Daily Appeal.

ATLANTA, GA.

SATURDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 5

THE CRIME OF DESERTION.

We very much fear that neither our soldiery nor their friends and relations at home have hitherto fully and earnestly estimated the enormity of the guilt attached to the crime of desertion. It is to be lamented that nothing short of the rigid enforcement of the law on this subject will awaken men to a full realization of the wretched fate that awaits him who infringes it. It could be hoped that a soldiery, such as that which makes up our armies, and fighting in a cause so holy and just, would conduct itself in such a manner as to render unnecessary the intervention of the law, with its penalties, as an admonition to the discharge of duty. And it is true that the infliction of capital punishment has been rare in our army since the commencement of the war, when we take into account the very large number of men that have been called into the service. As a general thing, however, our Government and its officers have been extremely lenient toward delinquents, too much so, probably, for the public good. This leniency has been misconstrued by those in whose behalf it has been exercised, and has served to encourage rather than check the disposition to desertion.

Judging from the tenor of dispatches this evening, this policy will be indulged in no longer. The work of capital punishment has begun in earnest, both in the armies of Virginia and Tennessee. The day and time for temporizing has passed, and both deserters in the army and traitors at home, will be rigidly dealt with hereafter. It is, in fact, these traitors at home who are in most instances the moving and immediate cause of desertion, and the same fate should be awarded to both. In the eye of the law as well as of justice, the aider and abettor of a crime is equally guilty with the perpetrator.

These executions in Virginia and Tennessee will, no doubt, serve, to engender a better state of morals in the army as well as among a certain class of discontents and growlers at home, who, by their complainings and croakings, have done much to discourage and demoralize the weak-minded soldier in the ranks. The example is, indeed, a terrible one. Let us hope that it may prove as efficacious and salutary as it is terrible.

LETTER FROM HON. W. C. RIVES.

Speaking of the letter of Hon. W. C. Rives, of Virginia, which we publish this evening, the Richmond *Examiner* says that "Whatever may have been Mr. Rives' opinions on the right of expediency of our secession at the time of its accomplishment, he at, least sees now that the cause cannot go back—that the terrible issue is irrevocably joined, either success in the full establishment of our separate independence by force of arms, or else utter subjugation—"a fate more horrible than the imagination can picture." He knows "no language which, in that case, could adequately paint the depth of our degradation and the extremity of our wretchedness." It is true as Death, and rather than endure it we must all face and welcome death. But Mr. Rives does not confine himself to painting the horrors of conquest and stimulating his fellow-countrymen to fight against it in a spirit of desperation. He shows that there is no need of desperation in the present case; that we are well able, and easily able, to repel and punish our enemies, provided we are resolved to be free, and prepared to do and dare for our independence what other nations have done and dared. And is there any dastard who will hold up his face and say that Hollanders or Prussians or Frenchmen were braver or prouder, or capable of more sacrifice and self-denial than the Confederate people? We know that some speculators and gamblers do say so, (whose souls are in their pockets,) and some deserters, (whose souls are in the heels of their boots,) and some of the folks called in North Carolina, *Buffaloes*, (who have no souls at all; but these classes of persons are not the Confederate people by a long way; neither are the wise and eloquent words of Mr. Rives addressed to them. Our true assurance of final triumph and honorable peace, and the safety and sanctity of our own homes and hearths, under the flag of our own Confederacy, lies in the fact that as the war has proceeded, and brought out the Yankee nature and designs into clearer light, every Confederate, however he might have heretofore doubted and wavered, if he has but three drops of right red blood in his veins, has been stirred to a passion of sacred rage, "and spirit never to submit or yield," that can never be conquered, and can only be exterminated.

We feel grateful to Mr. Rives, that at this hour of trial he has brought the weight of his respected name and character, and the power of his glowing words, to cast them into the scale of true manhood and high spirited patriotism, to confirm the wavering and shame the down-hearted, and spur men on the point at which they do or die. He is no brawling rhetorician, and does not speak, we presume "in the spirit of Donnybrook Fair"—yet in all this letter is not one word of negotiation, not one syllable of "diplomacy," he breathes nothing but battle, and never-ending battle; makes light of reverses and disasters; says we are not the pluck to stop them, and to conquer them as other white men have done; and proclaims "that no local or occasional disaster can check the progress of a great cause blessed with the approving smiles of Heaven, and sustained by stout hearts with unceasing vigilance and unfailing faith." There is nothing in the whole letter, even to the glowing allusions to "heroic Charleston," which does not bring us the cheering conviction, that all good and high-spirited Southern men feel that for them there is an alternative, save the alternative of Perish Henry—Liberty or Death!

With such a spirit animating our people, let the Yankees come on!

LATEST FROM CHATTANOOGA.—For the latest information from the front, we refer our readers to our Dalton correspondence, and extracts from the Chattanooga *Rebel* of the 4th, on the first page. By arrangements effected by our correspondent at Dalton, he will be better able to furnish us late and reliable information from the front, by making Dalton the base of his operations, than he could from within the lines of the army.

THEATRICAL.—Crisp's new theatrical company presented "The Stranger," before a large and appreciative audience at the Athenæum last night. The pleasure of the entertainment was much marred by the want of a suitable orchestra. We hope Mr. Crisp will soon supply the deficiency. For Monday evening "Ingomar, the Barbarian," is on the bills, to be followed by "Poor Pillicoddy."

A FINE LITHOGRAPH.—Mr. H. C. Clarke, of Vicksburg, the indefatigable publisher, now doing business in Mobile, has issued a beautiful lithographic representation of "The Bombardment of the City of Vicksburg, on the memorable 28th of June, 1862." It is for sale in the city by McPherson & Co., Whitehall street.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE VICKSBURG TROOPS.

We were pleased to meet in our city this morning, our friend Maj. Davis, commander of the camp of paroled and exchanged prisoners at Demopolis, Ala., who is on his way to Richmond on business connected with his post.

We learn from Major Davis that the paroled men of the armies of Vicksburg and Port Hudson are rapidly coming in, and will no doubt report almost to a man on the general circulation of the orders, of which the following is the substance:

Gen. Hardee takes command of all Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, and Missouri troops of the old armies of Vicksburg and Port Hudson, to rendezvous for reorganization at Enterprise, Miss. Gen. Gardner will take charge of all the Alabama troops of those armies and reorganize at Demopolis, while all Tennessee troops, except Vaughn's brigade, will report at this post for reorganization under Gen. Cummins.

FROM EAST TENNESSEE.

Information, that may be relied upon, has reached this place, to the effect that the enemy, in what force is not known, had advanced from Loudon to Sweetwater and Moore creek, some twenty miles this side of the first named place. There was a camp of paroled prisoners at Sweetwater, and the Federals are reported to be capturing them and sending them North for exchange.

The enemy are also reported to be crossing the Tennessee river, in heavy force, below Bridgeport. These movements may probably necessitate the evacuation of Chattanooga, or at least force a retrograde movement of the main body of our army, but we feel assured that Gen. BRAGG will be prepared to meet the enemy on any field he may select. With anything like an equal force, we shall have the enemy at a disadvantage on this side of the river. We confidently anticipate a decided victory whenever and wherever the conflict may occur. The Chattanooga correspondent of the Montgomery *Advertiser*, writing on this subject, under date of the 31st ult., says:

Apparently reliable rumors say that the enemy has crossed in some force at Shell mound, and is making his way down Willis valley. Our commanding general must have some confidence in the report, as the fine brigade of Brigadier-Gen. Preston Smith, commanded by a soldier of tried metal and merit, was last night dispatched across Lookout mountain to watch the movements of this force. It is only feared by our most sagacious officers that these rumors are not correct, or at least that Gen. Rosecrans is too wily a leader to risk his army or any large portion of it in a position where his destruction will be speedy and certain. Let him once cross the Tennessee west of this point, and become entangled in the fastnesses and passes of that region if he has lost his proverbial cunning and has become giddy with his questionable success. He will pay the day that he exchanged his fellow running and caution for the lion's sadness! The men of the army of Tennessee wish him to call into no securer trap than this!

Opinions are divided as to whether he will form a junction with Burnside in East Tennessee, or leave the latter to fight it out with Buckner, while he endeavors to move in the direction of Dalton. An eminent general officer of this army believes that he is moving his whole force to effect a junction with Burnside, that Crittenden's headquarters are now at Dunlap, at the foot of the mountain; that he has left large garrisons at Bridgeport, Stevenson and Murfreesboro, and has 45,000 left with which to reinforce Burnside. In the view and information of this officer he argues, he is then compelled to fight a desperate battle; for if he fails his whole army will fall an easy prey to Bragg, whose communications with the rear will be left undisturbed, while those of Rosecrans will extend over two difficult mountain ridges, sparsely settled, badly watered and easy of ambush. Bragg can also concentrate his entire force upon his foe—a force now grown enthusiastically confident, desperate and determined to win victory or fall in the struggle. No one in the army doubts the result should we be compelled to fight with the difficulties which environ it, that this is the design of the Federal general, than to think he will duplicate the error of Hooker at Chancellorsville, by separating his force on our two wings, and thus giving us the opportunity to mass the whole army of Tennessee upon either of the opposing forces that we may deem the most vulnerable.

THE WAR IN VIRGINIA.—The Richmond papers of the 2d, contain no information of army movements beyond the fact that passengers by the Fredericksburg cars on the evening of the 2d, stated that the Yankees had appeared in large forces on the hills opposite Fredericksburg, their pickets extending down to the river. They also report that there was considerable commotion in the Yankee camp on Monday night, as the rumbling of artillery and the moving of troops could be distinctly heard and seen at an early hour.

In another column we give a detailed statement of the brilliant naval exploit by Lieutenant Wood, at the mouth of the Rappahannock.

THE ALMADEN MINES.—A recent attempt by Abraham I. to seize, without law or precedent, the rich quicksilver mines in California, known as the "Almaden mines," created much excitement among the mining population of that auriferous region, and came near resulting in a *pas de arms* between his minions and the sturdy delvers after the precious metals. The Almaden miners have been in undisputed possession of their mines for seventeen years, and are still able to maintain their right to the property under the recognised mining laws of the district. When Mr. Lincoln saw that force was likely to be opposed to force, he telegraphed his agent to "crawfish."

Federal Account of the Raid on Grenada.

[Correspondence of the Memphis Bulletin, 31st ult.]

LAGRANGE, TENN., August 20.

EDITORS BULLETIN: It will be remembered that on the 13th inst., a force left the line of the Memphis and Charleston railroad, bound South. The result has just transpired, and the whole movement ceases to be contraband.

For some time our military authorities have been aware of the presence at or near Water Valley, Miss., of a large amount of railroad stock which was run up to that point by the Confederates at the capture of Jackson, Mississippi. Colonel Mizner, chief of cavalry, left Corinth with a large force, commanding the forces on the road from Germantown to Grand Junction, inclusive, having gained reliable information in regard to the amount and condition of the stock, has made frequent applications for a sufficient force and permission to secure, or, if necessary, to destroy it. Being finally successful in gaining permission to send a portion of his command on this important errand, Lieut.-Col. Phillips, commanding the 9th regiment Illinois mounted infantry, was sent out in pursuance with portions of the 3d Michigan, 2d Iowa, and the 1st and 3d brigades of cavalry, in all about 1500 men.

The following dispatch will explain itself:

"LAGRANGE, August 20.

"Major General Hurlbut, Memphis:

"The cavalry sent from here on the 13th inst., under command of Lieut.-Col. Phillips, reached Grenada on the 17th, drove Slemmer, with two thousand men and three pieces of artillery, from the place; destroyed fifty-seven engines, upward of four hundred cars, the depot buildings, machine shops, several blacksmith shops, and a quantity of ordnance and commissary stores capturing about fifty railroad men and a number of prisoners. After Col. Phillips with his command had accomplished his work, Col. Winder, of the 4th Iowa cavalry, arrived from below. His brief report will be sent by to-day's train."

It seems the stock had been removed to Grenada, and they had destroyed all the bridges and culverts north of that place to prevent its removal in that direction by our forces. Colonel Phillips found that he could not save it, and consequently destroyed it, a work not at all difficult, as the rebels had provided cited cotton and other combustibles in sufficient quantities to insure speedy destruction, should they find it necessary. They probably did not destroy it, hoping to be able to defeat our forces and save it.

Lieutenant Lacey, of the 32 Michigan cavalry, brings this information, having come through from Grenada, where he left the command, by a forced march.

BUCK.

LETTER FROM CHARLESTON.

[Editorial Correspondence of the Memphis Appeal.]

CHARLESTON, August 2, 1863.

Any record of the impressions upon a stranger made by the appearance of Charleston at present, would, of course, give a vision of the city as it was. Time, away yonder in the vicinity of her wharves and once magnificent promenade battery, very few of the features of war are to be seen, but there are a thousand evidences presented daily of change somewhere, and a change, too, as palpable to one who is now an observer for the first time as to the oldest inhabitant. The closed doors of business houses of world-wide reputation, banks, warehouses, the deserted appearance of hundreds of palatial residences, the almost abandoned markets, the scarcity of population, such as would be looked for upon the street of a peaceful city, cannot fail to attract the attention of the most apathetic looker-on. Yet but little of war is seen in the inside view. But few lingering officers about the hotels or soldiers on the streets greet the sight, and, judging from this feature, one would suppose General Beauregard was in command of but a trifling force, less in number than is required to save Atlanta from the invader—that is, supposing all who frequent that city are there for its protection. There is no commercial activity observable anywhere, the principal movement of vehicles on the streets being for the transportation of furniture to a point of safety. This, I am informed, has been going on for some time; indeed the exodus of families has been so great that it is estimated three-fourths of the usual population is absent. The women, children and servants have generally been removed, and many other men have gone with them. Those that remain seem determined to take the chances, and sturdily resolved to share the fate of their beloved city, be that what it may.

After communication with many, I have yet to hear the first one who counsels a *surrender*, under any circumstances. If the city is ever in Federal occupation, they will have to "come and take it." At one time it seemed to have been determined that, as a last resort, to prevent the enemy from enjoying the refuge the city, as it stands, would afford him, the torch should be applied by the hands of the people themselves, but this idea has been abandoned. On this point an admirable report was made by a general committee a few days since, and their suggestions will undoubtedly be acted upon, and carried out to the bitter end. The policy resolved upon is, should it become necessary, to fight the fire from street to street and house to house, until the last shelter for a defender is battered down. This seems to be the spirit of the people, and is announced to be the determination of the military. Consequently if the place is taken, it will be to ruins, and the cause of its destruction will rest with the vandal powers that are now seeking its reduction.

A walk up the battery affords an opportunity of forming some idea of the preparations made for defence, as well as of the movements of the besiegers. Away out yonder we can see, with the naked eye, the dim out-lines of the vessels of the attacking fleet, with a good field glass they can be distinctly observed. An occasional puff of smoke, followed by a dull report, appears to be the result of their entire amusement in day time. They accomplish nothing in daylight, apparently, except a fruitless burning of powder, as their evident fear for their own safety keeps them at a distance that renders it impossible for them to harm us. Within the line they occupy obstructions across the bay are to be seen which have resisted persistent efforts to effect a passage, and among which the Keokuk received her doom. From Moultrie, Ripley, Pinckney, Johnson, and various batteries, some of already historic fame, and others that are yet expected to make history, the flag of the Confederacy floats as proudly as ever, while the waters of the bay bear up a number of formidable crafts, of the powers of which the foe have never yet had a taste. All these are not only uninjured, but are hourly being strengthened. Sumter alone, of all that is visible, presents any evidence of the power of the enemy. All that can be said, in truth, is that the old fort is a ruin, valueless to either besiegers or besieged, without a single gun with which to retort upon the assailants. Yet our troops still hold possession, and the flag continues to float from the pile of brick and mortar. The world accorded heroism to Anderson and his command, how much more are its present defenders entitled to such a favorable record.

Immediately on the promenade battery some important changes and additions are being made, of the nature of which enough, perhaps too much, has already been published. To be fully advised would be a gratification to the public, but the military appear to be so solicitous that a strict reticence as to what is going on should be preserved, and annoyed when anything is developed, that I forbear. In my opinion they are from over cautious, or rather, they err as to the source from which the enemy obtains his information. I have known many instances in which he possessed a knowledge of our affairs, of which our own people were ignorant. Are the authorities aware that they have not employed the same means of obtaining knowledge against While deferring to the desire of the commanding general, and keeping our own people in the dark, I cannot help expressing the opinion that the Federal commander is better posted as to what is going on than are thousands of the people of Charleston. Hope I am mistaken.

Up to the present time the public has no information as to where the Federal battery was located that has twice succeeded in reaching the city, and whatever knowledge the military possess, or opinions they have formed, is concealed. It is reasonable to suppose the latter have not remained in ignorance this long, and have made counter preparations; but the people are not aware of the extent of the danger of a renewal of the bombardment, or when it may take place. Hence they are ready for what may come. The range of the missiles already thrown is well defined, reaching into the heart of the city, and yet but little damage was done to property, and none whatever to person. Beyond this range the remaining population is congregated. They boast that their city contains buildings bearing the marks of shells thrown by an enemy in two revolutions, and evince as little disposition to accumulate as did their fathers in 1776.

The city papers that will reach you in advance of this will give you information as to what occurred up to dark last evening. During the night not a gun was fired on either side. This forenoon a slow fire has been going on between the outer batteries, the report of which is faintly heard in the city, but with what result is unknown. An officer of position who returned from James island at a late hour last night after several days service there, informed me that the operations of our men had not been disturbed in that locality. I hope to be able to avail myself of his invitation to visit the works on that island.

The bombardment of Tuesday night, on both sides, is said to have been the most terrific of the siege. Sumter was the target of the monitors, and she did not reply with a single gun. I dislike to see the record made that at a distance of eight hundred and eleven hundred yards our guns failed to permanently injure the enemy's vessels, and that after being "struck no fly one hundred times," it is only "believed two or three of the monitors were seriously damaged." Some fears are expressed that they may attempt to run past these defenses and take position close to the city, but the few initiated seem confident that they will meet with obstructions in various ways that are not dreamed of generally. All such laugh at the idea of their being able to run the gauntlet. It is to be hoped this confidence is not unfounded.

Maj.-Gen. J. F. Gilmer, of the engineer corps, has been placed second in command, whence I hear many expressions of satisfaction among citizens. Censure of the conduct of some officers holding important positions, even to the extent of causing loss to the service, are current, and something appears to have been going wrong. It is thought an investigation will ensue. Let the officials be held to a strict accountability. This is no time for revelry.

The inevitable disaster to the transport steamer the other night, appears to have been forgotten, except by such as cannot find friends they suppose were among the passengers. The loss of life has not been stated officially—probably never will be. The silence is ominous.

The weather is now delightful, and as the season of the year is upon us when the Southern climate can be tolerated by Northerners, if at all, we may expect not only a continuance, but an increase, of their activity in this quarter. It would not be reasonable to anticipate an abandonment of the siege. Some few express a belief this will occur, but when they recall the persistent nature of the thirteen months' campaign against Vicksburg, they will, I think, give up all such illusions. The fate of Charleston is now being slowly arbitrated to a reality. ASHANTEE.

LETTERS FROM DALTON.

[Special Correspondence of Memphis Appeal.]

DALTON, GA., September 3, 1863.

The news brought from East Tennessee by passengers on last night's train, reports a Yankee force, roughly estimated at from two to four thousand, appeared on the opposite side of the Tennessee river, in front of Loudon, between ten and eleven o'clock yesterday morning. The two regiments of infantry reported at Loudon in my last letter, having been withdrawn the previous afternoon, Scott's cavalry was the only remaining force in occupation of the town. Scott opened upon them with his artillery about eleven o'clock, and the Yankees immediately commenced shelling the town, with what was supposed, from the fire, to be two pieces. One of the shells exploded in the immediate vicinity of the train, killing a lieutenant, and killing or wounding two or three others. The bridge over the Tennessee at Loudon, was fired in the afternoon of yesterday in its entire length, the smoke being visible for miles by the passengers, after the departure of the train.

All is reported quiet at Chattanooga this morning, no demonstration having been made on yesterday by the Yankee batteries. The Yankee cavalry is still reported to be in Wills Valley, on or near the line of the railroad. The report last night from the front is—whether true or false I cannot say, but I know it is believed—that Rosecrans has crossed the Tennessee with his army at Caperton's ferry, opposite Stevenson. This report is again modified, by limiting the crossing at Caperton's to the main force, and distributing the remainder to the other points above. It is surmised that it is Burnside's army which is threatening our right from Kingston, but this is again modified by a rumor, very positively asserted to be true, that Rosecrans, instead of crossing below, is moving with his whole force up the Sequatchie Valley to the direction of Kingston, and that the demonstration in front his army and not from Burnside's. A very intelligent officer of rank, whom I met here this morning, stated to me his persuasion that Burnside was not at Kingston. Rumors are so often official decoys, that I cannot say I believe any of those which I have given, and have only made a summary of them for the benefit or gratification of the eclectic in such matters, leaving each to select from among them a morsel suited to his own palate.

There seems to be a presentiment in the army of Tennessee, of great events soon to happen, and it gives me pleasure to reaffirm what I said yesterday of the unusual prevalence, among the men, of a feeling of abiding, cheerful, sanguine confidence. The mental condition of this army, I am persuaded, was never better, and I could hope that it might communicate itself to those still lingering at home in a state of listless quasi, or conscience stricken, or felonious, or unmanly concealment, and quicken them to the necessary pride, honesty, or exertion of joining their companions in arms. If it could, honesty, honor and pride would be restored to their bosoms; they would be again manly men, heroic soldiers, honored patriots, whom the country and posterity would delight to honor, and for whom they themselves, their wives, their children, their kindred would not have to blush in secret hereafter. When during the progress of this war, I have looked around me, and have witnessed, after such an effusion of preliminary patriotism, sentimental patriotism, as flooded the country before the war, so much dodging and self seeking, have witnessed so much evasion of personal and pecuniary obligation upon the part of the rich; so much effort on the part of people to make money by speculation out of the very necessities created by the war itself; so much of ignoble effort to avoid the perils of the war by obtaining exemptions, furnishing substitutes, seeking civil positions, and easy and soft places in the army which will keep them near home and away from exposure to danger; so much straggling upon small or false pretenses, and so much ignominious desertion and criminal disaffection, I have wondered if the old Grecian and Roman, or our own old revolutionary heroism could have been a myth, existing in the pages of Plutarch or Weems without existing in fact, or was only exceptional to the feeling and conduct of the masses. I say nothing derogatory—God forbid—of that noble band of officers and men, who have bared their bosoms to the storm upon every battle-field, and horse heretofore the burden and heat of the day. I say no thing against that "noble army" of men and women staying at home, who having pledged their fortunes and their sacred honor to the cause, have nobly, gloriously redeemed the pledge, as nobly and gloriously as if they had been in the front of the battle. They are the bright, brilliant exceptions with whose names, and deeds and sacrifices the pages of history will be luminous in the far on years to come, but to walking over the land, and mingling in the throng of the nobly and gallant, who seem to be lost to shame, to honor, to pride, to dignity, to everything which makes human nature respected, which makes me kind revered, which makes this world noble and lovely, the category seems to embrace by comparison almost the bulk of the population. And if these people remember that History, argus eyed history, "is not mocked," "that what never a man sowed," in this the country's great travail, "that shall he also reap," and that they shall have no reward of honor and glory, but contempt and shame, and obloquy rather, when History comes to make her awards, "neither they, nor their children, nor their children's children, to the fifth or the hundredth generation," to have their names or the memes of their families, spoken of contemptuously, when those of others are mentioned but to be praised, to have their children pointed out, as descendants of those who were not in the great war of independence, but stayed at home while their poor neighbors fought their battles for them, or if she who speculated, or straggled, or deserted, or were disloyal, while history, "with her ten thousand tongues" shall immortalize those, even in their graves, or in their children, "who have acted well their parts in the revolution, will be their and, their humiliating destiny.

Weather to-day warm and close. ASHANTEE.

DALTON, GA., September 4, 1863.

In consequence of the failure of trains from Chattanooga, I have nothing to communicate from there since yesterday morning, or in addition to what I may have written yesterday. The reports of heavy skirmishing at *Ringgold* (Hibernlania for "Shell mound) on the day before yesterday was an aural deception, or verbal fraud.

Since writing the above the train has arrived from Chattanooga, and I learn from an acquaintance that all continues quiet in front of the town, but that there is no doubt that Rosecrans, as I reported yesterday, is crossing in heavy force at Caperton's ferry, and that his advance is at Seed mountain. This information has derived from scouts, personally, who have been sufficiently near to hear their orders and hustle at the latter for their delinquencies. He knew nothing of our own preparations to meet them.

The news by the train from East Tennessee last night is to the effect that the Yankee advance has passed the Tennessee river, and is now at Sweetwater some fifteen miles on this side of Loudon. The report this morning is that the Yankees are at Athens, but this, like the dispatch of yesterday, (indorsed in pencil on my letter of yesterday to mark it equivocal), is no doubt a "cock and bull story"—though, no doubt, they may be in Athens, and are, for any obstacle in the way.

My letter, though dated at Dalton, may be accepted as from the army, for my opportunities of information are much better in every point of view than they would be if I were in the front. Of this let your readers be apprised. Action has withdrawn his depot from Rome, and is making this his central point for the distribution of papers through the different positions of the army. I give this for the information of the different newspapers circulating in the army, as for the army itself. I received the Chattanooga (Martial) *Rebel* yesterday for the first time, and I feel as I might have done in other times, in taking a sip of jully with its mint, strawberries, ice, and what else. Could I not get its diminutive counterpart from Chattanooga, do you not think, Mr. Happy? I should appreciate the favor much.

The Dogberry of the Richmond *Sentinel* in heralding with a mounte-bank's flourish an extract from the New York *Times* about President Davis, seems much elated by the patronizing insolence of its tone, and says as he conceives with the clearness of pertinent, and unanswerable apostrophe: "How biting a chapter history will have for those of our own people, who above all the world disparage their leader!" A more biting chapter" will be furnished by history, if history should deign to notice the example, in regard to the person who thought so meanly of President Davis, as to make him an Adriatic, for the sake of the privilege of making himself a Cryther. Rumor has it that the President holds his fulsome adulation in about the same extreme that Adriatic did that of Cryther, a thing not improbable when we consider the dignity, and quick perception of the motives of people, which are said to peculiarly distinguished the President.

I know fully the value of others' *laudi* testimony, and treat it with the same reason that I would the testimony of any discredited witness, such witness as the *Times*, long since acknowledged as one incapable of telling the truth in regard to the confederates or their cause. The *Sentinel*, incapable of appreciating the independence of truthful thought, or the manly dignity of an ingenuous patriotism, thinks that he has obtained in the mandlins eulogy of the *Times*, a club with which to knock out the brains of every honest and intelligent patriot in the land, who, witnessing the failure of Executive plans, ventures to express a thought of distrust as to their wisdom. Every gentleman in the Confederate States has a large an interest in the Confederate cause as the President himself, and therefore, as fully the so-ordinate right of opinion, and no one but a parson in a relation of sycophantic servility to power would venture to deny it, or call it in question. The editor of the *Sentinel* when he shall have removed farther from the spires of Washington than he has, will learn that dignity of character and independence of thought are characteristics of the Southern people; that the Government at Richmond is by no means a succed-ucum for that of Washington, and that the press is not worst, in our country, as distinguished from that of the Yankees, to be presided over by a Lazarus who deems it an honor to be satisfied by the crumbs which fall from the rich man's table, or have his wounds licked by the dogs from the rich man's kennel. Unless the President has an organ more discreet, or less adulacious and insolent, he had better not have any, for the influence of the *Sentinel* has been to impair rather than strengthen the popular confidence in his Administration.

The letter of Mr. Joshua Hill, the Executive de hope of the State of Georgia, published in the APPEAL of Thursday as an advertisement, is an exquisite specimen of imbecility, intellectual and political. The author certainly has taken as much pains with the paper as Rogers might do in polishing the blades of one of his knives, intended as a specimen, or Virgil might have done in giving his verses shape. Mr. ness neither one word more nor less, certainly not one more than he desires, and without exhibiting such an amiable self-complacency, such a dignified indifference to honor and office, such quietly rhetorical sympathy for the sufferings created by the war, such sentimental opposition to the war from the beginning, expressed more with the sorrow that would indicate the disciple of Howard than the anger of Marcellus. Nothing has been seen like this letter since the days of Ananias, William Lowndes or—Martin Van Buren. Deep, very deep, or very amiable is Joshua Hill. It is a singular phenomenon that many of those most opposed to this war are least averse to holding office, and most in favor of a wholesale support of President Davis, without canvassing his acts. The Whigs, the old Whigs, are verily the "children of the world in their generation." Joseph Brown has never been an ideal of virtue, but I think I should prefer his pragmatism to the exceeding oiliness of Mr. Joshua Hill, Joseph's chronic love of office to Joshua's exceeding official self abnegation.

That is a singular statement of your correspondent that the *Mississippian* is advocating the abolition of slavery. I am surprised that your correspondent should be guilty of the supercilious sin of even noticing the fact. Such paradoxes or solecisms are not worth a response, or if they are to have one, let the *Mississippian* answer them from its own files. I can conceive of no worse a proposition for reconstruction, and it may be that the *Mississippian* intends it as the alternative or prelude, if it means it as the alternative or preliminary necessary to the employment of our slaves in the army, he should have advocated it before we employed them on the fortifications. So very absurd is it that I suspect it to be a piece of very ingenious satire.

No local news. ASHANTEE.

AN EXCITEMENT IN CALIFORNIA.

Ineffectual Attempt to Seize the Almaden Mine.

From the San Francisco Bulletin, July 11.]

The excitement of the day is found in the attempt of the Government to take possession of the Almaden mine, and the consequent rumors which grew and multiplied on the street. A writ, dated the 8th of May, and directed to the marshal of this district, arrived in this city a few days ago. It was issued by President Lincoln, and commanded the marshal to seize the Almaden mine, and, if necessary, to use armed force.

Commencing with the beginning, we will endeavor to explain under what supposed authority the writ was issued. By a congressional act of 1807, the President is authorized to direct the seizure of all public lands which are occupied without authority or title from the United States, and to empower the marshal to use military force if necessary. This act has been used in this community before, we believe, once when Capt. Keyes (now Gen. Keyes), took possession of the land on which the marine hospital stands with a file of soldiers, turning off the squatters, and, later, in occupying and keeping possession of the Presidio grounds. In relation to mines, the letter of the act has never been considered as over the lands belonging to the Government, and prevent squatters from taking possession of them and burning the timber. But a bill recently passed, authorizing purchase to have been placed upon the law at Washington, and the writ to the marshal here directed him to take possession of the mine, the land about it, and the hundreds—three thousand, we hear, in every direction from the month of the mine, were dispatched in the case of necessity to call military force to its assistance. The mine when taken possession of was to be turned over to the custody of Leonard Swett, an old law partner of Mr. Lincoln, who came out on the last steamer. Marshal Neill, accompanied by Mr. Swett, went out to the Almaden and took possession of the mine and demanded the surrender of the mine and its appurtenances. This was declined, at least until telegraphic communication could be had between the Interior department and the Secretary of State. The marshal stated that if it were not surrendered he would march in a file of one hundred soldiers and take military possession. The officers then being in San Jose, the marshal left the mine and went to the town and to the vicinity in the meantime had become much excited, the town was barricaded by some one hundred and seventy armed men, and a temporary military organization was effected, however, the fort was carefully watched by pressed men, and not permitted to fall over. The authorities at Washington were telegraphed to, and while the marshal, the military and the citizens were preparing an armed neutrality, a dispatch came from the President to the proper hands to stay all proceedings, and the cavalry company was ordered to this city. The people of San Jose, who were much excited, received the news here with cheers and general demonstrations of gratification.

The popular impression has been that the writ, which it was designed to enforce, was issued by the courts. Not so, however, the order of the President, which, further a construction of the letter of the act of 1807, before referred to, and the supposition, on his part of course, that the property belonged to the United States, although the title may be very definitely established yet, as there are two claimants for the property in the field under private titles. But admitting it to be the property of the Government, stripping it of all other titles and placing the mine in undisputed Governmental possession, would it be policy for the Government to exercise its authority? Virtually Government has contended to the mine, and if it should be found to be the best way of getting the gold dug out of the earth, and the easiest way of settling a question of title which would otherwise have been productive of endless trouble, The Almaden mine has been in the undisputed possession of their mines for seventeen years, or old still have a right to the property under the unwritten, but recognized mining laws of this district, holding their claims by virtue of them that other miners have to theirs. Such action on the part of the Government would breed a very natural fear on the part of the miners generally, that their long-vested rights were about to be robbed them, themselves summarily dispossessed of their claims by an armed force. For nothing was dreamed but for Uncle Sammy to step in and project Ophir and Gold Hill, Comstock's and Grass Valley, Mariposa and Nevada, and all the "Old Diggings" in the market.

There is another interesting point to which the seizure of the Almaden mines would present itself to the popular view. It is conceded that the product of Nevada's territory equals one thousand flasks per month, and it is supplied to mines at sixty cents a pound, if the Almaden mine were seized, within three weeks every mine on the coast would be obliged to suspend working until a supply of quicksilver could be brought from foreign countries at a much higher rate, as there is said not to be a supply sufficient for a month's consumption to the country. The New Idria mine, below San Juan, is suspended, having been served with an injunction; the Enriquesta mine, in Santa Clara county, has worked idle for years, and the Napa mine is producing nothing. Consequently a stoppage of the Almaden works would interfere seriously with the interests of every gold and silver mine in the country.

The Draft.

The Lists not to be Revised—The Writ of Habeas Corpus to be Discarded in Future.

It having been announced that the enrolling officers were ordered to correct and revise the list of names subject to the draft in their respective districts, and that they were to assemble yesterday for that purpose, the community were naturally anxious to learn the result of their deliberations. To gratify the public in that regard, a reporter from this paper was dispatched to Provost Marshal Nugent, to inquire into the accuracy of the rumor which was current in the city the previous evening. Some of the evening papers asserted that a revision of the lists had been ordered by the authorities at Washington. Col. Nugent, however, denies that any such order had been issued, and stated emphatically that the lists would remain in their present condition, notwithstanding the protest of Governor Seymour. On being asked when the draft would take place, Col. Nugent—although evidently in possession of the information desired—refused to answer the question.

While our reporter was awaiting an interview with the assistant provost marshal general, a number of women were in the hall for the same purpose. One of those women stated to an orderly who had charge of the door, that she had a son who was illegally held as a soldier, being a minor and having enlisted without the consent of his parents. The orderly laughed at the idea of the lady deliberating to have her son released from his engagement in the army, and told her she had better go home and abandon her fruitless enterprise. The lady replied that if her son was not delivered up she would apply for a habeas corpus and compel the military authorities to release him. The orderly, who seemed to be above the ordinary standard of contingents, again laughed in a hearty laugh at the startling manifesto of the lady, and remarked that the habeas corpus business was "played out;" that no such document would be of any avail, as the military authorities would not respect any law that was not sanctioned by the Federal authorities. After a little further converse on the lady withdrew, declaring that she would take the necessary steps to have the matter investigated.

It is impossible to get any definite information regarding the draft, or when it is likely to commence; all the parties connected with it seem to be acting in concert, and no information is vouchsafed to the public, who will in all probability remain in ignorance until it is actually commenced.—*N. Y. News Aug 13.*

Union Expeditions into Arkansas—River Guerillas.

From the New York Times.]

CAIRO, ILL., August 8, 1863.—All the rebel territory west of the Mississippi, will soon be cleared of every organized rebel force. Gen. Davidson is marching down the center of Arkansas, and in several little affairs with the enemy has been entirely successful. Already the people of Jacksonport are said to be flocking before Davidson's approach.

Another expedition is on the point of starting into this Western country, which will help to complete the work of crushing the rebellion. It is not proper to speak of it in detail at present. But it cannot be long before the entire extent of territory will be under undisputed Union control.

The "Memphis-Grenada-Jackson-Atlanta" *Appeal* urges guerilla operations on the Mississippi river, and says a systematic plan of operations on the banks will accomplish more than can otherwise be devised to cripple Grant. It wants to see travelers on the father of waters bushwhacked from every canebrake and bluff below Memphis.

Indian Battle on the Plains.

Special Dispatch to the Chicago Times.]

ST. PAUL, MINN., Aug. 15.—Col. Miller received official dispatches from Gen. Sibley last evening, dated August 7th, eight miles from the Missouri river. On the 24th, 26th, and 28th, they had had three desperate battles with about 2,200 to 2,500 Indians, in each of which the Indians were routed and driven in confusion beyond the Missouri, with the loss of all their property, amounting to thousands of dollars, including tents, poles, buffalo robes, and skins, dried meat by the ton, axes and shovels, bowls, stolen from the whites, and other property, which were scattered over their track for a distance of ten miles. Their loss was 150 killed and wounded, ours 9. They were pursued to the Missouri, and were able to cross with their ponies and families, but left one hundred of their wagons on the east side. The howling of the squaws that came across the river told the tale of their misery.

The Preparations for Drafting in New York—Overwhelming Military Forces Displayed.

From the New York Times, 13th.]

The preparations to subdue, at the very outset, any symptoms of disorder, are ample. Upward of 20,000 soldiers are in New York and its immediate vicinity, and can, at short notice, be brought into service. Gloves will be thrown aside by Gen. Dix, if occasion requires, and he will deal promptly and sternly with any indications of disturbance. Those who first "unchain the tiger" will find themselves its quickest victims. The eloquent, earnest and decided address of Gen. Dix has had a marked effect upon the disorderly element. He is known to be in earnest; he is known to be loth to adopt any extreme measures, but he is known also to be the man to adopt them, and uncompromisingly, the very moment that occasion requires.

Throughout the city, and particularly in the district that is to be the scene of the first draft, the impression conveyed was of deep, suppressed excitement, and intense anxiety in reference to the events of to-day, mingled with the hope that no rash or unloyal act, no misunderstanding, no hasty, inconsiderate step may mar public tranquillity.

It is to be regretted, however, that the feeling against the draft is again developing itself, even though in the baseless way of threats and demonstration. In the district recently most infested, there was yesterday implacable indications. A very large number of arms were stolen and secreted during the late riots, and, in the many gun shops in the vicinity referred to, it was easily avowed that they would soon be used. This class of malcontents, who are most prominent, are evidently awed, however, by the preparations made to meet any overt act. That there will be disturbances to-day, or any attempt at one, does not seem likely. True, the favor of the past month has, to a certain extent, returned