Richmond Dispatch.

THURSDAY MORNING....JULY 18, 1861.

THE BALL HAS OPENED.

We understand from a gentleman who left Winchester on Tuesday night that PATTERSON had advanced from Martinsburg and was within four miles of Winchester. Gen. JOHNSTON was anticipating an early attack and our troops were eager to meet them, and, in fact, sent up shout after shout in token of their joy at the prospect of striking a blow for their loved South.

There is also no doubt that the ball has opened at Fairfax Court-House, fourteen miles from Alexandria and thirteen from Manassas.

It is said that Gen. SCOTT commands in person at Alexandria. The attack commenced yesterday morning, and a general engagement will, doubtless, take place to-day.

Military Movements.

When our correspondents who communicate military movements do not find their favors published, they must attribute it to considerations of public duty, which do not permit us to make known any military movement, the knowledge of which might be of service to the enemy. It is possible that the press may err from excessive caution, as well as from imprudent publications, but the former is at least the safer error.

The People and the Militia Draft.

If it had been the design of the call for the militia to obtain the smallest effective force, by imposing the greatest burden upon the community, the object could not have been more fully accomplished than it is under the present call: In all drafts of militia that have been ever known in any country, the system of employing substitutes has been provided for, by which useful members of society, who could not leave their business without pecuniary ruin to themselves and great injury to the public, have been enabled to put better fighting men in their places. But no such system is new provided, and efforts to obtain information from headquarters are futile.

There are thousands of men in the community who are unfit for soldiers, who are vastly more useful to their country in their places of business than they could be in the ranks, and who would each cheerfully arm and equip a good soldier for a substitute, and not only put him into a militia company for a month's service, but into a volunteer company for twelve months; thus keeping business going at home, and adding effective strength to the army; but who cannot do so, because, owing to ignorance, or incompetency, or imbecility, or indifference somewhere, no mode has been digested by which this most advantageous arrangement can be effected. It would seem as if an irrepressible conflict of interests were raging between the Confederate and State authorities, and that those of the State were refusing to devise any means for making the call effective and convenient to the people, in the effort to make those of the Confederacy as unpopular with the country as possible. Thus it would seem that the people were to be made to endure the maximum amount of suffering from this call in order that this man in office may gain some contemptible advantage over that man in office.

We have no doubt that the Confederate Government are honestly of opinion that the militia strength of the country ought to be put in a state of efficiency at this moment. We have no doubt that in pursuance of that honest opinion, they have signified the fact in the usual legal form to the State authorities. We have no doubt that having done so, inasmuch as the matters of organization and of details belong exclusively to the State, they have left it to the State authorities to bring the militia into a state of efficiency in the manner provided by State laws.

It is precisely at this point that the burden upon the community begins. The object of the call is to furnish effective soldiers. That object can be accomplished much better by devising a judicious system of regulations for the employment of substitutes than by any other process. The furnishing of substitutes for the militia service could be greatly improved upon, by allowing the substitute to be mustered as a twelve month's volunteer. The moment it was known in Kentucky, in Maryland, and other quarters, that soldiers could be enlisted here as substitutes and provided with arms, immense numbers of men would flock to Virginia for the army, and many hundreds already here could find ready places in the volunteer companies, being provided, as they would be, with arms. The rule in regard to the minimum age of the recruit might also be modified so as to allow persons not less than seventeen or sixteen to substitute others on being provided with arms. Thus a very considerable army of armed and effective volunteers might be obtained by the call for the militia, provided only some pains were used in good faith by the Executive looking to the organization of soldiers, rather than to putting unnecessary burdens on the people.

Unless some measures of this sort are taken, it is clear that the call for the militia will prove a miserable abortion, and bring disgrace, as it has already brought odium, upon the heads of its contrivers. The people cannot be expected to do impossible things, and will not consent to take part in an affair alike absurd, ridiculous, useless, and destructive. The mustering of militia has been a standing butt of derision for fifty years, and the popular derision and execration will be turned upon the men who would re-enact the mockery in the midst of so solemn a crisis of the country. If any good could be effected by mustering an unarmed militia force, the people would encounter any mere pecuniary sacrifice or personal inconvenience, and rally to the banner of the country. But when their Government calls upon them to suffer unprecedented sacrifices, in order to take part in a grand farce and wretched mockery, it asks quite too much of their patriotism, their patience and their pride. We expect to hear of numerous popular meetings in the counties, and the universal expression of extreme unwillingness to take part in this militia tom-foolery. These expressions will doubtless be coupled with pledges to send more effective men into the field, on the volunteer system, than could possibly be obtained by mustering the militia.

The counties of the North side have responded with liberality and promptness to the call of the country for troops. They would have responded even more liberally if the volunteer spirit had not been repressed by the refusal to accept them into the service for the want of arms. Now that it is understood that they will be accepted with their own arms in their hands, they will leap to the call of the country again; but it will be done with the understanding that the Government shall not violate good faith by calling forth the militia after it has stripped the country of volunteers. One or the other force must be left to take care of home interests. The Government must practice a little honor with the people, and not first beguile them of volunteers, then rob them of all the residue of its men.

Southern Literary Messenger.

The *Southern Literary Messenger* for July is a number of unusual interest. We know no literary production which is kept up in these times with such unflagging spirit. It deserves the universal support of the Southern people.

Prospects Ahead.

Those who believe this war still popular at the North over-rate the Yankee's tenacity of purpose in what costs him money, and his willingness to run personal risk for public objects. They attribute to him an unselfishness to which his race is a stranger. The North refused outright to send their troops South of the Potomac in the Revolution, although they were the first to begin hostilities and to invite invasion at Boston. New England refused to take part in the war of 1812, although waged for the freedom of her own shipping; and burned blue signal lights for the enemy's navy, and held a Hartford Convention to defeat the arms and paralyze the counsels of the country. The Northern regiments which rushed so eagerly to Washington in April last, are all returning home at the end of three months, sick of the service; and, except a few sorry fellows from Maine, all the new regiments now mustering under the Federal banner are German, interspersed with a few foreigners of other extractions. Henceforth the war against the South is to be conducted chiefly by Hessians, who endure readily the hard life of the camp, but do not know how to use fire-arms.

The Yankee himself has become disgusted with war, and is shifting it off upon the shoulders of ignorant, half-starved and subservient Germans, who fight for pay, and who have been emptied upon our shores from the pauper houses of Europe. Such is the obsequiousness of the Washington Government to the German race, that tobacco shipped from Richmond for German houses in Europe and intercepted by vessels of the blockade, is allowed to proceed to its destination when the ownership is discovered, while tobacco shipped to France or England is subjected to confiscation or ruinous detention.

Accurate accounts which come to us from the North disclose the fact that their newspapers systematically exaggerate the strength of their regiments, and that the true secret of the apparent want of vigor in Gen. SCOTT consists in the fact that his troops are too much demoralized and wanting in organization and discipline to be trusted in the field. This is especially the case with the native regiments, and there is no appearance of efficiency except where there are portions of the regular army, or else where the forces consist for the most part of the German element. MCCLELLAN's army is probably the best column the North has in the field, and this is owing to the double fact that it consists so largely of Germans, and is under the conduct of able generalship.

It is now perfectly well understood at the North, that impossible as it will be to raise the four hundred millions of dollars demanded by LINCOLN, it will be still more so to raise the four hundred thousand men which he calls for. The problem resolves itself simply into the question whether the poor class of foreigners at the North is large enough to furnish that number of volunteer recruits. It is a clear case that if every able-bodied man to be found in that whole class should volunteer, the number could not be raised; and it is quite certain that, tractable and obedient to Yankee command as the poor Dutchman is, the entire race cannot be expected to volunteer.

The case is quite as hopeless with the proposed loan as with the contemplated levy of men. It is notorious that the Northern Secretary of the Treasury has been unable to dispose as yet of all the twenty-five million loan authorized by last winter's Congress. The last amount of fourteen millions advertised, was announced to have been taken at about eighty-five cents in the dollar; yet, the fact was, that only nine millions were got off at this figure, and if the remaining five has been disposed of at all, it has been done at a price materially lower.

In three months more the remarkable fact will have been developed, that the South is able to keep a larger army in the field than the North. Her finances will be stronger and enable her to pay her troops with more ease; and the spirit of volunteering among her young men will, as it did in the war with Mexico, send more effective men into the field than the North can send; notwithstanding the great number of poor Germans she can bring into requisition.

It is clear, therefore, that the fate of this war (so far as the North, but not so far as the South, is concerned) hangs upon the success of the grand combined attack upon our lines which Gen. SCOTT will order in a short time.—If this grand demonstration fails, then all hope of a speedy termination of the war will be lost at the North, and the Yankee will despair of raising an army large enough to overrun the South. If our Southern Generals gallantly hold their own in this struggle, from that hour will Southern independence be dated in history. It is in view of the probable result of this encounter that the New York *Tribune* of the 6th inst., employs the following extraordinary language:

"This war is costing the Government from twenty to forty millions of dollars per month, and the country—in the disruption and stagnation of its industry—a great deal more. We are naturally anxious—being ourselves heavy sufferers along with our neighbors—to see this deplorable state of things brought to an end at the earliest possible moment. We believe the misery endured every week throughout the land, because of idleness and want, outweighs the suffering that would result from two or three smart battles. In short, we believe the patriot soldiers are to-day able and willing to whip the rebels, and we want to see them allowed to try. If they are *not* able to thrash the traitors in fair stand-up fight, *our pride revolts at the idea of slowly starving them into subjection or whipping them by virtue of money borrowed in Europe.* We say, challenge them to meet the patriot volunteers in fair fight; if they quail, they are ruined; if they fight, and are beaten, they must give it up; *while, if they beat us, we ought to do the same.* Let us have this matter decided forthwith, so that our brave men may quit soldiering and return to more profitable vocations."

Sleeping on Watch.

The greatest crime that a soldier can commit is sleeping on watch. The punishment is death,—deservedly so,—all over the world. In the armies of England, France, and the North, the man who sleeps upon his post dies. Public considerations overbalance all promptings of mercy and compassion. It seems a hard, cruel decree, which sends a man to death for sleeping on his post, but then it is replied that this seeming inhumanity to one man is true mercy and humanity to thousands. No army is safe for a moment, and of course the cause which depends upon an army is continually in danger when sentinels are permitted to sleep with impunity, whilst the most rigorous penalties of military discipline are executed upon sentinels of the other side when they neglect their duty.

Dismissal from the army should be the least punishment of any man who sleeps upon his post. It is a high crime; it involves such terrific hazards, and possible slaughter and destruction, that it seems to us more care should be taken in the selection of men for this kind of duty than any other military duty whatever. Men, overcome with fatigue, or who have the capacity of the "fat boy" in "Pickwick" for falling asleep upon the slightest provocation, should never be entrusted with this kind of service. We have not heard of a single case of a man sleeping upon his post in the Northern Army. In this respect, the "rascally virtue of discretion" is more valuable than that excess of courage which sometimes prompts men to disregard ordinary precautions against danger, and which has often caused the sacrifice—the self-sacrifice—of brave men to the most despicable enemies.

Gen. McClellan.

Gen. G. B. MCCLELLAN, who has the reputation of being the ablest officer in the Federal Army, is a native of Philadelphia, and still comparatively a young man, having been born on the 3d of December, 1826, and graduated at West Point with the class of 1846. He served with distinction in the war with Mexico, and in 1855 was appointed a member of the Commission which went to the seat of war in the Crimea and in Northern Russia. The other members of the Commission were Col. RICHARD DELAFIELD, now an officer of the Confederate Army, and Major ALFRED MORDECAI, of North Carolina, who some time ago resigned the Superintendency of the Troy Arsenal. A report, embodying the result of his observations in the Crimea, was made by MCCLELLAN, which added to his reputation as a scientific soldier. In January, 1857, he resigned his position in the army to become Vice-President and Engineer of the Illinois Central Railroad, which post he held for three years, when he accepted the Presidency of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad, with the snug salary of $12,000 per annum. On the 14th of May last, LINCOLN appointed him Major General, and he accepted the appointment upon the condition that his salary as President of the Railroad should not be stopped. Having made this judicious provision for Number One, he was placed in command of the Department of Ohio, which includes besides Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, that part of Virginia lying North of the Great Kanawha River and the Maryland line, with so much of Pennsylvania as lies West of a line drawn from the Maryland line to the Northwest corner of McKean county.

Such are the principal interesting points of MCCLELLAN's history, as we condense them from an article in the Petersburg *Express*.—He is probably the ablest military man in the Northern Army. We know nothing of his character as a man that can raise him in public estimation. His bloodthirsty proclamation threatening to hang Southern guerillas, and the wilful lying of which he was convicted in his correspondence with Gen. BUCKNER, of Kentucky, proves that he is not a gentleman. His late success, gained by tremendous odds, and the villainy of the traitors in the West, will not add much to his laurels. We predict that when he emerges from that treacherous soil in Northwestern Virginia, which gives way beneath the footsteps of an honest man, and comes out upon true Virginia ground face to face, with a force of half his own number, the conceit will be taken out of him in the most summary manner.

North Carolina.

Every regiment that we have yet seen from North Carolina seem thoroughly equipped, and every man provided with the articles essential to service. The military representatives of this noble State are winning laurels for her in abundance, not less for the manliness and sobriety of their ordinary deportment than by their stern and indomitable valor in the field. They are calm, earnest, determined looking men, and, when the day of trial comes, will make a name in history for themselves and for North Carolina that will never die.

NOBLE CONDUCT OF CITIZENS OF RICHMOND. The following is an extract of a letter from a member of the "Garde de Lafayette," dated Norfolk, Va., July 10, which we find published in the Mobile (Ala.) Tribune. We are glad to find that the efforts of our citizens to contribute to the comfort of our brave volunteers from our sister States, meets with so much approval:

"I dined with the sheriff of Richmond last Monday. His name is Henry K. Ellyson.—What is worthy of all praise by our people is, that he takes our sick to his own dwelling, and gives them every attention. His kind lady does everything in her power to promote the comfort of the sick soldier. The rooms that our sick occupy are furnished with elegance. He has had seven at one time to attend to in his house, and kind Dr. Albert Snead is giving his own services free."

A LITTLE HEROINE.—The article published below appears as a communication in the Cincinnati Enquirer of July 9th. Our readers will admire the bold, patriotic spirit evinced by the young lady on the occasion referred to. When the girls of Kentucky show such determination and bravery, we have reason to hope that it will not be long before the men of that formerly patriotic old Commonwealth will follow their example:

Secession Flag Captured in Covington.—The account of the capture of a Secession flag in this place, as published in the Gazette of yesterday, is not altogether correct. The facts, as received from an entirely reliable source, are these: Rev. Mr. Nicholson, late of Ohio, now living on Eleventh street, has a daughter fifteen years old, lately from a boarding school in the interior of Kentucky, where, it seems, by association with a large number of Southern girls, she has become very ardent in her sympathies for the South. She recently made a toy Secession flag, a few inches long, for a little sister, which was displayed in the window early on the morning of the Fourth. Mr. Nicholson, on discovering it, ordered it to be removed, which was immediately done.

After the morning parade of Capt. Shinckle's company, they repaired to Mr. Nicholson's house and demanded the flag. Mr. Nicholson "complied with the request" *readily*, and not "*reluctantly*," as the Gazette says. The language imputed to the father by the Gazette was uttered by the daughter, viz: "Southern men would not act in this way." The flag was then surrendered by the maiden with the remark, "Gentlemen, it will not be long till this flag will wave all over this land." She then surrendered it with a "hurrah for Jeff. Davis." We are assured that so far as the making and displaying of the flag are concerned, it was purely childish sport, of which the father disapproved in the order for the removal of the toy as soon as he discovered it in the window.

Maj. Hays said to Capt. Shinckle, "You are engaged in a very little business."

The Captain replied, "I wish no words with you," and returned to his company with the flag. A good deal of excited talk occurred during the afternoon about the affair, and a great many Secession flags were paraded on the streets by ardent Secessionists.

HIGH BETTING.—J. Arlington Bennett, of New York, a commissioned officer in the United States Army in the war of 1812, and a Union man, and Major General in the militia of that State, publishes the following card in the N. Y. Herald:

"$100,000 WAGER.—*To the Editors of the Herald:* I will bet this amount of stock, which I possess in my own right, bearing interest at seven per cent. per annum, as sure to be paid as Treasury notes, that the North cannot by force, under its present civilian Generals, compel the Slave States to remain in the Union."

FEMALE HEROISM.—The Winchester (N. C.) Sentinel says:

Application has been made at this office to know whether there are any means, public or private, by which ladies can get hold of a sufficient number of light arms, such as repeaters or small rifles, suitable for the use of ladies. Some thirty or forty of these patriotic ladies in one of the adjoining counties have formed themselves into a company, and determined, if possible, to secure arms, and in the event of a necessity, to defend their homes and fight for the cause of liberty.

A PATRIOTIC FAMILY.—The editor of the Raleigh (N. C.) Standard, thus writes to his paper:

On our way to Suffolk, Va., we had the pleasure of traveling with Chief Justice Lumpkin, of Georgia, who has seven sons in the army in Virginia. The venerable and honored man was going, in vacation of his Court, with his wife, the mother of the boys, to see them. His son-in-law, T. R. R. Cobb, is on his way to Virginia in command of a Georgia regiment.

BARN BURNT BY LIGHTNING.—During the prevalence of a severe thunder storm on Tuesday night, the barn on a farm belonging to G. G. Cummings, Esq., in the tenure of William Warden, between two and three miles from Smyrna, Del., was struck by the electric fluid and entirely consumed, together with 30 tons of hay, two reapers and mowers, thresher, corn and cob crusher, endless-chain horse-power, three wagons, new gang plow, costing $40, fans and various farming utensils, all nearly new. Mr. Warden's loss will be about $1,500, and Mr. Cummings' $1,500.

FROM CAMP PICKENS.

[SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE DISPATCH.]

CAMP PICKENS, July 15, 1861.

Your invaluable sheet that moves out to our keen appetites its store of news, deserves some return, however simple the offering. Each one almost regards it as a letter from mother, wife, sister or sweetheart, barring this, that when we are done reading it we *lend it out*.

It is very hard to give you news, such as papers usually abound with—no railroad accidents, domestic infelicities, and trials before the Mayor. The most we have to change the monotony of camp life, is to listen out for the guns of our enemies, and even this does not last long in its effects. Nothing positively but marching orders and absolute contact with a superior force of our enemies would be regarded as fun. We don't now leave a hard biscuit or stop in the middle of a yarn to look at a batch of prisoners passing.

We often wonder how Richmond looks, and are tempted to think our friends have not only forgotten us, but the great work in which we are engaged. It is to be hoped they have not been lured into that miserable Yankee infatuation of staying at home to "make the most" out of this war. There are many, we know, who ought to be in the field, who are as much bound to make sacrifices for their country as those who have gone; and as for the hordes of Yankees that are now reaping their harvest, and chiefly off the poor soldiers, there is no extenuation for them. Indeed, I think it would be well to require of them an enlistment of three years as the only satisfactory probation for a citizenship in the South. Why are they patronized? Can't any of our old Virginians cultivate a winning smile and a kind manner to entitle them to the confidence of their fellow-citizens? Suppose they try.

I see the militia are called out. Some have reported here, and the first duty they had to perform was to take hold of spades and the like and throw up entrenchments. It is good for them. Why don't they join some of the numerous companies of the First Regiment at Manassas? There are four companies at least that have not their entire complement of men. Captains Boggs, Taylor, Griswold, Sherman, Lee, and others would be glad to swell their numbers, and brave man, we would think, would not hesitate to join these rather than militia companies.

Our men are looking finely, and will give a good account of themselves when called for. Our officers are of the right stamp, from Gen. Beauregard down. SENEX.

News from the Upper Potomac—Gen. Johnston's Division.

CAMP NEAR WINCHESTER, VA., July 14, 1861.

Your readers have already been fully informed of our little skirmish near Falling Waters, in Berkeley county, with the enemy under the command of Gen. Patterson, who had about 13,000 men, while we only had, all told, 2,500, and yet their accounts of it give us 10,000. Our loss was only three killed and eight wounded, and we know almost certainly that they buried 130 on the field, and carried off a great many mortally wounded.—Like the battle at Bethel, we will never know how many they lose, as they are so given to lying and misrepresentation, until the history of this war shall be written.

Finding ourselves in a disadvantageous locality, and nearly surrounded by superior numbers, we retreated several miles this side of Martinsburg, and, having been reinforced by General Johnston, offered the enemy a fair fight on an open field; but General Patterson had no idea of meeting General Johnston on anything near an even footing. They must have two to one of us and the advantage of position, or they will never venture close enough to be seen. They are now strongly fortified in the town of Martinsburg, where, doubtless, they find many friends; and not wishing to destroy the place, with the women and children, which they refuse to allow to leave, General Johnston has fallen back upon Winchester, where he is quietly awaiting the coming of the enemy with his fifty thousand men, now reported as being the number of his forces. But I am afraid they will never get any nearer to this place, as they are afraid of the masked batteries that constantly haunt their imaginations, and the stone fences along the road, behind which they believe our sharp-shooters are concealed.

An incident is related of the Rev. Captain Pendleton, of the Artillery, in the recent skirmish, which shows clearly what "stuff he is made of." Having loaded and aimed his piece, he calmly raised his hands and uttering the short prayer, "May the Lord have mercy upon their poor souls," gave the command, fire! and that ball struck the head of a column, and when the smoke cleared away its path was still visible.

The crops of wheat in this region are unusually good, but there is great difficulty in saving it, as the approach of the enemy has driven away many citizens from their homes. The health of our troops is good. JOSIE.

Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.

Letter from a Georgia Volunteer.

CAMP HOLLINGSWORTH, Winchester, July 12, 1861.

Will you allow me a brief space in your valuable paper for the performance of a task, prompted alike by gratitude and duty? It has been said that the highest meed of praise which the soldier should claim, is the consciousness of duty faithfully performed; but when, with this conviction is mingled the many little kindnesses dispensed by stout-hearted men—the sustaining prayers and cheering smiles of fair women, and the more substantial comforts, so delicately, yet appropriately provided by both, how doubly sustained is he in camp or battle field!—Amidst the almost universal kindness extended to the soldier by the citizens of Winchester, and, indeed, by Virginians everywhere, individual instances may be considered ill-timed and unnecessary; but I must crave indulgence for the expression of a Georgia soldier's gratitude to the families of two of your own noble citizens for the special kindness of which he has been the recipient. To the lady and family of Oliver Brown, Esq., so cheerfully seconded by himself, he is specially indebted for those unremitting attentions and delicate favors so cheering and grateful to the sick soldier; and, as the best return which he can now make, and perhaps the most acceptable, he would invoke Heaven's richest blessings upon them and their's, with the assurance that, should life be spared him to reach once more his Georgia home, he will carry with him a lively remembrance of it all, refreshened and sweetened by the recollection of the rich, ringing laugh, and musical prattle of their "Little Nell."

To John Keen, Esq., and his hospitable, patriotic lady, who is always ready with a smile and favor, to greet or cheer the sick soldier, he is also under special obligations for his share of those kindnesses by them so constantly and so freely dispensed. In his best wishes and most fervent prayers they shall be remembered; and when victory shall perch upon our banner, as eventually it must; when the invader shall be driven from our Southern soil, as eventually he will; when peace shall restore its wonted quiet and prosperity to your lovely Valley of the Shenandoah; when the soldier's grateful task shall be to repose once more in peace and security beneath the protection of that Government which we now love and defend—then will I, and thousands of others, whose stern and rugged path of duty all of your citizens have sought to strew with flowers, in our own loved Georgia homes, think of and bless you all.

A GEORGIA VOLUNTEER.

Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.

Military Spirit in Nelson County.

NELSON COUNTY, July 14.

A company of Light Artillery was yesterday organized in Nelson county, for the service of the Confederate States. The officers of the company are Woodville Latham, Jr., Captain; James N. Lamkin, 1st Lieutenant; Edward E. Jefferson, 2d Lieutenant; F. T. Massie, 3d Lieutenant. There are about one hundred men, stout and strong, and for whom the "rough and tumble" of the camp and the battle field will have quite as many charms as terrors. We feel sure that our Nelson Artillery will compare favorably, as to its material, with any company in the service, and we are equally confident, from what we know of the officers, that they will endeavor to put it in every other particular upon a footing with the best.

FROM TAMPA BAY.—The latest Tampa (Fla.) Peninsular has the following:

It is now satisfactorily ascertained that the steamer Salvor, whose detention in Key West was noticed in last week's issue, has, with the negro crew which was on board, been seized by the Federal authorities at that place, and sent to Fort Pickens.

The smack W. A. Wilbur, which arrived from Key West on the 25th inst., has been temporarily detained by Capt. Lesley, of the Sunny South Guards. She is now lying in our port, under a guard of eight men. We do not deem it prudent, just now, to mention the cause of her detention.

Intelligence was received at this place, on Monday last, that the steamer Cuyler and the cutter John Appleton, had been cruising about Egmont Key, at the entrance to Tampa Bay, for two days.

THOS. H. CALDWELL.—A little 2x4 County Court lawyer, with little practice, less sense, and no patriotism whatever, hailing from Shelbyville, Tenn., cheered Trewhitt, at Jasper, on the 9th inst., when that vile traitor announced that he was in favor of East Tennessee rebelling. Dan Trewhitt belched forth his toryism, and this contemptible scamp gulped it down with the voracious appetite of a starving wolf.—*Chattanooga (Tenn.) Advertiser.*

EXCURSION FROM BOSTON TO FORTRESS MONROE.—Arrangements have been completed for a grand excursion party from New England to Baltimore, Fortress Monroe and Washington. The party will leave Boston on Tuesday and Wednesday, July 16th and 17th, and the excursionists can return any time during the month of July. In Baltimore the headquarters will be at Barnum's Hotel.

LOCAL MATTERS.

Presentation of a Flag.—A magnificent silk banner was presented to the members of Col. Wade Hampton's Legion, now at Camp Manning, on Tuesday evening. The weather was rather inclement than otherwise, but the soldiers having been disappointed twice before on account of the capers of the weather god, determined that the "ball should go on." A large number of ladies and gentlemen were present. His Excellency the President acted as spokesman on the occasion.

A correspondent describing the affair says: "The Legion was formed into three sides of a square to receive the President, who appeared on a grey horse, accompanied by Col. Hampton and staff. Many of us had never seen the hero of Buena Vista before, and his appearance differed somewhat from what we had fancied. His keen, calm eye alone indicated the warrior, while the serene expression of countenance and plain, simple manner of his bearing, denoted more the student and statesman. Advancing a few paces in the hollow of the square, he took the beautiful banner with evident emotion, and addressed his "friends and fellow-soldiers of South Carolina" in tones and words that stirred their bosoms with feelings of pride and devotion to their native State, and that moistened the eyes of many with the memories of her past achievements in the old Revolution, and on the glory fields of Mexico. He told the Legion that the flag was the work of the fair fingers of the descendants of Darby, and Williams, and Campbell, the heroes of King's Mountain, and Cowpens and Eutaw.—Moultrie had first unfurled the flag of the Union on the walls of Fort Moultrie, and Jasper rescued it on the glorious day of victory.—He knew Carolinians on the bloody plains of Mexico, when they bore their banner, dipped in blood, from victory to victory. Here was another banner entrusted to their keeping, and before him stood the men to preserve it from defeat; and, like the heroes of Churubusco, they would hand it from one to another until the last man falls, or plant it triumphant on a conquered field. He was sorry, he said, that he could not bid them hope the smiles of peace would banish from our loved country the dark clouds of war, for he felt that we had hardships to endure, privations to bear—great deeds to do. For himself, he had not come to the office he occupied for its honor, but to share its perils; and when Carolina levels her bayonets for the last charge, he hoped to be with them. He intended to be where men bleed and die.—With superadded confidence and pleasure, he committed the beautiful flag in the hands of Col. Hampton, as the son of a noble gentleman, and the grandson of a gallant commander of '76."

Three times three were enthusiastically given for Jeff. Davis, and after the band had played a fine air, Col. Hampton replied—"That, coming, as it did, from the hands of one reverenced and honored throughout the length and breadth of the whole Southern country, this flag, in itself demanding the highest feelings of pride and reverence, with brightest memories of Carolina clustering around it, was doubly valued. He would ask his followers to defend it." He asked them to "look upon its Palmetto tree and silver crescent"—then, turning to Sergeant Darby, he said: "To you I commit this sacred trust. I know you well—you must remember that you are the grandson of a patriot and hero."

On taking it, Sergeant Darby briefly replied, "that it was his pride and pleasure to be the bearer of that beautiful banner; that while life lasted it would never go down before the enemy, and if it did fall, his epitaph would be written on its folds."

Every eye rested fondly on the silver crescent and memory-moving Palmetto, as the gorgeous flag floated first over the heads of the Legion, and every heart there resolved that if it must ever fall, there would be no Carolina eye to gaze upon its fall.

The Legion then performed various evolutions, and passed in review before the President, after which, parade was dismissed, and the flag conducted by the Washington Light Infantry to the Colonel's tent, accompanied by the Armory Band, which added infinitely to the pleasantness of the occasion.

May our banner be next unfurled in the face of the insolent foe who would crush beneath the heel of despotism the "inalienable rights" for which our fathers fought and fell.

Eleventh Regiment N. C. Volunteers.—This Regiment lately arrived here, but is not at present in Richmond. Old Mexican Volunteers, who have inspected this command, speak of it as formed of the best material.—The men composing it were armed and equipped "according to law"—that is, in the best possible manner.

The rear train of the two conveying the regiment ran into the forward train Tuesday night, at Beaver Dam Depot, wounding four persons. The dispatch received from Mr. Fontaine, President of the Central road, at two P. M. yesterday, states that three of them—John C. Royall, D. A. Vestal and John B. Howell—are only bruised. They are walking about, and may be able to travel on the cars to-day. The only other who was hurt (W. D. Harrison) is suffering from a strain of his back, but is improving. They are all of the 11th N. C. Regiment, (Capt. Connelly's company.) They shall be well cared for, and if not detained to wait for Harrison, the others will be fit for service in a few days. It is not thought that Harrison's case is at all dangerous.

This information we publish for the benefit of the friends of the parties in North Carolina.

Lazy Set.—Since the passage of the ordinance for making the free colored population work on the public defences, a considerable number of them have evinced a praiseworthy love for country life. They have retired to sylvan groves, and the brick and mortar that lately knew them, won't do so any more till working time is passed. The free colored male population have been seized with a desire to secede. They evince as much love for the country now as they have formerly been in the habit of showing for the pleasant streets, alleys, lanes and back premises of Richmond. They must be made to remember that,

"Protected industry, careering far,
Detects the cause and cures the rage for war,
And sweeps, with forceful arm, to their last graves,
Despots from the earth and pirates from the waves."

We may say, for the edification of that portion of the class above referred to, that something will shortly be done to meet the requirements of their case. Those who have left the city to avoid going to work will not be allowed to reside in the corporation limits any more. This is righteous retribution. The only substance that will lubricate the spinal marrow of a lazy darkey, bond or free, is the oil of cow skin, applied between the nape of the neck and the termination of the spinal vertebræ.

Fifth Regiment N. C. State Troops.—The portion of Col. Duncan K. McRae's Fifth Regiment North Carolina Volunteers, which arrived here on Monday, consisted of eight companies, under the command of Lieut. Col. J. P. Jones, the commanding officer being detained at home by sickness. The officers of the Regiment are:

Colonel, D. K. McRae; Lieut. Colonel, J. P. Jones; Major, J. C. Barham; Staff Surgeon, Jas. A. McRae; Assistant Surgeons, J. K. Ruffin, —— Savage; Commissary, Lt. G. W. Wightman; Quartermaster, J. Kirkland, Jr.

The companies are officered as follows:

Company A, Ellis Guards, Capt. Sinclair; Company B, Gates Guards, Capt. Hill; Company C, Johnston Light Infantry, Capt. Snead; Company D, Newbern Light Infantry, Capt. Brookfield; Company E, Rowan Boys, Capt. Reves; Company F, Bertie Boys, Capt. Garnett; Company G, Dixie Defenders, Capt. Goodin; Company H, Gates Minute Men, Capt. Doudge.

Col. Gilham's Regiment.—The requisite number of companies to form this regiment are in camp and embodied under the proper head. Col. Gilham is an excellent tactician, and the State and the Confederacy of whom his regiment are the representatives may expect to have a good account of it. His regiment is composed of the the following companies:—Company "F," commanded by Captain Cunningham; Buckingham Leaches, by Captain Leach; Turkey-Cock Greys, by Captain Witcher; Cumberland Greys, by Captain John Booker; Red House Volunteers, by Capt. Mosely; Meherrin Greys, by Capt. Burkley; Capt. Mustaine's company, a company from Baltimore, with two more good companies, all well armed. The Cumberland Greys and Turkey-Cock Greys are armed with the best rifles, and are strong, active men, and will do good service.

The Late Shooting Affair.—The soldier, G. W. Bowman, charged with feloniously shooting a comrade named Wm. D. Wilson, on Main street, Tuesday evening, was before the Mayor yesterday for an examination, which it was found necessary to postpone in consequence of the absence of a material witness. The accused was sent to jail to await the result of the wound inflicted on Wilson, which is said to be of such a serious character as to lead to the idea of his early dissolution. Wilson was carried, after being shot, to the Infirmary, lately established at the new city Alms House. Both of the parties are said to have been drunk at the time the affair happened. They belonged to a company of Kentuckians, now in camp here.

We would suggest to those soldiers who are so prone to use their knives, pistols and other weapons on their friends, that there are Hessians in our mountains and on our plains who can be shot at without dishonor, who can be killed with credit, and who ought to be annihilated with expedition. Let those belligerents who find it so difficult to repress their martial ardor that they must needs make our streets the theatre of their shooting and stabbing exploits, and see legitimate game in drunken friends, hie to the mountains, where "there is work enough, a plenty for every man to do."

"Hymns for the Camp."—Three societies at the North are each preparing a volume of hymns, to be used in the Northern army. In one of these are to be found the "Star Spangled Banner," "Yankee Doodle," &c.

We are glad to be able to state that an effort is now being made to prepare a little volume of old fashioned spiritual songs, to be used in the Southern army. Rev. A. E. Dickinson, Superintendent of Colportage, who, with the aid of several clergymen in this city, is preparing this volume, informs us that it will be ready in a few weeks. Instead of imitating the Yankees, and inserting "Dixie," nothing will be published but such old-fashioned hymns as our oldest soldiers have heard from their childhood; such as

"Am I a soldier of the Cross,
A follower of the Lamb?
And shall I fear to own His cause—
Or blush to speak His name?"

Or,

"Soldiers of the Cross, arise,
Lo! your Captain, from the skies,
Holding forth the glittering prize,
Calls to victory;
Fear not, though the battle lower;
Firmly stand the trying hour;
Stand the tempter's utmost power;
Spurn his slavery.

Or,

"Brethren, while we sojourn here,
Fight we must, but should not fear;
Foes we have, but we've a friend,
One that loves us to the end:
Forward, then, with courage go,
Long we shall not dwell below;
Soon the joyful news will come,
Child, your father calls—come home!"

Such a book as is proposed to be published will answer an excellent purpose, as all the hymn-books have thus far been published at the North, and this is the first attempt at the South to supply this lack of service.

Violation of an Ordinance.—Yesterday the Mayor fined J. N. Brizzalari $10, and John O'Brien $10 for violating the ordinance recently enacted by the Common Council "concerning houses where ardent spirits are kept for sale or given away." That part of the ordinance in which our astute city fathers speak about houses where liquor is given away, must have been inserted as a pleasant joke, if intended to apply to any of the restaurants or groceries now existing. Knowing the enterprising nature of the keepers of such houses, the Council may have inserted it to prevent the practice of a dodge to evade the law. In this view they did well, for many a man, in former times, has given away a tumbler full of whiskey, and sold the cracker with which it was accompanied for ten cents.

Continued.—The case against John Duff, for running off from Winchester, Va., with a pair of horses and a buggy belonging to another person, was not examined into by the Mayor yesterday, the principal witness being absent. In noticing the arrest of Duff, we stated that he was apprehended on the arrival of the Central cars on Tuesday. He was arrested after the arrival of said cars, and after he had ensconced himself as a boarder at the Spotswood House, room No. 14.

Quite Neat.—We have received from Macfarlane & Fergusson several specimen copies of religious tracts which they are publishing, to be distributed among the soldiers. They are as neat as any ever published in Yankee land, and show that our men can do our own work if they have half a chance. Macfarlane & Fergusson are bringing out large editions of seven excellent tracts for the Colportage Board.

Welcome to Old Virginia.—We were pleased to see in our sanctum on yesterday, Dr. Shepherdson, of Columbus, Ga., but who has been for some months past connected with that sterling Southern journal, the Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser. The Doctor is now on a furlough from editorial labors, and holds an honorable and worthily bestowed commission from the Governor of Alabama.

Tribute of Respect.—"The Commission," a Southern Baptist Missionary magazine, published in this city, has in the number for July a feeling tribute to the memory of the late Archibald Thomas, sr. Deceased was an ardent advocate and life-long member of the Baptist denomination, and enthusiastically devoted to the Missionary cause.

Taking it Easy.—The free negro operatives employed on the fortifications near this town march in every evening with drums beating and colors flying, which does not betoken by any means that they are displeased at having to contribute towards defending their native place from a foreign invader.

Arrests.—Four white men were arrested yesterday for lying around loose on the street pavements. Some of them were conveyed to the lock-up in an insensible condition. Something stronger than the heat of the sun had overcome them.

Breach of the Peace.—Three men, named respectively Wm. McMillen, John Phinnon and Michael Dunn, were committed to jail yesterday, by the Mayor, on failure to give security to keep the peace. The amount of bail required of each was $150.

Removed.—We understand that a number of the prisoners of war who were confined in the depot on Main street, were removed yesterday to other quarters, the location of which we could not ascertain.

Suspicious.—Thomas Shannon and Roswell Valentine, arrested as persons of doubtful character, were committed to jail on yesterday, by the Mayer, for a further hearing.

Important, if True.—It was announced on the streets, yesterday, that General Lee would soon assume command of a Division of the Southern forces now in the field.

Surgeon Appointed.—Dr. John S. Coleman, of Augusta, Ga., has been appointed Assistant Surgeon in the Virginia Cavalry.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

☞ Notice.—I have appointed my son, JAMES H. DOOLEY, my