Richmond Dispatch.

FRIDAY MORNING.....SEPT. 20, 1861.

TERMS OF THE DISPATCH.

DAILY PAPER.—*Two cents* per copy at the counter and from the regular carriers of the city. Per annum, $5; six months, $3; three months, $1 75.

SEMI-WEEKLY.—$3 per annum.

WEEKLY.—$2 per annum.

Neither the Semi-Weekly nor Weekly paper will be sent for a less term than twelve months.

HEALTH OF THE CAMPS, &c.—We had the pleasure yesterday of a long conversation with one of the most eminent physicians in the Southern country, who has devoted his whole time, of late, to visiting and inspecting the several camps of the Confederate army, with a view to ascertaining, as far as possible, the causes of the ill health which has been prevalent among the soldiers. As far as we could ascertain, it seemed to be his opinion that there was no special cause arising out of the actual condition of the camps. They were generally kept as neat and clear of offensive matter as it was possible to keep them. We came to the conclusion, therefore, that the evil lay deeper than this, and we were induced to write this article mainly by hints derived from him. As he will see it in print, we shall cheerfully make the necessary correction wherever we shall have misconceived his views.

We ventured to suggest sometime ago, that the seed of much disease was sown in the close tents commonly used by the troops, and we were pleased to find the suggestion confirmed by the opinion of the gentleman in question. A close tent, of all other contrivances in the world, seems to us best adapted to secure any given amount of disease.—Six or eight, or sometimes a dozen men usually sleep in one of them, and their united breath taints the atmosphere, which is not kept in a wholesome state by the introduction of fresh air. In addition to all this, whenever it rains—and the fall of rain has been unusually large this year—the interior of the tent necessarily becomes damp—The soldiers, therefore, have the double disadvantage of sleeping in an atmosphere surcharged with mephitic air and loaded with noxious vapor. To remedy this, it appears to us that means might easily be adopted of introducing fresh air. A number of tents might be joined together, having the communicating sides open, and thus leaving a free passage for the air. An axon tent, with nobody in it, might be pitched at one end to serve as a porch, the outer end and the end communicating with the next tent being left open. Thus the rain would be shed off by the porch, and the extreme end on the opposite side might be closed. This is but a rough suggestion. Persons of more ingenuity and more experience than we can boast of, could easily find some simpler and more effective method of ventilating the tents; and, we venture to suggest, it is all important that it should be found out and applied. What can be more injurious to the lungs than an inhalation through out a long night of an atmosphere which has been breathed by a dozen other persons, some of them probably already beginning to feel the effect of disease?

For our own part, however, we are for adopting the system of bivouacking. We suggested it sometime since, but it met with no favor from the public. We were pleased to find that the distinguished gentleman mentioned above was very far from considering the idea ridiculous. How could it be? It was a suggestion of a man who had had more experience on that particular subject than any other that ever lived. Of a man whose whole life had been spent in camps. Of a man whose mind was the most acute, perhaps, that ever lodged. Of a man, the whole force of whose mighty intellect had been directed for fifteen years to the perfection of the soldier as a military machine. Of a man who saw everything with his own eyes, and suffered nothing to pass unobserved. In short, of NAPOLEON himself. He has left on record the opinion that tents are a great obstruction to military operations in more ways than one, but especially in that they generate disease, and render a whole army sickly. It is well known that he himself dispensed with them in all his campaigns, and substituted the bivouac. It is well known, too, that, considering the number of his armies, the arduous labors in which they were engaged, the long marches they were accustomed to make, and the severe privations they were often called on to endure, no troops of modern times were ever so healthy. The soldiers on the march kindled large fires and slept around them. These fires were sufficient to purify the atmosphere, which became rarified, and carried off all the noxious vapors that were hovering in the air ready to stagnate into pestilence. Before Mantua, in a most unhealthy situation, the French besieging army was kept in good health by the simple expedient of kindling large fires every night. In a country so full of wood as ours, it seems to us that means would never be wanting to build a temporary shelter from the rain. The hunters of the great West carry no tents with them. The Indians use no tents. They both kindle fires, roll themselves up in their blankets, and go to sleep by them. They are the hardiest and healthiest of the human race. They are capable of enduring all sorts of fatigue and every species of privation.

There are few people who have not had occasion to notice the baleful influence which the first passage of a canal or railroad has upon a neighborhood. As soon as the autumn sets in everybody is prostrated with chills and fevers, or typhoid fever. The exciting cause is, beyond question, the vast quantity of fresh earth that is turned up. This is sure to produce sickness wherever it is practiced. How much of the sickness at Manassa and other camps has been occasioned by the enormous quantity of earth that has been dug up, we are not prepared to say. This, however, we will say, that the diseases of those camps very closely resemble those of the districts through which a canal is being cut. The bare suspicion of such a fact ought, we should think, to weigh very heavily in the scale against an inactive campaign, where numbers, courage, and severe discipline are evidently on our side.—The most desperate assault upon Arlington Heights would not occasion a greater loss of life than the dull, inactive, spirit-breaking monotony of a camp, where the soldiers do nothing, and do not expect to be called on to do anything out of the ordinary routine of camp.

It is this inaction which has filled the hospitals. And it will continue to fill them as long as it exists. Let but our Generals give the word to advance, and it will operate as a general hospital delivery. The men are depressed, and are therefore more than ordinarily accessible to disease. Set them in motion, and disease will disappear. In an active campaign, the soldiers, as a general thing, are never sickly. They have no time to be sick. They have no leisure to think about themselves, and for a man to begin to think about himself is the first step to a spell of sickness. They think only of fighting the enemy. Let us hope that we shall soon have a campaign of this sort. Let our generals stop acting on the defensive, and carry the war into Africa. That will clear the hospitals sooner than all the medicines that were ever sold at all the shops of all the apothecaries in Christendom.

APPOINTED.—Dr. Julius Cæsar Branch, of Petersburg, has been appointed Assistant Surgeon in the C. S. Army, to be stationed at Fredericksburg.

POOR KENTUCKY.—The most difficult of all paths to pursue at present is the path of neutrality. The gate may not be wide, or the way broad, but, like the highway to Perdition, it nevertheless leadeth to destruction.—Neutrality is itself revolution; but it is timid, halfway, skulking revolution; and revolution is a thing that must go forward to the extreme end, or not move at all. The Constitution recognizes no such thing as a status of neutrality. A State must either be in the old Union or out of it. If in the old Union, it is in legal effect participant in all its constitutional acts, and *particeps criminis* in all its unconstitutional ones. Its only escape from responsibility for the acts of the old Union is by means of secession.

Kentucky's neutrality does not take her out of the old Union. She remains part and parcel of it, be she ever so neutral. Neither the Federal or her own State officers can recognize her neutrality, which is a condition unknown to the Constitution and to the Laws. If she forces them, against their legal and constitutional duty, to pay regard to this hypothetical neutrality, she, to that extent, requires of them unconstitutional and revolutionary acts. Neutrality, if effective at all, is revolution; it is secession in effect and intent, though secession in disguise. It is secession in an illegal form; it is secession bastardized, demoralized, and emasculated.

If Kentucky did not wish to take part with the North in its outrageous proceedings against the South, there were two courses to pursue. The first was simply to secede, and in her character as an independent sovereign State, to put herself in that attitude of armed neutrality so fully recognized, and so well defined in all its relations, by the Law of Nations.—The other course was not only to secede, but also to take the further step of uniting herself with the Southern Confederacy, and making common cause with them against the common enemy. If she cherished no more affection for the South than for the North, of course she would not take the second step, but would remain as a neutral and at the same time an independent and sovereign State.

The attitude she did assume, however, was the most undignified, and at the sametime the most ruinous one possible. She remained in the old Union. She had not the pluck, the candor, or the self-respect, to cut loose from the contaminating and hateful association. She shrank from assuming a distinct and independent nationality. As to the rest of the world she remained a province and a dependency of the old Union. She could not constitutionally claim a distinct recognition, or assume that attitude of neutrality to which independent States only are competent. Her protestations of fealty to the Union and of neutrality between the sections, were contradictions in terms. To affect neutrality before she seceded, was grossly to stultify herself without succeeding in making a dupe of either the North or the South.

LINCOLN never did recognize her neutrality, and never could do so consistently with constitutional duty. The South agreed to treat her as a neutral as a measure of policy and prudence, well knowing that without first seceding from the old Union, it was a status which neither the Constitution nor the laws permitted her to assume.

It has been the peculiar characteristic of the politicians who control the destiny of Kentucky to prefer chicanery to logical truth and candor. To affect neutrality while remaining a part of the old Union, bound constitutionally or politically by all its acts, was in keeping with the tactics of CRITTENDEN and GUTHRIE, LESLIE COMBS and JOE HOLT, parson BRECKINRIDGE and partisan PRENTICE. This was the artful dodge by which those cunning men beguiled over from the ranks of the Secession ists proper, the great body of the good people of Kentucky. This is the delusive bait by which they have succeeded in hooking a great and gallant Commonwealth into the toils of LINCOLN. This is the net which they have thrown over the limbs of the Secession party there, and prevented them from following JOHN C. BRECKINRIDGE, MAGOFFIN, POWELL, BURNETT, STEPHENSON, BROWN, and the other true men who would have led them into the Southern Confederacy.

The time has passed for the secession of Kentucky. CRITTENDEN and PRENTICE and GUTHRIE have done their evil work. The people have been beguiled and deceived by a honeyed word cunningly contrived for their undoing. All further proceedings in Kentucky must be revolutionary, violent and convulsive. There is no legal path by which it is possible now to extricate her from her constitutional association with the North. That association is galling to the feelings of the better class of her people; but there is no process by which they can effect their deliverance except by revolutionary action. By force and arms, by bloodshed and violence must they now carve out their way to honor, liberty, and independence; for that is the only alternative left a gallant State by its CRITTENDENS and its HOLTS.

FOREIGNERS IN THE NORTHERN SERVICE.—The heavy foreign element in the Northern armies is one of the most noticeable features of their military organization. The Irish and German soldiers are their main reliance, and make, no doubt, their best soldiers. The masses of the people are well content to let their battles be fought by foreigners, but if any victories are achieved, will not be slow to claim all the glory for themselves. When the contest is closed, it remains to be seen what will be the result in the North of converting the whole foreign population into soldiers, while the native masses remain untrained in the arts of war.

The people of the United States were wont in former times to felicitate themselves with the idea that America, separated from the Old World by three thousand miles of salt water, was impregnable against all Europe. It never entered into the imagination of statesmen or philosophers that the peaceful introduction of European population would accomplish that which open war could never have effected, and that they who found in our own country a refuge from despotism would become themselves the instruments of subverting liberty in America. Yet, with the exception of the adopted citizens of the South, this extraordinary and unnatural spectacle is exhibited to the world; but, happily, its disastrous consequences will only be felt by that section which, in arming foreigners against the South, has committed suicide upon itself.

VIRGINIA.—It gives us pleasure to observe the tributes to the chivalry and hospitality of Virginians, which abound in the journals of our Southern contemporaries. We would freely transfer them to our columns, but do not desire to blow the trumpet for our good old mother, whose works speak for her without a word from any of her sons. She has seventy thousand troops now in the field, and every house within her borders is the soldier's home. At some future time, we may set forth what the State of Virginia has done in the way of preparation for this war; and we think that when the facts and figures come to be known, it will be admitted that no State of ancient or modern days, having the same disadvantages to contend against, ever achieved as much in the same space of time as Virginia, from the moment when LINCOLN'S purpose of overthrowing the Constitution became manifest.—She was slow of vision to detect that purpose; but, once discerned, her attitude has been most disinterested, energetic, and even sublime. We rejoice to see that throughout the entire South this is the universal sentiment towards the glorious Old Dominion.

RUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES.—The jubilations of the New York *Herald* over the letter of the Emperor NICHOLAS, are so extremely puerile, that old BENNETT, in publishing such nonsense, is evidently in his second childhood. We are surprised that the North does not see that, in hunting all round the world for someone to take its part against an adversary whom it affects to despise, it is proclaiming to all mankind the consciousness of its own weakness and fear. Moreover, there is absolutely nothing in the Emperor's letter which affords the slightest warrant for the assumption that Russia will aid the North in this contest. On the contrary, the writer expressly disclaims expressing even so much as an opinion on either side of the questions in controversy between the two sections. The letter is such an one as might naturally have been expected from the past relations of Russia to the United States, as they existed in former times. The two countries were friends always, and the sympathy manifested here for Russia in the Crimean war strengthened her good wishes to all Americans. Therefore, she feels regret, sincere regret, no doubt, at the disaster which has come upon her old ally; but she takes care, in expressing it, to let it be seen that it with is the United States, as it once existed, and not with either North or South exclusively that her sympathies are elicited.

The Federalists must be hard run indeed, when upon such a letter as that of GORTSCHAKOFF, the whole Government, according to the New York *Herald's* correspondent, are elated beyond measure. The sagacious statesman, whom that paper has been so fortunate enough to secure as its Washington correspondent, goes so far as to build upon the foundation of this letter the confident prediction that in the event of a war between England and France, (who, he says, will both undoubtedly recognize Southern independence,) and the North, Russia will come to the aid of the latter. The Russian Government will not be likely to venture hereafter even upon a letter of condolence with the old Union, if it puts such an interpretation upon an act of common courtesy. It will be dangerous hereafter for any foreign ambassador to take off his hat to LINCOLN, or to sign a dispatch to SEWARD, "Your obedient servant," lest the one act should be understood as intending a disposition to pitch into the South, and the other to place the whole army and navy of the ambassador's country at the service of the United States.—Even conceding that Russia sympathizes with the North in this struggle, (of which there is positively not the slightest evidence in this letter,) nations are never so far carried away by their sympathies as to endanger their interests. We have seen England and France permitting Russia and Austria to blot out one after another independent nationalities, with whose sentiments and struggles they had always sympathized, but they never intervened in any European quarrel till their own interests rendered such intervention imperative. We can scarcely suppose Russia to be more chivalric and self-sacrificing, in her national friendships than either England or France. She has nothing whatever to lose by the division of the old United States, but, on the contrary, whatever interests her Government has in this question, must necessarily be involved in a result which will weaken the influence of democratic institutions in the old world as well as the new. Besides, whatever her sympathies with the old Union, she can scarcely afford the enormous expenses of a war with France and England, to gratify a romantic sentiment for a United States that *was*. Russia was bled to death, financially, by her last struggle with the Western Powers, and can have neither the ability nor inclination to thrust herself into any quarrel which they may happen to have hereafter with the Government of Mr. LINCOLN.

A SPLENDID PRIZE.—An agent in this city of A. BELMONT, of New York, has been purchasing, for some time past, a large quantity of tobacco for his principal, which is said now to be in store in this city, to the handsome amount of three thousand hogsheads, worth, in round numbers, $350,000. The agents of LINCOLN have been very active for some time past in seizing the funds and property of Southern men in the Northern cities. We are rejoiced that the Confederate Government have, in this magnificent lot of tobacco, a fund sufficient to cover a very large portion of the recent Yankee confiscations at the North.

AUGUSTE BELMONT is a well known banker in Wall street—the same whom Secretary CHASE recently sent over to London to attempt a negotiation of the Federal war loan, and who met with a signal failure. A. BELMONT is also the intimate friend and financial agent of Gen. FREMONT, and is doubtless a sympathizer in that officer's brutal measures in Missouri. We have no doubt that the Confederate Receiver under the sequestration act, Mr. GILES, will look promptly after this tobacco of BELMONT.

BELMONT is the American agent of the ROTHCHILDS; but is the leading member and probably one of the wealthiest men of that house. He may attempt the device of pretending that the tobacco is really not his own, but is the property of the European ROTHCHILDS. Such a pretence, however, would be treated with great distrust and jealousy by our Courts.

THE COMMISSARIAT.—The *Southern Literary Messenger*, in an article on "Pharsalia-Manassa," has the following, not without interest at this time:

One of the most important things with the Roman, and what first engaged his attention in every undertaking, was the *res frumentaria*, the provision for his troops. He appears to have given much of his personal attention to the commissariat. Fraud and neglect could not easily elude his vigilance. In all our modern armies this appears to be the great stumbling block. Soldiers are often seen perishing with want and privation, like Tantalus, in the midst of abundance. Yet it is seldom, for want of means for preventing it, that such a state of things exists. The wants of the soldier are few and simple; his sacrifices, among our people at least, great and many: it should be the duty of those in power to see that he was well cared for. Napoleon thought the great essential was that every soldier should have two pairs of good shoes. We are told that the shoes given to the Northern army are often of the most miserable materials. The introduction of coffee into the camp has been a great benefit to the soldier. It is wonderfully effective and economical, and is every way adapted to the business of war. As was shown in Africa and the Crimea, soldiers can bear almost incredible marches and extremities of heat and cold, and the ordeal of severe fighting, all together, with nothing more than a cup of coffee to sustain the physical and moral energies of each man.

The same writer, referring to the established principle among the ancients, that no soldier should desert the post that had been assigned to him under any circumstances, remarks it would have been better for the fortunes of Virginia, if this principle in its widest extent had been carried out here; if those occupying political and other places important to the general welfare had remained in their positions. Almost simultaneously with the appearance of the *Messenger's* article, occurs a striking illustration in a letter from the Governor of Arkansas, addressed through the Little Rock *Gazette* to the people of that State, in which he informs them that "the continued absence of a large number of State officials, most of whom are connected with the Confederate army—members of the General Assembly, sheriffs, judges, and agents, attorneys, &c., &c.—renders it almost impossible that the machinery of Government can be kept in motion and the laws executed." These gentlemen, he says, though prompted by patriotic impulses, seem to be unmindful of the embarrassments and confusion induced by their absence.

The Necessity of Hospitals.

The New Orleans Picayune urges the great necessity which exists of making proper and extensive arrangements for the care of the sick and wounded soldiers, now and hereafter. We have now, it says, two—including Western Virginia, we may rather say three—battle-fields, upon which great actions may at any time be expected to take place, with more or less of casualty to our brave troops engaged therein. It behooves all the Confederate States to take timely order to meet this need.

From Louisiana has been sent a large proportion of the armies in the field, in Eastern Virginia and in Missouri, while in Western Virginia and in Kentucky, our State is represented by the presence of several companies. At convenient places arrangements should at once be made for the establishment of hospitals for the care of the sick and wounded, and also for the provision of comfortable clothing, diet, and cooks, those necessary securities of good health in camp. Nor should the important article of good water-proof tents be forgotten. It is now the eve of the rainy season, when this necessity will be severely felt, if not promptly provided.

Our friend and fellow-citizen, Dr. Fenner, who has just returned from Richmond, where he successfully exerted himself, in association with other patriotic Louisianians, in the establishment of a hospital for our brave soldiers, sick, or wounded in battle, informs us that the farmers and other householders in the neighborhood of the seat of war, in every town, village and hamlet, as well as the generous people of the city of Richmond, have been most prompt and liberal in proffering their attentions to all those who stand in need of them, from what part soever of the Confederacy they may have come, to bear their part in our war for independence. The doctor highly commends their untiring attention to the sick and wounded soldiers, and they richly deserve the commendation. He says that there is scarcely a habitation to be found, from the battle-field of Manassa to Richmond, in which there is not one or more to be found, enjoying this sort of hospitality. Some of these good Samaritans, we learn with regret, have actually fallen victims to typhoid fever, contracted in the discharge of this Christian duty to their suffering compatriots.

These facts illustrate most strongly the necessity of multiplying hospitals for the reception and treatment of those whose needs are constantly appealing to our sympathy.—Their number is likely, ere long, to be greatly increased. For we have good reason to believe that the approaching conflict, on the eastern bank of the Potomac, will be a severe one, and cannot but be attended with many casualties it is our bounden duty to provide for.

A noble example has been set by Dr. Fenner and his associates from our own State, in the establishment of a hospital for the relief of such Louisianians as may stand in need of medical care. Let it be emulated by the good people of every one of the Confederate States.

KENTUCKY BOYS LEAVING.—The Louisville Journal, of Friday, says:

We are informed by a highly respectable citizen that he was at the Nashville depot yesterday morning and saw many of the Citizen's Guards, who belong to the State Guard, go off *with their uniforms on*, and one of the company told him they were all going to Muldraugh's hill and from there to Camp Boone, where Gen. Buckner, Colonel Hunt, and Maj. Cassedy were waiting for them.—Now, does not this beat all? Young men, who have been trained under the care of the State, going off to aid the ruthless invaders of Kentucky.

The same paper has the following:

Our officials were remarkably fortunate yesterday in the recovery of State arms, which had been secreted, with a view to their misapplication by members of the State Guard. Early in the day the three cannon, one a twelve-pounder and the others six-pounders, were taken from their hiding place and delivered over to our loyal friend Capt. Watkins, of the Semple Guards, which company has been mustered into the United States service. Subsequently seizures of muskets and munitions of war were made by the authorities at the store of John Snyder and the building formerly occupied by L. L. Warren & Co., on Main street, between Third and Fourth. Arms were also found at the establishment of Sachs & Bro., on Main street, below Fourth, at Crutcher & McCready's, on Main street, near the Louisville Hotel, in an out-building on the alley between Brook and Preston and Market and Jefferson streets, and perhaps in other localities. Thus no less than two hundred and fifty stand of arms and accoutrements, a large number of army tents, pick-axes, spades, &c., were secured and removed from the custody of persons who are seeking to involve our State in a bloody and relentless war. Other, and perhaps more important seizures will be made to-day.

GEN. LEE.—Referring to the military situation in Western Virginia, the *Enquirer* pays the following just tribute to Gen. Lee:

Whatever the result, it is probably already decided. If the victory which military critics pronounce certain—the unavoidable casualties of battle only excepted—shall indeed crown the monument of Gen. Lee, we shall greatly rejoice for our country's sake. But we shall do more; we shall rejoice for Gen. Lee's sake. Hitherto his duties have kept him in his closet. The good which he was doing, the people could not know. Going to the rescue where our fortunes were darkest, he has, if present anticipations be realised, given us proofs of what generalship can do. He has certainly inspired his own men with the utmost ardor and enthusiasm. He has circumvented the enemy, has taken their General, reduced them to privation, and cut off their supplies and their retreat. If now he forces them to surrender without a blow, it will stand a monument to his fame of which any professor of the military art, however gifted or fortunate, might well be proud. Thus far at least, he has done admirably.

FATAL OCCURRENCE.—Benjamin Franklin Martin, Esq., of Columbia, Tennessee, was killed at New Orleans a few days ago. The Crescent thus describes the unfortunate occurrence:

The young man, we learn, was in the employment of Capt. Samuel G. Risk, to receive the levee dues of the 3d section of the city wharves, and while in discharge of his duties on Thursday evening, about seven o'clock, went on board the regular Memphis packet, H. R. W. Hill, and sat down on the rail which runs around the boiler deck, in jovial and friendly conversation with some of the officers of the boat. After a short time they all rose to separate, he to go home, when his boot-tie, came in contact with some obstacle, and unable to recover himself, fell backward on the lower deck, coming in contact with one of the hog-chains. By the kind and immediate attentions of Capt. Booker, of the Hill, he was conveyed to his residence, where the best medical care and attentive nursing proved unavailing. His spine was too seriously injured, and he died last evening at 7 o'clock.

THE NEXT EXPEDITION.—A Yankee correspondent writing from Fortress Monroe, gets off the following portentious squib, relative to that other expedition now being prepared against the South:

Hereafter the rebels must look to their own homes, and relinquish their hopes of possessing the Federal capital. The war will be carried into Africa. Let them take notice in time. While they are cannonading at the gates of Washington, and thundering their violent threats almost before the President's house itself, the long strong arm of the Government is encircling their very hearthstones; and where a spirit of obedience to its mild requirements is not manifested, it will be demanded on pain of such penalties as it has a right to demand. The traitors will soon have occasion to rue the hour when they took up arms against the most kind and beneficent Government that the sun ever shone on, and first to feel the strength of the Federal arm will be the State of South Carolina.

SIX PRISONERS ESCAPED FROM ROANOKE COUNTY JAIL.—On Thursday, about 7 o'clock, when the jailor, Mr. J. C. Hall, was entering the jail for the purpose of giving water to the prisoners, he was caught hold of by two of them and pulled to the floor. Ten of the prisoners then ran out, but three of them were immediately captured by the citizens, who very soon gathered around the jail.—Another was caught a short time after. The other six have not been heard from.

The prisoners that have escaped are some of those sent to our jail, some time ago, by Gen. Wise, taken up by him in the Northwest, upon suspicion of treason to the State. We publish below a description of those escaped, handed us by the jailor.

Tobias Mariana, Kanawha county, Va., about 5 feet 11 inches, rather pale and slender, an Italian, aged 25 years. Philip Frankenburger, Charleston, Kanawha C. H., about 19 years old, fair complexion, about 5 feet 2 inches, a Jew, from Germany, talks broken. Wm. Springer, about 25 years old, hair rather dark, claimed his home in Mason county, Va., but had been working this year at Fallen Rock, Kanawha, Va., quick spoken, gentlemanly looking man, about 5 feet 10 inches.—James Bodkin, Kanawha, Va., about 5 feet 5 inches, of rather a swarthy complexion, dark hair, about 30 years old. Thomas Newcombe, Putnam county, Va., about 25 years old, about 5 feet 10 inches, rather dark complexion, dark hair. Geo. Spencer, California (was on a visit to Roane county, Va., when arrested,) about 5 feet 9 inches, and about 35 years old, dark hair, and rather fair complexion, a little hard of hearing. Left without any baggage or clothing except what they had on. They were poorly clad.—*Salem (Va.) Register.*

THE MAILS.—The present mail regulations are the subject of much merited complaint. The *Express*, of Petersburg, speaks as follows on the subject, in allusion to that city:

Since we are cut down to a single mail a day, we have certainly a right to expect that it should be so arranged as to promote, to the greatest extent, the public convenience. From the great centres of business and information the mails ought to leave in the morning; but instead of this, we here in Petersburg, the second city in the Commonwealth, have no communication with any point north of us, not even with the capital itself, except by the evening train. Let us see how this works: The only paper published in this city lies over twelve hours—but equivalent in fact to twenty-four hours—for of course it cannot be delivered at the nearest offices till the day after publication. Again—a merchant here writes to his correspondent in Richmond to-day; the letters are distributed tomorrow morning; the next morning he may receive a reply. Thus between two very important points but little more than twenty miles apart, a whole day and two nights intervene between the mailing of a letter and getting an answer. All this amounts to a real grievance in an active mercantile community. Will not the Postmaster-General afford us some remedy? If matters are to be continued thus, we shall be thrown back virtually to the days of slow coaches. We had much rather see the postal arrangements committed to the hands of the express companies, than that this order of things should continue.

A SINGULAR CHARGE—*Novel Case.*—Ellen Gay, a woman who was rescued from a suicide's grave, in New York city, last week, by Capt. Helme, of the Eighth Precinct police, appeared before Justice Quackenbush on Friday last, and made a rather singular charge against an elderly man, named Thos. Stone. The complainant in her affidavit states that, being deserted by her husband, and being in ill health, she resolved upon committing suicide; that she arranged with an undertaker for her interment, and, procuring a quantity of poison, attempted to carry out her design, but through the timely interference of Capt. Helme and others, her life was saved; that Thomas Stone, with a felonious intent, stimulated her to commit suicide, and said that if deponent would draw $1,600 which she had in the Savings Bank, he would pay the expenses of her funeral, and if by any accident she did not succeed in the attempt he would hand her back the money; that at the time said Stone knew she was melancholy and almost crazed, and suffered her to attempt her life without interference. Upon being restored she made several attempts to see Stone, but he always eluded her; and on one occasion, when she did succeed in seeing him, he repudiated her and her money. The magistrate issued a warrant for the arrest of Stone, and upon his appearing in court he held him to bail in the sum of $3,000 to answer. Mr. Benjamin G. Clark, one of the proprietors of the Merchants' Hotel, went security for the prisoner.

THE TELEGRAPH TO THE PACIFIC.—By the 1st of January, says the New York Herald, the telegraph to the Pacific across the plains will be completed, and thus New York and San Francisco—the two great commercial cities of the New World—will be in communication with the rapidity of the lightning's wing, and the Golden State and the Empire State will ever be united in the ties of a fraternal Union. It had been stated by the Secessionists that California would secede, and if she did not join the Southern States would, in conjunction with Oregon and the Territory of Washington, form a Pacific Republic, distinct and separate from the United States. But events have dissipated these hopes and predictions, proving that California is a strong Union State; and as soon as the telegraph is completed, a brigade, consisting of three or four regiments, will start thence for the East, following the line of the wires, in order to take part in the conflict for the preservation of the Union which is now going forward on the Mississippi, the Potomac, and the Atlantic coast. If the subjugation of the rebels should not be completed before the beginning of the new year, three or four regiments of the enterprising, hardy settlers of California must prove a valuable accession to our army.

[An extensive reinforcement, truly.]

RUN HIMSELF TO DEATH.—A few days ago a man named William Shuler, escaped from the guard-house, in Winchester, Va., where he was confined for refusing to perform militia duty, and returned to the neighborhood in which he resided, on Back Creek, in this county. On Monday last two men were detailed from Capt. R. Smith's company, quartered in Winchester, to visit the company's district and notify all subject to militia duty to proceed to join their company without delay. As the two men were going through a corn-field, with their guns on their shoulders, they discovered three men emerge from a grapevine thicket and run at the top of their speed. On approaching the thicket they discovered a coat, a haversack with pies in it, and a canteen, which the fugitives had left behind. Proceeding on in the direction which the men ran, they met some individuals who stated that Shuler suddenly dropped dead whilst running, as his companions had informed some females whose house they passed in their continued flight. He had run about three-fourths of a mile, when he fell from exhaustion or the rupture of a blood vessel.

FACILITIES OF TRADE.—The Winchester *Virginian*, speaking of facilities of trade with Richmond, remarks that, "with a railroad the entire distance, with the exception of eighteen miles to Strasburg, yet we have no means of receiving freight from Richmond, except by wagons or through the Southern Express Company, the rates of the latter being so exorbitant as to exclude the transportation of everything, except light and small packages. On paper we were informed at the company's office in Richmond the charge would be $2 50 per hundred to Strasburg.—This was more than we could afford to give, after paying nearly two prices for the paper; and so in reference to articles generally. Our people cannot afford to pay double price for family supplies and indispensable articles, now alone to be obtained at Richmond or other Southern towns, and at the same time pay nearly the value of the articles for their transportation hither. In some cases wagons have been sent from here to Richmond, (a two weeks' trip,) for groceries, salt, &c.—This looks strange, in view of the fact that there is an excellent railroad extending from Richmond to our very doors."

TENNESSEE PRISONERS.—Capt. H. M. Ashby, with an escort, arrived in Nashville a few days ago, from Knoxville, having in charge four prisoners who have been sent on for trial before the Confederate States District Court, at the October term, on a charge of treason. The names of the prisoners are John Gray, John W. Smith, Joel W. Jarvis and J. W. Thornburg. They were leaders in the rebellious movements in East Tennessee, and took an active part in leading citizens of that end of the State astray by the most despicable misrepresentations. They had a preliminary hearing before the Hon. West H. Humphreys, at Knoxville, and their guilt was so clear that he sent them before the Confederate States District Court for further trial, but the Sheriff of Knox county having refused to take an oath to support the Consitution of the Confederate States, Judge Humphreys felt unwilling to commit them to his custody, as jailor of Knox county, and ordered that they be confined in the jail of Davidson county.

ONLY THUNDER.—Night before last, says the New Orleans Bulletin, of Monday, and at an early hour yesterday morning many of our citizens were somewhat startled by what they believed to be the distant booming of cannon, and many were the speculations indulged in as to the cause of these warlike sounds. Some persons, whose knowledge of the distance that sound can travel is limited, surmised that an attack had been made upon Ship Island; others thought Major Clinch, at Fort Pike, had been exchanging compliments in the shape of shot and shell with some Hessian marauders—while others concluded that an "artillery duel" had taken place between Col. Duncan's forces at Forts Jackson and St. Phillip and some of Dr. Abe's blockaders. To quiet the apprehensions of nervous people Gov. Moore telegraphed to the commanders of the forts, and received replies that no powder had been burned by them as yet with hostile intent. The natural conclusion, therefore, was that the mysterious sounds were nothing more than the hoarse mutterings of distant thunder.

YANKEE ENTERPRISE—*A Cheap Bargain.*—A short time since we called attention to an offer made to Government by the New England fishermen of the services of themselves and vessels against the Southern privateers. That offer was declined by Secretary Welles. We understand that the same patriotic and enterprising class of men have another proposal to make of a still more advantageous character, but are deterred from sending it in to the Navy Department from a repugnance to encounter a second refusal. They are ready, it is stated, to enter into a contract with the Government to sweep the ocean of privateers and to close all the inlets of the Southern coast for a million of dollars—they defraying all their own expenses. The country would save many millions by this arrangement. We should like to hear the objections to its acceptance.—*N. Y. Herald.*

A GREASER REGIMENT.—Col. Edward W. Serrell, of New York, is organizing a "greaser" regiment from among the dilapidated coal heavers and workless mechanics of the Northern metropolis. In his enterprise he is assisted by Mr. James F. Hall, son of Brigadier General Hall, who has been elected as Lieutenant Colonel, and whose military experience is very essential. The regiment has six companies mustered into the United States service and in camp; the remaining companies are being rapidly completed. Another feature is the splendid battery of six fourteen-pounder Parrott guns, presented to Col. Serrell by Mr. Farrott, proprietor of the West Point Foundry.

LOCAL MATTERS.

Mayor's Court, Yesterday.—Alderman Seazzy presided.

Bibb were fined $1 each, and ordered to be kept in jail until the fines should be paid and their officers should call for them. Offence—getting drunk and lying on sidewalks.

John Fitzgerald and Edward Kane, the same gentlemen who got drunk and created such a disturbance on Seventeenth street Wednesday, by fighting, were fined $2 each, and ordered to be retained in custody till the payment of the fines and the application of their officers for their discharge.

William Grady, a negro boy, who says he is a slave of Lieutenant Mason, of Mobile, was charged with being drunk and disorderly in the streets and also with stealing a pocket-book from another negro while the two were in the cage together. Ordered twenty lashes, and to be confined till further orders are given as to his disposition.

David Lochley, for breaking a street lamp, was fined $3, and ordered to be kept in jail until the fine was paid and his officers called for him.

William Mitchell, arrested by order of the Mayor. No offence being charged against him, his case was left for the consideration hereafter of His Honor.

Moses, slave to Chamberlayne & Kennon, charged with wandering at night where his pass did not authorize him to be, was ordered 20 lashes.

The case of James Glancey, arrested on suspicion of being the murderer of Henry Cronin, was continued.

James Lemmon, charged with being drunk and lying on a sidewalk, was called for by his father, a respectable country gentleman, who represented that his son had been in the fight at Manassa, bore an honorable name at home, and, though guilty of imprudence in speech and conduct, was a man of character. If, as a witness had testified, his son talked while intoxicated of conspiring to rob some one, the old gentleman knew it was nothing but talk. The court ordered the prisoner to pay a fine of $1, and to be delivered to his father at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

Meyer May's case was again continued.

D. S. Turner, for being drunk and disorderly in the street, was fined $1, and ordered to be kept till he pays the same and his officers come for him.

R. J. Lipford, who was recognized, with Mr. Philips as his surety, for his appearance before the court yesterday, to answer the charge of stealing a horse from Adjutant A. C. Haskell, did not show himself. The court declared the recognizance forfeited.

Thomas Conly was arraigned on the charge of feloniously stabbing M. J. Doyle, with intent to maim, disfigure, &c. The witnesses, including Mr. Doyle himself, seemed disposed to acquit him of the intent charged, and the court merely required him to furnish surety for his future good behavior in $150.

Judge Lyon's Court, yesterday.—The case of Charles Murphy, indicted for the murder of Albert, a slave, the property of Mrs. Spindle, was continued until the next term of the court.

Philip Culligan was then arraigned on an indictment charging him with feloniously, wilfully and maliciously stabbing and wounding James Ford, with the intent to maim, disfigure, disable and kill him. The evidence having been heard, the Commonwealth's attorney and the counsel for the prisoner presented their respective views of the case, and it was then given to the jury, who, after a short retirement, brought in a verdict that the prisoner was guilty of unlawful but not malicious stabbing, and fixed his term of confinement in the city jail at six months, and his fine at $50.

The court then adjourned till to-day.

More Prisoners.—The Central train brought down yesterday fifteen prisoners from Manassa, sixty-seven from Gen. Lee's command, and one man arrested as a spy, and sent hither from Huntersville. Quite a crowd gathered around Gen. Lee's prisoners, these being the first sent down by him, and some persons entered into conversation with them. One of our German citizens amused the by-standers very much by his comic remarks, and enjoyed his own jokes as much as anybody else did. These prisoners are from the Northwestern States—chiefly from Ohio—and were taken in a skirmish between two Tennessee regiments, under Col. Savage, and a smaller Federal force, near Kircher's (or Crrutcher's) Orchard—a point somewhere between Big Spring and Huttonsville. They were marched to the military prison, followed by a number of curious spectators.

The Appropriation for our Volunteers.—The gentlemen in charge of the matter are actively engaged in prosecuting the work of providing clothing for the volunteers from Richmond, as authorized by the Common Council recently, when it made its liberal appropriation of $50,000 to that purpose. They have prepared a circular letter to be addressed to each of the commanding officers, inquiring as to the wants of their respective companies, and requesting a statement of the number of articles of clothing of every description needed. Contracts have already been made for the furnishing of these articles, and ere long, or at any rate before winter sets in, our volunteers, we doubt not, will be comfortably clad and prepared to resist the inclemencies of cold weather.

Patriotic Girls.—A number of little girls, animated by that spirit of patriotism and regard for the welfare of the soldiers which so distinguishes all of our people, got up an impromptu Fair, yesterday on Main street, between 1st and 2d, selling grapes, fruit, and other articles, and thus collected $25, which they intend to use for the benefit of the sick soldiers here. They will continue their labor of love to-day, and we bespeak for them an increased patronage. The liberality of the people of Richmond is worthy of all praise, and we believe has no parallel in history. It has been a source of much gratification, and, we may add, of surprise, to every person who, like the present writer, has recently come to the city. As for the little girls in question, they deserve to be immortalized for their patriotic impulses, kind hearts and willing hands.

The Habeas Corpus case of the Nottoway Artilleryman, will come up to-day in Judge Lyon's Court. The argument will be worth listening to, able counsel being engaged on both sides. The opinion of the Court will be awaited with profound interest. It is not improbable, however, that the case will be taken to a higher tribunal, let the decision be what it may. The complainant of course thinks it a matter of the