THE OREGON ARGUS.

BY D. W. CRAIG.

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Gen. McNeil---A Memorial to the President.

A memorial to the President, cordially endorsing the conduct of Gen. JOHN MCNEIL in Northeast Missouri, is being circulated and extensively signed by the Union men of that region. We make this extract from it:

To His Excellency, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States;

NORTHERN MISSOURI, Jan. 1, 1863.—Your memorialists, loyal citizens of the United States and of the State of Missouri, respectfully represent;

That since the outbreak of the present rebellion, Northern Missouri, in common with the Southern part of the State, has been infested by hordes of lawless depredators, popularly known as guerrillas, though styling themselves "Confederate soldiers"—led by desperate and unprincipled men, having not even the form of official commissions from the authorities of the so called Confederate States—and whose modes of warfare have been only those resorted to and practiced by highway robbers, thieves, murderers and assassins. Not having from any source a recognition as beligerents, they have nevertheless not scrupled to wage relentless war against the Governments of the United States and of the State of Missouri, and against the peace, safety and happiness of the loyal citizens of this State. In thus doing they have causelessly murdered non-combatants, by hanging, by shooting, by cutting their throats, and by divers other cruel, inhuman and outrageous methods. They have fired into railroad trains, killing and maiming soldiers and citizens and placing in imminent peril the lives of women and children. They have burned and destroyed railroad bridges, thereby causing trains filled with non-combatants to be precipitated into streams, killing, drowning and wounding many persons, including women and children. They have, in the darkness of night, summoned citizens to the doors of their dwellings, and there shot them dead. They have deliberately and without provocation fired into dwellings, placing in extreme jeopardy the lives of innocent and helpless persons therein. They have abducted citizens from their dwellings and families, and murdered them secretly and by methods unknown to the community at large. They have practiced inhuman and diabolical cruelties upon prisoners in their hands, by brutally whipping and hanging them until nearly dead. And all this has been done for no other reason than that the parties thus murdered and outraged were and had been true and faithful in their allegiance to the United States. More than this; They have robbed the loyal citizens of Northern Missouri of hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of property, taking, in numerous instances, the only horse from a needy and dependent family. They have stripped thousands of families of clothing, money, grain, cattle, wagons, arms and ammunition, and, in short, of everything which their cupidity could lead them to covet, or their wants to desire. Nor have these operations been confined to a few or remote localities. Every county, every community has thus been scourged, until scarcely a loyal family has remained untouched. Thus these depredations desolated the whole land, establishing a reign of terror. Under this scourge, many loyal citizens have fled from the State to save their lives; many have been forced to abandon their families and take refuge in the Federal army; and for weeks and months thousands have been nightly driven to the woods and fields to find shelter from the fury of these prowling fiends. * * * * *

It was in these dark days, when this whole section was in terror and dismay at the unchecked and apparently uncontrollable outrages of these men, that Brigadier General John McNeil, M. S. M., commanding the Division of Northeast Missouri, caused ten of these persons, all of whom had been, and at the time of their capture were, participants in the outrages of the general nature recited, to be publicly executed at Palmyra, in this State. The immediate occasion for this execution was the abduction and unalloyed murder by these men, or their associates in crime, of one Andrew Alleman, a loyal citizen of Palmyra, a non-combatant, a man respectable in character, and advanced in years. It was not, however, simply to avenge his death that ten criminals were executed. It was additionally to vindicate the power and authority of law and of the Government, and to strike terror into the hearts of those whom no sentiments of right, honor or justice could reach. It was to give safety and peace to this distracted country, and to assure the now almost incredulous people that the Government *was not* utterly powerless for their protection. It was a stroke absolutely essential to teach traitors that they could not and should not with impunity outrage the rights and sacrifice the happiness and safety of whole communities.

The act has achieved its desired purpose. The law and the supremacy of the Government are vindicated. Citizens return in peace and safety to their homes. They are no longer assassinated at pleasure by lawless ruffians. They feel that in truth they have a Government, and that that Government is indeed able and willing to cover them with its protecting shield.

☞ The Chicago Times proposes to enter, within a few days, upon the discussion of the question whether it would not be best to have a Union leaving New England out. Wouldn't that question have been an interesting one in the revolutionary war? How would the proposition have sounded to exclude New England privateers and New England sailors and New England soldiers from the last war with Great Britain?—*Louisville Journal.*

NEVER TOO LATE.—On New Year's evening, in East Greenwich, Rhode Island, Cæsar Clark, aged about 100, was married to Betsey Fry, aged about 70.

Gen. Carter's Raid.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 9.—*To Maj. Gen. Halleck:* I have just received a dispatch from Gen. Granger, that the cavalry force of about 1,000 men, which he sent to East Tennessee on the 21st ult., under command of Gen. Carter, to destroy the East Tennessee railroad bridges, &c., has been heard from. Gen. Granger has just received a dispatch from Gen. Carter, at Manchester, Ky., who is on his return, stating that on the 30th he entirely destroyed the Union and Wautauga bridges within ten miles of the track. Five hundred and fifty rebels were killed, wounded and taken prisoners, seven hundred stand of arms, and a large amount of flour and salt and other rebel stores; and also a locomotive and two cars were destroyed. A brisk skirmish took place at the Wautauga bridge and another at Janesville. We lost but ten men.

The expedition is characterized by Granger as being one of the most hazardous and daring of the war, and was attended with great hardships and privations, owing to the almost impracticable nature of the country, the length of the route (nearly two hundred miles each way) and the inclement season.

The important results of the expedition can hardly be overrated, severing, as it has, the main rebel army communication between Virginia and the Southwest. Gen. Carter and his officers and men deserve the thanks of the country. Great credit is also due to Maj. Gen. Granger, under whose immediate supervision the expedition was fitted out.

H. C. WINSLOW, Maj. Gen. Comm'g.

A Complimentary Letter.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—*To Maj. Gen. Wright, Cincinnati:* The daring operations and brilliant achievements of Gen. Carter and his command are without a parallel in the history of the war, and deserve the thanks of the country.

This expedition has proved the capacity of our cavalry for bold and dashing movements, which I do not doubt will be imitated by others.

H. W. HALLECK, Gen.-in-Chief.

☞ Gen. Carter, under whose leadership our cavalry made that brilliant and important raid into East Tennessee, was born and has always lived in that part of the State. From the beginning he has been a fearless outspoken Union man.

STAND BY THE FLAG.—The news of the repulse of our forces from Vicksburg, the capture of men and vessels at Galveston, the failure of co-operation of Banks and Farragut with Sherman, following the retreat from Vicksburg, tend to make us forget or overlook the important results of the battle of Murfreesboro' and the victories in Arkansas. We wish to be always victorious, and forget that the fortunes of war are variable, and that out of defeats often come the greatest victories. A letter from Washington Irving, written in London at the time of the victory won by Nelson, paints in vivid colors the great despondency and gloom pervading in England previous to the news of that victory, and the rejoicing which followed it. In the Crimean war, defeat and disaster were almost constant themes, till the final victory. And in our own revolutionary war, how often were the darkest hours followed by unlooked for success.

There is in an ancient book this sentence: "If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small." It is easy enough to have courage and confidence when everything is in our favor; but it is neither manly nor just to ourselves or our country to be cast down by adversity. No great good was ever gained without great sacrifices.—Now is the time for us to put our shoulders to the wheel—to stir up our patriotism—to come up nobly to the help of our country—to inspirit our soldiers—to cheer our government—to do our *duty* as men worthy to have a country, a name and a place on the earth. With confidence in the justice of our cause, and in that God in whom our fathers trusted, let us give up all feeling of despondency, and each one of us determine that he will do all in his power to sustain, support and save our country.—*Boston Journal.*

PORT HUDSON.—The town of Port Hudson is situated on a high bluff defended on the north by Thompson's Creek and deep marshes, and earthworks some twelve miles in extent, erected beyond the reach of our gunboats missiles, are said to form a semi-circle to the south and east. Some thirty heavy pieces, ranging from 24-pounders to 10 inch guns, defend the approaches by the river. The estimated rebel force now within these works is about 12,000 men, and by the Mississippi papers we can judge of the efforts to increase the army, from the fact that school teachers are no longer exempt from conscription.

☞ A Tennessee Baptist clergyman named Graves, recently made an extended tour to the North and then returned to Richmond, where he very innocently supposed there would be no harm in publishing the results of his observations. He accordingly did so. His statements were calculated to show that the resources, energy and determination of the North would in the end, notwithstanding present appearances, prove too much for the South. For this he was arrested and sent to prison.

GEN. GRANT AND THE JEWS.—A recent order of Gen. Grant, banishing all Jews from his department has created intense excitement in the West, inasmuch as many of that class are very rich, and the money power has resisted the blow. A deputation of thirty Jews, including a distinguished Rabbi, waited upon the President, who, upon hearing all the facts, rescinded the order.

Rosecrans.

The Rebel strategy ought by this time to be familiar to all our commanders. To strike an unexpected blow in overwhelming force—to fall suddenly upon a wing, an advance division, or on the rear of the Unionists—to surprise the doomed *corps* in its tents if possible and crush it before it can get into line, or at least before its supports can come up—such was substantially the aim at Lexington, Ball's Bluff, Shiloh, Fair Oaks, Gaines's Mills, Groveton, Perryville, and at Murfreesboro. And never was this strategy more successful at the outset than at Murfreesboro. Our right wing *was* surprised—inexcusably, fatally surprised—and beaten into a flying, helpless mob, minus guns, caissons, and almost everything else, before it fairly knew that the Philistines were upon it. Our loss in men was about 5,000; but in fighting capacity and efficiency it was more than twice that, in the first hour after the Rebel attack on the morning of the 31st; while the Rebels had not lost two hundred. They had thus demoralized and disheartened our whole army, a majority of whom looked upon defeat as their inevitable portion.—The defeat of McClellan's right wing by Stonewall Jackson at Gaines's Mill was not nearly so disastrous.

But just where McClellan began to retreat, Rosecrans began to fight. Instead of looking around for gunboats or intrenchments behind which to shelter what remained of his army, he commenced at once to make new dispositions for the reception of the triumphant, advancing host. He had but a few minutes at his disposal; but he improved them to the utmost. With calm, cheerful, confident, assuring presence, he rode through his anxious, troubled, apprehensive ranks, the light of battle in his eye rekindling valor in their souls, posting his remaining cannon so as to sweep with deadly aim the field over which the exulting Rebels were so soon to advance, placing his infantry so as to support the artillery with the least exposure possible; and making every one feel that retreat was not to be thought of—that there was no choice but to conquer or to die. Hardly were the most necessary dispositions completed when the Rebel columns came rushing on, with shots that shook the earth, undoubting that they would repeat in a few minutes the lesson they had just given McCook's demolished division. But a sheet of flame leaped to meet them, a roar of cannon and rattle of musketry drowned their frantic yells, a pall of smoke shrouded the field of conflict from view, and there was no cessation until silence on the other side suggested the inutility of further firing on ours. Soon the cloud lifted; the sun shone out bright and warm; our grim battalions stood to their arms in readiness for the word of command; but there was no foe within sight—nothing but a plain heaped with the writhing and the dead. Such was the first taste of his quality given to Bragg's bullies by Rosecrans; and, though often thereafter impelled to repeat the dash of Wednesday morning, they never did it so recklessly nor with anything like the success of their first attempt. We had battles well fought before; some in which the General Commanding did his work fairly; many in which our soldiers behaved nobly; but the Murfreesboro fight was saved, and Tennessee with it, by William S. Rosecrans. That he exposed himself recklessly, constantly, and impelled his officers to do likewise, was no idle bravado, but a stern necessity. After McCook's discomfiture, the fight was lost but for this.—Rarely pushing an advantage too far—giving his routed men time to recover from their first panic before sending them into action again—cool, patient, steady, yet resolute, sanguine and watchful—Gen. Rosecrans has proved himself more than fortunate, and has won a high place in the confidence and the affections of his countrymen. He will not be forgotten.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE IN FRANCE.—Washington, Jan. 11.—The following is an extract from a private letter received in this city by the last steamer, from an American gentleman in Paris, dated Dec. 23, 1862:

"The impression among the French here is that the reaction represented by Drouyn de L'Huys cannot last, and that a change of Ministry is not unlikely to occur before February. Mr. L. tells me that at the last council at the Tuileries the President's message was laid upon the table, and the Ministry pronounced it wise and all that the South could ask. Upon the same authority he said that the Emperor had abandoned his penchant toward the South. Mr. —— thought his authority pretty good.

The *Moniteur* has been thrown upon the defensive, which is a good sign, by the universal disapprobation which the proposal of an armistice has encountered everywhere. It even went so far as to publish an article which stated that the Government never expected that the blockade was to be suspended during the armistice. That being untrue renders its appearance in the *Moniteur* the more significant.

The message has produced an excellent effect here. It has not been successfully assailed in any quarter, while the President's earnestness, moderation and forbearance have captivated all who were in a position to look at the case fairly. I augur the very happiest results from the President's proposal, though I suppose no serious expectation of the adoption of the amendments is entertained."

☞ Gunpowder made of paper is the latest novelty. A letter from Copenhagen says that the Royal Artillery Board of Denmark has just made successful experiments with a new material. Common packing paper was in the course of ten or fifteen minutes transformed into a very powerful kind of Gunpowder, and a number of shots were fired with it.

For the Argus.

The Draft.

I hope no one will go into spasms at this heading; but, on reflection, I do not care if they do, for if it should even stop their vital breath, it would only save rope. None but secessionists or semi-secessionists are likely to object to a draft should it become necessary to raise the six hundred men required by the Government. Who will say that it is a matter of no consequence whether or not the six companies are raised? Is it of no consequence to rescue those captive children that have been in slavery to those degraded savages for three years? Is it of no consequence to have the emigrant road cleared out so that emigrants may be secure in future against the fiendish brutality of these wretches?

Some will say, and have said, "We have plenty of young men and old bachelors, that can be well spared, and if they should be killed they would hardly be missed; let them volunteer. But it would not do to draft men that have families—their families cannot well spare them, and the country cannot well spare them; and then again the pay is no inducement to a man to leave his family. Only thirteen dollars per month!"

Now, sir, is it not decidedly cool to tell our young men and old bachelors that they are fit for nothing else but to make our lives secure by throwing themselves in between us and these savages?—that thirteen dollars per month is entirely too little for an inducement to us, or to our sons that are between sixteen and twenty-one, but it is plenty for the bachelors, and they can make money at it? Could not the bachelor retort that in nine cases out of ten it is not his fault but his misfortune that he has no family? Could he not guarantee that if the man who has a family should go, and never return, that he would marry the widow? Could not the young man argue that only old men should go, as they must die any how pretty soon, and if the Indians kill them in battle they will not be cheated out of many days!

But, to be serious, we all have interests alike, or nearly so, and why not each bear an equal part in sustaining those interests? It is pretty hard to persuade a young man that it is to his interest to serve in the army for thirteen dollars per month, when he can get double that at home; and it is very absurd to require more patriotism of a young man, and of an old bachelor who you say "would not be missed if he were killed," than of our substantial farmers, mechanics, and merchants, who have families. So, for one, I say, let us have a draft (if the number is not raised in due time) of every tenth man. Then, if our farmers, mechanics, and merchants are not willing to stand their chance, they can unite and give twenty dollars each, and thus raise a bounty of two hundred dollars for a young man or bachelor to go for them.

In conclusion, I hope Gov. Gibbs will not suffer his proclamation to be unheeded, but, if necessary, issue orders for a draft without delay. IVY.

P. S.—It must be admitted that thirteen dollars per month is too little, and should the requisite number be raised of volunteers, our State government ought to raise by taxation enough to make their wages equal at least to a farm hand at home. This would make traitors snarl—but so much the better. IVY.

THE LATE BATTLE WITH THE INDIANS.—Gen. Wright has issued the following order making honorable mention of the conduct of the volunteers in their late battle with the Indians on the Plains:

HEADQUARTERS DEP'T OF THE PACIFIC,
SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 19, 1863.
General Order No. 6.

The General commanding the Department has the gratification of announcing a signal victory gained by the California Volunteers under the command of Col. P. Edward Connor, on the 29th of January, 1863, over a large body of hostile Indians, strongly posted on Bear river, Washington Territory, 150 miles north of Salt Lake City.

The force engaged consisted of Companies A, H, K, and M, Second Cavalry, under the immediate command of Major Edward McGarry, Second Cavalry, and Company K, Third Infantry. The battle lasted four hours and its severity is well attested by the loss of the combatants—224 Indians being left on the field, while the loss of the troops was fifteen men killed, and four officers and forty-nine men wounded, out of a force not exceeding 200 engaged. One officer (Lieut. Chase, 2d Cavalry) and five enlisted men have since died of their wounds.

Col. Connor awards the highest praise to Major McGarry, Second Cavalry, and Major Gallagher and Surgeon Reid, Third Infantry, for their coolness, gallantry and skill, and bears testimony to the perseverance and gallantry of Company officers throughout the action, and closes his report by saying: "Of the good conduct and bravery of both officers and men, California has reason to be proud."

By order of Brig.-Gen. Wright:
R. C. DRUM, A. A. G.

☞ Governor ANDREW in his message says that Massachusetts has raised 60,000 men for the war. The public debt of the State is $5,352,000, the designated provision to meet which is $5,096,000. The disbursements of the past year amounted to $1,673,391. The collections of revenue have been promptly made, and the Treasury presents a spectacle of prosperity and strength usual only in peace.

"WHAT IS IT?"—A submarine battery bearing this name was launched at New York not long since. The following description of it is given by the Commercial Advertiser:

"The appearance of the battery is novel for an armed vessel. It resembles a large dry goods case, with an addition on one side, in which the port hole, through which the gun protrudes, is situated. The gun, however, will be covered by a sort of porch, the use and regulation of which it would not be proper to print. Egress and ingress are obtained through the top with a ladder. When afloat it is presumed that there will be a sort of permanent convenience for getting in and out. The interior of the battery is very like that of a turret, as far as dimensions and unburdened room are concerned. There is no 'shipshape' at all about the hull, which, as already stated, is like a box. The wooden stalls, in which horses are transported to and from Europe, might be mistaken by a navy yard laborer for the great curiosity which has so bewildered them for months. There is at present no armor on, but it is said that some inches of iron plating will be put over the sides in a few days. The gun will also be mounted in a short time. Lieut. Hunt, to whose inventive genius the construction of the monster must be attributed, belongs to the engineer corps. The strange looking piece of ordnance which is to constitute the armament is as great a riddle as the thing itself. It is made of brass or composition, and will be rifled. The ball which it will discharge is even more curious than the gun or the vessel. Its shape and dimensions must remain unpublished. The location of the battery when completed has not yet been decided on."

JOHN BRIGHT ON AMERICA.—Mr. John Bright concluded a powerful speech at Birmingham, England, on the 18th of December, in these words:

"I cannot believe that civilization, in its journey with the sun, will sink into endless night, to gratify the ambition of the leaders of this revolt, who seek to wade through slaughter to a throne, and shut the gates of mercy on mankind. [Cheers.] I have another and far better vision before my gaze. It may be but a vision; but I will still cherish it. I see one vast confederation stretching from the frozen North, in one unbroken line, to the glowing South, and from the wild billows of the Atlantic to the calmer waters of the Pacific main; and I see one people, and one law, and one language, and one faith; and over all that wide continent the home of freedom, and a refuge for the oppressed of every race." [Loud cheers.]

STAMPS ON BONDS AND MORTGAGES.—The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has made the following decision:

When bond and mortgage or note and mortgage are given to become the same debt with bond and mortgage or note and mortgage, require to be stamped. The bond as a personal bond for a certain sum of money requires a mortgage stamp, the mortgage a mortgage stamp, and the note a bill of exchange (inland) stamp. When all the instruments, viz: mortgage, bond, and note are given to secure the same debt, the law requires that each instrument shall have its appropriate stamp.

☞ A curious fact brought out by the report of the State Comptroller of New York is that the rumors circulated at the time of the Trent difficulty about a blockade of the port of New York by a timber raft, had a foundation in truth. Timber to the value of $70,000 or $80,000 was actually bought for this purpose.

Murfreesboro, Jan. 13.—Provost Marshal Wiles reports that rebel prisoners captured at Murfreesboro amount to over 3,500, representing 19 batteries and 145 regiments. The rebels say they had 65,000 men in the battle.

☞ The third Sunday in January was designated as a day when the clergymen of the Northwest, without respect of sect, were invited to press the claims of our sick and wounded soldiers upon their parishes from their pulpits, and take up collections for the Sanitary Commission.

☞ A man is not necessarily honored by being elected to office. The people of a town or county might elect a horse to office as the old Roman tyrant appointed his, and the vote would not honor the horse, it would only dishonor the voters.—*Louisville Journal.*

☞ The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has decided that any revenue stamp, except proprietory, can now be used for its amount on any instrument, thus virtually abolishing the great variety of stamps.

☞ A rebel Colonel and his negro servant were lately captured in Arkansas. The latter, describing the wretched condition of the rebel army in that State, said, "They just got plenty of noffin."

☞ The Emperor of Austria has just ennobled a Hungarian Jew—an unusual act of liberality, which creates much comment in the empire.

☞ The Internal Revenue Commissioner has decided that the "probate of wills" and "letters testamentary" must be stamped.

☞ Major Slemmer, who was dangerously wounded at Murfreesboro, is the same officer that defended Fort Pickens.

☞ The wool clip of Michigan for the year 1863 is estimated at 5,500,000 pounds.

Details of Eastern News.

Cairo, Feb. 27.—The steamer Continental from Lake Providence, Feb. 23d, has arrived. The canal leading into the lake was almost completed. The canal is 150 feet wide, being dug down to within a foot of the lake. Van Dorn is reported to have crossed the Tennessee River at Florence, Alabama, with 8,000 cavalry, to reinforce Bragg.

Cairo, Feb. 28.—Full dispatches regarding the expedition of the ram Queen of the West to Red river have been received. The crew consisted mostly of negroes. Her artillerists were twenty experienced men detailed from the 18th Illinois Infantry. On Thursday morning before the capture the ram ran down Atchafalaya river a few miles, captured and destroyed a rebel Quartermaster's train consisting of 17 wagons and on returning was fired on by guerrillas at Summersport. The next morning Capt. Ellet landed and burned all the bridges in the vicinity in retaliation—destroying half a million dollars' worth of property. On Saturday she captured the rebel steamer Era No. 5, with a large cargo of corn. At dark the same day she came within range of Fort Taylor, only 500 yards distant. The ram engaged the Fort and the third shot from the rebels struck her crushing through the deck. Her men fired once after this and then deserted the guns. In this emergency Col. Ellet ordered the pilot to back out and in attempting to do so ran aground. The next shot from the rebel Fort broke the lever of her engine and a succeeding one cut her steam pipes in two, completely disabling her.—Twenty-six of the fifty-one white men aboard escaped. The steamer De Soto, which accompanied her as a transport, was blown up to prevent her falling into the hands of the enemy.

New York, Feb. 28.—Sterling Exchange 190. Gold closed steady at 71¼; Government Stocks still lower.

Dates from Liverpool to the 14th are received. The London Times ridicules the Lord Mayor for his bringing into prominence the rebel Mason and shows the affair was without significance. It says Mr. Mason's remarks about the early recognition go far ahead of the facts, and that when the Federals find themselves obliged to leave the Confederates in the quiet possession of their States then will be time to discuss the question of recognition, and that Mason has received no assurance or encouragement except from irresponsible persons. The steamer Gibraltar had arrived at Liverpool.

Charleston, Feb. 23.—Late Richmond papers give dispatches from Jackson, Miss., dated Feb. 20, which say as a train from Meredian came to Chunky bridge last night it gave way and precipitated the engine and 4 cars into the river. From 50 to 100 passengers were drowned. The bridge cannot be repaired till the water falls.

Louisville, Feb. 28.—At noon yesterday twenty freight cars loaded with persons going to Nashville were seized and burned by sixty armed guerrillas twelve miles below Bowling Green. The rebels then fired up the locomotive and sent it ahead at full speed, supposing that it would come in contact with the passenger train from Nashville. Luckily, however, late rains had injured the bridge over Drake Creek so that the train and passengers returned to Nashville, and the locomotive having exhausted itself stopped on the track.

Murfreesboro, Tenn., Feb. 27.—There were several rain storms the past week which not only put the roads in a worse condition than before but washed away one days' railroad communication. Nothing yet has transpired that looks like a forward movement. The amount of sickness is not very considerable, the prevalent diseases being those induced by the rainy weather of this region. Reports received from the enemy indicate their intention to contest the further advance of this army. Van Dorn's forces, from North-western Mississippi, now occupy Columbia, while another column sends out reconnoissances almost daily on our left. The arrivals of contrabands in our camp are less frequent than formerly—of course large numbers are at work on the fortifications of Tullahoma and Chattanooga.

New York, Feb. 28.—Gold this morning is quoted at 72 cents premium. The Herald says that rumors were rife at Washington yesterday that Hunter will be relieved of the command of the Department of the South and Burnside's name was spoken of in connection with the succession.—It is also said that certain parties are preparing charges against McClellan with a view to a Court Martial.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Feb. 27.—On Wednesday night a raid was made on our lines by two rebel cavalry Brigades of Lee and Hampton's forces.—They crossed the Rappahannock at Kelsey's Ford and succeeded, by a strong attack, in breaking our thin lines of cavalry outposts at one or two points and captured a few of our men. Our cavalry outposts and reserves were brought into line immediately and re-established. A force was sent in pursuit. Our capture included two or three officers. The rebels having failed in accomplishing their object returned in great haste across the Rappahannock—felling trees across the road and placing other obstructions in the way of the pursuing force. The cavalry sent out in pursuit has not yet returned. The rebel cavalry were commanded by Lee in person.

Cincinnati, Feb. 27.—A special dispatch to the Times, from Lexington, Ky., says that the excitement at Richmond, Ky., has subsided. The rumor was almost wholly without foundation. The fight of Wednesday was more successful than was at first supposed. Some 200 prisoners were taken. Gen. Carter left yesterday, with a considerable force, for some point unknown.

—No man can safely go abroad that does not love to stay at home.