Richmond Dispatch.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, OCT. 23, 1861.

FIGHT AT LEESBURG, VA.

Important News from the Potomac Line—Decisive Victory for the Confederate Arms.

The news of a victory over the Federalists at Leesburg, Loudoun county, Va., was announced to the War Department yesterday in the following dispatch:

CENTERVILLE, Oct. 22.—Gen. Evans reports he was engaged most of the day on yesterday with twelve regiments and five batteries of the enemy, near the Potomac—they crossed under cover of artillery fire. He drove them back with a heavy loss in killed and wounded, and took two hundred prisoners.

Col. Baker, of Oregon, was killed, and Cogswell and ten other officers are among the prisoners. Six pieces of artillery were captured.

Gen. Evans's command consisted of four regiments and five cannon."

In addition to the foregoing, we received the following dispatch from our special correspondent:

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

MANASSAS, Oct. 22.—A fight took place yesterday near Leesburg, between Gen. Evans's brigade, consisting of four regiments and five cannon, and twelve regiments of the enemy, with five batteries of artillery. The Federals were badly whipped, with a loss of 75 killed, prisoners and six pieces of cannon. The remainder of the force were driven into the river. Our loss is indifferently small."

This news comes to us in such authentic form that no room is left for doubt that Gen. Evans has gained a brilliant victory. The death of Col. Baker, the Black Republican Senator from Oregon, and Lincoln's mouthpiece in the Senate, is a cause for especial congratulation. He was an Englishman by birth, and it was this man who said, in the course of a long tirade of abuse of the South and Southern men, delivered at the late extra session of the Federal Congress, that every inch of Southern soil should be reconquered; that the stars and stripes should wave over every fort and arsenal, and that if Southern citizens would not conduct their State affairs according to the laws of the United States, Governors from Massachusetts and Massachusetts would be appointed in their places. It was highly probable, from present appearances, that it was not his destiny to witness a fulfilment of his sweeping prophecy.

The people will await the full details of the battle with eager anxiety. The first company of the Howitzer Battalion, of this city, now in the temporary command of Lieuts. Palmer and McCarthy, was doubtless engaged, and we feel quite confident that their guns told with telling effect upon the enemy. The effect of constant reverses upon the mind at the North would be another encouraging to the Federal despotism, if truthful accounts were permitted to reach among the people.

LATER.

Statements of Federal Prisoners—Hundreds of the Enemy Killed and Drowned—Our Loss Heavy—Baker Certainly Killed.

The following dispatch was received from our special correspondent at nine o'clock last night:

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

MANASSAS, Oct. 22.—P. M.—The fight near Leesburg was more serious than first reported. That account was sent from the scene of the engagement at dusk last night.—Two hundred and twenty Federals were brought to Dudley Church this evening.—They say the fight commenced in the morning, and continued at intervals during the whole day. Between four and five hundred of the enemy were killed, and three hundred drowned in the Potomac. The prisoners will come to-morrow morning.

Our loss is also heavy—say three hundred killed and wounded.

Baker, the beauty and booty Senator, is among the enemy's killed."

We infer from the previous movements of Evans's brigade, that the Federals were led into the belief that our forces had all withdrawn from the neighborhood of Leesburg, and that they anticipated a quiet occupation of the rich county of Loudoun.—In this they were completely routed is apparent, though it was at a cost of valuable lives.

Additional particulars will be found under the telegraphic head.

Affairs on the Peninsula.

While there is every reason to apprehend the early occurrence of important events on the Peninsula, there has been nothing to compare in the exciting report of a great battle in front of Yorktown. Indeed, we have very late and reliable advices from that immediate vicinity, which represent that not a gun has been fired, though there is unusual activity in military preparations. Nothing is known of the skirmish near Newport News on Monday, in which a portion of Gen. Lawes's command was engaged; but the fact having been officially communicated by Gen. Magruder, there can be no doubt that the meeting occurred in that locality, which gives rise to the inference of a general battle on the Peninsula.

The Potomac Blockade—Another Success.

We have intelligence that two schooners were captured by our forces at Evansport on Saturday last, after having been badly injured by our batteries. The cargo of one consisted of 432 bales of hay and 500 barrels of cement, and the other was laden with wood. One steam-tug attached to the schooners was sunk, and another damaged. It was reported yesterday that firing was heard in the direction of Evansport on Monday, and it is quite probable we may soon have important news from that quarter.

An Official who Looks After the Soldiers.

It refreshes one occasionally to find an official who seems to show an interest in the poor sick and wounded soldiers of the army. Such a man is the Vice President, Alexander H. Stephens. Let him be honored for it! Fragile as he is physically, his rounds to the hospitals are unremitting. He goes through them all, and to this one a kind word, to another some little delicacy, give proof of a warm, Southern heart, and his interest in the defenders of the country.

"There goes Stephens to some hospital" is a common remark along the street, as he is seen getting his packages for the sick in various parts of the city. Without ostentation or pretension, he has been quietly pursuing his noble labor for weeks; and who can say how many hearts his cheering words have "bound up?" Who can say with what yearning the poor victims of disease look for his almost daily visits of solace and encouragement?

It may be, that some may think it patriotism to decry Mr. Stephens, but the masses of the people, as well as of the army, know the man—his profound wisdom, and his true heart. The instincts of the popular heart always find the good and the true; and in these Confederate States there is no man, this day, who has more completely the *confidence of the people*. Thousands and tens of thousands have, at times, opposed him from party considerations; but through all the region in which he is known thoroughly, no man commands more respect and affection.

Mr. Stephens seeks not notoriety, or newspaper commendation. Less than almost any public man we know, does he depend on anything but genuine ability and patriotism to make his fame. He works silently, and most ably, in his allotted sphere. It is fortunate for the Confederacy that it possesses in him one so competent, in case of any casualty to our Chief Magistrate, to fill the first office under the Government.

A Tribute to Female Patriotism.

We subjoin a letter written by a Virginia lady, acknowledging the reception of a testimonial from the First Regiment North Carolina Volunteers. Mrs. Tunnell resided near Hampton, and the Federalists, in their attempt to surprise our little army at Bethel on the 10th of June, arrested her husband, with every one else whom they could, in order to prevent the news of their advance reaching the Confederate force. Mrs. Tunnell managed to elude them, and in the darkness of the night made her way through the woods, and performed an act of devoted patriotism which proved an incalculable benefit. Gen. Hill speaks of her as having saved our army from destruction, and she truly deserves the tribute accorded her by the gallant North Carolinians. Deprived of her little possessions, and driven from her home by the ruthless invaders, she hopefully looks forward to the day when a complete triumph of Southern arms shall reward the efforts of our patriotic men, and punish the outrages of a wicked and unprincipled Government:

YORK COUNTY, Oct. 19, 1861.

Gen. D. H. Hill, Cols. C. C. Lee, and James H. Lane, and members of the 1st Regiment N. C. Vols.

Gentlemen: In acknowledging the reception of your kind favor, I scarce know how to thank you. To have contributed the humblest service to your gallant regiment in their glorious achievement at Bethel would ever have given me the most intense gratification, but to have won the approval of brave men—to be deemed by them not unworthy this generous evidence of their kindness—will always be to me a source of joyful remembrance, which I shall cherish through life, and, I hope now, with just pride, bequeath as an inheritance to my children. May it be to them an incentive to imitate your patriotism and your virtues. May a kind Providence ever "shelter your heads in the day of battle." May each of you be the recipients of the reward due to distinguished valor and merit. Yours, truly and sincerely,

HANNAH TUNNELL.

Diet for the Army.

The question of suitable food for the soldiers in our army is one of paramount importance, and we are gratified to learn that men of practical and scientific knowledge are bestowing upon it due attention. In an investigation of the subject, a variety of considerations are to be studied, prominent among which are the chances of supply and the price of the material to be procured. The subjoined views of an experienced physician present suggestions which might be beneficially adopted, combining as they do a regard for the health of the soldier, with economy of expenditure, while the abundance of corn in the country could, under no circumstances, be turned into a channel more advantageous to the producer and the consumer.

HOMINY AS A DIET.

Winter is approaching. Allow the writer to urge upon our officers and soldiers the use of the above invaluable article of food. There are various reasons why our army should adopt it as a diet: 1st. Any soldier can boil it until it is thoroughly soft, when it is ready for use. The quantity will be too large to depend upon having it beaten in a wooden mortar before sending it to the army; but our mills can grind the corn and send it, which will answer in the place of that beaten, and equally as wholesome. 2d. When well boiled by the soldier until it will mash between the thumb and forefinger, and being ready for use, it can be packed away in wooden vessels, if in the winter, enough at one boiling to last several days, taking the precaution of sprinkling a little salt over it. 3d. The soldier, after frying his meat, (particularly middling,) will have a sufficient quantity of gravy or oil from his bacon, with which to cook his hominy, left in his skillet or frying pan. 4th. Stir it well, and mash with a wooden paddle whilst frying it in the gravy. 5th. It is nutritious and wholesome. 6th. The writer has practiced medicine in the country for twenty years, and can truthfully declare that he has never known a child or an adult made sick by the use of well-boiled, well-prepared hominy. 7th. It is easy of digestion and obviates constipation of the bowels, which is often caused by the liberal use of salt food. With a good supply of pickles and hominy, the tendency to scurvy, from the use of salted meats, will be prevented. 8th. Upon a breakfast of hominy, good bacon, a pickle, and a cup of coffee, the soldier can march twelve hours without hunger. 9th. Let the farmers prepare it, and the soldier will eat it. 10th. It will be economical and healthy, a saving of labor to the soldier, and economy to the Government.

Zouaves.

Editors Dispatch: Permit me to acknowledge, through your columns, the receipt of a quantity of clothing for my Maryland men. I do not even know the name of some of the donors; but, oh! I feel so grateful I thank them all. Every article is acceptable, and I go back with a thankful heart. The "*widow's mite*" was received. God bless you, Madam! I will try to merit your consideration. We will win this fight. Gratefully,

G. W. ALEXANDER.

LARGE MEN.—The assertion has frequently been made that the men of the present generation, especially in America, and more especially in the Southern States, are physically degenerate. Much has been both sadly and satirically said and written about the small size of the men who now play their parts on the stage of life. The following statement of a correspondent of the Montgomery *Advertiser*, shows that one locality in the South does not produce pigmies. The writer says that a company of volunteers from Meriwether county, Ga., contains 77 men 6 feet 9 inches high; the aggregate weight of the 77 men, 18,557 lbs.; its commander weighing 341 pounds, without one pound of surplus flesh; can hold 153 pounds at arm's length. His lady was 6 feet 11 inches high, and weighed 263 pounds. Now, Alabama, bring in your colossals, and if you can beat this, then take my old hat. I know a boy, son of Mr. John Grant, of the same county, 11 years of age, weighs 196 pounds, has a foot—I don't know the exact length—but something like a number 12 shoe would be a Sunday's fit. Your humble servant, at the age of 14, weighe d 163 pounds; now, 175 pounds."

A FAMILY OF VOLUNTEERS.—The Georgia and South Carolina papers are giving lists of whole families of volunteers for the war; but, in our opinion, our own district, and our neighboring county of Hancock, is not behind any of them. Our friend Col. J. F. H. Claiborne, of Bay St. Louis, has an only son, Maj. Willis H. Claiborne, and eleven nephews in the field, viz: Willis H. Claiborne, Natchez Troop, Fairfax C. H.; W. A. McPheters, Natchez Troop, Fairfax C. H.; H. A. Garrett, Natchez Troop, Fairfax C. H.; Willie Dunbar, Natchez Troop, Fairfax C. H.; Robt. Field, Natchez Troop, Fairfax C. H.; George Claiborne, Marigny's Regiment, Yorktown; F. O. Claiborne, Crescent Rifles, Yorktown; Frank Claiborne, Crescent Rifles, Yorktown; Arthur Claiborne, Chasseurs, Western Virginia; Junius Claiborne, Privateer Jeff. Davis; Henry Claiborne, late Midshipman, U. S. Navy, imprisoned at Fort Lafayette, N. Y., for resigning his commission; Capt. G. D. McPheters, Crescent Rifles, New Orleans.

These are all natives of Mississippi and Louisiana. We have besides a list of twenty-two of the same family in the Virginia, Tennessee, and Missouri volunteers.—*Handsboro' (Miss.) Democrat.*

PROPOSED CHANGE OF THE CONFEDERATE FLAG. The Natchez (Miss.) *Courier* has the following appropriate suggestions in regard to the propriety of changing the Confederate flag:

It has been said that the Confederate flag is to be changed. Judge Porter, of Alabama, one of the best men in the South, proposes that we should adopt, in lieu of the present flag, which, he says, "borrows too much from the North, and is associated with stripes," the beautiful flag raised by that lover of freedom, Kosciusko, in his native Poland, after his return from fighting for freedom with Washington. It is a plain, blue field, with the white eagle. There is no other flag like it now in use. Russia extinguished that splendid blue flag, and it would be very appropriate for the South. It would be easily distinguised. The only difficulty we can see in the way of adopting such a flag is that it could not be easily made where there were no artists to paint on the flag the white eagle. If the lone star in the centre were substituted for the eagle it would, in our opinion, be more acceptable.

A SWEET POTATO.—The Savannah (Ga.) *News* has been shown a curiosity in the shape of a sweet potato, which would measure some eighteen inches in length and about an inch in diameter. The potato is not only coiled up so as to resemble a coiled snake, but has at one end what very much resembles a serpent's head and at the other end a tail.

DIVIDEND DECLARED.—The Wilmington and Weldon Railroad Directors have declared a dividend of eight per cent. from the profits of the company for the past twelve months.

Nathaniel Macon Knight, of the Edgecombe (N. C.) Guards, died last Saturday. He was taken sick at Yorktown, and died soon after reaching home.

The Wilmington *Journal* learns that Wise's Legion has been ordered to North Carolina, and has good grounds for believing the report.

Gen. Reynolds, who is in command at Cheat Mountain, is a native of Kentucky, but is now of Indiana.

The "Yankee Scalpers" is the name of a company of Choctaw Indians enlisted in the Confederate service.

FROM THE ARMY OF THE KANAWHA.

The Retreat of Rosencranz—Gen. Floyd's Column on the March—Appearance of an Army in Motion—An Incident, &c., &c.

The Lynchburg *Republican*, of the 22d, contains an interesting letter from its editor, R. H. Glass, Esq., attached to General Floyd's staff, dated "Richmond Ferry, 20 miles west of Sewell, Oct. 12," from which we extract the following:

The latest information in reference to the movements of Rosencranz is, that he has retired the last of his men from the south side of the Gauley, and is, probably, in hasty retreat with his main strength to the banks of the Ohio. He has probably left small detachments at Gauley Bridge and Carnifax's Ferry, to defend those passes, but this is only conjecture. We are little capable up here of judging the cause of this sudden backward movement of the enemy, but we have reasons to suppose that it was occasioned in great part by the conscious impossibility of breaking through our compact lines at Sewell, and by the imminent dangers which seem to threaten Cincinnati itself.

The rapidly advanced movements of the Confederates in Kentucky and Missouri will have a wonderful tendency to weaken the enemy's lines in Western and Northwestern Virginia.

On Friday morning last our encampment on Sewell was struck, and General Floyd's column took up its line of march to the Kanawha Valley by the road running west of New River, through Fayette, Raleigh, Boone, &c., while Lee and Loring still remain on Sewell. It is the purpose of Gen. Floyd to strike the Kanawha about ten miles above Charleston, and thus throw himself in the rear of the enemy, unless he retreats before him to the Ohio. In either event, the expedition, it is confidently believed, will prove a most important and successful one. It is understood that the movement will be greatly strengthened by the speedy advance of the central column of Lee and Loring along the line of Rosencranz's retreat. You will not be surprised, therefore, if our combined forces winter in the rich valley of the Kanawha, and the enemy be expelled our soil in that section of the State.

We felt sad in leaving our entrenched position upon Sewell, where we expected our little army to have covered itself again with the laurels of a glorious victory. But it may be that our work has not been in vain, as the continually changing tide of war may yet float us back to them, and make them of great importance in our defence. They cover a space of about four miles, and though temporary in their character, were nevertheless quite formidable. The earthen portion of them on Burwell's Mount will probably remain for a century, and be the object of curious interest to our children's children.—"'Twas from this point," they may exclaim, "that the tide of Northern aggression was turned back in the war of our independence in 1861.

You can form no adequate conception of the condition of the roads in these mountains. The like of them, I presume, has never been seen. Between the two Sewells they are impassable to any single team. It requires six horses to move a two-horse load, and even then it is a slow and tedious business. It is almost impossible for a horse to move out of a walk from General Floyd's to Gen. Lee's camp, and before we could take up our march on yesterday, we had to cut a new road nearly four miles long! It was impossible to move over the old road, and, even now, we have to keep large forces in front repairing the road to make it passable.

Did you ever see an army in motion? It is a most interesting and imposing sight, though the most tedious mode of traveling in the world. A regiment moves off in double file, led by its Colonel, and is followed by a long train of lumbering wagons. Then comes another regiment, followed by its baggage train; then comes a park of artillery, then another regiment and its train, and so on, alternately, moves the line for miles out of your sight. If a single wagon stalls the whole rear train has to stop until the vehicle is dragged out of the mud, for in many places the road is so narrow that not even a horse, and sometimes not a footman, can pass a single wagon. The consequence is we move about ten miles a day, and when night comes both men and horses are well broken down with the excessive labors of the day. We then have our horses to feed, our beeves to butcher, our tents to pitch, and our suppers to cook, when refreshing sleep closes in upon our labors. But when the roads and the weather are good we make 15 or 20 miles a day with much less fatigue and trouble.

I have been curious to note how soon volunteer service accustoms men to all the hardships and inconveniences of life. A thousand incidents which would cause men to curse themselves out of their boots at home, are endured in the army with the greatest patience, and sometimes become the sources of his greatest amusement. We soon learn to laugh at our own troubles, and to surmount difficulties, incur dangers, and endure hardships from which we would involuntarily shrink at home. War, therefore, as well as adversity, hath its uses, and is to a nation what the latter is to an individual. When peace returns, we will be a more hardy, self-reliant, moral, and religious people.

I had intended to sketch several interesting and heroic incidents connected with the battle of the Gauley, but I have deferred it so long, that I shall omit it altogether now.—But there is one incident which I will venture, even at this late day, to record. When Gen. Floyd had crossed the river in his retreat, he discovered that, by the oversight of his servants, his fine sword, which he seldom wore, had been left at his late headquarters. To get it was a question of intense importance to him and his friends, for I verily believe he would as soon lose his life as his sword should have fallen into the hands of the despised foe. Day had just dawned—our troops were all across the river—it was a full mile and a half to our deserted breastworks, and to return to them was certainly a most perilous undertaking.

The Rev. J. J. McMamon, of Smythe county, chaplain in the 45th regiment, happened to be the only person by the General at the moment the loss was discovered, and without a moment's hesitation he heroically volunteered to return for the left prize. He trudged the whole distance on foot, passed through our encampment to the point where the General's headquarters had been, directly at the breastworks, and in full view of the enemy's position, obtained the sword, and returned with it to the river, just as the bridge was thrown down and the last boat but one had been destroyed! Such an act of disinterested courage is seldom performed, and never by one who is not a brave man and a true friend.

We have been deeply pained to learn to-day of the death of Mr. J. A. Totten, a volunteer from Logan county, who, for a long time, has been acting at our headquarters as Clerk, Provost Marshal, and Postmaster. He was much esteemed by all of us for his business habits and private virtues. He had just been promoted to a Quartermaster's place, when he was stricken down by that terrible scourge of the soldier—typhoid fever. He was a good Christian, but leaves a large and dependent family to mourn his loss.

Lieut. Arrington, of Concord, is quite sick, and has been removed to Lewisburg. A good many of his companions are also sick, and one of them, whose name I have forgotten, has died. Capt. Rector, himself, has been quite sick, and is not yet fit for duty.

GLOOMY FUTURE FOR ENGLAND.—A short cotton supply in England is contemplated with gloomy forebodings. The London *Chronicle*, of the 19th ult., says:

The bountiful harvest has saved thousands from utter want, and it would be impossible to over estimate the advantages it will be the means of conferring on the poorer classes during the remainder of this and the greater part of next year. But for this we might well shrink from contemplating the future. For, let our home demand be what it may, it cannot bring trade to the flourishing position it occupied prior to the outbreak of hostilities in America. The many thousands who depend upon iron and cotton manufactures for their daily bread must inevitably undergo many hardships next winter, and unless we can by some means obtain supplies of cotton, still greater calamities will surely overtake us.

We do not perceive any means by which this end can be gained—unless, indeed, the Confederates change their determination, and all impediments to our commerce be removed. It is needless for us to point out the extreme unlikelihood of any such change being made; but it is upon a slender foundation such as this, that we must build our hopes, or accept this alternative of looking forward to a "cotton famine," abandoned mills, and starved operators.

TREATIES WITH THE INDIAN NATIONS.—The Fort Smith *Times* publishes the following letter from Mr. J. W. Washburne to the editor, dated Park Hill, Cherokee Nation, October 5:

Gen. Pike has consummated with the Osages, Quapaws, Senecas and Shawnees, treaties of alliance and friendship with the Confederate States. On Monday next the Cherokees will also sign a similar treaty—peace and harmony now prevail. The war may unite the two parties who have been so long dissevered. It is to be devoutly hoped that such a result may be gained; and though a doubter, I am one of the hopeful. At all events Gen. Pike has concluded a treaty of the most liberal character ever acknowledged by them, as is the case with all other treaties he has made. It is a blessing to them that he came among them.

The Indians are now a solid phalanx for the South.

Gen. Pike and his suite will leave for Fort Smith on Tuesday.

H. L. Rutgers, an old and distinguished citizen of Tallahassee, Fla., died at that place on Saturday week.

SOUTHERN AFFAIRS.

The Commercial Convention—The School Girls' Offering—The Late Engagement off New Orleans, &c.

Our Southern exchanges furnish but little of interest. Below will be found a short summary:

THE COMMERCIAL CONVENTION.

All the reports received concur in characterizing the Commercial Convention which recently met in Macon, Ga., as having been among the most imposing assemblages. In character, talent, and substantial worth, it impressed all who have had experience in such representative bodies, and the weight and influence of its counsels must be widely felt. As a fair exponent of many journalistic comments we append the following from the Macon *Telegraph*:

The late Commercial Convention in Macon, whether considered in relation to either the number or character of its representation, must be acknowledged a decided success. The attendance was large and nearly every State of the Confederacy was ably represented. It may well be doubted whether a more intelligent, respectable, and influential body of men was ever convened in the Southern States.—The debates were all characterized with marked ability, and deeply interested every auditor. Intelligent men who entered the hall to satisfy a mere curiosity about the body, were even after constant attendants upon its deliberations. The speeches were all short, terse, cogent, and marked by their eminently practical character. Very few talked for the sake of talking. In no deliberative assembly of that magnitude have we heard so few waste words.

Its action was in character with the body itself. Looking over the records as they have been daily published in the *Telegraph*, we think there will be little difference about the propriety of what has been done. Every important topic was thoroughly canvassed in all its bearings, with a patience and candor worthy of all praise, and a practical intelligence which it is more than doubtful could have been brought to the proposition by a Congress of politicians. It cannot be doubted that the recommendations of such a body will meet the attentive consideration of the authorities of the Confederate States.

THE SCHOOL GIRLS' OFFERING.

The little school girls of Charleston, S. C., as will be seen below, have been busy in their efforts in endeavoring to anticipate and relieve in part the wants of our gallant soldiers. This testimonial of their spirit and sympathy is deserving of the highest commendation, and we doubt not will be emulated by the patriotic little misses who are pursuing their studies in the many popular seminaries now in session in this city:

CHARLESTON, Oct. 1, 1861.

Dear Sir:—Wishing to contribute our assistance to that which has already been rendered, in endeavoring, as far as possible, to relieve the sufferings of our brave soldiers in Virginia, we send you this box, the contents of which are the results of work done in our leisure moments from studies.

Our Society, being composed of only a few school girls, we regret that we have not been able to do more for those noble ones who are fighting for our homes and firesides.

Hoping, however, that our contribution will be received in the same spirit with which it is sent, we have the honor of signing ourselves, very respectfully,

A SOCIETY OF SCHOOL GIRLS,
Formed for the relief of our soldiers.

To *Rev. R. W. Barnwell.*

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA., Sept. 9, 1861.

The School Girls' Association of Charleston (would that the soldiers knew their names), should receive our cordial thanks for the box of articles shipped to the hospital of the South Carolina sick and wounded.

The brave men who are now suffering in their country's cause are encouraged and cheered in their misfortunes by such kindness and attention as you have manifested.

Gratefully yours,

R. W. BARNWELL, JR.

THE LATE ENGAGEMENT OFF NEW ORLEANS—AN INTERESTING LETTER.

The following letter, which was written by his son in New Orleans to a gentleman in Charleston, contains some interesting facts in regard to the naval engagement off New Orleans, which have never before been published:

Commodore Hollins arrived here last night, bringing with him a United States supply vessel, a prize. She was a Lincoln supply vessel for the blockading fleet, but we have her now. The "Manassa," or the steam "Ram" arrived at 3 o'clock this afternoon. She will go in the dock to-morrow morning. Lieut. A. F. Warley, C. S. N., (of South Carolina,) commanded her. She went in among the fleet at 2 o'clock in the morning of the 11th inst., in search of the Richmond, but struck the first one she could, which was the "Preble" sloop-of-war, 500 tons, ship-rigged, 18 guns.—She went into the Preble 16 *feet*, but the force of the current of the Mississippi took her stern round, and tore open the planks. The Preble then drifted stern on the bar, and there will rest her ribs. She fired fifteen times at the ram, hit her once, and that shot carried away her smokestacks, one of which was lost overboard. The concussion was so great, that the engines felt the effects of it. I never doubted but that she would be a success.—The frigate Richmond, twenty-two 9 inch Dahlgren guns, is hard and fast on the bar.—Our fleet opened fire on her. The Richmond fired several broadsides briskly. It was all Commodore Hollins desired, for every broadside shook her to such a degree that it buried her deeper in the sand. They had erected what Commodore Hollins called "custom houses," on the shore near the mouth of the river. A large quantity of timber, &c., was landed by them, and buildings nearly finished. "They were going to collect revenue," but Commodore Hollins says he was compelled to "shell out the first duty."

A war boat from the Richmond made her appearance full of men. He fired three shots from his 32 rifle pounder. Two missed, but the last one struck her midships, and he thinks some one was hurt. He captured this boat and brought it up with him.

A BLOODY PIECE OF MUSIC.

In the programme of a concert recently given in the interior of Georgia; we find the following:

Battle Manassa, Descriptive Fantasia, Soldier's March in Camp, Cannon's Booming, Trumpet call the Alarm, Yankee Doodle Advancing, Dixie Answering, Yankee Doodle and Dixie Fighting, Dixie played in the Right Hand, Yankee Doodle in the Left Hand, Yankee Doodle Running, Dixie Victorious, Sweeping the Field.

THE BLOCKADE.

The Charleston *Mercury*, of the 19th, has the following:

The steamer *Nina*, Capt. Davis, left this port early yesterday, for Georgetown, S. C. Soon after getting to sea she was chased by a propeller, which gained on her rapidly and compelled her to return. Capt. Davis informs us that he saw five vessels near this place—one off Bull's Island, a second off Dewees, a third well off shore, and two near Ship Bar. One of them had a schooner without a foretopmast in tow, which is supposed to be the same vessel that was noticed some days ago near Stono.

SALE OF A VESSEL.

The *Mercury* thus records the sale of a brig in Charleston a few days ago:

The herm. brig *West Indian*, of 320 tons, coppered and copper-fastened, built in Maryland four years ago, has been sold here for ten thousand dollars, cash. She is a fast sailer, and is ready for a voyage. She has been purchased, we are informed, for parties in Savannah.

GENS. BEAUREGARD AND JOHNSTON.

The following sketches of these distinguished gentlemen we find in the New Orleans *Delta*, furnished that paper by its correspondent at Fairfax:

Gen. Beauregard, commanding the First Corps of the Army of the Potomac, has his headquarters in the house formerly occupied by Mr. Lowe, just on the outskirts of the village of Fairfax Court-House. Your readers will be glad to know that Gen. Beauregard's health is much improved since he left his quarters at Wier's house, near Camp Pickens. He seems to have participated in the benefits resulting from the fresh, exhilerating atmosphere of this delightful country. If one can be fortunate enough to find him during a leisure moment—and such occur at times when the General rides out to visit the various brigades—one cannot resist the fascinating influence which his conversation exerts. Entirely free from affectation, either of humility or arrogance, but always preserving an impressive and becoming dignity, he entirely fulfills the ideal of a commander who extorts the respect and wins the affection of his troops. He has no concealments, except as to those matters which military discretion require to be concealed, and none of that air of solemn mysteriousness with which the accidentally great often attempt to impose on their *entourage*. A half hour's conversation with Gen. Beauregard, even apart from the evidences which an inspection of the laborious details of military command presents, would be sufficient to convince any one of the absurdity of the ridiculous theories so often propounded by unreflecting people, that our battles have been won entirely by the personal courage of our soldiers; that nothing has been due to the skill and experience of our officers; and that everything necessary to conduct a campaign against the Yankees is to charge on them whenever and wherever you see them, in the expectation that they will immediately take to their heels. Such ineffable nonsense, for instance, as that at the battle of Manassa, our men dissolved their organizations, formed into extempore battalions and regiments, and wandered around the field seeking for Yankees to slaughter, ought to be dispelled from the mind of anybody who has ever visited an encampment, or seen even a skirmish. Gen. Beauregard's report of the battle of Manassa presents a complete history of the memorable campaign, terminating with that remarkable engagement, showing all the preceding movements, the plan of retreat from Fairfax to Bull Run, the first stratagetic retreat of volunteer troops on record, the motives for the attempted concentration of the armies of the Potomac and the Shenandoah, the origination of that movement, and the causes of its partial failure; the programme of attack, by which Gen. Beauregard intended to throw his columns of brigades upon the enemy's rear at Centreville—a movement which would have resulted in the destruction or capture of the entire Federal force—the reasons why that movement was not carried out; the consequent charge of front on the left; the consecutive moving up of the brigades to the point where the main action was fought, the final rout of the enemy, and the wonderful courage and endurance which enabled our men to repel the fierce and repeated attacks of vastly superior numbers. Let Gen. Beauregard explain all these things to you himself, in his own clear, forcible, and comprehensive language, and you will become convinced that it is much easier to criticise than to plan; to dissect than to combine; that the task of analysis is much easier than the task of synthesis; and that to be a great leader requires not only the capacity to comprehend, but the power to conceive; not only the faculty to foresee, but the ability to execute.

Of Gen. Johnston, the Commander-in-Chief of the army of the Potomac, it is scarcely possible to give a description which will at all do justice to him. Gen. Johnston is a man of medium stature and slender form, with a finely turned head, covered, except just above the forehead, with hair slightly mixed with gray. He is generally reticent, though not taciturn, in his manner; but when interested in any subject his countenance beams with animation, and glows with a fascinating and genial smile. I had heard it stated that he was inclined to be morose and severe, even with the members of his military family.—Precisely the reverse is the truth. A courteous ease and affability, initiated by the General himself, prevails at headquarters, excepting, of course, the moments devoted to official business.

At such times the usual rigidity of military forms is preserved. Gen. Johnston is a man of rare intelligence, profound information, and delightful conversational powers. He illuminates every subject he touches with the lucidness of his descriptions, the clearness of his explanations, and the brilliancy of his illustrations. Gen. Johnston's quarters are now situated in a commodious building, at Fairfax Court-House, formerly used as a Female Seminary. The house is surrounded by beautiful grounds, filled with fine trees and tastefully-arranged shrubbery, which, even at this late season, are covered with dense foliage. When the Federal invaders entered the village, on their advance to Manassas, Gen. McDowell rode up to this building, and found a gentleman at the gate. "I understand," said the gallant McDowell, "that these buildings constituted the headquarters of the rebel General, Bonham." "They were Gen. Bonham's headquarters," replied the Southerner. "Then," returned the Federal commander, "they are now the headquarters of Gen. McDowell.

IMPORTANT ARREST.

The New Orleans *Bee*, of the 16th, says:

The army officers on the Jackson Railroad arrested a Mr. Fox yesterday morning for trying to get along the road without a passport. He had about him, in a body belt, $9000 in gold, and certificates of large deposits in the Chemical Bank of New York city. He was taken before the Governor, but we do not know what disposition was made of the case.

Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Confederate States.

The proceedings of this body, which is now in session in Columbia, S. C., is somewhat interesting. The following is a portion of its proceedings on Friday last:

Bishop Elliott presented some considerations in favor of the adoption of the first article, viz: "This Church shall be called the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Confederate States of America." He thought it inexpedient to make changes unless absolutely required. The identity of the Church might be more or less called in question, and questions in regard to property might arise, and litigation ensue.

Judge Phelan, of Alabama, maintained that if the corporation remained the same, so would its rights and liabilities.

Rev. Mr. Trapier mentioned several facts in the history of churches in Charleston, New York, and Vermont, substantiating this view—that if the essence, doctrine, and discipline be preserved, its form might be changed.

Bishop Green considered the term Protestant unmeaning from its generality, and that it involved the Church in the odium of the follies and heresies of various sects. Episcopal, as a term, was not distinctive, because there were other Episcopal bodies. He preferred the title "The American Catholic Church."

Mr. Williams, of Virginia, glorified in the term Protestant. Does the Church still protest? The Articles are explicit upon that point, and any change of the kind advocated would subject the Church to suspicion.

Rev. Mr. Hines, of Tenn., inquired if there were no other errors to protest against but those of Romanism? In the creed we professed to believe in the Catholic Church. He wanted a name which would take us back to the days of the Saviour and apostles.

Mr. Pearce, of Florida, was at a loss to discover how Protestant came to be applied as a name to the Church—it was superfluous. The argument to retain it upon the ground of expediency was wholly untenable. They were not to regard expediency; this was the lowest ground of action.

Dr. Mason, of North Carolina, had never liked the title. It had always seemed to him to be sectarian. But it was hard to get rid of. He would gladly escape from it, but the attempt might entail confusion, and require endless explanations.

Bishop Elliott would be extremely loth to strike out a term which was a standing rebuke of Rome's peculiar assumption, that she is the Catholic Church of the world.—The English Church gloried in it, and even the Queen had to take an oath to support the Protestant religion. He would repeat what he had said in a sermon in 1844, that the Church is Catholic for every truth of God, and Protestant against every error of man.

Bishop Atkinson urged that names should correspond to things. They should be distinctive. He thought the term Reformed more expressive than Protestant. The Jansenists protest, but do not reform. His preference was for the Reformed Catholic Church.

Rev. Mr. Trapier urged that Protestant Episcopal, as a designation, was now a concrete thing, and hallowed by association.

Bishop Davis dwelt upon the inconvenience of change. For several centuries after the Church was established, it bore the title Catholic, and derived character from it. Subsequently, when corruption crept in, it was not so. It became a falsehood. Protestant in due time became the true term, and gave its historic testimony to the pure and true Church. Viewing each in its time, Catholic and Protestant are in harmony. The term Episcopal likewise testifies to the true Government of the Church.

Bishop Otey contended that the term Protestant is derived from Germany, and was not originally directed against errors in the Church of Rome. He alluded to the present war as the result, in his belief, of ultra Protestantism or Puritanism. He objected more particularly to the expression "in the Confederate States." It was entangling.

Rev. Dr. Crane, of Mississippi, considered that to take the name Reformed Catholic would be but to resume the appropriate and original title of the Church. Cranmer, Ridley, and Latimer were not Protestants, they were Reformers.

Bishop Lay, of Arkansas, gave as a strong reason why the name should be retained, that its origin could not be discovered. Names gradually came into use. The reasons for their adoption were in the course of time lost sight of, but the necessity for retaining them continued. When names were changed, principles often were. He thought Protestant affirmed the position of the Church in respect to the accretions of Rome, and Episcopal did so likewise as to the subtractions of other denominations. We should also not assume a name which others could not recognise as rightfully ours, without denying their own principles.

Mr. Hines said the term Protestant was common to the innumerable sects who disgraced the Christian world. He moved that Protestant Episcopal be stricken out.

Mr. Williams argued that if you strike out Protestant, you march more than half-way towards Rome. When changes of this sort were proposed, there must be some reason for them.

Mr. Pearce, of Alabama, said that the term Protestant Episcopal originated in Maryland, to distinguish it from the Romish Church there. It was attached to the Church by the merest accident.

Bishops Otey and Davis entered into some explanations of their previous remarks.

Bishop Elliott moved an adjournment. The question was called for.

Pending the call, Dr. Wilmer, of Virginia, expressed his desire to cut short the whole discussion. He was for adapting the old Constitution and Canons to the altered circumstances of the Church. He would move at the proper time to substitute it for the one now proposed.

Bishop Meade, from the chair, expressed the deep regret he felt in putting the question. He implored his brethren to pause and consider well the results of the contemplated action. They might give aid and comfort to their enemies, and inflict incurable wounds upon their friends, whose affections they might alienate, and whose support they might lose.

The motion to adjourn prevailed.

TELEGRAPHIC.

BATTLE NEAR LEESBURG.

The Forces Engaged—Confederate Victory—Large Number of Prisoners—The Killed and Wounded, &c., &c.

MANASSAS, Oct. 22.—Gen. Evans, with 2,500 Confederates, engaged Gen. Stone, with 10,000 Federals, at Leesburg, on yesterday. The battle lasted all day, and the Confederates were victorious. The Federal loss was 400 killed and wounded—520 were taken prisoners; and 300 Federals were drowned while trying to recross the Potomac.

The Confederate loss was 300 killed and wounded.

We took six cannon and six hundred small arms.

[*OFFICIAL.*]

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF POTOMAC,
CENTERVILLE, Oct. 22, 10½ P. M.

In addition concerning the victory of Gen. Evans, I have to report the capture of nearly 600 prisoners, and 1,200 stand of arms. Their killed and wounded and prisoners amount to between 1,000 and 1,200.

The rout was total. The fight was an infantry engagement exclusively. The forces engaged were the 8th Virginia, and 17th and 18th Missouri regiments; the 13th Missouri being held in reserve. No artillery was fired by us. THOS. JORDAN, A. A. Gen'l.

FROM KENTUCKY.

The Reported Skirmish at Greensburg—Gen. Hardee's Movements—The Stength of Lincoln's Forces, &c.

NASHVILLE, Oct. 21