Richmond Dispatch.

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SATURDAY MORNING....AUG. 15 1863.

DAILY DISPATCH.

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From the North.

The last Northern news, in our paper today, gives another chapter of the epistolary contest between Governor Seymour, of New York, and President Lincoln. The former is a little more bold, while the latter is still firm and determined in pushing on the draft. What the Governor will do now remains to be seen. The papers speak of "great excitement," and a "State Rights" party is announced as having been formed in Gotham. Lincoln has the strong side of the argument, namely: The men and the arms, and appears to be firm and defiant. If both sides stand fast a collision must take place. But there will more than likely be some backing out.

The news from California is a little interesting. Trouble is brewing there it appears. Secession has begun to show itself a little. Well, without anticipating any particular movement among the people of the Federal States, or counting upon any great disturbance there in so especially short time, it is certain that there are enough of the elements of discord to produce at any moment a very great convulsion. Nothing can prevent it but the strong arm of military power, and even that may be insufficient. One good Southern victory would very much diminish the respect and fear in which it is held by the nation.

Bombshells and Aristocracy.

We see it stated that Admiral Porter, during the bombardment of Vicksburg, availed himself of the agency of bombshells to transmit a large number of handbills inside, addressed to the private soldiers of Vicksburg, endeavoring to excite their prejudices against their officers as aristocrats, who would get all the glory while they did all the fighting, and who would never permit their names to be given to the world, no matter how great their valor and self sacrifice.

We had supposed that Admiral Porter was an honest fighting sailor, and not a dirty demagogue; but it seems we were mistaken. We should like to know if he ever heard of an army or a navy in which it was possible to publish all the names of the rank and file, and if so, why he, the aforesaid *Admiral* has never published the names of the sailors under his command, or Grant those of the rank and file of his army? He must think the soldiers of the South are dolts and idiots. He don't know the men he is fighting against. They are not mercenaries and agrarians, but patriots, and many of them persons of education and wealth, who had a higher motive for taking up arms than to get their names in the newspapers. They took up arms to deliver their country, not for glory and emolument. As to aristocracy, we have yet to see the country where an aristocracy does not exist, and the only question is what it shall consist of—men endowed by the Creator with qualities which fit them to become leaders of society, or whether they shall be a vulgar pinchbeck imitation of good society. Nowhere is there a more tyrannical and heartless aristocracy than that of the North, and, as to their officers, the men have often complained of the contrast which their brutal tyranny presents to the gentlemanlike conduct of Southern officers to soldiers. No great merit is due Southern officers for this, for many of the privates are gentlemen by birth and station as much as their officers, and all are held in as high esteem by their country. All are engaged in the same holy cause, and if either class as a class have won superior honors, it is the privates, because they have no conceivable motive but patriotism to govern their conduct.

The reproach of aristocracy is an old one against the South; but it comes with a poor grace from the stiff and starched upstarts of Yankee society. The gentlemen and ladies of the South, like true gentlemen and ladies everywhere, are kind and unpretending in their manner to all, and not afraid of compromising their dignity by courteous treatment of all classes. The Northern aristocrat, on the other hand, can be told a mile off by his stiff and icy demeanor, and his ridiculous attempts to be lofty and exclusive. Such people cannot generally go back many generations without stumbling over some of those mechanical callings which he professes to hold in such supreme contempt. From such aristocrats may the South long be delivered! Admiral Porter will have to send a good many more handbills before he can undermine the confidence which our rank and file have in their officers and the respect which they have for themselves.

DREADFUL ACCIDENT IN PETERSBURG.—On Thursday night last Mr. Wm. F. Johnson, of Richmond, formerly of the firm of Dudley & Johnson, was most seriously injured by falling from the fourth story window of the Bollingbrook Hotel in Petersburg. He had fallen asleep while sitting in the window and fell out while in that state. One of his legs was broken above the knee, and the bones of the knee itself were very much broken. His under jaw was also broken, and an orifice cut through between the chin and throat. He was besides very much bruised bodily. His situation yesterday was one of great suffering and very critical.

THE COURT OF INQUIRY ON THE SOUTHWESTERN CAMPAIGN.—The Court of Inquiry to investigate the capitulation of Vicksburg and Port Hudson, and the campaigns attending those events, meets to day at Montgomery, Ala. It is composed of Maj. Gen. R. Ransom, of North Carolina; Brig. Gen. Howell Cobb, and Brig. Gen. John Echols—Maj. W. S. Barton, Judge Advocate.

REPORTED RESIGNATION OF GEN. PRICE.—Col. Thornton, of Mississippi, who has just arrived at Columbia, S. C., from Arkansas, pronounces the story of Maj. Gen. Sterling Price's resignation untrue. Gen. Price, when he left Arkansas, was on White river with his division.

A FAIR ESTIMATE.—The Yankee newspapers continue to be as complimentary to each other as before the war. The Philadelphia *North American*, in speaking of the inhabitants of New York city, has a fair estimate of the people of Gotham. It says that it has not less than one hundred thousand outlaws, divided thus:

Women of the town	20,000
Thieves	30,000
Outlaws of all other kinds	10,000
Adventurers ready for any chance wind	25,000
Persons without any means of getting a living	15,000

Or perhaps they might be divided in the following manner:

Refuse of Europe	70,000
Sweepings of the free States	20,000
Driftwood from the South	5,000
Original products of New York vice and crime	5,000

We should judge that this, coming from a Yankee source, can be taken as a fair estimate of the population of New York. Will not Bennett inform us how many vagabonds are in Philadelphia?

ARMY NEWS.

Yesterday was a day devoid of interest so far as news from the army is concerned. Parties direct from the army represent matters as continuing quiet, with no apparent prospect of an early change.

By arrivals from Staunton we have a repetition of the statement that the Yankees have left the Valley, and that that region is now open to the Potomac. The inference is that their forces which a short time back menaced Winchester have been withdrawn to the Eastern side of the mountains to swell the columns of Meade.

In the neighborhood of Fredericksburg all is quiet, the pickets of the enemy being some miles distant on the Stafford side of the river.

FROM THE TRANS-MISSISSIPPI—SPECULATIONS ABOUT GRANT'S ARMY.

A letter from Little Rock, Arkansas, to the Atlanta *Appeal*, dated July 19th, gives much interesting information relative to the condition of things beyond the Mississippi. The people of that section, it seems, are running a four-State power Confederacy on their "own hook," and hope to be able to continue in well doing, notwithstanding the interruption of communication across the river. The statements contained in the letter crush out the fallacious notion that the backbone of the rebellion is broken when the Confederacy is bisected. There is a genus of creatures which are not destroyed, but multiplied, by being cut in twain. The letter says:

Although Vicksburg has fallen, and communication between this section and the States east of the Mississippi is difficult, and all transmission of materials of war is out of the question for the future, we are not as those without hope. Gen. E. K. Smith possesses the entire confidence of the people and army. It is most fortunate for the country that so able and proper a man should be in command here at such a juncture. He has taken steps to learn the whole resources of the country—mineral, agricultural, and manufacturing. Lead mines are being worked in a safe interior district, foundries established, the nitre bureau is in active operation—in short, all is being done that a wise forecast could suggest in an exigency such as is upon us, and which, unfortunately, has been neglected until now. He has called the Governors of the four States of his department to meet him with the several Judges of Supreme Courts in conference, on the 15th proximo, when it is hoped all that the changed circumstances require will be done to defend and redeem our country.

The crops are made, and are more bountiful than were ever before known. Ample for three years has been made. So, you will observe that we don't think it is "going to be much of a shower after all."

Military operations in Louisiana recently have been most important. Official information of the capture of large numbers of small arms has been received here, which is the most important thing that could have occurred to us.

The battle of Helena was unfortunate, resulting in heavy loss to us. The attempt to take that point, when another would have been equally as good, is thought to have been a blunder. However this may have been, the movement originated in the necessity felt for the relief of Vicksburg. The place, as the event shows, could not have been held, and we have, therefore, only to regret the loss of men incurred. Gen. Price maintained his ancient renown, and all our troops behaved well. Brigadier-Generals Parsons and Fagan won new laurels, and Gen. Holmes has the credit for much gallantry on the field. The loss will be repaired as speedily as possible, and all things put in readiness for further operations.

The news from Missouri is that the people remain true to the Southern cause, only awaiting an opportunity to rise against the invaders. Gov. Reynolds, of that State, is here, doing whatever is in his power to further the interests of the Confederate cause in and out of the State. Everything referring to Missourians, or affecting their interests receives his attention. All claims for service are being audited and liquidated as rapidly as possible, and the machinery of the State Government prepared for an economical and just administration.

Another letter from the same place has some interesting speculations about Grant's army. It says:

Let us suppose that Grant's forces, all told, including the reinforcements he may have received from the time he landed at Grand Gulf to his return to Vicksburg after the fall of Jackson, numbered 120,000 men. Of these he lost in battle—killed, wounded, and prisoners, thirty five thousand men, fifteen thousand more are in hospitals, sick or convalescent, and thirty thousand furloughed, including stragglers and deserters. This would show an actual deficit of thirty-five thousand, and an aggregate deficit of eighty thousand men now in his army—leaving remaining forty thousand men now on duty properly belonging to Grant's army. Of these probably not more than fifteen thousand will constitute the permanent garrison at Vicksburg, to be reduced to ten thousand or less, when the growing strength of the defences of that place will warrant the reduction. What, then, becomes of the remaining twenty five thousand men left after the garrison has been supplied? It is more than probable they have gone, with Grant at their head, to reinforce Meade in Virginia, to accomplish the destruction, if possible, of that magnificent army of General Lee, whose destruction the Yankees so fondly think would accomplish the subjugation of the South.

They are not prepared just now to attack Mobile, although, of course, it is in their programme; but they look first to the result in Virginia, and to the capture of Charleston, when the monitors now thundering at battery Wagner will salute the Gulf city from the ocean, and the army now gone to the assistance of Meade will attack it in the rear. This seems, from the stand point we occupy here, and from the limited data in our possession, to be a reasonable, if not a logical, deduction. But the field is open for speculation, and time alone can determine the accuracy of our conclusions. The premises are frequently so false in war that the conclusion is often necessarily wide of the mark. We might take another view of the case, and say that Grant had not given furloughs generally to his men, the rumored promises of his that he would do so when Vicksburg fell into his hands to the contrary notwithstanding; that he is recruiting the health and strength of his army every day by the arrivals of convalescents and the return of those absent on furlough, and that 35,000 men actually lost, and 15,000 in hospitals, make a total of 50,000 men, will cover the breach made in his army, leaving 70,000 men to be hurled, when he sees an opportunity, against Mobile, or against whose manœuvres and machinations this army and the country will have to provide. Perhaps this is the better view of the case, but I incline to the other. In any event we should keep our lamps trimmed and burning. Now, above all other times, the Jeffersonian motto should ever be before our eyes—"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

A letter from Brandon, (ds Mississippi,) dated the 6th inst., says:

A new leader has leaped into the arena in West Louisiana. Mat. F. Johnston, the youngest brother of the family of which Col. Johnston, of the 2d Kentucky, is the eldest, is at work. The father dying, and his brothers being all in the war, young Mat. remained at home to manage an immense estate. When the Yankees came and took possession of some fine plantations, with the hands, and established the apprenticeship system, young Johnston pretended patience and submission. He cultivated the confidence of the privates and the friendship of the officers. When the proper time came he burned their depots and houses, his own houses and those of his family, and ran off the apprentices, together with five hundred mules and horses.

A second incursion culminated two weeks ago. Dent was captured, chambered with a likely servant of the family. The unhappy brother-in-law of Grant overheard conversations. Was he to be lost in the swamp? Was he to be hung by the roadside as a terror to succeeding farmers of apprentices? Would it not be better that he should depart gradually under judicious insertions of the bowie-knife? The terror stricken Dent was on his knees to Johnston, who feared he could not control his men, but advised him to remain as near him as possible. Dent is safe at Alexandria.

Advices from Holly Springs, of Aug. 2d, state that the country in that vicinity is at present enjoying a calm from the troubles of war. No Yankees have visited the vicinity within the last six weeks, and there has been no necessity for the presence of any Confederate troops. Such crops as were put in promise bountifully. Provisions and goods are plenty and cheap. The currency of the country is an admixture of Confederate, cotton, railroad, and greenback rates, all of which pass on an equality.

LATEST FROM THE NORTH.

More Correspondence Between Seymour and Lincoln—Trouble Anticipated in New York—Difficulties in California.

We have received from Maj. Norris, through the Agent of the Press Association, the following extracts from the Baltimore *Gazette*, of Thursday last, the 13th instant:

The Draft in New York—Another Letter from Governor Seymour—Lincoln Persists in His Resolution to Draft.

The response of Gov. Seymour, of New York, to the reply of President Lincoln declining to suspend the draft, is distinguished from his previous letter not less by its brevity than by the greater boldness of its tone. Regarding the draft as fraudulent, Gov. Seymour expresses his regret at the determination of President Lincoln to enforce it.

He endorses the report of Judge Advocate Waterbury in evidence of the injustice of the enrollment in certain districts, and cites the fact that in nine *Democratic* districts the number of conscripts called for is 32,729, while in nineteen *Republican* districts the number called for is only 39,326. In the nine districts the population within the prescribed age was, by the census of 1860, 164,797—the total vote being but 151,246. In the nineteen districts, out of a population within the prescribed age of 267,786, and a voting population of 457,257, only 39,626 conscripts are demanded. Under such circumstances, Gov. Seymour remarks: "You cannot and will not fail to right these gross wrongs."

In another part of the letter, in answer to the President's remark that "the enemy is driving every able-bodied man he can reach into the ranks, as a butcher drives bullocks into a slaughter pen," he says: "You will agree with me that even this, if impartiality is done to all classes, is more tolerable than any scheme which shall fraudulently force a portion of the community into the military service by a *dishonest perversion of the law*."

President Lincoln replies that the drawing will be made upon the quota as now fixed in the districts in which the draft has already been completed. In the other districts a new enrollment is to take place in the manner stated in the letter of the 7th inst., and the same principle is to be applied to the outstanding districts when they come in. He explicitly desires it to be understood that no part of his former letter is repudiated by reason of not being restated in this, or for any other cause. The draft, therefore, is to be pushed forward to completion at once in spite of Gov. Seymour's remonstrances, and no suspension of it is allowed for the purpose of testing the constitutionality of the act.

The New York *Daily News* says that "the recent edict promulgated by President Lincoln in his communication to Gov. Seymour has created the most intense excitement in this community, who considered they were living under a democratic form of Government. The dictatorial spirit in which the President refuses to concede to the justice of Gov. Seymour's request to have the draft suspended until its constitutionality can be tested by the courts, has fallen like a bombshell among the conservative men of the city.

The same paper states that about 15,000 Federal troops are now in and around the city, composed chiefly of regiments from the New England States, whose Abolition sentiments are such as to make them perfectly reliable to carry out the radical policy of the Administration. "It is evident that stirring events are close at hand. The public mind is intensely agitated at the threatening aspect of affairs, and if the draft is commenced again in violation of the protest of Gov. Seymour, *a revolution is inevitable*."

The Army of the Potomac—Mosby's Raids.

There is nothing of importance from the Army of the Potomac, nor do we know when the latter will commence to "change its base," as it has been rumored at Washington it will do shortly.

Mosby's incursions do not appear to have received any serious check. He still continues his depredations on the line of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad; makes frequent captures of enterprising sutlers, who have suffered heavy pecuniary loss at his hands, and last week captured Lieut.-Col. Sanderson, Chief Commissary of the 1st corps, with a large amount of Government funds in his possession.

The Army of the Potomac is said to be suffering terribly from the heat.

Trouble in California.

Serious troubles have occurred in California. The State is represented as full of rumors of a contemplated rising of secessionists, and the public mind is said to be quite uneasy on the subject. On the 6th inst an affray occurred at Visalia, in Tuallare county, between some persons who are said to be secessionists and a party of soldiers, in which five of the latter were killed and several of the former wounded. At Visalia great excitement prevailed, and further trouble was anticipated.

The Fight at Falling Waters.

Gen. Meade, in an official dispatch to Gen. Halleck, asserts the accuracy of his dispatch announcing the result of the cavalry affair at Falling Waters. He says:

I enclose the official report of Brig. Gen. Kilpatrick, made after his attention had been called to Gen Lee's report. You will see that he reiterates and confirms all that my dispatch averred, and proves most conclusively that Gen Lee has been deceived by his subordinates, or he would never, in the face of the facts now alleged, have made the assertions his report contains.

Gen. Meade adds that he was in error in stating that the body of Gen. Pettigrew was left in the hands of the Federals, but claims that three flags captured on the occasion, belonging to the 40th, 47th, and 55th Virginia regiments of infantry, have been sent to Washington.

Miscellaneous.

Brigadier-General Gouverneur K. Warren, Chief of Topographical Engineers, has been promoted to a Major-Generalship, and is spoken of as the choice of the Army of the Potomac as Meade's successor.

Col. Cornyn, of the 19th Missouri cavalry, whose recent raids in the Southwest have made him well known to the public, has been killed at Corinth by Lieut.-Col. Brown, of the same regiment.

The steamer Kate, recently captured while attempting to run the blockade from Wilmington, has arrived at Fortress Monroe.

The draft excitement in Keokuk county, Iowa, has subsided. Upon the arrival of the military from Davenport, the insurgents dispersed.

Nana Sahib has been captured in the Temple of Ajmere, on information supplied by the Bombay police. According to the official report, no doubt whatever exists of the prisoner's identity.

A States Rights Association has been organized in the city of New York. They have issued a "declaration of principles," copied chiefly from the Constitution and statutes of the State.

In New York, Wednesday, gold was quoted at 124¼ Tennessee sixes 66, Virginia do. 60¾, North Carolina 66, Missouri's 70¼.

NOT DEAD.—Lieut.-Col. H. A. Carrington, of the 18th Virginia, who was reported killed at Gettysburg, is a prisoner at Johnson's Island, and is rapidly recovering from his wound received at the battle named.

DOG MEAT.—A correspondent of an Atlanta journal, now at Savannah, hears that a market man in that place is now in confinement for offering a skinned dog in the market as mutton.

THE SIEGE OF CHARLESTON.

The Prospects for Its Reduction—Fort Sumter in a Damaged Condition—Gen. Gilmore's Designs—A View from a Monitor's Turret, &c., &c.

The only point upon which public attention in the United and Confederate States is chiefly directed is the line of works defending the city of Charleston. This concentrated interest arises chiefly from the fact that not a gun is to be heard in any other quarter of the Confederacy, and even a daily bombardment, though doing little damage to either party, is something by which the attention may be fixed in the present dearth of events. From our files of the latest Northern papers we make up an interesting account given by Yankee correspondents of the "progress of the siege"—if it may be said to be progressing at all. A letter in the Baltimore *American*, dated off Charleston, July 30th, says:

What are the Prospects?

In conversation with some of the officers from the Wabash, I find a very general confidence prevailing that within the next ten days the fall of Sumter would be consummated and that Charleston must soon after succumb.—They report everything as progressing satisfactorily, and the fall of Fort Wagner as one of the events of the next few days. The constant bombardment now progressing is, I learn, mainly to conceal the erection, by Gen. Gilmore, of a masked battery within five hundred yards of Fort Wagner, and also to protect his troops in the operation. This new battery was expected to be ready to open on the enemy to-morrow, and its advent will be a grand fusillade from the monitors and the ironsides. Fort Wagner is already a sightless mass of sand, and with the boring shell of Gen. Gilmore a strong effort will be made to penetrate its magazine and put a summary end to the vile concern.

Fort Sumter.

It is the general impression on all hands here that the rebels have evacuated all the casemates of Sumter, and intend to depend on her parapet guns entirely in the approaching assault. It is even said that her entire casemates are filled with sand bags, and that all her best guns have been crowded to the parapets. If this is so it indicates that even the unsuccessful assault of April last must have been so terrible that there is an unwillingness to risk the fate of the fort to another square assault from the monitors.

The Naval Battery.

The naval battery, which is under the command of Capt. Foxhill A. Parker, of the Wabash, to be manned by about three hundred blue jackets, will not be ready to open on the enemy probably for a week to come, and until it is finished nothing decisive may be looked for. We will have our daily bombardment—the monitors will go up before dinner, after dinner, and after tea, in squads of two or three, regularly relieved by the Ironsides, keeping the enemy closely packed away in his "rat holes" night and day during the sultry weather, giving him no opportunity to cook, or eat, or sleep, with any degree of comfort. The sailor boys are confident of success when they are ready, and will dash in with their usual vim.

The Rebel Works.

Wagner responds and will continue to respond with an occasional gun. Sumter about once in ten minutes throws a heavy rifle shot at the impenetrable armor of our iron clads, or hurls a shell in the direction of the land battery, and occasionally there is a report coming from the direction of James Island, showing that Gen Gilmore is keeping close watch and ward over any flanking movements that may be attempted by the enemy. He is also assisted in this work by some of the smaller gunboats, and all seems progressing well in that direction at last accounts.

As to the fall of Sumter soon after the fall of Wagner, no one seems to have the least doubt. Fort Wagner is undoubtedly the key of Charleston, as evinced by the indomitable defence made by the enemy with such terrible loss. There probably never was a fortification besieged with such frightful sacrifice of life to the besiegers as has been the case at Fort Wagner, and from the preparations making there is no doubt that bloodier times are yet in store for them.

The Providence *Journal* has a letter dated on board the iron clad Montauk, off Charleston, July 27, from which we make some extracts:

The Strength of Earthworks.

The land batteries are daily continuing their practice upon Wagner, and it is almost impossible to tell of the results. Doubtless not much beyond harassing the enemy is accomplished, for the great sides of Wagner can receive many 30 pounders, and even 11 and 15 inch shot and shell, without being rendered useless. This war has certainly developed one fact which cannot fail to be of infinite importance hereafter.

It is the effectiveness of earth and sand batteries. A well constructed earthwork, with proper and sufficient ordnance, and well manned, can scarcely be taken. It seems, in fact, that the shot and shell thrown into it serve only to make it stronger, and if the fire be not incessant at night the men can repair the damage of the day, and such a work may hold out almost any time. I do not think there is a permanent fortification in the world which could have stood the fire to which Wagner was subjected on the 18th day of July.

The Iron-Clads at Work.

Friday morning, the 24th, was another fine clear, mild morning. At 3½ o'clock all hands were called, and immediately we got under way. The attack was to be more general than usual, and the day's work was early commenced.

In the following order we proceeded up the channel: Weehawken, Ironsides, Montauk, Nantucket, Patapsco, and Catskill. At 5:32 A. M. the Montauk opened the engagement with a 11 inch shell, which fell on the extreme right of the fort. At the same time the batteries on shore opened the fire, and soon the conflict became general. The Montauk was lying not more than 900 yards from Wagner, the Ironsides 1,000 yards, and the other iron clads about 1,200 or 1,300 yards distant. At 6 o'clock a new feature in the fighting here took place, being nothing less than a shot from Moultrie.

Old Moultrie has been silent since we appeared off Charleston till now. But I presume the fealty to secession could not be restrained, and the occupants of Moultrie were anxious to show their desire to contribute their part toward driving away the Yankees. But their shot fell half a mile short, and they only tried it once more. Sumter, however, always ready, gave us some excellent shots, and continued to fire until the affair was over. Hardly a repetition of the fight of the 18th, yet it was a hotly contested engagement and a magnificent sight. But Wagner fired only once, and then during the remainder of the day was silent. We could not see a soul in the work, and it seemed almost deserted. But from Sumter and Gregg the shots came thick and fast.

The firing from the land batteries of Gen. Gilmore and the iron clads was excellent, and the big shells which tore their way through parapet and casemate and burst inside, threw up such great masses of dust and sand and earth that it seemed as though a volcano must be belching forth its black contents of its subterranean recesses.

The great hull of the Ironsides lay a splendid mark for their guns, but its sides were not scathed by a single shell. The firing from the Ironsides was beautiful, as it always has been. The report of the guns of its powerful broadside rent the air, the shot one after another tore through the sides of Wagner, while the thick, blue veil of smoke, which rose and floated away over the vessel, almost enveloping the black hull from view, formed a picture the magnificence of which one could not help estimating and appreciating even in the midst of battle.

New Rebel Works.

During the engagement we discovered a new sight which the few preceding days had created. Nothing less than two strong looking batteries on James Island, away over beyond the low land of Morris Island, and in the rear of Fort Johnson by a mile or more. They had already assumed formidable proportions, and the men in groups were working upon them with the greatest haste. They are, of course, for the purpose of flanking Wagner in the event of its being captured, and may, indeed, prove ugly customers. In a few days we expect to see the shot issuing from them.

Gilmore Pushing On.

Certainly Gen. Gilmore is a persevering and industrious man. The fortifications which he is throwing up in his advanced position are already extensive, and assume even a formidable appearance. Even now they rival Wagner, and although not consisting of such a mass of earth as Wagner, yet I do not doubt they are equally strong, or at least nearly so. The morning shows the increase which the night has wrought.

His men are placing guns in position, and all the work necessary to make his fortifications strong, and offensive or defensive, is rapidly going on. A few days more must witness a bombardment from these works, which are now quiet.

More Fighting.

Wednesday morning the Montauk moved once more into position off Wagner, and within 1,100 yards of it. The Catskill immediately followed and came into position about the same distance off. We could see but one gun upon Wagner, and this one the 10-inch gun from which we have heretofore received so much attention.

Prompt in its old business, it again greeted us this morning with a shot which came sufficiently near for quite a minute examination of its size and exterior. It passed over the turret and fell into the sea a hundred feet beyond us, throwing up a column of water high into the air. With an occasional shot at the Catskill we received most of its attention during the morning's work. Fort Gregg fired all the morning at the Catskill, and made some excellent practice.

This fort being as far again from the ironclads as Fort Wagner, and situated upon the low lands of Cummings Point, fires at some disadvantage, yet the shots have been excellent during the week past, in which time it has scarcely been silent during the day. Fort Gregg is a small work compared with Wagner, and yet it is a strong one. It is the old original Cummings Point battery, strengthened and somewhat increased. Its sloping sides, covered with green turf, remind us of Wagner before loyal shot and shell had torn and burned it, and transformed its fine proportions into an almost shapeless mass.

Steadily we fired into Wagner till its guns were still and no living object was in view. Our half-barrels of grape had swept the fort, and gunners and sharpshooters were both invisible. Within a few days a new feature has shown itself in the firing from Wagner, it being nothing less than sharpshooters hidden behind the parapet in the casemates, and waiting to pick off any who may be seen upon the iron-clads.

The rifle barrels glisten upon the top of the parapet, and the little faint puff of smoke which issues from the rifles' muzzles and floats away tells us to look out, and, as we step behind the turret or pilot-house, the leaden messenger flies over or beside us, singing on its way, and chucks into the water near by. The firing is over, and from our excellent position we take a long look at the Secessio Babylonic city and its surroundings. Sumter is firing, but we heed it not.

A View from a Monitor's Turret.

On our right is the deserted summer resort, the Moultrie House. Close by it, Fort Moultrie, with the two blockade running wrecks, the Isaac P. Smith and the Minho, ashore on the beach before it. A little further to the left is quiet Moultrieville, and a little beyond it, toward the city, the beautiful green parapet and traverses of Battery Bee. Sumter now blocks the view. Above its frowning wall the "stars and bars" have given way to the new flag.

On the eastern face the line of new mason work from parapet to base, and which was repaired after the injury from the iron clads in April last, is distinctly marked. The middle line of ports into which we looked and saw them load and fire is now filled up, and the lower tier of ports only is used. The line of cotton bales which last week hung over its walls is gone. The flash of their own guns set them on fire, and they were cut down.—Most of the cotton was saved, and is piled up behind Sumter, while some of it came floating down by us.

The rear of the fort has been to an extent protected by masses of stone and brick work on each corner. As you look, almost close to Fort Sumter and under it is Fort Gregg.—Nearer to us and immediately in front is Wagner, with its sides, though bearing some appearance of shape, yet torn and ragged. Over the low land of Morris Island, and on James Island beyond, are the two batteries which the hands of treason have recently built.

A little farther beyond and to the right is Fort Johnson, and to the right of that opens the harbor and city. The yellow walls of Castle Pinckney form a prominent object over the smooth surface of the water. A little to the left of Pinckney is the iron clad middle ground battery, Fort Ripley, and I imagine it is not more comfortable below than the rebel prize Atlanta, for I see upon the top of it the white tents in which the officers and men probably live.

A little beyond and to the left is the city.—The green trees upon the battery look beautiful and inviting, and from under their sheltering foliage many of the fair residents of Charleston looked out upon the fight, praying in their hearts—anxious and palpitating hearts, let us hope—that the contemptible Yankees and their iron ships might never survive the terrible storm of shot and shell which rained so mercilessly upon them.

The streets, the houses, the churches, and spires of the city, are in plain view. Near to, and almost in range of Christ Church spire, a tall tower and look-out is rapidly going up.—The blockade runners are lying quietly at the wharves. We can see neither of the ironclads, and, undoubtedly, they are trying to make a move in another direction to divert our attention from the fortifications. Away to the left on Morris Island busy hands are at work making strong the defences of the Union, loyalty, and good Government. It is an interesting picture.

Hardly a spot within the line of vision but what is familiar to our eyes, and yet destined to become in the swiftly-advancing days more memorable. The foot of the Government is firmly planted on this "sacred soil." Only a few steps forward, and the birthplace of treason is under its heel. The steps may be taken, slowly perhaps, but surely. We may witness repulses at first, but they shall be turned into successes.

The contest will be fierce, but will end in victory at last. Let us watch without criticising, and wait without murmuring. The stake is too great to admit a false move, the prize is too dear to fail from our grasp. With the fall of Charleston we may surely look, and soon, for the last expiring breath of the rebellion.

THE NEW GOVERNOR OF ALABAMA.—The Savannah *Republican* has the following paragraph relative to Hon. Thos. H. Watts, the present C. S. Attorney General, who has been elected Governor of Alabama:

Mr. Watts has been for many years at the head of the Montgomery bar. Early in the present struggle he buckled on his armor and was chosen to the command of an Alabama regiment; whilst discharging his military duties on the field he was chosen by President Davis to a post in his Cabinet—that of his legal adviser, or Attorney General of the Confederate States—whose duties he has discharged with signal ability and promptness up to the present time. He is a genuine patriot, and for fighting this war out, at every cost, to complete independence. Both Alabama and the country may safely trust him in his new position.

COUNTERFEIT $100 BILLS.—A gentleman in Mobile has shown the editor of the *Tribune* a new counterfeit Confederate note. It is of the denomination of $100, and one of the two cents a day interest bearing notes, "J. T. Patterson, Columbia," engraver. The date is July 4, 1862. It is pretty well got up, but the signatures are all lithographed so neatly, however, that their fraudulent character can only be discovered by inspection. The ragged nature of the lines expose the fraud. We suppose, from this last fact, that this is Yankee work, and that the stuff is sold so cheaply that the rascals who vend it could not afford to sign the names in ink. One account says that the Yankees at Vicksburg were loaded with spurious Confederate bills. This one probably came from them.

COMING IN.—Quite a number of young men, citizens of Middle Tennessee, have just reached Chattanooga from the "colonial empire" of A. Lincoln, and have enrolled themselves under the banner of the redoubtable Forrest.

TELEGRAPHIC.

FROM THE SOUTHWEST.

MORTON, August 12.—One of Gen. Kirby Smith's staff officers, who has just arrived here, says that four transports, laden with troops, passed Rodney, going up, on Friday. The troops sent down by Grant were to replace the troops in Banks's army whose term of service had expired.

Gen. Price was at Pine Bluff, Ark.

Gen. Dick Taylor's army was at Berwick's Bay. One of his field batteries struck two transports near Donaldsonville last Tuesday.

Gen. Smith's headquarters were at Shreveport. He has called on the Governors of the Trans-Mississippi States to meet him at Marshall, Texas, on the 15th.

The Governor of Texas has taken the field with 10,000 State troops.

Gen. Magruder's headquarters are at Galveston.

[SECOND DISPATCH.]

MORTON, August 13.—The 46th Texas regiment (cavalry) captured twenty-two Yankees from wagons, eighteen miles the other side of Big Black, yesterday, and brought them safely to this place. They belong to Steele's division, 5th army corps. Their pickets have been withdrawn from this side of the Big Black.

Gen. Dick Taylor had captured thirty-five New York planters, who were planting cotton for the Lincoln Government. They were sent to Texas for safe keeping.

[THIRD DISPATCH.]

MORTON, August 13.—Nothing has been heard from the river lately. The health of the army is improving finely. Only six sick were sent off yesterday. Members are returning from the interior daily. Most of the volunteers have returned to their respective commands. The weather is exceedingly dry and warm.

Capture of a Raiding Party.

ORANGE C. H., Aug. 14.—A gentleman, just arrived from Staunton, reports that some twenty-odd raiders were brought there yesterday, captured within fifteen miles of that place.

LOCAL MATTERS.

Hustings Court.—This Court was in session yesterday, and disposed of the following cases:

John Newman, indicted for exhibiting the game of faro. Case continued till the next term of the Court, and party admitted to bail.

William Steele, indicted for exhibiting faro. Case continued and party admitted to bail.

John Reardon, indicted for stealing two blankets. Tried and acquitted.

Francis Read, indicted for assault and battery. *Nolle prosequi* entered on the payment of costs.

Tobias Pearsall, indicted for selling ardent spirits without a license. Found guilty and fined $60 and costs.

William Kinney, indicted for larceny.—Plead guilty, and sentenced to jail for one week.

James Charles and Henry Shearman, each fined $60 and costs for violating the revenue laws, by selling liquor without a license.

William Taylor, indicted in two cases for unlawful trespass on real estate. Found guilty and fined $75 in the first case and ninety days' imprisonment. In the second case fined $100 and sent to jail for ten days.

The Grand Jury will meet to day, pursuant to adjournment.

Asking Relief.—Judge Meredith has granted a writ of *habeas corpus* to the following free negroes, arrested at Deep Bottom on charge of furnishing information to the Yankee Government, and will give them a hearing to day, or early next week. Their names are William and Sylvia Scott, Wm T. and Margaret James, Wm H. and Elizabeth James, Robert James, Edward George, Shadrack James, Robert and Georgianna Fagan, Billy James, Edward and Sarah Scott, Wm Whiting, Henry Pleasants, Norman Harris, Parthena Holmes, Elizabeth Scott, Walthall James, Joe R. Fagan, Mildred Fagan, Emily Bradley, Keziah Fagan, Wm E. Fagan, Mary W. Green, Marcellus James, and Hester Walker—27 in all.

Great Outrage—The commanders of the packet boats on the canal complain heavily of the gross indecencies practiced near the pumphouse every afternoon by boys and young men, who go there to bathe in the canal. These creatures, not content with exhibiting their nude persons in the most shameful manner to the lady passengers on the boat, actually climb upon the decks, use vulgar and obscene language, and in a few instances have gone so far as to pelt the commander with stones for remonstrating with them. The canal is a public highway, and the boats carry the mails.—If the masters of the boats were to shoot and kill these young outlaws, we incline to the opinion that the shooting would be justifiable. But the law administrators ought to leave the boatmen in such dilemma. A strong police force ought to be placed upon the boats, and they ought to capture and march to prison every young ruffian found bathing in the canal. This could readily be done by proper management, and it is to be hoped that the authorities will abate the nuisance.

Prison Record.—At the Libby yesterday afternoon there were about a dozen Yankees received from Gordonsville, captured along the line of the Rappahannock.

At Castle Thunder there were no new names recorded and very few discharges.

Much Needed.—The demand for small tenements is greater now than it has ever been, and, as no one thinks of building, rents are excessively high. One tenement that rented three years ago for $250, is now held at $1,500, and the present tenant has been repeatedly offered $500 for his key. On the western suburbs we have seen more than one family—probably refugees—living in tents for want of better shelter.

Organize.—The committee to procure members for a cavalry organization in Henrico county will meet at the Court House to day. Every man able to perform duty should be represented on this occasion. If the second class militia do not toe the mark now, they may expect to have the Governor after them with a sharp stick as soon as the Legislature meets.

Old Shells, picked up on battle fields, are dangerous relics to handle. Several of them have been caused to explode and do mischief by the thoughtlessness of persons who seemed to know nothing of the character of these missiles. All such *play things* should be sent to the C. S. Armory, where they would be properly handled and made useful.

Negro Sales—Despite the Lincoln proclamations and the repeated thefts of his hirelings, this species of property continues to advance in value all over the Southern country. On Thursday but a likely negro girl was sold by auction for $4,000. Ordinary men and women readily bring two and three thousand dollars.

Manchester Paper Mill.—This new establishment, so much needed by the entire South, will begin operations next month. The proprietors, with a zeal most commendable, have spared neither labor nor means to erect their new building, and now that it is nearly completed, and the machinery ready for work, they are securing stock and preparing to supply the public demands.

Public Hacks are few in number and generally inferior in appearance, but the drivers of them, catching the spirit of the times, seem to have learned the art of charging to perfection. We heard a gentleman complaining yesterday that he had to pay $10 for riding ten squares; and another, that he was charged $50 for the use of a hack one afternoon.—The increased prices of horse-feed and negro hire is an excuse for raising their charges, but the figures quoted above are rather too severe even for these times.

Bacon is an article very much needed in Richmond, and one that commands a fine price. Along the Blackwater section, in Virginia, and North Carolina, the stock now on hand is said to be large. If it could be brought to this market at once it would relieve the pressure soon to be felt, and pay the sellers a handsome per cent.

Police Items were few and far between yesterday. The Mayor had two negroes and a white boy before him for trivial offences, and readily disposed of them.

RUNAWAYS.

RUNAWAY—$60 REWARD.—Left home on the 9th inst, my negro woman JANE, dark brown color, long hair, about 5 feet 6 inches high, slightly, and spea