Richmond Dispatch.

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FRIDAY MORNING.....JULY 4, 1862.

THE GREAT STRUGGLE.

RETREAT OF THE FEDERAL FORCES.

Incidents, &c.

Our reports from the scene of operations yesterday were exceedingly meagre, and to obtain really reliable information was decidedly difficult. Of rumors there was no scarcity, from early in the morning until late in the evening. In the forenoon the following dispatch was received at this office and posted upon the bulletin:

"CHESTER, July 3, 1862.

"Mr. E. W. Orr, just from the Hundreds, reports no gunboats above City Point; all having gone to Westover. The Yankee troops have all passed down the same direction. They left a great many wounded and sick at Shirley, besides a large lot of stores, &c. A great many of the Federals were driven from Shirley by the Confederate troops, and escaped over into Eppes's Island. Heavy firing was heard down the river this morning."

Eppes's Island is opposite City Point, and separated from the main land (Shirley) by a marsh, which is overflowed at high tide. It must have been a difficult task for the retreating Yankees to reach the Island under the circumstances, and we shall not be surprised to hear that many of them perished in the attempt.

Among the prevalent rumors yesterday evening was one that 7,000 of the enemy had been captured below Curl's Neck, but we were unable to trace it to any authentic source. Persons coming from the last battle field were utterly unable to give any definite account of the situation of affairs, though many were quite confident that the bulk of the Federal army had either escaped by the river, or got under cover of their gunboats. One gentleman who left the scene of the recent struggle about midday informed us that he had cannonading apparently a few miles below, but that it was not of long duration. A considerable number of prisoners were brought in yesterday.

It appears from all accounts that McClellan's army, after the battle of Tuesday, continued to make a rapid retreat, but with what success remains yet to be developed. A report came from Petersburg last evening that the Federals were landing on the South side of James river, below City Point, with the supposed intention of making a diversion in the direction of Prince George county. Whether this report be authentic or otherwise, the enemy will make no movement that is not closely watched by our Generals, and should he attempt to retrieve his heavy disasters of the past week, a bold and gallant army will be ready to confront him.

A large number of wagons, abandoned by the Yankees on their retreat from the line of the Chickahominy, will be speedily transferred to Richmond, filled with commissary and other stores. The York River train last evening brought up a large amount of valuable articles suitable for army use, found on the line of the road within nine miles of the city.

About fifty pieces of field artillery abandoned by the enemy, were taken by our troops yesterday—All were spiked.

FROM THE SOUTHSIDE.

The Petersburg *Express* of yesterday has the following information:

Parties who came over yesterday afternoon, give it as their opinion that the enemy have been surrounded, or nearly so, and that but few comparatively will be enabled to escape by means of their gunboats. On the other hand, videttes from Bermuda Hundred, and parties from Prince George, who reached Petersburg yesterday afternoon, report that the enemy's transports were passing up and down James river all day yesterday. We hear, too, that these boats invariably display the yellow flag, thereby indicating a vast number of wounded, or else resorting to a bit of deception eminently characteristic of the Yankees. They have on repeated occasions refused to respect the yellow flag which has been hoisted upon our hospitals, and have actually fired upon it. This was done at Bull Run, on the 18th of July, again at Pensacola, and also at other places which we cannot now recall.

We hear that the four prisoners who were taken on the Chesterfield shore Tuesday evening, they having been drifted over by the current, state that the amount of dissatisfaction prevailing in Gen. McClellan's army was vast, but that when cornered, and under the eye of their officers, they would fight. These men did not hesitate to state it as their opinion, that there were thousands who would willingly leave, if it were in their power.

Late on Tuesday night, our pickets in Chesterfield overhauled a fugitive from McClellan's army, who had swam the river, and sought safety in the house of a free negro. The poor creature was famished, had on nothing in the shape of wearing apparel save a shirt, and declared his utter aversion to ever again taking up arms against the Southern Confederacy. This fugitive stated that thousands would have cheerfully joined him in his voyage, but for the fear of meeting a watery grave, and we do not doubt that he spoke the truth.

We learn from a gentleman who resides in Prince George, that the wagon train to which we referred yesterday as being at Berkeley, in Charles City county, on the bank of the river, was greatly augmented Tuesday afternoon and yesterday. These wagons now line the banks of the river for miles, and number several hundred. It is supposed that they have been driven there to secure them from capture, but we are of the opinion that a body of Confederate cavalry could dash down and secure the horses, if not the wagons. There are no gunboats lying near; or there were none yesterday, all being occupied higher up the river, in the more immediate vicinity of McClellan's forces.

STUART'S CAVALRY.

During the exciting scenes of the past week, the famous body of cavalry under command of Gen. J. E. B. Stuart have by no means been idle. They left Richmond on Wednesday, 25th, and were near Jackson's army at the time of proceeding across from Hanover county. Subsequently they visited the White House, where they found no enemy, but abundant evidences of his attempt at wholesale destruction before leaving the place. Gen. Lee's house was burnt, with other buildings, and an immense quantity of grain. The Yankees had deposited here a very large amount of commissary stores, including everything necessary for supplying their army, and although their purpose was to degroy the whole, much was left uninjured, and arrangements have been made to remove it to a place where it can be made available. Our cavalry, who had ridden a long distance without food, found here enough to satisfy all their immediate wants, and men and horses were properly refreshed from the stores left behind by the Yankees in their flight. Measures were taken to prevent a speedy use of the railroad by the enemy, in the possible event of his return, and after scouring the country in the neighborhood, the cavalry left the White House, taking the route towards Charles City. They had two or three skirmishes with the enemy, and secured a number of prisoners, losing none themselves, and having no more than one or two wounded during their entire progress. General Stuart is now co-operating with the main body of our army, and fully prepared for a dash upon the Yankees whenever opportunity offers.

THE WOUNDED.

A train arrived at the York River depot about 12 o'clock Wednesday night, bringing a considerable number of our wounded; among them Lieut. Col. Kean, of Georgia, who had a leg shattered by a ball. They were all removed to the hospitals and private residences as early as practicable yesterday morning. The body of Col. Mears, of the 3d North Carolina regiment, who was shot through the head on Tuesday, was brought up on the same train.

Many of our citizens have been indefatigable in their attentions to the wounded, working incessantly both day and night to have them conveyed to the various hospitals. That there has been some delay, and some suffering in consequence, is quite true, but, under the circumstances, this was unavoidable. A large number of convalescents were sent into the interior by trains yesterday afternoon, and this practice will doubtless be continued so long as it may be necessary, to give ample room in the hospitals for those wounded in the recent engagements. Some additional buildings were fitted up yesterday for their accommodation, and it will take but a short time to get everything in complete order, and ensure good nursing to every one who has been or may be brought in. Meanwhile, it is the duty of every citizen to bestow upon them such care and attention as may be in his power, and to take as many into their private residences as their circumstances will allow.

SCENES ON THE YORK RIVER RAILROAD.

On the line of the York River Railroad may be seen many evidences of Yankee destructiveness.—The deserted camp near Fair Oaks exhibits traces of a recent and extensive conflagration, and the scattered remnants show that the army lately stationed there lacked nothing in the way of war appliances, while luxuries even were in great abundance. On one tree a sign, "Fifth Avenue Hotel," still remains, and this perhaps marked some aristocratic quarter of the camp. At Savage's farm, however, the scene is still more remarkable. It was here that a Yankee railroad train was set on fire and destroyed, with a vast amount of commissary and ordnance stores. Scattered over a large space of ground are broken boxes and barrels, rice, sugar, coffee, corn, and ammunition of every sort. Muskets, in most instances either bent or broken, are strewn over the ground or deposited in the ditches by the roadside. An embankment on the south side of the track, where the fire raged heavily, presents a complete sheet of molten lead, which may be saved to cast into bullets for an army which has fully proved its gallantry on the bloody fields of the past week. There is much besides that can be made useful, notwithstanding the enemy's attempt at wholesale destruction; many thousand axes, shovels, and other implements, with which the Yankees expected to cut and dig their way to Richmond, and a vast quantity of clothing, blankets, and every article which could not conveniently be carried away on the retreat.

We are informed that the contents of an entire train of cars were deposited in Chickahominy river, and some valuable stores will probably be taken out uninjured.

The enemy had established a "General Hospital" at Mr. Savage's house, and there are now at that place a thousand or more sick and wounded of the Federal army, including some officers, attended by their own surgeons. Most of these individuals are in hospital tents, though some are lying under the trees, in the barns, and even in the poultry-houses. The ice house is well packed with excellent ice, which it would be well enough to have removed to Richmond. It was very near this place that a severe engagement occurred on Sunday last, and many dead Yankees are rotting unburied on the field.

Another hospital, at Meadow Station, some two or three miles below, is filled with the sick of the enemy. Two Massachusetts negroes were found here, and have been brought to Richmond.

To facilitate their operations, the Yankees had constructed turn-outs at different points on the railroad, and a considerable quantity of timber for cross-ties, scattered through the forest, makes it appear that other improvements were in contemplation.

THROWING SHELLS.

Our railway battery threw several shell over into this neighborhood last Sunday, and while the prisoners deny that the result was disastrous to them, it is believed that somebody was hurt; at all events, the firing gave the Yankees a hint that they had better leave without unnecessary delay, and they evidently understood it.

EXPLOSION OF A TORPEDO.

An incident occurred on Tuesday, some eight miles below Richmond, south of the railroad, which proves that the enemy did not neglect to leave behind them some of the means of annoyance, and even danger, to our men. A party of Georgia soldiers were resting near a well, into which a good many muskets had been thrown. One of the number arose to walk a short distance, when an explosion took place immediately under his feet. The poor fellow was severely burnt, but some gentlemen of the Richmond committee discovered his condition, and by the use of simple remedies soon alleviated his sufferings. No doubt the enemy buried a torpedo near the well, but fortunately the mischief caused by the explosion was very slight.

EARLY WITH THEIR BILLS.

Three gentlemen, evidently of foreign extraction, arrived at the Exchange Hotel yesterday afternoon from the city of New York, via Washington and Gordonsville. Laboring under the erroneous impression that Gen. McClellan had accomplished the long promised feat of capturing the Southern capital, they were frank enough to state that the purpose of their visit to Richmond was to establish an agency for the collection of Southern debts due the merchants and others of the Northern cities.—They had with them a large number of bills from different houses in New York, but before an opportunity was offered to present them they were in charge of the Provost Marshal's vigilant detectives, and were paroled to make their appearance before Gen. Winder this morning at 9 o'clock.

YANKEE TROPHIES.

Many wagon loads of war material, abandoned by the Yankees and left on the battle-field, were brought to this city during yesterday. When any of the wagons containing Yankee plunder would come to a halt on the streets they would soon be surrounded by a crowd, who would examine with curious interest the relics left by "our Northern brethren." We understand that for several days past the Government has had teamsters employed gathering up every thing of value left on the different battle-fields. The yield in muskets, cannon, overcoats, jackets, &c., promises to be enormous. The vandals destroyed all the guns they could, but still left a good supply.

YANKEE CRUELTY.

We noticed yesterday an instance in which a Confederate soldier had been captured uninjured, and subsequently recaptured by our forces badly wounded, having been assaulted violently by two Federal officers during his captivity. We have since heard it stated that in several instances where our wounded fell into the enemy's hands, they were either shot or bayoneted. These statements scarcely seem credible, and but for a Yankee letter which was found upon one of the battle fields, we might well doubt their truth. An extract which we make from this letter fully establishes the statements alluded to. The writer, in speaking of going over the field after an engagement, says:

"It was a pretty hard looking sight. The ground was covered with dead rebels and wounded. There were a great many that were only wounded, and they were very spunky; that is, some of them were. After they were wounded, they would set up and fire at our men as they came up; but the boys soon put them out of the way by running their bayonets through them. It looked rather hard, but when a man is wounded he ought to be satisfied to stop."

A CAPTURE IN THE WOODS.

A correspondent sends us the following incident of the fight on the 30th:

Five members of the 7th Virginia regiment, having been detailed as a guard on the Mechanicsville turnpike near the Chickahominy, were told by a wounded soldier that there were some twenty-five Yankees in the woods near by. The guard, having been reinforced by two Texans, determined to capture the Yankees at all hazards. Soon after they left, they heard that a squad of cavalry, under command of Lieut. Yager, had gone in pursuit of the enemy. Horner and his companions proceeded at double-quick, that they might have the honor of effecting the capture of the enemy before the cavalry would come up. In this they were disappointed, for the cavalry and they reached the ground about one and the same time. On coming within a short distance of the enemy, whom they found to number fifty-four, instead of twenty-five, with loaded muskets, they demanded their surrender. The Yankee officer demanded to know to whom he surrendered. He was answered by Lieut. Yager, to whom he immediately delivered up his sword.

CASUALTIES.

In the engagement on Tuesday, in the 1st company of Richmond Howitzers, Private Jno. H. Herring was killed; W. L. Waddill, severely wounded; and Sergt. W. H. Blackador and Privates O. M. Price, J. B. Wise, W. C. Kean, Harrison Sublet, and L. H. Selater, slightly injured.

MARKET HALL.

The wounded at this hospital are receiving the attentions of Drs. Jos. E. Clagett and E. L. Wager, who are affording all the relief that their facilities will permit.

FIGHT BETWEEN MARYLAND AND MASSACHUSETTS YANKEES.

We have been furnished with an extract of a letter written in Beaufort county, N. C., near Newberne, and dated June 28, 1862, which contains a piece of information which we deem highly important. We give below the extract as furnished us, and think its statements may be relied upon:

"I have just heard from Barrington's. A fight occurred in Newberne, in which Massachusetts and Maryland soldiers became involved. A regiment of each became engaged; 300 of the New England men were said to have been killed and 150 of the Marylanders. The disturbance arose about the negroes within the lines there. The Massachusetts men proposed to send a lot of them to Cuba for sale. It was opposed by the Marylanders. Since hearing the above, Mr. F. F. Lathem confirms the report."

THE FOREIGN PRESS ON THE WAR.

We take the following extracts from the London *Standard* and *Courier des Etats Unis*. The latter journal is published in New York city, and is the organ of the French inhabitants there. Its remarks are peculiarly forcible and bold:

A REVIEW OF THE SITUATION.

[From the London Standard, June 13th.]

The profitless waste of blood and treasure that is caused by the American civil war is again attracting the attention of European statesmen, and the necessity of some immediate step in the direction of mediation of a peaceful kind is being urged upon them in the name of humanity and civilization.—France, to her credit, is again taking the lead in this matter. We transferred to our columns two days since an eloquent article from the *Constitutionnel* on this subject. This has been followed by a hint in another semi-official paper, to the effect that a joint proposal of mediation by France and England in the American quarrel might be shortly expected. We should welcome this news with eagerness did we suppose it reliable.

We are sure that the Southern Government, which all along has deprecated hostilities, and resorted to arms in the assertion of its independence only and of the constitutional right of State sovereignty, would most willingly accept such an offer. For the North, however unwilling it might have been to allow of interference, even so much as the expression of an opinion by a foreign Power, at a time when they felt sure of being able to reduce to submission in a few months the men whom they look upon as rebels, they must surely be too glad to find any opportunity of honorably retiring from the embarrassing position in which they now find themselves, after the squandering of so many millions of money in an enterprise which every day shows to be more and more hopeless.

The utter incompatibility of feeling, the irreconcilable hatred, we might say, between North and South, is becoming more apparent than ever in the episodes of this civil war, which bids fair to become shortly a war of extermination of both sides. Meanwhile, we cannot discover that the invaders are advancing one step in their scheme of conquest. The Confederate Generals at Corinth had no doubt done wisely in retiring from the lines in the neighborhood of the Mississippi. Large bodies of troops having been withdrawn to reinforce the army in Virginia, the army has evacuated Corinth for a station called Okolona, on the Mobile and Ohio Railway, 67 miles south of Corinth.—Here they are flanked by swamps and shallow rivers; and it is doubtful whether the enemy will venture to follow them, at all events in this season. According to the New York *Herald*, "No news of great interest need be looked for from this quarter for some time." For the present all eyes are turned to the campaign in Virginia and the issue of the struggle at Richmond.

The sudden diversion occasioned by the vigorous action of the Confederate army beyond the Alleghany Mountains seems likely to effect a material change in the conduct of the civil war in Virginia. The conception of the Southern leaders was good, its execution better. It will be remembered that rather more than a year ago the Federal capital, which the seceders claim as belonging of right to the South, was threatened by the advance of a powerful Confederate army, which occupied the heights of Alexandria, on the opposite side of the Potomac. The battle of Manassas seemed at first to have left Washington at the mercy of the conquerors, but the Confederates prudently abstained from following up that victory by an advance into Maryland. As soon as they had sufficiently strengthened Washington, the Federals began to make diversions in the rear of their opponents, in the shape of a series of inroads on the exposed coast line of the Carolinas and the Gulf States. But still McClellan, with a mighty host, sat still in front of Washington, till, on a sudden, it appeared one day that the Confederate army, tired of waiting for him, had cheered off with baggage and baggage to the country between the Rappahannock and the capital of Virginia.

Perhaps the Confederate Generals supposed that if they left Washington alone, the Federals on their part would keep their hands off Richmond. But General McClellan, having been totally inactive for nine or ten months, was of opinion that it was time to bestir himself and take some part in the war.—Accordingly, he shipped off a large portion of his force to the vicinity of Fortress Monroe, leaving McDowell, with a comparatively small army, to guard the Capital. Meanwhile, he had set up the gun boats on the James and York rivers, he fought his way along the Yorktown peninsula, the Confederate army retreating before him till it had passed the Chickahominy, when it made a stand under the walls of Richmond. Now, it is clear that this Confederate army is being pressed, very closely, so that, if we look only at Beauregard and McClellan, the opposing Generals here, we should say that the fate of Richmond was hanging in the balance.

The latter had crossed at Bottom's Bridge and at New Bridge, but instead of attacking the town from the southeast, as these movements seemed to indicate, he seems to have been moving towards the north, for we hear of his advanced guard having captured a station on the Richmond and Fredericksburg Railway, and of the army being now within five miles of the Southern capital. The Confederates are still said to continue their assaults, and the besieged talk of going into trenches and waiting for the arrival of batteries of Parrott guns. But, if Richmond, after all, is to be attacked from the north, why, it may be asked, did McClellan go out of his way to approach it by way of Yorktown? It is as if a native of Bath or Bristol, by way of going to London, should journey by sea to Dover, and thence work his way along the line of the South eastern Railway. It may be said that the southern side of Richmond was unguarded, Johnston and Lee being then to the north of it.

These Generals were too quick for the assailant. By the time he had taken Yorktown he found them posted between him and Richmond. It may be argued, also, that by this line of strategy the Confederates have been cut off from their base of operations at Yorktown and Norfolk. But it was not the army, it was the fleet that took these places. And the communications of Richmond with the south by Petersburg, and with the west by Lynchburg, are still open. We suppose that for some reason or other McClellan was baulked in his attempt to take the place from the south. On that side the town is naturally defended, partly by a swamp and jungle, partly by hills, which are susceptible of being strongly fortified. Accordingly he is moving towards the north, with the view, no doubt, of effecting a junction with McDowell on the Fredericksburg railway, so as to outnumber the host that is arrayed under the standard of the gallant Beauregard in defence of the honored capital of the Old Dominion.

Thus far the progress of McClellan. We see clearly how important it must be to the South to prevent his junction with McDowell. We think we may say that this reinforcement of the Federal army has been effectually prevented for the present, so that if Beauregard decides to hold Richmond, he will be able to do so for some time to come.

Before the arrival of the last mail no one here had ever hazarded a guess as to the way in which this necessary diversion could be effected. Now that it has been done, it strikes us like a new idea. The Confederates have once more put Washington in danger. When, a few months since, they ceased to threaten Washington, McClellan attacked Richmond; were they once more advancing towards it, he would wish himself anywhere rather than behind the Chickahominy.

The Federals in Virginia form a long line, of which McClellan forms the left wing, McDowell the centre, and Banks, who was beyond the Alleghanies, the right wing. The left, as we know, has been pushing on. On his side, the "lawyer General" Banks has been moving along the Valley of the Shenandoah. McDowell, having reached Fredericksburg on the Rappahannock, stood still. The success of the operations of this vast army depended, of course, on the integrity of each portion of the long line which we have indicated. But, for a time, the right wing was driven back, and the whole line turned. For some reason or other a part of Banks's troops were withdrawn to reinforce McDowell. The Confederates were not slow to take advantage of this fatal blunder.

Banks's army was driven from its position, retreating in the face of a force scarcely superior to itself in numbers, and ill provided with guns. The advanced guard was first driven from Front Royal. Next, the main division, under Banks, was engaged and utterly routed at Winchester. The loss of the Federals in this occasion appears to have been very great. Banks retreated in haste from Winchester to Martinsburg, and seems never to have looked behind him till he got across the Potomac at Williamsport, a place about 15 miles to the North of Harper's Ferry. The complacent manner in which Mr. Banks narrated to Secretary Stanton this disastrous history of his having lost in two days as much as he had gained in two months, was positively pitiable.

SIMPLE REFLECTIONS.

[From the Courier des Etats Unis, June 28.]

The American situation has arrived at a point where it would be well that the sincerely patriotic voices should be raised for the purpose of imposing silence on the passion of party, and calling the nation to the calm examination of the prospect before it. From the triple point of view—military, financial, and political—the march of events is of a nature to inspire anxiety rather than confidence.—The desired end seems more distant every day; sacrifices are accumulating; embarrassments are augmenting, and the difficulties of the future disclose proportions beside which those of the past are as nothing. New complications arise each day, and like the entrenchments of the Confederates, new obstacles reveal themselves behind those which are overcome. The eighty days which Mr. Seward demanded on the 30th of November, 1861, to annihilate secession, have more than doubled, and far from the promised result being attained, the perspective has clouded instead of clearing up; for the advantages gained have only served to reveal the extent of what yet remains to be done. The desired end itself has ceased to be very distinct when we consider the circumstances which make reconstruction a task much more arduous, and, indeed, much more problematical than was at first anticipated.

In this situation, we repeat, there is a duty to be fulfilled by the people, and the character of [illegible] ing the blunders—and [illegible] fully approving everything that is done. This [illegible] system has already produced sufficient evil [illegible] It is high time that it should be abandoned and [illegible] people placed face to face with the real fact [illegible] Unfortunately, the saying this has become so [illegible] a task, that those most convinced of its [illegible] shrink before the denunciations of the [illegible] temporary unpopularity which they would have [illegible] confront. The American political education, [illegible] much boasted of, appears to have formed a very [illegible] number of men capable of comprehending [illegible] the real way of serving one's country is not always to follow the current of public opinion, but rather to refuse, courageously, to err with it—even at the risk of displeasing it. The right of free speech is now monopolized almost exclusively by the organs of the party of extreme measures, and if now and then, a voice is raised in opposition, silence is immediately imposed upon it by moral intimidation, if not by material oppression.

This is but one danger the more added to all those by which the American nation finds itself surrounded. We should probably be correct in saying that it is the greatest of all, for there is no worse condition for a people than for it to be marching in a path when the light is obscure, and when, so to speak, it does not clearly see the spot on which it gets its foot. More than one traveler has perished from having followed a road, at each turn of which he expected to find an outlet, exhausting himself in effort after effort against continued obstacles, and finally falling, his strength worn out, at the foot of an insurmountable precipice. We do not say that this will be the fate reserved for the American nation; but we do dare to say that the moment is come for it to look fairly where it is going and what road it is following.

To induce it to take its situation into consideration it would hardly be necessary to recall to it what it has so often said in past times about analogous events which were happening in other countries. During the long years of its easy and dazzling prosperity it has frequently had occasion to be a spectator of revolutionary convulsions which agitated certain countries in Europe. It condemned with unreserved vehemence the policy of oppression, the domination of the strong hand, the confiscation of property, the restrictions upon the freedom of the press, the acts of rigor towards rebellious populations, and most especially against the feminine portion of them. It was indignant about the *surveillance* over strangers, and assumed a tone of menace at the slightest want of respect shown to any of its diplomatic or consular agents. It sustained that to subjugate a people was to enter into a perpetual strife with them, to inaugurate an odious and perpetual tyranny, to purchase an uncertain and fruitless domination at the price of ruinous sacrifices. It claimed for every insurgent nationality the right to be independent and to govern itself in its own way. It demonstrated, in fact, by placing its own example in juxtaposition with that of European nations, that liberty and republicanism needed neither war nor standing armies, nor national debt, nor onerous taxes, nor overwhelming budget. Let it recall to-day these *souvenirs* of a past which hardly dates farther back than yesterday, apply them to the events which are to-day taking place at home, and draw those conclusions which it is not our business to put into shape.

The Telegraph--Its Use by the Head Commander.

The following from a letter from Parker Spring, superintendent of construction of the U. S. military telegraph lines, gives an interesting account of the services of the Morse telegraph to the army, and of Gen. McClellan's use of it. The letter is dated from Gaines's Hill, June 2d. It says:

From the time the army of the Potomac first left Washington, the United States military telegraph has never for an hour been allowed to remain in the rear. Before reaching his new headquarters, Gen. McClellan almost invariably learns that the wire is on the advance; that an office has already been opened at the point designated before he left his old camp, and that communication to the War Department at Washington is open for him. In several instances, when the army had marched fifteen miles in one day, the telegraph had reached the new quarters two hours in advance. When our troops are obliged to remain a few days in one position, wires are immediately run from Gen. McClellan's headquarters to the headquarters of all commanders of divisions, thereby placing the entire section of country occupied by our troops under his instant control.

The telegraph has been called upon to perform a still more mysterious wonder. For some time past I have been ordered by Col. Eckert (our superintendent of military telegraphs) to try a telegraphic experiment from a balloon. Saturday morning, when we heard that a great battle must be fought, Prof. Lowe notified me that I should extend the wire to his balloon, and we would try it. In one hour we had brought the wire a mile and a half, and I was ready to ascend with the professor. The battle had commenced. When it had reached its zenith, Prof. Lowe and myself, with the telegraph, had reached an altitude of 2,000 feet. With the aid of good glasses, we were enabled to view the whole affair between these powerful contending armies. As the fight progressed, hasty observations were made by the professor and given to me verbally, all of which I immediately forwarded to Gen. McClellan and division commanders, through the agency of the obedient field instrument which stood by our side in the bottom of the car. Occasionally a masked rebel battery would open on our brave fellows.

In such cases the occupants of the balloon would inform our artillerists of its position, and the next shot or two would, in every case, silence the masked and annoying customer. For hours, and until quite dark, we remained in the air, the telegraph keeping up constant communication with some point. From the balloon to Fortress Monroe, a distance of over 100 miles, this wire worked beautifully. A number of messages were sent and received between these two points, and had it not been for the tremendous rush of business on the wire, I should have telegraphed you directly from the balloon while the battle was raging. Sunday morning, at daybreak, we again ascended. Early this morning the battle was renewed, and with more fierceness than the day before. Incessant firing of musketry and artillery was kept up until noon, when I had the extreme pleasure of announcing by telegraph from the balloon that we could see the enemy retreating rapidly toward Richmond.—At this time we could see firing on James river to the left of Richmond, distance from the balloon (some said) fifteen miles. This fire was of short duration.

The streets of Richmond, in the morning, presented a deserted appearance, but very few people were to be seen in the streets. During the afternoon and evening of Sunday, nothing of interest transpired beyond the removal of the rebel dead and wounded, all of which we could distinctly see from the balloon. Every available machine that had wheels was brought into requisition for this purpose.—From the scene of battle into the city of Richmond the road was literally lined with ambulances, wagons and carts, conveying the dead and wounded.—About twilight we saw camp fires innumerable around the city; smoke issued from all their hospitals and barracks, which showed us to a certainty that the main body of their army had fallen back to Richmond. Monday morning we made several ascensions, and found a small force near the last scene of action, and thousands of troops marching out from the city—so you may look momentarily for a report of another severe battle.

TRIBULATIONS OF THE YANKEE PRESS.—The Baltimore *News Sheet*, noticing the arrest of Charles C. Fulton, Agent of the Associated Press and editor of the Baltimore *American*, says:

Of the condition of affairs in regard to the army of the Potomac, even if it were known to us, it would be manifestly impolitic to speak. President Lincoln has admonished us, in his little way-side speech at Jersey City, that "Secretary Stanton holds a tight rein over the Press," and we have had, still more recently, a local illustration of the same important fact in the arrest and imprisonment of the editor and proprietor of the Baltimore *American*, who has been wounded in the house of his friends for having "done that which he ought to have done." In what particular this, the humblest servant of the Government, has offended, we are not informed; but we are quite sure that the error which led to his introduction to the Provost Marshal is not to be found in the telegram to the New York Press announcing that "we have the grandest military triumph over the enemy, and Richmond must fall." *That* most jubilant declaration certainly could not have given "aid and comfort" to the enemy. To be sent for by special train on Sunday to communicate with the President," and on Monday to be summarily hauled off to Fort McHenry, presents so sharp a contrast as may well afford our sorely afflicted contemporary an abundant supply of that sort of mixed nutriment which is to be found in "chewing the cud of sweet and bitter fancies."

DESPOTISM IN NORFOLK.—The following order has been issued by Brig.-Gen. E. L. Viele, the Military Governor of Norfolk. This Viele was a Captain of the New York Seventh regiment when it visited Richmond, and participated in the hospitalities extended them by the citizens of Norfolk, while on their way here:

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNOR,
NORFOLK, VA., June 28, 1862.

Assemblages in the streets for purposes of political discussions being provocative of civil disturbance, are positively forbidden, and the exhibition of badges and flags indicative of disloyal sentiments will not be tolerated.

Parents will be held responsible for the conduct of their children in this particular.

By command of Brig.-General E. L. Viele, Military Governor.

C. T. CHRISTENSEN, Provost Marshal,
and Act'g Ass't Adj't Gen'l.

DOWN ON SUMNER.—The Boston *Traveller*, (Republican,) in [illegible] Senator Simmons, of Rhode Island. It [illegible] such man ought ever to be chosen to represent a free and intelligent people. His [illegible] and he deserves the position of a [illegible] rather than that of a petty [illegible] tyrant." After the return of the [illegible] was [illegible] by Mr. [illegible] by Gov. Sprague.

FURTHER FROM THE NORTH.

The papers from Baltimore are to Tuesday, July 1st. They contain no war news from the fact that the United States Government has been particularly careful that they shall not get any to publish. The following from the New York *Times* explains "how it is done:"

The following dispatch reached this city last night, and was published in the extra editions of the city papers:

BALTIMORE AMERICAN OFFICE,
Baltimore, Sunday, June 29—9 P. M.

I am writing for the *American* a detailed account of events at White House, before Richmond, and on the Peninsula, during the past four days, including facts obtained from Washington, having been sent for by special train to communicate with the President.

If you desire it, I will send it to you. It will make four or five thousand words.

We have the grandest military triumph over the enemy, and Richmond must fall.

C. C. FULTON,
Proprietor *American*, and Agent Associated Press.

After waiting patiently for the news, as promised above, until midnight, we were surprised at the reception of the following dispatch:

BALTIMORE, Sunday, June 29—11 P. M.

The Secretary of War decides that nothing can be telegraphed relative to affairs on the Peninsula. Have tried our best to get it off.

C. C. FULTON,
Agent Associated Press.

As a commentary on this, we append the following, which was received from the War Department yesterday afternoon:

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, June 29, 2 o'clock P. M.

As soon as the Department can obtain exact information of the state of affairs in front of Richmond, it will be imparted to the public, whether good or bad.

This dispatch is not intended for publication, but for the information of the press.

The Baltimore *News Sheet* says that Charles C. Fulton was on Monday sent to Fort McHenry for publishing "certain unauthorized news" regarding the movements of Gen. McClellan. We take the following extracts from the Northern papers:

THE SITUATION BEFORE RICHMOND.

[Correspondence of the New York Tribune.]

FORTRESS MONROE, June 27.—They who have known the reasons for delay on the Chickahominy, and have experienced no disappointment that the impending battle has not been fought, begin to turn in expectancy towards the quarter that has so long engaged the attention of the world. The period of delay is drawing to a close. The volcanic state of things along the whole line denotes that the eruption is near at hand. The present danger, or probability, is that a general engagement will be brought on, not by a direct attack, or any movement having that for its sole purpose, but by a preliminary step, the seizing of a position—the shifting and setting of the scenes, the immediate prelude to raising the curtain on the last act of the drama. While Gen. McClellan is now prepared to accept a general engagement should the enemy regard one of these movements as a challenge, he is not yet quite prepared to make the unmixed challenge by taking the initiative and following it up to the bitter end.

It will not be long before he will arrive at this point in his preparations, when there will be no motive for further delay. We have a variety of rumors, one of which is that Stonewall Jackson has appeared on McClellan's right, and is menacing the White House. Taking Confederate representations for authority, there is some reason for believing that Jackson has arrived in the neighborhood of Richmond, and joined his forces with those of the main army, though the logical supposition is that he would continue to employ the Union forces in the upper part of Virginia, as he has hitherto done. I have no direct authority for saying that the White House will soon cease to be the point of the particular interest which it at present has, as the base of the army of the Potomac, yet I am left to infer as much from a variety of reasons. The breaking up of the hospitals there, by sending away the large number of patients to a point unknown, may be regarded as indicative of such intention, though such fact, taken in connection with others, might go to strengthen such a supposition. To-day the State of Maine arrived, with between 300 and 400 invalids, but few of them wounded, to be followed by 1,300 or 1,500 more. This may be simply a measure of reform, resulting from a new regime, while it may be that it may be something more.

Prudent men, especially since the recent rains, have felt that the White House was a position too much exposed to be the depot of so much property as the Confederates would be able to destroy by a successful attack. A general removal from White House to West Point is not improbable, if it has not already taken place. It was holding out the highest inducements almost imaginable to the enemy, who, we may reasonably suppose, would wait no occasion or effort to strike at a point so vital. McClellan's right is unquestionably his weak side. Whether there is any real ground for the alleged apprehension concerning the White House as the base, we may well suppose that, as one of the moves on the board, and among the last moves in the great game now drawing to a close, the Confederate leaders may conclude that Jackson can employ his forces in no way so well as to abandon the campaign in the Shenandoah, and make a rapid descent toward the White House on McClellan's right flank. The prize which the immense stores there offer would not be the only motive, for the movement would be the favorable one for the Confederates to attack our entire line, weakened, as they might reasonably suppose it would be, by the diversions which the sudden appearance of Jackson, or some one else, in our rear would tend to produce.

If Jackson has abandoned the Shenandoah, and is co-operating in the neighborhood of the Chickahominy, there will be, of course, no reason why the forces, or a large share of them, in the upper part of Virginia, divided into four departments, under as many Major-Generals, should not be at once moved forward to strengthen McClellan. Without undertaking to say that precisely this is being done, I will say the country may rest assured that in case Jackson has made his appearance in the quarter alleged, he will find troops to oppose him; and their embarkation on the Rappahannock or the Potomac, or both, would only prove the vigilance and resources of the Government in checkmating the wily enemy."

The next ten days will in all probability be marked with important events. If plans have not failed a sharp and important enterprise will have been accomplished, as a part of the plan of operations against Richmond, before this reaches the public eye, in which the navy, on one of our inland streams, will have played a conspicuous part. The Confederate army is apparently little disposed to make another retreat. It may have been largely reinforced. That fact, however, would not save it from the inevitable result of suffering McClellan to go forward slowly, yet surely, with siege operations, leaving the only question in the case that of time. The attack, therefore, is not unlikely to be made by the enemy, and that, too, at an early day.

THE QUESTION OF INTERVENTION.

The special Washington correspondent of the New York *Times* telegraphs to that paper as follows:

The question of foreign interference is again agitated here. All the latest advices, public and private, from England, indicate a spirit of restiveness in that country on American matters more significant than any hitherto manifested. It is stated that the tone of the last dispatches received at the State Department is not altogether satisfactory, but that nothing is said from which it could be at all inferred that the European Powers designed taking any immediate steps toward mediation.—The defeat of the Militia bill in the Canadian Parliament has not improved John Bull's temper, and he will seize upon the reverse at Charleston with as much avidity as he did upon that in Banks's department. On this subject Hon. J. A. Gurley has received a letter from a highly intelligent adopted citizen of Ohio, who has been in England for the past six months, spending much time in the cotton district. He says:

Firstly—I have the best reasons for knowing that intervention in our affairs was determined upon by England and France some months ago, and for the reasons, amongst others, I gave you in my letter of March last.

Secondly—This determination would have been acted upon before this had not the contest between the Monitor and Merrimac taken Europe—the world, in fact—by surprise, and upset all the calculations of France and England especially. They became alarmed for their own safety.

Thirdly—The dread of a Monitor fleet, which I understand we are now building, adds another to the reasons which determined these Powers to interfere, and they will never permit this fleet to be completed if they can possibly prevent it.

Fourthly—They will soon offer mediation, taking decided Southern ground—well knowing that this will not be acceptable to our Government. It is not their intention or wish that it should be accepted.

Fifthly—This being refused, they will send their combined fleets to surround our coast whilst there is but one Monitor in existence, knowing that this terrible little thing cannot be everywhere at the same time.

Sixthly—The first of October next, if not an earlier date, will find the French and English fleets on our shores, unless our army is victorious in the meantime, and the rebels defeated.

The visit of Lord Lyons to England at this time is in accordance with and necessary to this latter programme, to confer with the Governments of both countries so as to arrange the details of the expedition.

Seventhly—The interference of these Powers is altogether owing to selfish motives, not that either care for our condition, although the ostensible reason to be given for such interference will be "the cause of humanity."

FROM THE JAMES RIVER.

(Correspondence of the New York Tribune.)

JAMES RIVER FLOTILLA, June 28.—I send you the following account of the events in this quarter since the departure of the last steamer:

On the 20th inst., and as it speaks for itself, we shall offer no comments. We have had some changes here within the last few days. Our squadron is lying this P. M. off City Point. Contrabands bring the intelligence that the Confederates claim to have lost one man killed and one man's arm shot off in the fight on the 29th, at Watkins's Bluff. If that is all, they came off very lucky. We, as I stated before, had no one injured in the least, although they claim to have killed 20 men, as we are also informed by contrabands:

UNITED STATES STEAMER JACOB BELL,
JAMES RIVER, June 21, 1862.

SIR: I respectfully submit the following: Yesterday, in