Richmond Dispatch.

☞The DISPATCH is published DAILY, Sundays excepted. Price for mailing, $5 a year, or $2 50 for six months; three months $1, one month $0 a advance.

☞The SEMI-WEEKLY DISPATCH is issued every TUESDAY and FRIDAY at $3 in advance.

☞The WEEKLY DISPATCH is issued every FRIDAY, and mailed to subscribers at $2 per annum.

SATURDAY MORNING.... ..AUGUST 23, 1862.

DAILY DISPATCH.

VOL. XXIII. RICHMOND, VA., SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 23, 1862. NO. 45.

FROM THE RAPPAHANNOCK LINES.

No train came in on the Central Railroad yesterday, but we learn via Lynchburg that Pope is still retreating, and had arrived at Brandy Station, about midway between Culpeper C. H. and the Rappahannock river. His rear was much annoyed by our cavalry, who had captured several prisoners, and killed and wounded many of the retreating Yankees. It is stated that there are 3,500 Yankees in Culpeper county.

Among the wounded Yankees at Charlottesville is Maj. Jas Savage, of the 2d Massachusetts. He is a brother of the wife of Prof. Rogers, formerly of the University of Virginia. One of their officers, Lieut. Heiwach, of the Pennsylvania Zouaves, asked to be paroled—desired the Captain of the post to release him on parole, saying that his company had been disbanded before the battle in Culpeper, and that he had used his best efforts to be kept out of the fight. He was informed that that was his misfortune, but it was not the fault of the Confederate Government. He was found in bad company, and now he must suffer the penalty, and thank Gen. Pope for being treated as a criminal, instead of as a prisoner.

In Culpeper the citizens refused to take the oath as framed, but proposed to obligate themselves to do nothing against the United States, whilst they were within the enemy's lines. The Yankees acceded to their terms. Pope, or his officers affected to deny the authenticity of the orders attributed to him, and when some of the citizens waited on the Federal authorities to learn upon what terms, short of taking the oath, they were to be permitted to remain at their homes, the Federal officers refused to indicate, saying that a correspondence was going on between Lincoln and Davis upon the subject, and the matter would soon be developed.

MOVEMENTS OF THE ENEMY.

Our latest reports represent the enemy as advancing from Winchester over the Valley road. At last accounts they were about twelve miles this side of Winchester, with a force estimated at about 10,000. It is conjectured that their design is to join the forces of Pope in Culpeper.

THE EVACUATION OF BERKELEY.

Since the evacuation of Berkeley by the enemy's forces various statements have been given the public with reference to McClellan's movements. We yesterday met with a gentleman who witnessed the evacuation, and who has been over the ground recently occupied by the Federal forces since. He says that he inquired of one of the officers, on the morning they were leaving, where they intended to go. The reply was, that they were going where they would be heard from in good time. He estimates the force with McClellan at 50,000, and says they crossed the Chickahominy in three columns, and moved in the direction of Williamsburg. This gentleman confirms all that has heretofore been published with reference to the immense destruction of property, and the large amount left behind them uninjured. Axes, picks, guns, and everything that contributes to the efficient appointment of an army, were found on the field in profusion.

The venerable Edmund Ruffin, who fired the first gun at Fort Sumter, was made an especial object of malignity by the Yankee hirelings during their occupation of Coggin's Point and adjacent country. The Petersburg *Express* says that most of his slaves absconded soon after the enemy's gunboats came up the river. His son, who held a commission in the Confederate army, lost, in all, 86 of his negroes. Nearly all the cattle, sheep, and hogs, together with 10 mules, were stolen. The valuable libraries both of the old gentleman and his son were stolen. Mr. R., Sr., also lost all his general correspondence for the last eighteen years, embracing many valuable letters from distinguished men.—Everything in the house was taken, down even to the bells and hooks in the closets and elsewhere. The only thing that was not done to damage the proprietor was that the houses were not burned.—The windows were broken, and the inner walls defaced with charcoal scribblings of the most rascally character. The following chaste epistle, written with a pencil, was found in the house after the miscreants had departed:

Mr. E. Ruffin: "They tell me you did fire on Fort Sumter."

Taking pattern from some epistles left by your chivalry at Yorktown, &c., I have thought it not out of place to leave this note.

We leave here in a few minutes, and feel sorry at so doing—as we have fared sumptuously, and we came to the conclusion that you were a brick and knew "how to keep a hotel." * * *

From the care we have taken of your property, you will no doubt thank us, but *don't mention it*. Please forward this to the editor of the Petersburg *Express*, or Richmond papers, and oblige a

PENNA RESERVED YANKEE, alias
"McCALL'S DUTCH."

P. S.—What do you think of me, anyhow?

Mrs. Martha Cocke, of Tar Bay, a neighbor of Capt. Ruffin, fared no better. The whole of that flourishing vicinage has been reduced to a state of desolation, from which it is feared it will not recover for years.

DESERTERS.

About a week ago fourteen deserters from the Federal army made their way into our lines near Gordonsville. Three of these were of the regular army, and the most of the others members of Western Virginia regiments. The latter stated that they had joined the Federal army to fight for what they honestly believed to be the preservation of the Union, but as recent transactions had developed the fact that the Lincoln Government cared nothing for the Union, had no hope of its reconstruction, and were only prosecuting the war to free the negro and devastate the South, they had determined to quit the service of such a Government. They asked permission to go to their homes, where they knew they could organize companies of guerrillas and successfully annoy the Federal forces in that region.

A HISTORICAL FACT ABOUT BOMBARDMENTS—*The Calibre of a Fleet.*—The following named steamers, under the chief command of Flag Officer David G. Farragut, made the attack on Forts St. Philip and Jackson and the Confederate gunboats, at 3 A. M., 24th April, 1862:

Hartford, Richmond, Pensacola, and Brooklyn, each carrying twenty-six 9-inch guns, two 30-pounder rifles, two 12-pounder howitzers, in their tops, which were protected by a bulkhead of boiler iron; Mississippi, nineteen 8-inch guns, two 12-pounder howitzers, in the tops; Varuna, eight 8-inch guns, four 32-pounders, (57 cwt.,) two 20-pounder rifles, one 12-pounder howitzer; Oneida and Iroquois, each two 11 inch pivots, six 32 pounders, one 30-pounder rifle, one 12-pounder howitzer. The Pensacola and Brooklyn had each one 11-inch gun in addition to their other guns. The Westfield, Miami, and Katahdin, each six guns, of which one was a 11-inch pivot, one 30 pounder rifle, four 32-pounders. Harriet Lane, six guns; Kittanning, nine guns; sailing sloop Portsmouth, sixteen 8-inch guns, two 30-pounder rifles, fourteen 8-inch guns; and four hundred men from the Colorado, unable to get over the bar, were divided amongst the squadron. The steam gunboats Pinola, Clifton, Cayuga, Itasca, Kennebec, Sciota, Kanawha, Owasha, Winona, Wissahickon, (widow Higgins,) Kineo, each carried one 11-inch pivot, one 20-pounder rifle, one 12-pounder howitzer, two 24-pounder howitzers. In addition was Porter's mortar fleet, numbering twenty-one vessels, each carrying one 13-inch mortar, two 32 pounders—33 cwt. Total number of vessels, forty-eight. Total number of guns and mortars 356, of which there were twenty 11-inch, one hundred and four 9-inch, forty-nine 8 inch, seventeen 30-pounder rifles, eleven 20-pounder rifles, eighty four 32 pounders; the remainder being howitzers. These ships were manned by about six thousand men. Only thirteen vessels passed the forts during the battle; the remainder were driven back. Forts Jackson and St. Philip mounted about two hundred guns, of which number nineteen-twentieths were 32 pounders and 24-pounders. The Confederate gunboats numbered fourteen only, and carried forty-six guns. When the enemy's vessels passed the forts they were met by the gunboats, but the superiority of the enemy was so great that it was impossible to contend against them. The Louisiana, iron-clad, lay between the forts; so did the Manassas and McRae, leaving only a few little gunboats to fight this immensely superior force. The U. S. steamboat Varuna was the only one of the enemy attacked and sunk.

STAMPEDING.—About 600 residents of the vicinity of Greenville, Tenn., stampeded during last week for Kentucky, to avoid the conscript enrollment.—Several squads were arrested and sent back.

Cotton is quoted in Augusta, Ga., at 52@54 cents.

CONFEDERATE STATES CONGRESS.

[ADJOURNED SESSION.]

SENATE.

FRIDAY, Aug. 22, 1862.

The Senate was called to order by Vice-President STEPHENS, and opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. JETER, of the Baptist Church.

Mr. SEMMES, of La., offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be directed to inquire into the expediency of separating the Pay Department of the Army from the Quartermaster's Department, and of creating a separate bureau for the payment of the troops, and to report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. HENRY, of Tenn., offered the following resolution, which was agreed to:

Resolved, by the Senate of the Congress of the Confederate States of America, That the Secretary of War be requested to communicate to the Senate whether any regiments in the service have been disbanded and consolidated with others, and if so, what regiments, and by whose authority has this been done.

The following resolution, offered by Mr. SPARROW, of La., was agreed to:

Resolved, That the President be requested to communicate to the Senate, at the earliest practical period, all official reports of engagements with the enemy not heretofore communicated.

Mr. SPARROW, of La., introduced the following bill, which was read twice and ordered to be printed:

SEC. 1st. *The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact*, That hereafter substitutes for persons liable to military duty shall not be allowed, except in cases where the person offering the substitute is skilled, and actually employed, in some mechanical pursuit, the prosecution of which at the time the Secretary of War may declare to be important to the public interest, or when such person is the only white male adult on a farm or plantation having thereon not less than fifty slaves, and who has at the time, and who shall continue to have, the charge and active management of said farm or plantation: *Provided*, that in all cases when substitutes are received the person furnishing the substitute shall guaranty his fidelity, and in case he deserts, the principal shall be held to service as if no substitute had been furnished by him.

SEC. 2. That the commanders of brigades and divisions may, within the limits of their respective commands, when they believe the safety of any locality may require it, upon the recommendation of five respectable citizens of any county or parish, with the approval of the Provost Marshal of such county or parish, if there be one, detail to any farm or plantation worked by slaves, when the owner thereof is a *femme sole*, a minor, or a person in the service of the Confederacy, one enrolled private for police duty thereon, under the direction and control of the owner thereof or his legal representatives, provided said detail shall not be made except upon the application of the owner of such farm or plantation, and that the person so detailed shall be withdrawn on a like application of such owner or his representatives, and provided, further, that said private shall not while so detailed receive any pay or allowance from the Government, but shall be paid by the owner of the farm or plantation the amount to be agreed on between them, and when recalled said detailed private shall immediately proceed to brigade headquarters under the penalty of being published as a deserter.

On motion, after the reading of the bill had been concluded, the Senate went into Executive session.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, August 22, 1862.

The House met at its usual hour, and was opened with prayer by Bishop EARLY. Journal of yesterday read.

Mr. CURRIN, of Tenn., offered a joint resolution tendering thanks to Col. N. Bedford Forrest, and the officers and soldiers under his command, for gallant services. Passed unanimously.

Mr. FOSTER offered a resolution requesting the Secretary of War to furnish this House with a copy of the report of Gen. Crittenden of the battle of Fishing Creek. Agreed to.

Mr. MACHEN offered a resolution that the President be requested to furnish the House with a copy of the report of Gen. Simon B. Buckner of the battle of Fort Donelson. This resolution was withdrawn without action upon it.

Mr. JONES, of Tenn., moved that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole on the President's message, and Mr. CURRY, of Ala., took the chair. The Committee was called to order, and the Chairman announced that the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FOOTE) was entitled to the floor, and he addressed the House on the following proposition, submitted by him a few days ago:

Whereas, it is now most manifest that our remorseless and vindictive foes are resolved still further to prosecute this bloody and unnatural war, and are at this moment engaged in raising a large additional force of mercenary soldiers for the destruction of our liberties and for the desolation of our homes; and *whereas*, the people of the Confederate States are more united now than they have heretofore been in the stern and unalterable determination never to relinquish the struggle for independence and freedom until the last armed foe shall cease to pollute the sacred soil of the South and popular liberty and State sovereignty—for both of which we are contending in arms—shall have been established upon imperishable foundations: Therefore,

Be it Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to prepare a bill to provide at once, by law, for calling forth from the States, by the most effective and expeditious method, an additional army of two hundred and fifty thousand men, to be equitably apportioned among the said States, having due regard to population, the number of soldiers heretofore furnished, and other kindred considerations; each of the States being required to organize and to officer its own portion of the troops supplied; and the whole force of two hundred and fifty thousand men, or any part thereof being subject to be called into the Confederate service whenever the exigencies of the war shall, in the judgment of the President, render it necessary; subject, when these exigencies shall have ceased, to return within the limits of their respective State, and be subject once more to the jurisdiction thereof, and preserving, meanwhile, under their existing political relations with their respective States, and bound at all times to protect and maintain the sovereign rights of the States to which they shall respectively appertain against all assaults and usurpations which may be attempted thereupon by any Government or potentate whatsoever.

Mr. FOOTE, after a few general remarks, relating mainly to the history of the origin of the Conscript law, showed by the *beats* with which it was passed, the manifold deficiences which the original act contained, the amendments afterwards made in it, at the special instance of the President, and its general *inefficiency*, arising from its intrinsic defects, proceeded to say that the act was notoriously passed under an alleged *necessity* existing at the period of its adoption, and observed that many honorable members then in his eye had confessed that they voted for the law with the most painful reluctance, seriously doubting its constitutionality, and, in fact, only supporting it on the ground of *salus republica suprema lex*. He then reminded the House that both the President and Secretary of War acknowledged that there was no *present necessity* for an extension of the Conscript law. In this he agreed with them; but he did not agree with them in supposing that there was no present necessity for *some* law, free from constitutional and other objections, which would enable the Confederate Government to meet and to overthrow the huge armies of the Lincoln Government, which that Government was now struggling to bring into the field. He thought that no time was to be lost in preparing to meet the enemy, and therefore he had brought forward the present proposition. Mr. Foote spoke at considerable length on this subject, and made the following points among others:

1. The present Conscript law is *unconstitutional*; and, if the plan delineated in it should be allowed to grow into a *system*, would be altogether subversive of State sovereignty and popular freedom.

2. The *necessity* which was alleged to exist formerly for the present law no longer existed. So the President admitted; and such was apparently the truth of the matter, as the former necessity related alone to the *twelve months' men* then in the field, upon whom the present law had already fully operated.

3. That the former alleged *necessity* was purely *artificial*, which undeniably grew out of the failure of the Provisional Government to provide for expected deficiencies in the army *in season*.

4. He insisted that two hundred and fifty thousand men could be raised by requisition upon the States in less time than in any other mode. On this point he dwelt at some length.

5. He urged that an army raised in this way would awaken no distrust or alarm in the popular mind, nor occasion any collision with State authorities, *always to be deprecated*.

6. He showed that if such a bill as the Secretary recommended should be adopted, collision with Virginia, Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, and other States, would be inevitable, inasmuch as the new Conscript law would sweep into its vortex the whole body of the militia now organized by them, or in course of organization.

7. He insisted that the Constitution clearly contemplated leaving the great body of the militia force of the States under *State control*, except when called for by the President to meet *exigencies* specified in that instrument, after the passing away of which they were expected to return once more to their original position, all the while maintaining their *political identity* with the States to which they might respectively appertain.

8. He discussed at some length the propriety of allowing the States to *officer* and *organize* the troops to be raised.

9. He claimed that the new army, to be composed of *organized* bodies of soldiers from various States, would prove ordinarily as a valuable State guard, supplying the means of local defence against partial invasion, and all minor attempts to harass, embarrass, alarm, or destroy the inhabitants of each separate State.

10. He argued at great length, that the operation of such a force would be exceedingly favorable to the morale of the army, and of advantage to the cause of the South in the contest now pending between the Confederate States and the United States.

11. He acquitted the President and Secretary of War altogether of entertaining any intentions hostile to public liberty; spoke in kind and complimentary terms of both of them, and commended the conciliatory language of the former in recommending, as he had done in his message, the adoption of some measure of *compromise* which would reconcile discordant opinions and harmonize public sentiment.

Messrs. SINGLETON, MILES, DARGAN, and BONHAM, also addressed the House in speeches pertaining to the question.

At the conclusion of Mr. BONHAM's remarks, the Committee rose and the House went into secret session on the message sent in this morning by the President.

FROM THE NORTH.

We give below some further extracts from late Northern papers. Gen. H. W. Benham, who got whipped at James Island, has been dismissed from the U. S. army. D. A. Mahoney, editor of the Dubuque (Iowa) *Herald*, has been arrested for "discouraging enlisting." Gen. McCall has been relieved of his command to recruit his health.

OUR DISASTERS IN VIRGINIA—WILSON AND COMPANY RESPONSIBLE.

[From the New York Herald.]

The sentiments expressed by Senator Wilson, in his speech in the Senate on the 28th of last March, in reference to stopping enlistments and reducing the army, were also the views of Wade, Sumner, and Chandler. It is likewise clearly shown, by the speech of Mr. Wilson, that all our disasters in Virginia were brought about through the intercession and influence of this band of radicals at the War Department, with Wilson at their head. Says Wilson, "I have over and over again been to the War Office, and urged upon the Department to stop recruiting in every part of the country." In the same speech he also stated, "I believe that we have today 150,000 more men than we need, or can well use." With such representations as these at the War Department they succeeded in stopping enlistments; and now, when we want men, it is hard to get them. With this proof of his guilt staring him in the face, he goes before the people of his own State and denies ever saying any such thing.

The truth of the matter is, this is but a small portion of the crimes that Wilson, Wade, Sumner and Company committed against their country during the last session. There is a long black list standing against them, which even Wilson, with all his impudence and lies, cannot remove. They acted as a secret committee, and like the Jacobins in the French Revolution, undertook to control the entire action of the War Department and the Administration. It was through their importuning that Fremont was appointed to a department in Virginia; and then, in order to give him a chance to do something, they secured the transfer of the main body of Gen Banks's division over to McDowell, just as Banks was about to give to Stonewall Jackson the finishing blow, resulting in a raid of Jackson down the Valley, driving the reduced forces of General Banks before him. Fremont was ordered to cross the mountains and intercept Jackson in his retreat; but he disobeyed orders and took the wrong road, thus giving Jackson an opportunity to escape. Not satisfied with the disasters that they had caused in the Valley, they commenced their attacks on the army on the Peninsula, and did all within their power to harass the Commanding General and divert him from the real work that he was there to accomplish.

The work of this cabal was the more dangerous because it was secret and under the pretence of friendship. At every point their hate of General McClellan was made manifest, and every representation made and every scheme devised that could be to destroy him and build up some officer who would become their tool and be controlled by them. Like the Jacobins, with Robespierre at their head, they endeavored to build up their own faction at the peril of the Union cause; and we now see the result. From the brilliant victories in the early part of the season we have now to turn and witness the darkest hour of the Union cause since the rebellion commenced. Our forces reduced by disease and battle, and no men ready to fill up their ranks, because, forsooth, Wilson and his associates stopped enlistments. The rebels, on the other hand, have been all the time swelling their ranks and increasing their army, and are leaving no stone unturned to improve the opportunity now offered. Unless reinforcements are immediately forwarded, and the thinned ranks of our army filled up, events will show that we have seen but the beginning of the disasters that will result from this interference and importuning at the War Department by Senator Wilson and his radical associates. They have, through their pernicious influence, done serious injury to the Union cause, and it now depends upon the energy of the Administration and the response of the people whether this injury will be fatal or temporary. Everything now depends upon the reinforcements to our army, and that, too, at once. There is not a day or an hour to be lost. The President is determined not to be deceived any more. Our army is to be swelled to its proper size. Men are to be thrown forward with vigor. The rebellion is to be crushed. The country expects every Union man to do his duty. Shall we be the greatest power of the world, or shall we cease to exist as a nation? Men of the North, now is the hour to decide that question.

THE HERALD ON THE "FRESH START."

[From the New York Herald:]

President Lincoln has the confidence of the country. No man doubts his honesty or his patriotism. Down to the recent seven days' bloody battles near Richmond he may, perhaps, have shared with the whole people of the North the belief that this war in a week or two would be substantially ended; but those memorable seven days have convinced him, as they have convinced the North and all our loyal States, that we had vastly underrated the numbers of the rebel army and exaggerated our own. But if, in anticipation of a crowning victory at Richmond, the energies and vigilance of the Administration in regard to our army were slackened, the severe disappointment which followed has brought its compensating reaction. It has taught us—Government and people—that while our warlike means, resources, and facilities are absolutely overwhelming, they go for nothing unless we bring them to bear in superior strength against the active forces of this rebellion.

Here, then, government and people, we take a new departure, and enter upon a new campaign equal to the full measure of the great work before us. The whole strength of the rebellion is now staked upon its great army in Virginia. We have only to demolish that army in order to end the war. Granted that it is an army of three hundred thousand men; we see no reason why it should be permitted to hold Virginia beyond the 1st of October. President Lincoln has the power and the means to put to flight and disperse this defiant rebel army within the next sixty days. Congress has invested him with absolute authority over the men, money, means, and facilities of the nation of every kind for a brief and overwhelming campaign. At this moment no monarch in Christendom, not even the Emperor of Russia, possesses a more ample range of authority than our modest and unpretending President. This authority has been bestowed upon him to save the life and restore the health and integrity of the nation. With the free and full consent of our twenty-three millions of loyal people, Congress has given to President Lincoln these powers, means, and responsibilities of a temporary dictator; and our loyal people look to him with confidence for the most beneficent results to the country and to mankind in the speedy restoration of the Union.

The new campaign opens with every promise of success. The Government appears at length to be fully impressed with the pervading spirit of our loyal States; and our worthy President, fully realizing the dangers and demands of the crisis, and the means and great advantages within his grasp, is proceeding to business in the most satisfactory way. The great issue in his hands is the life or death of the nation and its popular institutions; and the reward that invites him on in his path of duty is a place in the affections of mankind second only to that of Washington.

THE PRESIDENT'S THREAT OF RESIGNING.

[Dispatch to the Cincinnati Gazette.]

The word "resignation" from the President's lips, in the interview about arming negroes—the details of which, notwithstanding the effort to suppress them, crept into print in a New York paper—must have fallen with startling effect upon the public ear. The dissatisfaction of a portion of the party that elected him, with certain features of his policy was well enough known, and a consequent feeling of general discomfort was but natural; but—RESIGNATION—the word sounded ominous; "If the people will not be satisfied, I have made up my mind I will resign, and let Mr. Hamlin try what he can do at it!" The response—from a Western man and an intimate acquaintance of the President's—was not less startling: "I wish to God, Mr. President, you would!" More astounding illustrations of the revolutionary spirit with which the air is charged could hardly be imagined.

LETTER OF A MASSACHUSETTS CHAPLAIN TO HIS BISHOP.

The Boston *Courier* publishes a letter from a Chaplain to a Massachusetts regiment to Bishop De Lancey, of Western New York. It is dated at Winchester, and we give the following extracts from it:

MY DEAR BISHOP:—How wonderful life is! I am writing this in the office and with the pen of our old friend, F. W. When I tell you that he has two sons in the rebel army, and his venerable lawpartner five, all man grown; that both of them labored successfully to secure a Union representation for this county to the Virginia Convention of 1861; that the Union majority at that election (for the Union ticket) was 2,500, and that after the rejection of secession by the Convention and the proclamation of secession secured by the President, and the call for troops from Virginia to act with the South, against the North, Union majority was still given, by the overwhelming vote of the county, for the Union candidate for Congress, Colonel Harris, who was then and there, and ever since, a thorough secessionist, and who is now a brigadier-general in the rebel service, and who, if he can get in power here, will be the most merciless tyrant that ever cursed a country; that this county, which is the county in which Winchester is, and which, with Frederick, controls the whole Valley of Virginia, has been, ever since the commencement of the war, the scene of guerrilla outrages, and of the most bitter persecution of the Union men by the secessionists; that the Union men have been driven from their homes, their property confiscated and their persons imprisoned, for no other crime than their fidelity to the Union; that secession has been here the parent of every crime and every misery; that the Union men who have stood out, at every sacrifice, (loss of property by confiscation and imprisonment,) protesters for Federal supremacy, are as zealous as any recognition of Confederate nationality. But they are the rare exceptions in Eastern and Southern Virginia. There is a large class of men of moderate means, who dare not or shrink from them, who greatly prefer the quiet and security of Federal rule, but cannot afford losses and security by being their object, they remain neutral or compliant under the powers *de facto*, of which there is no civil government in action. From Harper's Ferry, here—even the last class refuse to furnish volunteers to take the office of Justice of the Peace." Crime of all sorts, therefore, exempt it be by soldiers subject to court-martial, has a holiday, and horse-stealing and robbery are the order of the day and night.

The presence of troops from distant States (especially those of one division) has a demoralizing effect at any rate—you may believe—and the incessant exultations here of soldiers over victories in which sons, husbands, and brothers of those who listen have fallen, tends but little to soothe or to reunite. A chaplain, and one of our church, preaching in the open air in the heart of the town on a recent Sunday, after his service, announced to the assembled troops the recent victories in detail, and then called for "three cheers and a tiger and Yankee Doodle." He is not a great man, you will perceive; he meant it all as very well and loyal, but he knew not what he did, for the battles had been between brothers, over whose biers, and in presence of the mourners on one side, he asked wild soldiers to "give a tiger."

As I drank away into a corner of a church on that day, a stranger in my mother's house, and thanked God for the upholding of law, and offered myself a willing sacrifice on the altar of constitutional allegiance, "the victory was turned to me into mourning," for better ones than Absalom were slain in battle; and I had been sent fifteen miles from the post headquarters the day before to carry to the widow and orphans of a Virginian the tidings of the fall in battle of husband and father, the assurance of unmolested quiet for the present to the home thus made desolate, to offer a soldier's sympathy, and to suggest the consolations of religion!

The problem, my dear Bishop, of military conquest and occupation is simple and almost solved; but the second problem, that of healing, restoration, and reconstruction, would appal the stoutest heart, who well understands its conditions and terms, were it not for trust in His Almighty wisdom, mercy, and power, to whom so many faithful hearts on both sides have turned and supplicated throughout this entire struggle. That, He brings good out of evil, and light out of darkness, and that his methods are unsearchable, is an infinite stay and comfort.

The condition of Virginia is sad now. Armies are everywhere. Here is a Northern army—strangers; towards the Rappahannock, Jackson's forces; and, of course, where both meet, infinite desolation. Husbands and sons are away with the Southern army; aged men, the infirm, the youth in boyhood, and women, and what servants have not fled, are all that remain. You may imagine the feelings that prevail in the interior of families, and you will not wonder that sadness rules the hour now. But you remember our stay in Richmond in 1859, and the excitement of John Brown's raid then. In the midst of her fatherless children, the widow whose bereavement I have mentioned said to me, as she covered her face with her hands, "Why, my dear sir, we have not seen sunshine in Virginia since John Brown entered it. People forget this. This war is not the beginning. It has been home guard, and night-watch, and patrol, and rumor of insurrection, ever since that day."

* * * *

P. S.—I have just taken the precaution to read over what I have written above to a venerable Virginian, now quietly attending to the duties of his call up here. He is one who may be truly characterized as a man of large acquaintance and wide observation; of a calm and dispassionate temper, and who has never taken part in politics. He attests the correctness of my statement, (the figures he has supplied,) and thanks me for the spirit which he thinks my letter exhibits. He asks me to add what follows as an old man's record. (I write from his dictation, and desire to open up thus to others the mind of the class he represents.)

"That notwithstanding the reverses of the Southern armies, and the occupation of their cities, and apparent defeat, the spirit of resistance throughout the entire South was never more obstinate or determined, or more ready to make sacrifices; and that coerced harmony, as it is a contradiction in terms, so it will be found to be impracticable in fact.

"That, on the other hand, more loyal hearts never beat than those who struggled in hope of Union before the ordinance of secession—more loyal eloquence never moved assemblies than that which sought to sway the mind of Virginia before the Convention; and that a return to the methods of persuasion and treaty, to the frank and generous consultations of representatives in counsel, are as open as ever, and more hopeful than ever, and are the only methods, and these conditioned upon the withdrawal of armies and the substitution of deputies in conference."

I give my aged friend full record for his view; but I add that the withdrawal of armies before the supremacy of Federal rule is acknowledged and in some way guaranteed, would be an abandonment of the reason of the war, waged only to assert and vindicate the rightfulness of that supremacy, and to risk the chances of its renewal. That is, therefore, impossible. But I have good reasons for the cheering belief that such guarantees will be met in the proper quarter with a generous promptness and magnanimity that will contradict the apprehensions of suspicion and distrust, and change aversion into applause.

1.—A sermon was preached by an army chaplain in Charlestown, the scene of the execution of John Brown for violation of law, sedition, and murder, on a Sunday in April, on some text enjoining "the mission of proclaiming liberty;" and the hymn given out and sung was—

"John Brown's body hangs dangling in the air,
Sing glory, glory, hallelujah!"

[It is a satisfaction to know, as I do, that the preacher was rebuked for it by the Lieutenant Colonel of his regiment.]

!—Another instance was authentically reported to me—a sermon preached in a town near a large camp of occupation. The preacher recognized and proclaimed in this case, too, the mission of freeing the negroes—told them they were free, and that as the property amassed by their masters was the fruit of the labors of the blacks, these had the best title to it, and should help themselves.

[No doubt I shall find in this case, also, in inquiries which I have instituted, that the army authorities to whom the preacher was amenable, rebuked his seditious and unlawful utterance. But who can measure the effect of such demonstrations when received as an exponent of the design and spirit of the war?]

Queer Scenes Under a Flag of Truce.

The exchange of prisoners taken in the battle in Tazewell took place in that county on the 15th instant. Most of the officers present, both Confederate and Federal, were Tennesseeans. A letter from a participant in the ceremonies, to the Knoxville *Register*, says:

On my arrival at Jones's, some three miles beyond Tazewell, I met with Cols. Bird and Shelly, from Boone county, and several other officers from Kentucky and Ohio, in company with some of our officers who had gone out before me, all quite jovial and friendly, taking friendly drinks together, &c.—I found our friends Bird and Shelly in fine health, well dressed, fine uniforms, &c. I had a long conversation with them. I think Col. Bird is rather on the anxious seat, and tired of Lincolndom and the laws passed by Abraham's Congress. Col. S. appeared better satisfied, and said the North had done nothing that was not right. I disputed the remark; but we had not met to talk politics, so we said no more. I inquired after our friends from Tennessee generally, and found that they were well. Jim Brownlow is Lieutenant Colonel of Bob Johnson's regiment. Strange for Brownlow's son and Andrew Johnson's to lie down together. I learned that Dan Trewitt, of Hamilton county, and Lieut. Bogard, of Philadelphia, Monroe county, were aids of Brig.-Gen. Spear. Clift, from Hamilton, was organizing the 7th regiment. R. M. Edwards was over there, getting up a mounted regiment, to get after McLean's regiment. Young Pickens, who got his hand nearly cut off at Strawberry Plains Bridge, holds an office in one of the regiments. I could hear of but few from my county. Bogard and Jones, from Philadelphia; Rosers, from Fork Creek; John B. Libton's son, from near Morganton; and a few others, were all I could hear of from my county. David Cleveland, from near my town, has not joined the army, but is trading in stock; his brother, the Major, from Hamilton, has resigned and gone back into Kentucky, as well as many other East Tennessee officers. Clingan, of Bradley county is Captain of a company; Sneed, of Monroe county, is a Captain also. Colonel Bird says that his opinion is that the North cannot crush the rebellion in less than eighteen months. They also say that they will have six hundred thousand men in the field soon.

The Rev. Mr. Carter, chaplain to Col. Carter's 2d Tennessee regiment, was present, and appeared to be enthusiastic. He met with his cousin, Col. Hal. Gillespie, of Colonel Ashby's regiment. He wanted to convince the Colonel that he was wrong, but the Colonel declined. Mr. Carter seemed to think that his quarters would be at the Gap all fall, and wanted his mother to visit him there. I guess he will wake up there soon and think otherwise. They all appeared to think that the Gap could not be taken. My opinion is that to take it by storm will cost us half of our attacking force, if they defend.—From my conversation with different officers, I think the most of their forces have gone beyond the Gap; but in a few days I hope to be able to give you a correct statement of their movements. I think there will be a skirting of dry bones about the Gap.

Col. Shelly embarked upon with Col. Bird, for home. Col. Bird going, I concluded I might get home by land easier than by water, and so I came on with them. Shelly is a fine fellow, and a good officer. He and Bird are both well pleased with their commands, and are in good spirits.

LOCAL MATTERS.

Execution of a Counterfeiter.—The first execution that ever occurred in the Southern Confederacy, in pursuance of the law of Congress prescribing the penalty of death to those proved guilty of counterfeiting Confederate treasury notes, took place yesterday. The criminal, who was convicted several months since before the Confederate States District Court, Judge J. D. Halyburton, under the name of John Richardson, alias Louis Napoleon, expiated his offence at noon yesterday on a gallows constructed in the gully east of the new Alms-House, and near the spot where, in former years, other malefactors had paid the penalty of their misdeeds. Richardson, alias Napoleon, had after conviction, been respited by the President twice; the last one expiring yesterday. A few days prior thereto he was brought to Richmond from the jail of Danville, where he had been confined for safety. On yesterday the prisoner informed Mr. Henry Myers, the Deputy Marshal, that it had been his intention on that occasion, had he not been so closely watched, to have killed those having him in charge, and made his escape, if possible. From an early hour yesterday morning Rev. Father Barratta was with the condemned, administering the consolations of religion. At fifteen minutes to 11 o'clock the jail doors opened, and the accused speared, wearing a calm and self possessed air. He took off his hat and bowed to the crowd, who had assembled at the jail door, prior to seating himself on his coffin, which was in an ordinary furniture wagon. A detachment of Elliott's City Battalion, under Lieut Johnson, then formed a hollow square around the vehicle, and the cortege wended its way up Valley street to the place of execution. A miscellaneous crowd, of perhaps a thousand persons, followed, including a number of painted and overdressed females of doubtful respectability. Arriving at the ground, the condemned, with Deputy Marshal Myers and Father Barratta, ascended to the platform and stood on the drop. Here over half an hour was spent by the prisoner in conference with his spiritual adviser; during which time he confessed the crime of which he had been convicted. Five minutes before 12 o'clock, yielding himself to the officer, he was made ready, and at 12 precisely the drop fell, leaving Richardson, alias Napoleon, a dangling mass of inanimate clay, suspended between the heavens and earth. He fell about four feet—a sufficient distance to have broken his neck. But few convulsive twitchings were noticeable. After hanging for 35 minutes he was pronounced dead, and the body being lowered, the rope was carefully removed and the body placed in a coffin. The condemned in this case was about 30 years of age, and used to sell fruit from a basket around the city. His personal appearance was rather prepossessing than otherwise.

It will be remembered that Geo. Elam was arrested as an accomplice of the above party, and has been in confinement for several months awaiting trial, and that a female named Charlotte Gilman, alias Siffety, has likewise been locked up for a long time as a witness against him. The notes counterfeited were stolen from the lithographic establishment of Hoyer & Ludwig, who were at work for the Government. Napoleon said in his confession that on the day the place was entered he met Elam on Pearl street. They went towards the market, taking two or three drinks on the way. "George" says to him, "Louis, we'll go and make some money." L. says, "Where are you going?" George rejoins, "That is none of your business." They went up to the "bank" (Hoyer & Ludwig's.) George broke open the door, and entering, gave him a pistol, with directions to shoot anybody who might approach. They found on the table eight sheets, already printed, of 10's. Louis then says to George, "Here is money enough." He replied, "Hush your mouth." They then put the $100 plate on the form and struck off $600 for Louis and a like number for George. Louis said again, "Here is money enough," but Elam again struck off a number more. They left and went towards Mayo's bridge, where, going to a shop kept by an acquaintance of Louis's, they knocked and a window was opened and a female asked who was there. A satisfactory reply was elicited, the door was opened, and the proprietor of the shop gave Elam a good note from which to counterfeit the signatures on those he had. The proprietor then took out a ten dollar note and passed it to show Louis how easy it could be done. Louis afterwards passed a great deal, and had often gone into stores and suggested that his notes might be bad, but they always took them. The balance of the confession brings down his proceedings in the money line to the time of his arrest. In losing his life he has paid a penalty, the example of which may deter many others from treading in his footsteps.

Examination of Counterfeiters.—A man named Samuel Campbell, belonging to the 9th Louisiana regiment, who lately arrived in Richmond in the character of an exchanged Confederate soldier from Fort Delaware, and William Wright, a soldier, belonging to the 3d Delaware regiment, who was taken prisoner by our forces in the battles before Richmond, were both arrested yesterday and taken before C. S. Commissioner Watson, at his office on Franklin street, opposite the Law Building, to undergo an examination for the rather serious offence of having attempted to palm off on unsuspecting parties in the vicinity as true and genuine sundry Philadelphia imitations of Confederate Treasury notes. It appears that Campbell, in hopes of making a raise on his return home, had liberally provided himself with the bogus stuff, but unfortunately for himself got taken up on his first attempt to issue a $5 note. The Commissioner sent him on to be tried before the C. S. District Court.—The evidence in Wright's case, which was only partially heard, showed that he had made a number of attempts to pass a $10 bogus note among his fellow prisoners now on Belle Isle. His case was continued until to-day at 12 o'clock.

Visitors to the University of Virginia.—To supply the vacancy occasioned by the non-attendance for more than one year of George W. Summers, one of the Board of Visitors to the University of Virginia, and by the acceptance of office under the Confederate States Government of Roger A. Pryor and P. Henry Aylett, the Governor yesterday appointed in their stead as visitors Allen T. Caperton, of Monroe; J. Randolph Tucker, of Richmond, and Douglass H. Gordon, of Fredericksburg. The board will hold a meeting on the 15th of September. The next session of the University bids fair to be a prosperous one.

Police Court.—Yesterday, William White, who represented himself as a free darkey, was ordered 15 lashes for having no register and engaging in the pleasant diversion of throwing watermelon rinds in the street.—William Tilman, a soldier, arrested for helping himself to other people's melons in the 1st Market, was sent before Major Griswold. The same