

The "Shreveport" Sentinels.—Mr. E. Mason was elected Captain of this company on Thursday night...

A Suggestion.—We are informed that all the business houses in New Orleans are closed at six o'clock P. M. in order to give clerks and other employees an opportunity to drill.

Execution of an Abolitionist.—A man named Jackson was hanged by the vigilance committee of Spring creek township, Phillips county, Ark., Monday evening, for tampering with slaves.—Memphis Argus.

A Private Letter from the Seat of War.

Through the politeness of our fellow citizen, W. S. Lewis, Esq., we are permitted to publish the following letter, which will be found very interesting:

ENCAMPMENT 1ST REG. LA. VOL'S., Near Norfolk, May, 22nd, 1861.

My Dear Father: We are still leading the monotonous life of an encampment; though we are kept continually on the qui vive, from the hourly expectation of orders to move to the field for active service.

I nursed him myself one night and a day, before we got to Richmond. I don't think he had any friend in Shreveport. If, however, it would be of any satisfaction to any one, I can say that he was well nursed while he was sick, and had a decent interment after death.

We have a deserter in the Regiment—an Orderly Sergeant, of one of the companies, who will, I suppose, be shot. The boys say it is pretty tight to shoot a fellow; that they can shoot a Yankee with much grace, but to shoot a man they never saw, and while hooded, is awful.

The celebrated Col. Ellsworth, of a New York Regiment, was killed by the hotel keeper on entering the town. Ellsworth commanded the landlord to take down a secession flag which waved above his house, which he (the landlord) refused to do, whereupon a quarrel ensued, and the brave landlord (a fit representative of the name bore Jackson.) shot him dead.

Troops are being concentrated very rapidly at Alexandria. We are hourly expecting an order to move to that point; for they will most certainly retake it. We may be retained in our present position, since this is a very important point; and the general opinion is that the enemy will attempt a landing very shortly, in which case it will be our important duty to repel them.

The Alabama men have the protection of the former and we of the latter road. It makes little difference by which road they approach, in either case we would have the tan of repelling them, because there are several companies of cavalry acting as

scouts, and they will apprise us of any approach long before the enemy be in reach of us.

Those best informed say that Norfolk is almost invulnerable; though the Lincoln administration will make a desperate effort to recover the position. Old Scott knows its immense value and importance to a government, and they will, I am sure, move heaven and earth to regain it.

The Cavalry got on admirably; and they sustain well the point of honor which has been assigned them. The Col. and his whole staff have the fullest confidence in them as brave soldiers.

Chicago, June 4.—The Tribune urges the appointment of a Douglas Democrat to the Senatorial vacancy. J. A. Pulley, a representative has been arrested by Col. Prentiss at Cairo, for treason.

Washington, June 4.—Parties representing the Legation Kentucky volunteers, at camp Clay, have been to Washington to obtain arms and accoutrements. Scott said Gen. McClellan had been instructed to supply the brigades, and orders issued for Gurkha to report to Col. Anderson, at Louisville immediately.

Washington, June 4.—There was movement made on Fairfax Court House last night. The particulars have not been made known for obvious reasons.

The report which reached here yesterday, that the Kentucky State troops had left Paducah to join Col. Cheatham's command, near the Tennessee line, has been confirmed. Over three hundred men left that city Tuesday evening, taking with them 1300 stand of muskets, six pieces of artillery, with all the munitions of war in the city.

Col. Cheatham's command is expected to move today to join the West Tennessee forces at Jackson, and the whole body will be kept in readiness to meet any Northern force that may attempt to penetrate the South by way of the Ohio and Mobile railroad.

The work of constructing a cross embankment from the Ohio to the Mississippi levee, so as to embrace about five acres of ground, has been commenced and will be vigorously prosecuted to completion.

Washington, June 4.—The 12th Regiment was ordered to sleep on their arms last night. Three thousand troops still hold Fairfax Court House.

Baltimore, June 4.—Marshal Bonafant returned with instructions to arrest all plotters and seize all arms found in the hands of doubtful suspicious persons, also to employ to watch the highways leading from the city.

On the right bank of the river, (the Norfolk side,) they are very strongly fortified, there being six or seven batteries, but on the other side, (the Portsmouth side,) are much weaker, there being only one battery to silence, to make a landing; but there are two regiments—our own and an Alabama regiment—placed to guard the roads leading to Norfolk, one a wagon, the other a railroad— which are very close together, and which are the only means (owing to swamps, &c.) by which an army can reach town, from this side.

Louisville, June 4.—No orders has yet been received at the Postoffice.— Southern letters are forwarded as heretofore. Some letters received from the South having Confederate stamps on them are delivered by the Postmaster, he collecting three cents additional postage. No change will be made until orders are received.

Washington, June 4.—High military authority states that no forward movement of federal troops will be made for a few days.

Cairo, June 4.—The Southerners have 5000 troops at Union City, another regiment having arrived on Friday.

Louisville, June 4.—Mr. Crittenden has been nominated as the independent Union candidate for Congress.

New York, June 4.—Lieutenant Colonel Farham commands the Fire Zouaves.

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Queen Victoria's Proclamation.—The steamship Etta has arrived. The following is the proclamation of Queen Victoria:

Whereas, we are happily at peace with all sovereign powers and States, and whereas, hostilities have un happily commenced between the Government of the United States and certain States styling themselves the Confederate States of America; and whereas, we being at peace with the Government of the United States, have declared our Royal determination to maintain a strict and impartial neutrality in the contest between the contending parties.

Washington, June 4.—A theological student from Richmond reports 100,000 troops in Virginia, 20,000 of whom at Harper's Ferry. It is thought the student has been sent here to deceive the government relative to the Southern strength.

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Misses. Editors.—After the most mature reflection, I have come to the conclusion that I owe it a duty to the country not to hold the June terms of the court for the parishes of Bossier and Caddo. I therefore ask that you and the other papers of this city, will publish this note, that the people may know that no court will be held in this district until the regular time for holding the jury terms in fall. I have come to this conclusion the more readily as I am informed that the supreme courts of the State have already adjourned till the fall.

Very truly yours, &c. ROLAND JONES.

Place Up Between Lord Lyons and Seward.—A Montgomery correspondent of the Charleston Mercury says: Letters from sources of unquestionable integrity were received yesterday in this city from Washington, stating that the public of Washington was very much agitated by an angry conference which has taken place between Lord Lyons, the British minister, and Seward, the Secretary of State.

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but when we read in the following sentences of the incongruous and unintelligible intelligence as furnished by us; and of the doubt resting upon the mind of the Republican as to whom the fault should be attributed, our smile of pleasure was suddenly curialed of its growing proportions.

In order however to remove all doubt upon the subject, we will inform our cotemporary, that the unintelligible intelligence, which he copies from our paper is copied by us from the latest New Orleans and Vicksburg journals, and we presume they publish it as received from the hands of the telegraph operators.

How is it to be possible that any man of common sense, can come into our office and ask us for a paper, thinking it does not cost any thing? After date no person need ask us for a paper, with the expectation of not having to pay for the same.

Postal Affairs of the Confederate States.—AN ACT, to be entitled an act to prescribe the rates of postage in the Confederate States of America, and for other purposes.

SECTION 1. The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That from and after such period as the Postmaster General may by proclamation announce, there shall be charged the following rates of postage, to-wit: For every single letter sealed and for every letter in manuscript or paper of any kind upon which information shall be asked for, or communicated in writing, or by marks or signs conveyed in the mail for any distance between places within the Confederate States of America, not exceeding 500 miles, 6 cents; and for any distance exceeding 500 miles, double that rate; and every letter or parcel not exceeding half an ounce in weight, shall be deemed a single letter, and every additional weight of half an ounce or additional weight less than half an ounce shall be charged with an additional single postage; and all packages containing other than printed or written matter, and money packages included in this class, shall be rated by weight as letters are rated, and shall be charged double the rates of postage on letters; and all drop letters or letters placed in any postoffice not for transmission but for delivery only, shall be charged, with postage at the rate of two cents each; and in all the foregoing cases the postage must be prepaid by stamps; and all letters which shall be neither advertised as remaining over or unrec'd for in any postoffice shall be charged with two cents each in addition to the regular postage, both to be accounted for as other postages of this Confederation.

SECTION 2. And be it further enacted, That all newspapers not exceeding three ounces in weight, sent from the office of publication to actual and bona fide subscribers, shall be charged with postage as follows, to-wit: the postage on the regular numbers of a newspaper published weekly within the State where published, shall be 6 cents per quarter; and papers published semi-weekly, double that rate; and papers published three a week, triple that rate; and papers published daily, six times that rate; and the postage on all newspapers to actual subscribers without the State where published, shall be charged double the foregoing rates; and periodicals sent from the office of publication to actual and bona fide subscribers, shall be charged with postage as follows, to-wit: the postage on the regular numbers of a periodical, not exceeding one and a half ounces in weight, and published monthly, within the State where published, shall be 3 cents per quarter; if published semi-monthly, double that rate; and for every additional ounce or fraction of an ounce, double the foregoing rates shall be charged; and periodicals published quarterly or bi-monthly shall be charged one cent an ounce; and the postage on all periodicals without the State where published, shall be double the above specified rates; and regular subscribers to newspapers and periodicals shall be required to pay one quarter's postage in advance. And there shall be charged upon every other newspaper and each circular not sealed, handbill, engraving, pamphlet, periodical and magazine which shall be unaccompanied with any manuscript or written matter, not exceeding three ounces in weight, 2 cents; and for each additional ounce or fraction of an ounce, 2 cents additional; and in all cases the postage shall be prepaid by stamps. And books bound or unbound, not weighing over four pounds, shall be deemed suitable matter, and shall be charged with postage, to be prepaid by stamps, at 2 cents per ounce, for any distance. The publishers of newspapers or periodicals may send to each other, from their respective offices of publication, free of postage, one copy of each publication.

SECTION 3. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of every Postmaster to cause to be defaced in such manner as the Postmaster General shall direct, all postage stamps of this Confederation to letters deposited in his office for delivery or to be sent by mail; and if any Postmaster sending letters in the mail with such postage stamps attached shall omit to deface the same, it shall be the duty of the Postmaster to whose office such letters shall be sent for delivery, to deface the stamps and report the delinquent Postmaster to the Postmaster General. And if any person shall use, or attempt to use, in payment of postage, any postage stamps which shall have been defaced for like purposes, such persons shall be subject to a penalty of fifty dollars for every such offense, to be recovered in the name of the Confederate States of America in any court of competent jurisdiction.

SECTION 4. And be it further enacted, That from and after the day when this act goes into effect, the franking privilege shall be abolished; provided, that the Postmaster General and his chief clerk, and the Auditor of the Treasury for the Postoffice Department shall be and they are hereby authorized to transmit through the mails, free of postage, any letters, packages, or other matters relating exclusively to their official duties, or to the business of the Postoffice Department; but they shall in every such case enclose on the back of the letter or packages to be sent free of postage over their own signatures, the words, "Official business," and for any such endorsement falsely made, the person so offending shall forfeit and pay taxes \$300; and provided further, the several Deputy Postmasters throughout the Confederation shall be and hereby are authorized to send through the mails free of postage all letters and packages of which it may be their duty, or they may have occasion to transmit to any person or place, and which shall relate exclusively to the business of their respective offices, or to the business of the Postoffice Department; but in every such case the Deputy Postmaster sending any such letter or package shall endorse thereon, over his own signature, the words, "Postoffice business," and for any and every such endorsement, falsely made, the person making the same shall forfeit and pay \$300.

SECTION 5. And be it further enacted, That the third section of an act entitled an act further to amend and alter an act to reduce and modify the rates of postage in the United States, and for other purposes, passed March 3, 1851, approved March 3, 1855, whereby the letter registration system was established, be and is hereby repealed from and after the day when this act goes into effect.

SECTION 6. And be it further enacted, etc. That no letters shall be carried by the express or other chartered companies, unless the same shall be prepaid by being enclosed in a stamped envelope of this Confederation; and any company violating the provision of this act shall forfeit and pay the sum of \$500 for each offense to be recovered by action of debt in any court of this Confederation having cognizance thereof, in the name and for the use of this Confederation.

SECTION 7. And be it further enacted, That the Postmaster General of the Confederate States be and is hereby authorized to make all necessary arrangements for the transportation of mails between the territories of this and other Governments, subject to the approval of the President until postal treaties can be effected.

Passed Feb. 21, 1861.

Dreading the Approaching Danger.

The Courier des Etats Unis, published at New York, reports General Scott as having said this in council of the Cabinet: "We have need now of firmness and moderation, but of moderation still more than firmness."

The French paper follows up the words with the following comments: "In these few words is perhaps the supreme secret of the terrible situation of the United States. The impetuosity of clan given to the North may become the greatest danger of the movement."

The New York Express also has fears of "the impetuosity of clan given to the North." That paper says: "It is impossible to shut one's eyes to the rapid drift of the country into the arms of the 'Man on Horseback'—in other words, into the arms of a regular military despotism. We do not say this in disparagement of the 'Man on Horseback,' who is, about our best protector, and only defense we are likely to have from anarchy, and the most despotism of all despoticisms—the despotism of the mob. The rapid transition we are undergoing, however, from a self-government to a government of guns, is food for reflection to the contemplative mind."

During the revolutionary war, when drafts were made from the militia to recruit the continental army, a certain captain gave liberty to make their objection if they had any, against going into service; accordingly one of them who had an impediment in his speech, came forward and made his bow.

"What's your objection?" said the captain. "I can't go," answered the man. "I at-statter."

"Stutter," said the captain. "You don't go there to talk, but to fight."

"Ah, but they'll put me on the g-g-guard, and a man may go half-half a mile before I can say w-what goes there."

The Cost of Two Wives.—W. T. Cummings having, contrary to the law of this good Commonwealth, entrapped two of the fair sex in the meshes of matrimony, was sentenced to three years imprisonment in the penitentiary. In such times as the present two wives are at least one too many. What is remarkable in this case is, the prisoner is not yet twenty years of age. Oh! woman, how often are you the victim of man's duplicity.

TELEGRAPHIC.

Cincinnati, June 4.—The federalists have advanced from the West beyond Grafton meeting the Virginians at Philippi. Col. Kelly, of the federal troops was killed, the Virginians retired.

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