

BY D. W. CRAIG.

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SIGEL'S MILITARY GENIUS.

There has grown upon us, and, we think, upon the public, a feeling of something peculiar in the soldiery of General Sigel. Others may equally unite great prudence with undaunted courage, and perfect self-possession with that impetuous elan, by which is meant the keen, swift impulse of the arrow from the bow. A few may equal him in the written knowledge of his art, and a very few may combine his quickness of conception and fertility of resource with his readiness and fitness of adaptation. But beyond all these qualities he seems to show a two-fold and strong peculiarity. First, each military movement is so thoroughly professional as to fill the most instructed soldier. Next—rare combination!—these finished, professional movements leave with us the feeling of a something more—a something neither to be taught nor learned—a something seen you know what where, and felt you know not how—that high, incommunicable gift, prized, like the diamond, even more for its rarity than for its splendor, and which men call genius. Of that peculiar gift he bears three peculiar tokens. One is the faculty of doing things at need, not only perfect in themselves and effective of their aim, but baffling all anticipation. Perhaps, indeed, the resources in which he is so versatile and various are thus correct and successful in their rapid application precisely because they cannot be foreseen. They may be deadly, like the lightning, because their launcher only can tell where they will fall. The second is that he looks for results as effected by no creation of power or material unknown before. They are wrought by the old rules of art and implements of action suddenly applied in new ways and fresh combinations. The third is the charm of inevitability—that two-fold power which, from being an effect, becomes also a cause, and produces and sustains itself. Of this we shall give one noted instance. But let us not be thought extravagant. We shall not set up this heroic leader as a new Napoleon—that military marvel whom, in the art of war, we hold to have been the one sole birth of time, without precursor and without successor. But many others have had a genius more or less similar in kind, though not in degree, and hence have attained to surprising power of command. Of such, we believe, is Sigel.

One of the severest tests of generalship is the conduct of a retreat. And, indeed, to retire slowly, regularly, with the face steadily set toward an overwhelming foe, covering the flight of the van with the good order of the rear; fighting, while falling back, as effectively as if on the advance; halting, perhaps, more harm than is received; landing troops as easily as on the drill ground; in fine, baffling a host too flushed with triumph to be sensible of fear; this tasks the highest abilities at once of general and commander—of him who has the skill to plan and the spell to rule.—This Sigel has twice done, and against odds seldom encountered. The first, his masterly retreat last Summer from Carthage.

"When the fierce foe hung on our broken rear," is familiar to the public, as is also the admiration it drew forth, and which time has only strengthened with the thoughtful. The next and still more wonderful exploit, in saving the train and his own little command near Bentonville, on the day before the great conflict at Pea Ridge, has also been spread before the public, and if not, we have space here but for its salient points.

Gen. Curtis, having early that morning found it needful to retire eight miles from there, left Sigel with a regiment to guard the rear of the movement and the train.—As always, he has chosen the most important post and perilous position, feeling himself equal to all emergencies. Knowing the train to be our armies all-in-all in that wild region, and, as such, the advancing foe would dash eagerly at it, he sent it ahead with two hundred of his men, while he moved on behind to watch the foe. On they rush, three thousand strong, half in fantry, half horsemen, against his six hundred, all on foot! Cool as the morning, he prepares their greeting. They charge, and recoil before his steady front. Again they charge and fairly incense him; he mows his way through them, leaving bloody swatches. They envelope him again, and dash in at all points; at all points he holds them off, or rolls them back. Here, there, everywhere he leaps with gleaming sword, agile and deadly as a leopard. And thus, for many hours, his maneuvers, shifting with the shifting cause, forming, reforming, halting, charging, repelling, he fights his way backward, till toward night succor arrives, and, left free at last, he reaches the camp there to be greeted with one wild hurra!

Two days after, by the way, when he pursued for twelve miles their flying host of over twenty thousand men, they found that he who had been the lion while at bay,

could with equal facility be the tiger for the leap! This defense seems truly wonderful beyond all wonder.

His glorious share in the action of the next two days we pass over, except to note one striking fact. The army, as well they might, looked on him as their shield and deemed defeat with him impossible. The correspondents shared in the same feeling and unconsciously betray it in their reports. Whenever and wherever present, he fills the foreground. On the anxious Friday night, others are spoken of generally—what he did and how he looked is detailed as momentous. Saturday morning, long before the battle, the day being thought very doubtful, the best among the writers say, "it all depended on Sigel." Why? The whole army was there, with its officers.—We have not the least idea that his absence would have lost us the day. The officers were all brave, and some, especially Gen. Curtis, of very high ability. But this unconscious turning to Sigel proves both the magnetism of the man and that he bears the prestige of invincibility. From all this we feel that Gen. Sigel inspires all his soldierly qualities, and his professional perfectness in acquirement and performance, with that mysterious something which is not acquired, but given.—Forney's Press.

A DOWN EAST JURYMAN.—Ethan Spike contributes to the Portland (Me.) Transcript a sketch of his experience as a juror. The first case he was called to try were capital ones, the criminals being a German and a nigger respectively.

"Hev you formed any opinion for or agin the prisoners?" said the judge.

"Not particular agin the Jarmin," says I, "but I hate niggers as a general principle, and shall go for hanging this here old white-wot-out-cast, whether he killed Mr. Cooper or not," says I.

"Do you know the nature of an oath?" the clerk axed me.

"I axer," says I, "I've used enough of 'em. I begun to swear when I was only about—"

"That'll do," says the clerk. "You kin go to 'em," says he, "you won't be wanted in this ere case," says the clerk, says he.

"What!" says I, "ain't I to try this nigger at all?"

"No," says the clerk.

"But I'm a juryman," says I, "and you can't hang the nigger unless I've sot 'em on 'em," says I.

"Pass on," says the clerk, speaking rather cross.

"But," says I, "you, mister, you don't mean as you say, I'm a regular juryman, you know. Drawed out of the box by the seckel man," says I. "I've oiled him a hankering to hang a nigger, and now, when a merciful dispensatory seems to have provided one for me, you say I shall sit on him; as this your free institutions? Is this the nineteenth century? And is this our boasted"—here somebody hollered "Silence in court."

"The court be—" I didn't finish the remark, for a couple of constables had bolt of me, and in the twinkling of a bedpost I was hustled down stairs into the street.—Now, Mr. Editor, let me ask what are we comin' to when jury-men—legal, lawful jury-men—kin be tossed about in this way? Talk about Caners, Mormons, spiritualism, free love, and panics—what are they in comparison? Here's a principle upset. As an individual, perhaps, I'm of no great account; tan't for me to say; but when as an enlightened juryman I was tuk and carried down stairs by profane lands, just for asserting my right to sit on a nigger—why it seems to me the pillars of society were shook; that in my sacred person the hull State itself was, figuratively speaking, kicked down stairs! If that's law in the land, I'll have this case brought under a writ of habeas Corpul icksey Dickst.

Prof. Agassiz says in one of his papers, "It must not discourage us, that the process is a slow and laborious one, and the result of one lifetime after all, very small. It might seem invidious, were I to show here how small is the sum total accomplished even by the great exceptional men, whose names are known throughout the civilized world. But I may at least be permitted to speak of my own efforts, and to sum up in the fewest words the result of my life's work. I have devoted my whole life to the study of Nature, and yet a single sentence may express all that I have done. I have shown that there is a correspondence between the succession of fishes in geological times and the different stages of their growth in the egg—that is all."

DEATH OF GEN. A. S. JOHNSTON.—There can be no longer a shadow or doubt as to the death of this able but erring rebel officer. The last steamer brings full accounts of his death, and the manner of it. Jeff Davis, in a message to the rebel Congress, announces that he was killed at the head of his troops, in the Sunday battle at Pittsburg Landing, by a minute musket ball, which struck him in the groin and severed the main artery, causing him to bleed to death almost immediately. His remains were sent down to New Orleans to await the order of his friends.

FAIR PROSPECTS.—The prospect of the passage of the Pacific Railroad bill at the present session is very fair. It has gone through the House, and has only to run the gauntlet in the Senate.

THE NEW IRON-CLAD STEAMERS.—We are greatly pleased to learn that the two iron-clad steamers—the gunboat "Mystic" and a first-class frigate, the one in course of construction at New York, the other at Philadelphia—are nearly ready for service. The length of the "Mystic" is about two hundred feet over all, with a breadth of nearly thirty-eight, and twelve and a half feet depth of hold. She will draw eleven feet of water. Over the spar deck is a second deck inclosed by sides curving inward, and plated with half inch iron, so that the whole presents an appearance very much like that of Com. Foote's craft. Excepting the upper deck, the vessel has the appearance of an ordinary gunboat. The prow is sharp and narrow, and can do service by running down wooden boats.—Eleven-inch columbiads and shell guns will be used.

The Philadelphia steam frigate will be of 2,000 tons burden, will draw fifteen feet of water, will be 230 feet long, sixty feet beam, twenty-five feet hold; will have three decks, will carry several deck pivot guns, and sixteen additional guns of eleven inch bore. She will, therefore, be not only the largest iron-clad vessel in course of construction, but one of the largest vessels in the American navy. Under no circumstances can a shot strike the hull of the new frigate direct. She is convex upon the whole exterior part, and the bulk of an adversary will glance harmlessly from her oblique armor. The sides of the ship have an angle of thirty degrees from three feet above the load line, and she will be armed with a sharp iron bowsprit, to strike or pierce preparatory to boarding or sinking. Her rudder will also be protected, and her upper decks will be placed under the slope of the curved and plated bulwarks, so that the crew can be sheltered as under an impregnable roof.

Both vessels are fitted with powerful engines and are adapted for rapid movements.

THE REVOLUTION IN NAVAL WARFARE.—We confess that Mr. Stevens' plan of avoiding the exposure of gun crews, by placing the huge guns of his iron monster on the exposed mail protected deck, to be worked from below by machinery, had for us the objection that the fire of the enemy being directed against those guns, they would speedily be broken, as we often see the muzzles of guns shot away. But the explanation that these guns are to be covered with armor, applied directly to them, thus furnishing a solid iron backing to the armor instead of a wooden one, relieves the difficulty. The grand feature of Mr. Stevens' plan is this: placing the armor upon the guns, instead of around them, saves nine-tenths of the weight and cost of the armor, since the space occupied by it is in that proportion reduced.

This says nothing about covering the great wide open throats of these terrible monsters, down which a shot might be fired so as to spike the gun if left exposed. We presume, however, from what the Times says, that the inclined armor is to be in front of the gun as well as around the sides, and that the muzzle will be guarded by a sliding plate of armor.

OUR FELLOW MEN.—REV. Dr. Bellows delivered a lecture on "The War," in Portland, (Me.) recently, in the course of which he thus sketched some of the prominent members of the Government. We quote from the report in the Portland Transcript.

President Lincoln he characterized as simple, faithful, firm, unwavering, unambitious, honest—not a genius. Jackson had not a more unbending will, and I am sure he was not hoarser; just the man to hold the helm at this time; doesn't care a snap whether he is to be the next President or not; as long minded, as he is long-bodied man, looking on all sides of a question.—Providence never gave us a better man than honest old Abe. (Applause). Chase, the Secretary of the Treasury, is Jove-like in person—a man of large judgment, comprehensive mind, honest purposes—possibly a little too ambitious, as Cassar was, but incorruptible. Stanton, Secretary of War, it would do you good to see. He looks like a chaplain—a benevolent, genial man, of great energy, and every inch a man.—General McClellan was described at length as compact, handsome, supple, graceful in movement, no marked prominence of intellect (glad of it, for we Yankees are apt to be all head), unaffectedly dignified and frank, not afraid of responsibility, an air of success about him, something of the man of destiny (he has a heavy under jaw); he does not look great, but as though he were certain to do great things—a true product of America, combining all the best products of young America; stands little on precedent—is getting ready to do the thing and will yet win the great victory and deliver us from all our troubles.

THE DOGS BARK AT 'EM.—In Nevada, the other day, a fellow commenced cheering for Jeff Davis, when all the dogs in town immediately set up a terrific howling. Even brutes could not stand such outrageous nonsense.

The negro boys about Annapolis have caught the "Army Hymn," and old John Brown's "Glory Hallelujah," from the New England soldiers. As for the latter, an Annapolis resident says, "the niggers are clear carried away with it."

The singing of the "Te Deum" in the St. Petersburg churches on Christmas day, in commemoration of the expulsion of the French in 1812, was omitted for the first time in fifty years.

THE PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION.—Washington, May 20.—The President to-day issued this proclamation:

Whereas, there appears in public prints what purports to be a proclamation of Major General Hunter, and the same is producing some excitement and misunderstanding: Therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, proclaim and declare that the Government of the United States had no knowledge or belief of the intention on the part of Hunter to issue such proclamation; further, neither Gen. Hunter nor any other commander has been authorized to make proclamations declaring slaves free; and the proclamation now in question is altogether void so far as respects such declaration. The President further makes known that whether it is competent for him, as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, to declare slaves of any State free, and whether at any time it shall become necessary or indispensable to the maintenance of the Government to exercise such supposed power, are questions reserved to himself, and which he cannot feel justified in leaving to the decision of commanders in the field. He earnestly urges the people of the slave States to give enlarged consideration to the compensation emancipation resolution of the 6th March, and says the proposal makes common cause of a common subject. The changes it contemplates would come gently as the dew of heaven, not rendering or working any harm. He concludes that so much good has not been done by one effort in all past time as in God's Providence it is now your privilege to do. May the vast future not have to lament that you neglected it.

WHAT DESTROYED THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN CALIFORNIA.—Under this caption the Sierra News, says: "Intense Southernism in a free State, killed the Democratic party, first dividing then destroying. The leadership of Gwin—the old scoundrel is now at Richmond—of Bots, who is intensely and exclusively Virginian all through his diminutive anatomy, and of a dozen others who affected to despise everybody and everything out of the South, aided by miniature imitators in all the interior county towns, has at length aroused free State pride and indignation. People have reflected how absurd and humiliating a thing it is for a free State, far removed from all save emigrant influences of slavery to be governed by a miserable squad of Southern politicians who were too insignificant to live by politics at home, and who have been nothing better than gorging man-worms all the time they have been here. These Chivalry monarchs had their satraps in all the interior provinces, whose business it was to get office, talk 'south,' damn Black Republicans and Abolitionists. This miserable folly, at length, disgusted the people of California, and in their indignation the mad gods of chivalry have been pushed over and broken. If the Douglas Democracy choose to re-link themselves to the chivalry, they will be like the man in mythological story, who was chained to a corpse which he was doomed to drag about forever."

THE REV. HENRY WARD BEECHER ON THE PRESIDENT'S "EMANCIPATION" MESSAGE.—The Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, says a recent dated New York journal, entertained and instructed his hearers last evening with a discourse having for its text the recent message of President Lincoln recommending the emancipation resolutions, though at the outset he did read a few words from Isaiah lxii, 10—something about preparing the way for the people—which every one forgot when he came to enunciate and dilate upon the real text.—In his own inimitable way he portrayed this message as a point in the history of the country: the year of the emancipation proclamation of President Lincoln a year to date from. Rapidly running over the history of slavery, and of slavery agitation in the accomplishment of its circle, and its having now returned to the point whence it started at the time of framing the Constitution—the declaration by Government that it is an evil to be suppressed or put aside—he alluded to some of the remarkable coincidences of the day. First among these he noticed despotic Russia and free America engaged in the same work of extending freedom, and next the league between England, France and Spain to destroy liberty in another part of the continent. In remarking upon these he touched with burning sarcasm upon the selfish conduct of England, and contrasted it with the warm-hearted generosity of the Russian Czar, while of the Mexican invasion he more than intimated that the throne of the already accused house of Hapsburg must needs be strongly built to withstand the surges of American liberty when once the rebellion is cared for. In conclusion, he held it to be the duty of all to join hearts and hands in saying AMEN to the message to forget all differences and disagreements of every kind, and give undivided support to the Government; to strengthen President Lincoln by word and by deed in his arduous task. The concluding exercise was singing America by the entire congregation.

Mr. Smith O'Brien, who understands his countrymen thoroughly, states in a public letter:—"There is not among the nations of the earth a people who entertain toward the United States of America so much affection as is felt by the Irish."

THE BATTLE-SONG OF THE FIFTY-FIRST NEW YORK REGIMENT, as sung by them when approaching the coast of North Carolina, begins with this verse:

"Say, rebels, will you meet us, Say, rebels, will you greet us, Say, rebels, will you beat us, On North Carolina shore! In the name of God we'll meet you, With the sword of God we'll greet you, By the grace of God we'll beat you, On North Carolina shore; Singing, Glory, hallelujah, Singing, Glory, hallelujah, Singing, Glory, hallelujah, To God forever more."

RUSSELL ON THE PEA RIDGE.—The magnitude and severity of the action at Pea Ridge is shown by the official returns of the killed and wounded on the Federal side, which Gen. Curtis places at 1,400. It must have been a picturesque combat, and is well described in the World. Sigel, and his Germans, behaved nobly, and saved the baggage train and rear guard by determined, hard fighting, against which the wild Texans and Indians, with shot guns, bowie knives and scalping knives, could not stand. Their batteries ran short of ammunition, also; and the loss of the leaders—the so often slain Ben. McCulloch, as well as McIntosh, accelerated headlong rout under Price and Van Dorn. The Indians acted as savages—scalping dead and wounded.—Russell's Correspondence to the London Times.

A PATRIOTIC NONAGENARIAN.—Mrs. Nelly Applegate (familiarily known as Aunt Nelly Applegate), living in the upper part of the city, who, during the Revolutionary war, knit socks and made bandages for the soldiers, is now daily and nightly engaged in the same good work for the soldiers of the Union. Although in her ninety-first year, she is, mentally and physically, as sprightly as many of half her age. May she long live to enjoy the blessings of the Union she is laboring to sustain.—Louisville Journal.

The following is the message of the President approving the bill abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia:

"Fellow citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives: The Act entitled 'An Act for the release of certain persons held to service or labor in the District of Columbia,' has this day been approved and signed. 'I have never doubted the constitutional authority of Congress to abolish slavery in this District, and I have ever desired to see the National Capital freed from the institution in some satisfactory way. Hence there has never been in my mind any question upon the subject except the one of expediency, arising in view of all the circumstances. If there be matters within and about this Act which might have taken a course or shape more satisfactory to my judgment, I do not attempt to specify them. I am gratified that the two principles of compensation and colonization are both recognized and practically applied in the Act.

"In the matter of compensation, it is provided that claims may be presented within ninety days from the passage of the Act, but not thereafter, and there is no saving for minors, femmes covertes, insane or absent persons. I presume this is an omission by mere oversight, and I recommend that it be supplied by an amendatory or supplemental Act.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN. Washington, April 16, 1862.

THE LYONS OF CONNECTICUT.—Some interesting facts have recently come out concerning the number of persons related to the lamented Gen. Lyon, and bearing his name, who are now in the army—the number being thirty, descendants of Ephraim Lyon, of Connecticut, a lawyer by profession, and a Lieutenant in the Revolutionary War. These are all in the Connecticut regiments, and many of them from the same county.

A young nephew of Gen. Lyon, a boy fifteen years old, named Arthur, enlisted in the Ninth Connecticut Regiment immediately after the General's remains were taken home and buried in his native town. Arthur was at school, which he left next day after the burial, to join the regiment, saying he had no idea of leaving his school to fight until he saw his Uncle Nathaniel lowered into the grave. From that moment he was seized with a desire and purpose to enter the army and avenge his death.

The troops at Richmond and vicinity number about 200,000, including unarmed and poorly armed of recent levies, who were being armed with pikes. The rebels made a dash at Gen. Banks' line at Front Royal (Warren county, Va.) on May 22d, and attempted to burn the Railroad bridge lately rebuilt by the Federal troops. An election was held in Tennessee on the 22d for judicial officers. The vote in Nashville stood: Circuit Judge, Brien, Union, 570; secessionist, 706. The secessionists generally voted, while Union men regarded the election as invalid. Gov. Johnson will give no commissions to secessionists who may be elected. The President and Cashier of the bank of Union have been arrested by order of Gov. Johnson, for treason. It is estimated that 1000 deserters are at Portsmouth and Norfolk from the force with which the rebel Gen. Huger left Norfolk, and about the same number are scattered through the woods. Their condition is most deplorable. The Minnesota will soon go to Norfolk, and then the whole fleet will have abandoned Old Point and taken position at the old naval station. Numerous wrecks, sunk in the harbor and river by the rebels are to be removed immediately, including the wreck of the Merrimack. The Mayor of Norfolk and members of the Council still refuse to take the oath of allegiance, and all intercourse with the people of Norfolk and Portsmouth is therefore stopped. Gen. Wool sent a proclamation to the people on the 24th, notifying them that the matter was entirely in their hands. As soon as they would acknowledge the supremacy of the Government they should enjoy its fostering care; but while they remained in their present rebellious mood they will be cut off from all the advantages of trade and commerce, and will be governed by strict martial law. An enthusiastic Union meeting was held at Portsmouth on the night of the 22d.—Not less than 800 were present. The propriety of the course of the Government in refusing to allow provisions to come there for loyal people was criticized. The scarcity of provisions and the necessities of life is so great that the poorest classes live almost entirely on fish and oysters! The secessionists are nearly all wealthy, and had laid in a stock of provisions long since. Gen. Burnside has seized all the Commissioners of Edenton, N. C., and taken them to his headquarters at Newbern, holding them as hostages for the safe return of the Union pilot who was seized by the rebels while on a visit to his wife. It is said the rebels determined to hang him. Gen. Burnside intends that all the Commissioners shall swing in case the rebels execute their threats.

Details of Eastern News. The friends of Senator Simmons' tax bill are confident that it will be adopted. The section relating to the tax on incomes provides that there shall be levied annually upon the income of every person residing in the United States, from whatever source derived, between \$600 and \$6,000, a tax of 3 per cent; from \$6,000 to \$20,000, a tax of 5 per cent; on incomes from property of citizens of the United States residing abroad, exceeding \$6,000, a tax of 7 1/2 per cent; incomes of religions and literary societies are subject to the same tax as those of individuals, except in cases of societies whose income is devoted to the circulation of the Holy Scriptures, or religious tracts, or which support religious missions. So much income, however, as is derived from the interest on the securities of the United States shall be taxed 1 1/2 per cent.

There is very high authority for the opinion that the Fugitive Slave Law does not extend to the District of Columbia. A member of the Cabinet and Senators, whose legal knowledge is of the first order, agree in this. The War Department has called for no definite number of troops, but reopened recruiting stations lately closed. Some new regiments will be raised for special purposes. The main object is to obtain a reserve to fill existing regiments. Prompt responses have been received from most of the Governors of the New England States, calling for additional regiments to meet the demands of the War Department.

James Dixon was to-day re-elected U. S. Senator from Connecticut. The condition of affairs at Petersburg, Va., and in the surrounding country, is represented by escaped citizens as most deplorable. The condition of the suffering people seems almost beyond endurance.—The scarcity of provisions is so great that everything is seized for the army, and even the soldiers have been on half rations for a week, with no prospect of even this supply continuing a great length of time. They represent the rebel army, or a great portion of it, as demoralized and dissipated to such an extent that they only hold together by the most vigorous appliances of martial law. The work of conscription, however, is progressing. The roads to Richmond are thronged with unarmed men, old and young, being driven along under strong armed guards. They represent that no people in modern times have suffered more than the people of Virginia are now suffering. Every household is in mourning at the prospect of approaching famine. They say it was announced at Petersburg on Wednesday, that Beauregard had arrived at Richmond. Jeff Davis and the military authorities declared their intention to fight to the death at Richmond; but strong suspicions were entertained that it was really their purpose to abandon the city after a short defense. A large number of women from Richmond had reached Petersburg. They represent the distress prevailing in Richmond as beyond description. Threats were made by the soldiers from the Gulf States that if they had to abandon the city, they would lay it in ashes; fears were had that these threats would be carried out.

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James Dixon was to-day re-elected U. S. Senator from Connecticut. The condition of affairs at Petersburg, Va., and in the surrounding country, is represented by escaped citizens as most deplorable. The condition of the suffering people seems almost beyond endurance.—The scarcity of provisions is so great that everything is seized for the army, and even the soldiers have been on half rations for a week, with no prospect of even this supply continuing a great length of time. They represent the rebel army, or a great portion of it, as demoralized and dissipated to such an extent that they only hold together by the most vigorous appliances of martial law. The work of conscription, however, is progressing. The roads to Richmond are thronged with unarmed men, old and young, being driven along under strong armed guards. They represent that no people in modern times have suffered more than the people of Virginia are now suffering. Every household is in mourning at the prospect of approaching famine. They say it was announced at Petersburg on Wednesday, that Beauregard had arrived at Richmond. Jeff Davis and the military authorities declared their intention to fight to the death at Richmond; but strong suspicions were entertained that it was really their purpose to abandon the city after a short defense. A large number of women from Richmond had reached Petersburg. They represent the distress prevailing in Richmond as beyond description. Threats were made by the soldiers from the Gulf States that if they had to abandon the city, they would lay it in ashes; fears were had that these threats would be carried out.

The troops at Richmond and vicinity number about 200,000, including unarmed and poorly armed of recent levies, who were being armed with pikes. The rebels made a dash at Gen. Banks' line at Front Royal (Warren county, Va.) on May 22d, and attempted to burn the Railroad bridge lately rebuilt by the Federal troops. An election was held in Tennessee on the 22d for judicial officers. The vote in Nashville stood: Circuit Judge, Brien, Union, 570; secessionist, 706. The secessionists generally voted, while Union men regarded the election as invalid. Gov. Johnson will give no commissions to secessionists who may be elected. The President and Cashier of the bank of Union have been arrested by order of Gov. Johnson, for treason. It is estimated that 1000 deserters are at Portsmouth and Norfolk from the force with which the rebel Gen. Huger left Norfolk, and about the same number are scattered through the woods. Their condition is most deplorable. The Minnesota will soon go to Norfolk, and then the whole fleet will have abandoned Old Point and taken position at the old naval station. Numerous wrecks, sunk in the harbor and river by the rebels are to be removed immediately, including the wreck of the Merrimack. The Mayor of Norfolk and members of the Council still refuse to take the oath of allegiance, and all intercourse with the people of Norfolk and Portsmouth is therefore stopped. Gen. Wool sent a proclamation to the people on the 24th, notifying them that the matter was entirely in their hands. As soon as they would acknowledge the supremacy of the Government they should enjoy its fostering care; but while they remained in their present rebellious mood they will be cut off from all the advantages of trade and commerce, and will be governed by strict martial law. An enthusiastic Union meeting was held at Portsmouth on the night of the 22d.—Not less than 800 were present. The propriety of the course of the Government in refusing to allow provisions to come there for loyal people was criticized. The scarcity of provisions and the necessities of life is so great that the poorest classes live almost entirely on fish and oysters! The secessionists are nearly all wealthy, and had laid in a stock of provisions long since. Gen. Burnside has seized all the Commissioners of Edenton, N. C., and taken them to his headquarters at Newbern, holding them as hostages for the safe return of the Union pilot who was seized by the rebels while on a visit to his wife. It is said the rebels determined to hang him. Gen. Burnside intends that all the Commissioners shall swing in case the rebels execute their threats.

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