THE COURIER.

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R. A. THOMPSON, R. YOUNG, W. H. HOLCOMBE, PROPRIETORS.

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PICKENS C. H., S. C.:

Saturday Morning, June 1, 1861.

Pic Nic.

We learn that a meeting has been held, at Walhalla, for the purpose of getting up a Pic Nic on the arrival of the cars at that place.—Committees have been appointed to make the necessary arrangements. This place, we are sure, will contribute to the pic nic liberally. Due notice will be given hereafter when the cars arrive at Walhalla. They are now in the neighborhood of Mrs. McElroy's.

Speech of Maj. Perry.

On the first page of this paper appears a patriotic speech delivered by Maj. B. F. Perry, at Greenville Court House, on the 20th inst. We invite an attentive perusal of the speech. We commend the patriotic and liberal example of Maj. Perry to those as well able to contribute to the furtherance of the great cause in which we are engaged. This is no time for tight purse strings, nor niggardly patriotism.

The Fourth Regiment.

On Saturday last, the fourth Regiment, with great unanimity, agreed to enter the service of the Confederate States; and, those so entering the service of the government, have been furloughed for a week. We have had the pleasure of meeting a good many of our gallant soldiers, who responded with alacrity to the call of the Governor. They are generally in good health and fine spirits. They return to Columbia on Monday, and it is believed they will be mustered into the service of the Confederate States on Tuesday. The destination of the Regiment is unknown, although it is thought by some that it will be ordered to Virginia.

Wherever our brave boys may be ordered, they will have our best wishes and the prayers of those left behind for their success. Boys! be true to your God, your country, and yourselves. Then, the result of the conflict cannot be doubtful!

The Battle Field.

All eyes are now turned to Virginia. She is to be the immediate battle field in this great contest, and our heart is with her. On the 24th, 5,000 Lincolnites invaded Virginia, by forcibly taking possession of Alexandria. This force had been increased to over 12,000 at our latest dates, and were throwing out scouting parties in the direction of Richmond. The Confederate troops were in force at the Manassas Gap Junction, fifteen miles from Alexandria. It is 130 miles from Alexandria to Richmond.—Gen. Bonham is in command of our troops nearest the enemy.

Harper's Ferry and Norfolk are also threatened, and we are expecting stirring news from the Potomac by every mail.

President Davis, his Cabinet, and all the departments of the Confederate government, have arrived at Richmond, which is to be the seat of government for a time at least. The presence of President Davis cannot fail to have a good effect upon the warlike operations progressing on the border.

The Meeting at White's.

A meeting of those favoring the organization of a company of volunteers was held at White's Muster Ground, on Saturday last. Col. Orr was present, and made one of his best speeches. Afterwards, a company of volunteers was organized for the war, and the following officers were elected:

Joseph J. Norton, Captain;
Leonard Rogers, 1st Lieutenant;
N. K. Sullivan, 2d "
W. J. Dickson, 3d "

A few more names are necessary to fill up the ranks of this company, and we hope they may soon be obtained.

The Old North State.

The Convention of North Carolina met on Monday the 20th, and soon thereafter passed an unconditional ordinance of secession unanimously by acclamation. On the same day, the Convention passed an ordinance adopting the provisional constitution of the Confederate States. This brave old State is thoroughly aroused, and her people are taking up their arms to repel the invader.

North Carolina passed her ordinance of secession on the anniversary of the Mecklenburg declaration of independence, promulgated 20th of May, 1776!

The following resolutions were introduced into the Convention of North Carolina, by Hon. Mr. Leake, of Richmond County, on the 22d instant, and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this Convention appreciates the spirit which influenced her gallant sister, South Carolina, in sending a commissioner to this body, and desires to express its gratification and pride in giving a response by its ordinance, which it full well knows will be received with a gratulation only equalled by the patriotic feelings with which it is expressed.

Resolved, That this body takes pleasure in expressing its high consideration of the distinguished gentleman (the Hon. Franklin J. Moses) honored by his State with this high commission, and begs leave to express its gratification at the energy and ability with which he has executed the trust confided to him.

Three rousing cheers were then given for South Carolina. We joyously greet our twin sister!

New York Banking.—The New York *Evening Post* says, concerning the late explosion of the Bank of the Capital at Albany:

"We learn that the books of the bank have been falsified in every conceivable way. It was even made to appear at the directors' meeting, that the deposits of the bank were only $250,000, whereas the actual amount was $400,000.

"Among other frauds, one note for $25,000 of a leading politician, which was supposed to be a paying asset of the bank, was paid by him seven years ago, and receipt thereof obtained; the interest on this note was paid by the party interested in making it appear as an asset of the bank."

Feeling in England.—A dispatch to the *Mercury* states that a private letter from England says that in Manchester the feeling is open and decided in favor of the recognition of the Confederate States by Great Britain. The news from the South was sought after with avidity.

Summer Resorts.

The Augusta *Constitutionalist* says:

"Among the many advantages we shall gain by non-intercourse with the North, will be the stoppage of the enormous stream of summer travel and tribute which has every year gone from the South in that direction. Millions of dollars have thus been paid by our people, with no other advantage than a knowledge of the fashions, and the acquisition of some acquaintances of very dubious character. In our own mountain regions, we have a climate unsurpassed for salubrity in summer—scenery which cannot be rivaled in the world, and medicinal springs of every variety. With all these advantages, and the still greater one of being near home, our people have been led away to the North, not by its superior attractions, but principally by the system of puffing, in which Northern papers are adepts. They have enriched a people who are now employing the money they have gained from us against us, while our own summer resorts have languished for want of support.

"Let the Southern people encourage their own "Springs," and they will soon have pleasanter and more congenial Saratogas and Newports within a day's ride of their own homes, and keep their money to circulate among themselves."

And encourage their own grand mountains and fine scenery, too. Soon the Blue Ridge Railroad will be completed to Walhalla. The way will then be open to that beautiful town, the Blue Ridge scenery above, with its mild and salubrious climate.

There are other points in the district worthy of mention and a visit. Jocasse, with its beautiful falls and lovely valley, claims attention and a lengthy visit. Then there is the Table Rock, and fine scenery thereabouts. Further on, is Cæsar's Head, and the fine views observable therefrom, with the "spice of life" afforded by the society of Col. Hagood.

Other points of interest in the country will naturally attract attention. Southern travellers and visiters will be hospitably received and well cared for by the people of this section.

The War!

We suppose there is now no one amongst us who believes that we are to have no war. If there are any, it would be well for them to dismiss the belief, and no longer deceive themselves and others. The following article from the New York *Tribune* will give our readers an idea of the magnitude of the manner in which this contest is to be conducted. True, the *Tribune* is not the "old government," but it is the "power behind the throne," and must be obeyed. But to the article:

"We most heartily rejoice over the intimations that reach us from Washington, that a decisive struggle is soon to be inaugurated for the rescue of Virginia from the clutches of the traitors who now tyrannize over the greater part of her soil, and are sucking out her life blood; but this resolve to demonstrate with armed hand against rampant treason would be futile—nay, mad—were it not paralleled by a determination to call *into service every effective regiment that has hitherto volunteered to serve for the war.* This resolution has not been taken a day too soon. With only the force now subject to the orders of General Scott, an advance would neither be advisable nor safe. It will be opposed by a muster of not less than a million men, badly disciplined, indeed, and impatient of control—probably deficient in munitions and provisions, if not in the best weapons as well—but brave, desperate, and accustomed to the use of arms from boyhood. They will have the advantage in knowledge of the ground, in current information, and probably in cavalry. We judge a [illegible] appointed army of 150,000 little enough for this enterprise, and this should be backed by reserves of not less than 100,000. To embody such a force promptly, the volunteers called out should certainly not be less than 400,000, as nearly 100,000 must be permanently stationed at St. Louis, Cairo, Wheeling; and other points overlooking the western centres of traitorous activity.

"Thus armed and prepared, the nation may strike home at its domestic foes with a moral certainty that its right arm will not be shattered by the blow.

"Of course, the cost of such an armament must be appalling; but this is no time to talk of cost. The Republic must not die, and no cost can be too great that is necessary to its preservation. Assuming that the crushing out of the rebellion is a question of time and cost only, we hold it cheaper to employ 400,000 men to put it down in six months than 200,000 to close it up in a year. Every day of its continuance must cost the country at least $1,000,000 in the derangement and paralysis of its industry, and six months subtracted from its duration is, therefore, $150,000,000 saved to the nation. Aside, therefore, from the obvious fact, that the larger force will make the surer work, we hold that there is manifest economy in calling into the public service all who have volunteered to strike for the Union.

"But such a call is justified and required also by the consideration of justice to the volunteers themselves. At the summons of the President, they have dropped their implements of peaceful industry, seized their muskets, and rallied to the defence of the integrity of the Republic. Thousands of them have resigned situations which they cannot now regain; all have made arrangements for protracted absence from their business and their homes. They have cheerfully incurred sacrifices in the confident expectation of being thereby enabled to do and dare for the land of their love, and they are fairly entitled to the coveted opportunity. So long as the rebellion shall be defiant and formidable, so long shall we hold it the interest of the country and the duty of the President to call into the field every patriot who feels that he can serve that country more effectively in arms than otherwise, and who is anxious to prove his faith by his works."

Religious.

The biennial convention of the Southern Baptist denomination, convened in Savannah, passed unanimously the following resolution:

Resolved, That we do recommend to the churches of the Baptist denomination in the Southern States, to observe the first and second days of June as days of humiliation, fasting and prayer to Almighty God, that he may avert any calamities due to our sins as a people, and may look with mercy and favor upon us.

Every State and every citizen now supporting the vulgar despotism of Lincoln, renounces and opposes every notion of State independence, and advocates the absolutism of a majority. The London *Star* of the 7th inst., says:

The resolution of the North to crush secession by force, involves the denial of the right of each one of the seceding States to determine the conditions of its own national existence. When a State Convention has adopted an ordinance declaring its withdrawal from the Federal Union, even those citizens who may have voted in the minority against it cannot but feel that a refusal to recognize its validity is a denial of their own political independence. In this consideration lies the strongest ground for anticipation that the South may exhibit itself as united in defence as the North is showing itself in attack. If this should be so, it is scarcely possible to hope that anything short of a sudden awakening of the combatants to common sense can avert a protracted and sanguinary struggle.

More Treachery in Baltimore.—On the evening of the 20th instant, the Federal troops went to the cemetery in Baltimore, and "excavated" about 4,000 muskets and 3,000 pikes that had been buried there by the citizens to keep them from being used for their subjugation by the tools of the Black Republican despot. The muskets and pikes were taken in forty wagons to Fort McHenry.

The day of retribution, it is to be hoped, is not far off, when the brave and true of Maryland will redeem their State from the Vandals who now control it without a murmur of disapprobation from the traitor Hicks.

[*Richmond Enquirer.*

Important Proclamation.

Under a resolution of the Congress of the Confederate States, President Davis has issued the following proclamation. Its composition is in good taste, and its object "worthy of all acceptation." We trust that the day may be most religiously observed by all. The proclamation reads thus:

When a people who recognize their dependence upon God, feel themselves surrounded by peril and difficulty, it becomes them to humble themselves under the dispensation of Divine Providence to recognize His righteous government, to acknowledge His goodness in times past, and supplicate His merciful protection for the future.

The manifest proofs of the Divine blessing hitherto extended to the efforts of the people of the Confederate States of America to maintain and perpetuate public liberty, individual rights and national independence, demand their devout and heartfelt gratitude. It becomes them to give public manifestation of this gratitude, and of their dependence upon the Judge of all the earth, and to invoke the continuance of His favor. Knowing that none but a just and righteous cause can gain the Divine favor, we would implore the Lord of Hosts to guide and direct our policy in the paths of right, duty, justice and mercy, to unite our hearts and our efforts for the defence of our dearest rights; to strengthen our weakness, crown our arms with success, and enable us to secure a speedy, just and honorable peace.

To these ends, and in conformity with the request of Congress, I invite the people of the Confederate States to the observance of a day of fasting and prayer, by such religious services as may be suitable for the occasion, and I recommend Thursday, the 13th day of June next, for that purpose; and that we may all on that day, with one accord, join in humble and reverential approach to Him in whose hands we are, invoking Him to inspire us with a proper spirit and temper of heart and mind to bear our evils, to bless us with His favor and protection, and to bestow His gracious benediction upon our Government and country.

(Signed.) Jefferson Davis.

By the President:
R. Toombs, Secretary of State.

That Collision.—The Richmond papers of Monday bring us reports of the railroad collision on Saturday last by which some of the South Carolina volunteers were reported to be killed or wounded. We give extracts from the several reports in the papers. The *Enquirer* says:

"On Saturday morning last, three trains of troops, containing Colonel Kershaw's regiment of South Carolina volunteers and Captain Latham's battery of flying artillery, arrived at Orange Court House about twenty five minutes before the mail train, going West, was due there. It seems that, after being there sometime, one of the trains moved below the station for the purpose of backing on the turnout. About this time the train from Manassas Junction arrived, the engineer of which approached the station house at such a high speed that he could not stop his engine; the consequence was, that he ran into the forward train, which was loaded with troops. Three men were killed and several seriously wounded. The engineer gave as an excuse for his conduct that he had lost the whistle of his engine, and could not give the customary signal to the brakesmen. It is fortunate, indeed, that a larger number were not killed or wounded. Two of the killed are—Messrs. McMullen and Gentry, volunteers from Greene county, Va. The other was a negro employed on the train."

The *Dispatch* says: "Information received from Orange C. H., from Conductor Taylor, states that three trains, loaded with troops, were standing on the track, waiting for the mail train to arrive from the main Junction. While thus waiting, the expected train approached at such great speed that the engineer could not stop in time—having lost the whistle and being without means of signalizing his approach—the train ran into the forward troop train, damaging both engines, breaking several cars, killing three of the South Carolina volunteers and dangerously injuring several others.

"It is rumored that the soldiers were very much exasperated against the engineer and conductor of the mail train, and threatened to shoot them.

"The unfortunate affair is due to carelessness somewhere.

"A dispatch received yesterday from Gordonsville says that several of those injured by the collision yesterday are reported as since dead, and adds: 'The Richmond train, with troops, seems to have been in fault in leaving the station before the Manassas train arrived. The names of the Virginians killed are Gentry and McMullen, of Greene county. One of the Carolinians has had his legs amputated below the knee.'"

Our Volunteers.—We understand that a majority approximating to unanimity of both the regiments encamped in Columbia are ready to march to Virginia. Of other regiments the Charleston *Courier* of yesterday says:

"Col. M. Jenkins' regiment, eleven hundred strong, which has been in camp and on Sullivan's Island drilling for several weeks, will be mustered into service very soon by Assistant Adjutant General D. R. Jones, C. S. A., and will start for Virginia in a day or two.

"Col. Cash's fine regiment, at Florence, nearly nine hundred strong, are also ready to start for the scene of action.

Col. Bacon's regiment eight hundred strong, now encamped near Aiken, are ready for departure at a moment's notice.

"Col. Hampton's Legion expect to move early this week.

"Col. Williams', Col. Hagood's and Col. Rion's regiments have almost unanimously volunteered and been accepted; besides which, other offers of men and means have poured in upon Gov. Pickens and Gen. Beauregard. In less than ten days these noble regiments will be on the march for the Old Dominion.

Speaking of Col. Jenkins' regiment, the *Mercury* says, "it will leave Sullivan's Island at three o'clock this afternoon, and pass directly through to the S. C. Railroad depot, whence they will proceed to Orangeburg, where they will rendezvous for a week previous to starting for Virginia.

Palmetto Brigade.—M. L. Bonham, Major-General, S. C. V.; W C Moragne, Division Adjutant-General; W D Simpson, Division Inspector-General; A P Aldrich, Division Quartermaster-General; R B Boylston, Division Commissary-General; J N Lipscomb, Division Paymaster-General; Dr. J Mc F Gaston, Division Surgeon-General; S. Warren Nelson, Aid-de-Camp; Thos. J Davies, Aid-de-Camp; B F Whitner, Aid-de-Camp; E Spann Hammond, Special Aid-de-Camp; Samuel W Melton, Special Aid-de-Camp and Military Secretary.

First Regiment.—Maxcy Gregg, Colonel; D H Hamilton, Lieutenant-Colonel; A M. Smith, Major; T C Ferguson, Adjutant; A H McGowan, Quartermaster; Joseph Kennedy, Commissary; J W Powell, Surgeon; W J Bull, Assistant Surgeon; Wm. M Gist, Sergeant-Major.

Second Regiment.—J B Kershaw, Colonel; E P Jones, Lieutenant Colonel; A D Goodwyn, Major; E E Sill, Adjutant; W S Wood, Quartermaster; J J Villepigue, Commissary; T W Saimond, M. D., Surgeon; H J Nott, M D, Assistant Surgeon; J L Haile, Sergeant-Major; M B Moses, Quartermaster Sergeant.

How the Kentuckians handle a Rifle—An intelligent correspondent, who lately left Baltimore for Harper's Ferry and other points in Virginia, gives the following account of his observations in a private letter:

"At Harper's Ferry, a Kentuckian challenged a Virginian to shoot with a rifle. The distance was a hundred and fifty yards. Old Kentucky covered his six bullet holes with a half dollar, and old Virginia was obliged to get a small tin cup to cover his; but he claimed the victory, on the ground that his bullets were twice the size of his adversary's. Twenty-eight men shot on the same day, at three hundred yards, at a log the size of a man, and twenty-two bullets pierced it. These shots were all off-hand. There is a company here who practice at double quick time—a full trot—and they seem to do nearly as well as those who fire standing. They are terrible fellows, and seem to have a most insatiable desire to fight."

Pennings and Clippings.

Gone to Mississippi—Gen. Beauregard has gone to Corinth, Miss. He is accompanied by D. R. Jones, Adjutant. The defences of the Mississippi will be looked after by them.

Explosion—The steamer Kentucky exploded at Memphis, Tenn., on the 21st ult. Seven persons were killed, and a large number wounded.

He Denies It—Col. Wilson, of the New York Zouaves, denies the rumor so generally circulated, that he is compelled to march fifty paces in front of his corps to keep them from picking his pockets.

St. Louis Encompassed—St. Louis is entirely encompassed by Federal troops, under the command of Colonels Blair, Boernstein and Sigel. Twenty-seven persons have died from wounds received in the late collision.

New Orleans, May 25.—The privateer steamer Calhoun captured two schooners and brought them into port.

Counterfeits—The Charleston *Mercury* has seen a suspicious $10 bill, purporting to be of the Mechanic's Bank of Augusta, but totally unlike any note issued by that institution. It was supposed to be an altered bill of the Mechanics' Bank of Memphis. Quite a number are in circulation. Look out for them.

Prizes—The privateer Calhoun, from New Orleans, has made $60,000—a very good beginning. Our telegraphic dispatches this morning announce that she has captured two more schooners.

Porter's Spirit, two weeks ago, was very patriotic on the score of "our flag" and the integrity of the Union." In its last issue it says:

We are heartily sick of this war. Are there no great and good men in the land to make peace? We recommend that the President and the Cabinet, together with the same officers of the Confederacy, meet in council to save the country.

Episcopal Secession—The Texas Episcopal Convention has been in session at Austin, for some days, Bishop Gregg presiding. It has been decided to send a delegation to Montgomery, Ala., in July next, to meet with delegations from the several dioceses of the seceded States, "to decide whether or not this venerable and influential religious body shall secede from the Northern church."

Terrible Earthquake.—In addition to the six thousand lives lost by the earthquake at Mendoza, South America, we learn that San Juan, situated one hundred and twenty leagues north of Mendoza, had been nearly destroyed by the same earthquake, with an estimated loss of three thousand lives. The earthquake approached from the direction of Valparaiso, and great anxiety is manifested to hear from that quarter.

Fighting in Wise County.—The Tazewell *Democrat*, of the 18th inst., says: "A report reached us on Thursday last, through the mail carrier, that a party of abolitionists made their appearance in Gladesville, the County seat, one day this week, and took possession of the village. A fight ensued, and a messenger was despatched to Russell for assistance. Before he left, one of the ringleaders among the invaders was killed. One hundred armed men went from Russell, Wednesday.

Mr. Yancey in London.—The Montgomery *Advertiser* says: In a private letter written from London to his friends in this city, Hon. Wm. L. Yancey says there is a strong contest going on between Exeter Hall Abolitionists and the Ministry. The Exeter Abolitionists are as bitter against the South as the Massachusetts anti-slavery fanatics. The Ministry party, however, are favorable to the Southern Confederacy, but being in a small majority have to proceed cautiously to obtain the concurrence of the people. Mr. Yancey does not doubt the success of his mission.

Crops in Arkansas.—The Little Rock *Gazette* says that from all portions of the State advices in relation to the coming crops are of the most promising character. The wheat crop is the greatest in breadth and the most superior in quality ever yet made in the State, and the fruit promises an abundant yield, while the oats and corn thus far look exceedingly well.

For Brigadier General.—Col. James Mc. Cullough, of Greenville, is announced a candidate for Brigadier General of this Brigade.

There is hardly room left for doubt that the English Government has determined to give all its aid, short of an open declaration of hostilities, to the cause of the Southern Confederation, by recognizing its right to destroy the commerce of the Union, and by denying the right of the Federal Government to exclude British and French vessels from Southern ports. This determination is hailed with great satisfaction by the ministerial organs, whose comments are quoted elsewhere.—*N. Y. Times, 22d inst.*

Marriage of the Tycoon.—A letter from Japan states that the Tycoon was married on the 4th of March to the only daughter of the Mikado, or Spiritual Emperor, who is represented to be a "beautiful and accomplished" lady of eighteen summers.

Worthy of Record.—Hon. Edmund Burke, of Concord, N. H., at a meeting recently called in that city, for the purpose of raising funds for a volunteer company, said: This war is a war against our own brothers. There is no glory to be won in such war. There were both glory and honor to be won in a war against a foreign enemy; but not in the miserable business of butchering our own brothers.

Real Estate.—The following significant paragraph is copied from the New York *Day Book* of the 20th inst: "In this city and Brooklyn many first class houses are occupied free of rent, and others are had for the taxes."

New Flour.—Flour from the crops of new wheat is in market in Alabama and Georgia.—The wheat crop there, as here, is very fine.

A Compliment to Maryland.—It gives us pleasure to read anything good or hopeful concerning Maryland in this her hour of humiliation and depression, and we therefore publish the following extract from a late letter to the New York *Tribune*:

Maryland needs watching. Secession there is "not dead but sleepeth." Many noxious weeds require to be picked out of that domain. Some subterranean fires must be cooled or they will pour forth their burning lava to blacken and destroy. We cannot reasonably enjoy the confidence of the dwellers on the sides of Vesuvius. The graves of Massachusetts soldiers silently admonish us to beware. When Maryland shall have delivered up her murderers to answer the penalty of her own violated laws, then we may confide in her integrity and loyalty to the Union.

The Invasion.—The Richmond *Dispatch*, in announcing the invasion of Alexandria, comments as follows:

"The intelligence of yesterday that the myrmidons of Federal power had advanced upon the soil of Virginia produced an electrifying effect in our community, and among the soldiery. Every eye brightened, and every heart beat high with stern delight that the hour of vengeance is at hand. If Virginia can be overrun by a host of Northern militiamen, if one man in defence of his fireside is not equal to two invaders, then this onward movement of our detestable enemy is founded in wisdom. But when that day comes, it will be a new day in the history of nations, and one which will prove that we deserve to be conquered. It has been given out repeatedly of late by the Lincoln press that Gen. Scott desired to delay an advance till cool weather and until his army was fully organized. But they could not brook the wise delay recommended by the only general in their ranks that deserves the name, and the Republican papers at Washington pronounced Scott behind the times. They will discover before long that it would have been well for them to take his counsel. They disregarded his advice once before in their attempt to reinforce Fort Sumter, and they will find a worse result from their present contempt of his military experience and judgment. This ferocious and vile attempt to subjugate Virginia will be crushed at every point where it is made, and there is not a man in the Commonwealth who does not rejoice that it is made now, when the season, and other advantages which it is unnecessary to mention, will unite to consign it to speedy disaster and annihilation."

Wherever the news has reached throughout the Confederate States, it has evoked the same spirit of determined resistance, and Virginia may rest assured that, if necessary, one hundred thousand men will within a few days be gathered on her soil for her defence.

Hampton's Legion—This Legion is full. Thirty-nine companies were offered to Col. Hampton to make up the Legion. Eleven only could be accepted.

Telegraphic News from all Quarters.

St. John's, May 25.—The steamship Etna, Capt. Rice, has arrived from Queenstown, with dates from Liverpool to the 16th instant.

The sales of cotton for the four days previous amount to 23,000 bales, of which speculators and exporters took 7,000. Prices had declined ⅛ to 1-16d, closing dull. Breadstuffs and provisions are steady. Consols closed at 91¾ to 92. The Bank of England has advanced its rate of interest to six per cent.

The Southern Commissioners had reached Paris, and had an interview with Thouvenel, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The British Ministry has issued a proclamation for the guidance of its naval officers, consuls and citizens, at home and abroad. It declares the intention of the government (the Cabinet) to maintain strict impartiality and neutrality between the Government of the United States and certain States styling themselves the Confederate States. It warns British subjects that they will forfeit the protection of the government if they engage on either side.

St. Louis, May 24.—Gen. Price, commander of the State troops, had ordered 4,000 militia at Jefferson city to disband.—Some resistance was made, but it was believed that they had quietly dispersed. Howitzers, mortars, ball, shells, and 300 rounds of ammunition, had been sent from the arsenal in this city to Cairo.

Washington, May 24.—Col. Ellsworth's personal friends and Lincoln are deeply affected at his death. The bells are ringing, buildings craped, flags at half mast, and his remains lying in state at the navy yard.

Government has startling intelligence from Baltimore. Loud and prominent Union men are secretly abetting the secessionists. Their names and plans are known.

The 7th regiment occupy Arlington heights, and the 69th are engaged in throwing up breastworks there. To-day forty-five Virginia cavalry surrendered to Sherman's battery, finding themselves at the mouth of the guns. The steamer Mount Vernon was very near sinking to-day before reaching Alexandria.—It is supposed she was secretly injured at the Washington navy-yard.

Harper's Ferry and Norfolk are to be simultaneously attacked. The Postmaster-General has ordered the discontinuance of the mails in the seceded States, except Tennessee.

In the British proclamation the subjects of that Government are forbidden to engage their ships as war transports, to attempt recruiting, to attempt to break a blockade actually effective, or to carry soldiers, dispatches, or materials of war for either party.

Spain orders six screw war frigates of the first class to the American coast.

Mobile, May 25.—The brig Angelo arrived at New Orleans with Vera Cruz dates to the 12th, and $6,000 in specie. A Minatitlin letter says that gold was taken from the waters of Malatengo. The diggings are very rich, and great excitement exists in consequence of the discovery. Business was very dull.

New Orleans, May 27.—The sloop-of-war Brooklyn came to anchor off Pass Louvre yesterday, and sent a boat to Fort Jackson, informing the commander of the blockade

They commenced with the flat boats, coming down the Mississippi laden with ice.

The crack battalion of the Washington Light Infantry leave this evening for Virginia. A subscription has been opened for the purpose of obtaining relief for the family of Jackson, who killed Ellsworth.

Augusta, May 27.—President Davis, Toombs, Wigfall and T. R. R. Cobb, passed to-night en route for Richmond.

Manassas Junction, May 27.—Reports from Alexandria to-day state that the federal forces are concentrating there. Washington is almost entirely evacuated by federal troops. Arlington heights have been occupied and fortified by the Lincolnites to the number of 10,000 men. Great consternation is existing in Washington to-day, on account of the fear of an attack on the city by the Confederate troops.

A member of the Rappahannock Cavalry, named Anderson, one of Gen. Bonham's videttes, was shot this morning by the Federal scouts, on the road between Fairfax C. H. and Fall's church.

The Southern troops are anxious for a brush. They say they will not be satisfied until they are in Washington city. On account of insubordination, the New York Zouaves have been stationed one mile outside of Alexandria. Innumerable batteries and redouts guard the Washington and Alexandria turnpike. Copies of the following proclamation by Maj. Gen. Sandford, of the New York State Militia, in the service of the U. S., have been extensively circulated in Fairfax county to-day:

Headquarters Department Fairfax,
Arlington House, May 25.

Fairfax county being occupied by troops under my command, I deem it proper to repeat publicly, that assurances have been personally given many good citizens about me that all its inhabitants may return to and remain at their homes and usual pacific occupations in peace and confidence, and with assured protection to persons and property, as the U. S. troops in Virginia will be employed for no other purposes than that of suppressing unlawful combinations against the constituted authorities of the Union, and of causing the laws there to be duly respected and executed.

By order of

Maj. Gen. G. W. Sandford.

One of the Southern picquet guards was captured to-day.

Richmond, May 27.—The report which prevailed here that a number of the Lincolnites were killed on Sunday in an attack on Hampton, is authoritatively denied. The rumor sprung from the report of musketry firing, which occurred over the grave of a soldier at Old Point.

On Saturday the Lincolnites marched into Hampton, but met with no opposition, as the citizens retired on the approach of the mercenaries. Finding the town deserted, they left it, having burned the bridge and cut off communication.

About five hundred Federal troops left Old Point on Saturday. It is reported they propose to disembark on the coast of North Carolina.

About thirty Federal transport steamers are reported at Newport News, fifteen miles from Norfolk. They have landed an immense force of U. S. troops. It is supposed this force landed here will be supported by another body to be landed on Craney Island, and that they will both proceed simultaneously to attack Norfolk front and rear.

Richmond, May 27.—I am reliably informed that five United States war vessels entered the mouth of the James River this morning, and landed a body of troops at Newport News.

Dispatches received here from Harper's Ferry contradict the statement in the Washington Star of a battle having been fought at this place.

Norfolk, May 27, 3:20 P. M.—An officer from Craney Island reports that the enemy after stopping a short time at Newport News, continued their course up the James River. They did not land troops at Newport News. It is the opinion of many that this movement looks to a demonstration on Richmond; others think it only a *feint*.

Richmond, May 27—Our troops are in possession of Centreville and Fairfax Court House, and not the enemy, as reported.

Washington, May 27.—The Southern mails will be made up here and forwarded via the West. They will be continued until the first day of June.

Five and a half millions dollars in bonds were awarded to bidders at 85. Upwards of two and a quarter millions in treasury notes were negotiated at par.

It is reported that the Zouave pickets attacked the advanced posts of the Confederate troops, and after several rounds the Southerners retreated, leaving six prisoners in the enemy's hands.

Baltimore, May 27.—The Adelaide arrived here from Fortress Monroe. She reports that Butler was reinforced with 3,000 additional troops. When she left it was understood that Norfolk would be attacked on Monday. The Southerners are confident that the place is impregnable.

The bridge connecting Old Point Comfort with Hampton was burned by the Southerners.

New York, May 27.—A Zouave colonel, with $24,000 raised for his regiment, has been missing for ten days.

A merchant was arrested to day by Superintendent Kennedy for using seditious language.

Capt. Adams, commanding the Pensacola fleet, has been ordered home.

Boston, May 27.—The Massachusetts has sailed for Fort Pickens, heavily laden with munitions for that fort.

Washington, May 27.—The Minnesota and three other vessels are to leave Fortress Monroe to blockade Charleston.

A traveller from Richmond yesterday said that the train in which he was passenger brought a thousand South Carolinians to Manassas Junction. There are now five thousand there, tolerably well equipped. Extensive entrenchments are being thrown up, believing that Harper's Ferry is to be attacked in that direction.

The New York *Times* says that the inhabitants of Alexandria are sullen and disaffected. Fortifications are being erected there, including embankments a mile long and seven feet high. Twenty thousand more Abolitionists are called to Washington, and martial law proclaimed in Alexandria.

Edgar Snowden, of the *Gazette*, refused to publish the proclamation, and printers from the ranks of the Abolition army took possession of the office, and are publishing Snowden's paper.

The *Tribune* says that probably an overwhelming movement will be made against Richmond within three weeks, independent of the Washington reserves, and that the position at Harper's Ferry may be secured by a flank movement, by Manassas Gap Junction. Should Lee advance via Harper's Ferry or Manassas Gap, it would be immediately followed by Butler's advance on Norfolk.

Butler anticipates reaching Richmond by the 20th of July.

Patterson will throw masses of troops down the Maryland line from Chambersburg direct on Harper's Ferry.

[These are Northern dispatches, and must be taken with many grains of salt.]

Movements at the South.—A gentleman who has just arrived here from Virginia, where he has been for the last two months, in all its principal cities, estimates from his own observation, that there are not less than 40,000 men, well armed and equipped, now in the field in that State. From Winchester to Harper's Ferry he traveled in company with three regiments from Tennessee, as well armed and drilled as our Northern troops.—These men said they were to be followed by 10,000 more from that State, as fast as the capacity of the railroad will permit. The impression among the soldiers was that their destination was Washington, but the better-informed among the officers supposed that 50,000 of their best troops were to cross into Pennsylvania and make a rapid march for Philadelphia. When this body moves, an equal number, under Davis himself, is to threaten Washington, so that no relief can be spared for Philadelphia. Our informant further says, that the rebels seem perfectly confident of success, though well informed as to the state of affairs at Washington and in the North generally.

[*N. Y. Tribune of Saturday.*

Seizure of Telegraphic Despatches.—The Lincoln Government has committed an unparalleled act of invasion of the rights of citizens in ordering the seizure of all telegraphic despatches in Northern cities. It has remained for this miserable abortion of a Government to do what no monarchical Government has yet attempted, to violate private correspondence.