Daily Appeal.

MEMPHIS.

SATURDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 26.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CITY

The Circulation of the DAILY APPEAL is larger than that of the Daily City Press Combined.

THE WAR AND THE CROPS.

When it first became apparent that a war between the North and the South was inevitable, the opinion obtained extensively in both sections that the South would suffer great inconvenience from a want of provisions, and especially of grain, upon which to subsist its armies. The planters of the South, devoting their energies to the cultivation of the great staples, to the almost entire neglect of the cereals, had so long accustomed themselves to rely upon the border States, and those of the northwest, for their plantation supplies and provisions, that it was not unreasonable to suppose when the supply from those sources should be cut off, serious inconvenience, if not suffering, would be the inevitable result.

In the North, where the public mind was less informed in regard to the vast and inexhaustible resources of the South, it was confidently predicted that if the ordinary channels, through which the people had been accustomed to draw their supplies, could be closed, and a strict blockade maintained, so as to exclude them from the hope of aid from abroad, they would be compelled to succumb, or perish from atrophy. Hence among the many schemes which have been suggested by Yankee ingenuity for the subjugation of the rebellious southrons, none commended itself more to the approbation of our enemies, than that of starving the South into subjugation.

To the efficiency of this humane project some of these journals still adhere, notwithstanding the experience of eight months of isolation has demonstrated, that, within ourselves, we have resources ample for every emergency, and that with judicious attention to their development, the war may be protracted to three, five, or ten years, and leave us in better condition to profit by the fruition of our independence, than if peace were concluded to-morrow.

Of all the necessaries of life, we have an abundance in our midst, and plenty smiles upon the land. There is no want—no suffering. There will be none. For this gratifying state of affairs we are indebted, under the blessings of Heaven, to the intelligent forethought of the planters, who, varying their crops to suit the new exigencies of the country, have each contributed his share to the great stores under whose accumulated abundance southern granaries are groaning. For this timely action of the patriotic people let us award the just meed of honor, while we bow in humble gratitude to the great Father, whose blessings thus far in the progress of this revolution, have been made singularly manifest.

We may now be said to have fairly entered upon the war. How long its prosecution is to continue, is beyond the power of human wisdom to foresee. To us, we say in all candor, there is nothing that indicates a speedy termination. A black cloud hangs like a pall above the horizon of the future, over whose dark border no bright winged cherub of peace shows its smiling countenance. Unless a period is put to the contest, by a counter revolution in the North against the fanatical hordes who are hounding on LINCOLN'S blood-thirsty administration, we see no reason to anticipate its termination before the expiration of his presidential term. The war will most probably go on for a long time to come, and with a bitterness and animosity intensified by every new defeat the Yankees encounter.

In view, then, of the prospect before us, we desire again to invite the attention of the planters of the South to what is obviously the best policy to be pursued. We have so often referred to this subject heretofore, and with so much earnestness, that we have little to add to what we have already advanced. The season which has just passed has been one of extraordinary abundance, and nature, as if to compensate for any deficiency in the extent of land seeded, rewarded the labors of the southern husbandman with an unprecedented harvest.

But while we cannot reasonably expect another season like the past, the necessity for an increased store of breadstuffs, grain, beef, and other articles, which enter largely into the consumption of an army, is likely to be greatly enhanced. Every ear of wheat, every blade of grass, every stalk of corn, every potato, and every bean which can be grown, will be required to meet the increased demand at home, and support the gallant army now imperilling their lives on the field in defense of our liberties, our homes and our firesides. The necessities of the public defense, the voice of patriotism, and the general interests of our section demand that we put forth all our resources to meet the emergency.

To the planters of the Southern States this demand for increased army supplies appeals with peculiar force. In such of the border States as are not already the theater of hostilities, but a small additional breadth of land remains to be dedicated to the production of cereals. In the others, the presence of the invaders will seriously interfere with the cultivation of the soil, so that the cotton and sugar States will be called upon to supply this deficiency also. By them alone can the demand be met. The country looks to them for relief. The appeal will not be in vain. The cheerful alacrity with which every fresh demand upon them has been met, during the progress of the present revolution, is ample guaranty of a ready response to any call which patriotism may make upon them.

There are other considerations, which, apart from the public necessities, obviously point to the policy of diminishing the production of cotton and sugar and devoting the lands thus left idle to the cultivation of small crops, to which we design to advert briefly in another article, and by which we propose to show that such a course will redound to the present, prospective and permanent advantage of the planter as well as the advancement of the public interests. We shall return to the subject again to-morrow.

THE NAVAL EXPEDITION.

We publish, this morning, many details of the mammoth naval expedition, recently fitted out by LINCOLN, as furnished by the New York *Commercial* of the 14th. The account estimates the preparation largely, and it will be seen that the destination of the Armada, and the feats it is to accomplish, are also announced with great perspicuity.

The Richmond *Enquirer* of the 23d states that a gentleman who was at Annapolis on Wednesday of last week confirms the statements of the *Commercial* with reference to that point. A very large military force had been assembled there with all the celerity of which the railroad would allow. The regiments were drawn, very many of them, from Washington, and comprised some of the choicest of MCCLELLAN'S command, of both infantry and artillery. Nine transport steamers had arrived to convey them away, and others were coming. The opinion was also prevailing that the design of this piratical armament was to operate against Virginia; and that either the James or the York river was to be the theater of its debarkation. The operations which have taken place in the Peninsula, and the rumors from that quarter, leave it at the present time, in doubt whether the surmise above stated has not already proved to be true.

The article from the *Commercial*, however, is the Federal story; as the *Enquirer* remarks, it is impossible to distinguish between what it tells for the truth and what may be divulged to deceive the South.

☞ The Cincinnati *Enquirer*, of the 16th inst., says the Democracy have made in the recent elections in some thirteen counties in Pennsylvania, a gain of 44,000 votes upon their strength last year. If the remaining counties do as well the Democracy will have a majority.

☞ The Alabama Legislature will meet in extra session at Montgomery on Monday next.

AFFAIRS IN MISSOURI.

We have late and authentic information from Gen. PRICE, by which we learn he was at Neosho, in Southwestern Missouri, on the 21st, to which place he retreated before FREMONT, who was pursuing with all his forces. It was thought probable PRICE would be forced to fall still further back in the direction of Fayetteville, where MCCULLOCH was awaiting reinforcements.

Whether PRICE'S retreat was a matter of necessity, or only a strategic move, to draw FREMONT out as far as possible from St. Louis, so as to extend, and thereby weaken his line, before giving battle, we can only surmise. The probability is, that the superiority of the Federal force has made a retreat necessary. If so he may fall back until he meets reinforcements from MCCULLOCH, when we may expect another severe fight.

It is hardly possible, we think, for the Federal General, with such materials as compose his army, to escape defeat at the hands of the tried and gallant men he will encounter. But speculation is idle, now, when the question of superiority has perhaps already been submitted to the bloody arbitrament of the sword, and decided. Intelligence from Missouri will be looked for with great anxiety.

THE VANDALS IN KENTUCKY.

The announcement of the burning of Mayfield, by the Lincolnites, which was telegraphed from Nashville, and published by the city press, a few days since, proves to be incorrect. We had the pleasure of meeting yesterday with Capt. J. H. NELSON, of the Kentucky army, formerly of Nashville, who has been in Mayfield since the reported burning, and subsequently made a very narrow escape from falling into the enemy's hands.

From him we learn that a Confederate force had been occupying Mayfield for some time, but fell back about a week since, and encamped at Mobley's camp ground. The Lincolnites getting wind, somehow, of the evacuation of the place, on Wednesday morning, sent a detachment of 300 cavalry from Paducah, who arrived about daylight, and immediately placed guards around the village, at every point of egress, while a detail was made for the purpose of arresting all persons of known secession proclivities in the place.

These, Capt. NELSON says, were evidently arrested only to prevent them from making any resistance to the vandals in the work of pillage which they came to perform. One of their first acts after securing the men was to proceed to the house of Mrs. CARVILLE, whose husband is absent in Gen. BUCKNER'S army. They placed a loaded pistol to her head and threatened to shoot her, using all kinds of obscene and abusive epithets. They concluded their visit by pillaging the house of every thing valuable which they could carry off, and breaking up and destroying the remainder of its contents.

Among other things they found at the house of Mrs. C. was Capt. NELSON'S trunk, which he had left there for safe keeping the previous day, on his departure for Columbus on duty. They appropriated the contents of the trunk, including sword-belt, sword, sash, and all of Captain N.'s military wardrobe, even to the soiled linen, tore up his private papers, andscattered them about the yard, and when they could do nothing further, took their leave.

They proceeded through the village, subjecting the inhabitants to all kinds of outrages and indignities, and plundering them of everything of value. Dr. DISMUKES, IRVING ANDERSON, and a number of others, were robbed of their horses and mules, of which the marauders carried off a large number.

They took their departure about 2 P. M., first releasing their prisoners, and retired to Viola, eight miles from Mayfield. To this point during the night the Lincolnites ran out a force of 3000 men, who are still there.

Capt. Nelson returned to Mayfield Wednesday afternoon to behold the evidences of their brutality and ruffianism. He seems to be an object of special detestation to the Federals, who have sworn they will hang him up to the first tree, if they catch him. He will look to that.

On Wednesday night Capt. NELSON, thinking it probable they might return, and being alone, his company having been ordered forward to Bowling Green, left Mayfield, and went out to the residence of Maj PRYOR, five miles in the country, where he spent the evening.

Twice during the night was the house searched by the blood-thirsty villians, but he eluded them, and escaped into the garden upon their approach, which he was enabled to hear, by the rattling of their sabres and the noise of their horses' hoofs.

Next morning Capt. Neely came up with a detachment of his horse, and followed them to within sight of their pickets near Viola. He did not attack them as he had only thirty men; so they escaped with their booty. We trust the day is near when they will no longer be permitted thus to traverse the country, upon marauding expeditions, and escape with impunity.

CHANGE OF THE ELECTORAL TICKET.

From the following it will be seen that a change has been authoritatively made in the electoral ticket, and we have accordingly made the proper correction. The objections of the southern rights men of East Tennessee induced a change in the first district; the reason for the change in the third is explained. Voters should be sure to have tickets corresponding with that in our columns:

NASHVILLE, October 23, 1861.

To the Editor of the Union and American:

In compliance with the wishes expressed in the letters given below, as well as from the fact that the time is too short for the adoption of any other mode, I do not hesitate to substitute F. M. Fulkerson in the place of Sam'l Milligan, in the First district, and W. L. Akin in the place of A. S. Colyar, in the Third district.

Will you be good enough to make the necessary changes in the electoral ticket at the head of your paper? Very respectfully,

WASHINGTON BARROW, Chairman, etc.

NASHVILLE SENATE CHAMBER, October 23, 1861.

Gen. W. Barrow, Chairman, etc.:

DEAR SIR—A necessity arises for a change in the electoral ticket adopted by the convention, by advisory meeting, of the members of the Legislature.

You will therefore please direct the change of elector for the first district. Instead of Sam. Milligan, of Greene, substitute the name of F. M. Fulkerson, of Hawkins. Yours respectfully,

ROB'T BARTON,
WM. HENRY MAXWELL,
A. M. MILLARD.

Gen. Barrow, Chairman, etc.:

DEAR SIR—We, the Representatives of the counties composing the Third congressional district of the State of Tennessee, are in possession of Col. Colyar's letter declining to serve as Elector for said district, in consequence of his being a candidate for the Confederate Congress. We, therefore, unanimously nominate and recommend the name of W. L. Akin, of the county of Monroe, as a suitable man to fill the vacancy on the electoral ticket. Respectfully,

J. T. LANE,
WM. R. RANKIN,
A. S. JARNAGIN,
ISAAC C. GARRETSON,
B. F. MARTIN,
H. T. CARR,
J. C. WARNER,
JO. WALKER.

MILITARY APPOINTMENTS.—We have intelligence from Bowling Green that Gen Hardee has been commissioned as major-general in the Provisional army of the Confederate service.

We are also advised that Col. J. T. McCown, late chief of artillery in the Provisional army of Tennessee, has been appointed brigadier-general in the same branch of the service.

☞ The St. Louis *Democrat* says Capt. Wade, Major Lewis Clark, and Fergus McRea are ascending White river with twenty-five rifled cannon, intended for Gen. Price's army. They were to be landed at Forsyth, in Taney county, about forty miles from Springfield, Mo.

☞ The Greensboro' *Beacon* says that the cotton crop of that section, especially on the sandy lands, is rather better than was expected some weeks ago. The present impression is that it will not vary much from that of last year.

☞ The Yankee prisoners captured at Pensacola are confined at Montgomery, Alabama.

☞ Gen. Bragg arrived at Mobile on Wednesday morning last.

Professor Long, of Dartmouth College, died at Boston on the 16th.

FROM RICHMOND.

[Special Correspondence of the Appeal.]

Officers by the Thousand—Gen. Lee's command at Big Sewell Mountain—Horrible Roads—Want of Provisions—Report of a Skirmish in the Peninsula—Rumors of Attack at various places—A Battle imminent at the Evansport Battery—Arrival of eminent Kentuckians.

RICHMOND, October 21, 1861.

Officers! Yes, officers—all over town. Walk where you will, like the cannon at Balaklava, there are officers, some to the right of you, some to the left of you, some just in front of you. Officers of all grades and descriptions, from the general in his buff facings to the little artillery lieutenant with the scarlet trimmings. Go to church and the chance is you'll see an officer in the pulpit. Go to a concert and you may hear an officer perform a solo on the clarionet. Go to the hotels and the main saloon of the Exchange, or the Spotswood, looks as gay as a tulip bed, or a poultry show. Zouave captains, crowned with their blazing red caps and waddling about in their loose trowsers; cavalry colonels, gold-laced in three lines from wrist to elbows; infantry majors, in smart uniforms fresh from the tailor's, and probably as yet unpaid for, all moving in and out of the miscellaneous crowd in bewildering confusion. The ignorant visitor wonders how the army gets along in their absence and what such a multitude of fighting men in commission can be doing in Richmond. I make no effort to explain it—as correspondent I seek only to give you rapid sketches of what is seen and talked about here, and officers just now are more seen a good deal than anything else.

Bad news from the forces under Gen. Lee at Big Sewell Mountain. A gentleman of this city, occupying a high position in the government, has just reached Richmond from Gen. Lee's headquarters. The enemy under Rosencranz was in full retreat toward the Ohio, but pursuit was impossible. The roads were in the most awful condition. Dead horses and mules that had perished in their tracks, broken wagons and abandoned stores lined the road to Lewisburg. There was no such thing as getting a team or a wagon through uninjured. The road beyond Big Sewell was if anything worse than on this side of it. To be sure, the difficulties were quite as great, perhaps even greater, for the Yankees in their flight as for our troops in pursuing them. But Gen. Lee was entirely out of provisions, and had not the wherewith to cook the next meal for himself or to serve the next ration to his soldiers. The general was not in the best health, and, it may well be imagined, not in the best spirits. The splendid horse, which was presented to him just before he left this city, had been lamed in two legs and was unfit for service. It will be absolutely necessary for Gen. Lee to abandon his position in a very short time as uninhabitable for his army, and go into winter quarters. Where this will be, whether in the Kanawha Valley or on the line of the Central railroad, is uncertain, but much depends on the choice as to the footing the Yankees will have in Western Virginia next spring.

A letter was received in town this morning, from an officer in Maj. Randolph's Richmond Howitzers, stating that a considerable skirmish had been fought in the Peninsula, some miles below Yorktown, on Friday, the 18th inst., in which a small Confederate force had driven back the Yankees with a loss to them of 60 killed and wounded, and 15 prisoners. Our loss was set down as 10 killed ad 13 wounded. As no other intelligence of this affair has been received in town, either at the War Department or the newspaper offices, it is generally discredited. There are rumors of attacks at various points. Gen. Huger is expecting a combined movement upon Norfolk, and Gen. Magruder apprehends the landing of a large force in Mobjack bay. The better opinion here is that these will be but feints, to divert attention from a really formidable assault to be made immediately on the Evansport battery. This assault is intended by McClellan beyond a doubt, and it may be a true explanation of the withdrawal of Johnston's army within the lines of Manassas, where they can co-operate readily, and at four hours' notice, with the command of Gen. Holmes at the battery. From the information I have received, I am so confident that the attempt will be made by a heavy force from Washington to reopen the navigation of the Potomac at an early day, that I predict you will hear of a severe engagement there before this letter gets to Memphis.

The Hons. John C. Breckinridge, Humphrey Marshall and Wm. Preston, of Kentucky, arrived here by the Danville train this afternoon and took lodgings at the Spotswood hotel. It having been known beforehand that they were on the train, a large crowd assembled at the depot to welcome them to this city, and in response to an enthusiastic call, Mr. Breckinridge made a stirring speech from the platform of the car. His noble address to the people of Kentucky has been published in our city papers, and has excited a feeling of renewed admiration for this eminent statesman.

We have cool weather again.

Nothing more to say. DIXIE.

A YANKEE WAIF.—A Federal lieutenant named Hale, said to be a relation to Senator Hale, of New Hampshire, and to Gideon Welles, the Federal Secretary of War, was captured off Pig Point battery, before day, on the morning of the 21st. When arrested he claimed to be a deserter from the Federal service, but from circumstances connected with the affair, it is believed he was aiming to land at Newport News, but was blown off and landed at Pig Point, through a mistake. He is in bad luck.

RELIEF ASKED.—The *Star* states that a petition to the Legislature is being circulated in Panola county, praying that body to pass a law for the purchase of the cotton crop of the State, and that payment in whole or in part be made by treasury notes; that the cotton be pledged for the redemption of the notes. The petitioners further ask, that if this cannot be done for the State at large that it be done for the county of Panola.

☞ Hon. Ben. H. Hill, of Georgia, publishes a card in the LaGrange *Reporter*, in which he declines to become a candidate for the first Confederate Congress under the permanent Constitution. He intimates that a seat in the Senate of the same Congress, for which his name has been suggested in different portions of the State, will not be unacceptable.

A NEW ENTERPRISE.—We are in receipt of the first number of the *Daily Confederate News*, a handsome little sheet just issued at Columbus, Ky. Being published at the headquarters of the army of the Mississippi valley, it should and doubtless will be filled with items of general interest which its location will enable it to obtain. It is published by Bullock, Walker & Isleu, and edited by E. J. Bullock.

☞ A communication in the Panola *Star* states that the patriotic labors of the ladies of Sardis, on the 17th, resulted in securing a fund of $90 for the benefit of the volunteers from that neighborhood. Let the good work be prosecuted. "The boys" will remember the labors of their fair friends with gratitude.

WITHDRAWN.—Gen. C. Robinson of the 6th Alabama district has withdrawn from the congressional canvass. This action, the Tuskegee *States* says, leaves the field entirely open to the Hon. W. P. Chilton. Mr. Chilton was a member of the Provisional Congress—and deserves and merits a continuance of the confidence of the people of his district.

INDIANA.—A correspondent of the Cincinnati *Gazette*, writing from Indianapolis, says that Indiana is turning out volunteers faster than government can arm them—that the adjutant general's books show that Indiana has 52,000 volunteers in the field.

ANOTHER GEORGIA REGIMENT.—On the 21st instant, another regiment of Georgians, under command of Col. David J. Bailey, of Butts, was organized and mustered into the Confederate service for twelve months, at Fairburn, and will soon leave that place for active service.

ACCIDENT.—The Columbus *News* states that on the 23d a soldier named Corrigan, of company G, in Col. Pickett's regiment, was dangerously injured from being run over by a horse.

Telegraphic News.

Firing near Norfolk.

NORFOLK, October 23.—Heavy, rapid and long continued firing was heard below last evening, but the cause has not yet transpired.

Battle at Leesburg.

The Federals commenced crossing the Potomac on Sunday night and continued to cross during the night.

Thh fighting was terrible on both sides. The Federals were well protected by heavy forest, but were routed three times at the point of the bayonet, and reinforced each time. The 8th Virginia regiment charged and captured a battery of brass pieces, and put the enemy to flight.

The Federals made a desperate stand at the river, and were there slaughtered until panic stricken, then attempted to cross. Hundreds were drowned. The battlefield is strewn thickly with the killed and wounded Federals.

Col. Burt of the 18th Mississippi regiment is badly wounded.

The Confederate troops fought under great disadvantages. They endured a heavy march Sunday with only one meal, slept under arms in open air Sunday night, had only breakfast Monday, and fought all day without nourishment or reinforcements.

Arrival of Prisoners and other Priculars.

RICHMOND, October 24.—Five hundred and fifty-two prisoners arrived this morning from Leesburg battle, among them are Col. W. R. Lee, of the 20th Massachusetts regiment; Col. Cogswell, 12th New York regiment; Major Revere, of the 20th Massachusetts regiment; Adjutant Pearson, and Assistant Surgeon Revere, both of the 20th Massachusetts regiment; six captains and eleven lieutenants from the New York, Massachusetts and California regiments. Considerable additional number of prisoners will be brought down on to-morrow. Some reports the number of prisoners at over one thousand, the lowest estimate is six hundred. No reliable details yet received in regard to the killed and wounded among the Confederates.

Latest from the Potomac and Richmond.

RICHMOND, October 24, P. M.—One hundred and sixty more Federal prisoners reached here this afternoon. Passengers report that Leesburg is now in the possession of twenty thousand Federals. The Confederates retired under orders to evacuate Leesburg if the Federals appeared in large force. Previous to the battle, on Monday it is understood similar orders were issued, but Col. Evans fought the battle notwithstanding. The Confederate loss will not reach two hundred killed, wounded and missing. The Federal loss killed, wounded, prisoners and missing is about two thousand. Several hundred prisoners expected to-morrow. Numerous incidents are related of gallant deeds performed by Confederates. Men never fought with more daring chivalry.

No official information has been received of the occupation of Leesburg by the Federals. Gentlemen who left there at four o'clock Wednesday afternoon, deny the statement. In official circles the Federal occupation of Leesburg is regarded very probable, even though not yet accomplished.

Further Particulars of the Battle of Leesburg.

The following is a copy of a special dispatch to the New Orleans Picayune:

MANASSAS, October 23.—Three hundred prisoners have arrived here to-day from Leesburg.

Two hundred and ten others remain at Leesburg.

The prisoners belonged mostly to the 15th Massachusetts regiment. A few are New Yorkers.

They all belonged to Stone's command.

They are well disposed of and are fine looking men, among them are Cols. Lee and Cogswell, old army officers.

The total loss of the enemy in killed, wounded, drowned and prisoners is estimated at 1500.

A boat load of them were upset in the Potomac.

Col. Baker was shot five times.

Our forces engaged were the 13th, 17th and 18th Mississippi, and the 18th Virginia regiment.

Our loss is reported at 300. Names not yet received.

The greatest loss was in the Virginia regiment.

Movements in Missouri.

NASHVILLE, October 25.—The Rolla correspondent of the St. Louis Democrat, under date of the 19th, furnishes the following items in relation to affairs in Missouri:

Scouts just in from the West report that Gen. Price has made a stand at Carthage, sixty miles distant from Springfield.

The rebels at Vienna have dispersed—a portion going home, and the remainder will join Johnston.

Gen. A. S. Johnston has been placed in command of all the rebel forces in Missouri, and has issued a proclamation forbidding any property leaving the State.

Lincoln Forces at Washington.

RICHMOND, October 23.—An intelligent gentleman just from Washington, says that Lincoln's forces in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia, number fully two hundred thousand. They are well equipped, with the exception of the cavalry, which are much inferior to the Confederate cavalry.

The Rout at Leesburg.

Several gentlemen who were engaged in, and witnesses of, the battle near Leesburg, on Monday last, say the rout was complete—that the panic exceeded that of Manassas Plains. When they took to the river, their heads appeared almost as thick as blackbirds. It is impossible to describe the scene or estimate the number drowned. Hundreds were shot while swimming and struggling in the water. Many left their clothing of all kinds, and they drowned each other.

The Prisoners and Wounded.

Most of our wounded are expected here to-morrow. The Federal prisoners are expected to-day.

Foreign News--By the Arabin.

The Pope of Rome refuses to compromise with his enemies, and thinks his government relations with Italy and France are satisfactory. France asks for no Italian territory.

The Spanish expedition to Mexico is actively progressing, and, it is expected, will soon leave.

Circular of Secretary Seward.

Secretary Seward has addressed a communication to the Governors of the Federal States, intimating that the agents of the Confederate States may involve the United States in a foreign war, and urges the executives to place their coasts in a proper state of defense. He considers that the Federal government will pay a portion of the expenses.

Opinion on Sequestration.

AUGUSTA, October 25.—In the Confederate States court, now in session at Charleston, Judge Magrath yesterday delivered his opinion in favor of the constitutionality of the sequestration act, thus refusing to sustain the demurrers of Messrs. Pettigrew, Mitchell and Whaley.

Later from the Potomac.

RICHMOND, October 25.—Passengers by the Central train report that Leesburg is still occupied by the Confederates.

Everything was quiet at Manassas.

Nothing further has been heard of the engagement by a portion of Gen. McLaw's command in the Peninsula, near Young's Mill. It is believed that the announcement some days since was made on erroneous information received by Gen. Magruder.

Virginia Races.

In the two mile race to-day, over the Fairfax course, near Richmond, both heats were won by Doswell's Ninnette. Time, 3:51½, 3:48. The track was very heavy and there was a large attendance.

Father from Leesburg.

A private dispatch has been received by Col. Coleman to the following effect:

GRAND JUNCTION, October 25.—Dispatches from Leesburg report seven hundred prisoners taken by the Confederates.

A son of Gov. Pettus, of Miss., was among our killed. Capt. Burt, of the 18th Mississippi, was badly wounded. No officers were killed in the 17th (Featherston's) Miss. regiment. Our loss is less than was first reported.

LETTERS FROM COLUMBUS.

COLUMBUS, KY., Oct. 21, 1861.

EDITORS APPEAL: Nothing of an exciting nature has transpired in or about Columbus since my last. The "masterly inactivity" that has so long characterized affairs in this department, still leaves its impress upon things here and hereabout; though the impression is gaining strength every day that "something is about to be did," and I have good reason to believe that the impression is strengthened by "droppings from the sanctuary of authority." What and where it is to be I know not, and should doubtless be constrained in my liberty to communicate if I knew.

Recent accounts from Paducah are to the effect that the Federalists have reconstructed the bridge of boats across the Ohio at that point, thus securing to themselves an avenue of retreat in case some "military necessity" should force upon Gen. Grant a hasty surrender of that, to us as well as to the Federals, important military position. There are now about six thousand troops at Paducah, two thousand of whom I am credibly informed, are in the hospitals, but the other four thousand are strongly intrenched behind works which our delay has given them ample time to construct.

Besides the formidable earthworks which have been thrown up by the Federalists at Paducah, I have it on the best authority that a novel and most effective method of securing their position from attack on its most exposed points by artillery and cavalry, has been adopted. On all roads leading to Paducah with the exception of one, it is said, at points where the means exist for such a novel defense, trees have been fallen across the roads in such a way as to block up the avenue, the tops lying from Paducah, and the limbs carefully sharpened so as to impall anything belonging to the animal kingdom larger than a weasel, whose pathway may lay across them, and who persist in their efforts to reach Paducah without the necessary delay of their removal.

The residents of McCracken county, or that part of it, at least, lying immediately around Paducah, who are at all in sympathy with the Confederates, are suffering both in their liberty and property, from the despotic and mercenary character of the policy of the Federalists, and are loud in their supplications for release from their worse than Egyptain bondage. I am aware that it is sometimes necessary that even innocent individuals should suffer for the public good, but where policy and justice demand the vindication of the rights of a people who are in sympathy with us, and the military arm is strong enough for the execution of the demand, I can see no adequate reason for delay in the circumstances that surround Columbus and Paducah. The enemy are evidently making their preparations to give it up to us in case we shall show ourselves worthy of occupying it, and I expect, ere long, to date a letter from that point.

Some days ago two young men, from the neighborhood of Paducah, brought to this market fifteen fine mules, which they offered for sale at the unprecedentedly low price of one hundred dollars a head. Now, there was nothing remarkable in this, if the mules had not each borne upon the left shoulder in prominent capitals, the initials 'U. S.' They were bad boys, who had evidently appropriated somebody's property to their own use, and you will do the public a favor by advertising the fact, so that the owner may come to Columbus and claim his property. I understand the young men effected a sale, and after dividing fifteen hundred dollars equally between them, started off on another enterprise of the same sort. It is said that an old gentleman bearing these initials has an extensive plantation just north of Paducah, and is at present herding large quantities of his stock in the bottoms on this side of the river, so it is quite probable the young men may carry on an extensive business in this line, to their own and the purchaser's benefit, since one hundred dollars is about half price for such stock as they are able to pick from the old man's flock.

I have understood upon good authority, that one George McK. Luken, a native of Illinois, and for some two year previous to the breaking out of the hostilities between the North and South a resident of Memphis, is now in Cairo, engaged in the business of "spotting" southern men who touch at that point. It will be remembered that this young man was urged to leave Memphis last spring by the vigilance committee, and while very reluctantly complying declared his intention to merely go home and see his friends preparatory to going to Virginia and taking up arms in the Confederate cause. I mention the fact merely to give his friends a knowledge of his whereabouts.

No further news of interest has reached me from above, though there are rumors of engagements throughout camp both in Missouri and Kentucky, which are, however, so untangible in their nature as not to bear repeating.

VERITAS.

COLUMBUS, KY., October 23.

EDITORS APPEAL: Columbus still wears its wonted quiet aspect, little stirring except the routine of business incident to so large a military command.

This morning news was brought to camp, I understand of an entirely reliable nature, that the Federalists had taken possession of Mayfield, having marched into that quiet place in large numbers on the 22d. Gen. Polk thought this point of sufficient importance to take possession of it by sending forward the Shelby Light Dragoons and Gen. Cheatham's brigade to occupy it, but afterward apparently changed his plans and lost a move on the military chess board by withdrawing from a position the advantages of which his first movement taught the enemy to appreciate. This place, like Paducah, is surrounded by men in sympathy with the South, and the brief period of our occupation of the place encouraged them to take a stand which is interpreted as treason by the Practorian bands of the Washington despotism, and I am told that numerous arrests are being made in order to forestall any movement of "secession sympathizers" toward Columbus. This is throwing down the gauntlet to the military authorities here, in a manner that they cannot well, if they desire, longer ignore. The work upon the batteries at this point is so far advanced as to do away with the necessity of maintaining a large force for its prosecution or the holding of the place, and a forward movement is daily expected that will throw the challenge into the teeth of the enemy.

Last night, I am informed, four hundred of the Federal cavalry approached to within eight miles of this point on the Blandville road before discretion got the better part of their valor and constrained them to halt and retrace their steps. A scouting party of the Shelby Light Dragoons had been over the ground that afternoon, and it is supposed that this was the game they were after. If so, like many an unsuccessful hunter, they went home with weary limbs and empty pouches, for the little party numbering ten, reached camp safely about nine o'clock that evening.

A spy in crinoline was brought into headquarters this morning, from somewhere in the neighborhood of Mayfield, who gave her name as Mrs. Sheppard. She says she is a native of New York, and has lived in Memphis, to which place she pretended to be making her way, when she drew upon herself the attention of parties who brought her to this city and delivered her over to Gen. Pillow. She has not had a hearing at the time of writing.

A skiff, with two occupants, with a pole raised at the bow to which was attached a white handkerchief, made its appearance in the river above this point this morning, and the diminutive size of the craft, its unwarlike appearance, and the ensign of peace which it bore, gave it a free passport, when Abraham's gunboats would ride in ruins, and it quietly moved at the Columbus wharf. One of the men got out of the boat and proceeded to Gen. Pillow's headquarters, where he asked the favor to be allowed to proceed under his flag of truce to Atlanta, Georgia, of which place he claimed to be a resident. It seems that the gentleman is under a heavy bond to meet the judge of the criminal court at that place at an early day, in order that that functionary may inquire legally into a case at law in which this party is accused of knowingly and wilfully vending counterfeit money. It is presumed that the gentleman will not be able to fill his appointment with the civil dignitary, since the military authorities here think it incompatible with public safety, that he should be allowed a free entry into southern territory.

Late in the afternoon of yesterday the Federal towboat Sampson, a small propeller, rounded the point above Columbus, bearing a white flag, and after the customary salutes was allowed to land. Gen. Grant and two officers of his staff were aboard, as well as three Confederate prisoners whom they proffered to exchange. The exchange will doubtless be effected, but had not been made at the time of closing this letter.

A Parrott gun belonging to Bankhead's artillery exploded yesterday afternoon, while the company were practicing, breaking the arm and otherwise slightly injuring a private of the company, whose name I have been unable to procure. The arm is broken near the elbow, and it is feared that amputation will be found necessary. VERITAS.

TENNESSEE LEGISLATURE.

On Wednesday the Senate Judiciary Committee reported back bills as follows: To repeal an act entitled an act to abate suits of aliens, to amend the laws and prevent swindling and oppression, to make slaves real property. The Currency Committee reported a bill to amend the act regulating banking, and the Military Committee a bill to establish an Ordnance Bureau, with amendments.

The first readings were a bill to give the people of the State the right to regulate the sale of spirituous liquors, and a resolution to instruct our Representatives and Senators in Congress to vote for the establishment of a national bank.

The bill to make slaves real property, for taxation purposes, was lost on its second reading.

The Senate transacted no business in the afternoon.

The House resumed the consideration of the unfinished House bill No. 33, to protect and secure the growth of wool, to which various amendments had been offered. After a good deal of discussion of points of order, the bill and amendments were laid upon the table.

Mr. McCallam introduced a bill to more effectually defend the State. It provides for calling into service 5000 volunteers for twelve months, to be called the army of Tennessee, and to be employed in defending the borders of the State.

Mr. Kennedy introduced a bill to repeal so much of the patrol law as allows compensation to patrols. Mr. Estes, a bill to authorize guardians to invest the profits of their wards' estates in Confederate bonds.

The following Senate bills were read the third time and passed:

No. 7—To repeal the penalties against soldiers for carrying bowie-knives.

No. 14—Prescribing the oath to be taken by attorneys and others.

Senate bill on second reading, No. 23—To give further time to perfect land titles. Passed.

Senate bill on third reading, No. 6—To amend section 612 of the Code. Passed.

House bills on second reading, No. 34—To change the time of holding the County Court of Knox county for the trial of misdemeanors. Passed.

No. 36—To authorize tax collectors and other revenue officers to receive treasury notes of the Confederate States in payment of taxes. Passed.

No. 42—To incorporate the Tennessee Leather and Leather Goods Manufacturing Company. Rejected.

No. 44—To amend the act incorporating the Gayoso and Chattanooga Savings Institutions.

Mr. Randolph offered an amendment requiring the institutions to mortgage to the State real estate double the amount in value of the notes they propose to issue.

On motion of Mr. Lockhart, the bill and amendment were laid on the table. Ayes 38, nays 8.

No. 47—To amend the charter of Chickasaw City. Passed.

No. 50—To construe section 14 of an act passed May 6, 1861. Passed.

No. 52—To make it a capital offense for a slave to burn a barn or other outhouse. Passed.

No. 55—To increase the jurisdiction of the quorum courts. Passed.

No. 57—To amend the criminal laws of this State and prevent extortion. The bill reported in lieu by the Committee on the Judiciary was adopted and then passed.

No. 60—To abolish the chancery courts and save the expense to the State.

The Great Naval Expedition.

From the N. Y. Commercial, October 14.]

One of the most extensive naval expeditions in which this country ever engaged, is now in preparation, and a part of it is already on the way to a common rendezvous.

The larger portion of this fleet has been fitted out at this port, but several vessels have been prepared at Boston and Philadelphia, all intended for the same object. The fleet has been furnished with every necessary, yet all has been conducted without bustle or confusion. Merchants have offered their vessels, and they have been accepted by the United States Quartermaster with promptness. The transports have been rapidly loaded at our wharves, and then hauled into the stream or off the battery, waiting the signal to start. Large steamships that have won themselves renown as ocean palaces, have been stripped of their gilding, loaded heavily with cannon and death-dealing missiles, and taken into the ranks of transports and war vessels. The expedition as it was composed in our harbor a few days since, presented a somewhat novel appearance.

The Baltic, loaded nearly to her guards, the Atlantic, Vanderbilt, and other ocean steamers, all bearing valuable freight, lay in the stream with saucy gunboats, side wheel and propellers, and even the diminutive tug, with a new coat of black paint, lay proudly with the war fleet. By the middle of last week this expedition was so far advanced that people began to speculate upon its probable destination. The very curious did not hesitate to take an early walk upon the Battery, and to devote an hour to the critical examination of the fleet, to see if any of them had left during the night. The wonder-lovers were gratified on Saturday by the departure of the Coatzacoalcos, Calawba, Roanoke, Empire City, Parkersburg, Unadilla and Atlanta. The 3d Rhode Island regiment was transferred from Fort Hamilton to the Cahawba, and Col. Serrill's engineers were taken on another vessel.

Yesterday the battery was thronged nearly all day by a crowd of people anxious to see the departure of more of the vessels. During the day the Star of the South, Ocean Queen, Daniel Webster, Ariel, Ashland, Vanderbilt, Oriental and Rhode Island left their several anchorages and sped their way out of port. The Wabash and several gunboats and transports remain in the harbor, but, in all probability, will sail during the day. Three ferry boats were purchased on Saturday, the Ethan Allen, Commodore Perry, and Stepping Stone. These will be dispatched to-morrow or Wednesday.

The entire fleet will have left this port by Wednesday, and probably by Saturday will have received the troops who are to take part in the expedition.

We commit no impropriety when we declare that the first destination of the vessels composing the expedition is at Hampton Roads and Annapolis. The naval vessels will rendezvous at the former place while the transports are engaged in taking on board troops from Annapolis. It is stated with some semblance of truth, that there were 15,000 men sent to Annapolis on Thursday night. We also learn that the Continental Guard, Col. Perry, Washington Greys, Col. Moore, and three other regiments, have orders to join the divisions at Annapolis. It is therefore probable that an aggregate of 25,000 men will be sent off. These will be fully equipped, armed in the best manner, and supplied with an abundance of provisions.

The ultimate destination of the expedition is known but to the government and Gen. Scott; and even when the fleet sails, the general in command of the troops will probably receive sealed dispatches, which he will be instructed to open when in a certain latitude.

The utmost care has been taken to ensure the success of this expedition, and we are safe in asser