Richmond Dispatch.

TUESDAY MORNING.....MAY 27 1862

The Struggle over the Metropolis.

There is yet no battle, and the enemy is known to be fortifying his whole line on the north bank of the Chickahominy. He has been seen engaged in this labor most industriously for several days. He will next commence the shelling of our army. Some people say from one of his earthworks he can pitch a shell into this city. This we doubt, though it must be confessed that the line of works now in progress by one of the great dirt diggers of the age, is rather nearer than the citizens like. We know very little of war, and do not presume that our own opinions will receive any more weight than they are entitled to. It seems to us, however, that as no attack has been made on our side until it may be presumed the enemy is pretty well fortified, there will not be any at all of his present position. What our Generals intend to do, of course they alone know. They have learning, large capacity, and experience. The country has relied and is relying on them; and if there is occasionally some misgiving, let us hope that the result will prove there is no good reason for it. All will join in gratefully awarding to them the meed that may be due them.

But it is a fact, that the commonest observer must know that delay is not the thing for us. The enemy has great facilities of water transportation, and has even made the York River Railroad, from the White House to near the Dispatch Station, on the Chickahominy, useful to him, by putting upon it locomotives and trains of cars. He has a telegraph from the Chickahominy to Washington city, via Fortress Monroe. He knows that great events hang on the act in the drama which is to transpire in this vicinity, and will make his greatest efforts to triumph here. The surest way to defeat his plans and movements is promptness and energy directed by sagacity. The brave volunteers of the Confederate army on the Chickahominy will perform their part, and are capable of anything required of them. Let the Generals do their's and all will go well.

Jackson's success.

The name of "Old Stonewall" seems likely to become as famous as that of "Old Hickory." His last victory appears to have been a crusher. We know not what may have been the size of Banks's column, but it must have been a very large one if it can stand the loss of 4 000 prisoners, to say nothing of the killed and wounded, which, although not mentioned, must have been considerable since the victorious party lost 100.

In all the transactions of this year, Jackson has proved himself to be a man of high military genius. He is very daring, but always upon calculation. The acts of his which appear rashest, are sure to be found the safest that could have been done. When he marched for instance, upon Shields and attacked him, numbering four or five to his one, he found that he was in a difficult position, and that a daring was the best way to extricate himself. He calculated justly. The suddenness and severity of the blow paralyzed the assailed party, and he could not follow him effectually, whereas had he evaded him, he would but have encouraged him to follow with increased activity. Besides, this attack, so blamed for rashness at the time, was made, it was said, to prevent Shields from falling on the flank of Johnston in his retreat from Manassas.

Jackson's march against Milroy, evading Banks, who was in his front, was a daring enterprise, and a beautiful exhibition of the importance of interior lines. He struck Milroy first—crushed him—and then returned to annihilate Banks. The whole was boldly conceived, and admirably executed. It places his name among those of the first military men of the age.

Above all, Jackson has shown what a bold heart and ready wit can do with the most inadequate means. Men will follow such a leader anywhere, and never think of turning their backs on any enterprise he may suggest. He is the man for revolutionary times. He takes no step backward. He does not believe in splendid retreats, and seldom makes any at all. He has fought three pitched battles in two months; more than any General ever did except Bonaparte in the first campaign of Italy.

Butler's Proclamation.

This emanation is so utterly wicked that, had we not the name of the author subscribed to it, we should have been tempted to believe it a voice from the infernal regions, for we recollect no other historical character whom we could regard as sufficiently depraved to have conceived it, except the Devil. It is, moreover, entirely in the spirit of that personage, and of the designs which he is supposed to entertain against the whole race of mankind. All other tyrants are content with inflicting punishment upon the body, for offences done to themselves. Butler and the Devil, alone, insist on ruining soul as well as body. The rack, the dungeon and the gibbet, were the favorite means by which Bomba and his son ruled the people of Naples. Butler and the Devil have no objection to each and all of these. But the rack can only tear the muscles, or stretch the sinews, or break the bones—the dungeon can only deprive men of the free use of light and air, and the privilege of locomotion—the gibbet can but put an end to life. None of them can impair the lustre of the mind, or destroy the peace of the soul, which the Being who created it has made immortal as Himself. Butler and the Devil—the former, no doubt, instigated by the latter—have conceived a plan by which all the women of a large community may be made to lose their peace of mind forever and find no refuge but the grave from the torture of a wounded delicacy. The plan is conceived with an ingenuity so devilish that it leaves not room for a single woman to escape. She may be perfectly innocent of having treated any Yankee with disrespect; yet any Yankee may accuse her of having done so, and she cannot prove her innocence. She must of course take the consequences.—She becomes forthwith liable to be made the victim of any Yankee soldier's brutal passions.

Towns have been sacked, in the olden time, and many virtuous women made the sport of a brutal soldiery. Cities have been razed to the ground, and all the men murdered, and all the women sold into a bondage worse than death. Historians always dwell on such events with horror. In the first instance, it may be said that there is an apology, in the heat and excitement of a storm, for all the atrocities that occur. We hold this to be no apology at all; but it is sometimes made. In the second case, the woman is only subjected to one master. But Butler goes far ahead of all the tyrants who have heretofore sacked cities and exposed women to violation. He renders each individual woman liable to become the victim of any and every Yankee soldier. Besides, he did not carry the town by storm, and therefore the apology of hot blood does not hold good. He marched in and took quiet possession, a fortnight after it had been taken by others. His person is too precious to be exposed to the risk of an assault.

The offence for which this horrible punishment is designed is the most singular we recollect to have heard of. The New Orleans women, it seems, do not like the Yankees.—They come to their city as conquerors, and they do not feel called upon to pay them the attention due to friends. A New Orleans lady, when called upon by a Yankee officer, may have herself announced as "not at home."—If she venture to do so, she is forthwith proclaimed a "woman of the town" and treated accordingly. Everywhere in the world, except where Lincoln's legions rule, a lady is allowed to decline the company or acquaintance of any person she may not like to associate with. But there—if she dare to do so—she is to be proclaimed an abandoned woman, and made subject to all the insult and degradation Yankee malice can devise.

People of Richmond! these are the wretches against whom you are called to defend all that is dear to you.

Madness of the North.

If the scenes now enacting near this city had been predicted five years ago, the prophet would have been put in a straight jacket and sent to a madhouse. Not that the ultimate dismion of the States was deemed impossible by any man composed of discernment and reflection, for a quarter of a century; nor that disunion, without war, was at all to be expected. But it seemed a remote contingency, not likely to occur in our day and generation. Nor was it easy to suppose that, if attended by war, the war would be on such a scale as the present; and, least of all, that it would be conducted in such a spirit of vandalism and inhumanity as characterize this horrible invasion.

We sit here in the heart of Virginia, amid the green fields and balmy airs of spring, beneath the shadow of our own vine and fig tree, and at our very doors a huge anaconda lies coiled, which has traveled hundreds of miles for our destruction. We, the innocent and unoffending, the whole extent of whose wrong doing consists in asking to be let alone, are beleaguered here in our own capital by an immense army, recruited from all the nations of the earth, and sent to shed our blood on our own soil, to take away our homes and our property from us, to make our wives widows and our children orphans, and to menace them, as Butler has done, with a fate worse than death, if they dare, by word, look, or gesture, to express displeasure at the performers of this intolerable wrong.

We have claimed the right for which our enemies themselves went to war in the Revolution, of managing our own affairs in our own way. We have grown up in the belief that the States were Sovereign, and had the sovereign attributes of directing their own destiny. In accordance with this belief, we have chosen to separate ourselves from States who had long ago broken with impunity that national compact which they would hold us to by fire and sword. We never dreamed of coercing *them* to maintain the Constitution and the Union. If they had chosen to give up the Union openly, instead of retaining its forms and violating its spirit, not one Southern arm would have been raised to force them to remain. If we are now in arms, it is upon our own soil and in our own defence; and even in our own defence we have never assumed the aggressive, never invaded them, never molested their households nor invaded their homes. Yet, here they are, seeking to deprive us of life and of all that makes life worth having, simply because we will not be their slaves.

If any one had predicted a few years ago that the North would have embarked in such a war as this against the South, they would have been met by specious arguments drawn from the pretensions of Northern civilization and from the tremendous interests which the North had in peace. The North professed to be the model people of humanity and toleration. They were so morbidly compassionate to human suffering that they could scarcely bear to consign to the gallows the most bloody murderers and pirates. In several of their States capital punishment had been abolished, and it was their boast that no political offender had ever lost his life in the United States. They sympathized with rebellion in every clime, and exalted into martyrs and heroes every man in Europe, Mexico, and South America, who raised his hand against his Government. Who could ever believe that such a people would for the first time punish with all the pains and penalties of rebellion those of their own countrymen who dared to contend for the inalienable right of self-government; that they would transfer to American soil the despotism of Bomba, crowd prisons and dungeons with political offenders, crimson the soil with the blood of those whom they still pretend to claim as their brethren, and threaten them with the deprivation of every right of property, of freedom, and independence? Moreover, even if all this could have been imagined, we should have been told that the cool reason and proverbial calculating qualities of the North would have instinctively revolted against the process of preserving the Union by a war of invasion. The vast revenues which they derived from the South would have been an appeal to the pocket which would instantly have settled the question in favor of peace. We should have been told that they were the last people upon earth to cut open the goose that laid them the golden eggs. It was the South that supplied the General Government the greatest portion of its increase, it was Southern staples and Southern labor which built up Northern commerce and manufactures, and made their cities vast hives of industry and wealth. Disunion did not necessarily involve the loss of these advantages; if peaceably effected, it is more than probable that trade would still have continued in its accustomed channels. The North, as a reasoning and calculating people, might have been expected to prefer the chances of peace, and even of ultimate reconstruction, to the loss of everything which a war of invasion would render inevitable. But how completely have all such reasonings been exploded! The boasted humanity of the North has given place to a ferocity unsurpassed in the annals of modern civilization. The men who mourned over the necessity of sending murderers to the gallows, have howled like wild beasts for Southern blood. The people who cheered on rebellion in every other land, have pursued it here with a wild cry for subjugation or extermination. The nation which permitted such an abomination as Utah to flaunt the flag of rebellion defiantly in its very face, have raised an army of seven hundred thousand men to obliterate from the very face of the earth, if they can, the Christian and civilized South. And in their reckless hazard of their own prosperity, we see how little power, reason, and even interest have against the madness of passion and fanaticism. The impulses of blind rage and vengeance have hurled reason from her throne, and made them as insensible to their own welfare as to our rights. They have converted those who would have been friends into eternal foes, and even if they could restore the extant Union, have made the restoration of Southern trade and commerce as impossible as the resurrection of the dead. The cotton that made their fortunes is burned to ashes as they advance; if they impoverish us, they will render us unable to trade with them, even if we would; if they bring us back to their Union, it will only be a wilderness which they will gain, full of thorns and briars, and deadly serpents.

Unique Compliment to a General.

It is stated in the papers that a Federal prisoner taken at Shiloh complimented the brave General Price, of Missouri, in this wise: "He is a great General. He never fights until he is ready, *and he is always ready.*" The compliment, *slightly* varied, might with some show of propriety be paid to some other distinguished Generals of the Confederate army. Thus: "He is a great General. He never fights until he is ready, and *he never is ready.*"

Prepare for the Wounded!—To the Citizens of Richmond!

In a very few days it is probable that there will be a series of severe actions in our neighborhood, and that, of course, the number of wounded, over and above the number whom provision has already been made to accommodate, will be quite great. There are few citizens, it is hoped and believed, who will not be willing in such a crisis to contribute to the extent of their ability, to the care of their countrymen who have come here to shed their blood in their defence. We therefore appeal to every one who has a house, to prepare to accommodate as many as he conveniently can. Any person having a room which he can conveniently spare, can aid assist very materially. Everything else which may be of use to the wounded would be most thankfully received. Persons willing to contribute can address a note to Dr. S. Dorsey Cullen, medical director of Longstreet's division, or to any of the other medical directors, or to any of the army surgeons, briefly stating their several places of abode and the number they can accommodate.

We trust it is unnecessary to appeal to the sympathies of our citizens in such a case.—Every human being who has a heart, must sympathize deeply with men wounded in such a cause. There is scarcely a man or woman in the city who has not some near and dear friend engaged in this most holy cause. Let all such recollect that it may be their own fate to hear that their dear friends have been stricken down, and realize the intense gratitude they would feel towards any one who would afford him relief in such a painful moment. Let them remember that the sufferer is their countryman, wounded in a cause which is theirs as well as his. Above all, let them remember the Saviour, who suffered for the sake of all, and enjoins it as a duty which will surely find its recompense, to soothe the afflicted and pour balm into the wounds of the suffering.

Gunboats.

The following communication from Brigadier-General Whiting contains some interesting facts concerning gunboats. It shows that their capabilities are very much magnified, and that they are not the all powerful and irresistible things many prominent persons even at the South have regarded them to be. The lesson taught at the obstruction in James river by our three-gun battery has helped to dispel the delusion that had prevailed on the subject. If the powerful vessels then essaying to reach the capital (one of whose officers informed an old acquaintance on board the boat that carried the Yankee prisoners down the river, that he would dine in Richmond the day after the bombardment commenced!) were unable to pass while the obstruction was not complete, and when it was defended by only three guns in battery, what chance do those boats stand now? It is clear that the enemy can never reach Richmond by the river. He has had his gunboat conceit taken out of him to that extent. It is said that Lincoln was at Fortress Monroe and ordered the boats to proceed at once and take Richmond in advance of McClellan. But even Lincoln could not force his terrible boats by the small battery at Drewry's Bluff—a barrier which he has "heard on" before this. We invite attention to General Whiting's letter:

HEADQUARTERS 1ST DIVISION RESERVE,
Near Richmond, May 23, 1862.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

Sir—The panic caused by the enemy's gunboats is not, perhaps, unreasonable, considering the manner in which their deeds have been trumpeted and exaggerated; but it is very abtrusive and needless. I will state a few facts—horizontal, or rather direct shell firing, as from Dahlgren or rifled pieces, is destructive only to shipping or buildings. It has very little effect upon batteries, either with or without parapets, or upon troops deployed.—This day, I think, partly to the difficulty of causing the shell, even if well directed, to explode exactly at the object, but chiefly to the great velocity of the missile, which carries the fragments after explosion beyond the point of bursting. Mortar firing, or vertical fire, as it is called, is, if well managed, much more destructive and dangerous, in that the velocity is small and the explosive force has full play. I have never known a shell from the gunboats, exploding over an open battery or group or line of men, to do any harm.

Last winter a portion of my command, under Capt. Probel, was exposed to frequent day and night shell firing of 11 and 9-inch Dahlgren and rifled shells. The camp was shelled repeatedly, and fire started in it once by some camphene contrivance in the missile. We had but one casualty.

During the same time, the army's gunboats fired between one hundred and two hundred heavy shell at a single picket station on the Potomac, without either hurting a man or driving off the guard.

The gallant Major Walker, of the artillery, unlimbered his battery in the open field, and for several hours engaged the Pawnee, Live Yankee, Anacostia, and a tug, at long range, without a single casualty, compelling the boats to retire. They were commanded by a brave officer of the U. S. N.—Capt. Rowan—who is reported to have lost an arm in the fight.

The battery at Aquia Creek was shelled for three days last summer by the Potomac fleet, one vessel alone expending several hundred shell with no other effect than a scratch on one man's hand and the killing of a trooper's horse in the rear of the battery.

Major Walker was over twelve times last winter and fall under fire of 9 inch Dahlgrens from gunboats with his battery, without a casualty.

Lieut.-Col. Stephen Lee, of the Hampton Legion Artillery, now commanding the artillery of this division, twice engaged thousand battery against 9 inch shells—without a casualty.

When the Evansport batteries were opened on the Seminole and Pocahontas, even in the very imperfect condition of these batteries at that time, the enemy's fire inflicted no damage whatever.

At Yorktown, although the gunboats fired a great deal into the town and at Gloucester Point, both of which were full of tents, baggages, storehouses, wagons, and troops, but one man was killed at Yorktown, and nobody hurt at Gloucester Point.

The other day, at the engagement between a part of my command and the enemy at Eltham's Landing, near West Point, one of the enemy's gunboats opened upon a position from which a few moments before Lieut.-Col. Lee and Captain Kelly had in vain endeavored with four pieces to reach the transports; and though the boat got the range with great accuracy, and burst her shells directly over the heads and within a few feet of the 6th North Carolina regiment, commanded by Col. Fender, but one man was hurt; and although their gunboats shelled the woods in which Hood's brigade and the Legion were drawn up, after the enemy were driven out, not a man was touched by them.

I can vouch for most of the above circumstances from personal knowledge and observation. Officers of my command attest all I have not seen myself.

At Port Royal and Hatteras the result was due partly to overwhelming force, and partly to inexperience on the part of the gunners.—It is said—and I have no doubt of it—that many guns were dismounted by the recoil, owing to the eccentrics having been carelessly left in gear when the pieces were fired, while others were spiked and rendered useless by the priming wires being left in the vent, while the charge was rammed. Our firing was a so bad. Yet, at both these places the loss of the garrison was trifling, when compared to the weight and length of the enemy's fire.

At Donelson, by Commodore Foote's own showing, the gunboats were fairly whipped and withdrawn. Gunboats had nothing to do with the taking of Fort Pulaski. At Island No. 10, they failed. Forts Jackson and St Philips surrendered from treachery and mutiny, and that alone. Fort Macon was taken by land batteries.

Let our men stand to their guns and fight them as the officers and men of our Navy did the other day at Drewry's Bluff, and there are few rivers in this country in which the Yankee gunboats will venture far—certainly not the James, the Cape Fear, or the Southern rivers below Charleston.

I hope the above statement will cool somewhat the excitement produced by the name and approach of gunboats. As far as our side is concerned, there can be no doubt as to the accuracy of the above statements. What effect we may have produced on the enemy, there is no means of ascertaining. In time, however, from the false and contradictory statements they are compelled to make, the truth is gradually sifted. Thank God, our leaders are not obliged to lie, either to keep our courage up, or to satisfy our Government or people.

Very respectfully,
W. H. C. WHITING,
Brig.-Gen. Commanding Div. Reserve,
Army of the Potomac.

A destructive hail storm passed through the neighborhood about twelve miles above Columbia, S. C., on Friday last.

LOCAL MATTERS.

Inquest.—We noticed briefly yesterday the fact that a resisting deserter had been shot on Friday, opposite the Beauregard Saloon, by the guard sent after him. The affair was located in the wrong place. It occurred at the corner of Franklin and 17th streets. The man's name was Sam'l Hays, a member of Captain Bayly's company, and he died yesterday morning, at 4 o'clock, at the Infirmary of the Medical College. Coroner Sanxay held an inquest over the remains yesterday, when the following facts were elicited: Sergeant McKenna had been sent out, with privates Coleman and Henderson, to hunt up deserters. They met Hays at the corner of 17th and Franklin streets, and knowing that he was a deserter, Coleman said he had been looking for him all day, and he must go to camp. He said he be—d if he would, and jerked away from Henderson, who had hold of him, drew a pistol and presented it.—Hays then went into a house near the corner. At that moment Gen. Winder's police came along and learned the circumstances, and were requested to capture Hays by the Sergeant and his party, their guns not being loaded.—Coleman loaded his gun, and Hays started on a run up 17th street. When between Marshall and Broad streets they overtook him, and he again swore that he would not go to camp, and presented his pistol. An officer who was present ordered Coleman to shoot, which he did, wounding the party in the leg and body with ball and buckshot. He was taken to the Medical College at 8 o'clock Friday night, and died at 4 o'clock yesterday morning.

The verdict of the jury fully exonerated the soldier who shot Hays, who, they say, came to his death by several gun-shot wounds inflicted by Samuel Coleman while in the performance of his duty in arresting deceased, he having a drawn pistol on him while in the execution of his said duty.

Shot for Interfering with the Provost Marshal's Guard.—Richard Barry, a member of Caskie's Rangers, was shot with a musket ball through the fleshy part of his thigh, yesterday evening, under the following circumstances:—The Provost's armed guard had arrested a man either for desertion or disorderly conduct, and were in front of Seabrock's Warehouse with him, when Barry rode up on horseback and peremptorily ordered his release, accompanied by threats to shoot the man who had the prisoner in custody. Seeing that the Ranger had cocked his pistol, and was quite likely to execute his threat, the officer in charge of the guard ordered one of them to fire, and the result above alluded to ensued. The wounded man was taken to the Alexander Hospital, on Franklin street. He will recover.

Fatal Result.—We alluded yesterday to the fact that on Sunday, in front of the Exchange Hotel, while the servant of an officer was endeavoring to unload the latter's baggage from his horse, a pistol contained therein exploded, the ball passing through the servant's foot and glanced off, striking another negro in the body, who was standing by, inflicting, it was supposed, a mortal wound. The last one alluded to—a boy named Henry, a body servant of Capt G W. Alexander, Assistant Provost Marshal—lingered in great agony from Sunday evening until yesterday at 1 o'clock, when death put an end to his sufferings. He bore an excellent character, and his death resulted from a very singular accident.

Arrest on a Serious Charge.—The police yesterday evening caged a man named Frank, alias William Gay, as one of the murderers of Patrick Kelly. It will be remembered that Richard Duff and others are already in custody for killing both Kelly and Downes, who were members of Reid's heavy artillery company, and whose mysterious murder on 17th street, a few weeks since, by unrecognized ruffians, threw the whole city into a fever of excitement. The evidence against Gay, if indeed he prove one of the assassins, will be elicited on his examination this morning before the Head of Police.

Liquor Seized.—An allusion has been made in some of the papers to the fact, that on Friday last the Provost Marshal seized a lot of whiskey belonging to a citizen, and stored it in one of the public warehouses. It was stated that on Friday "some of the pickets up the canal arrested a negro, who had a jug of whiskey packed up in a box and covered with matting." Said negro representing the stuff to have been purchased at Mr. Richard Cauthorn's, his liquor was seized, &c. The narration is inaccurate in some particulars. The party found in possession of the liquor "up the canal," was a white boy, driving a cart, and he had, instead of a jug full, a whole barrel, concealed in a dry goods box, which was slated over as if it contained poultry, and covered with a carpet. This evident precaution led the guard to suspect something, and searching found the barrel. The driver was brought down to the office of the Assistant Provost Marshal, and telling where the whiskey had been procured, was let off. The guard then seized, at Mr. C.'s store, 49 barrels of liquor—whiskey, apple and French brandy—and stowed it away. Detective William Causey and others were sent on the business, and found, besides the liquor alluded to, two boxes similar to the one seized on the canal, of the presence of which Mr. C. disclaimed all knowledge.

Police Court.—A number of petty cases were brought to the attention of the Head of Police yesterday and thus disposed of. It will be seen that the crop of delinquents was not very extensive, nor the offences charged such as to excite very lively feelings, one way or the other, in the breasts of anybody but the parties immediately concerned. Michael Grace was arraigned at the suit of Mrs. Downs, who charged him with an assault and battery. The proof was conflicting. The defendant objected to being considered the author of such a graceless proceeding. In order to give him an opportunity to clear his skirts, the case was continued. A soldier named Lagrona, belonging to the Maryland Line, having been arrested for getting tight and lying on the bricks, was admonished and dispatched to rejoin his company. Peter Graham, a free negro, who had resisted the officers, in reply to their inquiry for his "papers," was ordered to be assaulted in a legal way with a cowskin by an officer of police and then continued in jail.—Mrs. Dunlap, who had made an unquiet demonstration against one of her neighbors, was required to give surety for her good behavior.

Help the Soldiers.—Our country friends can contribute to the comfort and health of our sick soldiers by sending to the hospitals their quotas of fresh vegetables. The difficulty of procuring these indispensables is so great that, without the help of voluntary subscriptions, it is feared the sick will linger under the treatment of their nurses.

The ladies of the Henningsen Hospital are unremitting in their attention to the noble fellows under their care. The noble lady who presides over this charitable institution, and whose name it bears, deserves the praise of the patriot for the zeal she has displayed in the service of the helpless, and for the industry so apparent in the cleanliness of the apartments and the order of the arrangements, so necessary to insure the comfort of the invalids.

Let Them Alone.—We would advise our soldiers not to let their curiosity lead them to pick up from the battle fields around this city any of the shot or missiles thrown by the Yankees, as they have in many instances been proved injurious to such an extent that quite a number have been poisoned and made subjects for the hospitals. If they desire mementoes, let them be Yankee scalps, or skull bones, for then we will be certain that the enemy's force has been decimated, and not ours by their acts.

Arrest of Suspicious Characters.—On Saturday last, two soldiers, giving their names as Carter Martin and Charles Wright, and representing themselves to be members of Captain William H. Caskie's battery at Staunton, were apprehended by our pickets near Hanover C. H., and lodged in the jail of that county by order of General Branch, until their status could be more satisfactorily ascertained.

Fifth Louisiana Regiment.—It was reported on Saturday that the 5th Louisiana regiment went into the fight at Meadow Bridge without a field officer being present. In justice to that gallant regiment, it may be said that every field officer was present, and Brig.-Gen. Semmes speaks in the highest terms of their coolness and noble bearing. There may be officers loafing about Richmond who should be with their commands, but they do not belong to the gallant 5th Louisiana.

Quick Work of Partisans.—Capt. Wm. H. Rowan, whom we noticed on Saturday as beginning to raise a partisan troop for Kentucky and Tennessee, has already organized it, and starts out to-day! Quick work, truly, and speaks volumes for his popularity and industry. Should his emulation of the gallant Morgan be as eminently successful, we hope to see the *Dispatch* regularly informed of his deeds of prowess on the Border, and his many friends gratified at tidings of the enemy's daily discomfiture.

City Council.—A called meeting of this body was held at the City Hall at 5 o'clock yesterday evening. Present—D. J. Saunders, D. J. Burr, N. B. Hill, Sam'l D Denoon, J. A. Scott, J. M. Talbott, W. Holt Richardson, and Thos. H Wynne.

The body had been convened at the request of the General Superintendent of the Virginia Central railroad, who represented by a communication addressed to the Council, that several of the best engines of the company and a large number of its cars had been caught in the city, and could not be used, by reason of the presence of the enemy on the road, a short distance from this city. Mr. Whitcomb asked the permission of the Council to lay down a temporary track from the Virginia Central road to the depot of the Richmond and Fredericksburg road, on Broad street, promising that it should be made as temporary as possible, and offer no serious objections to the crossings. The permission asked for was granted.

A petition was presented from Messrs. R. G. Morries, Jos. L. Carrington & Co., James Caskie, Goddin & Apperson, and Wm H. McFarland, owners of property on Bank Square, asking that A. Snyder & Co. be prohibited from erecting a foundry on said square, and representing the same to be a great nuisance, and liable seriously to injure the property of complainants and other inhabitants of that section of the city. The petition was referred to the Committee on Police.

The Council went into the consideration of the question of burning or otherwise destroying the tobacco now stored in the different warehouses, in case the Yankees should get here. Most of the members ventilated their views, but it is needless to refer further to the matter here.

Adjourned.

Election of a Chaplain.—Rev. P. A Peterson, of the Methodist Conference, has been elected Chaplain of the 12th Regiment Virginia Volunteers, Colonel D. A Weisiger commanding. Rev. Mr Peterson was stationed at Portsmouth, Va., but knowing what would be his fate after the occupancy of the town by the Yankees, he wisely left. His friends will be pleased to hear that he is now agreeably located.

Savage Weapon.—In a popular history of the existing war now in progress of publication in the *Southern Literary Messenger*, old John Brown's pikes are represented as terrific weapons, having blades fifteen inches broad. If the length were at all commensurate with the breadth, Governor Wise was perfectly justifiable in having old Brown hung when he got him in his power.

Off on Duty.—The appearance of the city yesterday was considerably changed from its usual caste, there being but a very few soldiers walking the streets. We make this mention simply for this reason, that when our gallant men are needed at the post of duty, and the slightest expectation of a fight, it is sufficient to nerve them on when brave men are always to be found in front of the battle.

Broke His Leg.—A soldier named John O'Brien, who was confined in the guard-house on Franklin street for some petty misdemeanor, broke his ankle on Sunday night by jumping from a rear window of the building in an endeavor to escape from custody.

Cutting the Grass.—Certain penitential representatives of the State made an attempt yesterday to mow down the surplus grass lately accumulated on the Capitol Square, but desisted after mowing the portion next to the gubernatorial mansion. A threatened rain stopped the harvest.

Passed Through.—The 49th regiment of Georgia volunteers passed through Richmond yesterday. The men were armed with Enfield rifles and appeared capable of doing good service.

THE U. S. FLAG IN THE REVOLUTION OF 1861.—A late number of the *Christian Observer* has an interesting article under the heading of "The U. S. Flag in the Revolution of 1861" a portion of which we copy:

The attempts to re-establish the supremacy of that flag in the South have been peculiarly unfortunate. Southern soil was first invaded in the occupation of Alexandria. The first victim of Col. Ellsworth, on entering the city, was to tear down the Confederate flag upon the Marshall House—but he paid the penalty of his life. The bosom friend of Abraham Lincoln was the *only* man in his regiment killed at the time, and he lost his life in the first attempt to remove *our* flag from *our* soil.

The next step after tearing down the Confederate flag was to raise the United States flag upon the market house in Alexandria. A nigger climbed the flagstaff to arrange the tackle for hoisting it. He fell and broke his neck. Death was the punishment to unfurl a flag the people had repudiated. A second attempt to raise it was more successful; but when the Stars and Stripes were floating in the breeze it was noticed that in the confusion of arranging it, it had been raised "Union down," a signal of distress! Another man was sent up to remedy the mistake, and he fell and was crippled. It may be remarked, that in this chapter of accidents Ellsworth's Zouaves, the first regiment that invaded Virginia, has since been almost completely annihilated.

The first battle fough' on behalf of that doomed flag was at Bethel. God protected our men—only a single one was killed. The loss of its supporters was so great that to this day no official account of the battle was published, and when called for by Congress reply was made that its publication would be injurious to the service.

Since then the war to avenge the misfortunes of the "Star-spangled Banner" and to re-establish its sway, has been fiercely waged. More than a thousand million dollars, and probably a hundred thousand lives, have been sacrificed by the North in the vain effort.—We have suffered much and will have much still to suffer. But He who sustained the children of Israel during forty years of trial, after they had thrown off the yoke of their Egyptian task masters, will sustain us if we place our dependence on Him.

THE FATE OF RENEGADES.—We copy from the Athens (Tenn.) *Post* a paragraph which shows the fate of the poltroons who desert their country in the hour of her need:

We have accounts of the deplorable condition of the East Tennessee renegades now in Kentucky. They are not allowed to enter the Federal army unless for three years, and such of them as refuse are not permitted to return, but put to labor on the roads, half fed, under a strict military guard. If we ever wished the poor deluded and deceived creatures harm, the desire would be fully gratified with the punishment they are now receiving at the hands of their Federal taskmasters. A man, recently returned from the Kentucky border, whither he had been to reclaim a son, reports many of the renegades as nearly naked, and that they breathe terrible threats of vengeance against the men who deceived and betrayed them into their present miserable condition, should they ever succeed in getting back to East Tennessee.

GUERRILLA WARFARE.—A Northwestern Virginian writes as follows to the Rockingham *Register*:

The system of guerrilla warfare now being inaugurated for Northwestern Virginia, by refugees and others, bids fair to make short work of the war in that section of our State. Captain George Downs, who has already become noted for his bravery, chivalry, and deeds of noble daring out there, has opened his summer campaign, under the immediate patronage of the State of Virginia, with most flattering prospects ahead of him. I am informed that his present force is little short of 300 brave men, all well mounted, and armed with Enfield rifles. Two thousand independent and free fighters will be sent out there in companies as fast as they can be raised. Pierpoint's bogus Government, which never had the respect and confidence of that people, will vanish like smoke before the gathering tempest; and the ringleaders in the Union party will seek protection in the foreign Government of the United States or dangle in the air at the end of a rope.

There are now few, if any, Northern soldiers out there. There is a company of Home Guards at Clarksburg; another at Fairmont; another at Grafton; and, perhaps, a few more at other points. These are all citizens, and many of them will join the southern army at the first opportunity. There is no doubt that a large majority of the people of Northwestern Virginia are now impatient to hear of the triumph of the Southern cause.

WATERMELONS.—We hope our people throughout the country have bethought themselves to plant largely of this agreeable fruit, and we would strongly advise them to continue planting as they have opportunity, while the season permits a fair expectation of the melons ripening. They will prove very refreshing and salutary to the sick and wounded in our camps and hospitals, especially in the absence of ice, of which we shall be deprived in most parts of the Confederacy.

Even in districts remote from the scenes of actual war, what might seem a superabundance of melons need not be wasted, as excellent molasses can be made from them, and that is another article which will be looking. We have used molasses made from watermelons, and found it very palatable. The process of manufacture is simple; consisting in scraping out the pulp, pressing it in the most convenient mode—in a gunny bag, for instance—and boiling the juice immediately, as it sours very rapidly.

FROM THE NORTH.

The latest Northern papers received contain some further news of the war. We make up the following summary:

THE EXPEDITION UP JAMES RIVER.

WASHINGTON, May 19.—At the time of the preparation of this dispatch, no official dispatches had been received regarding Commodore Goldsborough's expedition up the James river, but the following statement, gleaned from the *Evening Star* and other sources, it is believed embraces the material facts:

Com. Goldsborough was accompanied by the steam frigate Quchanna and the gunboats Dacotah, Marblaze, and Wachusett, and tug Zouave, the latter being mounted with a single gun. They found the first rebel battery, at Dog's Point, deserted, but the rebel flag was still flying over the rebel battery at Hardy's Point, fifteen miles above Newport News. Com. Goldsborough, on arriving within range of the last named work, at once shelled it, and on receiving no response, after duly reconnoitering, landed a force of marines, found it also deserted, and most of the guns dismounted.

Through a solitary inhabitant picked up there he ascertained that on the previous Wednesday night its late garrison of four hundred rebels evacuated it.

He then proceeded up the river, finding all the rebel batteries, which were numerous, between Hardy's Point, Fort Huger, and Jamestown, deserted, with their guns mostly dismounted and rendered temporarily useless. Com. Goldsborough took the proper precautions to secure the ordnance thus left by the rebels.

THE AFFAIR AT FORT DARLING.

Near Jamestown he met the division of his squadron that had previously gone up the river, under Commander John Rodgers, and learned the history of the fight of the day before at Fort Darling, and also of the bursting of the Naugatuck's 3 rifle gun, and the evacuation by the rebels of all their James river fortifications and batteries below Fort Darling, which was supposed to have taken place on the previous Wednesday night.

It seems that the Monitor and Galena were the only vessels of the squadron able to run past all the lower fortifications of the rebels on Dog's Point and at Hardy's Bluff, which is fifteen miles above Newport News, and all the way up to Fort Darling, eight miles below Richmond, where they found the channel effectively blockaded, as stated in a previous dispatch.

On arriving in range of the guns of Fort Darling, which is situated upon an elevation of two hundred feet above the water surface, the further progress of the two iron clads up the river was therefore prevented, and that of the remainder of the fleet stopped at points below. The heavy guns of the fort were so depressed in their range as to play most effectively upon the two gunboats. Of the twenty-eight shots that struck the Galena, eighteen penetrated her armor. Not one of those that struck the Monitor, however, did her any damage whatever—all glancing off.

It seems that the armor of the Galena was not designed to resist heavy shot of the description fired at her from the fort at so great an angle of elevation, and thus is the fact that her armor proved insufficient on this occasion accounted for. On Friday last the two iron-clad gunboats returned down the river. The Galena, though pierced eighteen times, was not materially injured, and with the Monitor, and all her original consorts, doubtless, on Saturday followed Commodore Goldsborough and the other portion of the squadron up the river.

When last heard from on Friday, Commodore Goldsborough was continuing his progress, with the most of his squadron, up the river above Jamestown, securing the ordnance, etc., abandoned by the rebels as he progressed.

The general evacuation of their works below Fort Darling has doubtless enabled Commodore Goldsborough to get within range of Fort Darling. Certain mortar boats and other vessels are likely to be able to act effectively against the works, as well as the supply vessels necessary to make any future naval attack upon it effective.

The James river and its banks is now clear of rebel vessels and soldiers in arms up to a point eight miles below Richmond.

FORMAL OCCUPATION OF SUFFOLK.

SUFFOLK, Va., May 18.—This place, which is 17 miles from Norfolk by rail and 25 by road, was occupied by the Union troops at 8 o'clock this morning. No rebel troops were found in the vicinity, and no opposition was made to the occupation of the city. Many of the inhabitants have left, and those remaining are very bitter in their feelings and expressions. It is reported that there is but one Union man in the town; others will be discovered in a day or two, of course. The place was evacuated by the enemy on Sunday last.

All the rebel troops from Norfolk passed through Suffolk on the way to Richmond.

Suffolk is a beautiful town, the streets being wide and pleasantly shaded with trees.

A reconnoissance was made yesterday by Maj. Dodge's mounted rifles as far as Kempsville, Gov. Wise's place. No prisoners were taken, and but little information was obtained. The place was found almost deserted.

A flag of truce was sent out yesterday in the direction of Suffolk, to return a prisoner of State released from Fort Warren.

The Seaboard and Roanoke railroad has been found in good condition to Suffolk, only a single bridge having been destroyed. The road will be repaired immediately, and the rolling stock put on as soon as possible.

A large quantity of copper bolting was found stored on the railroad yesterday, of which possession was taken.

AFFAIRS AT NORFOLK.

NORFOLK, May 18.—The city still continues very quiet, and the citizens admit that the state of affairs is much more satisfactory under the authority of the United States than it was under rebel rule for some months past.

One by one the stores are opening, though but little business is done. Perhaps the real cause of the delay is the scarcity of money, excepting Confederate notes, which are refused in many cases. It is possible that some suffering will be occasioned by the scarcity of money, as Confederate notes are the only kind of currency that many persons have. In case of any suffering from this cause, the United States Government will probably be compelled to forward assistance.

The inhabitants appear quite intelligent, and although now professing confidence in Jeff. Davis, they will doubtless soon see their mistake.

Examination was made to-day of the condition of the Seaboard and Roanoke Railroad, between Norfolk and Suffolk. A small steam engine started to Suffolk this afternoon, with a party of four, including James Hand, acting Master; Andrew Ainsworth, of the Quartermaster's Department, and Alexander Worrall, Government Railroad Engineer.

All the movable property of the road was carried off by the retreating army. Otherwise everything was found in good condition, and not a rail displaced for sixteen miles.

At this point, about a mile this side of Suffolk we found the bridge over a small stream burned.

Engines and cars will be brought to Norfolk, and put on the road within a