ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE AND VIRGINIA ADVERTISER.

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PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY BY
EDGAR SNOWDEN.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JUNE 6, 1877.

The New York Herald, in an editorial on Arlington, says:—

"We doubt if Mr. Lee has any claim which a court of law will sanction. In the early years of the war, when that part of Virginia was in military possession of the government, the military authorities administered therein the laws of Virginia, collecting and confiscating such taxes as were due on the property. When the taxes were not paid the lands were liable to sale, and the Arlington property was actually offered for sale, finding no bidders who were willing to pay the amount of the taxes. It was accordingly bid in by the government, which acquired a title in accordance with the statutes of Virginia relating to tax sales. This title seemed so unquestionable that neither General Lee during his life, nor Mrs. Lee after his death, made any attempt to recover the property. The estate was willed by its prior owner to Mrs. Lee for life and to her eldest son on her decease. He now asserts his claim chiefly on the ground that his reversionary interest could not be impaired by a tax sale. He maintains that as no tax was ever levied on him he never failed to pay one, and that his rights were not subject to forfeiture by the neglect of temporary possessors of the property. If the tax laws of Virginia resemble those of New York this is an utterly untenable position. Property is sold for taxes without regard to complications of ownership, but mortgages and persons having a future contingent interest are permitted to redeem it within a limited time. By failure to do so they forfeit all their preexisting rights. Supposing this to be the law of Virginia, as it certainly is of most of the States, we do not see that Mr. Lee has a shred of legal title to the Arlington estate."

The Herald's errors in this paragraph seem to embrace all the questions of fact as well as all the questions of law in reference to the matter. The military authorities never did "administer the laws of Virginia" in this county. They never "collected and confiscated any" tax whatever. The taxes for the so-called arrears which the Arlington estate was sold for, were taxes levied by the United States, and the invalidity of the sale of the whole of an estate of great value for a few dollars taxes, under such circumstances as those under which the Arlington estate was sold, has been repeatedly determined by the courts. It is also contended that the tax was tendered, but Judge Johnson holds that such a tender was unnecessary in the face of the known rule of the commissioners to receive the tax from no one but the owner. It is, also, urged that the tax sale did not pass the reversionary interest, and lastly, that the United States could acquire no title to land in the State without the consent of the State, and so far from any attempt having been made to recover the property by Mrs. Lee, that she did make such attempts the proceedings of Congress will prove.

That Gen. Lee will recover his right is as sure as that civil courts have been re-established, but that he would in any event disturb Arlington cemetery no one believes, and he has repeatedly announced his intention not to do so.

The Herald is probably right in its anticipation of what will occurr when the courts shall have sustained Gen. Lee's title. It says:—

Whatever may be the result of this suit nothing is more absolutely certain than that the Arlington grounds will remain forever in possession of the United States and of the dead who repose in them. The act of Congress relating to national cemeteries, passed in 1867, authorizes the Secretary of War to select for that purpose such sites as he deems suitable, and acquire them by purchase. If the Secretary and the owners cannot agree on a price he is authorized to take the property without their consent, and provision is made for the appointment of appraisers, and on payment of the sum awarded the fee simple vests in the United States. Even if Mr. Lee should gain his suit he will never recover possession of Arlington. In that event the Secretary of War will exercise the power conferred on him by statute, and if he and the heir cannot agree as to a proper compensation for the property the United States will continue to hold it, and he can apply for the appointment of appraisers. If the appellate courts decide that he is legally entitled to the estate he will recover not it, but a reasonable compensation. The repose of the dead, the patriotism of the people and the dignity of the nation will not be disturbed by any possible result of this suit."

How can Mr. Hayes or any of his friends expect his administration to receive the approbation of the country at large when its actions are influenced by such base motives as dread of Gen. Benjamin Butler's displeasure, and anxiety to relieve itself of the stings of his sarcasms; and that it is so influenced is proved by the fact of Mr. Bryan's appointment to the Commissionership of the District of Columbia, which appointment, though an excellent one, would never have been made but for Gen. Butler's assertion that Mr. Campbell would be appointed to the position because Mr. Corcoran had recommended him. This assertion was published yesterday morning, and though it was generally understood that Mr. Campbell would be appointed, so generally that even Gen. Butler believed it, upon the first hint of the use the hero of New Orleans was making of such an appointment, and to deprive him of the harp upon which he was playing tunes that delighted the bloody shirt element of his party, Mr. Campbell was immediately dropped, and Mr. Bryan, fortunately a suitable man, appointed to the position. Gen. Butler will be proud, but the people of the country will be shamed, of this public evidence of the great influence he exerts over President Hayes.

Ex-Senator and ex Secretary of the Treasury Boutwell utterly failed in his effort to regain his lost popularity in Massachusetts by his ill-timed, evil-minded and anger-provoking speech on Decoration Day—a sample extract of which we published—so far, at least, as winning the approbation of the respectable portion of the press of his party is concerned, for the Boston Journal, the Traveller of the same city, and the Times and Tribune of New York, in fact all the republican papers whose editors are actuated by principles, and are not instigated by hate or impelled by a desire to pander to the hate of their readers, entirely disavow and repudiate the sentiments he uttered, and if he had, not a larger, but any soul at all, the feelings engendered by their condemnation would not be assuaged even by the possession of the $5,000 he cunningly filched from Mr. Kenneth Rayner—not so cunningly, however, as to prevent detection and exposure.

The June number of the Southern Planter and Farmer, an excellent agricultural journal, published at Richmond, has been received. Its contents, as is invariably the case with each number, are instructive and interesting—peculiarly so to those engaged in tilling the soil.

Foreign News.

The four party leaders of the Greek administration have finally agreed upon the basis of policy for a coalition Ministry. M. Coumoundouros subsequently informed the Chamber that the present Cabinet had resigned, and a Ministry representing all parties was about to be formed. The party leaders have submitted a Ministerial combination to the King, according to which Canaris is President of the Council; Delegeorgis, Minister of War and Foreign Affairs, and Coumoundouros, Minister of the Interior and Instruction.

Mount Vesuvius has been in an unusual state of agitation for some days, showing at night fire at the mouth of the new crater recently opened, above which a cone is formed.

The passage of Valdez across the Rio Grande has created no sensation at the City of Mexico. The Judges of the Supreme Court were installed and the new Cabinet took their portfolios yesterday. Diaz is favorable to the Tehuantepec railroad project, provided Stevens' backers are bona fide capitalists and are in earnest. Diaz has been very successful in suppressing pronunciamentos, his experience as a pronunciador proving of service. Henceforth a guard of twenty soldiers will accompany each passenger train between the City of Mexico and Vera Cruz.

Licensed gambling houses have been allowed in the District of Mexico. Those in that city are divided into three classes: The first will pay $1,500, the second $1,000, and the third $750, monthly license. The reason for this is supposed to be the necessity for increasing the revenues. Considerable indignation is felt at the measure.

A special dispatch from Copenhagen, dated yesterday, says: "To-day the anniversary of the granting of the Constitution is being celebrated. A crowd, estimated at twenty thousand persons, is marching through the streets. Owing to the excited state of political feeling precautions have been taken against riotous demonstrations before the King's residence. The police have been strengthened and part of the garrison have been confined to their barracks."

The Bath and west of England society's centenary was celebrated at Bath to-day. The Widcombe suspension bridge fell and about one hundred persons were precipitated thirty feet into the river Avon. Eight dead bodies have been recovered and it is feared that others perished. Many were injured. Another account represents the disaster as much more serious, but the details are not sufficient to say whether it is exaggerated.

LONDON, June 6—5 p. m.—Later advices from Bath say that twenty dead bodies of the victims of the Widcombe suspension bridge accident have been recovered, and several are still missing. It is now said there were nearly 200 people on the bridge when it fell.

From Washington.

[SPECIAL DISPATCHES TO THE GAZETTE.]

WASHINGTON, June 6, 1877.

There is much talk here to-day of General Butler's recent lunge at Hayes and at the haste with which he sheathed his dagger. In the afternoon paper he appears as the redoubtable enemy of the President. In the morning journal he coos like a dove. He is compared here to

"The man in our town,
Who was so wondrous wise,
He jumped into a brier bush
And scratched out both his eyes.

But when he found his eyes were out,
With all his might and main
He jumped into another bush
And scratched them in again."

There is much disposition among the subordinate chiefs here to follow the Grant fashion and go away for the summer, but it is understood that there will be no month's leave on pay this year.

VIRGINIA NOTES.

The pressure upon the President to take some action in the pending cases in Virginia where the commissions of the incumbents of federal offices have expired is very great, and the appointment of postmaster in Lynchburg, at least, cannot be much longer delayed. J. F. Wilson is pressed by a large number of friends, among them Mr. J. F. Johnson, for this post.

The postmaster at Wing Creek has resigned.

There were no patents granted to Virginians this week.

The advance of Virginia cities is shown by the fact that in all of them the free delivery system continues to increase. In the Norfolk report for the month just passed it appears that 48,275 letters and 16,096 mail postal cards were delivered, and 55,116 letters and 13,867 cards collected during the month of May.

Col. Mosby is doing what he can to secure the appointment of Woodville Latham as postmaster of Lynchburg, but his influence is not as potent now as it was with him who is now across the sea.

NATIONAL NOTES.

If the facts relating to the detention of an American vessel by a Spanish man-of-war are as unofficially reported the Secretary of State will take steps to obtain an apology and reparation.

Learning by newspaper publications that a filibustering expedition is being fitted out at New Orleans in aid of the Cuban insurrection, Secretary Evarts has ordered an investigation of the matter. If the statement be found correct the persons engaged in the project will be arrested and punished.

Secretary McCrary has annulled the contract for the completion of the War Department building now in process of construction, and concluded a new contract by which work will be continued on the building at a saving of at least 33 per cent. It is expected the building will be completed by the close of the coming fiscal year.

A woman named Fanny Brown, arrested in St. Louis for vagrancy, had with her a bright little girl of seven years, who gave her name as Mary Masterson, and said that her home was in Philadelphia. A girl of the same name and age was stolen by a woman from her grandmother, Mrs. Ann White, in Philadelphia, on the 13th of April, and search has been made for her in New York and Brooklyn. A Philadelphia detective will go to St. Louis and bring the child and woman back with him.

The Lexington, (Virginia) Gazette says:—"Captain James M. Martin, an Elder in New Providence Chuch, died very suddenly in his pew last Sunday as the congregation was singing the last hymn. He was seen to fall back in his pew, and was immediately lifted and carried out of the church and placed under some shade trees in front of the vestibule. Death's stroke was instantaneous and effectual, but it found its victim ready."

The Eastern War.

A telegram from Suleiman Pasha, dated Monday, announces that he has marched from Gatzeho and taken several Montenegrin positions, especially the important fortifications around Kristdhe (probably Krstazo,) which were captured after a desperate fight with six thousand Montenegrins. The latter were routed with considerable loss. Ali Saib, commandant at Scutari, also announces the capture of several Montenegrin positions.

Simultaneously with Suleiman Pasha's advance, Mehmet Ali attacked the Montenegrins at Kolaschin, killing eighty and losing thirty-six of his own men.

The Turks yesterday bombarded and slightly damaged some vessels which the Russians were collecting at Giurgevo to cross the Danube.

Travelers from Rustchuk confirm the reports that the waters of the Danube have fallen, and say an impression has been gaining ground for the last three days that the Russians will very shortly endeavor to cross the Danube at three different points, making Rustchuk the chief object of attack. All the women have left the town. The foreign consuls, except the English, will leave in a few days.

A Vienna dispatch and other advices state that the Czar will arrive at Ploiesti to-day. A large posse of secret police have preceded the Czar on his way to Bucharest. General Ignatieff has arrived in Bucharest.

A grand military council, under the Presidency of the Sultan, lasting two hours, was held at the Ministry of War yesterday. The Greek Patriarch has issued a pastoral, recommending the orthodox to remain faithful to the Sultan.

The semi-official Journal de St. Petersburg, adverting to peace rumors, says diplomacy had better not pronounce in favor of any definite plan for the termination of the war until decisive events have occurred on the battle field. The terms of peace must depend on the course of war.

A Belgrade correspondent says it is reported that the English Consul at Mostar is to visit the Banajulka and Bihatch districts to observe the progress of the insurrection and the condition of the Rayahs. The Servians have sent an address, through the Slav Committee, to the Russian nation calling the Czar Liberator. A Servian paper exhorts the Principality to decide the fate of the Servian race by declaring war against the Porte. It counsels Servia to wait until the Russians have crossed the Danube, and then enter Old Servia and Bosnia.

A special to the London News from Pesth states that despite all denials it is positively asserted that Servia has made complete preparations to commence hostilities near Akpalanka and Altnisch as soon as the Russians have crossed the Danube.

The Berlin Post intimates that a diplomatic conference may be held at Bucharest during the sojourn of the Czar.

The London Telegraph's Bucharest correspondent asserts that this year thirty thousand of the Servian militia are not to be called out for annual drill.

The London Times' correspondent with the Turkish army sends the following particulars of its organization:—

The Turkish Army of the Danube is slightly deficient in artillery and very deficient in cavalry. The cause of this is exclusively the want of money. The Turkish Government have still more than four hundred breech-loading cannon lying idle at Constantinople for want of horses and harness, and there are multitudes of men well qualified to be dragoons, but there is no money to mount them. The armament of the troops is all that is perfect. The infantry have Martini Henry rifles and the cavalry Winchester rifles. According to most trustworthy information the present strength of the army, exclusive of the reserves in course of formation on the other side the Balkans, is 230 battalions of infantry, 72 squadrons of horse, 300 cannon and about 8,000 fortress artillery and engineers. Of these 45 battalions are stationed at Widdin, 36 at Rustchuk, 65 at Shumla, 28 at Varna and 36 at Silistria. The remaining 20 battalions are divided by Nikopolis, Sistova, Turtucki, the Dobrujda and various places of more or less importance in Danubian Bulgaria. Every battalion on an average may be assumed to contain 750 men. The contributions from Nish, it is true, are considerably below this standard, but on the other hand numerous Redif battalions have 1,000 men and even more. Therefore the total number of infantry is about 172,500, and of cavalry, reckoning 100 men to a squadron, 7,200. Accordingly the Army of the Danube, including fortress, artillery and engineers, is close upon 200,000 strong. As to the organization, there is a want of everything that is indispensable in tactical unity and system. Until within a few weeks there were no divisions, brigades or regiments. Battalions lay scattered about without often knowing from whom they had to receive orders. It is true that after declaration of war, divisions and brigades were formed, but this is of little practical value when it is considered that the troops and commanders are changed about at the caprice of one superior officer. The army is virtually directed from Constantinople, where all movements are planned and orders issued by the so-called Council of War. This council is composed of a number of generals, who are mere puppets in the hands of a few ignorant upstarts. Abdul Kerim Pasha is the mere executor of the will of this body. It cannot be denied that he possesses military experience, and a sharp, judicious eye, but he is wholly wanting in energy and power of rapid action. To the natural incapacity of the Commander-in-Chief in this respect must be added the circumstance that he is seconded by no general staff. As regards the fortresses in European Turkey, incredible results have been accomplished. Widdin, Rustchuk, Silistria, Shumla and Varna, especially the last two, are now quite formidable. The fortifications almost entirely consist of independent works, mostly of earth, but constructed in conformity with modern principles of armament, and leave nothing to be desired. That the Russians will succeed, perhaps at no distant date, in forcing the river is more than probable; but it is equally certain that in the face of the tough, enduring qualities of the Turkish soldier, they will only after spilling much blood force the barrier opposed to their onward progress, in the shape of the fortresses of the Danube.

The London Times, in its leading article, says:—"So far as can be judged the fortune of war will be adverse to the Turks. The operations may not have the rapidity of recent wars, but the Turks are overmatched and must succumb in the end. This catastrophe Europe will accept. No nation will go to war again to support that which cannot be supported. No real statesman will cling to a dead element in a system instead of looking for its living forces. We know that we must seek for that which is to place the parting power. To this we cannot too soon direct our attention."

Several Turkish iron clads have left Canea for Alexandria to escort the Egyptian contingent to Constantinople.

A dispatch from Vienna says:—"The Porte as a precaution against the growing war agitation in Greece has ordered the calling out of the militia and reserves in Epirus and Thessaly and the distribution of arms among the population of the frontier districts."

The Czar left Jassy yesterday afternoon for Ploejesti. In order to guard against any attempt on His Majesty's life during the journey, safety trains were run before and behind the imperial train. These precautions were rendered necessary by the existence of a conspiracy to wreck the imperial train on its passage to Ploejesti.

A later dispatch announces the Czar's arrival at the Russian headquarters about midnight.

The Emperor has decided on inviting all the foreign Powers to send diplomatic representatives to the Russian headquarters so that they can keep themselves thoroughly posted on the progress of events.

The weather in Roumania has turned very hot and is having a very bad influence on the health of the Russian troops. This bad effect is especially noticeable among the troops camped in the swampy lands on the banks of the Danube. Sickness begins to prevail to an alarming extent. The great difficulty with which Russia will have to grapple in this war is the want of money. The Russian finances are in a very embarrassed condition, and for the last fortnight the troops have not received their extra war pay, at which there is considerable dissatisfaction among the soldiers. Already the difficulty of meeting the war expenses is proving a heavy drain on the Russian resources and there seems to be an inability to meet engagements promptly. The payment to the Roumanian railways for the transportation of men and material has fallen into arrears, and some twelve million francs are now due, without much prospects of being paid.

MANCHESTER, June 6.—The Guardian has a dispatch from Ragusa, dated Tuesday afternoon, saying:—"The Turkish attack on Montenegro from the Albanian side has commenced. Ali Saib with the whole of his forces advanced from Spuz up the Zeta Valley, the object being to reach Danilegrad. The Montenegrins met the attack on the hill of Majat. The fighting is still raging, but up to noon the Turkish assaults were repulsed. Five hundred Turks have been killed. The Montenegrins fight against enormous odds, there being 35,000 regulars and irregulars against them on this side alone."

The Guardian's Vienna dispatch says:—Since the commencement of the great heat the health of the Russian army has become worse. Financial difficulties are apparent. For the last fortnight the troops have not received the additional war money, above their regular pay. Russia owes besides twelve million francs to the Roumanian railways. Russian bonds for contracts are made payable at Kischineff, and the Banque de Roumainee pays them at 50 per cent. discount. The Czar takes command of the army chiefly because the Grand Duke Nicholas and his Chief of Staff, Gen. Nepo Roitschitzky, frequently disagree. After the Czar's arrival a state of siege will be proclaimed at Bucharest, and a Russian town commander appointed."

The Guardian's Constantinople dispatch says:—"By order of the Minister of War local journals are forbidden to publish any matter relating to the war or to report incidents of battles or any facts bearing on the subject."

The Levant Herald has an able article on the subject, calling upon the Minister of War to revise his decision in the country's interest.

La Lurquie (an official newspaper) to-day holds out hopes that the measure may be recalled.

LONDON, June 6.—The Standard has a Vienna dispatch saying:—In military circles here the opinion gains ground that the Russians will not cross the Danube. They expect such decisive successes in Asia that every condition of a durable peace may be secured from their effects.

PARIS, June 6.—The Russian telegraphic agency states that a telegram has been received from Simlin declaring that a conspiracy has been discovered in Servia to depose Prince Milan in favor of the Prince of Montenegro.

EDINBURG, June 6.—The London correspondent of the Scotsman telegraphs as follows: In ministerial circles there is a revival of the uneasiness which prevailed when Russia declared war, as to the part this country will shortly be called upon to take. This feeling has been strengthened by the general conviction of high military authorities that Russia will be completely successful and so far as Turkey is concerned dictate her own terms. At one or two regimental dinners last week officers of the highest rank expressed fears that England would soon be at war and that so far little has been done to prepare for the evil. A belief is also growing that our Government will be left to carry out and defend its own policy; that Austria, which is the only probable ally, cannot be depended upon and therefore it would be wise and fairer if the Premier and Cabinet would frankly declare what they will do if the Russian troops directly threaten Constantinople either in Europe or Asia.

LONDON, June 6.—An official report received at Constantinople to day from the Governor of Herzegovinia confirms the reported defeat of the Montenegrins and Herzegovinese on the 4th inst., in the defiles of Kristaes, with heavy loss by Suleiman Pasha.

(NOTE.—The evening Standard's Pesth special is confirmation of the Turkish account of this fight.)

News of the Day.

Yesterday was the second day's meeting of the American Jockey Club, at Jerome Park. The following were winners of races: Fugitive, Tom Ochiltree, Zoo Zoo, Shylock and Trouble. At the Mystic Park, Boston, yesterday, the winners were Comel and Voltaire. At the second day's meeting of the Queen City Jockey Club, at Cincinnati, yesterday, the winners were Lapland, Glasgow and Burgamot. The track was bad, and rain poured down incessantly.

A dispatch from New Orleans last night says: There is a large audience at the Opera House witnessing the lottery drawing. Gen. Jubal Early is drawing the ticket numbers and Gen. Beauregard the prizes from the respective wheels. No. 87,167 drew $100,000, No. 34,751 drew $50,000 and No. 37,419 drew $10,000.

The manufacturers of illicit whiskey, in South Caroline, have become so bold and determined in their operations that the use of Federal troops is required to enforce the internal revenue laws in that State.

A large water spout burst near Boile Creek, in Elkhorn Valley, Omaha, yesterday, flooding everything for miles, to the depth of 12 feet. The damage is considerable, but the amount unknown as yet.

The Philadelphia Ledger expresses the opinion that the price of coal is now at its lowest point for this year, and that the coal trade in all its departments is at its greatest depression.

J. B Ficklin, has purchased the handsome residence of Montgomery Slaughter in Fredericksburg, for $5,000.

Passenger rates from Chicago to Philadelphia have been lowered to $14, and to Baltimore $13.50.

COAL! COAL!

We can now offer best quality ANTHRACITE COAL, prepared especially for family use at the following rates:
White Ash Egg and Nut Coal $4.
White Ash Stove $4 25.
Red Ash Egg and Nut $4 25 & $4 50.
Red Ash Stove $4 50 and $4 75.
Lyken's Valley $5 50.
Cumberland $3 50.
Per ton of 2240 lbs, delivered to any part of the city.
T. J. MEHAFFEY & CO.,
je 5 Wharf and yards foot of Queen street.

LUNCH TONGUE and HAM, in one pound packages, a delicious article for travelers, for sale cheap by.
je 6 R. W. AVERY, 226 King st.

LADIES' UNDERWEAR.
je 6-5t C. M. ADAMS, 92 King st.

BOYS' UNDERWEAR.
je 6-3t C. M. ADAMS, 92 King st.

NOTICE—By the ordinances of the city occupants of houses within the city's limits are required to keep the gutters in front of their premises unobstructed. This is to give notice, therefore, that the grass now growing in said gutters must be removed at once.
je 4-1w W. B. BROWN, Supt. of Police.

WILSON'S CANNED CORN BEEF received and for sale by
my 30 F. J. DAVIDSON, 147 King st.

Butler's Compliments to MacVeagh.

Gen. B. F. Butler, yesterday, furnished the Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun the following:

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 30, 1877.

DEAR SIR: I received yours of the 29th instant, in manuscript, after having read it in print.

I dictated to my phonographic secretary a letter to Marshal Pitkin in reply to one informing me that his resignation had been demanded by the executive, and to that demand he had refused to accede, and sent it, marking it personal, so that I am in no way responsible for its getting into print.

The facts that were recited therein were stated specially to be from information which I had received from credible sources. Of course I could know nothing of the occurrences personally, and therefore did not undertake to give them either publication or personal endorsement save that I believed them. If you had addressed me even a pointed letter, couched in the ordinary courteous language which passes between gentlemen, especially when the one who uses it, it is rumored, is expecting employment in the diplomatic service of his country, I should have very promptly, upon being set right, made reparation so far as in my power for any injury arising from a publication even for which I was not responsible.

I never thought of charging you with using your own money, of which you declare you "had none to spare," in paying the mileage of the deserting legislators of the Packard House. You will observe, on reading my letter more carefully, that I did not even allege that "it was asserted" that any money was *paid*, my phrase being, "it is asserted that two thousand dollars *was to be paid* to the leading deserting legislators, and only two hundred dollars to others, disguised in the latter case in the shape of mileage, so that Mr. Johnson, a colored man, speaking out of the innocence of his heart, said, on the floor of the House, that all he wanted was to get his mileage and go home."

Now how any person could find in such a statement an assertion that he paid any money passes my comprehension. I especially say that poor Johnson declared that he "*wanted to get* his money and go home"—not that he had got it. It never occurred to me that any money was paid—only promised; or that the legislators got their money for deserting, any more than Wharton has got his office for not "managing any business." On the contrary I was told that although the money was promised as a bribe for the desertion, the poor fellows did not get it, but were required further to vote for Mr. Spofford as Senator before they could get even what was due them.

Now I do not know this fact, but hope and believe the Senate will ascertain it on investigation in the contest for the Senator's seat. I would suggest to the Senate committee to ask certain members of the Packard Legislature, whose names I will give, whether after all efforts to demoralize the republican members and get them to go over to Nichols by the commission, acting together, had failed, a selected portion of that Legislature were requested by Col. Wharton, a friend of Packard, to meet Wayne MacVeagh, and did so. Whether he addressed them, saying that the President would not recognize the Packard government; that the troops would be withdrawn the next day; that he had a telegram to that effect; that if they would go over to the Nichells Legislature they would be recognized and seated, and get their mileage, but if they did not do so within twenty-four hours their seats would be declared vacant and they would lose all. If the committe push their inquiry, I firmly believe, upon evidence, they will find what I have suggested to be *substantially* true. Now do not deny the words of this. I see you are fond of denying "words."

I read in your letter that you say Wharton "did not manage or transact any kind of business for me." Certainly not. Bless your soul! You do not call such tricks as these business, do you? They are not business, even if you should get that foreign mission for doing them, which I hope you will.

You further say "Wharton was a friend of Packard." All the better instrument therefore to get Packard's friends away from him. It was well done, and does credit to your training.

You say further, "strange as it may seem to some of them, political results are still attainable in this country by straight-forward and honest methods." True; it did seem strange to me; for more than thirty years' experience in the ways of Pennsylvania political "methods" and politicians in both parties—it did seem strange to me if this transaction was either "straight-forward" or "honest." You made a good point on me there.

I frankly confess I had no evidence then and have none now that you paid any money to these deluded men after it had been promised them. I desire in the most solemn manner to acquit you of ever having paid away any money. I know as you say in your letter that you had "none to spare," and I believed if you had you would not "spare it." I trust and hope the event which you hope will give you command of a large sum of money is in the far distance.

I agree most fully that where you are known you "do not need to deny any silly story" about the use of money in paying anything; and if I had ever asserted that you did use your own money for any good or even political purpose, I should have been guilty as you, in your own chaste language say, of a "base and cowardly falsehood." Therefore I repeat again I never have known or heard of your paying anything to anybody, and, as present advised, without more evidence than I have now, I never will assert such a thing possible.

You need not make me excuses as you do for "not having money of your own to spare." I have known many men without money, but I never knew one without an excuse for not having it.

As you state your excuse, "it is only a military commandant of New Orleans in time of war who can *safely* appropriate any considerable quantity of the property of others to his own use."

Do I understand you correctly that it is the want of ability to do it "*safely*" that has prevented you from appropriating a considerable quantity of the property of others to your own use?

However, I shall not affect to misunderstand the allusion which you thus make, but pardon it to the apparent loss of your temper, which makes your writing at once unjust, illogical and unperspicuous. If you believed what you are brave enough only to insinuate, because, although you were young and able bodied, I fail to recall the number of the regiment in which you served in the war for your country's safety, certainly you could not, as managing member of the State republican committee of Pennsylvania, have invited with pressing letters which I now have, one who had appropriated wrongfully other people's property, to come to that State to speak on the same platform with yourself, traveling together many miles to attend meetings to instruct your people on public affairs.

Besides, my dear Mr. MacVeagh, the insinuation was unworthy of you. It is neither novel nor useful, and therefore not patentable. A half dozen dirty newspapers have been enabled to preserve themselves from bankruptcy for the last dozen years by printing the assertions about me which you only insinuate.

Every one has his own taste in choosing his way to acquire money, but if I were obliged to choose one of two ways, either to "appropriate it as a military commandant," or to marry into a family where I was neither wanted nor by which I should be respected, to get "money to spare," I certainly should choose the former, strange as you may think it, because at least I should have the money after having committed a disreputable act to get it, and not liable to be disappointed, as I might be, after I had waited long for "dead men's shoes" by the other method.

There is another denial of yours of an assertion that I did not make. "I have not asked the President to appoint him (Wharton) marshal." I never intimated you had so done. I have always supposed that you had never asked President Hayes for the appointment of anybody except yourself, and my knowledge of that idiosyncrasy of yours would have prevented me from asserting that you had asked for the appointment of Wharton. Certain it is that Gov. Packard has not. Who do you think is so pressing Col. Jack Wharton, of the Confederate army, that Pitkin, the republican and good officer, is called upon by a republican administration to resign his office to make way for the rebel? What service has Wharton (a loyal man, it is true,) ever done for the party in this country to earn high office, except to help kill some of our gallant soldiers, whose holy graves we were decorating on the day I got your kind note?

Let me advise you, my dear sir, not to lose your temper in discussing political matters. If you do you will prove yourself unfit to be employed to manage diplomatic affairs, even at the smallest court in Europe, say of Monaco, where they have a standing army of sixty men only, so that you need not be afraid to go there because of any danger of war. I should be grieved if you do anything which would in any possibility lessen the chance that you will leave very soon the country to be away at least four years. For the rest, as to the disputed questions of fact relating to what was said and done by the commission of which you were a member when in New Orleans, we will renew the discussion after a committee of Congress, of which it may be my ill-fortune to be a member, has made a full investigation. Then, and not till then, if you please, we will renew our correspondence, unless, indeed, you would like to practice upon me to educate yourself to translate diplomatic notes.

I must apologize to you for the seeming delay between the date of this note and your reception of it. I began the reply as soon as I was favored with yours, but as I reserve letters of this sort for recreation I could not finish it sooner, as I have been away, barring except with professional engagements. Pray look on it as excused.

I am, not only "truly," but very truly yours,
BENJ. F. BUTLER.

Hon. Wayne MacVeagh, Philadelphia, Pa.

The Militia or Volunteers vs. Regulars.

To the editor of the Alexandria Gazette:

Indisputably nothing can be more detrimental to the public weal than the utterances of distinguished men, the natural teachers of the people, of propositions which will not bear the test of even cursory scrutiny, particularly propositions whose sole aim seems to be to pander to the vanity of the public by whom the orator happens to be surrounded, and to lull them into a security which it can be demonstrated may lead to their own ruin and to that of their country. Just such a proposition we hold was that enunciated by General Joseph E. Johnston in a speech recently delivered in Dallas, Texas, where he said that "the events of four years decided the question to the satisfaction of all American military men that the militia or volunteers were the men to be depended on."

Forced to recall those terrible four years, whose blood and blight-ridden record we would that we could successfully invoke the dark waters of Lethe forever to wash from our memories; forced to recall that long roll of ruin, we can almost imagine that the late Confederate general was indulging in grim irony when he descanted to the Texans upon the military efficiency of the militia. No man could know better than General Johnston that one of the greatest drawbacks upon Confederate success in the late war was the difficulty, the impossibility, we may say, of properly disciplining Southern troops. With some exceptions they were militia to the last. They abhorred being subjected to the rigid discipline necessary to make them perfect soldiers. They were not accustomed to it and would have none of it. Surely it is not necessary to specify the melancholy occasions of the late war which prove our assertion. Surely there are not within the bounds of the late Confederacy twenty intelligent, candid soldiers, who served throughout the war, who will deny that the very reverse of discipline prevailed throughout the Confederate ranks to an alarming extent, particularly among the cavalry. Nor on the other hand is it possible to deny that the Federal troops, from the inception of hostilities to their close, steadily improved in their discipline, and that the high discipline they reached had an important bearing upon the final result. Let us look the facts in the face. It is weakness or worse to shut our eyes or deny them.

We are by no means contending that the American army should be kept up to its present strength. If the exigencies of the service will permit it to be reduced, let it be brought down to the requisite number, and the people be relieved from so much unnecessary taxation. Of this matter it is the duty of Congress to judge. And moreover we do not hesitate to say that rather than have the American army put to such base uses as it was lately applied to we would rather see it disbanded, and we would the people. The President and Congress all this; and there is no danger of a recurrence of those evil days.

But let the American army stand for its glory and the defence of the American people. We have no fear that this level headed people are going to see that army broken up, or West Point, the school of the soldier—the superior school of soldier—toppled into the Hudson. Such a midsummer madness is theirs. And should the day ever come when 100,000 Rutherfords are drawn up in line of battle on our northern frontier, we hope they will not be confronted exclusively by 100,000 raw militia, commanded even by so distinguished a general as Joseph E. Johnston.

C.

General Grant in England.

The reception given by Minister Pierrepont in London last night in honor of ex President Grant was a most brilliant affair. The large drawing and reception rooms were crowded from ten until 1 o'clock. At least one thousand persons were present, comprising all the first and most distinguished of English and American society in London. Ex President Grant received with Mrs. Pierrepont and stood by his person's hand. Mr. Pierrepont received with Mrs. Grant. All the members of her Majesty's Cabinet were present, except Lord Beaconsfield, who is ill, and almost the entire diplomatic corps attended, the Japanese and Chinese Ambassadors being especially remarkable. A large number of members of Parliament, Mr. John Bright, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Tom Taylor, Mr. William Black, Rev. Moncure D. Conway, Professor Schlieman and the Earl and Countess of Caithness were among the distinguished guests. Nearly as many Americans as Englishmen were present.

Among the guests at Minister Pierrepont's reception were also Prince Albert, Duke of the Duke of Leeds, the Duchess of Bedford, the Earls and Countesses of Belmore, Lonsdale, Dunraven and Ducie; the Earl of Shaftesbury, Earl Manners, the Viscount and Viscountess Cardwell, Lords Selborne, Carnarvon, Alfred Churchill and Calleshe, Sir Charles Wilderly, Mr. Spencer Walpole, Mr. Childers, the Master of the Rolls, Admiral Musc, Sir G. Trevelyan, Sir Rutherford Alcock, Baron Reuter, the Bishop of Gloucester, D. Norman Hall, Mr. Arthur Sullivan, Baron Lionel Rothschild, Mr. McCullough, Mr. Fairman, Mr. Blanchard Jerrold, Mr. Russell Gurney, Mr. Karl Blind and General Fairchild. The names of the most distinguished guests alone would fill nearly a column.