Daily Appeal.

ATLANTA, GA.

TUESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 8.

ARMY ORGANIZATION.

That there is now, as there has been at intervals during the progress of the war, the prevalence of a marked feeling of depression in the popular mind in reference to our cause and its prospects, is a proposition almost too plain for affirmation. While the immediate cause of this depression has been the occurrence of reverses, the inevitable incident, or necessary expectation of all wars, the only method of relief which has suggested itself, whether in the clamor of popular complaint, or in the suggested expedients of legislation, has been the compulsory increase of the fighting force of the country. It was in this that originated the conscription, and the official suggestion of the increase or extension of the limits of the ages of conscription; which from time to time has taken the shape of law or the form of a general order. It is in this, that have originated all those absurd, or foolishly questionable suggestions for an increase of the power of the Executive, which in disparaging the virtue, intelligence, and patriotism of our people, have cast suspicion, if not reproach, upon the dignity and purity of our cause.

Now while we think, that considering the difference of numerical strength of the peoples comprehended in the countries covered by the two Governments, the whole popular military strength of the States of the Confederacy may be necessary to be called out, and while we think that every obstacle at present existing to legislation to make our whole military force available permanently to the cause, and while we think further that every man in the Confederacy should come now to the rescue, in such way as his services may be made most available, without regard to age, we would say that so far as we have been the subject of the prevalent depression, or have felt cause for despondency, it has not been so much owing to the fact of the want of numbers present upon our muster rolls, as much as it has been from the want of the proper organization and use of the numbers which we have had.

The want of general organization, while no doubt to be attributed in some degree, to the previous vacillatory habits of our people, and the extent of our lines, and the number of our positions, has, we think, proceeded more from bad, or defective, system of administration, extending to every department of the army. Let any one look upon our muster rolls, as exhibited in the adjutant's offices, or look into our commissary, and quartermaster departments, or medical and police staffs, or even let him look upon the highways, and thoroughfares of the Confederacy and hear the complaints and clamors of the country about the evils of military maladministration, and he will come to the conclusion that there is cardinal error somewhere, and that we have more numbers now, than we are wisely using. It is a singular thing too, that after deducting all the losses, and disqualifications for duty from battle, the fresh expedients resorted to, never seem to diminish the evil the armies not seeming to be increased by the accessions, nor the flooding of the country by military fugitives, private and official, seeming to be diminished.

It is painful to think that, after three years' experience of war, we should have made so little military progress, we should have derived so little benefit in the way of correct, or systematic military thought and conduct. The evil we all see, and the obvious remedy implied in increasing our army by new and more stringent legislation. But may there not be in the wisdom of administration, some intellectual resources, some definitely wise system of organization, which, by controlling the military material at present possessed, may keep our armies at a maximum standard of strength, or if not that, prevent them from mysteriously disappearing like mist before the sun? What increase the army has derived from enforcing the conscription act against those between the ages of forty and forty-five, and the rigid construction given to the substitute law by the War Department, since the surrenders of the Mississippi, we are not advised. Neither are we advised as to the general success of the Department of Conscription, but we would think that, if anything like the results anticipated, and reported from those sources, had have been produced, our army should have been very largely increased within the period of the last half-year.

It might be well for Congress, while considering the repeal of the laws authorizing exemption and substitution, as also other measures for the increase of the army, to turn its attention to the reorganization of the army in certain very important respects. Let it consider the necessity of revising the provost marshal's service, with a view to its discontinuance, save so far as it may apply, or be limited to the army proper, leaving the police of the country to the civil authorities of the State. Let it also consider the propriety of developing in future upon the militia of the States beyond ordinary military age, under local supervision, the enforcement of the conscription law, with all the lateral and incidental duties at present connected with it. And let it also consider the whole subject of details in the army and out, particularly in relation to the quartermaster's and commissary's departments. Many of the duties of these latter departments might be devolved on those not subject to military duty, which, while having the effect of returning a large force of efficient men and officers to the duties of the field, would have the additional effect of preventing much discontent at present prevalent in the army, and above all, among the people, jealous of military authority exercised out of the army. The medical department, particularly as it bears upon the subject of furloughs, discharges and the employment of supernumeraries; and military courts, so far as they involve charges and trials not affecting the military loyalty of soldiers, and which have no other general effect than to keep able-bodied men away from duty; and the duties of commandants of posts outside of the lines, or off lines of leading military communication, might also engage its attention with reference to salutary reforms. Our persuasion may be erroneous, but it is one very honestly held, as the result of some observation, that Congress, while meeting the exigencies of the times, in making the necessary positive increase to our armies by giving to the cause every available man in the country, will discharge a duty not less important to the army than to the country, by reorganizing the army in such wise, as to give to the army all the legitimate material which at present belongs to it, now scattered abroad.

It might be well also, for the Executive to take into consideration, in connection with the same subject, the question how far the lack of members might be supplied by a wiser or more intelligent system of administration than has hitherto prevailed, by the adoption of a system of more efficient staff administration, beginning with the heads and going through all the departments, by the use of a more discriminating, as well as more enlarged judgment in the occupation of positions, the combinations of expedients, and the designation of officers appropriate to particular fields and departments of duty with reference to more efficient concentration, and more available service. We believe the Executive to be both conscientious and intelligent, and employs perhaps his best judgment for the good of the service. We believe, that ordinarily a man in his position should use his individual judgment, but in the present aspect, when we consider that everything we hold dear hangs in the balance, his judgment should not lean too independently on itself, but allow itself to be controlled, enlightened and fortified by the available wisdom and experience of the country.

NEW ARRANGEMENT.

The *Confederacy* of this morning learns that "a correspondence, which has been pending for several days between the President, Generals HARDEE, JOHNSTON and BRAGG, has culminated in an arranged reorganization of the command of the army above.

"General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON is to take supreme head of affairs, with General BRAGG as chief of staff—a combination long sought by the country, and presenting a cheering front to the future. We have no words to express our delight at so equitable, popular and proper an adjustment of the vexed problem. With JOHNSTON to plan, supervise and direct, and with BRAGG to conduct the office details and police of the army, it will restore the confidence as it will be itself restored. The people and the soldiers will accept this tardy tribute to their discerning good sense, with gratitude and confidence."

State Sovereignty—The Appeal.

We have great pleasure says the Richmond *Enquirer*, in re-publishing a short article from the Memphis APPEAL, (now of Atlanta) pointing out, and entirely removing the misconception under which we classed the APPEAL, along with the Atlanta *Register*, as advocating separate State action in negotiating for peace. We admit that we had not found any such doctrine in the APPEAL; and it was with surprise and pain we saw the *Register* name that excellent journal, as giving foundation for so fanatic and preposterous a project.

Of course, the APPEAL, as well as the *Enquirer*, and other through Confederate journals, desires to see the Northwestern States secede from the Northeast, or, indeed, fight the Northeast upon any argument whatever; and enter into negotiations, by ones, by twos, or by a Confederacy or Confederacies, for peace with us, "through our Confederate Government," and not otherwise.

☞ We learn that some three or four hundred refugees from Memphis have arrived in Granada, fleeing from the late order of Gen. HURLBURT, pressing into the Federal service all able-bodied men in that city. There is a fine opening for them in our own ranks.

☞ We take pleasure in recommending to our friends who may be on a visit to Mobile, the Kennedy House, on St. Louis street, between Franklin and Hamilton, as a pleasant and agreeable hotel. Let them give the Kennedy House a trial, and we think they will agree with us in the opinion that the proprietors "knows how to keep a hotel."

BLIND TOM'S CONCERT.—On account of the non-arrival of Blind Tom, the entertainment for the benefit of our sick and wounded soldiers, which should have taken place last night, was postponed until this evening, when it will positively be given. The best arrangements have been made for the convenience of the audience, and the strictest order will be enforced.

ARMY NEWS DEPOT.—We have been requested by Mr. T. M. Pabtiaff, *nee Acton*, to say that he has re-opened his depot for papers and books at Dalton, where the rage said to be epidemic among officers and men of the army of Tennessee for the APPEAL can be satisfied.

☞ We announce with sorrow the death of our old friend, Mr. Frank Maguire, of Coahoma county, Miss. He died, as we learn from a mutual friend, of congestive chill, on the 30th ultimo. He was a large and successful planter, possessed a warm and genial nature, and leaves behind him troops of friends to sorrow over his demise.

☞ The dispatch from Bristol dated yesterday, we presume no longer leaves a doubt as to the disposition Gen. Longstreet has made of himself. In consequences of heavy reinforcements sent against him, he has been compelled to raise the siege of Knoxville, and make his way out of Tennessee into south-western Virginia.

FIRE.—The brick building, on the east side of Whitehall street, used as a dental depot, trunk manufactory and fruit store, was discovered to be on fire about one o'clock this morning. The flames spread so rapidly that all efforts to save the building proved unsuccessful. By the exertions of the firemen the adjoining buildings were saved. The loss of Brown & Hape, manufacturers of dental materials, will probably reach $25,000—insured for $3000. Mr. Beswits, trunk manufacturer, saved most of his goods—loss small. The loss of Mr. Powell, fruit dealer, is also small, principally in damage done to goods by removal. The dental office of Dr. Campbell was also in the building. We have not learned what his losses will amount to. Cause of the fire unknown.

Messrs. Brown & Hape have saved enough to enable them to proceed with their business and we are glad to learn from them that its suspension will only be temporary.

☞ The *Southern Motive* (Greensboro, Mississippi) says that the "tax in kind" is being rapidly collected in that part of the country. "Wagons crowd the streets all day long loaded with corn, and it seems that every one will have a load to pay the collector."

COLONEL COLE.—The Mariotta *Rebel* states that Col. J. C. Cole, of Memphis, commanding the 3d and 5th Confederate (consolidated) regiments, was severely wounded in the face, in the fight on Friday evening, where Gen. Cleburne drove back the advance of the enemy near Ringgold. Col. Cole is now at the Gilmer hospital in this place. Although his wound is a severe and very painful one, the many friends of the gallant colonel will be pleased to learn that it is not dangerous. We hope soon to see him up again.

☞ Among the recent "arrests" by the military authorities that bear sway in Baltimore, was that of Mrs. Gertrude Winder, mother of Gen. Winder, on duty in Richmond. The venerable lady is eighty-six years of age. She was placed under military guard at her boarding house.

☞ The latest accounts from Meade published in the Yankee papers represent a battle as impending, though they say the Confederates are "strongly intrenched," and Gen. Warren, who had been ordered to attack, had felt them and found them heavier than he expected, and had sent to Meade to know what he was to do about it.

CAPTURE OF THE ALERT.—We learn that the schooner Alert, in charge of William Henry Belden, sailed past Fort Morgan a few nights ago without a permit. A shot was fired from the fort, she paid no regard to it, but kept on her way. The next morning she was seen lying to in the Yankee fleet. The Alert had a full load of cotton. We have not heard the names of her crew, nor learn that George W. Boyd went out as a passenger on her.—*Mobile Tribune.*

LIEUT.-GEN. WM. J. HARDEE.

All Confederate eyes and hopes are at this moment directed to Gen. HARDEE, the distinguished successor of Gen. BRAGG, in the command of the army of Tennessee. A brief biographical sketch of him, which we condense from an account published in an illustrated Richmond paper in March last, will therefore be acceptable.

Gen. HARDEE is a native of Appling, in the State of Georgia. He graduated at West Point in 1838; served under Gen. TAYLOR in Florida, as Lieutenant commanding the 2d Dragoons, and also under Gen. SCOTT in Mexico, being present at all the great battles, and so distinguished himself for skill and gallantry, that he was twice brevetted. He was subsequently commissioned to visit Europe for the purpose of perfecting tactics, and we have the result in his well known work on the subject. He was next appointed commandant at West Point, and had been so for four years when Fort Sumter was surrendered. He at once resigned, returned to his native State, and was placed next in command to Gen. TWIGGS.

Shortly afterward President DAVIS appointed him senior colonel in the regular service, and placed him in command of the camp of instruction at that place. He had not occupied the position long before he was appointed brigadier-general, and sent to Arkansas, and organized an army of which the Confederacy has reason to be proud. In October, 1861, he marched with it through Columbus, Kentucky, to Bowling Green, and earned perennial laurels at Corinth, Shiloh and Farmington, with an appointment to the rank of major-general. In October, 1862, he fought at Perryville with much valor and success as to receive the appointment to his present rank.

As a military man, therefore, the public is justified in placing the highest confidence and the most hopeful expectations in Gen. HARDEE. Happily, he is said to possess other qualifications of the highest order. An officer who has served with him is reported to say of him, "He is as noted for his suavity of manners as for his skill and courage as a soldier. In all the relations of life, his conduct is characterised by generosity, and by the exercise of all these kindly sympathies, which make the soldier a gentleman. Superadded to all this, Gen. HARDEE is a finished scholar."

Campaign Reports.

The Chicago *Times* publishes Gen. Lee's report of his Pennsylvania campaign, and says Gen. Hooker's and Gen. Meade's reports have not yet seen the light. The rebel authorities seem to have a more profound reliance upon the common sense and patriotism of their people than the charlatan at Washington have of our own. They have never hesitated to publish news, even when unfavorable to their cause. We find no complaints of government censorship of false dispatches in the journals of Dixie, probably for the reason that they fail to perceive the necessity or propriety of raising the hopes of the people by official Manchausens, only to dash them to the ground when the inevitable truth comes out. Why slumbers Gen. McClellan's Peninsular report in the dark recesses of the War Department? Can the people be trusted with its perusal, now that the Ohio and Pennsylvania elections are over?

☞ Among the passengers, says the Richmond *Sentinel*, of the 5th, who arrived at City Point on Friday, in flag of truce boat, was Miss Belle Boyd.

Miscellaneous Items.

The reamstresses of Boston are on a strike.

A negro regiment paraded in New York on thanksgiving day.

The New York *World* says that the new gospel of the War Department at Washington is: "Thou shalt hate George B. McClellan with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment, and the second is like unto it. Thou shalt hate Horatio Seymour. Upon these two commandments hang all the contracts and all the *profits*."

Address of General Lee.

Meade has recrossed the Rappahannock but as everything written by Gen. Lee is of interest to his countrymen, we give his address to his army when a battle with Meade was expected:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY NORTHERN VIRGINIA, November 28, 1863.

General order No. 102.]

The enemy is again advancing upon our capital, and the country once more looks to this army for its protection. Under the blessings of God your valor has repelled every previous attempt, and invoking the continuance of His favor, we cheerfully commit to Him the issue of the coming conflict.

A cruel enemy seeks to reduce our fathers and our mothers, our wives and our children, to abject slavery; to strip them of their property and drive them from their homes. Upon you these helpless ones rely to avert these terrible calamities, and secure to them the blessing of liberty and safety. Your past history gives them the assurance that their trust will not be in vain. Let every man remember that all he holds dear depends upon the faithful discharge of his duty, and resolve to fight, and, if need be, to die, in defence of a cause so sacred and worthy the name won by this army on so many bloody fields.

R. E. LEE, General.

Nature's Nobility.

Less than half a score of years since a broad chested, bright eyed, quiet and unassuming, but dignified young man of respectable appearance might have been seen in the wilds of Arkansas with spade in hand, toiling earnestly in obedience to the Divine injunction that "by the sweat of thy brow shalt thou eat bread." He was a noble specimen of that dery, big hearted race who dwell across the "mighty waters," and who have with the iron heel of the Britons trodden down many years. He was an excellent type of the impulsive, high-bred, hot-blooded son of the "Emerald Isle."

After the toil of the day was over, this young man might have been seen mounting the midnight lamp over his well thumbed "Blackstone" and "Chitty," and anon over the medical records of the grand achievements of his unfortunate countrymen.

A few years later, this same young man might have been seen in the courtroom at the head of his profession, and subsequently the legislative halls of his adopted State. Later still, when Abolition ran overleaped the barriers of law and justice, and sought to enslave the people of his adopted home, as ancient faithless had done of his native land, the young Irish barrister did address all the elements he owed in the cause of justice, truth and religion. He entered the ranks, and his name is now a household word. Only a few days since the Vandal on the border felt his power. The name of Cleburn will go down in history with the memories of Shiloh, Murfreesboro, Perryville, Chickamauga and Ringgold, accompanied by the gratitude and love of a people who are no less warm-hearted and impulsive than are his own.—Col. Sun.

ESCAPE OF MORGAN.—One of the best items of news that has reached us for some time, is the confirmation of the escape of the gallant Morgan and his staff. We venture to say that the announcement produced a thrill of joy in every heart in the Confederacy. Morgan needed no incentive to make him an active and dangerous enemy to the Yankees, but it is highly probable that his recent barbarous experiences in the Ohio penitentiary have had the effect to intensify his hatred of his foes. Well may they dread his reappearance at the head of his faithful followers, and offer rewards for his capture, for he has a fearful account to settle with them. He will be gratified in retaliating the indignities heaped upon him, and Yankee scalps will set uneasy on their heads where Morgan rides.—*Savannah News.*

GUN BURSTED.—On Wednesday last, while several members of company B, 63d regiment, were practising at Thunderbolt battery, the gun burst, and two men were severely wounded. We regret to learn that one of them, John B Gissen, had his right hand shockingly mangled, and his arm greatly injured. No cause can be assigned for the explosion of the gun.—*Savannah News.*

SAD ACCIDENT.—We regret to learn that Mrs. Phillips, the wife of our esteemed fellow-citizen, Wm. Phillips, Esq., engineer of the Augusta Canal and Water Works, was drowned in the canal on Thursday last. It is supposed that, in passing to her husband's office, she accidentally fell into the canal and was drowned before assistance could be rendered. The deceased was about fifty years of age, and leaves a family and a large circle of friends to mourn her loss. She was interred yesterday.—*Augusta Constitutionalist.*

THE BATTLE ON THE EXTREME RIGHT.

EDITORS APPEAL: As the accounts of the battle of Missionary ridge, on the 25th and 26th of November, that have been published, are very meager and only general in their character, it may not be uninteresting to enter into specialties and show the part that was taken by some particular brigades and regiments, as well for information to the public as to do justice to those engaged.

One engaged in the affair had but little means of knowing what was being done outside of his own particular command, as the line was so long and the obstructions so unfavorable to view—hence I shall only speak of the operations on the extreme right.

About 10 o'clock on Tuesday, the 24th, Gen. Jas. A. Smith's brigade, composed of the 5th, 10th and 15th Texas regiments, Lieut.-Col. Young, commanding, and the 7th Texas regiment, commanded by Col. Granbury, was ordered from its position in the rear of Missionary ridge, nearly opposite to Indian hill in front, and moved in quick time to the extreme right of our line of battle, to the hill beyond the tunnel, on the Knoxville and Chattanooga railroad, toward the river. Gen. Smith led his brigade beyond the railroad in the direction of the river, and endeavored to gain the hill in front of the one he finally occupied, but, before the ascent was begun, the fire from the sharpshooters of the enemy on the summit, warned us that the enemy already had possession of the hill; so the brigade took position on the top of the hill which is rounded, the left resting in the direction of the tunnel, and the right running up along the summit of the hill. It was about 10 o'clock P. M. when we were disposed in order. The battle was raging furiously down on our left, on Lookout mountain, but with what results we did not know. Three companies were thrown forward as skirmishers, who took position about half way down the hill at the upper side of an old field. We had no artillery with the brigade at this time; but, fortunately, a battery of small guns came up soon after we were in line, and, as the captain commanding was anxious to get into a fight, Gen. Smith detained him until he threw some shot among the Yankees to let them know we were ready for them. Our skirmishers kept up a brisk fire until dark. In the evening the enemy fired a few shots from a battery they had planted on the top of the hill in our front. The casualties in the evening were slight. Lieut. Johnson, of the — Texas, was killed, and fifteen or twenty men were wounded. Our men went to work briskly in the evening, and succeeded, before the morning of the 25th, in throwing up breastworks of logs and rails on the top of the hill, extending nearly down to the tunnel. The firing gradually ceased among our skirmishers and sharpshooters as dark advanced, and we lay upon our arms listening to the roar of guns on our extreme left, which was continued with occasional cessations until 12 o'clock at night.

At daylight on the 25th the skirmishers commenced firing, when they could get sight of a blue coat through the fog, and the Federals showed themselves well on the alert and responded promptly. The artillery, too, began to awaken the mountain echoes, and the roar of small arms with the booming of the cannon, fully reminded us that the battle was dawning with the day. There was no fighting on our extreme left, nor could we distinguish guns at the center. Our men knew not that Lookout mountain was in possession of the enemy, but thought that they had been defeated on our left the day before, and that to-day they would attempt the right. Never was there a more determined band of men at face to a foe. The supposed success of our left inspired them with a determination to hold the right at all hazards in the endeavor.

Other artillery had been brought to our line during the night, and the batteries of Captains Semples and Sweat were on our right and left, one over the prime, sweeping the hollow, and the other near the center of the brigade. The enemy had also planted now batteries during the night before. During the night of the 24th, the brigade changed position from where it was at nightfall—its left moving nearer to the tunnel; consequently the skirmishers in front of its original position had no main line immediately in their rear. The battle continued from between the artillery and skirmishers until near 8 A. M., when our skirmishers found they were being flanked on the right. They fell back to the top of the hill and kept the enemy at distance until they were again about being flanked on the right. They took position nearly perpendicular to their old line, so as to confront the enemy who was flanking them and hold them at a stand, and finally posted the five into their ranks better and better, advancing on them and finally drove them back down the hill. In the meanwhile, the skirmishing in front of the main body was very heavy and disastrous to the enemy—it was a battle in itself.

About 11 o'clock, the main lines of the enemy were plainly visible. Our artillery did not seem to injure them greatly. Occasionally a bomb would cause a regiment to scatter like a flock of frightened birds, and all efforts to rally them were vain. One line had advanced close to the foot of the hill and held its position. The artillery on our side could not injure them, as the guns could not be sufficiently depressed to rake them. They could not be seen by our men from behind our main lines and were only exposed to the random shots from sharpshooters and skirmishers above them. Thus the battle continued until about 1 o'clock, at that hour the enemy had advanced a large body of skirmishers up the hill and drove our skirmishers back. Gen. Smith sprang forward and ordered our men to charge them. Over the works they went, and down the hill upon the enemy, who were driven before them with great force. The foe who reached the foot of the hill went flying far in the distant fields. It was in this charge that Gen. Smith was wounded, at the head of his men, he was struck by a minie ball below the right knee—passing through and lodging in the left knee—inflicting a severe and painful wound. Capt. Blackburn, of Gen. Smith's staff, was struck with a shell on the right arm, which it was necessary to amputate on the field. Col. Smith was also wounded at this time. The enemy strengthened their line at the foot of the hill and again threw forward a heavy line of skirmishers—far up the hill. We expected that the main lines would soon assault us with their rapidly increasing force from below, but the fight continued between the skirmishers as before, until about 4 o'clock, P. M., when Gen. Cleburne passed along the lines and ordered the men to charge the enemy, meeting the enemy down the hill. Again rose above the war of arms that wild, piercing yell, which is only heard in battle, when man regains that natural savagery he seems to have lost by civilization. With fixed bayonets, down the mountain side they rushed, a human avalanche, more terrible than if the crags themselves had been loosened from their steeps. The skirmishers of the enemy were swept down—trampled under foot—but the flood of Texans passed not—on it swept, accumulating strength as it advanced, carrying everything before it to the foot of the hill and into the field below. They piled the ground with the dead foe—some in their haste threw aside their guns as delaying them, and hurled rocks at the retreating enemy. The bayonet did its bloody duty, and the fallen autumn leaves was the death couch of many an invader on the side of that once peaceful ridge. Several stands of colors were captured, and a large number of fire-arms. Our men were, after a short struggle, in complete possession of the ground—the entire line of the enemy being either killed, prisoners, or fugitives across the fields. The enemy were evidently surprised at the charge, and perhaps expected to await until dark at the foot of the hill and assault us in the night. This closed the fight on the evening of the 25th. As we had full possession of all the ground over which the skirmishing had been during the day, we saw how disastrous to the enemy had been our fire. Their dead was on every side. Our men fell back to their position on the top of the hill and there remained until night—no more firing going on, save from weak skirmishing parties. The men felt that they had done their duty, and knew not of our disasters in other positions until they were ordered at night to leave the post they had defended with such gallantry and success during the day. To sum up—we lost no prisoners, lost no artillery, held our position against five times our numbers, took two hundred prisoners and five stands of colors, repulsed the enemy and charged them twice from our works, driving them from the field. That night we crossed the Chickamauga, bearing every where of our disaster at other points on the line. There were other brigades of Cleburne's division, massed in our rear and thrown as it were perpendicular to our right extremity, but the particular part they acted I cannot show from personal observation.

We lost but one officer killed—several were wounded, Major Sanders, Captain Shannon, Captain Hendon and Lieutenant Gibbons and several others—all however, slight, save Major Sanders whose right arm has been amputated.

Our loss among the enlisted men was not heavy. The enemy lost at least one thousand killed and wounded at this point, at least ten to one more than our losses. It was this brigade that so strongly held its position in the center of our line in the battle of Chickamauga, subjected to a most final fire from the enemy—two other brigades having given up the position.

The subsequent doings of the brigade are merged in the action of the whole division, which so nobly covered the retreat of the army back to its present position.

This brigade is composed entirely of Texans—they have left their homes and families, and without a murmur remain in the army of Tennessee, fleeing the foe, to beat him back from Georgia—to drive him from Tennessee. They claim not for the privilege of defending their own State specially, even though large forces are threatening its invasion, but are content so long as it is the Confederacy they are battling for, so long as it is our common cause they are upholding. They are not here seeking renown, nor to astonish the country with deeds of valor. It is as soldiers and patriots they desire to be known. The acts of brigades of other States find chroniclers. The Texans find none. Publish their efforts, that their friends at home may know that they are not idle nor useless, but they are fulfilling what their parents, wives and children expect of them. Give their friends the consolation of knowing they are doing their duty—then the justice to show the part they are acting in this dark night.

"COMAL BLUFF."

LETTERS FROM MISSISSIPPI.

Special Correspondence of the Memphis Appeal.]

NEW ALBANY, November 27, 1863.

Rebel guerillas are being placed quite plentifully on the Memphis and Charleston railroad. They are also guarding all the fords in order to capture men coming out. Yesterday a man and a negro were captured at one of the fords, and the horse of another killed. All information from various sources indicates that the force on the road is as heavy, if not heavier, than before the recent movement toward Chattanooga. Forrest is giving them a big scare.

Egress from the enemy's lines is prohibited, and the new conscription is being executed with much vigor. The move is highly satisfactory to our friends within the lines. It will drive many a true, but faint-hearted man into our ranks, and clean the country of a horde of rascals, who, pretending to be Confederates or Yankees, as their safety suggested, have been robbing both parties. This conscription will work for our good, but it is nevertheless fiendishly wicked to force the citizens of a conquered State to fight against their country and their sons. It is a monstrosity of war without a precedent in the bloodiest history. Its probable effect on deserters will be death in battle, or death from a court martial. Deserters undoubtedly merit that punishment, but the latter should not be placed round their necks by the Yankees, whose cause desertion has aided more than the battles they have won.

A respectable citizen, named Neal Morrison, was killed at his residence near Corinth, just outside of the Yankee pickets. A party came to his house, one of whom fired a shot at him, when Morrison struck him with an ax. Others then shot Morrison, killing him instantly. His wife and daughter were in the room during the terrible scene. The party were followed some distance by the blood of the wounded man to a spot where they had evidently halted, and where vomit of salt pork and hard crackers was found, proving beyond a doubt that the murderers were Yankees. M.

NEW ALBANY, November 28, 1863.

The Yankees, twelve hundred strong, six pieces of artillery and twenty wagons, passed through Hillstown on the 27th, on their way south—probably toward Okolona. Leaving the position of our forces and getting wind of the trap laid for them they got back rapidly, their rear passing Hillstown at dark, the column taking the road to Ripley. Col. Ross, with his brigade, moved toward Hillstown, and Ferguson took the road to Ripley. Nothing saved the Yankees but a terrible rain storm, which in an hour raised all the creeks to swimming stage. Gen. Ferguson swam two of them, but coming to a third, which was impassable, got back. Col. Ross gained their rear, but their retreat was so rapid he was unable to damage them seriously. He skirmished with them nearly all day yesterday. The Yankees are by this time out of danger, but their trip has been bootless.

The weather since the rain has turned intensely cold, with ice this morning half an inch thick. It is very bad on horses traveling through the bottoms.

A number of wagons were sold here to-day, captured and confiscated for illicit trade with the enemy. They generally were owned by women, against whom the soldiers would cry, "Duff bid." They were bought in at merely nominal prices by the women. The articles, however—coffee, cheese, etc.—were too tempting. They were bought by the soldiers at high prices. Some of these cases of confiscation are very hard, not to say unjust. For some time past the trade has been large and very safe—people who had held off from principle until necessity compelled them to make the venture. The majority of these caught were on their first trip. Discrimination, however, is impossible, as the orders are positive, and the first offence is punished as severely as the twentieth.

There was a funny trouble with the 5th Texas. Some of them loaded corn cobs with power and ball and threw them into the wagon train. The owner of the trouble was that they were furnished with corn in the ear. They wanted shelled corn. The mischievous fellows were arrested and will be punished. B.

Affairs About Fort Hudson.

Special to Mobile Evening News.]

TANGIPAHOA, December 4.—Lieut. Husk, who was in the fight, furnishes the following:

Wingfield's partisans, under command of Captain B. A. Scott, attacked two hundred Yankee cavalry at Plain's store, five miles from Port Hudson, driving them with their pickets into Port Hudson on the 25th November, killing eight, wounding thirteen and capturing Lieut. Gore and four privates of the 3d Massachusetts cavalry; also, ten horses with full equipments.

No casualties occurred on our side.

The enemy came out to repair the telegraph line torn down by our cavalry.

On the day previous, Lieut. Powell, company E, captured three valuable cows of medicinal use and a half miles from Port Hudson.

Thirteen prisoners from sunken transports had arrived at our camp.

About 2,000 Yankees, mostly negroes, are garrisoning Port Hudson.

M. A. Scott, the publisher of the *Wanderer* at Covington, states that the Yankees were defeated by Gen. Green, at Pisquamine, with a loss of 2,000 prisoners, on the 27th November.

The navigation of the Mississippi river is virtually closed.

Latest from Europe.

The latest dates from Europe are from Liverpool on the 19th ult.

A vessel that arrived at Cotombo, October 2d, saw the Confederate steamer Alabama in the Bay of Bengal. After exchanging signals the Alabama departed under full steam and French colors.

In the court of exchequer, on the 17th ult., Sir Hugh Cairns, for the defendants, in the Alexandra case, commenced his arguments against a new trial, and occupied the whole day without concluding.

The intentions of England relative to the proposed congress are still unknown. The Russian ambassador has communicated Prince Gortchakoff's reply. It is in substance that Russia will take part in the congress, but not until after the pacification of Poland.

It is reported that Portugal has resolved to accept the proposal conditionally.

The Paris Bourse was depressed. Rentes 67f. 10c.

The *Index* denies authoritatively the recent report of the alleged blockade of Matamoros. It says: "The French blockade of the Mexican coast commences twelve leagues from the southern bank of the Rio Grande, and no cargoes of any kind, unless there exist a reasonable suspicion of their being destined for Juarez, are interfered with by the French cruisers."

It is reported that the British naval authorities have given instructions to prevent a suspicious vessel, lying in the Clyde, from going to sea.

The Danz-German question creates some uneasiness.

Russia continues to make vigorous preparations for war.

Rebel Women.

R. F. T., army correspondent of the Chicago *Journal*, in one of his letters from Tennessee, says:

I shall never be done admiring the patriotic faith and undying devotion of the loyal women of the land, but I must tell you that the rebel women of the South are worthy in everything but a sacred cause of their Northern sisters. There is nothing they will not surrender with a smiler the gossamed ring, the diamond bracelet, the rich wardrobe. They cut up rich carpets for soldiers' blankets without a sigh; they take the fine linen from their persons for the bandages. When 400 of Longstreet's men came up to Nashville, prisoners of war, about the roughest, dirtiest, wildest fellows the sun ever shone on, and 6 flight of stairs in the building they occupied fell, killing and wounding a large number of them, you should have seen the fair young traitresses come forth from the old aristocratic mansions, bearing restoratives and delicacies in their hands, mingling in the dingy crowd, wiping away the blood with their white handkerchiefs, and uttering words of cheer; should have seen them doing this, with hundreds of Union soldiers all around, and smiling back upon the rough blackguards of rebels as they left. But in all there was a defiant air, a pride in their humanity strange to see. Of a truth they carried it off gracefully. And almost all those girls were in mourning for dead rebels, brothers, lovers, friends, whom these same girls had encouraged into treason and driven into rebellion, and billowed all the South with their graves, and the least they could do was to wear black for them and flaunt black from the window blinds. Clothed be their souls in black! I said they were worthy of their sisters at the North, in all but a righteous cause, but I said wrong. There is a bitterness, there are glimpses of the Pythoness, that makes you shrink from them. But they are fearfully in earnest; they are almost grand in self-sacrifice. Oh, that they were true and loving daughters of the old flag!

The Boston *Liberator* announces that the Hon. Geo. Thompson, the English Abolitionists will visit this country to congratulate his friends upon the improved aspect of affairs.

TELEGRAPHIC.

Reports of the Press Association.

Entered according to act of Congress in the year 1863, by J. B. THRASHER, in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the Confederate States for the Northern District of Georgia.

From the Front.

DALTON, December 7.—The Yankee prisoners captured by Wheeler's cavalry, near Charleston and Cleveland, reached here to-day—six of them comprised the pickets of the rear guard. One hundred and twenty-five men were stationed at the former place. Our forces passed through Cleveland twelve hours after the enemy's supply train, which was twelve miles in the rear of the army. Officers report no enemy at either of the above places. Two of the enemy's corps had passed through Cleveland, and gone through Georgetown on route for Knoxville. Their advance had reached London. Reports from Knoxville are conflicting. The enemy were laying waste the country in their line of march.

Meeting of Congress.

RICHMOND, December 7.—Congress met to-day. There was a quorum of both houses. The President's message will not be delivered until to-morrow.

In the Senate two bills were introduced—one repealing all laws authorizing exemptions and to prevent the enrollment of substitutes in the military service, and one reducing the list of persons exempt from military duty. House resolutions were presented for a joint committee of both houses to consider the currency and report speedy measures for action.

Mr. Foote presented a number of resolutions, which were coldly received by the House, upon which he was ill disposed to waste useless discussion. He seems doubtful in reference to the condition of the country, and sanguine of our final triumph.

The Legislature of Virginia adjourned to-day. There was no quorum in either branch.

A flag of truce boat is expected to-morrow.

From Gen. Lee's Army.

ORANGE COURT HOUSE, December 7.—Previous reports of the enemy retiring beyond the Rappahannock is confirmed by later reports. It is also reported the enemy are tearing up the railroads between the Rappahannock and the Rapidan.

A large wagon train was seen moving between the two rivers yesterday.

The enemy have some camps round Stevensburg to Culpeper county.

The enemy's cavalry pickets extend to Mitchell station, in Culpeper, four miles beyond Rapidan river.

Raid on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad.

MOBILE, December 7.—A special to the *Advertiser* and Register, from Waterford, says that General Lee has just accomplished a splendid raid on the Memphis and Charleston railroad. He drove the enemy into Pennington on the 24. On the 4th Chalmers advanced and drove them in a huddle across the bridge over Wolf river, slaughtering many. Three hundred Yankees were driven into the river, filling it with dead horses and men. The road was torn up in several places, and the bridge over Cypress creek, near Chewala, destroyed. Forty prisoners were captured.

Siege of Knoxville Raised.

BRISTOL, December 7.—There is no longer a doubt that Longstreet has raised the siege of Knoxville, and is retreating in this direction, in consequence of heavy reinforcements being received by Burnside.

Firing was heard this morning in the direction of Morristown by persons from Blountville.

Captain Pate Everett, of the 9th Kentucky cavalry, attacked the enemy a few days since at Saltville, Ky., and routed them completely, capturing a number of prisoners, horses and arms.

Weather clear and pleasant.

CHARLESTON, December 7.—No firing to-night.

Affairs in North Mississippi.

Correspondence of the Mobile Register.]

OXFORD, MISS., November 30, 1863.—I propose giving you an account of affairs here, although we are desirous of a similar pleasure from other portions of the country. Since the commencement of mail facilities, I notice a communication in one of your papers over the signature of "Cartridge," the writer of which, in speaking of his friend, Col. Richardson, makes some mistakes. All the troops in North Mississippi were placed under Gen. Chalmers by Maj.-Gen. Lee, commanding cavalry in Mississippi, and Col. Richardson's West Tennessee brigade is especially named in the order. When I spoke of Gen. Chalmers's command in my special dispatch, I referred to it as a whole, and Col. Richardson's brigade was of course, included. I could not absolutely particulate in a telegram, but in my communication I spoke very highly of Col. Richardson's brigade as they deserved. "Cartridge" also errs in saying that Richardson's brigade destroyed the enemy's camp, (which was done by the 3d Mississippi State cavalry,) and the depot, (which was not destroyed at all.) The Colonel is a gallant man, and we hope may some day be made a General.

I learn reliably that General Ferrest has been sent with his brigade, or a large portion of it, to operate in West Tennessee, and increase it by enlisting men into the service who are in that country. My highest wish for his success in that direction is expressed than in hoping that the same success may attend him in bringing them to an efficient state of drill and discipline as has finally crowned the efforts of the commanding officer of this command, who has done, however, to approximate much of the trouble which attended the organization of Chalmers' brigade, the most important obstacle being at some obtained by the presence of veteran troops, well armed, to assist him in shaking and stabbing his fresh troops. There are already between two and three thousand guerrillas in West Tennessee, under Cole, Faulkner and Newman, in a partially organized state, which I presume will be increased in his command. With Ferrest and Richardson on that side, I predict the Yankees in that locality will be kept sufficiently exercised this winter to leave them no time to partake of that millinerian repose they have heretofore enjoyed.

Gen. Chalmers recently received orders from General Johnston to attack and destroy the Memphis and Charleston railroad at some feasible point. He immediately ordered Col. Richardson to attack at some point east of Lagrange while he made a move in the direction of Moscow and draw their force from the east to watch his movements. On the evening of the 26 we made a feint on Collierville and skirmished heavily in front of the place.