

Belmont Chronicle. PUBLISHED Every Thursday Morning. BY C. L. POORMAN. OFFICE: Belmont Hall Building, a few doors East of Court House.

Belmont Chronicle

Established in 1813. ST. CLAIRSVILLE, OHIO, JULY 4, 1861. New Series—Vol. 1, No. 22.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING: One square, (ten lines of text), one of three lines...

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Letter from Washington.

WASHINGTON CITY, D. C., June 24, 1861. During the past few days nothing of material interest has transpired at the National Capital.

Yet, as formidable as these figures at the first glance may appear, it is firmly believed in military circles that a large and efficiently equipped and drilled reserve of at least 50,000 men will be required before an advance can successfully be made upon the strongholds of the rebels.

Professor Lowe's balloon experiments have been entirely successful. On Saturday last he transported his balloon to Fort Corcoran, situated at Arlington Heights in the city of Washington.

Mr. Russell, "our own correspondent" of the London Times, writing from Montgomery May 9, relates how he was admitted to a seat in the Confederate Congress, and what he there saw and heard.

"Seated in the midst of them, at a Senator's desk, I was admitted to 'assist,' in the French sense, at the deliberations of the Congress. Mr. Howell Cobb took the chair, and a white-headed clergyman was called upon to say prayers, which he did upstanding, with outstretched hands and closed eyes, by the side of the Speaker.

"The reverend gentleman prayed that the Almighty might be pleased to inflict on the United States such a defeat that it might be the example of signal punishment forever—that this President might be blessed, and that the other President might be the other thing—that the gallant, devoted young soldiers who were fighting for their country might not suffer from exposure to weather or from the bullets of their enemies; and that the base mercenaries who were fighting on the other side, might come to sure and swift destruction, and so on."

A KENTUCKY GENERAL.—The New York World says: Gen. Josiah Harlan, who is to command the Kentucky Cavalry Regiment, is a native of Pennsylvania. For nearly twenty years he was actively engaged in military operations in India, having assisted in organizing the forces of Ranjitsingh Singh, Prince of the Punjab, and afterward performed the same service for Dost Mahomed, of Cabul.

A Slave Auction.

It appears from Mr. Russell's latest received letter to the London Times, that while he was sojourning at the capital of the Southern Confederacy, he thought it would be instructive to attend for the first time a slave auction. What he saw and felt is thus vividly described:

The crowd was small. Three or four idle men, in rough, homespun makeshift uniforms, leant against the iron rails enclosing a small pond of foul, green-looking water, surrounded by a brick work which decorates the space in front of the Exchange Hotel.

What, continued the speaker, do you go forth for? Is this to be a crusade of emancipation? No, no. I hold that no man shall surpass me in detestation of Slavery. I do not mean black Slavery alone. I hate Slavery everywhere. I love my fellow-men. I believe that all men were born to be free. I believe that liberty is the born right of every man.

Not a War for the Abolition of Slavery. The following is an extract from a recent address of Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, whose intense Anti-Slavery views are known to all intelligent persons, before a regiment of Long Island volunteers:

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The New Regular Regiments.

An official order, issued from the office of the Adjutant General of the Army, provides for the organization of the eleven regiments which are to be added to the regular army. The officers will take rank in their respective grades from May 14. The commanders appointed are as follows:

Third Regiment of Cavalry.—Colonel David Hunter, of the District of Columbia; Major, Wm. H. Emory, of Maryland; Major, Daniel H. Barker, of Michigan, and Edward Wright, of New Jersey.

Fifth Regiment of Infantry.—Colonel Harvey Brown, of New Jersey; Lieutenant Colonel, Thomas W. Sherman, of Rhode Island; Major, Thomas Williams, of Michigan; William F. Barry, of New York, captain second artillery, and Henry J. Hunt, of Ohio, first lieutenant.

Seventeenth Regiment of Infantry.—Colonel Samuel P. Heintzelman, of Pennsylvania; Lieutenant Colonel, Abner Doubleday, of New York; Major, Edwin Underwood, of Pennsylvania, captain fourth infantry, and Frederick Townsend, of New York.

Col. Kelley Promoted to a Brigadier General. With great pleasure we announce the promotion of this gallant officer to the command of a Virginia brigade.

THE DOUGLAS FUND.—At a meeting of the Douglas Committee, held in Washington Friday evening, the following auxiliary committee for Ohio was appointed:

OHIO.—Hon. George E. Pugh, Daniel P. Rhodes, Hon. S. P. Chase, Judge Henry B. Payne, John W. Gray, Hon. John Sherman, Col. McCook, Hon. John A. Gurley, Hon. S. S. Cox, Hon. D. Tod, Washington McLean, James C. Steadman.

Brownlow on the Secession in Tennessee.

The Knoxville Whig of June 13th, which has just reached us, contains the Editor's view of the vote of the 8th, by which the State seceded, and its declared future policy. After characterizing the election in middle and west Tennessee as a perfect farce, he says:

We have made, as both parties will bear us witness, the best fight, ay, the most desperate fight we could in favor of the Union, and of the constitutional means to perpetuate it. We have done this because we have no single principle in question. We have no more honorable civil position, no greater liberty, and no more privileges than are guaranteed, (by the fundamental law,) and which all sections have heretofore enjoyed in all their richest plenitude.

Several Days in the Woods. Some days ago a party of soldiers stationed at Cheat River, on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, were out scouting, when they observed a man quickly jump behind a tree. The soldiers called for the man, whom they supposed to be one of a guerrilla party, to come out. The call was several times repeated, and accompanied with terms and threats.

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GENERAL SCOTT A TAILOR.—General Scott is beyond all question the best tailor in the Union. He has cut out rebels at Washington, arrested them in at Harper's Ferry, and run them together at Manassas Gap. He is about ready to bust them at Norfolk, fell them down at Richmond, and, if nothing else will answer, rip them generally to pieces elsewhere.

Terrible Condition of Affairs in Alabama—Disaffection Among the Confederate Forces—Hunted Down with Dogs in Mississippi.

An old gentleman named John E. Farrier, just one week from his residence, thirty miles from Mobile, Alabama, on the Bigbee river, called upon us yesterday for the purpose of relating some facts in regard to the present condition of affairs in that state. Mr. Farrier is a member of the Baptist church, and has been a professional Christian for over twenty years. Aside from this, he is a fair, honest face and earnest manner, and sufficient guaranty of the truth of his statements, in presenting which we desire to state anonymously, statements that is generally done, but those falling from this old man's lips, carried with them the irresistible weight of truth itself.

The old gentleman states that in Mobile, which is swarming with soldiers, the greatest excitement prevails, and the soldiers are the most restless and unruly of any in the army. The extreme hate rankles in every breast toward the North, which with a bragging air the chivalry feel confident they can easily whip. As Mr. F. left Mobile, the soldiers had received orders from Jeff. Davis to be in readiness for an attack on Ft. Pickens on the 4th of July, after which the event of the success is their avowed intention for Washington. This, of course, is given as the belief entertained in Mobile. Disorder and noise are the chief characteristics of the Confederate forces, so far as seen by our informant.

He says that the condition of the poor whites and a great majority of the slaves, is terrible. Both are starving. The soldiers, notwithstanding their hatred of the North, begin to chafe under the Southern rule, and in many instances they have demanded their pay at the muzzle of the revolver. As a general thing they are poorly provisioned and very badly cared for. Their desire is to "promise-grammed." Their desire is to ravish the North, and "booty and beauty" their motto.

A Confederate officer told Mr. F. on the cars at Mobile, that fully six hundred soldiers are now on the pick list in Fort Morgan, at Mobile Point, and he said that unless something was done to improve its hygienic condition, fully a thousand would be taken down during the week. The whole country is in arms up to the Kentucky line, and Jeff. Davis' spies hired at \$40 per month, are literally distributed all over.

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"He has no fortune whatever; his fleet consists of two small river coasting steamers, without guns, and he said in talking of the resources of the South: 'My bones will be bleached many a long year before the Confederate States can hope to have an navy!'"

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