

The Soldiers' Journal.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, SEPT. 28, 1864.

THOS. V. COOPER, --- Editor and Publisher.
AMY M. BRADLEY, --- Proprietor.

OUR VOLUNTEER AGENTS.

The following persons are announced as our agents at the places standing in connection with their names, and are authorized to receive subscriptions and contributions for THE SOLDIERS' JOURNAL:

MISS AMY M. HOMANS, East Vassalboro', Maine.
MISS MARY P. LOCKE, Charlestown, Mass.
MR. G. T. CRAWFORD, Camp Agent.

We still invite the co-operation of our friends everywhere, to increase the circulation and influence of our paper.

Contributions, intended for publication, must be accompanied by the name of the author to insure insertion.

Advertising.---A limited amount of advertising inserted at ten for the first and five cents per line for each subsequent publication. The cash must accompany all orders.

All Communications, and other mail matter, intended for THE SOLDIERS' JOURNAL (except such as is prepared in this camp) should be addressed to 244, F Street, Washington, D.C. No notice taken of communications unaccompanied by the name of the author.

PROSPECTUS.

"THE SOLDIERS' JOURNAL,"
PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY AT
RENDEZVOUS OF DISTRIBUTION, VA.,
RECENTLY

CONVALESCENT CAMP, VA.

At the subscription price of \$2.00 per annum, payable always in advance. Single copies Five Cents each.

The proceeds resulting from its sale to be devoted to a fund for the maintenance of the orphans of soldiers who have fallen, or may yet fall, in defence of the cause of the Union.

Its primary objects will be to promote the interests of the soldier in the ranks. To this end it will contain all necessary information as to the methods of keeping in good order their accounts with the Government. The soldier in hospital will find in our columns instructions how to procure pay and clothing when entitled to it; what are the requisites exacted by the Government when furloughs are granted; and discharged soldiers will be put in the way of procuring prompt settlements of their accounts without the interference of claim agents.

Aside from this THE SOLDIERS' JOURNAL will contain interesting original and selected reading matter. It is the intention of those engaged in its publication to make its pages lively and readable, and it is believed that the varied talent pledged to its support will enable it to take at least a respectable rank among the journals of the country.

The Rapid Fall of Gold.

The news of Sheridan's operations in the Shenandoah Valley had the effect, on Saturday last, of bringing gold down in the New York market to \$1.99, a fall that is unparalleled since its commencement to rise. Wheat, corn, coffee, and other necessaries are also rapidly falling under the pressure of the conviction that we are soon to have an honorable peace, with a restored Union, and a complete triumph of our government over the rebellion. The high price of gold affects the soldier having others dependent upon him for support, more nearly, proportionately, than any other class of people. His wages, independent of his clothing and rations, are limited to \$4 a week, and he seldom or never has an opportunity of honestly increasing it by his own efforts. Having other mouths to feed and other backs to clothe, it is a great object with him that he should receive the full value of his money, and, as a body, soldiers are beginning to feel the importance and value of gold as compared with our national currency, not with the eager avarice of the usurer, but with a keen sense of the comfort or discomfort it will cause his family.—They have not the remotest sympathy with those who use it as a medium of speculation, nor with the losses and gains that are likely to occur to such from this rise or that fall. They are inter-

ested in its coming down, because with its fall the prices of the various articles necessary to their families are correspondingly decreased. They have, happily, the means in their own hands of reducing it, and the opportunity was never so favorable as now. The march of Sheridan seems thus far one of the grand precursors of peace—and when peace comes, the vast resources of our country will speedily restore the value of our currency, and with its restoration will come plenty of labor and plenty of food to those even of the very poor before and during the war.

Sheridan is virtually closing the summer campaign;—we believe the fall campaign will close the war. It will open under the grand directing genius of Grant just as soon as the full results of the last call for 500,000 men are in the army.—Most of them are there now. When all arrive there will be nothing to prevent the capture of Richmond. What has transpired in Georgia will transpire in Virginia. Force of numbers, persistency of endeavor, and the enthusiasm arising from the universal belief in a speedy peace will render the fate of Petersburg the same as that of Atlanta. And Sheridan's victorious march will continue. Early's army is already virtually destroyed. Hood's is in much the same condition. Neither of these rebel leaders have the power to stand a single day before their victorious opponents without strong aid from Lee—aid which it were suicide for him to give. After the combined movement commences—the grand and final fall campaign opens—the Confederate government, with its disordered and disheartened army, can at best but take temporary refuge in the two Carolinas. It has not even the meagre Cotton States to fall back upon, for the main portion—the only portion good for any military purpose is in our possession. Florida would engulf it—Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi are isolated. The Confederation must yield or die a confined death—hemmed in a territory too small for sustenance, and lacking even the virtue of any strategic military position.—The time is rapidly approaching—we count it by days and weeks—when the power of our government will be manifested as it never was before. The rebellion will be stripped of its false and showy strength, and we will have a peace such as the loyal har e prayed and fought for—a Union worthy of its greatness and the greatness of the struggle through which it shall have passed. In the meantime any rise in gold will be temporary—its fall is coming as surely as our government is to be vindicated. Then the patriot soldiers and citizens will reflect with good humor and pride upon past trials, as a deserving people anticipating "the good time coming" and relishing its approach all the more because of their long and tedious waiting.

ANOTHER SCOUT.—A detachment of cavalry sent out from Falls Church on Wednesday last, says the *Virginia State Journal*, made a scout through Fairfax and a portion of Loudon counties, but without meeting any considerable body of Rebels. They, however, picked up a number of horses and the following Rebel stragglers, who have been sent to Washington and committed to the Old Capitol: Thomas Coleman, 31st Georgia; Richard Herritt, 49th Va.; Amos Diggs, Rebel quartermaster's department; Robert Keenan and George W. Amos, railroad employees.

It is said that there is an order out to furlough until after the Presidential election all men in hospitals able to travel and unfit for duty.

Spicy Letter from Sherman to Hood.

The following letter, dated Sept. 10, from Gen. Sherman to the rebel General Hood, vindicates itself, and should be placed on record as one of the spiciest productions of the war:—

GENERAL:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, at the hands of Messrs. Ball and Crew, consenting to the arrangement I had proposed to facilitate the removal south of the people of Atlanta, who prefer to go in that direction.

I enclose you a copy of my orders, which will, I am satisfied, accomplish my purpose perfectly. You style the measures proposed "unprecedented," and appeal to "the dark history of war for a parallel as an act of studied and ingenious cruelty."

It is unprecedented, for General Johnston himself very wisely and properly removed the families all the way from Dalton down, and I see no reason why Atlanta should be excepted. Nor is it necessary to appeal to "the dark history of war," when recent and modern examples are so handy. You, yourself, burned dwelling-houses along your parapet, and I have seen, to-day, fifty houses that you have rendered uninhabitable because they stood in the way of your forts and men. You defended Atlanta on a line so close to town that every cannon shot, and many musket shots from our line of investment, that overshot their mark, went into the habitations of women and children. General Hardee did the same thing at Jonesboro', and General Johnston did the same last summer at Jackson, Miss.

I have not accused you of heartless cruelty, but merely instance these cases of very recent occurrence, and could go on and enumerate hundreds of others, and challenge any fair man to judge which of us has the heart of pity for the families of "brave people." I say it is kindness to these families of Atlanta to remove them at once from scenes that women and children should not be exposed to; and the "brave people" should scorn to commit their wives and children to the rude barbarians who thus, as you say, violate the rules of war as illustrated in the pages of its "dark history."

In the name of common sense I ask you not to "appeal to a just God" in such a sacrilegious manner—you who, in the midst of peace and prosperity, have plunged a nation into war, dark and cruel war; who dared and badgered us into battle; insulted our flag; seized our arsenals and forts that were left in the honorable custody of a peaceful ordnance sergeant; seized and made prisoners of even the very first garrisons sent to protect your people against negroes and Indians, long before any other act was committed by the, to you, "hateful Lincoln government;" tried to force Missouri and Kentucky into rebellion, in spite of themselves; falsified the vote of Louisiana; turned loose your privateers to plunder unarmed ships; expelled Union families by the thousands, burned their houses, and declared by acts of your Congress the confiscation of all debts due Northern men for goods had and received. Talk thus to the Mormons, but not to me, who has seen these things, and who will this day make as much sacrifice for the peace and honor of the South as the best born Southerner among you. If we must be enemies, let us be men, and fight it out as we propose to-day, and not deal in such hypocritical appeals to God and humanity.

God will judge us in due time, and he will pronounce whether it be humane to fight with a town full of women and the families of "a brave people" at our back, or to remove them in time to places of safety among their own friends and people.

I am, very respectfully your obedient servant,
WM. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

WHILE the 104th P. V., was awaiting transportation home at the Soldiers' Rest, in Washington, on Friday last, a drunken fight commenced among a few of its members, and Corp. James A. Quinby, in endeavoring to quell it was fatally stabbed in the breast by one of the belligerents. We have not the name of the murderer, but presume he was arrested. This is the regiment mentioned in our "locals" as having passed through this camp last week.