

Gen. Scott's Last Letter.

(The Editor of the National Intelligencer.)

An official report of mine made to President Lincoln March 30, 1861, on our southern front, was published on the 21st of October last. To this ex-President Buchanan replied at great length in the same month. A short rejoinder from me followed early in November, and here is another paper from Mr. Buchanan dated the 17th of the same month, and on the same subject. A brief notice of this paper shall terminate my part in this controversy.

Mr. Buchanan has intimated that I have been actuated by a spirit of personal ill-will toward him. This is unjust. I had no private resentment to gratify. On the contrary, I have well remembered the many official courtesies received from him as well as from Mr. Floyd, both as Governor of Virginia and Secretary of War; but to vindicate justice and the truth of history is a paramount obligation.

I had said that, with a view to the meditated rebellion, Secretary Floyd had ordered 115,000 extra stores of muskets and rifles from Northern depots to Southern arsenals. To this Mr. B. now replies in substance: 1. That the transfers were made under an order dated nearly a year before Mr. Lincoln's election to the Presidency. True; but if Mr. B. has persuaded himself that the revolt had not long before been planned, (dependent on the election of any northern man) it is not likely that he will ever make a second statement of this opinion.

2. He only gives 105,000 as the number of arms transferred, omitting the 10,000 rifles. 3. He says that the muskets (105,000) were condemned, and that purchasers could not be found for many of them at \$2.50 each. Now, here is an official statement, made to me eighteen months ago, (just received from my papers at Washington,) showing that 69,000 of those arms were "percussion muskets," probably entirely new, and 40,000 others, termed "quadrants altered to percussion," with 10,000 "percussion rifles"—not one of the 115,000 was ever "condemned," but all precisely like most of the small arms issued to our troops (regular and volunteer) in 1861.

4. Mr. Buchanan further intimates that those arms were transferred to equalize in some degree the deposits among the different states, as if these had any state pride in allowing stores to the property of the United States within their particular limits.

5. Mr. B. supposes me to brand the transferred arms with the epithet "stolen." In my rejoinder to him I nowhere use that term, because I knew the transaction, though very quietly conducted, was officially recorded, and the freight paid for the United States, whose property the arms continued to be in their new depots.

Mr. Buchanan mixes up—perhaps I ought rather to say *stretches to confound*—quite a different class of arms with the foregoing, viz: the quotas of arms distributed among the several States under the annual appropriation toward arming the whole body of the militia of the Union. Thus he says: "The Southern States received in 1860 less instead of more than the quotas of arms to which they were entitled by law." This is most strange, contrasted with information given me last year, and with a telegram just received from Washington, and a high official report of the Ordnance Bureau—in these words and figures:

"Rhode Island, Delaware, and Texas had not drawn at the end of eighteen months (1860) their annual quotas of arms for that year, and Massachusetts, Tennessee, and Kentucky only in part; Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Kansas were, by the order of the Secretary of War, supplied with their quotas for eighteen months (1861) in advance, and Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New York in full."

This advance of arms to certain Southern States is a sufficient commentary by itself on the transfer, about the same time, of the 115,000 muskets and rifles.

In respect to the heavy cannon ordered from Pittsburgh to the Gulf of Mexico, Mr. Buchanan has shown me that I was in error in saying that their shipment was contemplated in March instead of January, 1861. This was the only material part of my statement, for I was correct in the declaration that I gave information to Mr. Secretary Holt that the shipment had commenced, and that he ordered the guns to be reloaded, and stopped the robbery.

WINFIELD SCOTT.
New York, Dec. 2, 1862.

*Over and above the previous and usual deposit in the Southern arsenals.

Ninth Michigan Infantry.
HEADQUARTERS 9TH REG'T MICH INFANTRY,
DETROIT, MICH., Dec. 4th, 1862.

It appearing by information recently received from the War Department that all officers and men of the Ninth Michigan Volunteers, captured at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, are fully exchanged, and the General-in-Chief having ordered them to rejoin their regiments without delay, immediately upon receipt of the order, all officers will proceed to collect and rendezvous the men of their respective companies at the central point contiguous to a line of railway, reporting by letter to Lieut. Col. Smith, Mustering and Disbursing Officer at Detroit, the number of men so collected, and request transportation.

All officers are required to procure recruits for the regiment, promising to each recruit an advance bounty of twenty-five dollars, a premium of four dollars, to be paid prior to their leaving the State. All officers procuring recruits under this order must report in person with them to Lieut. Col. Smith at Detroit, the authorized Mustering and Disbursing Officer for this State, who will muster them into United States service and pay them the bounty and premium in advance.

By order of
Colonel W. W. DUFFIELD.
HENRY M. DUFFIELD, Adjutant.

The Last of the Pirate Sumter.
It is announced in the English journals that Messrs. Cunard, Wilson & Co., of Liverpool, will shortly sail at auction, at Gibraltar, the notorious pirate ship Sumter, with all her stores and armament.

Unless Lord of Birkbeck, or some other super-servicable member of the British Parliament, buys her in for the account of Jefferson Davis, and sets her going once more on her depredations on American and British property, this will be the last of this venturer of the rebels.

The Ohio State Treasurer's report for the year ending Nov. 15th, 1862, shows total receipts \$8,512,337, total disbursements \$8,029,586. The expenses are \$1,741,897. As compared with the year 1861, the receipts show an increase of \$851,579; and the disbursements an increase of \$505,002.

Gen. Banks and the Habeas Corpus.

In New York, on Friday, the father of Charles E. Raughter made application to the City Judge for his son's discharge from a New York regiment, belonging to General Banks' expedition, which was on board the Northern Light, and about leaving the city. It was alleged that young Raughter had engaged himself as a servant to a Captain, and that the latter had, against his will, placed him in the ranks; also, that he was unable to perform military duty by reason of hernia.

A writ of habeas corpus was issued and served on General Banks, who, at the hour named for hearing, appeared by counsel, and made return "that the Northern Light had sailed, and was near the Narrows at the time of receiving the writ, and it was impossible, therefore, to reach her in time to obey the writ; but that he (Gen. Banks) would have the Northern Light overhauled and searched before her fleet went out of the Narrows, and would have the within named Raughter found, and discharged and set on shore."

Judge McCune said the return was not satisfactory, and reflected the highest indignation on General Banks. The highest of acting, he said, as the subordinate officers had done in this matter, in attempting to bring the civil courts into contempt, he had acted like a patriotic citizen and an able and high-toned General, showing that he was willing to respect the civil law when it was properly exercised. That this simple act on the part of General Banks would call forth the esteem of all law-abiding citizens, and strengthen the hands of the administration, it was known a man so high in authority as General Banks could not be swayed from the right by the petty spite and influences of political machinery. He was happy to know that our courts every day were becoming more respected by the military authorities, whom it seemed had suddenly become aware that the civil laws should be enforced and the rights of all through them protected.

The soldier was found on board the Northern Light by one of Gen. Banks' Aides and sent before Judge McCune, and, upon the proofs alleged in the petition, he was discharged.

From Cairo.
Special Dispatch to The Detroit Free Press.

Cairo, Dec. 8.
Information from Memphis shows that a fight occurred last Thursday morning near Oxford, between Gen. Ineson, of the Confederate cavalry, with infantry and a battery, and the advance of the Federal army, in which the latter, being a small force, were severely repulsed. The main body of the rebels passed through Oxford twelve hours before the approach of our troops.

The enemy are reported to have 40,000 effective men, but are demoralized in consequence of their recent retreat.

We learn from a very reliable source that Pemberton and Price had some how reached Grenada, where they intend to make a stand.

Later intelligence—six hours later—has been received from Grenada. A man who left there says the expedition from Helena, occupies Grenada, and not the troops of the enemy. This report is probably the true one.

The disgraceful surprise of General Dumont's brigade in Tennessee creates considerable indignation in this city, where the One Hundred and sixth and One Hundred and eighth Ohio regiments were raised.

It is reported that Gen. Hovey's division recently in possession of Grenada, fifty miles below Oxford, where the rebel were in force, have been met by the enemy and driven to the wall.

Gen. Grant could not push his force towards Oxford, as he desired on account of bad roads, &c., and the rebels, learning of Hovey's movements, threw their whole force upon him, and compelled Hovey to retreat before superior numbers.

The particulars of this last piece of strategy has gone to Washington, but they are not yet permitted to be made public.

It is stated by private dispatches that Jackson is being strongly fortified by the enemy, which, if true, abandons Vicksburg and the Mississippi River to the Federal force, and is an important achievement, as raising the rebel blockade of the Mississippi cuts off their supplies from Texas.

If they fall back from Jackson, they will form a concentration of all their forces in the Southwest, and a dash northward is contemplated.

All the available force is now being sent to Tallahoma and Murfreesboro, the former place being Biagg's standpoint.

The response to the conscript law in Eastern Tennessee is not brisk, and thousands of Union men are fleeing to the mountains, determined to avoid being forced into the rebel service.

At military headquarters important intelligence from our armies in the Southwest is expected in ten days.

PAPER FROM INDIAN CORN HUSKS.—Commissioner Newton, of the Agricultural Department, received this morning from Dr. A. R. A. Von Welsch, director of the imperial printing establishment in Vienna, a number of specimens of paper, manufactured from the husks of Indian corn. Also, specimens of paper, linen cloth, &c., made out of the same material. Also, specimens of maize flour, (the only nutritive substance of the corn husks) obtained from the mass.

The paper has the appearance (and apparently the durability) of parchment, and for printing purposes is excellent, as is shown by some of the samples which have been thus used—the impression of the type being a great deal clearer than on paper manufactured from cotton rags.

The most remarkable thing in regard to the process of its manufacture is its simplicity. The humblest laborer can learn the process of manufacture after an hour's instruction, and is enabled to effect the production of any of the above named articles in the corn-field itself, without the slightest expense (?)

In view of the high price of paper for printing purposes, and the scarcity of material for its manufacture, the introduction of this article into the market would work a complete revolution in the production of the article.

Important Captures of Vessels.
Blockade off Wilmington, N. C., Dec. 3. A schooner this morning attempted to run the blockade at New Inlet but was chased ashore by the U. S. steamers Mt. Vernon and Cambridge, and soon destroyed. About 8 A. M. the Cambridge returned with the schooner Emma Tuttle, of Nassau, also attempting to run the blockade. At noon the schooner Brilliant, of the same name, was taken by the U. S. steamers Daylight and Mt. Vernon, thus making three vessels lost to the rebels in one day. This is eight vessels either captured or destroyed by the Cambridge, Mt. Vernon and Daylight, within thirty days.

Michigan Argus.

ANN ARBOR.

Friday Morning, December 12

An Indemnity Bill.

On Monday, by a vote of 90 to 45, the House passed the bill of Mr. Stevens, of Pa., "to indemnify President Lincoln and other persons for suspending the privileges of the writ of habeas corpus, and for all other acts done in pursuance thereof." The bill was put through under the previous question, and without debate, and we are therefore "advantaged as to its details. The mover of the bill, however, expressed a doubt of the authority of the President to suspend the writ of habeas corpus except from absolute necessity during the recess of Congress; and when Mr. Stevens doubts we need not wonder that an indemnity bill is necessary, and that delay and discussion are both prevented. Probably some of the "other persons" are in danger of having to answer before the courts. In fact, the courts are giving evidence that they feel the encroachments of the executive officers upon their plainly defined rights, and are becoming restive under the wholesale system of arbitrary arrests in States where the laws can be executed in regularly established ways.

In the Senate, on the 9th inst., the right of the President to suspend the writ of habeas corpus came up incidentally on a resolution of inquiry into arbitrary arrests. Messrs. Sherman and Trumbull both denied the right of the President to suspend the writ of habeas corpus, and condemned the wholesale system of arbitrary arrests. Mr. Wilson was in a "regretting mood," but thought arrests had been necessary.

Mr. Sherman said: He thought many of these arrests were great mistakes, and every arrest ought to be reported to Congress, and the reason for it. If this power was unlimited, the government would become oppressive. The people have been exasperated at the manner of these arrests and discharges, and it was due to the country and justice that no man should be arrested for light causes, and that the cause and charges should be properly explained; and that Congress had a perfect right to call for all information, that they may go before the people, and be able to explain and defend these arrests.

Mr. Trumbull said: He thought these arrests had been unfortunate and impolitic. Judges, courts, and commentators have held that the power of suspending the writ of habeas corpus was a legislative power. It is not from any sympathy with traitors that there is great feeling upon this subject, but because it is feared this is an exercise of an unnecessary and arbitrary power, and he would say to his friend Wilson, who gloried in these arrests, that there was very great danger in them.

We have long regarded the liberties of the whole loyal people in danger, and we regard this retrograde movement on the part of distinguished friends of the administration, with the disposition of courts to assert their rights, as auspicious. Let the rights of the people be preserved.

The President's Message.
In our last issue we gave our readers the second annual message of President Lincoln, without "note or comment," and as all them have doubtless before this formed their own opinion of it, comment is now unnecessary. We may say, however, that it has failed to give satisfaction to any great number even of his warmest supporters. In fact it has dissatisfied both radicals and conservatives. The former scout at his recommendations of gradual emancipation and constitutional amendment. They prefer to "carry the war into Africa," and blot out the "peculiar institution" at once, constitution or no constitution, and of course reject the President's views in toto. The radical leaders care nothing about the restoration of the Union or the perpetuity of the government, and if they can strike down slavery are ready to strike down the government with it.

On the other hand the conservatives think this a war to put down the rebellion and save the Union, and are willing that slavery should run its own risks.

The President designs his plan as a compromise, but as the radicals have full control of Congress they are not likely to touch it.

The various newspaper publishers of New York, Boston, and Philadelphia have raised the piece of their several daily, tri-weekly and weekly editions. In all the Western cities a corresponding rise has taken place. The Detroit dailies are now \$8 a year.

DAVID H. DURAND, of company K, 20th Michigan Infantry, died in the Union Hospital, Georgetown, D. C., November 11th. He resided at Chelsea, and was an estimable young man. His age was nearly 28.

The BUREL, PORTER and McDOWELL court-martials are progressing slowly, and in each case the Generals seem likely to vindicate themselves. Gen. McDOWELL has been examined in both the PORTER and McDOWELL cases, and his testimony, sustained by that of others, promises to stop the mouths of those fanatical politicians who have been clamoring against him.

"All quiet on the Potomac," alternates over the wires with "a great battle imminent," and "the army is preparing to go into winter quarters," with "an advance to take place immediately."

But McDOWELL is out of the way, and delays are no longer dangerous. In the meantime the first of January will come, and then, and then look out, light may come out of darkness.

The Committee appointed by the citizens of the Fourth Ward to procure subscriptions to a bounty fund and aid enlistments to fill the quota of the Ward request us to invite all who have subscribed and have not paid to pay up immediately, and all who have not subscribed to do so. About \$1100 have been paid to the Committee and by the Committee to enlisted men, \$400 is needed immediately to discharge the obligations of the Committee and enable them to enlist men enough to fill out the quota and insure the Ward against the draft. The Committee have worked faithfully and zealously, besides paying liberally, and now that their labors are so nearly completed the citizens should not hold back. The time is running away, the 31st day of December is close at hand, and unless the quota is filled a draft is sure to take place. The men are ready to enlist, give the Committee the money and the Ward sees daylight.

The Flint and Pere Marquette Railway has been completed to Flint, and pilgrims to the Salt El Dorado, Saginaw, now have only ten miles of staging to do, that is in from Fenoville or Holly to Flint. Strenuous efforts will be made to complete the road at an early day to Fenoville.

52 Blocks—containing 2760 kettles—are now in operation at Saginaw and vicinity, and 80 blocks for 4,000 kettles in progress. At Syracuse, N. Y., heretofore the great salt mart of the North, 312 blocks are in operation.

Report says that Secretary Chase is desirous of leaving the Cabinet and returning to the Senate. He is credited with being disgusted with President Lincoln, and with saying that he occupies too much of the Cabinet sessions in telling coarse and vulgar anecdotes, and too little in a dignified attention to business.

In another column the Postmaster cautions persons against using defaced stamps on letters. Numerous cancelled stamps are put in circulation as change by unscrupulous parties and find their way to honest hands. There is now no longer need for the use of such currency and all parties should discontinue it.

The Secretary of the Treasury estimates that if the war shall continue until the midsummer of 1864 the public debt will reach \$1,750,000,000. He also estimates that the receipts from custom and under the internal revenue act will run the government on a peace basis, pay the interest on this debt, and leave an excess of \$55,000,000 annually to be devoted to an extinguishment of the debt.

The annual meeting of the Washtenaw County Agricultural and Horticultural Society, for the election of officers, etc., is to be held at the Court House in this city, at 11 o'clock, A. M. on Tuesday next, the 16th inst. The farmers ought to make it their business to attend this meeting. If they do not take an interest in it they can not expect that it will always be managed to suit them.

We have received from Hon. B. F. GRANGER two samples of paper made from corn-husks. These samples are of good color, are stronger we think than common rag paper, though not as soft, and are said to take an excellent impression. They were of German make. If our paper makers can readily adopt their machinery to the material we shall hope that its abundance will prevent paper going any higher. "And so mote it be."

From the South-Western Army.
[We extract the following letter from the Rev. Mr. DAY to W. S. MAYNARD, Esq., of this city.]

JACKSON, TENN., Dec. 4, 1862.
Most of the army here, when I left, are now on the front in the advance, with Gen. Grant, some 15 or 20 miles below Holly Springs.

Our army is daily on the advance and the enemy is steadily falling back towards Jackson, Miss., where, it is thought, they will risk a general engagement.

Our Mississippi flotilla, under Gen. McClernand, is nearly ready to start from Columbus down the river towards its destination, supposed to be Vicksburg, at which point Gen. Grant will either meet our river army, or divert the rebel forces from that place by threatening them from the rear, say from some point near Jackson, Miss.

Such is supposed to be the programme; although it is only a supposition, as the government, very wisely, has learned to keep its own war-plan of operations, as well as all other Cabinet secrets.

A great, though gradual, change of public sentiment, in favor of the Union, has been steadily manifesting itself in this part of Tennessee.

Slave owners here all seem to admit that the ruin of the institution is a foregone event in the future, and curse South Carolina for the event so sure to come to pass more than they do the administration. Could their curses condemn South Carolina to the condition of the cities of the plain—Sodom, Admah and Zeboim—the Palmetto State would, long since, have been a black, pitchy lake, like the Dead Sea, instead of an abode for men and a place for planting cotton and raising rice.

"76" in the Courier of this city, advises the Republicans not to commit suicide by re-electing ZACK CHANDLER to the Senate, and nominates without naming, Dr. TAPPAN—though Beez suggests that Gov. FELLO "received a number of votes" at the time named—for that position. "76" has spoken too late.

From the Twentieth Michigan Infantry.
[We are permitted by our neighbor, Dr. PORTER, to give place in our columns to the following letter from his brother, in the Twentieth Michigan Infantry.]

FREDERICKSBURG, Va., }
Nov. 23, 1862.

DEAR BROTHER.—The right wing of Gen. Burnside's immense army rests upon the north and west of the above named, and I should not be surprised to soon be able to say, devoted city.

We are still suffering from the effects of a terrible storm of rain, though today the moisture is fast leaving the "sacred soil," which yesterday was of the consistency of thin mortar, and the cheerful face of "old Sol" is again beaming upon us, just as we used to imagine it always did in this, the sunny South.

The 20th listened to a good sermon this forenoon from their Chaplain, Jones, and take it all in, this seems more like the Sabbath, as that sacred day used to be, than any we have experienced in some time. The health of the regiment is good I think. We had some very hard marches last week from the White Sulphur Springs to this place. They were forced marches. The 20th left the Springs at 4 o'clock, P. M. on Sunday, and did not halt till 11 o'clock, P. M., having moved sixteen miles. At and near this place, which was called Rappahannock Station, we found a large number of troops. The next morning the army commenced moving in three columns upon the same road, and marched very rapidly until we reached Fredericksburg. The first day (Monday) our division was obliged to take the right of the road, or in other words, we took the fields, sometimes going across logs, sometimes delfing through woods and brush, and then again, just over the fence. The second day we had the road and they took the fields. It is a novel sight to see almost countless thousands of our "country's defenders," on their serpentine course over hill and valley, until one gets tired of the galling but indispensable knapsack, when the "army with banners" loses all its charms for the tired and foot sore soldier. But it is a novel sight to see them prepare their camps at night, and so very novel too, that a Michigan farmer would be apt to remember it during a lifetime. When the camping ground is selected, which is generally near wood and water, the first order is, after the line is formed,—"stack arms," second, "unstring knapsacks," when the whole brigade breaks into a general stampede for the rail fences. I have many a time seen forty rods of "Virginia worm fence" vanish in less than ten minutes. But the work is not yet complete. We go to any straw stacks within one mile, and we go to any chickens that have not been previously steeled away up stairs.

By the way, a good story is told of a certain officer of high rank in one of our regiments, sleeping under such a hen roost, whose unpurged fate happened to be directly under a crack in the chamber floor. Of course, no one knew that there were hens and roosters up there, but some, and especially the aforesaid officer, could give circumstantial evidence of the fact, if nothing more.

Many families will suffer for want of food in this region of the country this winter. The army consumes a vast amount of the produce of the country. We get our supplies from a steamboat landing below Aquia Creek on the Potomac. It is only about five miles from our camp. We have been expecting and still expect a battle here. The rebels are supposed to be in force on the other side, and it is said that they are determined to oppose the taking of the city. The river is not fordable here and our army would have to build bridges before crossing. Undoubtedly, a grand artillery fight will take place first. You at home know more of operations here than we do, though you are not so harassed with rumors. But it is confidently expected by all that the ball will open to-morrow, (Monday) morning.

I mentioned in the commencement of my letter that we were at the Sulphur Springs last Sunday, and a few words about this beautiful place, would not be, perhaps, uninteresting. There are but few dwellings here, but the main features of the place are two large hotels, one of which was burnt by Gen. Pope last August. It must have been a very fine one and could not have cost less than \$40,000. The grounds are well laid out, upon which are the springs, a finely built and well arranged bath house, fountains, swings, &c. The water is of course like sulphur water generally, very clear, and very strongly impregnated with sulphur. These Springs are upon the south bank of the Rappahannock river in Fauquier County. I am not prejudiced but I would not give Washtenaw County for all the country I have seen from Harper's Ferry to this place. Though we meet with some fine farming lands, we find a vast amount of waste land which I would call pine barrens. The face of the country is rolling, and the soil a clay loam, but is the finest water country I ever saw. Wells are rarely met with, all the water coming from springs.

I think the army generally have great confidence in their new commander, Burnside, and will fight as well for him as for McClellan.

I understand that it is reported at home that the Twentieth regiment is poorly clad, without tents, and barefooted. It is not so. The men are well clad, well equipped, and ready for a fight. We are confident that the corps to which we belong will give a good account of itself if ever brought to face the rebels. All are anxious to fight if needs be, and end the war. I shall try to write again in a few days.

Yours, &c.,
B. R. P.

The Richmond Dispatch has "seen a new manufacture of socks, made of cotton and cow-hair. They are soft and durable, and possess the advantages of not wetting easily."

The ladies of the M. E. Church cordially invite all lovers of the beautiful to a Christmas Tree Festival to be held in the church on Wednesday evening December 17th.

Dr. W. B. SMITH, of this city, has been appointed Assistant Surgeon of the First Michigan Mechanics and Engineers.

From the Southwest.
Special Dispatches to The Detroit Free Press.

Oxford, Miss., Dec. 8.
The cavalry under Mr. Dickey, pursued and attacked the retreating rebel army near Coffeeville, on Friday evening. An engagement of two hours ensued, which was ended by night. The rebels were in force not less than five thousand, with artillery and cavalry. There were two hours severe fighting.

The Federal loss was about 9 killed, 500 wounded, and 60 missing; rebel loss 300 killed and wounded.

Private W. H. BEVENS, company B, Third Michigan, received a fesch wound in the arm.

Our cavalry pursued for four days, with almost constant skirmishing for fifty miles, took 700 prisoners and a large amount of property, and are now resting at Yorkville River.

Memphis Dec. 9.
Vast numbers of boats are passing this place, freighted with soldiers. More than a hundred, thus loaded, have gone down, and others are expected following. It is thought they are bearing McClellan's forces, destined for Vicksburg.

Of course startling events will soon be enacted upon the theatre of our former failure. If the tremendous array of gunboats and mortar boats and McClellan's land force of probably 50,000 men or more are not enough to settle the fate of Vicksburg, Grant and Hovey, when they get to Jackson, will only fifty miles off, and they will not be long in throwing their ponderous weight into the scales.

From Burnside's Army.
Headquarters Army of the Potomac, }
December 10.

General Burnside to day visited General Sumner's and Hooker's commands. The troops on parade uproariously cheered him as he passed.

The energy of the quartermasters and commissaries has placed the army in such a condition that no want can be anticipated for some time to come. The hardness of the roads and increased facilities on the railroads have enabled the quartermaster's department to bring forward from the shipping points a large amount of supplies for the daily consumption. Should the army be put in motion at any hour, these departments will be found in excellent condition.

A large number of officers are daily arriving from furloughs and assuming their active duties in camp.

There has been a considerable change of position of the several army corps within the past few days, foreshadowing future movements of importance. It is stated to-day, by reliable observers, that the enemy has 150 guns in position on the south side of the Rappahannock, some of which are of heavy calibre.

The Enemy Defeated in Missouri.
St. Louis, Dec. 7.
Advices from the Southwest to-night, say the enemy, under Gen. Hindman and Marmaduke, 35,000 strong, attempted to force Gen. Blunt's position at Cane Hill, Ark., yesterday. They were driven back this morning, they were Blunt's pickets three miles, but on the arrival of reinforcements were again repulsed. Blunt's opinion is, that the demonstration was made to cover their retreat, as they were felling trees all night, probably to obstruct the road and prevent pursuit. Blunt held the enemy in check four days. Gen. Herron's command will reinforce him to-morrow.

The Black Flag.
The Richmond Whig has a letter from Columbia, S. C., which says: "Georgia has enacted by her Legislature that every Yankee found within her borders after the 1st of January, shall, if caught, be hung. Gov. Pickens has recommended the same, and our Legislature will enact it. Such should be the action of every Southern State. Let such a thought enter the hearts of our brave soldiers, and nerve their arms—to have the heart's blood of every scoundrel who pollutes our soil, and whose soul is black with the infamy of the deeds which, fortunately, they are impotent to execute."

The report of the Secretary of the Navy states that out of 20,000 men enrolled since active operations commenced, only 119 have been killed, notwithstanding the active duty performed by that service, and the great part it has taken in the achievement of all our most brilliant victories. The principal loss was at New Orleans.

Gen. Butler, in a letter just received in Washington, says that his two regiments of colored troops have rendered him very great service in the Gulf Department, and have enabled him to do more than he could have accomplished without them. He is supporting, at Government expense, 30,000 white people, and 10,000 colored people, and has, nevertheless, paid into the Treasury \$750,000, the proceeds of confiscation of rebel property.

PRINCE ALFRED TO BE FUTURE KING OF GREECE.—The London correspondent of the N. Y. Herald says: "Prince Alfred will certainly be King of Greece. He is now at Corfu, with several war vessels where he is being tested. He is a bright, rather intellectual lad, considerably ahead of the Prince of Wales in talent, but not so mild tempered."

In consequence of the strong opposition of the free labor party in eastern North Carolina, no election will be ordered for Representatives to the XXXVIII Congress from this State. Petitions, however, are in circulation for an early election to the next Congress.

It has been discovered that it is the intention of the rebels to abandon immediately all that portion of North Carolina lying eastward of the Weldon and Wilmington Railroad.

THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS—Our army is at present divided into ten Departments, as follows:

The Middle Department (embracing the States of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland).

The Department of Virginia.

The Department of the Gulf.

The Department of the South.

The Department of the Ohio.

The Department of the Cumberland.

The Department of the Tennessee.

The Department of the Mississippi.

The Department of the Missouri.

The New Financial Plan of the Government.
Washington, Dec. 9, 1862.

The following is the bill introduced to-day by Mr. Stevens from the Committee of Ways and Means:—

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury shall, as

An Order by Gen. Wilcox.
The following order, promulgated last week, will speak for itself:
GENERAL ORDER, No. 18.
HEADQUARTERS, NINTH ARMY CORPS,
OPPOSITE FREDERICKSBURG, VA., Nov. 22.

The Brigadier General commanding congratulates the troops of the Ninth Corps on the cheerful and soldier-like manner in which duty has been performed and hardships endured during the last month. Might marches, short rations, exposure to stormy November weather, with its rains and snows, while moving in the advance, or with the enemy on our flanks for several weeks, all have been borne nobly. While animated by such a spirit, troops are equal to any emergency, and it is with confidence that we face the dangers and trials of the future. In view of the coming operations, the Brigadier General commanding directs the attention of the officers, particularly, to a few points of military importance.

1. Outpost duty requires all the intelligence and skill we can command, in order to secure the rest and quiet of the camp and to prevent surprises. The Army Regulations on this subject should be studied from paragraph 602 to 642, and pickets should be posted in such a manner as to sustain each other in case of attack, and supported by the grand guards, hold the enemy in check long enough for the corps to form in battle. Division, brigade, and regimental commanders will look particularly to both the instruction of officers and to the performance of picket and grand guard duty.

2. Company and platoon officers will see that their men have always two or three days' rations about their persons, that their cartridge boxes contain four rounds of ammunition, and that their arms are always clean and in good firing condition. The men themselves will not wait for their officers to prompt them to these necessary conditions for their comfort and safety. New troops are cautioned against overloading their knapsacks.

3. On going into action let all remember the necessity of keeping cool, closing up well on the enemy, and taking good aim. Cavalry charges are always to be met, not by random firing, but by a well directed volley, which will inevitably scatter the horses. Artillery fire is more frightful in sound and appearance than reality, and the quicker men move over the ground to the front the smaller will be the loss. Ammunition should not be wasted. One well aimed bullet does more execution than ten that are thrown aimlessly, so that four good shots are worth more than forty rounds fired at random. Many battles are lost because ammunition gives out just at the critical moment. Even rapid firing can be best conducted coolly, and with regular aim.

Finally, fellow soldiers, let us all remember the enthusiasm and patriotism which filled our breasts on first taking up arms for the good of the country; that we are fighting for the permanent peace and welfare of our families, for our freedom, and that by a heroic effort on the part of every man, this campaign may terminate the war.

By command of Brig. Gen. WILCOX,
ROBERT A. HERTGENS, Captain and Assistant Adjutant General.

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Hooks and Pins, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.25, \$2.50, and up to \$5.00.
Second hand Hooks and Pins from \$25.00 up to \$100.00. New
Stereoscopes & Views, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.25, \$2.50, and up to \$5.00.
Second hand Stereoscopes & Views from \$25.00 up to \$100.00. New
Books, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.25, \$2.50, and up to \$5.00.
Second hand Books from \$25.00 up to \$100.00. New
Stationery, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.25, \$2.50, and up to \$5.00.
Second hand Stationery from \$25.00 up to \$100.00. New
Perfumeries, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.25, \$2.50, and up to \$5.00.
Second hand Perfumeries from \$25.00 up to \$100.00. New
Fancy Goods, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.25, \$2.50, and up to \$5.00.
Second hand Fancy Goods from \$25.00 up to \$100.00. New
Wall and Window Papers, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.25, \$2.50, and up to \$5.00.
Second hand Wall and Window Papers from \$25.00 up to \$100.00. New
Shades, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.25, \$2.50, and up to \$5.00.
Second hand Shades from \$25.00 up to \$100.00. New
Rollers, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.25, \$2.50, and up to \$5.00.
Second hand Rollers from \$25.00 up to \$100.00. New
Cords, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.25, \$2.50, and up to \$5.00.
Second hand Cords from \$25.00 up to \$100.00. New
Tassels, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.25, \$2.50, and up to \$5.00.
Second hand Tassels from \$25.00 up to \$100.00. New
Glitz Cornices, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.25, \$2.50, and up to \$5.00.
Second hand Glitz Cornices from \$25.00 up to \$100.00. New
Curtains, \$1.75, \$2.00, \$2.25, \$2.50, and up to \$5.00.
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