Daily Appeal.

ATLANTA, GA.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 2

MILITARY CRITICISM AND ARMY POLICY.

If a luckless editor, or some other equally luckless individual serving his country in some useful capacity out of the army, happens to indulge in the liberty of a little criticism upon military matters, he is apt to meet with the sneer, or rebuke of exoteric superciliousness: is apt to be told that so much learning, so much military science ought to be at the service of the cause, in the command of the army. Sometimes there is quoted on him for his pains, the reply of ALEXANDER the Great to the military savant of his day.

Perhaps it might be sufficient in answer to many of these assuming such airs of poly-technic exclusiveness to say, that their assumption is a petitio principii, a clear begging of the question, it being not at all clear that many of them at least are military men, or if they are, that they are by any means the great Macedonian. Prior to this war, the leading officers of the present army had had hardly the military experience sufficient to make very great generals of every great critic, while it is known that many of these new in high rank were like DR. OLLAPOD and BAILLIE LITTLEJOHN in other and very unmilitary pursuits, and who while deserving very great credit for patriotism, can hardly set up any more than many outside, to be FREDERICKS, or JOMINIS, or VAUBANS. While taking in a military sense our full share of SYDNEY SMITH's rebuke of amateur deans and bishops, contained in the remark, "an iron monger may be a very respectable man, and if a religious ironmonger as much the more respectable, but a great blockhead if he sets up for a dean or bishop and lectures on theology," we take it with the qualifications, that the army is not in its organization as far above the comprehension of the people as to be antagonistical in its combinations, or ambiguous in its operations and such that many not in the army may have had an experience of actual service in brief but telling and brilliant operations; and lastly, granting that both these conditions fail, the freedom or curiosity of the people in our country is such that they will claim and exercise the right to criticise the plans and qualifications of those in authority, military not less than civil, particularly so far as a comparison of results with announced plans extends.

The native of the rule of military reticence is to keep improper information, or information which if admitted to the enemy would benefit him or injure us, and not to keep proper information, or information about events which have transpired, from our own people and say rule which would restrain the communication of such information to the people is not adopted ordinarily so much from a regard for the public service, as it is from some motive personal to those in authority: Rulers, civil or military, do not always limit the exercise of authority to objects merely official, but may as often use it for ends merely personal, the reputation of those in authority being as dear to them as reputation is to others; and they will use as many guards and precautions in the use of the power which they have for other purposes than to protect themselves, as others will use legitimate.

Let the people know the truth, whether it be favorable or unfavorable, if the event is not implicated with things which are transpiring, or it is beyond recall. When a victory or a success, however partial, has been gained, the electric wires can hardly transmit it with sufficient rapidity, but if a disaster or a defeat has been sustained, the Passyite's doctrine of reserve becomes the habit of the wires, communicating only here a little and there a little, through elected vessels, lest the sanctity of the tidings should be corrupted, or the people suffer from the effulgence of a knowledge more overpowering than they can possibly bear in the present state of their intellects. The people are not children or neophytes, they are neither ostrich nor alien enemies. They wear not "kib and tucker," nor are deserving handcuffs, lest they should be treated with such delicacy and discretion. Human experience proves that bad news loses none of its power by being kept back, but is strengthened by the influence of imagination rich in the fruit of doubt, conjecture, invention. In the name of all that is patriotic, if news is bad let it come out, and let it not be withheld from a sacred regard to the reputation of any individual.

The sooner it is realized by the popular mind, the sooner will the popular mind react against it and make the necessary provisions to repair it, and if any person or persons in particular are to blame, let the public censure fall where it ought, in order that the country and cause may be the gainer through the earliest possible change in organization and command.

Some persons of no doubt patriotic motives are vociferous in their appeals to the country not to criticise those in command, that it is unpatriotic, and will injure the cause. Each people seem to forget that patriotism has two sides to it, and that to failure may be more sacredly performed by objecting to an incompetent officer who is injuring the cause, than by establishing him in a position for which he is unfit. We are tired of this thing of treating the country as if it were a "babe and sucking" insensible of cause, prudence and patriotism, save so far as they may be ministered to pay by generals and present marshals.

It is surprising, that the representatives of the States and people in the approaching Congress will strict inquisition make into the condition of our armies in every department, not forgetting to give due attention likewise to an examination of the whole subject of the military police of the army and country, and ascertain whether in any department it is or has been used for purposes other than those designated in legislation. It also might be well for them to inquire into the present condition of the staff of the army with reference to salutary changes. The relations of the country and army should be those of confidence, and they can only be made so by removing every barrier of estrangement, thrown up by ignorance, prejudice or interest.

THE SIEGE OF VICKSBURG.—A pamphlet of eighty pages, by A. S. Abrams, of New Orleans, has just been issued from the office of the *Intelligencer*, of this city, entitled "A full and detailed history of the Siege of Vicksburg." Mr. Abrams was an inmate of the city during the siege and at the time of the capitulation, and enjoyed rare advantages of observation and the acquisition of facts. We have not yet had time to peruse its pages, though we doubt not they possess much that will prove both instructive and interesting. It is at sale, we believe, by all booksellers in the Confederacy.

☞ Governor Bonham, of South Carolina, in his annual message, recommends the Legislature to concur in the joint resolution of the Georgia Legislature, setting apart the 10th day of December, inst., as a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer, and requesting the Confederate Congress, State Legislature, the army and navy, and all the people to unite with them in its observance.

ARMY SUPPLIES.

By many no little apprehension has been felt lest our armies in the field would necessarily have to subsist on short rations of bread and meat. The occupation of so large a portion of the territory by the enemy, north of the Tennessee river, from which we have hitherto been able to draw so largely for supplies, coupled with the fact that the granaries of the Confederacy within our reach would have to support a large refugee population in addition to the forces in the field, afforded reasonable foundation for such fears; but we are satisfied, from personal observation, and information given by gentlemen who have traveled extensively, that the Yankees are doomed to be grievously disappointed in their frequently expressed threat of "starving the rebels out," and our own soldiers and people convinced that our resources, if reached by official energy and discretion, are inexhaustible.

In a conversation with Captain SAML. HEAD, who has for some time been engaged in purchasing and forwarding supplies from Southern Georgia, we were assured by that gentleman that the producers hands are full, and there is no cause for alarm. He represents the quantity of corn on hand as abundant, and also gives the more gratifying intelligence that unusual attention is being paid to feeding cattle and hogs. It is estimated that the quantity of meat produced this winter will more than double that of any previous year; and although prices may rule high there will be no deficiency. The only trouble experienced in getting the necessary articles arises from short means of transportation to the railroad depots, but even this can be easily and easily overcome.

Another gentleman who has spent some time in various portions of Mississippi and Alabama, gives us glowing reports from those States. The produce tithes paid by the planters have already accumulated vast quantities of produce in safe localities, from whence it can be easily transported, and yet the granaries are filled to overflowing. In both States the planters voluntarily sell at lower figures than rule in Georgia, and cheerfully comply with every reasonable requisition made upon them by the officers of the commissary department. We are not advised as to the difference in the Government prices in the three States named, or whether any exists.

Of our ability to supply a sufficiency of food both the army and the people may be assured. If prices continue high, or a temporary deficiency is experienced, both must be brought about by other causes than scarcity. To accumulate all our necessary demands it is only necessary for all to practice a reasonable economy, for the planter to divest himself of all speculation spirit and consider it his duty to give his surplus to the general good, if deemed most expedient, and for the whole non-producing portion of the country not in the army to turn their attention more to the cultivation of the earth. If we make diligent use of the means God has given us, we can laugh at the idea of starvation entertained by our foes.

The Front.

Accounts from the front continue of a vague and indefinable character, very conflicting, and all reports bear the appearance of having been put in circulation in order to mislead the public and conceal the truth.

A dispatch to the *Intelligencer*, dated at Dalton yesterday, says "the enemy, after burning a portion of Ringgold to-day, commenced a retreat, destroying the bridges and railroad track to Chickamauga.

"The enemy holds Cleveland, and are advancing on Charleston, Tennessee.

"The weather continues cold."

The Marietta *Confederate* of Monday evening says:

We were pleased to meet with Lieut. George Litton, of the 23 Tennessee volunteers, Cleburne's division, this morning. In the fight at Ringgold last Friday, he was struck on the right shoulder, whether by a spent ball or piece of shell, we did not understand, and his right arm was temporarily paralyzed, but, we are glad to say he is likely to be ready for duty again, in a few days. He tells us that the fight began about eleven o'clock, A. M., Friday, a little this side of Ringgold, between the enemy's advance, consisting of two divisions under Generals Osterhaus and Cleburne's division, and lasted about three hours. The enemy attempted to charge our lines up a steep hill, and were repulsed with terrible slaughter and driven through Ringgold, with an additional loss of about three hundred prisoners and three stands of colors, Cleburne, then fell back, his loss being slight, comparatively.

From another lieutenant, who was in the fight, we learn that a Yankee general (name unknown to him) was, also, killed. He says, he saw them dragging the general's body off the field, in rapid retreat.

Passengers who came down yesterday, brought the news from Dalton, that two divisions of Wheeler's cavalry had reached there, who brought the information that Longstreet had captured Knoxville and Burnside's forces, and was coming down to Bragg's aid; and that Buckner's division, had whipped the enemy at Cleveland, and held that place. We hear similar rumors from persons coming down this morning; and, also, that the enemy were falling back toward Missionary ridge, and Bragg's forces pursuing.

A soldier, who arrived from above, says he left Knoxville four days ago, and that Longstreet was then awaiting the arrival of Rosecrans's forces on the south side of the Holston, opposite Knoxville to begin his assault on the city.

The same paper of yesterday evening says:

We have just conversed with a lieutenant of the 8th Tennessee, just arrived on the cars from Dalton. He says, that after the defeat, this side of Ringgold on Friday, and his retreat, our forces began to advance on Saturday from Dalton and continued to advance on Sunday and Monday, and, he supposes, the most of them are, ere this, routed Ringgold. He says it was generally believed in the army of Tennessee that Longstreet had captured Burnside and all of his force—7,000, as he understood—and that they had been sent on to Richmond via Bristol.

CHARACTERISTIC LETTER FROM JEFF THOMPSON.—Brig.-Gen. M. Jeff Thompson, the "Missouri Swamp Fox," who was captured in Arkansas, is still in confinement on Johnson's island, notwithstanding the fact that Brute Butler applied for his release on parole, in reciprocation for the kind treatment shown by that Confederate officer to his prisoners. Prentice, of the *Journal*, requested permission to send him a demijohn of whisky, in return for attentions shown Prentice's son, now in our army. Jeff in writing to Prentice, gets on an epistolary "rampage," and thus speaks of some individual who has slandered him in the Yankee papers:

This person's description of me is, as he would make me appear, amusing and ridiculous. But it is too bad that he should wound my feelings in so tender a point when I cannot, intellects, and speak so of a lady (my wife), whose very tracks in the dust he would not be worthy to look upon. Should he ever fall into my hands, I will scalp him from the bridge of his nose to the scruff of his neck, including his ears, and turn him loose, unable to close his glaring eyeballs from the chance, or close his eardrums to the slaves which every wife and mother should and would pour upon him, and will cut off his coat-tail, so that every husband and father may have a fair kick at him. He certainly is no soldier, for every officer and soldier of your army, whom I have met, have acted like gentlemen, and I do not think they would let such a man remain with them.

I hope you will excuse me for being so violent, but I feel like a caged hyena when such things vex me, and were I out, a gallop of a few hundred miles would be a short ride for my white horse, were this man's "flank" at the end of it.

☞ Merchants and dealers will find it to their interest and advantage to attend the large auction sale of Brown, Fleming & Co., on next Thursday, December 3d. A fine lot of drugs, dry goods, shoes, leather, etc., will be sold.

LETTER FROM RICHMOND.

(Special Correspondence Memphis Appeal.)

RICHMOND, November 28, 1863.

The city has been filled all day with rumors of the most conflicting character, and there has been more excitement out of doors than we have known for months. A dispatch from Gen. Lee yesterday morning informed the Secretary of War that Meade was moving with his whole force across the Rapidan at the lower fords (Ely's and Germanna mills) and that he was himself pressing forward with all possible haste to confront and oppose him. This definite intelligence gave ground of expectation that a battle would be fought to-day somewhere in the neighborhood of Chancellorsville, with the morning light, however, all men were convinced that a general engagement to-day would be wholly impracticable.

Such a fog as rested over eastern Virginia till 8 o'clock, P. M., has not been witnessed for years. The other side of the street was but imperfectly visible in any portion of the town. Carriages, as they were driven along, vanished from sight at the distance of fifty yards. The lights were indispensable in counting rooms for the ordinary transaction of business. It was evident enough that it would be impossible to maneuver an army in such a dense mist, and that a cannonade under the circumstances would be quite as apt to be directed at our own forces as at the enemy. With the fog, which rather deepened than lifted towards noon, there came pain at intervals, a heavy, dashing rain with a warm temperature, pretty certainly converting the roads of Spotsylvania into a soft red mire, and perhaps causing a flood in the Rapidan.

In spite of the weather, notwithstanding fog and rain, we have been entertained with startling reports since early morning. At one time it was said that Gen. Lee had taken two ordnance trains of the Yankees with a considerable number of prisoners. A little later we heard that the Yankee cavalry had surprised and captured the regular passenger train on the Central railroad. Latest of all, it was noised abroad that the great battle had been fought, and that the Yankees had been repulsed at all points. I cannot hear that there is any foundation for a single one of these rumors. The clouds have parted, at the time of this writing (half-past five P. M.), and are sailing off before a brisk west wind, and there is a roseate flush in the path of the setting sun that gives promise of a fine day to-morrow.

The strong probability is, that if the elements are favorable, to-morrow the battle will be fought—we shall have another Sabbath filled with the roar of artillery and the shouts of contending thousands. Much depends upon the issue. No doubt the force of Meade is very greatly superior in numbers to that of Gen. Lee. The Yankees will certainly make a desperate effort to carry the day, flushed by the success of their arms at Lookout mountain upon the left center of Gen. Bragg, but every confidence is felt here that the invader will be driven back as he has always been heretofore. You will probably know all about it before this letter reaches your hands.

The feeling here consequent upon the news from Lookout mountain was that of depression, certainly, but it can be truly said that everybody was prepared for it. There is no confidence felt in General Bragg out of the immediate circle of the President's military and ministerial family. When Congress meets there will be a very decided expression of opinion as to Bragg's capacity as a commander. Look out for that.

The provisions provided by the Yankee Government for the prisoners in the Libby and on Belle Isle have been sent back, and Judge Ould has written a very sensible letter to the new Yankee commissioner on the subject of the complaints so lardily and insolently made about the treatment of the prisoners. They will be furnished with the same rations exactly with our soldiers in the field, and if the Yankees are not satisfied with this, let them recommence the exchange upon the terms of the cartel, fairly and honestly.

The commander of the French frigate now at City Point has arrived in town, and is the guest of the French consul. The object of his visit has not transpired.

There was a report yesterday of the death of General Ewell, but I am glad to say it is contradicted to-day upon authority. The gallant general has asked to be relieved from command, and lies ill at Charlottesville, but his friends hope strongly he will ultimately recover.

DIXIE.

Letter from Tennessee.

(Correspondence Mobile Register.)

ARMY OF TENNESSEE, MISSIONARY RIDGE, November 25—Midnight.

The Confederates have sustained to-day the most ignominious defeat of the whole war—a defeat for which there is but little excuse or palliation. For the first time during our struggle for national independence, our defeat is chargeable to the troops themselves, and not to the blunders or incompetency of their leaders. It is difficult for one to realize how a defeat so complete could have occurred on ground so favorable, notwithstanding the great disparity in the forces of the two hostile armies. The ground was more in our favor than it was at Fredericksburg, where Gen. Longstreet is said to have estimated that Lee's army was equal to 300,000 men. And yet we gained the battle of Fredericksburg and lost that of Missionary Ridge.

But let us take up the painful narrative at the beginning, and see how this great misfortune, if not this grievous disgrace, has befallen the Confederate arms.

Lookout mountain was evacuated last night, it being no longer important to us after the loss of Lookout or Will's valley, and no longer tenable against such an overwhelming force as Gen. Grant had concentrated around Chattanooga. Gen. Bragg abandoned also the whole of Chattanooga valley, and the trenches and breastworks running along the foot of Missionary ridge and across the valley to the base of Lookout, and moved his troops up to the top of the ridge. It was found necessary to extend his right well up toward the Chickamauga near its mouth, in consequence of the heavy forces which the enemy had thrown up the river in that direction. The Tennessee and Missionary ridge approach nearer to each other as one goes up, or rather down the valley, the width of which at some points does not exceed one-fourth of a mile. Across the valley, now almost an open plain, varying from a fourth of a mile to two miles in width, the Federals advanced to the assault, their ranks exposed to our artillery fire from the ridge while in the plain, and to the infantry fire when they attempted the ascent of the hill or mountain.

The only objection that can be urged against our line was its length and weakness, the latter being the result of the former, and the former the result of circumstances beyond our control. It being necessary for us to guard the passes in the ridge and to conform to the length of the line presented by the enemy. The ridge varies in eight from four to six hundred feet, and is crossed by several roads leading out from Chattanooga. The western side next to the enemy was steep and rugged, and in some places almost bare, the timber having been cut away for firewood. Our pickets occupied the rifle pits below, while the infantry and artillery were distributed along the crest of the ridge from McFarland's gap almost to the mouth of the Chickamauga, a distance of six miles or more. In addition to the natural strength of the position, we had thrown up breastworks along the ridge wherever the ascent is easy.

The Federal army was marshalled under Grant, Thomas, Hooker and Sherman, and did not number less than 85,000 veteran troops. The Confederate army, under Bragg, Hardee and Breckenridge, did not number half so many. Longstreet's Virginia divisions and other troops had been sent to East Tennessee. Had these been present, with their steady leader at the head of them, we should have won a victory quite as complete as our defeat has been. As it was, we ought to have won the day, and should have done so if our men had done as well as usual. Possibly a mistake was committed when Longstreet was sent away, and possibly it would have been better not to have accepted battle today, but have retired last night. Gen. Bragg thought, however, that there was not time, after the loss of Lookout, to get his army safely over the Chickamauga last night, and that it would be better, occupying so strong a position, to fight it out. But what could he expect from battle where the odds were so much against him? Not only did Grant have nearly three to one in number, but the geographical configuration of the ground, in maneuvering an army, was as favorable as he could desire. Nature had provided an ample protection for his flanks and rear, and tendered his front almost impregnable. He possessed the additional advantage of being able to maneuver his army upon the chord of a semi-circle, while Bragg could move only upon the arc.

But let us proceed with the battle, the strangest, most singular and unsatisfactory conflict in which our arms have been engaged.

Grant deployed his immense masses in two heavy lines of battle, and sometimes in three, supported by large reserve forces. The spectacle was magnificent as viewed from the crest of Missionary ridge. He advanced first against our right wing, about 10 o'clock, where he encountered that superb soldier, Lieut.-Gen. Hardee, who commanded on the right, while Major-Gen. Breckinridge commanded on the left. Hardee's command embraced Cleburne's, Walker's (commanded by Gen. Stat. Gen. Walker being absent), Cheatham's and Stevenson's divisions. Breckinridge's embraced his old division, commanded by Brig.-Gen. Lewis, Stewart's, part of Buckner's, and Hindman's commanded by Patton Anderson. The enemy's first assault upon Hardee was repulsed with great slaughter, as was his second, though made with double lines supported with heavy reserves. The wave of battle, like the wave of the sea when it dashes against a rock bound coast, beat, and hissed, and struggled in vain for the brave men who guarded our right were resolved never to yield one foot to the hated invaders. The odds against which they contended were fearful; for while the enemy advanced in two and even three massive lines, their own army consisted of only one long and weak line, without supports. Yet they not only repulsed every attack, but captured seven flags, about 200 prisoners, and remained masters of the ground until night, when they were ordered to retire, carrying off all their guns, losing no prisoners, and but a small per centage of killed and wounded. The whole command behaved well, and especially that model soldier, Major-Gen. Cleburne, a true son of the Emerald Isle, and his heroic division. Gen. Hardee, saved the army from a disastrous rout, and added fresh laurels to his brow.

The attack on the left wing was not made until about noon. Here, as on the right, the enemy was repulsed; but he was obstinate, and fought with great order and confidence, returning to the charge again and again to the hand-somest style until one of our brigades near the center, and to be Reynold's, gave way and the Federal flag was planted on Missionary ridge. The enemy was not slow in availing himself of the great advantages of his new position. In a few minutes he turned upon our flank and poured into them a terrible enfilading fire, which soon threw the Confederates on his right and left into confusion. Under this enfilade, the gap in our lines grew wider and wider, and the wider it grew the faster the multitudinous foe rushed into the yawning chasm. The confusion extended until it finally assumed the form of a panic. Seeing the enemy in possession of a portion of the heights, the men hastily concluded that the day was gone, and that they had best save themselves. Just at this time the alarm was increased by an artillery battery which rushed down the hill to the river for a fresh supply of ammunition; the men, however, supposed they were flying from the field, and their fall was lost. Nearly the whole left wing eventually became involved, and gave way—a portion of it returning under orders, but the greater part in an unmitigated rout.

General Bragg did all that he could to rally the fugitives and reform the broken line. He exposed himself in a most unguarded manner, and at one time it looked as if he would certainly be killed. His staff officers were also conspicuous in their efforts to restore our fine. They and the chief were the last to leave the ridge.

The day was lost. Hardee still maintained his ground; but no success of the right wing could restore the left to its original position. All men—even the bravest—are subject to error and confusion; but to-day some of the Confederates did not fight with their accustomed courage. Possibly the contrast between the heavy masses of the Federals as they rolled across the valley and up the mountain ridge, and their own long and attenuated line, was not in character to encourage them.

Our casualties are small—very small—too small, indeed, to be recorded along with so complete and humiliating a defeat. Included among our losses are some of our best guns—perhaps as many as thirty or forty. The infantry supports in some instances fled so precipitately that there was no time left to remove the guns. There were but few roads down the mountain by which they could retreat, and this occasioned further loss. All the artillery behaved well. Two men in Cobb's battery stood their ground after their supporters had fled, and though they lost their guns, they fought them to the last; and when they could use them no longer on account of the steepness of the descent, they buried hand grenades at the foot as he crawled up the mountain beneath the muzzles of the guns.

The enemy's loss must have exceeded ours ten to one. Our dead and some of the wounded were left on the field.

But it is late and bitter cold, and I must close. We cross the Chickamauga to-night, and then proceed to Dalton. I write under the greatest possible disadvantages. P. W. A.

Great Britain.

In the court of exchequer, on the 3d inst., the attorney-general applied to the court to give him more than the ordinary time of four days after the opening of the court in which to move for a new trial in reference to the forfeiture of the unspecified gunboat Alexandria. After some explanations by the lord chief baron in regard to his assuming up in the case, it was arranged that the attorney-general should appear in court again on the 5th inst., in order to see whether they could bring a case of the kind within the terms of the common law procedure act.

The *Morning Post* thinks, from the discussion which took place on the above occasion, that the law officers of the Crown entertain but feeble hopes of setting aside the verdict already given. But if, says the *Post*, our municipal law was not violated, we have still to decide whether or not our international obligations were disregarded. The latter is a question for the Legislature and the former for a court of law.

The London *Times* says that unless technical difficulties impede the proceedings it is likely that the law relating to the Alexandria and the rams will be shortly settled, and it trusts "that the decision of the court will effect such a settling of disputed points as will remove any just cause of complaints without unduly restricting the industry of the country. If ironplated rams are constructed here with the moral certainty that they will proceed to run down Federal merchantmen, without ever going near a Confederate port, it is time to arrive at a distinct knowledge of what the law is that bears upon the subject."

The *Times* learns that the Venezuelan Government have made an offer for the Alexandra—that Messrs. Baring Brothers guaranteed the transaction, but that the Government declined to sanction the transaction.

The Dublin steamer Kerrage, reported by last steamer to have arrived at Queenstown, was expected to visit Southampton. The United States frigate Niagara and the rebel steamer Georgia were also looked for shortly at that port.

Mr. William Cowell Jewett had again returned to Europe and renewed his agitation in favor of European mediation in America. The Liverpool *Mercury* publishes a lengthy manifesto by him in advocacy of mediation by France and the other European powers, together with a letter by Mr. Vallandigham, in which that gentleman reiterates with increased force his remarks in Congress in favor of accepting French mediation.

The weather in England continued very stormy, and disastrous to the shipping.

The ship Victoria, from New York, was ashore at Broadhaven, near Sligo, bottom and bilge reported gone. The James L. Bogart, for New York, lost her mainyard and bulwarks, etc., by a collision in the Mersey.

One of the Mersey iron-clad rams, El Tousson, had been towed out of the docks and placed in the stream, under the guns of the guard-ship Majestic. The other ram, El Monassir, remained in an unfinished state in one of Laird's docks, but a guard-boat kept watch at the entrance of the docks.

The London *News* points out that the influence of the Western armies on the movement of those in the East denotes that a new and important stage of the war has been reached. Henceforth an invasion of Maryland by the Confederates becomes impossible. If at any time they greatly increase the distance between themselves and their base, the Unionists will at once advance from Eastern Tennessee and destroy their supplies.

The London *Post* argues that the North can never obtain men sufficient to preserve the Union conquests—such conquest requiring an army to retain possession.

The *Times*, in its city article, draws attention to the immense substitution of foreign for American shipping, as shown by the returns of the port of New York.

Rainer has recently connected a pending case in the English Divorce Court with a Cabinet Minister.

The Dublin Evening Mail says that the Minister in question, who appears as co-respondent in the case, is no less a personage than Lord Palmerston; and it adds that in a case of this kind, affecting the person of the age and position of Lord Palmerston, the public will naturally suspend its judgment.

The London Star intimates that the case has been quietly arranged and further exposure will be avoided; but it is possible that important political changes may occur. The name of the petitioner for the divorce is O'Kane. The *Star* in a later issue contradicts itself and says the case has not been compromised; but is believed to be in progress.

The Morning Herald announces that a marriage is in contemplation between Prince Alfred and a princess of the house of Oldenburg.

The weather continued very stormy in England, and the week list at Lloyd's was very long; but there was nothing of moment in regard to American shipping.

The London *Times* has a leading editorial article on the fallibleness of diplomatic interference with Russia. The efforts, it says, of the three Powers have not dried a single tear; but they have made it a point of order with Russia to put down the rebellion in Poland with the utmost severity. They have made mercy appear in the light of a concession to foreign dictation. The whole hopes of Poland, therefore repose entirely on the prospect of assistance from France, since it is not probable that Austria will take up arms for Poland, and it is certain that England will not. Perhaps the Emperor Napoleon may think it a lesser evil to embark alone in all the uncertainties of a great European war.

From the Rapidan.

Great military movements are on foot along the Rapidan, but the authentic intelligence that can be obtained from that interesting quarter is exceedingly meager. There is no official information that it suits the views of the Government to make public, and for our scanty news we are dependent entirely upon the reports of persons who reached the city last night from Fredericksburg and Gordonsville.

Persons from Fredericksburg report that five thousand of the enemy, cavalry, artillery and infantry, crossed the Rapidan at Ely's ford on Thursday night, and that on yesterday, at 9 o'clock, A. M., they were in sight of our pickets, who occupied the old battle-field of Chancellorsville. It is believed that it was Meade's design to throw over his whole army at that point. When the train left Hamilton's crossing at 11 o'clock A. M., yesterday, a slow but continuous cannonade was heard in the direction of Ely's and Germana fords.

Passengers from Gordonsville say they heard no firing.

When it was first reported here that Meade was advancing, it was said that it was his intention to attack Gen Lee on both flanks. We hear nothing now of such a movement, though it was rumored on the streets that he had occupied Orange Courthouse yesterday morning.

There is every reason to believe that we are to have another great battle on the Rapidan. Every thing in our latest accounts tends to indicate that it is to be fought in Spotsylvania, somewhere between the Court House and Chancellorsville. But Hooker's old intrenchments at the latter place are still standing, just as he left them, and it may suit Meade to occupy the position and await attack; or, in case none is made upon him, to winter there. A day or two, or perhaps a few hours, may develop his plans.

Of the movements of our own troops we know very little, and will say nothing. No one has a doubt but that they will be found in the right place at the right time.—*Richmond Examiner, 30th ult.*

General D. H. Hill's Defense.

Gen. D. H. Hill, who was relieved from his command in Gen. Bragg's army after the battle of Chickamauga, has published the following card in his defense:

A CARD.—As several erroneous statements have been made in regard to my being relieved from duty with the army of Tennessee, it cannot be improper to give the facts in the case. When the order relieving me was received, I called upon General Bragg and asked the cause of it. He said that he had no cause of complaint against me up to the close of the battle on the 20th of September; that no imputations had been, or could be made against my military character, and that he would promptly rebuke any one making such in his presence. I then asked what could be the reason for his action. He alleged as the cause an expression of opinion on my part. I inquired why I alone was held responsible for this utterance, when the other three corps commanders, (Longstreet, Buckner and Cheatham) had concurred in it. To this no satisfactory answer was given.

The insinuation made by some of the army correspondents of my being tardy in attacking on the morning of the 20th September, is unjust. The first intimation that I received that we were to be the assailants was an order to advance from the wing commander (Gen. Polk), received at 7:45 A. M. And the first I heard of the contemplated attack at daylight was from Gen. Bragg himself, some half hour later. The four essential preparations for battle had not been made at 8 A. M., and, in fact, could not be made without the presence of the commander-in-chief, who then appeared on the field.

Lieutenant-Gen. Longstreet has since told me that he was far from being ready at daylight; that he was not even ready when I began the attack. My impression is that my corps was engaged more than an hour before a trigger was drawn by any other troops. To the fierceness of the assault by this heroic corps, the Yankees ascribe their massing on our right. If I am not greatly mistaken, we had gained the Chattanooga road, turned the Yankee works, and nearly reached the Kelly house, before the left wing came into action. The Yankees concentrated their forces rapidly to regain the key point of their position. Generals Helm and Dashler were killed, and Gen. Adams was wounded and captured by the overwhelming masses thrown against my single corps. Gen. Adams told me that the "Yankees, in conversation with him, ascribed the loss of the battle to their withdrawing too many troops from their right to meet this morning attack of my heroic men on their left. It would seem that the delay in attacking on our left led them to believe that our forces were massed on our right. All the Yankee accounts of the battle agree in this view of our plan of attack.

I heard no firing on our left until after the fine troops of Walker and Liddell had come to our support.

The charge of tardiness being disposed of it may be well to quote to the self-constituted critics the following extract from the letter of the adjutant-general, in refusal of my application for a court of inquiry: "Indeed, with an officer of your past service and approved gallantry, military delinquency is a presumption not to be indulged by any one, and certainly not in the absence of all charge or complaint stereotyped by the department." D. H. HILL,

Lieutenant-General.

Cotton Through the Blockade.

We have for some time noticed the mistaken notions prevailing in regard to the amount of cotton which goes out of the country through the blockade. We are being drained of our cotton says one paper: We are keeping the spindles of Old and New England going by permitting shipments to be made from Wilmington and Charleston, says another, and we remarked a day or two since an allusion to this in the Savannah *Republican*, a highly intelligent and usually well posted paper, in which large transactions made in cotton in Liverpool are referred to the supply obtained through the blockade. One would think that millions, at least hundreds of thousands of bales had gone out in this way, and we doubt not most people do think so.

In order to arrive at something definite up on this subject, we procured this morning, from the custom house here, the following statement of the exports of cotton from this port for the three first quarters of the present year:

EXPORTS OF COTTON FROM THE PORT OF WILMINGTON FROM 1ST JANUARY TO 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1863.

	BALES.
First Quarter	4,216
2d do.	19,729
3d do.	16,906
Total	30,851

Say that the current quarter equals or exceeds the last, which it will no doubt do, still the whole exports for the year will not exceed fifty thousand bales. A few bales or a few hundred bales may have been smuggled out, but altogether too few to take into account.

All the blockade runners east of the Mississippi have not taken more than as much more. They cannot have done it. The reports of all the Confederate ports will not show 150 000 bales; nor do we think that much even has gone or will have gone during the year, even if we include the cotton crossed over the Rio Grande from Brownsville, Texas, to Matamoras, in the Mexican Department of Tamaulipas.

Much cotton has no doubt been wasted, damaged, rotted, as may be seen at almost any railroad depot, and in this way the stock in the country has been reduced to an extent far beyond anything that the small exports could effect, and beyond even the loss by burning or the devastations of the enemy.—*Wilmington Journal.*

A Northern Radical.

Among the persons who addressed the great Republican meeting, held recently in the Cooper Institute, New York, was Professor Francis Lieber. He was born in Berlin, in 1800, and was forced to abandon his country in 1825 for having taken part in liberal movements against the Government. He went to England, where for a short time he supported himself as a teacher and writer for German periodicals. In 1827 he came to the United States, lectured for a time in New England and established a flourishing school at Boston. While there he engaged himself as the editor of the Encyclopedia Americana. He published also several works, among which was the Life of Casper Mauser.

In 1835 he accepted a very flattering invitation to the place of professor of history and political economy in the South Carolina college at Columbia. He was received with much honor, and held the office until, we believe, a short time before the war. He is now, we also believe, a professor in a New York institution. His son Oscar, who was born in Boston, and educated in Germany, was at one time State geologist of Mississippi, and employed in a geological survey of Alabama in 1854 and 1855, and until 1860 he held the office of mineralogist, geologist and agricultural surveyor of South Carolina.

The father, shortly after he left South Carolina, fell into the clutches of the Republican party, and, from a professed friend of the South, where he and his son was so welcomed, he has become one of her most bitter revilers.

From his speech at Cooper Institute, we make the following brief extract:

"Our enemies have taken the motto: 'The Union as it was; the Constitution as it is.' Let us inscribe on our next election banners: 'The Country as it was; the Union less than neither.'"

This is a striking sentence, and perhaps, as well as any brief extract, exhibits the animus of the party now making war on us. He declares that "our enemies have taken the motto 'The Union as it was; the Constitution as it is.' These men, then, who desire to restore the Union to its status under the Constitution are enemies, and those, it is implied, who wish to make a new Constitution, are the only men loyal and not enemies. What this better Constitution is to be, we can discover in the letter of Solicitor Whiting—that is, the annihilation of slavery, the confiscation of property, and the resolving of our States into territories or provinces, to be ruled as Congress pleases—provinces which will be immediately governed by Yankee satraps. This is what Professor Lieber means by "ion times better."—*Mobile Tribune.*

Letter of Mr. Lindsay, M. P.

"Historicus," a writer of ability, Mr. George N. Sanders and Mr. Lindsay have recently discussed the steam-ram question in England. The latter propounds these questions in his last letter to "Historicus."

1. Are the traders of this country, by our laws, intentioned from selling to belligerents in the ordinary course of their business such commodities in which they deal as, but for a state of war, they would be entitled to dispose of? In other words, are they not to be allowed to pursue their lawful calling in their own country because their customers happen to be at war?

2. As shipbuilding is quite as lawful a calling as the manufacture of guns or sabers, is it not as legal for Messrs. Laird to sell their ships in the Mersey to one belligerent as for the cutlers of Sheffield and the gunmakers of Birmingham to sell their sabers and their muskets to another belligerent?

3. If a cutler or cannon founder may by law send sabers and muskets to New York, or mortars to bombard Charleston, or Greek fire to destroy its inhabitants, why may not a ship builder send a steam ram to New Orleans or Mobile?

4. Is not a rifle with percussion caps, balls and cartridges, or a bayonet fitted to its musket, or an Armstrong gun, with its munitions of war, shells, and fuses, as fully equipped for injury to one belligerent as a ship with its cannon on board is to another? And is the steam of a steam ram built in a neutral port more clearly fitted for making a hole in a belligerent's ship than a rifle manufactured in a neutral town for drilling a hole through the head or body of a belligerent soldier or sailor?

5. If the Confederate Government has violated our laws and invaded our sovereignty by contracting for ships in this country, how is it that the Federal Government has not done so also by contracting for, buying and transmitting them our ports, even in our Royal mail steamships, enormous quantities of contraband of war?

6. If the Federals have a right to recover from us the loss they have sustained through "the depredations of the Alabama," will the Confederates not have an equal right to compensation for the destruction of their cities by the cannon which we sold to their enemies?

7. If it be the case that the Federal Government has ignored and instigated the Queen's subjects to violate the injunctions of her proclamation, is it in a condition, by the law of nations, to demand redress for the disregard of that proclamation by others? And are we to yield that to four which has no support from either law or equity?

8. If it be the case that a violation of our sovereignty is an offense with which no Government but our own has anything to do, and it, consequently, the steam rams have been arrested under our municipal laws, do not these cases have entitle this Government to prohibit the transmission of arms and munitions of war as authoritatively as to place the broad arrow upon ships? And, if so, why does Lord Russell permit arms and munitions of war to go, and order ships to stay?

9. The Confederates have said that were it not for the Irish emigrants they would have finished the war long since. Now, though the proof in neither instance may be very clear, still, as it is so clear that the Federals get men from this country to fight their battles as it is that the Confederates get ships, "Historicus" informs me why our Government, when it stops the building of suspicious looking ships, does not stop also the emigration of suspicious looking men, of whom there are many thousand at present leaving Ireland for New York? And is the foreign nation that enlists these men entitled to claim at our hands the immunities of imperial non-intervention?

When "Historicus" gives a satisfactory answer to these questions, I shall be more able to comprehend and appreciate his arguments and his elaborate quotations, and, at the same time, understand more clearly than I now do what Mr. Chase means when he says that he would "like to take old Mother England by the hair and give her a good shaking."

In conclusion, allow me to add that, though I feel myself incompetent and my knowledge far too limited, to deal with these great legal questions which affect the peace of nations, and which involve so much influence over the interests and happiness of mankind, I nevertheless feel, in common, I believe, with many of my countrymen, that while we prohibit ships which are said to be for the South, and do not pr hibit arms and shot which are said to be for the North, our policy is not just.

In a word, if we do not adopt the same measure of justice to both parties engaged in this most deplorable war, our professions of an impartial neutrality" are mere empty words, and our policy is different from that which has made England what she is. If we adhere to it—if we do not vigorously attempt to step all, and, if we find it impracticable, cease to stop either ships or cannon, then I very much fear that our policy will be considered both inconsistent and unjust, and will go far to tarnish the fair fame of English