Richmond Dispatch.

☞ The DISPATCH is published DAILY, (Sundays excepted.) Price for mailing $20 per year; or $10 for six months; three months $4; one month $2—in advance.
☞ The SEMI-WEEKLY DISPATCH is issued every TUESDAY and FRIDAY, at $10—in advance.
☞ The WEEKLY DISPATCH is issued every FRIDAY, and mailed to subscribers at $5 per annum.

DAILY DISPATCH.

VOL. XXV. RICHMOND, VA., THURSDAY MORNING, AUGUST 13, 1863. NO. 38.

THURSDAY MORNING....AUG. 13, 1863.

The Impotency of Their Malice

We lately published from a Massachusetts newspaper a statement of the puisant editor that the only terms the North would give the South would be to hang a hundred of the ringleaders, make the Southern States pay the debt of the war, and hold them thenceforth as territories of the United States.

And suppose they could do it, the South would even then hold a grander place in history than the victorious North. They cannot degrade us; they cannot humiliate us; they cannot rob the South of its place among the Immortals. Does not Hungary, conquered by colossal odds, hold a higher place this hour in the estimation of all mankind than Austria? Is not the blood of martyrs for the truth more precious in the eyes of God and man than the brute force which dragged them to the stake? Is not the fallen oak, uprooted by the hurricane, a nobler object than the wild winds which have laid its leafy glories in the dust?

Suppose we could be subjugated, and our name and country taken from us, they cannot take away our place in history and in the admiration of all mankind. They cannot obliterate the fact that a feeble population heroically battled for years against four times its numbers, having the resources and the men of the whole world at its command, and only succumbed when resistance was no longer possible. They cannot blot out the sacrifices which men and women have made through all this war of life and worldly goods, and ease and home, for the sake of principle and liberty.—They cannot achieve for their own name anything but the intense scorn and disgust which all mankind must feel for a nation which can only overcome its adversary by an enormous preponderance of numbers, and which is base enough to glorify itself on account of victory thus achieved. Who would not rather hold the place in history of the heroic South thus conquered than of besotted conquerors, who have proved themselves inferior to their fallen adversary in everything but brute strength?

No. Even if we perish we shall live and triumph. Every Southern battle field will shine on the pages of history in immortal light. Every Southern soldier's grave will be a spot more sacred than the enemy's triumphal arch of victory. The heroic dead of every valley shall rise and stand upon their feet, and lead the vanguard of all future struggles of the oppressed for liberty. Every Southern warrior's tomb shall be kept green by the tears of grateful generations, and their posterity shall be proud of the blood that once coursed through their veins, whilst the descendants of their conqueror shall blush to remember that it was only by four to one, and by piling upon the top of such tremendous odds hordes of foreigners and negroes, that they could crush a struggling handful to the dust.

But, Heaven helping us, we shall neither be conquered nor crushed. If there were no God, if numbers and cannon were God, if Eternal Justice were a dream, we might have despaired of the result at the beginning. But the same Providence which has so signally delivered us from the beginning is able still to vindicate the righteous cause. We are in less danger of subjugation at this moment than we were at the very outset of the war. If we learn to put our trust in God, and not in man, God, who has so often crowned our arms with victory, will conduct our armies to still more glorious success. All in His own good time, He will achieve our deliverance, and will chastise with a retribution as gigantic as their crimes the incarnate fiends who are panting for our destruction.

Charlotte Corday.

We find that in our article respecting John Morgan yesterday, we did not state the circumstances attending the death of Charlotte Corday with historical exactness. Our only object was to impress the public as strongly as we could with the distinction between guilt and punishment—to show that the most sublime patriot, if thrown by misfortune into the hands of a malignant enemy, might be made to suffer the penalty of a common felony—that, therefore, the only proper rule in such cases—and that a rule which had been adopted by the instinctive discretion of ages—was to affix to guilt itself the brand of disgrace, and to leave to innocence its own vindication at its own proper time. But history ought, in all cases where it is possible, to be enunciated with the utmost distinctness. We, therefore,—in obedience to what we consider a maxim that never should be departed from—give a succinct history of the trial and execution of Charlotte Corday. It is one of the most affecting incidents in all history.

Charlotte was a native of St. Saturnin in the department of the Orne. She had received, under the superintendence of her father, a classical education—had become deeply imbued with the spirit of the ancient writers—and was in the habit of assimilating certain periods of ancient history to the scenes and events that were passing immediately before her eyes. In imitation of her father, she had deeply imbibed the principles of the Girondists, and believed that their overthrow would certainly produce the destruction of the sanguinary triumverate, (Marat, Danton, Robespiere,) who were at that time overwhelming France with blood. But when she saw the citizens of the department of Caen enrolling to march to the defence of the Convention, she saw that there was no hope in the people, and she conceived the singular design of freeing the world of that monstrous tyrant, who had declared that 300,000 heads must fall before *liberty* could be safe in France. She went to Paris without the knowledge of her father—obtained admission to Marat—pretended to be a violent Jacobin—presented to him a list of several thousand who had been concerned in the late insurrection against the Convention—and, without difficulty obtained from him a promise that every man of them should be sent to the guillotine. No sooner had this promise been obtained than she struck the tyrant to the heart with a knife which she had purchased expressly for the occasion. She was immediately arrested and brought before the revolutionary tribunal, where she boldly acknowledged what she had done, and declared that whilst she detested assassination (on principle) she yet felt that she owed it as a duty to her country, to God, and to human nature, to rid the world by any means of a monster whose sole object in life seemed to be to destroy everything that bore the form of humanity.—Her deportment during the trial was exceedingly modest, and the farthest possible removed from everything that we can conceive of what is called in modern times a "strong minded woman." At the close of her trial she took three letters from her bosom and presented them to the Court. Two of them were directed to Barbaroux, and related entirely to her adventures from the time of her leaving home. The third was directed to her father. In it she took a solemn farewell of him—spoke with the utmost simplicity of what she had done—begged him not to suppose that she could be affected by the criminal's death that awaited her—said that she had been guilty of nothing for which he need blush—and concluded with the line of Corneille, which we had by mistake supposed she spoke on the scaffold:

"Good is crime qui fait la honte, et non pas l'echafaud."

She was not insulted by the mob on the way to the guillotine. On the contrary, she was the only victim of those bloody times who was not thus insulted. It is true that the women who were called the "Furies of the Guillotine" had been assembled at the door of the prison for the purpose of insulting her; but when the door was thrown open, and, instead of a strong minded virago, whom probably they expected to see and to hear, they saw her as she was—so young, so beautiful, so unpretending, and so entirely helpless—even their hard hearts relented, and while some of them uncovered their heads, others burst into a passion of tears. She ascended the scaffold with undaunted firmness. She had learned the mode of her death, but not the details, and when the executioner proceeded to tie her feet she resisted from an apprehension that he meant to insult her. When he took off the handkerchief that covered her bosom, at the moment of the fatal stroke, she blushed deeply; and it is even said that her head, which was held up to the multitude immediately after it had fallen, retained this impression of offended modesty.

Fortifying the Pamunkey.

The Government ought to give immediate attention to preventing future raids from the White House by selecting one of several eligible positions which may be found on the Pamunkey for preventing the ascent of Yankee vessels. A few guns, placed on one of the bluffs of the Pamunkey, would secure a large and fertile tract of country from destructive visitations.

REPORTED FIGHTING AT BROCK'S GAP.

Yesterday evening a report was brought down by passengers from Staunton that the enemy have made two attempts to pass through Brock's Gap, which is a passage in the North Mountain, in Rockingham county, about twelve miles north of Harrisonburg. On Monday they made their appearance at the gap, but were easily and soon driven off by a portion of Gen. Imboden's forces. On Tuesday they renewed their attempt to force their way through the mountain pass, and this time in greater force; but they were a second time repulsed, with considerable loss.

This force of Yankees is believed to be under command of Gen. Kelly, and that they have marched down through Hardy county from the neighborhood of New Creek and Cumberland. They are doubtless aiming to reach Staunton.

FROM THE TRANS-MISSISSIPPI.

A gentleman who left Gen. Taylor's headquarters, on the other side of the Mississippi, on the 25th ult, informs the Mobile *Advertiser* that our troops hold undisputed sway of all those late conquests in Louisiana west of the Mississippi. They, as well as the people, are in fine spirits, undepressed by the fall of Vicksburg, and not only able to hold their own, but at the proper time to help us on this side the river. Gen. Magruder is fortifying at Sabine Pass, and ready to co-operate with Kirby Smith. Taylor is securing his conquests and is zealously supported by the planters, who, when Banks overrun the country, were ready to give up and take the oath. Banks scouted at their oaths and took their property. They are now fighting men and war men to the bitter end. Our informant believes that our combined forces under Price, Walker, and Taylor—Kirby Smith commanding the whole—will reach 50,000 men, and are increasing.

FROM CHARLESTON.

The latest official news from Charleston represents that matters are progressing finely for our cause. On Tuesday the enemy bombarded our works at long range, doing no damage. Yesterday all was quiet, the monitors having drawn off a distance of three miles.

GEN. TRIMBLE AND HIS STAFF.

We were yesterday permitted to read a letter written by Gen. Trimble, at Gettysburg, and dated July 30th. He states that he is doing well, and says that in two weeks he expected to be entirely cured. His sufferings with the wound which now afflicts him have not been near so great as those which he endured from the wounds he received in the second battle of Manassas, in August last. Lt. Chas. O. Grogan and Frank Champion, his orderly, are with him and doing well. Lt. Sam'l Davis, another of his aids, who was wounded at Gettysburg, is at Chester, Pa., and recovering rapidly. The General writes in cheerful spirits, and is willing to take the chances of a prisoner of war.

PATRIOTISM OF A COLORED MAN.

A day or two ago a letter was received at the Treasury Department from a negro man, named Henry Jones, the property of Mr. E. Cannon, of Clarksville, in this State, which is worthy of the highest commendation, and justly entitled to be imitated by those who have been hoarding their treasure during the troubles which at present afflict the country. Henry places at the disposal of the Secretary of the Treasury $465 in gold, which he hopes will be of some service to the Government. In his letter he speaks of "our glorious cause," and declares that the slaves of the South have a deeper interest in the establishment of Southern independence than the white population. He thinks if the Yankees are successful the negroes are destined to the most cruel treatment at their hands.

"THE SOUTHERN PUNCH" is the title of a new weekly, just issued in this city, by Messrs Overall, Campbell, Hughes & Co. The title page is an excellent specimen of engraving, and well designed. Its literary department is under the supervision of Mr. Overall, formerly of the New Orleans press, and is filled with humorous articles, original and selected.

THE REPORTED LOUISIANA VICTORY.—The Mobile *Advertiser*, of the 9th inst, has the subjoined paragraph, which is probably the foundation from which grew the story about Gen. Taylor having captured six thousand prisoners at Donaldsonville, La.:

We learn that a bearer of dispatches from Gen. Taylor to the Government at Richmond arrived here yesterday. We are informed that he reports that a battle had taken place at Donaldsonville, on the 13th ult., between a portion of the forces of Taylor and Banks—the former with seven hundred and the latter one thousand men. Our forces won a victory, and captured five hundred prisoners. No battle to the extent that has been rumored has occurred within his knowledge.

SUICIDE.—On Monday night last, Mr. Birdsong Howard, of Greenville, South Carolina, committed suicide by hanging himself with a rope. He had for some time been in feeble health, suffering from palsy, and for the purpose of assisting himself in getting into and out of bed a rope had been attached to the joists above. With the lower portion of this rope, it seems, he made a noose during the night, and slipping it on his neck thus terminated his life.

OUR ARMY CORRESPONDENCE.

ARMY NORTHERN VA., Aug. 11, 1863.

I write again this morning, but without the transpiring of anything denoting a material change in "the situation." The main body of the enemy retains its position along the line of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, and there have been no movements that decidedly indicate a disposition or intention on the part of Gen. Meade to advance on the army of Gen. Lee, although a small body of infantry, estimated by some refugees at a corps, by others at only a division, crossed a day or two since to the south side of the river at Rappahannock Ford. Their reserve, or main force, of cavalry are reported to be concentrated around Kelly's Ford. A body of cavalry advanced in the direction and within one and a half miles of Culpeper C. H, but soon fell back on the appearance of a confronting party of ours. The cavalry of both armies remain in line of battle from day to day, with nothing to interrupt the monotony save an occasional shot of the pickets at each other.

Gen. Stuart is commanding on our side, and his coolness, vigilance, and general management since the appearance of the enemy in his front, have elicited general satisfaction.

Diverse opinions prevail as to Meade's probable intentions, although no movement of his has yet been made which furnishes a key to his plans—if he has yet adopted any. Some are of opinion that he will attempt what both his predecessors failed to accomplish at Fredericksburg; while others think he will co-operate in the "on to Richmond" move via the Peninsula, so plausibly urged in some quarters by both Yankee and Confederate. There are not a few, also, who believe there are reasonable probabilities of a collision of the two armies in this immediate section. If so, we may have to record another bloody fight at Cedar Mountain, already classic by the memorable rout, the beginning of the series of disasters to the splendidly equipped army of the infamous Pope. Meade, thus far, has made no encroachments on our position. His delay in following up what nobody but his own miserable people claim as a victory at Gettysburg, can be accounted for only on one of the two suppositions of bad Generalship or want of strength sufficient, and the necessity of waiting for reinforcements, or the slow and uncertain results of the draft. Most probably his army was badly cut up, broken down by weary marches, and needed rest and recruiting.

There is nothing of special interest from our own army to communicate, save the interesting fact that the good effect of the call of the Commander-in-Chief and the proclamation of the President are visible in the thousands of convalescent sick and wounded returning to their post and ready to meet the foe once more in the reeking front of battle. The cry daily is, "still they come," and I will not attempt to estimate how much stronger we are now than when we recrossed the Potomac. There is yet room and need for many more to meet the next onset of overwhelming avalanche of men which it is believed the enemy are collecting for our destruction. Gen. Lee, with his usual military acumen, has doubtless surveyed the whole field; but whether his plans are aggressive or defensive will depend, it is presumed, altogether on the condition and movements of the enemy.

A meeting of chaplains of the 2d and 3d corps is to be held to-day at Orange C. H. Its object has not transpired, but it is probably to adopt measures to promote concert of action and the general efficiency of that useful body of men. That their labors have been productive of much good is evinced in the religious tone of feeling prevalent in the army, and the nightly assembling in each camp of groups of soldiers whose songs of praise ascend to Heaven with the smoke of the camp fires, and whose untutored invocations call down the blessings of God on the absent ones at home, our cause, and our country. Some of these scenes that I have witnessed are worthy of the pencil of the most gifted artist.

A Court of Inquiry has been convened at Brandy Station, consisting of Gen. Mahone, Col. C. A. Battle, and others, to investigate the case of the capture of a portion of the wagon train of Ewell's corps while returning from Pennsylvania. The train was convoyed by a regiment of cavalry, and it is alleged the inferior force of Yankees that attacked the train might and should have been captured, instead of being captors.

I am informed by a North Carolina officer that meetings have been recently held in several regiments in this army from that State, with reference to the course of the Raleigh (N. C) *Standard*, and resolutions denunciatory of the editor, and repelling the imputations cast upon them and their State in consequence, have been adopted. The tone of that sheet has been a constant libel upon such men as the gallant Ramseur, Hoke, Lane, Daniel, Pender, and the brave troops under their command, as well as on the memory of the many brave dead from the "Old North State," whose blood consecrate every battle-field of Virginia. There are no better troops in this army, I venture to say, than the brigades from North Carolina with which I am acquainted. Such was the gallantry and lofty bearing of Ramseur, for instance, at Gettysburg, under the most terrific fire, as to elicit the admiration of all who beheld him. A veteran brigade—formerly Rodes's—about to make a charge, stopped to give him the tribute of three cheers.—The impunity with which the *Standard* has attempted to foment discord in its own State, and to alienate her troops from the common cause, is a forcible illustration of the latitude of speech and of the press in the Confederacy, and presents a striking contrast to the genius of the Government at Washington; yet it is becoming the opinion of many, including not a few North Carolinians in this army, that the *Standard* has abused that liberty to the verge of aid and comfort to the enemy, and that something more effective should be adopted than resolutions and remonstrances.

Gen. Pegram, latterly stationed in the West, has arrived here, and will probably be transferred and assigned to duty in this army. His visit is understood to have reference to that end.

My acknowledgments are due various officers at the headquarters of the army, as well as of different divisions, for offers of facilities, and of which I will avail myself at such times as such information as can be derived only from such sources will be valuable, and can be with propriety given to the public.

ANECDOTE OF MOSBY.—One of the correspondents of the New York *Herald* tells the following story of this daring officer:

At a town, which shall be nameless, that we passed through, I was told the following circumstance about Mosby, which, as it has never found its way into print, I think worth giving, as illustrative of the bold and reckless audacity of the man. A squad of Northern cavalry got on the track of him and his men, pursued him into the village, captured some of his men, and hoped to take him captive. Guards were placed at the entrance of every street, and the search for Mosby began—a search up stairs, down stairs, in garret, in cellar, in beds, under beds, in closets, wardrobes, and every imaginable cuddy-hole big enough to hold a man. Mosby was not to be found. In quick time he had changed his military dress for the coarse spun habiliments of a non-combatant, and, while the search was progressing, passed for one of the curious throng of street lookers-on. He took ninety-nine chances out of a hundred of being captured, and fortune favored him, as it always does the brave. It is this bravery and this good fortune that make him and his exploits the theme of every tongue, and particularly tongues feminine, which, when they get to wagging about him, wag with a smacking smackness, a vindictive exultation, indicating that the extent of their joy is only surpassed by one thing—the unending prolongation of their tongues.

ARRIVAL OF MAYOR MUNROE.—Mayor Munroe, of New Orleans, whose patriotic firmness at the evacuation of New Orleans so incensed Beast Butler that he sent that gentleman to Fort Pickens like a felon, arrived at Mobile on the 7th inst., with his family. Mr. Munroe looks hale and hearty, notwithstanding his long incarceration by the malignant Yankees.

LATER FROM THE NORTH.

Retaliation on Guerillas by Meade—Correspondence Between Gov. Seymour, of New York, and Lincoln—Fatal Result of the Gunboat Expedition Up James River, &c

The agent of the Press Association has furnished the following news summary, copied from the Baltimore *American*, of Tuesday, 11th inst.:

Gen. Meade has issued an order announcing severe measures of retaliation against the disloyal farmers residing on the line of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, between Alexandria and Warrenton, who aid Mosby in his guerilla raids. They are to be made responsible for all damages committed on the railroad by guerilla forces, to be impressed as laborers for the repair of the road, and their houses to be taken for Government use. With the exception of the capture of a number of Mosby's guerillas, there is no active movement of Gen Meade's army to be reported.

Gov. Seymour, of New York, has addressed a letter to the President relative to the draft, in which he complains of the injustice done to the State by the mode of enrollment, and asks for a suspension of the draft until the errors can be corrected. He states that a large body of the people believe the Conscription act to be unconstitutional, and claims that its legality should be tested in the Courts. The President replies very briefly. He says: "I cannot consent to suspend the draft in New York." He promises to see that justice shall be done, and will not object to see the constitutionality of the conscription tested. But at present no time can be wasted or argument used, if we would prevent the rebels from turning upon our now victorious soldiers.

The President has ordered that three prisoners from South Carolina shall be held in close confinement as hostages for three negro seamen, captured on the gunboat Isaac Smith, and who are now in prison at Charleston.

The frigate Hartford, with Rear Admiral Farragut on board, arrived at New York on the 10th, and was received with salutes from the American, French, and Spanish war vessels in port.

At the latest dates from Vicksburg General Banks had just arrived there on a visit to Gen. Grant. The British Consul at New Orleans and the commander of a French man-of-war in port, accompanied Gen. Banks on his visit to Vicksburg.

The Nashville *Union* is officially authorized to announce that Gen. Johnson proposes issuing writs of election for a Legislature, at the very earliest practicable day.

The expedition up James river was accompanied by the turret iron-clad Sangamon and gunboats Com. Barney and Cohasset. A torpedo was exploded under the bows of the Barney, lifting them completely out of the water, and throwing a great quantity of water high in the air, which fell upon the deck of the boat, washing overboard fifteen of her men, including, Lt. Cushing, the commanding officer. Maj-Gen Foster was upon this boat. The Barney and Cohasset were injured by shots from field pieces.

Returns from 38 counties in Kentucky show a Union majority of 20,359.

Parson Brownlow, on the testimony of a surgeon recently returned from Richmond, states that Gov. Aiken, of S. C., is a prisoner in the Libby prison, his crime being persistent fidelity to the Union. The surgeon states that he was confined in the same room with Gov. Aiken and had many conversations with him. [This is the richest joke of the season.]

Foreign advices to the 21 inst. have been received. It was believed that the Polish question would be settled by diplomacy, and the war panic had subsided in Paris. The American question is discussed much in the usual style. The rebel loan was heavy at 15 per cent. discount. Both the cotton and breadstuffs markets were dull.

The latest quotations of gold in New York is 126¼; Virginia sixes 61; North Carolina do 68.

PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

From Vicksburg—The Yankee Expedition to Jackson, Miss—What was Accomplished, and what Force Accomplished It—The Next Move, &c.

A correspondent of the New York *Tribune*, writing from Vicksburg on the 27th ult., says Gen. McPherson's corps is garrisoning that post, and Brig.-Gen. J. E. Smith is acting as post commandant. The expedition to Jackson, Miss., had returned. The troops employed in this expedition were Sherman's army corps, the 15th, commanded by Gen. Steele; the 13th army corps, Gen. Ord commanding, with Lauman's division of the 16th army corps attached, a portion of the 16th and 9th army corps, commanded by Gen. Parker, and McArthur's division of Gen. McPherson's corps—in all about four army corps, the whole commanded by Gen. Sherman. These several commands are now encamped around the city, Gen. Ord's being on the flat just below, while the remainder are scattered about, a portion being on the line of works extending from Haines's Bluff to Big Black. Gen. Heron's corps has been sent down the river to occupy and hold Natchez. The correspondent says:

The result of the expedition to Jackson may be stated briefly to be the destruction by fire of the town, and the driving of Joe Johnston and his army further into the interior. This statement of the result makes it seem insignificant; but I presume that nothing more important was intended or expected. The march to Jackson from the Big Black was a very hard one; but the return therefrom, accomplished in three days by Ord's corps, was still harder.—Some of the veterans of this corps, who have experienced nearly everything possible in the way of marching, assure me that the suffering of the men was greater than ever known before. They were compelled to use water from the pools and lagoons on the route; rations were whittled down almost to the starving point, and the heat was terrific.

Johnston skirmished with Sherman on a small scale until the latter arrived in the neighborhood of Jackson and invested the place.—On the 13th Gen. Lauman's division made an assault upon the enemy on ground which that General was ordered to reconnoiter. It was an unfortunate affair. *One brigade of the division was badly cut up, and the loss in killed and wounded now foots up seven hundred.*—For this assault, which was alleged to have been made contrary to orders, Gen. Lauman was relieved of his command by Gen. Ord, and Gen. Hovey now commands this division in addition to his own division.

On the 17th instant, it was discovered that Johnston had evacuated during the night, after destroying all the war material that he could not take away with him. As soon as this was known our troops entered the place. The men of Lauman's division were exasperated by the losses which their ranks had sustained, and commenced a destruction of the houses by fire, which was kept up until there was but little left of the town but ashes.—Jackson has been an ill-fated place. When it was captured before, there was a great destruction worked. Joe Johnston caused one or two of the main blocks of buildings to be burned before he evacuated, and the work then commenced was finished on the 17th and 18th. Where was but lately a thriving and pretentious town of between four and five thousand inhabitants, with a State house, lunatic asylum, and many other public buildings, there is now a heap of ruins. The fate of the inhabitants of Vicksburg has been enviable beside that of the people of Jackson.

The country between here and Jackson is represented as being completely devastated.—Between the two armies which have been marching and countermarching over it, it has been ground to powder. The town of Raymond was spared this destruction, I learn; for what reason I do not know.

There are no indications, that I can discover as yet, of any very active movements in this quarter soon. In fact, I incline to the opinion that the next six or eight weeks will be employed by Gen. Grant in quiet preparation for an active and decisive fall campaign. There is urgent need for this preparation. This army has been in the field a long time, and the wear and tear, so to speak, is tremendous. In every department repairs and reforms are needed. The organization of the army needs an overhauling. It seems particularly necessary, owing to the incidents of the campaign ending with the capture of Vicksburg and the destruction of Jackson, that the entire army should be brigaded anew. If our old regiments are ever to be filled up by recruits or by drafted men, now is the time to do it. There are many, also, too many regiments, represented here by mere quads of men. To fill up or else consolidate these regiments requires time and much clerical labor. Our army regulations are such that it is impossible to put and keep things in such shape that they will work satisfactorily without consuming a great deal of time. The intricate system of checks and balances in the army under which we are operating, and which has come to be called red tape, works out delays the necessity for which few civilians can comprehend, and which no General, however energetic, can prevent.

There is another reason why this army should remain in comparative inactivity as regards movements until perhaps the first of October, and that is the fact that the season for a summer campaign has passed. There has been much said and written about the endurance of Western troops. It has been demonstrated that they can endure as much in this climate as Southern or any other kind of troops. Still I hold that there is a species of inhumanity involved in making August and September, the very worst months in the year, the time for active military operations, unless the strategic reasons therefor are very urgent. Because another feather could be added to the camel's load without breaking his back is no reason for adding the feather. Let us not hunt for the limit to the powers of our armies until the occasion imperatively demands it.

Furloughs are being granted freely—amounting to about five per cent. of the army. In my opinion this per centage could be increased without detriment to the service.

It is really wonderful that our men stand this climate as well as they do, but it is nevertheless true that there is an amount of sickness in the army which is lamentable. Marching and trench life in Mississippi during the midsummer months are trying on the stoutest constitutions. Chronic diarrœa prevails to an alarming extent, and all the various forms of bilious and typhoid fevers are rife here. I have seen in some Northern papers a statement that there had been cases of yellow fever in Vicksburg. This is not true. But Yellow Jack will probably visit us with his scourge if we do not clean up the place soon. The town is now reeking with the filthy debris of the two armies.

Walking in through the railroad depot yesterday I witnessed a sad sight. The train from Black river was just in, and was filled with soldiers emaciated and sallow-hued. One poor fellow who did not seem to be as far gone as the others, thought that with a little assistance he could get from the car he was in to the platform. While attempting this he was attacked by a congestive chill. He begged to be laid down where he was. The men laid him down in the dust and dirt, thinking he would be better in a moment. In less than five minutes he was dead. The men around him did not even know his name, nor the regiment to which he belonged. To breathe one's last lying in the dust of a much-traveled road, without even an acquaintance near, is seemingly worse than to meet death gallantly on the battle field.

On the Louisiana side of the river, in the country opposite Vicksburg, Kirby Smith has saved Gen. Grant all further trouble about looking after guerillas, for a time at least. He has literally destroyed everything for thirty or forty miles back from the river, and driven the inhabitants, including the negroes, within his lines. Consequently Louisiana, opposite Vicksburg, is now a waste and howling wilderness that will not subsist guerillas. What the poor people will do for the necessaries of life it is hard to say. Surely they are paying the penalty of treason at such a rate as to bring them to their senses soon.

Progress of the Draft in the United States—The Manner in which it is being Enforced.

The United States papers have various paragraphs about the progressing draft. All of them show more and more plainly that the United States treasury and not the U. S. army is to be benefitted by the conscription. We make some extracts from Northern papers of the 7th, which are interesting. Referring to the draft in Washington county, N. Y., the Troy *Times* says:

The drafting for Washington county has been completed. Something over $25,000 has been realized from the payment of commutations. The number of conscripts secured for service does not exceed over twenty five or thirty. All but about one hundred of the persons drafted have reported to the Provost Marshal. The exemptions under the law are so numerous that a large per centage of the drafted—considerably more than one-half—get off free.

Probably of the one hundred who have not reported but very few can now be found.—Some have run away, and others had left when the enrollment was made, or soon after. It is a pretty clean sweep when all but one hundred from a county respond to the call of the Provost Marshal.

The draft in the 30th district commences today at Buffalo, and will continue daily till Saturday, the 15th, under Provost Marshal Scroggs. The fort has been put in readiness for the reception of the officers and the transaction of the necessary business of the draft. A detachment of four hundred soldiers from Elmira will be present to support the authorities if necessary.

It is stated that the draft in Ohio will take place in a few days; preparations are being perfected for it at Columbus. Detailed squads from the Ohio regiments, to take charge of the drafted men, are arriving.

The draft in the West, the Milwaukie *Wisconsin* remarks, has very properly been deferred in order to enable the Western farmers to ingather their prolific harvest, and also because the surrender of Vicksburg diminishes the necessity of immediate reinforcements to our Southwestern army; and as Rosecrans is taking it quietly he certainly has troops enough to meet Bragg's small army. The draft will come along some time in August, or perhaps not until the 1st of September. It is desirable to reinforce our armies early in the autumn, as Grant should be so strengthened as to make the decisive movement against the rebellion in Alabama.

By mixing the new conscripts in the old regiments, it will require but a few weeks to make them all veterans. We suppose that the folly of creating more regiments will be abandoned. It was a mistake last year. Let every regiment be filled to its maximum before a new regiment is authorized. The old officers have now obtained an invaluable experience, not merely in fighting, but in the management of men. They know how to take care of them.

The Middleburg (Pa.) *Tribune* says:

It is generally known that of the drafted men of last summer a large number in Chapman township deserted and refused to serve their time. On last Thursday evening two of the provost guards went to Chapman and arrested seven of these deserters and lodged them in the jail here previous to taking them to Harrisburg. On Friday news was brought to town that a body of armed men, numbering sixty, were on their way to rescue the prisoners—threatening to burn the town if necessary. The circulation of this news created consternation, and spread like wild fire, until some country boys came to town with their trusty rifles. In the meantime the prisoners were sent off to Harrisburg, by way of Lewiston, as the mob had threatened to waylay the guard between this place and Selinsgrove, if foiled in the attempt in town. The mob came within half a mile of town, when they learned that the prisoners were gone, upon which they turned back as they came.

Samuel S Lambert, who was charged with the business of notifying the drafted men of Kingfield, Mass., gives a full and explicit statement, in the Farmington *Chronicle*, of what occurred at Kingfield on his arrival there. He says when he drove into the village of Kingfield the first thing that attracted his attention was the store of Mr. Saunders, the enrolling officer, liberally bedecorated with black paint, and groups of men at various points, much excited. When he arrived at the tavern he heard the cry, "That's him," "that's him," and he was soon surrounded by a crowd who were loud in their threats of personal violence.—They said they had entered into a combination to resist the draft, and that they would resist it to death, and they would rather spill their blood at K than at the South. They brought his horse and carriage along, and said they would give him fifteen minutes in which to leave town.

The Pittsburg (Pa.) *Chronicle* is very much afraid that the draft there, so far as filling up the ranks of the old regiments with conscripts goes, will turn out a failure. One-half the city has been gone over now, yet, exclusive of substitutes, less than fifty of those drafted have reported for duty. The balance have either procured substitutes, paid $300, obtained exemption, or "skedaddled." In the First Ward the "skedaddlers" number over fifty, in the Second over thirty, and so on.

The Last Order Previous to Surrendering Port Hudson.

The following is a copy of the last order issued by General Gardner before he surrendered Port Hudson:

HEAD QUARTERS, PORT HUDSON, JULY 8, 1863.
General Orders—No 31.

I. Nobly have the troops performed their duty in the defence of this position, continued from the 21st of May to the present time.—The cheerfulness, bravery and zeal displayed by the troops during the hardships and suffering of this long siege have never been surpassed, and every man can feel the proud satisfaction that he had done his part in the heroic defence of Port Hudson. The place is surrendered at the last moment it is proper to hold it, and after a most gallant defence in several severe attacks, in all of which the enemy have been signally repulsed. Let all continue, during the duties that still remain to be performed, to show that cheerful obedience which has distinguished them as soldiers up to this time.

II. The troops will be paraded at six o'clock this morning for surrender, in line of battle, in the same order as they are now at the breastworks, with the heavy artillery on the right, on the edge of the prairie in the rear of the railroad depot the left extending towards the town of Port Hudson. All officers and men will be in their places under arms.

By order of Major General GARDNER.

Major Mosby.

Editors of the Dispatch:

In reading your correspondent's letter of the 10th inst., of the Army of Northern Virginia, he alludes to Major Mosby in a complimentary manner, in one respect, though he shows great ignorance of him and his character when he alludes to the fear of injuring him by promotion. He does not know that Mosby refused a commission urged upon him to accept for at least eighteen months. He has letters from Gen. Johnston (while in command at Manassas) to the Secretary of War, from Gen. Stuart as well as Gen. Lee to the President, for great services rendered, all of which he has, in his modesty, declined to deliver, preferring, in his loyalty, to work on in his hazardous, adventurous way against the Yankees, in whose lines he has lived and moved since the war, in which he entered as a private, receiving no pay. And not until lately has he accepted a commission, suggested by Gen. Stuart, (his friend, upon whose staff he served as a volunteer scout,) arguing thus he could do more service in his way by a separate and larger command, which had not been over twenty-five or thirty in his various and hundred raids.

It is with due respect and great love of his character I make these remarks to you about Mosby, whom I have known as a boy, lawyer, and a noble soldier, thinking of nothing but serving his country.

There are few Mosby's in this war.

Yours, truly, G. S. P.

The Price of Wood.

To the Editors of the Dispatch:

In your paper of this date you (no doubt unintentionally) do great injustice to the wood dealers of this city, or at least to myself as one of them. You state as a fact, from unquestionable authority, that wood is put on the boats in the canal at a "total cost of $9.50 per cord," and that it is sold at the basin for $35 per cord, thus leaving the impression on the public mind that the dealers (I being one of them,) realize a profit of $25.50 per cord. If this was so you ought to have marked the passage with twenty instead of three points of admiration. What it costs a farmer or wood chopper to put wood on the canal boats I do not know, but presume it cost twice $9.50 from the fact that I have an advertisement in your paper of this date offering to pay $16 per cord to haul wood six miles from town to my office on the basin bank, and have not yet had one offer to do so, although the advertisement has been in the paper one week. Another *fact* is that I pay from $27 to $28 per cord for oak wood at my yard on the basin bank, pay $4 to haul it out, 87½ cents per cord tax to the C S Government, 35 cents to the State, in all $33.22½, whilst I see the same delivered to customers as $34, leaving to me only 78 cents per cord profit to pay yard rent, ($400.) clerk's hire, and to support a large family. If this is extortion, then the Devil help others, for I am sure God will not.

Richmond, August 12th, 1863.

HOW THEY VOTE IN FRANCE.—A correspondent of the London *Examiner* visited the voting polls in Paris during the recent elections, and reports that "nothing can be more orderly and tranquil than the proceedings." He gives an interesting description of the manner in which the details of a French election are conducted:

A police officer is stationed at the entrance of the hall of voting, who merely inquires whether you are an elector. As a stranger, I was invited by the Mayor, with my companion, to witness what was going on. The Mayor presided over the table, on which was placed the ballot-box. Every elector had at the door separate tickets given him, on which were printed the names of the candidates. Each ticket resembled the others, so that when folded it was utterly impossible to distinguish the name of the person voted for. The elector presented a document printed on green paper, containing his name, quality, place of abode, and certificate of registration. The name having been called out, the scrutineers, of whom there were four, examined the electoral lists, and on ascertaining that the name was found there the elector delivered his folded ticket to the President, by whom it was dropped into the box. Voting always takes place on a Sunday, for the convenience of the laboring classes, and on the following Monday. If any question of identity arise, two known inhabitants of the district are allowed to identify the individual who comes forward to vote. At four o'clock the ballot box is sealed; that of yesterday was courteously put into our hands. We found that the great proportion of the electors vote on the second day, as an additional security against any tampering with the ballot box. There were at no time more than four or five electors in the room, and no one was detained a minute after his certificate or registration was found to agree with the official lists.

DEATH OF THE FATHER OF HOMŒPATHY.—The death of Count S. G. S. M. Del Guidi is reported at Lyons. The Count was in his ninety-fourth year, and was the father of homœpathy, having in 1828 converted Hahnemann from allopathy. Count Del Guidi had previously been a Neapolitan conspirator against Queen Caroline, (in 1799,) a prisoner, exile, professor of mathematics, inspector of the University of Grenoble, a doctor of medicine, and finally of anti-medicine, and he died a chevalier of the Legion of Honor.—*Galignani.*

FOREIGN CONSUL'S MODE OF SENDING DISPATCHES.—The British ship of war Plover arrived off Charleston, S. C., on the 4th inst., with dispatches for the British Consul at that port. She was detained for Fortress Monroe. Mr. H. P. Walker, the British acting Consul there, having important dispatches to forward to his Government, acting in conformity with the regulation prescribed by the President of the Confederate States forbidding the transmission of dispatches through the enemy's lines, made a requisition for a change of destination, and in consequence the Plover has sailed for Halifax, N. S.

MAJOR GENERAL STEPHEN D. LEE, recently promoted for gallantry and efficiency as Brigadier during the siege of Vicksburg, has been exchanged as prisoner, and ordered to take command of the cavalry of the Southwestern army.

Secretary Stanton boasted some time since in this wise: "If a single regiment of Lee's army gets back into Virginia in an organized condition, it will prove that I am totally unfit to be Secretary of War." Lee having crossed his army into Virginia, some of the Northern papers are calling upon the self-sufficient gentleman to resign.

Richmond Dispatch.

LOCAL MATTERS.

Stabbing Affray.—Yesterday afternoon about 4 o'clock, on 5th street, between Broad and Cary, Thomas Burns, of Richmond, was seriously stabbed by Peter Raynor. It appears that Raynor was in a grocery store and chased Burns into an adjoining restaurants, and pursued him outside. Burns fell to the pavement, and after wiping the blood from his face, he went on through the alley to Franklin street, cape. Burns was taken in a hack to his lodging-house, on Franklin street. His wounds are quite serious. The parties had had several rencontres before this one.

Horse Stealing.—William H. Curtis, a resident of Chesterfield, charged with stealing a horse, last Friday night, from John A. Bonsmell, was before the Mayor yesterday for examination. Bonsmell stated that he tied his horse to a tree on Franklin street, and went into a house on business. After being there a short time he found that his horse had been taken away. The next day Mr. Bonsmell found his horse in Hand's stable, where he had been sent by Whitfield & Burns. Hand claimed the animal, when Burns came in and at the same time accused the