our scouts, just as they were coming over to deliver themselves up. Our men think they were out foraging and got in a tight place, which not unlikely is the true solution of the matter.

FREE NEGRO OPERATIVES.—Several hundred free men of color were listed at the city hall yesterday to serve in completing the fortifications now being erected below this city. We noticed in our perambulations yesterday that many of the barber shops had been closed, the operatives therein having been withdrawn for the purpose above named.

FIGHTING PREACHERS.—Rev. H. Talbird, D. D., president of Harvard College, Alabama, one of the most distinguished baptist clergymen of that State, has been for several days in this city as captain of a company. Rev. G. B. Taylor, of Staunton, has also been on a visit to our city to attend to some matters pertaining to the company he commands. Rev. P. H. Mell, D. D., professor in the University of Georgia, has raised a company, and is now on his way to Virginia. Dr. Mell is one of the most eloquent divines in the South, and is of the baptist persuasion.

GOOD ORDER, IF OBSERVED.—A general order, lately promulgated by Gen. Magruder, commanding at Yorktown, "forbids newspaper scribblers from giving information to the enemy of the movements of troops, results of battles and skirmishes, the number of forces at particular points, etc.

"This order has been violated to the manifest prejudice of the service. It is, therefore, ordered that commanders of regiments and detachments use their best exertions to prevent this foolish and pernicious itching for newspaper notoriety."

STEALING TOBACCO.—We noticed the fact a few days since, that several hundred pounds of obacco had been stolen from the public warehouse, by the hands employed there. The spoliation was committed by the hands at Sheckoe warehouse, on tobacco stored therein.

COLLECTIONS TAKEN UP.—Liberal collections were taken up in St. Paul's church on last Sabbath day, and we believe in other church edifices, in aid of the Ladies' Soldiers' Aid Society.

WAR IMPLEMENTS.—A large quantity of the celebrated Hall rifles and Harper's Ferry muskets, passed through this city yesterday, toward the seat of war, from the South. We hope they may arrive in time to welcome the invaders to hospitable graves, and that in the hands of practiced marksmen they may effect a terrible execution.—*Petersburg Express.*

ARRIVAL OF PRISONERS.—The thirteen prisoners taken in the skirmish near Newport News on Friday last by a scouting party under command of Major Hood were brought to the city yesterday, and conducted to the quarters prepared for their accommodation. They all belong, we understand, to the 7th regiment New York volunteers, commanded by Colonel Benedict.—*Enquirer, July 16th.*

THE FIGHT IN NORTH-WESTERN VIRGINIA.

We have published several northern accounts of the fight in North-western Virginia, in all of which an overwhelming victory was claimed for the abolition forces. The following from the Richmond *Enquirer* of the 16th, the latest received, modifies the extent of the disaster to our forces, and shows that they were surprised by a force so far superior in numbers as to be irresistible by the small force of the confederates:

Our forces were attacked at Camp Garnett on Thursday last, and were driven from their position, with a loss of about forty killed and thirty wounded, and leaving their artillery and baggage behind them. A detachment of our forces was attacked by about twelve thousand of the enemy, while throwing up fortifications on the mountain behind the camp. Col. Pegram was in command of our forces when they were attacked, and had only some three or four hundred men under him, but with this small force he repulsed the enemy "five times, killing several hundred of them and keeping them at bay for three hours. But he was finally compelled to retreat, and in doing so was thrown from his horse and somewhat injured, and then taken prisoner. Our forces, at this point, retreated as best they could through the woods, and are now at Monterey, Highland county.

Col. Heck, with a portion of his regiment, crossed over to Gen. Garnett's camp, and the last heard from them they were retreating in the direction of Franklin, in Pendleton county.

The enemy had some 20,000 men, and all our force there did not amount to over 6,000.

Col. John N. Hughes, member of the convention from Randolph county, was killed while endeavoring to communicate with a portion of our forces, and give them warning of their danger. He was shot by one of our sentinels, who supposed him to be an enemy. The loss of our army, in baggage, munitions, etc., was not very considerable.

The gallantry of the men engaged in the fight is warmly commended. Col. Pegram is reported to have exhibited great self-possession and bravery in the terrible situation in which he was placed. Capt. Delaniel, of Alexandria, in command of a piece of artillery, was killed, with several of his men.

From Western Virginia.

Passengers from Richmond by last evening's train positively contradict the unfavorable news reported yesterday about Col. John Pegram's command in that affair at Laurel Hill. They say that later accounts had been received which represented that Col. Pegram had had an engagement with the enemy with the odds very heavy against him, as is always the case, but that he succeeded in retreating with a comparatively moderate loss, and was wounded, but not dangerously. The difference in the numbers of the two forces was about seven to one in favor of the Rump commander.—*Petersburg Express, July 16th.*

A DISTILLERY CAPTURED.—A writer from Winchester says:

Mrs. Charles James Faulkner has arrived here from the vicinity of Martinsburg. She states that on Tuesday the enemy discovered a distillery near by, and the soldiery immediately entered the dominions of king alcohol, knocked the heads off his staunch supporters, and every man, from the commander-in-chief down to the ostler, got beastly drunk. A general row was the sequel to this, and they commenced firing on each other indiscriminately. How many were killed and wounded in this agreeable pastime and jollification at the shrine of Bacchus, could not be ascertained. The firing was distinctly heard by our pickets; and those residing in the neighborhood saw the whole proceeding. Let them fire away. They will save us the expense of putting a *quietus* to their existence. It is a well known fact that three regiments took umbrage at this singular demonstration over the fall of John Barleycorn, disbanded and have gone home.

THE BLOCKADING FLEET AT CHARLESTON. The Charleston *Courier* of the 16th inst., says:

A large steam frigate, supposed to be the Minnesota, returned from her trip to Hampton Roads, arrived off this bar Sunday forenoon, and was received by a salute from the other vessels outside.

There are now off here, in sight, four vessels—the Minnesota, Wabash, a propeller, no doubt the Union or Flag, and a sloop-of-war, supposed to be the Jamestown. The brig Perry occasionally appears in sight of the harbor, and once in a way we have a visit from a stranger bound south. In this respect we certainly have no cause to complain, as they pay us more attention than any other point on the coast, except it be Pensacola. The masts of the Wabash and Minnesota can be seen from any of our city wharves on Cooper river, towering high over the tops of the hills of Morris' Island.

AN UNFORTUNATE AFFAIR.—The Norfolk *Herald* of the 13th says:

We regret to state that a serious affray occurred in front of the National hotel yesterday afternoon, in a crowd of soldiers off duty, between a party of the Alabama regiment and some of the junior volunteers. We did not learn the particulars of the affair, but are informed that very offensive expressions used by some of the Alabamians in reference to Virginia were warmly resented by the juniors, when a general fight took place, during which pistols and bowie knives were freely used, and we are sorry to say that several of the parties were seriously though not dangerously injured.

CONVENTION OF BANKS.—The following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Bank convention, held at Athens, Ga., on the 3d of June:

Resolved, That when the convention adjourns it adjourns to meet again on the 24th of July, at Richmond, Va., and do invite all banks in the Confederacy, who have not been represented here, to send delegates to their next meeting.

In accordance with this resolution, the convention will meet at Richmond on the 24th inst.

JAMES S. GIBBES, Sec'y.

SPEED OF COMETS.—The comet of 1843 moved half round the sun in ten hours and a half, with a velocity of 1,300,000 miles an hour—about eighty times faster than Professor Morse can dispatch his lightning.

AN UNEMPLOYED LABOR EXCITEMENT.

War times are pressing so hard upon thousands of laborers in the eastern cities, that already they are making their sufferings known in a public manner. The Boston *Post* of Thursday last speaks of the second one in that vicinity:

The unemployed working men of Roxbury, to whose action we have before alluded, yesterday attempted to hold a public meeting in front of the post office, but were dispersed by the police, the whole proceeding being considered illegal. If the meeting had been called in a proper place, no notice of it would have been taken by the authorities, so long as it was orderly.

We learn that the municipal authorities have canvassed the city, and find about seven hundred persons out of employment. They propose to relieve, to as great an extent as possible. Street improvements, not actually necessary, but which will give employment to about two hundred men, are contemplated. It is proposed to divide the destitute heads of families into gangs, and employ them alternately. Detachments of the various Home Guards were under arms during the whole of Tuesday night.

In Philadelphia several relief meetings have already been held, of which, in a lengthy article, the *Press* says:

Many of the experiences related by the speakers were touching, and exhibited a degree of privation and to contemplate. Many were told in a spirit of suggestion, and with a view of creating false sympathy. But, beyond all this, it is evident that the subject is one which goes to the hearts of our people, and deserves the immediate attention of the municipal authorities.

INTERESTING FROM PENSACOLA.

Correspondence of the Mobile News.]

PENSACOLA, July 14—*The Advertiser and Register* was telegraphed last night the fact that a detachment of the Montgomery Mounted Rifles had fired upon a boat filled with federal sailors. The Rifles, under Capt. Clanton, have for some time been performing the laborious and dangerous duty of guarding the coast in the neighborhood of the East Pass of Santa Rosa island, but without incident, until Friday morning. About seven in the morning of that day, a detachment of the company under Captain Clanton, discovered approaching the island shore, a small boat or launch from the blockading steamer lying a mile or two distant.

The men immediately concealed themselves behind a mound of sand and awaited their approach to within a very short distance of the ambuscade, when they were discovered by the crew. The launch immediately stopped, and attempted to pull round, when Captain Clanton demanded their approach to the shore. For a moment, it seemed the intention of the launch to obey his summons, when the officer in charge of the boat drew his sword and ordered a return to the ship. Capt. Clanton a second time ordered their approach to the shore, accompanied with a threat to fire on them if disobeyed, which was disregarded. The rifles then opened fire at a short distance, when the officer in command—supposed to be a midshipman—reeled and fell across the guards of the boat.

He is supposed to be killed or desperately wounded. Several others in the launch were thought to be hurt or killed, as the boat (an eight oared one) got out of the scrape with the assistance of only two oars. Nineteen shots were fired at not over a hundred yards. Some of them, it is thought, must have been killed. The gun of one of the men missed fire the first volley; he claimed the privilege of a fire, however, which was granted, and it was thought with success. These are all the particulars of the affair I have been able to gather.

These fellows, it seems, have been in the habit of running about in their boats, for some time, near the shore, with the purpose of supplying themselves with water, as well as dropping the lead, and Capt. Clanton determined to put a stop to their audacity, and set the trap into which they came very near marching. Molten lead must have been a poor substitute for the cool spring water with which the rascals have been in the habit of slaking their thirst. The result of this, some think, may be a serious matter, and that their small boats may retaliate on our coast guard. Let them try it, if they want Capt. Lovell's little fleet to make 'em "scratch gravel."

The lady of Gen. Bragg arrived this morning from Mobile.

There has been no addition to the squadron for the last day or two at the anchorage. Like old Patterson, the fleet is inactive.

LATER.

P. S.—Capt. Clanton, with nearly all his command, has returned to this side. They are confident of having killed five or six. They fired at about one hundred yards. The flags of the steamer were at half-mast when they left their retreat for camp. Three guns were discharged from her, which they suppose were summons to other launches to return or "look out." Hurrah for the Mounted Rifles! Capt. Cox's time next.

Military Insubordination in Washington.

Extract from a late Washington letter to the New York Tribune.]

Never before have I been so fully impressed with the truth of the remark that "great armies are great evils." Our country, hitherto a stranger to them, is now, at their several points of assemblage, passing through an experience of their corrupting influence upon society. Washington, being the central point, feels it more than any other city in the nation. How much our military organizations lack in discipline may be inferred from the fact that the streets of this city, from day to day and night after night, are filled with drunken, riotous, quarrelsome soldiers, who are permitted to crowd saloons and hotels, and to engage in brawls in the streets with entire impunity. I confess I cannot understand it.

Our soldiers in the city are fearfully demoralized—and citizens walk the streets with no positive immunity against assault of any kind. It is impossible to go the length of the avenue without refusing several applications from drunken soldiers for money to buy a treat or a plug of tobacco. Fights are frequent and bloody, and in many instances pistols and bayonets are flourished by men maddened with liquor. Nearly all the saloons of the city were closed yesterday by the proprietors, through fear of the soldiery, and at those which were open, fights were of constant occurrence. It seems to me that a proper regard for the peace of the city and the safety of its inhabitants, even if military considerations fail, should cause such an enforcement of discipline as will at least amount to protection and safety. The work of demoralization among the soldiery needs no excitements outside of their several encampments. It is rapid enough among raw recruits and volunteers, when subjected to the strictest discipline, but it must needs become terrible when permit