Richmond Dispatch.

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DAILY DISPATCH.

VOL. XXV. RICHMOND, VA., MONDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 9, 1863. NO. 109.

MONDAY MORNING.....NOVEMBER 9, 1863.

ADVANCE OF THE ENEMY IN FORCE—FIGHT NEAR BRANDY.

On Saturday Gen. Meade commenced an advance in force. About 12 o'clock our force, variously stated at from two to four brigades, stationed beyond Brandy Station, was attacked by an overwhelming force of the enemy and a desperate fight ensued. It is certain that Hays's (Louisiana) and Hoke's (North Carolina) brigades constituted a portion, if not all, of our force. After a hot fight nearly all of these brigades, except, it is said, about 600, were captured by the enemy, who had managed to surround them.—The force of the Yankees was estimated at from 10,000 to 15,000. They also crossed in force at Kelley's Ford. We lost four pieces of artillery. We have a report by the Central cars that Gen. Hoke was severely wounded.

An officer who came down yesterday says that the two brigades—Hays's and Hoke's—did not lose more than 600 men in the affair, all the rest escaping.

It is evident that the Army of Northern Virginia is on the eve of a great battle.—Whether Gen. Lee will fight Meade on the Rappahannock or Rapidan is not certain; but it is most likely that he will give battle at the latter point. This advance of Meade is foreshadowed in the Northern news we publish this morning, and we understand that it was known in our army the first part of last week that he had orders to attack Gen. Lee.

Passengers by the Central cars name Posey's (Georgia) brigade as among the troops in the fight, but we have no confirmation of the report.

FIGHT IN GREENBRIER.

Passengers by the Central cars Saturday evening report that Gen. Echols had had a fight with Averill at Lewisburg, and had been forced to retreat to Salt Pond. Persons who came down last night do not confirm this report, though they do not contradict it.

HANDSOME AFFAIR AT ROGERSVILLE.

The following official dispatch was received at the War Department yesterday:

NARROWS, via Dublin, Nov. 8.—The following has just been received from Blountsville: "Our cavalry, under Brig.-Gen. Wm. E. Jones, and Col. Gutner, yesterday captured at Rogersville eight hundred and fifty prisoners, four pieces of artillery, two stands of colors, sixty wagons, and one thousand animals. Our loss two killed and eight wounded.

(Signed) R. RANSON, Major-Gen.

LIEUT.-GEN. POLK ACQUITTED OF BLAME.

Lieut.-Gen. Polk has been acquitted of all blame in the Chickamauga mismanagement. The following is a copy of the letter written to him by President Davis:

ATLANTA, GA., Oct. 29, 1863.

Lieut.-Gen. Polk, Atlanta, Ga.:

General—After an examination into the causes and circumstances attending your being relieved from command with the army commanded by Gen. Bragg, I have arrived at the conclusion that there is nothing to justify a Court-Martial or Court of Inquiry, and I therefore dismiss the application.

Your appointment to a new field of duty, alike important and difficult, is the best evidence of my appreciation of your past services and expectation of your future career.

I am very truly and respectfully yours,
JEFFERSON DAVIS.

FROM CHATTANOOGA.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

ARMY OF TENNESSEE,
Chattanooga Valley, Nov. 2d.

The situation remains the same as at the date of my last letter. The enemy still holds Lookout Valley, Brown's Ferry, Raccoon Mountain, and the railroad and river from Bridgeport to a point within one mile of Lookout point. No further effort has been made to dislodge him since the unsuccessful attempt of Gen. Jenkins. Had the attack been made in sufficient force the day after the Federals got possession of the ferry and threw a bridge over the river, as it is reported Gen. Bragg ordered to be made, or even on the succeeding day, which was Wednesday, it is possible we might still have remained masters of the situation. But the assault was postponed until Wednesday night, and was then made by a single brigade. In the meantime, considerable reinforcements had arrived (Wednesday evening) from Bridgeport, and it was against these reinforcements, and not the forces at the ferry, that Jenkins's attack was directed.

As was stated in a recent letter, the enemy now hold Lookout Valley, lying between the mountain of that name and Raccoon mountain, and the entire line of the Nashville and Chattanooga railroad, from Nashville to a point distant from Brown's ferry, not more than one mile. He holds also the Tennessee river, from the ferry down to Bridgeport. Since getting possession of the valley he has fortified his position, and it is already almost, if not quite, as strong as that at Chattanooga. In his front, as he faces towards Lookout mountain, is Lookout creek, which is too near his works for us to attempt to bridge it, and in his rear and on his flanks are the river and Raccoon mountain. This is not all. If attacked in the valley he can be reinforced from Chattanooga by means of his pontoon bridges, and recross Moccasin bend more rapidly and safely than we could reinforce our column of attack; for our reinforcements would have to pass around the north end of Lookout mountain, where they would be exposed to the fire of the Moccasin batteries and the works in the vicinity of the ferry. So, also, if an attack were made upon Chattanooga, the enemy could receive reinforcements from the valley and ferry more expeditiously than we could send troops from our left to the centre, or from the centre to the left; and this because the enemy would move upon a right line whilst we moved upon the arc of a circle.

From Brown's ferry to the farthest point on the enemy's lines in front of Chattanooga the distance does not exceed two miles and a half; and from the ferry to the nearest point on the railroad it is not more than one mile. If not molested, of course the enemy will extend the railroad up to the ferry, where there is a range of hills behind which he can erect his depot of buildings, and protect his trains from the fire of our batteries on Lookout. When the railroad shall have been thus extended, and the line from Bridgeport put in running order, the distance he will have to haul his supplies will be reduced from forty and sixty miles down to a mile and a half and two miles.

This new move upon the military chess-board, by which the enemy got possession of Lookout valley and the railway to Bridgeport, was a masterly stroke. The conception was a brilliant one, and the execution of it admirable and faultless.—All the combinations, from the building of the pontoon boats and floating them down the river at night to the unexpected arrival of the forces from Bridgeport, were perfect. Indeed, the river and the railroad from Lookout Mountain to Bridgeport, and the valley and Raccoon Mountain slipped from our hands so easily, or rather were taken from us so adroitly, that we hardly knew when it was done. The operation, however, has changed the whole aspect of affairs here. The question of subsisting the Federal army in Chattanooga this winter is solved, and there is no longer any doubt about the ability of the commander to obtain all needful supplies, unless we dispossess him of the railroad. To do this we shall have to fight another battle and overcome physical difficulties of a serious character. The truth is, Lookout Mountain is very much in our way. If we make Lookout Valley the battle-ground we interpose the mountain between us and our base of supplies, and expose our flank and rear to a movement either from Chattanooga or Bridgeport, and if we do not go into the valley we cannot dislodge the enemy.—Why, then, should we remain longer in the mud and water in Chattanooga Valley?

Gen. Hardee has arrived and been assigned to the command of Polk's corps. Another Federal corps, making the third, has arrived from the Potomac. The enemy has taken back from Loudon in the direction of Knoxville, and considerable supplies have been captured by Gen. Longstreet and sent to this army. We have had some heavy rains and more heavy weather. We have no tents or blankets for our soldiers. Gen. Hood is still improving and is able to sit up a little. Gen. Cobb is here—Gen. Wheeler is not. Our hawkers continue to exchange occasional shots with those of the enemy.

Sanford.

LATEST FROM THE NORTH.

We have received from the Agent of the Associated Press the following summary of news from the New York *Herald*, of Wednesday last, the 4th inst.:

THE ELECTIONS AT THE NORTH.

The State election in New York Tuesday resulted in an overwhelming Abolition majority.—The city of New York, which last year gave Seymour 1,800 majority, now gives the Abolitionists 15,800 majority. The Republican State officers elected are: Chauncey M. Depew, Secretary of State; Lucius Robinson, Comptroller; Jno. Cochrane, Attorney General; George W. Schuyler, Treasurer; Benj. F. Bruce, Canal Commissioner; James K. Bates, Inspector of Prisons, and Henry R. Selden, Judge of the Court of Appeals.

Gov. Andrews (Rep.) has been re-elected in Massachusetts. The Republicans made a clean sweep in the State, carrying the Senate almost unanimously.

In New Jersey the returns show large Democratic gains.

In Maine and Wisconsin the Republicans carried their State tickets.

MEADE PREPARING TO ADVANCE.

The news from Washington indicates the immediate advance of Meade. All the able-bodied troops under the command of Gen. Martindale, the Military Governor of Washington, had been relieved from duty and ordered to the field, their place to be filled by the invalid corps. The 157th Pennsylvania had already left to join Meade. A telegram says: "It is reported that considerable information has recently been gleaned of the enemy's strength, position, &c., which will enable Gen. Meade to take active measures." The cars now run to Warrenton.

LATER FROM CHARLESTON.

Advices from Charleston to the 31st ult. say the bombardment of Sumter is to prevent the Confederates constructing new batteries and covered ways in the channel side of the fort by demolishing the gorge wall and levelling the foundations to the water's edge. Three shells from the rifled gun between Wagner and Gregg exploded in the city of Charleston on Tuesday last. Gillmore is getting up a bronze medals for his men at a jewelry store in New York. Besides a picture of Sumter in ruins, it is to bear a *fac simile* of the General's autograph.

MISCELLANEOUS.

At the city election in Hannibal, Mo., on Tuesday, N. P. Green, Abolitionist, was elected Mayor.

The grand Russian ball was to come off in New York on Thursday night.

Gen. Wm. T. Sherman had been appointed to command the army of the Tennessee.

Gold was quoted in New York on Tuesday at 145¾.

The President's Tour Through the South.

On Wednesday last President Davis, accompanied by Generals Beauregard, Gilmer, Blanchard, and Rains, Bishop Lynch, Governor Bonham, and others, visited the fortifications around Charleston. The *Courier* gives the following description of the visit:

The party started from headquarters in Broad street and proceeded to the headquarters of Col. Rhett on South Commercial wharf, preparatory for embarkation in the boats ordered for the occasion. On arrival at the wharf a brief period was spent in the examination of specimens of the various kinds of Yankee shells thrown into Sumter, collected by Col. Rhett on his visit to the fort Tuesday night, and brought to the city. These specimens embraced shot and shell of every size and shape from the fifteen-inch Monitor, three hundred pounder Parrott, rifled and Wiard shots, down to the smallest description of projectile. The party then embarked for the Island, passed on their way two of our gunboats, the Chicora and the Palmetto State, the crews of both vessels turning out and greeting the President with loud and long cheering.

On arrival at Fort Johnston the party was met by Col. Harrison, commanding the post. A rousing salute was fired by the Chatham Artillery, attracting the attention of the Yankees, who crowded and lined the parapets of Gregg and Wagner, seemingly anxious to learn what unusual event had occurred to cause such a demonstration.

The President, after a close inspection of Fort Johnson, batteries Simkins, Cheves, and Haskell, proceeded to Secessionville. The troops of that post were drawn up in line and inspected by the President, after which he visited Fort Lamar and other works around Secessionville, besides the memorable battle-ground of the 16th June, 1861, in which the President felt greatly interested.

He also visited and inspected the whole length of the new lines down to battery Pringle, where he was received with another thundering salute, and warmly cheered by the troops composing Gen. Hagood's and Gen. Colquitt's brigades. Battery Tynes and Fort Pemberton were next visited, and another salute given from the latter. The troops at each post were drawn up all under arms, in the positions that they would occupy in case of an attack or an engagement. Having inspected every nook, corner, and bomb-proofs in the batteries and forts, the President and party crossed the bridge at Wappoo and passed Gen. Wise's brigade in review, which concluded the work of the day.

The whole party then started on their return to the city. The President expressed himself exceedingly gratified at the position, character, and strength of the works, as well as the fine appearance of the troops. The party returned to the city a little before dark.

The President left Charleston on Thursday morning, and arrived in Wilmington, N. C., that evening. Upon arriving there he was welcomed by a great throng of citizens, and made them a short address. We extract a portion of it as reported in the *Journal*:

The President said that in North Carolina, as elsewhere, the contact of the Yankees had thoroughly extinguished every spark of Union feeling wherever they had come. The eastern portion of the State, which had suffered most from the enemy, was perhaps the most loyal and devoted portion of the whole State, and North Carolina, as a State, had not been behind any other in the number of troops she had given to the armies of the Confederacy. In every field, from Great Bethel, the first, to Chickamauga, the last, the blood of North Carolinians had been shed and their valor illustrated; and, if she had fewer trumpeters than some others to sound her fame, the list of killed and wounded from every battle-field attested her devotion and bore witness to her sacrifices. North Carolina might well be proud of her soldiers in the armies of the Confederacy.

We are all engaged in the same cause. We must all make sacrifices. We must use forbearance with each other. We are all liable to err.—Your Generals may commit mistakes; your President may commit mistakes; you yourselves may commit mistakes. This is human, and for this proper allowance must be made. We must cultivate harmony, unanimity, concert of action. We must, said the President, beware of cankers—beware of the man who would instil the poison of division and disaffection because this section or that section had not got its full share of the spoils and the plunder, the honors and the emoluments of office. Did we go into this war for offices or for plunder? Did we expect to make money by it? If so then he and others who, like him, had lost all—had seen the product of years swept away, had been woefully mistaken. But we had not gone into this war from any such ignoble motives, and no such narrow considerations ought to control appointments. Merit, and merit alone, should be the criterion. And merit had been found, and North Carolinians had received and now held a full proportion of the high positions in the army.—He here alluded to Gen. Bragg, a native son of North Carolina.

If there were those who yielded to despondency, who despaired of the Republic, who were willing to submit to degradation, they were not to be found in the ranks of the army, where all was confidence and determination. Those who complained most were those who had made the fewest sacrifices, not the soldiers who had made the most.

In the changing fortunes of war, we may for a time be driven back; but with a resolute purpose and united effort we would regain all we had lost, and accomplish all that we proposed. Freed from the shackles imposed upon us by our unnatural association with a people who had proved themselves to be ten times worse than even he had supposed them to be, the Confederate States would spring forward in a career of happiness and prosperity surpassing the dreams of the most sanguine.

The President again returned thanks for his enthusiastic reception and withdrew.

THE SITUATION IN EAST TENNESSEE.—The Atlanta *Register*, of the 4th inst., has the following "latest intelligence" about affairs in East Tennessee:

To-day our railway twice probably cross the Hiwassee or Charleston, and then will run as far as Loudon, 35 miles from Knoxville. We have a great portion of Longstreet's corps, and from the day we shall receive what the army is drawing forward.—The Yankees pretend that the Federals have taken back to Knoxville. According to our lines Longstreet's corps is at Sweetwater, Cleveland, Charleston, and Hiwassee, and Longstreet's cavalry is in front of Knoxville. Yesterday Longstreet's cavalry drove the Yankees back from Sweetwater to within two miles of Knoxville, and the Yankees in Knoxville were in great confusion. Our cavalry captured a lieutenant-colonel and 30 men. Our cavalry is now in front of Knoxville. Our cavalry is in front of the enemy.

Action of the Board of Impressment Commissioners.

The Board of Commissioners for Impressment in the Confederate States is still in session at Augusta, Ga. A series of resolutions have been adopted by them, among which are the following:

That the practice of the Confederate Government's agents in making contracts for and purchase of manufactures and other articles for the army at higher prices than those adopted by the several Boards of Commissioners in the different States, is highly reprehensible, injurious to the Government, and should be stopped at once by the Secretary of War.

Resolved, That the habit which prevails in many sections of the Confederacy with the Quartermaster and Commissaries and their Agents in impressing articles for private consumption in families, is contrary to the Act of Congress regulating impressments, and should be prohibited by the War Department.

Resolved, That in impressing articles of food and forage for the use of the army the Agents of the Government should exercise a discretion, and impress in those sections of the different States where food and forage are most abundant.

Resolved, That in those parts of the country where the provision crop is short, and will not more than supply the wants of the country, the tithes due the Government should be commuted for in money, and left for the supply of soldiers' families and other destitute persons at Government prices.

Resolved, That upon the true construction of the act of Congress regulating the matter, the price of no article manufactured for the use of the Government under the said act can be more than seventy-five per cent. on the cost of production, excluding the cost of the raw material, which should only be reimbursed without a profit therein.

Resolved, That the several States of this Confederacy be requested to pass such laws and take such measures as will most effectually cause the prices fixed by the Commissioners of assessments in their States to be observed by sellers and purchasers. And this Convention is of the opinion that the most effective mode of doing this would be for the Legislature to impose a tax on all articles sold over the schedule price for the same equal to the amount of the difference between the schedule price and that at which the article is sold.

Resolved, That whilst we would allow the largest liberty of trade to the country that is practicable, it is, in the estimation of this Convention, expedient that transportation on our railroads or by express companies, be denied to articles of prime necessity in the hands of speculators.

Resolved, That, as the opinion of this Convention, the material interests of the Government and people of the Confederate States would be greatly promoted by the liberal interchange by the Government with the people of salt, spun cotton, cotton cloth, sugar, &c., for all necessary army supplies.

EAST TENNESSEE NEWS.—A letter received in Atlanta, dated Loudon, October 31st, states that all the Yankees left on the 28th. A few of them are over the river yet, making a feint. They destroyed one little engine and a few flats by running it over the bluff into the river. They cut the pontoon bridge loose on this side, and, when it swung to the other side, hauled it up to the bank to the railroad and put it on the cars. They will use it perhaps in crossing the Clinch river. All the Union citizens left with the Yankees. About a dozen Southern females are all that are left. Gen. Vaughan has returned to Sweetwater from a scout in the mountains, bringing with him as prisoners one captain and seventeen privates of Bryson's command. They also killed seven, making twenty-five, which was about one-third of Bryson's whole force. There are now no Federals this side the Tennessee river in that section. We also copy the following from the *Register*:

Gen. Reynolds now commands in Athens, Tenn. He has turned his attention to the civil administration of the district which he governs. The storehouses that were filled when Federal legions occupied the place are accessible to Southern soldiers, and Confederate notes supplant greenbacks in the marts of trade. His men strut through the streets arrayed in all the toggery of Yankee vanity and splendor, and a commissariat which a Sybarite might have enjoyed opens its stores to the hungry soldiery of the South.

The operations of Gen. Reynolds are not confined to these minor matters. He is collecting supplies to sustain the army during the winter, and by reference to his order, published in another column, it will be seen that, he is gathering the soldiers, now exchanged, who were furloughed after the fall of Vicksburg.

Of all Generals who have received a thorough military training, Reynolds is perhaps the most democratic in his manners and bearing. His popularity is boundless, and his conduct at Vicksburg and everywhere throughout the war has demonstrated his fitness for the position he occupies.

DR. RUCKER EN ROUTE TO THE ENEMY'S LINES.—Dr. Wm. P. Rucker, charged with murder and other crimes, who escaped from the Pittsylvania co. (Va.) jail, has doubtless made his way into the enemy's lines. The Fincastle (Va.) *Express* says:

He passed through Covington on the morning of the 29th, about 3 o'clock. Calling at the door of an old acquaintance and making inquiry "if the bridge was guarded?" he was recognized, but before pursuit could be made was some distance on the way. After daylight, when men and horses were collected to make pursuit, he had left the road some nine miles west of Covington and concealed himself in a gorge of the mountain, where he was accidentally discovered by Mr. John Wyatt, who was unarmed; and on Rucker's appeal to be furnished with food, and allowed to rest until night, at the same time showing his six shooter, Wyatt took him food, and then returned to inform the Provost Guard of his lurking place. It seems the guard of five or six men placed themselves in the ravine, on either side of Rucker, with the purpose of closing in from both sides and capturing him. By this time it was growing dark, (how the whole day was spent we are not informed,) and he escaped by flanking one of the parties in the brush and darkness, leaving in their hands his horse, shawl, &c. Some further pursuit was made in vain, and information sent on the various routes leading to the enemy's lines. Rucker is represented as suffering much from hunger, exposure and sickness. Whether he has been able to effect his escape to the enemy is not yet ascertained.

CONFEDERATE PRISONERS.—The following communication from the Confederate Agent of Exchange, at Richmond, conveys important information to Confederate paroled prisoners: It releases from their parole and restores to duty a large number of gallant men whose services are needed by their country:

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA,
War Department,
Richmond, Va., Oct. 10, 1863.

Lt.-Col. N. G. Watts, Mobile, Ala.:

Sir—All the prisoners taken at Port Hudson and those paroled by Gen. Banks are free to go to duty. Neither our Government nor the Federal recognize the parole. A General Order to this effect will issue in a few days. All Confederate prisoners who have been delivered at any other point than Vicksburg or City Point can immediately return to their commands, where such delivery was made 23d May last.

You need not recognize any parole given since the 23d May last, which was not in pursuance of a distinct agreement made between the commanders of the two opposing armies. Prisoners must be reduced into possession and delivered either at Vicksburg or City Point, unless there is some distinct agreement to the contrary, made by the "Commanders of *two opposing armies*."

The deliveries made at Mobile or Port Hudson will not be recognized. All such can immediately return to duty. The Federals have forced us to assume this position.

There is no danger to our people in returning to duty, because the Federals recognize the full force of the rule and acquiesce in it. They have done the same thing with the captures made by us.

Respectfully, your ob't serv't,
ROBERT OULD, Agent of Exchange.

A PIOUS YANKEE CHAPLAIN.—The following is an extract from a letter written by an Abolition Chaplain connected with Lincoln's Army in Virginia, to his friend and brother preacher, located at some other point. The letter was captured along with other mail matter, when Capt. Enrigh "took" the United States mail between Burlington and Williamsport the other week. The letter is dated

"CAMP NEAR ROMNEY, Oct. 11th, 1863.

"All quiet on the Potomac. Rascerans is all right. A very sanguinary battle will come off at or near Chattanooga before long. Oh! for ancestle. I now believe we shall have it. And O for a little more 'Greek fire' to be poured upon Charleston, that sink of iniquity! As fire and brimstone was the remedy for Sodom and Gomorah, so is 'Greek fire' the remedy, and a very holesome one, too, for that nest and hotbed of rebellion. Burn it to the ground, and the inhabitants along with it if they choose to remain in it; then raise an very fervent prayer that one stone shall not be left upon another, and then raise a house-raising for which we will volunteer to sell to government powder, fire-fixings and wickedness of the former inhabitants. Amen! So come it, Lord Jesus!

"The more we see and know of our race "humanity" and friends, the happier we feel in knowing that we are separated from them forever."

The Lynchburg (Va.) *Republican* states that Lieut.-Gen. Longstreet's corps passed through that place on Saturday last, on their way to the south-west.

THE CATTLE OF MORGAN'S RAID INTO OHIO.—The *Paroled Prisoners*.—The Atlanta (Ga.) *Confederacy* publishes a letter written by Lieut.-Colonel R. W. Alston, Morgan's Adjutant-General, to a friend, which gives us the only authentic reason for Gen. Morgan's raid into Ohio which we have yet seen. He says:

Burnside becoming alarmed at the near approach of a formidable invasion of Kentucky under Buckner—for we had reported correctly the strength of his advance guard—put his whole force in motion for our track, and moved all of his supplies from Camp Dick Robinson. It therefore was necessary for us to go forward as return, and the principal object was to keep as many troops occupied and for so long a time as possible, in order to give General Bragg time to make good his position at Chattanooga. The strategy succeeded, and instead of Burnside reaching Knoxville by the 10th of July, he did not get there until about the 10th of September.—The object of our expedition, therefore, was partially accomplished, and it was done at the sacrifice of all we lost, which was about fifteen hundred men and horses and two pieces of artillery.

The same letter gives the reason for Lieutenant-Colonel Alston's being paroled. It appears that he gained his point by persuasively holding the Yankee Government to its promise as given by the officer who paroled him:

I stated that although I knew my parole was illegal when I accepted it, being not in conformity with the cartel, yet I regarded it as the duty of each army to hold its prisoners, and when they could not do so, it was their duty to turn them loose; but if a parole was forced upon a prisoner which did not conform with the requirements of the cartel, the prisoner was at liberty to disregard it; but if, on the contrary, he has honorably complied with it, when he could show that by not doing so he might have effected his escape, I thought it was one of those cases which ought to be considered as an exception to the general rule governing exchange, and entitle the prisoner to his release.—This case was exactly mine, as the statutes I had liven would prove, and I therefore claimed my release accordingly. The General admitted the reasonableness of what I said, and expressed a desire to do what was fair and just, releasing me from my guard, and gave orders for me to have the freedom of the barracks.—After I had gained this much I had sufficient ground to go upon, and continued to write to him on the subject, repeating his own language in the strongest terms, until after about two months of importunity I received a letter from his Chief Aid, Maj. Van Buren, stating that the General admitted the justice of my claim; but, unfortunately, all power had been recently centred in the Secretary of War, and he had no further control over paroles, but had sent a statement of my case to the Secretary of War, and recommended that I be paroled and sent to City Point. I at once sent a copy of this letter to the Secretary of War, and wrote at the same time to Gen. Cox, Commanding Department of Ohio, to urge the matter and see that it was not overlooked in the hurry of official business. Finally an order came from the Secretary that "in consequence of my honorable conduct on a former occasion, he had determined to make mine an excepted case, and directed that I be immediately released and sent to City Point." What joyous news, for I had almost began to despair. In fact I was regarded by my brother officers as having a mania on the subject, and whenever an improbable event was spoken of they would reply, "Yes, when Alston gets his parole." There were a great many others situated exactly as I was; but they regarded the hope of success as so improbable that I could not prevail on them to urge their claims.

AFFAIRS IN LOWER EASTERN VIRGINIA.—The Petersburg *Intelligencer*, of Saturday, has the following intelligence from below. The reported 30,000 Yankees at Newport News is not at all likely:

Passengers represent that a negro regiment is now garrisoning Craney Island, and that there are no Yankee soldiers in the vicinity of Suffolk, except one detachment at Wright's Mill and another at Bernard's Mill. A patrol of Yankees visit Suffolk every day. We regret to learn that Mr. John W. Ames, late one of the proprietors of the Bollingbrook Hotel, in attempting to visit his family within the Yankee lines, a day or two since, was nabbed by the miscreants and sent to Fort Norfolk. We were informed by a gentleman on yesterday that one of the Confederate detectives managed to get, a few days since, within two miles of Old Point, and on his return reported that he saw a transport land troops at Newport News, and heard a Yankee say that thirty thousand troops were at that point.

MRS. LINCOLN'S GRAND BALL.—The first ball ever given in the White House. Over eight hundred invitations were issued. Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln stationed themselves in the centre of the East Room and received the guests. For one hour the throng moved in a current; and when the rooms were full the Marine Band, stationed in their usual position, began playing operatic airs of the finest description at eleven. A large apartment was thrown open about 12 o'clock, with an immense punch bowl in the centre, and sandwiches, &c., around it. The supper was set in the dining-room, and is considered one of the finest displays of gastronomic art ever seen in this country. It cost thousands of dollars. The bill of fare was: [Here upwards of thirty dishes are described.] The tables fairly bent under expensive luxuries heaped one upon another. At twelve the dining-room was thrown open for inspection, and guests passed in and viewed it, preparatory to the demolition of the artistic pile. Nearly all the Generals in the army were there. The ladies were dressed in the height of fashionable extravagance.—*Wash. Cor. Cincinnati Gazette*, (*Rep.*)

A BRIDE WORTH HAVING.—The Rockingham (Va.) *Register* publishes the marriage of Miss Lucy F. Roller, the daughter of a wealthy farmer in that county, and adds:

She was what we would call "an independent girl," sure enough. Her bridal outfit was all made with her own hands, from her beautiful and elegant straw hat down to the handsome gaiters upon her feet! Her own delicate hands spun and wove the material of which her wedding dress and travelling cloak were made; so that she had nothing upon her person when she was married which was not made by herself! Nor was she compelled by necessity or poverty to make this exhibition of her independence. She did it for the purpose of showing to the world how independent Southern girls are.

THE WIDOW'S MITE.—The Charleston *Mercury*, reporting the proceedings of the Baptist Association of that city, says:

A pleasant incident occurred, which it may be interesting to relate. In the collection taken up at the Baptist Church, for the benefit of the soldiers, a plain gold ring was found. It was afterwards proposed that the ring be purchased by subscription, the amount paid into the treasury, and the ring returned to the donor, who was supposed to be a poor widow. The plan was received with favor, and the subscription for the ring amounted to about $200. Thus was the self-denying act of a poor widow the means of contributing a large additional sum for the benefit of our soldiers.

SCHOONER RAGGED.—The schooner Alice Webb, Capt. H. E. Vaubrunt, bound from New York to Beaufort, N. C., went ashore last Friday week and fell into the hands of the Confederates. She had a cargo of provisions and furniture for John Watson, a Connecticut man, who was about to start a store in Beaufort. Among the prisoners was John Sofield, a German, who was going to commence the jewelry business at the same place.

OFFICIAL VOTE OF GEORGIA.—The entire vote cast in the recent election for Governor in Georgia was 62,293. The counties of Fannin, Gilmer, Camden, Charlton, and Emanuel, failed to send in returns. Of the vote, Brown received 21,284; Hill, 12,684; Furlow, 6,569. Army vote: Brown, 13,455; Hill, 4,664; Furlow, 2,797. Brown's aggregate majority over both, 8,736.

ALABAMA FINANCES.—The annual report of the State Treasurer of Alabama shows the receipts for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30th, 1863, to be from the civil department, $6,511,901.80; from the military department, $2,037,340.17; disbursements of civil department, $3,897,249.32; disbursements of military department, $1,884,910.65; balance in Treasury, $9,356,881.98.

INCIDENTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP.—At Griswoldville, on the Georgia Central Railroad, where the President arrived between eight and nine o'clock on Friday night, about forty negroes, laborers in Mr. Griswold's pistol shops at that place, had collected and manifested great anxiety to see Mr. Davis. Being told of it he got off the car and went the rounds, taking each one by the hand and giving him a pleasant word.—*Macon Telegraph.*

PRESIDENT DAVIS ON EXTORTIONERS.—President Davis has a very contemptible opinion of extortioners and those who sure, but dodge, military duty. "If I were a young girl," said he, in a late speech, "and wanted to marry, I would rather lean upon the empty sleeve of the soldier who had lost his arm in battle than upon the muscular arm of him who held a home and prey fat."

FIRE ENGINES.—The blockade runners, reported the Macon Telegraph, are now using immense engines. The fire waters of the steed of one of the commodore is now on the way, and it is said that more the use of hard coal is contemplated. It is said that the steam engines will be brought for this city. This is the only means by which we can get out of the Government and people to match a fire engine.

TAKE SOMETHING.—A long time a private citizen, on passing in Mr. Ayres' store, Fayetteville, N. C., was asked by a friend if he would take something. The citizen said he would take a pinch of snuff. The friend said he would take the same. The snuff was taken, and the friends parted. The citizen was soon after seen in the street, and was asked what he had taken. He said he had taken a pinch of snuff, and was sneezing ever since. The friend said he had taken the same, and was sneezing ever since. The citizen