Richmond Dispatch.

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FRIDAY MORNING.....OCT. 17, 1862.

DAILY DISPATCH.

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Richmond Dispatch.

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CONDITION OF OUR ARMY.

An observant and intelligent informant, who comes direct from our army, says that it is now, without a doubt, in better condition as far as comfort is concerned than it has been for a year. The men are generally comfortably clothed, and receive for rations bacon, beef and flour, the last named article being purchased at $8 per barrel. They are sadly in want of blankets, however, and suffer a great deal from the cold nights.

The same gentleman says that the sick and wounded coming down on the Central road are much neglected, no water being given the unfortunate men who are crowded into the cars. On Wednesday a number of negroes were put on the train at Charlottesville, already crowded with invalids, and the narrow passage between the seats were filled with them. This state of affairs should receive some attention, though we have no doubt the usual song will be sung—"nobody to blame."

AMERICAN AFFAIRS IN EUROPE.

The steamer Hibernia has arrived with Liverpool dates to the 3d inst. It is stated by the Paris correspondent of the London *Times* that "it is reported in political circles that the British Government is no longer so entirely averse to the recognition of the Southern Confederacy as it has hitherto been. It is understood that there is a probability of the question becoming shortly the subject of deliberation in ministerial circles." The subjoined address, says the London *Times*, to his Excellency Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States of America, has been signed at Brussels by eminent men of almost every nation in Europe, in the hope, perhaps too sanguine, that it might have some influence in terminating the terrible war now raging in America. We much fear that the philanthropical object which these gentlemen have in view will be marked by disappointment. The following is the document:

SIR—A number of the members of the Association for the Promotion of Social Science, now assembled in Brussels, and representing most of the European States, venture to address the President of that great people in the Western World, in whose progress and prosperity they cannot but feel the deepest interest.

The melancholy strife which is now raging and devastating so large a portion of the North American continent has in its origin and progress given irresistible proofs of the energy and excitement with which the opposing sections have contended for the opinions and principles which each has advocated. Now, we fairly doubt the sincerity of both; but it is not the purpose of this friendly communication to wound the susceptibilities of either. Blood enough has been shed; treasures enough have been poured out; and it is in the hope that the prayer hitherto but too faintly uttered, but which, nevertheless, represents the almost unanimous sentiment of your European brethren—the hope that the prayer for truce—for peace, may find a concurring response in the Western world, that we venture to breathe it from this side of the Atlantic.

We date not propose to a people so self-supported, *so advanced in civilization*, whose feelings, however strongly incited, cannot be unaffected by the course of events and the teachings of experience—we dare not propose any particular *modus procedendi* by which the grave question and difference may be practically solved; but if a suspension of hostilities could be obtained as a preliminary measure, time might be given to consider by what instrumentality the present disastrous conflict might be brought to an end. If the will exist—which we would not for a moment doubt—the means may be found more practicable than they at first appear. The whole civilized world would rejoice in so happy a consummation; and if we can in any way contribute towards it, we shall indeed not have appealed in vain to patriots and Christians. [Here follow the signatures, which are numerous.]

The *Times* says that the rebel army has sustained a disastrous defeat in Maryland, but that does nothing but bring the contending armies to an equality. The cause of the North is not advanced a single step by their unexpected victory. It says the rebel army retired in good order, and fully maintained its reputation for courage and determination.

The London *Globe*, commenting on the battle in Maryland, says: "Unfortunately, these campaigns do not bring the war any nearer to a conclusion."

The *Post* admits that the position of the rebels is not so good as it was at the commencement of September.

The *Star* thinks that the restoration of the prestige of the Northern army will be a sufficient incentive to fill up the ranks with fresh volunteers, and there will be no necessity for drafting.

The Repulse at Corinth--Incompetence of the Commanders.

The Mobile *Advertiser*, of the 10th, has obtained an account of the repulse at Corinth, from a Colonel who was wounded in the engagement. Our forces numbered about 20,000 fighting men. The *Advertiser* says:

It now appears that our Generals, or at least the General in command, were terribly deceived, having been lured by the enemy into a trap carefully prepared for them, and made to fight against heavy odds without the hope of any substantial advantage for this waste of blood and life. The movement on Corinth was made from the West, the enemy withdrawing his pickets at our approach, destroying camps, strewing the way with knapsacks, guns, clothing, &c., until he reached his first line of entrenchments, where he made a resolute stand.—Our men rapidly pursued what they supposed a flying enemy, counting on a bloodless victory, some of the Generals even expecting to obtain possession of the town without firing a gun. Their eyes were opened when they saw the serried ranks of the enemy prepared to receive them, and then they knew that a hard and bloody fight was at hand. Moore's brigade, of Maury's division, lead the advance, and the battle soon raged hot and furiously. The enemy fought well—better, it is said, than ever before in the West—but they could not withstand the furious charges of our gallant men, who steadily gained upon them, driving them from entrenchment to entrenchment until night closed upon the scene.

The next day the fight was resumed, the enemy meantime having been heavily reinforced, but our troops again pressed forward, gaining the town of Corinth, and the gallant 43d Alabama planting its colors within a square of the Tishimingo Hotel. It became evident, however, that the struggle was too unequal to be continued to any advantage by our forces, whose ranks were becoming fearfully thinned and worn down by fatigue and hunger, while the enemy were being continually reinforced. The order was then given to fall back, and our troops withdrew from the field, leaving many of our dead and some of our wounded in the possession of the enemy. Meanwhile the Federals had thrown a heavy force (estimated at 20,000 men) from Bolivar to the South of Corinth, with the design to cut off our retreat and bag our whole army. These fresh troops were met with unexampled bravery and vigor by our jaded men in the sanguinary engagement of Sunday at Pocahontas, which resulted in the discomfiture of the foe, and, thanks to the genius and experience of Gen. Price, in the escape of our army by an improvised road to a point west of Ripley, where they made a stand.

The battle on Friday is said to have been the hottest and most desperate of all. Soldiers who were in the battle of Shiloh say it was more terrible than that memorable conflict. The enemy appear to have been thoroughly posted with regard to all our movements. They knew when a given division passed a given point, what was its strength, the direction of its march, how, when, and where the attack was to be made; in short, everything they wished to know, and of course could make all the preparations they desired to meet us.

We have not been able to obtain particulars of the casualties, but the record, we fear, will be sad enough. The Forty second Alabama went into the fight of Friday five hundred and thirty strong. On Saturday it mustered about three hundred, and on Sunday evening a staff officer met the Major, who had been wounded in the breast, with only eight or ten men, who were all, he said, he had been able to gather of the regiment. The rest were either killed, wounded, prisoners, or had fallen by the way from weakness.

On Sunday an order was sent to Gen. Maury to make a charge with his division, but this gallant officer was forced to reply that he had scarcely two regiments left for duty.

Semsteak's artillery was badly cut up, being at one time nearly surrounded by the enemy. Dowdell's (35th Alabama) regiment was also roughly handled, but nobly sustained the reputation of Alabama in the unequal strife.

Such is a brief, but we believe in the main a truthful, narrative of our recent movement towards Corinth. It is not our purpose here to comment upon the facts related. They are too painful to dwell upon, and call loudly for prompt and searching investigation by the Government. If it shall be found that our gallant little army has been led into the "jaws of death," and thus cut up by the ignorance, stupidity, and mismanagement of commanders, the country will demand that an example be made that shall prove at once an assurance to the people and a warning to incompetent or self-sufficient Generals.

☞ HUGE IN EFFIGY.—The Atlanta *Confederacy* has been informed that the citizens of Huntsville, Ala., lately hung in effigy Mich. Davis, Jerry Clemens, and Bob. Lamar, of that place, on account of their Unionism.—Lamar narrowly escaped lynching, and went off with the retiring Yankees. Clemens and Davis remain at home, but it seems that the people have no confidence in their fidelity to the South.

THE LATEST FROM THE NORTH.

We have received, through the kindness of a friend, the New York *Herald*, of Tuesday, the 14th inst., Southwestern Missouri is announced as being clear of rebels. The State elections in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Iowa, were to be held on Thursday. The draft in New York is to take place on the 10th proximo. There are 15,000 men in camp in Massachusetts, and the Boston *Post* says that Gov. Andrews has announced his determination that not another soldier shall leave the State until he is satisfied that "the right man is to be in command of the Union forces." Hon. Erastus Corning has been nominated for Congress by the Democrats of Albany, N. Y. The only intelligence relative to the battles in Kentucky is contained in the following dispatch, dated Washington, the 13th instant:

It is understood that a dispatch from Gen. Boyle, dated at Louisville at 10 o'clock last night, reached here this morning, saying it was generally believed the rebel Generals, Bragg and Cheatham, were both killed in the engagement of Wednesday last, near Bardstown; that our loss in killed, wounded and missing, was between 1,500 and 2,000, while that of the enemy was much larger, and that we held the field that night, and skirmished with them in the retreat next morning.

When this dispatch left Louisville a courier was expected to arrive in the course of the night bringing details of the pursuit of the rebels, and of a battle which was probably fought yesterday.

Gen. Boyle expresses his belief in the truth of the account of the killing of the rebel Generals Bragg and Cheatham, in the action of Wednesday, then prevalent in Louisville.

The late tidings from the recent battle ground in Kentucky give intimations that the rebels are concentrating at Camp Dick Robinson, in that State.—This camp has been remarkable in the history of the rebellion, but more particularly with regard to the State of Kentucky. It is situated on Dick's river, about five miles from Danville, and is finely located and well watered.

The following is an extract from Buell's official report of the fight at Perryville:

The enemy was everywhere repulsed, but not without some momentary advantage on the left.—During the night my several corps were put in position to attack next morning at 6 o'clock. Some skirmishing occurred with the enemy's rear guard, but the main body has fallen back to Harrisburg.—I have no accurate report of our loss as yet, but it will probably be pretty heavy, including valuable officers. Gens. Jackson and Terrell, I regret to say, were among the killed.

(Signed) C. BUELL, Maj. Gen. com'g.

A dispatch from Louisville, October 11th, says, 17 Federal wagons and 550 soldiers were captured by Kirby Smith's command, near Frankfort, Ky., the day before. Nashville, it says, is surrounded by the rebels.

On the day of the inauguration of Dick Hawes, at Frankfort, Gen. Bragg, while dining at the same table with the Messrs. Preston, was interrupted by a messenger, and after refusal several times he consented to hear the messenger. Immediately thereupon Bragg, Hawes, and others, finished their dinner in the hotel kitchen, and skedaddled just in time to escape the Union forces.

The *Herald* contains an article in reply to one in the *Tribune* the day before, which throws much light on the view held at the North of Buell's "victory." It says:

In the leading article in yesterday's *Tribune*, entitled "The War," the Field Marshal of the negroes not only denies that Buell won any victory in Kentucky, the affair at Perryville being indecisive, but attributes complete success to Bragg in capturing Munfordsville, "plundering the rich Blue Grass region to his heart's content," and getting away from a force double his own, after falling on part of it with the whole of his army and beating it pretty roughly, and then retreating at his leisure, when reinforcements came up. Greeley ridicules "our folks" because they "raise a shout of victory," and asks "Where are its trophies? What arms, baggage, and prisoners have we taken? They tell us that Bragg's army is surrounded and cannot escape. We shall see." As if he were in the secret of the rebels, he intimates that it is probable Nashville will be taken by them, involving a Union loss scarcely less than that of Harper's Ferry. He says, though Buell was close on Bragg's track, he "permitted him to take Munfordsville without interruption," and, in fact, stopped three days on his march for the purpose of allowing him to do it. He winds up with this insulting and infamous conclusion: "We do not know that Buell is either a fool or a traitor, but it is clear that Bragg acts on the presumption that he is one or the other."

STUART'S GREAT RAID—THE INEFFECTUAL EFFORTS TO CUT HIM OFF—WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FAILURE?

A dispatch from Frederick, Md., dated the 13th, announces the escape of Stuart's cavalry on their return from their Pennsylvania trip. The farmers report that the cavalry was composed of Virginians and South Carolinians, and that Gen. Wade Hampton accompanied Gen. Stuart. They not only seized all the horses they met with in Maryland, but swept their route through Pennsylvania of every one worth taking, besides any quantity of clothing and shoes. The failure to bag Stuart caused much mortification in the Federal army.—The dispatch says:

The cavalry force under Gen. Pleasanton, which passed through this city at daylight on Sunday morning, reached the vicinity of Poolesville a short time before the main body of the rebels. Both men and horses had had a very hard jaunt, the men having been in the saddle and on the road almost constantly from the time the fact of the rebels having crossed the river became known, consequently neither of them were in condition to render as efficient service as they otherwise might.

The rebels soon made their appearance, and posted one gun on a hill, so placed as to cover their passage. Our battery was placed in position, and an attempt made to silence this gun. The firing was kept up at intervals for about three hours, without, as far as is known, doing any damage to either side.

It is said that no attempt was made to fire upon the cavalry while they were crossing the river, which might easily have been done, neither was there any attempt made to charge upon them by our cavalry and repulse them. This can only be accounted for upon the supposition that the horses were too much exhausted to warrant such an attempt. Upon any other hypothesis the conduct of our cavalry would seem to have been most disgraceful to themselves and the service.

Persons who were present and saw the affair, state that the rebel gun was supported only by about twenty cavalrymen.

The crossing occupied some three or four hours, and from first to last met with no serious opposition. The rebels went on their way with their plunder, no doubt surprised as well as rejoicing at having escaped so easily. There was, in fact, nothing which could be called even a skirmish, and but for the artillery practice obtained, our troops might as well have been at Harper's Ferry.

Anecdotes and statements connected with the raid are numerous. Captain Alfred Schley, of the 5th Maryland regiment, who was at home at Liberty on a furlough, was aroused by the entrance of the troops into the town, and on going out and seeing soldiers dressed in United States uniform overcoats, took them for our own soldiers, and invited the officers to dismount and enter his house for refreshments, informing them of his name and rank. He was ordered to fall in as a prisoner, and taken away with them, and has not since been heard from. At Woodboro' they entered and robbed three Secesh stores of their contents. They also seized about twenty of the citizens of the place, mostly young men, whom they took away with them. These had not returned at latest accounts. General Stuart and several others of the principal officers remained at Urbana until morning to rest and refresh themselves. They with one company took this route, the main body passing via Hilttsville.

At least twenty Pennsylvanians have been here to-day, having come with the expectation that the rebels would be captured here or hereabouts, and that they would only have to identify their horses and return home rejoicing. Of this number six not only had their horses stolen, but were carried off as prisoners. They were taken to Poolesville and kept in the rear under guard during the cannonading, until finally the guard was ordered away and they availed themselves of the opportunity to travel rapidly in the opposite direction. These modestly requested, as a partial compensation for their losses and sufferings, that Colonel Allen would allow them to take the seven horses captured yesterday, but he "could not see it." One horse was identified and reclaimed by the owner.

All is quiet here and along the lines of this army to-day. Much mortification is felt at the successful escape of the rebels from the nets that were spread for them.

The following wild dispatches, though not as late as the one from Frederick, are worth reading, to show the panic produced by the rebel advent in Pennsylvania:

HARRISBURG, PA., Oct. 13—A dispatch, just received, says the rebels are at Cashtown, Adams county, and may attempt to pass by the Mountain road South; perhaps by the Shippensburg road, or maybe by the Greencastle road.

About sixty rebel cavalry are just reported by one of our officers to be in the neighborhood of Fayetteville, six miles East on the pike. They seem to have been scattered, and are evidently retreating.

We are amply prepared for them, and every one appearing will be fired at. Col. Grant is here with two regiments infantry and artillery.

The following is a special dispatch to the Philadelphia *Inquirer*:

"Gov. Curtin has just received information, dated Perryville, Juniata county, from a 'reliable gentleman' o. Perry county, that a rebel force of 30,000 men made their appearance within eight miles of Concord, Franklin county, last night at 12 o'clock, and carried off 1,500 horses."

The farmers of Franklin county are moving all their stock into Perry county. The rebels are supposed to be making for the Pennsylvania railroad.

CHAMBERSBURG, Oct. 13.—A messenger has just arrived at my camp, at Stevens's Furnace, with the information that the rebel cavalry were at Cashtown, at the foot of South Mountain, in Adams county, this morning, in a considerable force. They have been driven back from the Potomac, and are trying to escape. Every effort is being made to cut them off here and at Mercersburg; but they have a man named Logan, from Franklin county, with them, and as he is a superior guide they may escape. All our citizens have arms, and will join the troops in cutting the rebels off.

THE AFFAIR TO BE INVESTIGATED AT WASHINGTON.

A dispatch from Washington evidences an intense mortification felt there at the successful escape of Stuart. It says:

It is said that the failure to arrest the escape of J. E. B. Stuart and his bold rebel cavalry, in their dash through Pennsylvania to Maryland, is attributed to the division commander at Poolesville, to whom instructions had been sent by Gen. McClellan, stating that Stuart would probably retreat up on the line which he subsequently pursued, and suggested a disposition of the forces which would inevitably have cut off his passage across the Potomac. A strict investigation is now being conducted in reference to this matter, with the view of fixing the guilt and assigning punishment where it is merited. From the facts which are already made public, it is evident that Gen. McClellan took proper measures to prevent the return of Stuart to Virginia, and the fault must be with the subordinate officers, who failed to obey his orders or appreciate his suggestions.

The march of Stuart's cavalry from Chambersburg to the fords of the Potomac, near the mouth of the Monocacy creek, has no parallel for rapidity. Hence General McClellan's statement, that they would be intercepted, did not come to pass, although General Pleasanton, after nearly as rapid a march, was but two hours behind them.

There seems to have been some mentness of the troops that were sent to Frederick to oppose the southward course of Stuart. Burch's postal map shows that the distance from Chambersburg to the fords of the Potomac, by the roads taken by the rebels, is rising ninety miles, which was travelled in thirty six hours.

The following are some of the most remarkable cases of rapid marches on military record: Roman infantry marched frequently a distance of twenty miles in five hours, each soldier carrying from fifty to eighty pounds of baggage. Cæsar's legions marched 430 leagues in twenty-three days. In 1809 Mackdonald marched forty miles in a single day, crossing rivers and climbing mountains. Claude, after most extraordinary efforts at the battle of Salamanca, retreated forty miles in twelve hours. In 1814 Napoleon marched his army, for the purpose of succoring Paris, seventy-five miles in thirty-six hours. Gen. Crawford, in Spain, marched three thousand men sixty-two miles in twenty-six hours. In 1803 Wellington's cavalry in India marched sixty miles in thirty-two hours. Before the battle of Turruckabad, in India, the English cavalry, and Lord Lake, are said to have marched seventy miles in twenty four hours.

The recent rebel raid into Pennsylvania and Maryland demonstrated the necessity for the Government keeping properly protected and in running order the line of railroad from Baltimore to the Ohio river. The damages accruing to the Government, independently of the loss of the loyal people who have suffered depredations, are infinitely greater than would be the cost of maintaining a force sufficient to guard for months the whole line of this road and prevent its obstruction. It is a subject of much regret here that its operations have been obstructed, and it is urged by the best friends of the Government that the road should at all hazards be kept open. The whole country north of the Potomac would be sufficiently protected by the maintenance and protection of this road. Upon it has been shown where it is allowed to be closed there has been nothing to prevent the entrance of rebel marauders into the loyal counties of Maryland. The public interest loudly demands that the road from Baltimore to Wheeling should be kept open and constantly in running order. The matter has been brought to the attention of the Government and will probably be acted upon when the army of General McClellan drives that of General Lee from its position in Eastern Virginia, and relieves that part of the country from the presence of a rebel force.

The Washington *Star*, of Tuesday evening, says:

A man who arrived here this morning from near Conrad's Ferry states that he was in the presence of Gen. Stuart a few minutes before he crossed the river with his marauding force in retreat from Pennsylvania. Stuart informed him, in a sarcastic manner, he had fooled the whole party, but regretted he had not accomplished what was intended when he started, as he was expected to reach Frederick, Md., destroy the Government stores at that point, then destroy the bridge over the Monocacy river; but that all things taken into consideration, he had carried out his programme with much success. Stuart's men and horses looked extremely exhausted, but the former were in high glee, and from the looks of the clothing on their horses, and that which they had on their persons, and that which they had tied on their extra stolen horses, which numbered about 1,000, a change would be very acceptable, especially shoes and boots, of which they had a large quantity. General Stuart sent his compliments to a number of United States officers with whom he was acquainted in old times.

GREAT DEMOCRATIC MEETING IN NEW YORK.

The New York *Herald*, of the 14th, has an account of a Democratic mass meeting there the night before, with the following caption: "The Unterrified in Council—Immense Gathering of the Democracy at the Cooper Institute—The Hall of the Union and the Surrounding Streets Crowded—The New Wide Awakes—Bonfires, Bengola Lights, Torches, Calcium Lights, Rockets and Roman Candles to Brighten the Path of the Union for the Democratic Masses—Speeches of Horace F. Clark, Horatio Seymour, John Van Buren, and Richard O'Gorman." The meeting opened with the following incident:

Capt. Rynders read a note from Mr. Peter Cooper, requesting that the audience would abstain from spitting on the seats or carpet. "Knowing you all," said the Captain, "to be gentlemen who are to be hung shortly, I thought I would make known the request."

The following resolutions were then read and adopted as the resolutions of the meeting:

Resolved, That as we desire a vigorous prosecution of the present war, the conservative citizens of this city will continue cheerfully the support already given to it, by contributions of men and treasure, but we will at the same time insist on the fulfillment by the present Administration of the solemn pledge almost unanimously given by the Congress of the United States: "That this war is not waged on their part in any spirit of oppression, or for any purpose of overthrowing or interfering with the rights and established institutions of the States, but to defend and maintain the supremacy of the Constitution, and to preserve the Union, with all the dignity, equality, and rights of the several States unimpaired, and that as soon as these objects are accomplished the war ought to cease."

Resolved, That the investigations by Congress and the State Legislatures have disclosed the existence of fearful and unexampled corruption and extravagance; that unless these enormous frauds be checked the whole country must be involved in bankruptcy and dishonor; that we would be faithless to the principles of honesty and economy in the administration of public affairs if we did not expose and denounce these wrongs on the industry of the great masses of the people; and that, in the language of our friends of New Jersey, we solemnly protest against such reckless extravagance and infamous peculation.

Resolved, That we highly approve of, and cheerfully endorse, the truthful arguments against wholesale emancipation presented by President Lincoln, in his interview with the "Chicago delegation" in the month of September last, satisfied as we are, in the language of the President himself, "that the measure would be unconstitutional, inexpedient, and that "no possible good can result from the issuing of such a proclamation."

Resolved, That, in the language of the revisers of the statutes of this State, "the writ of *habeas corpus* is the great bulwark of personal liberty to the citizen;" that if in England it points out to the humblest individual in the realm effectual means as well to release himself, though committed by the king in council, as to punish those who unconstitutionally imprison him, then in this republican country it should at least be as effective to protect an American citizen from arrest upon mere suspicion or in-uendo of disloyal practices, even by the highest officers in the land; that we hold that the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* can only be suspended by act of Congress, and that the question of the power of the President to suspend it must be decided by the Supreme Court—a decision to which both the President and ourselves must yield.

Resolved, That, faithful to our own record, we renew our vows of loyalty to the Union and the Constitution, and stand now, as ever, supporting the strong arm of the Government as the only breakwater between the constitutional rights of the people of the United States and the rising flood of overwhelming force and lawlessness.

Resolved, That in the nomination of Seymour and Wadsworth by the respective parties of the State, the line is distinctly and clearly drawn between those who believe in the Constitution as it is and the Union as it was, and the men who seek to establish in their stead a new Constitution and a new Union.

Resolved, That we recommend to the electors of this State the ticket nominated at Albany, on the ground that its election will tend to check extravagance and corruption in public affairs, give new vigor to the prosecution of the war, and assure the people that the Union and the Constitution for which our fathers made sacrifices still live in all their original vigor.

Gov. Seymour, the candidate for Governor, made a speech tallying with the resolutions, in which he announced that, if the Supreme Court approved Lincoln's proclamations, the people would submit to them; if it did not, they would not submit.

John Van Buren (the Prince) addressed the meeting, and read the following letter, addressed to Governor Morgan, of New York, as defining his position:

CALDWELL, (Lake George,) Sept. 1, 1862.

Hon. E. D. Morgan:

DEAR SIR—The advices of yesterday and to-day, from our forces in Virginia, give, in my judgment, a new aspect to the campaign. For the present we are on the defensive, and our capital seems almost as likely to be taken as that of the enemy.—Under such circumstances, I think no loyal man in the Union, who has not imperative obligations in another direction, and whose health will permit, should omit to tender his services to the country. Permit me through you, sir, to do so, and to inquire whether there is any position in which I might hope to be of the least use. I shall decline all compensation, except to be remunerated for any increased expenditure to which the Government may put me. I should thus decline for three reasons:

1. Because I am almost entirely unacquainted with military matters, and can therefore now earn no reward.

2. My health has been such that my physicians think that unusual excitement may again prostrate me; and

3. Because it seems to me, if not now, I trust predominant, should hereafter unhappily prevail in the administration of our Government, the war will be prosecuted for objects which are unconstitutional and by means which I look upon as unchristian and infamous.

For the last two reasons I wish, so far as the rules of the service will permit, to reserve a right, to retire whenever I choose. Although by existing laws I am exempt from compulsory service in defence of the Government, those laws may be changed, should the policy of the Government become what I have hinted at in the reason last above mentioned, and I may thus be dragged into the field, even than to be shot by the enemy while fighting, or by our own troops if I retire without orders; but no power can ever induce me to serve voluntarily in such a contingency. With great regard and respect, yours truly,

J. VAN BUREN.

On the 3d of March President Lincoln, about to be sworn into office, found himself in the city of Washington, having reached it in disguise—(Laughter)—covered with a Scotch cap—(Renewed laughter)—and wrapped with a blue cloth cloak—for the first time in the history of this country the President found himself at the seat of Government.—And it was through the active exertions and great discretion of Gen. Scott and Gen. Wool that he was enabled even to take the oath. And on the 3d day of March, as he was about entering upon these duties, before he took the oath, a letter was addressed to him, which I now propose to read to you, and I ask you to notice (because I have not time to return to it) the wonderful spirit of prophecy and extraordinary judgment, as well as unpretendable patriotism, that animates every word and every line of this letter. I would say, however, that I was not authorized by Gen. Scott to make this letter public. The letter was in form submitted to Secretary Seward, but was laid before the President, and reached him thus in a proper official mode:

WASHINGTON, March 3, 1861.

Dear Sir: Hoping that in day or two the new President will have happily passed through all personal dangers and find himself installed an honored successor of the great Washington, with you as the chief of his Cabinet, I beg leave to report in writing what I have before said to you orally, this supplement to my printed "views" (dated in October last) on the highly disordered condition of our (so late) happy and glorious Union.

To meet the extraordinary exigencies of the times, it seems to me that I am guilty of no arrogance in limiting the President a field of selection to one of the four plans of procedure subjoined:

1. Throw off the old and assume a new designation—the Union party. Accept the conciliatory measures proposed by Mr. Crittenden or the Peace Convention—[applause]—and, my life upon it, we shall have no new case of secession; but, on the contrary, an early return of many, if not all, of the States which have already broken off from the Union. Without some equally benign measure the remaining slaveholding States will probably join the Montgomery Confederacy in less than sixty days, when this city being included in a foreign country, would require a permanent garrison of at least 35,000 troops to protect the government within it.

I stop here to call your attention to the fact that Maryland did not join the Montgomery Confederacy, and yet, with Maryland on our side to-night, it requires a garrison of 150,000 men to protect Washington. [Applause.]

2. Collect the duties on foreign goods outside the ports of which this Government has lost the command, or close such ports by act of Congress and blockade them.

(And this, unhappily, was the course that was entered upon.)

3. Conquer the seceded States by invading armies. No doubt this might be done in two or three years by a young and able General—a Wolfe, a Desaix, or a Hoche, with 300,000 disciplined men—estimating a third for garrisons, and the loss of a yet greater number by skirmishes, sieges, battles, and Southern fevers. The destruction of life and property on the other side would be frightful, however perfect the moral discipline of the invaders.

The conquest completed at that enormous waste of human life to the North and Northwest, with at least $250,000,000 added thereto, and *cui bono?* Fifteen devastated provinces, not to be brought into harmony with their conquerors, but to be held for generations, by heavy garrisons, at an expense quadruple the net duties or taxes which it would be possible to extort from them, followed by a protector or an emperor.

4. Say to the seceded States—wayward sisters, depart in peace.

In haste, I remain, very truly, yours,

WINFIELD SCOTT.

Hon. Wm. H. Seward, &c., &c., &c.

General Scott, on the 3d of March, having put the President in a condition to be sworn in—and being perhaps the only man in the United States who could have done that—notified him that if he entered upon an attempt to conquer the seceded States that, in the first place, he could not do it; that it would require a young general, like a Desaix, a Hoche, or a Wolf; that he who had, not many years before, marched to the capital of Mexico with an army of twelve thousand men, fighting nine pitched battles on the way, meeting no check and conquering an honorable peace, was unable, with three hundred thousand men, to attempt to conquer the seceded States in two to three years. He was informed, that it would require three hundred thousand men, and to-night, when we are only half way through in point of time, we have one million five hundred thousand. He was told that it would add two hundred and fifty millions of dollars to the national debt; and to-day, when we are only a year and one-half through, that debt probably exceeds twelve hundred millions. The Secretary of the Treasury reported it last May, at four hundred and ninety millions—double the amount that it was then feared would be required to complete this conquest. Now, fellow citizens, with their eyes open, so far as they could be opened by his great soldier, this attempt was entered upon to conquer the seceded States.

The Prince proceeded in a long speech to denounce the proclamation of Lincoln, and favor the idea of a Convention, to which the South is to be invited. He also advised his audience to vote at the coming elections, if they had to knock a man down in order to do it. The meeting broke up late at night with a general cheering for everybody.

FROM M'CLELLAN'S ARMY.

The Baltimore *American* states that General Averill, whose brigade was stationed at St. James College, has made "an important advance" into Virginia.

FEDERAL REPORT OF THE BATTLE OF CORINTH.

The report of the battle of Corinth says Rosecrans was recalled from the pursuit of Van Dorn on the 10th, and he reports the Confederate army entirely demoralized and incapable of mischief. The Federals captured 11 guns 2,000 prisoners, including 100 officers. They estimate their loss at only 350.

THE REBEL PROGRAMME IN FEDERAL HANDS.

☞ The rebel programme of operations against Louisville and Cincinnati fell into the hands of Gen. Buell some time ago. It was contained in some private papers of General Beauregard to General Cooper and General Bragg. According to this programme the main points of the rebels were, first Louisville and then Cincinnati; and Beauregard states the best way to reach them from Chattanooga, with Buell at Huntsville and Stevenson. It was his opinion a detachment could take Louisville, while the main body would be marching to Cincinnati. He contemplated the construction of a work at the former city for the command of the Ohio river and the Louisville canal, and the destruction of the latter as soon as possible. To keep the command of Cincinnati he would construct a strong work, heavily armed, at Covington. All these measures, however, have been defeated.

NEW YORK MARKET—GOLD 130.

The New York *Herald*, of the 14th, says:

The feature of the day in Wall street yesterday was a sharp rally in stocks, which carried the popular speculative shares up 2@3 per cent. above Saturday's price, and a further advance in gold, which rose to 130, and in bills, which touched 143½. The inquiry for railway stocks in the afternoon was extremely active, and indicated that the parties who rushed out last week were entering the market as buyers. Money was active at about five per cent; but brokers in good credit got all they wanted. The bank statement shows an increase of $6,617,891 in loans, $937,499 in specie, and $5,020,493 in deposits.

The movements in the currency continue to exercise a decided influence on most articles of produce, showing a constant tendency to inflation of prices in nearly all articles of trade.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The news from Washington relative to the Indian war gives an intimation that it is "substantially at an end." Correspondence and private advices give quite a different complexion to the affair. The Winnebago Indians have evidently joined the Sioux, and it is highly probable that we shall have more trouble with the Chippewas, notwithstanding the recent treaty. Gen Pope is arranging, however, to give the Indians ample chastisement for all the barbarities they have committed.

Brigadier-General Ben. Loan has assessed $5,000 on the disloyal inhabitants of Jefferson City, Mo., for substituting the enrolled militia in that place, and for the relief of the destitute families of soldiers in the same.

The men—about fifty in number—who were engaged in the act of resisting the draft in Blackford county, Indiana, are to be arrested and returned to the military camp at Indianapolis, for duty during the war.

Gen. Jim Lane's negro brigade was whipped on the 10th by a company of Missouri militia while attempting to cross from Kansas into Missouri.

PRESENT FROM BEAUREGARD TO STONEWALL JACKSON.—Gen. Beauregard has presented to Gen. Jackson a splendid silver mounted pistol, of a new pattern, made in Paris expressly for Jackson. It is a revolver, navy size, constructed to throw balls or a weapon throw grapeshot. With this formidable weapon an officer hard pressed in action might destroy half a dozen enemies at a single discharge. An appropriate inscription is engraved on the silver plating.

LOCAL MATTERS.

Distressing Railroad Accident.—A dispatch was received yesterday at the Central Depot telegraph office, in this city, giving the following particulars of a distressing accident on that railroad. The dispatch states that, between 10 and 11 o'clock Wednesday night, while a troop train, from the city, was moving in the direction of Charlottesville, when one and a half miles beyond Ivy Depot, the cow catcher struck a beef cattle that was standing on the track, and that the animal became entangled with the wheels of the tender, and threw the latter and five cars filled with soldiers down an embankment seventy-five feet, killing ten instantly and seriously wounding between seventy-five and one hundred. The parties belonged to different regiments, and as no names were sent, it is impossible to tell who the sufferers were. All of them went from the Soldiers' Home and the Depot, on Franklin street, in this city, and were proceeding to join their respective regiments at Winchester.

Attempt to Escape from Prison.—A conspiracy on the part of a number of the prisoners to escape from Castle Thunder was discovered on Wednesday night. The parties had made a long rope of cotton sheets and had gotten everything ready to let Rogers (who is condemned to be shot on Saturday) out of a window, when they were discovered, and put in the dungeon. One fellow, who proved very obstreperous, was undergoing the bucking process yesterday evening. It is not certainly known that Rogers initiated the movement, but it is believed that his friends in the prison did so to help him.—We learn that efforts are constantly being made to escape from this prison, and that it is only by unceasing vigilance that they are prevented. The next party discovered trying to get out are to be shot.

Prison Items.—Col. Thos. J. Jordan, of the 9th Pennsylvania cavalry, who was detained from going North on the last flag of truce because charges had been preferred against him by the citizens of Sparta, Tenn., that he allowed his men to commit the most unheard of atrocities on the citizens of that place, was yesterday removed from the Libby prison and put in Castle Thunder, in company with Dr. Tait, a surgeon belonging to the 1st Maryland cavalry, who are charged with committing a wilful murder on an unarmed citizen of the Valley of Virginia. Colonel Jordan was captured at Tompkinsville, Ky., on the 9th of July. Yesterday seventeen deserters were received into the Castle from the South, sent thither by Major Mallett. Among the other inhabitants there is Capt. Arnold Harris, a Yankee. The cage was empty last night, the city police having made no arrests.

Flag of Truce.—The Federal steamer John A. Warner reached Aiken's Landing, on James river, yesterday, where she awaits the arrival of some five or six hundred paroled prisoners, who, it is expected, will be sent from Richmond to-day. Mr. Wood, the agent for the exchange of Union prisoners, was expected in this city yesterday evening, from North Carolina whither he had gone to examine into the condition and number of so-called Union men in the prison at Salisbury and other places. If Mr. Wood arrives in time, it is the intention of our authorities to send off with the Yankee soldiers to-day over one hundred of the citizen prisoners held in confinement here. The last lot of Yankee soldiers received from the South were in a very destitute condition, both physically and outwardly. Seven hundred more, expected yesterday at 12 o'clock, had not arrived up to 6 o'clock last night, though a guard had been kept at the cars waiting for them.

Presentation to Gen. Jeff. Thompson.—A splendid rifle and accoutrements was presented to Gen. Jeff. Thompson, of Missouri, yesterday, by some of his Georgia and Virginia friends. The General, who has been in the city for several days, stopping at the Exchange Hotel, is practically well skilled in the use of the favorite weapon which his friends have seen fit to bestow upon him. The rifle was made by Mr. Moss, of this city, and is regarded as a superior weapon.

For the Benefit of the Wilmington Sufferers.—The proprietor of the Varieties intends to devote the proceeds of to night's performances to the benefit of the sufferers by the yellow fever now raging at Wilmington, N. C. The plays on the occasion are "Green Bushes; or, One Hundred Years," and the well known nautical drama of "Black Eyed Susan."

PROCEEDINGS IN THE COURTS.

Mayor's Court, October 16th.—The case of Maria, slave of Mrs. Sarah Graves, charged with stealing a one hundred dollar note from Elias Adkins, was called and examined. The witness testified that through carelessness he left the note in the watch pocket of his pantaloons and sent the latter to his washerwoman, Mar a. Missing the note, he went to her house, found the pantaloons in the wash tub, but the note was not per