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The National Militia Law.

[OFFICIAL.]

[PUBLIC—No. 54.]

AN ACT for enrolling and calling out the national forces, and for other purposes.

Whereas there now exist in the United States an insurrection and rebellion against the authority thereof, and it is, under the Constitution of the United States, the duty of the Government to suppress insurrection and rebellion, to guarantee to each State a republican form of government, and to preserve the public tranquillity; and whereas, for these high purposes, a military force is indispensable, to raise and support which all persons ought willingly to contribute; and whereas no service can be more [illegible] than that

[illegible] the United [illegible] persons of foreign birth who shall have declared on oath their intention to become citizens under and in pursuance of the laws thereof, between the ages of twenty and forty-five years, except as hereinafter excepted, are hereby declared to constitute the national forces, and shall be liable to perform military duty in the service of the United States when called out by the President for that purpose.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the following persons be and they are hereby excepted and exempt from the provisions of this act, and shall not be liable to military duty under the same, to wit: Such as are rejected as physically or mentally unfit for the service; also, first, the Vice President of the United States, the judges of the various courts of the United States, the heads of the various executive departments of the Government, and the Governors of the several States. Second, the only son liable to military duty of a widow dependent upon his labor for support. Third, the only son of aged or infirm parent or parents dependent upon his labor for support. Fourth, where there are two or more sons of aged or infirm parents subject to draft, the father, or if he be dead, the mother may elect which son shall be exempt. Fifth, the only brother of children not twelve years old, having neither father nor mother depending upon his labor for support. Seventh, where there are a father and sons in the same family and household, and two of them are in the military service of the United States as non-commissioned officers, musicians, or privates, the residue of such family and household not exceeding two shall be exempt. And no persons but such as are herein excepted shall be exempt: *Provided, however*, That no person who has been convicted of any felony shall be enrolled [illegible] said forces.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the national forces of the United States not now in the military service, enrolled under this act, shall be divided into two classes: the first of which shall comprise all persons subject to do military duty between the ages of twenty and thirty five years, and all unmarried persons subject to do military duty above the age of thirty five and under the age of forty five; the second class shall comprise all other persons subject to do military duty; and they shall not, in any district, be called into the service of the United States until those of the first class shall have been called.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That for greater convenience in enrolling, calling out, and organizing the national forces, and for the arrest of deserters and spies of the enemy, the United States shall be divided into districts, of which the District of Columbia shall constitute one, each Territory of the United States shall constitute one or more, as the President shall direct, and each congressional district of the respective States, as fixed by a law of the State next preceding the enrollment, shall constitute one; *Provided*, That in States which have not by their laws been divided into two or more congressional districts, the President of the United States shall divide the same into so many enrollment districts as he may deem fit and convenient.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That for each of said districts there shall be appointed by the President a provost marshal, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of a captain of cavalry, or an officer of said rank shall be detailed by the President, who shall be under the direction and subject to the orders of a provost marshal [illegible] detailed by the [illegible] appointed [illegible] States, whose office shall be at the [illegible] point, on or before the tenth day of [illegible]ext, and in each alternate year [illegible], an enrolling officer for each [illegible]-district, and to furnish him with proper blanks and instructions; and he shall immediately proceed to enroll all persons subject to military duty, noting their respective places of residence, ages on the first day of July following, and their occupation, and shall, on or before the first day of April, report the same to the board of enrollment, to be consolidated into one list, a copy of which shall be transmitted to the provost marshal general on or before the first day of May succeeding the enrollment: *Provided, nevertheless*, That if, from any cause, the duties prescribed by this section cannot be performed within the time specified, then the same shall be performed as soon thereafter as practicable.

Sec. 10. And be it further enacted, That the enrollment of each class shall be made separately, and shall only embrace those whose ages shall be on the first day of July thereafter between twenty and forty-five years.

Sec. 11. And be it further enacted, That all persons thus enrolled shall be subject, for two years after the first day of July succeeding the enrollment, to be called into the military service of the United States, and to continue in service during the present rebellion, not, however, exceeding the term of three years; and when called into service shall be placed on the same footing, in all respects, as volunteers for three years, or during the war, including advance pay and bounty as now provided by law.

Sec. 12. And be it further enacted, That whenever it may be necessary to call out the national forces for military service, the President is hereby authorized to assign to each district the number of men to be furnished by said district; and thereupon the enrolling board shall, under the direction of the President, make a draft of the required number, and fifty per cent in addition, and shall make an exact and complete roll of the names of the persons so drawn, and of the order in which they were drawn, so that the first drawn may stand first upon the said roll, and the second may stand second, and so on. And the person so drawn shall be notified of the same within ten days thereafter, by a written or printed notice, to be served personally or by leaving a copy at the last place of residence, requiring him to appear at a designated rendezvous to report for duty. In assigning to the districts the number of men to be furnished therefrom, the President shall take into consideration the number of volunteers and militia furnished by and from the several States in which said districts are situated, and the period of their service since the commencement of the present rebellion, and shall so make said assignment as to equalize the numbers among the districts of the several States, considering and allowing for the numbers already furnished as aforesaid and the time of their service.

Sec. 13. And be it further enacted, That any person drafted and notified to appear as aforesaid, may, on or before the day fixed for his appearance, furnish an acceptable substitute to take his place in the draft; or he may pay to such person as the Secretary of War may authorize to receive it, such sum, not exceeding three hundred dollars, as the Secretary may determine, for the procuration of such substitute, which sum shall be fixed at a uniform rate by a general order made at the time of ordering a draft for any State or Territory; and thereupon such person so furnishing the substitute, or paying the money, shall be discharged from further liability under that draft. And any person failing to report after due service of notice as herein prescribed, without furnishing a substitute or paying the required sum therefor, shall be deemed a deserter, and shall be arrested by the provost marshal and sent to the nearest military [illegible] for trial by court martial, unless [illegible] proper showing that he is not liable to military duty, the board of enrollment shall relieve him from the draft.

Sec. 14. And be it further enacted, That all drafted persons shall, on arriving at the rendezvous, be carefully inspected by the surgeon of the board, who shall truly report to the board the physical condition of each one; and all persons drafted and claiming exemption from military duty on account of disability, or any other cause, shall present their claims to be exempted to the board, whose decision shall be final.

Sec. 15. And be it further enacted, That any surgeon charged with the duty of such inspection who shall receive from any person whomsoever any money or other valuable thing, or agree, directly or indirectly, to receive the same to his own or another's use for making an imperfect inspection or a false or incorrect report, or who shall wilfully neglect to make a faithful inspection and true report, shall be tried by a court-martial, and, on conviction thereof, be punished by fine not exceeding five hundred dollars nor less than two hundred, and be imprisoned at the discretion of the court, and be cashiered and dismissed from the service.

Sec. 16. And be it further enacted, That as soon as the required number of able bodied men liable to do military duty shall be obtained from the list of those drafted, the remainder shall be discharged. And all drafted persons reporting at the place of rendezvous shall be allowed travel pay from their places of residence; and all persons discharged at the place of rendezvous shall be allowed traveling pay to their places of residece; and all expenses connected with the enrollment and drafting, under such regulations as the President of the United States shall prescribe; and all expenses connected with the arrest and return of deserters to their regiments or such other duties as the provost marshals shall be called upon to perform, shall be paid from the appropriation for arresting deserters, under such regulations as the President of the United States shall prescribe: *Provided*, That the provost marshals shall in no case receive commutation for transportation or for fuel and quarters, but only for forage, when not furnished by the Government, together with actual expenses of postage, stationery, and clerk hire authorised by the provost marshal general.

Sec. 17. And be it further enacted, That any enrolled and drafted according to the provisions of this act who shall furnish an acceptable substitute, shall thereupon receive from the board of enrollment a certificate of discharge from such draft, which shall exempt him from military duty during the time for which he was drafted; and such substitute shall be entitled to the same pay and allowance provided by law as if he had been originally drafted into the service of the United States.

Sec. 18. And be it further enacted, That such of the volunteers and militia now in the service of the United States as may re-enlist to serve one year, unless sooner discharged, after the expiration of their present term of service, shall be entitled to a bounty of fifty dollars, one half of which to be paid upon re-enlistment, and the balance at the expiration of the term of re-enlistment. And such as may re-enlist to serve for two years, unless sooner discharged, after the expiration of their present term of enlistment, shall receive, upon such re-enlistment, twenty five dollars of the one hundred dollars bounty for enlistment provided by the fifth section of the act approved twenty-second of July, eighteen hundred and sixty one, entitled "An act to authorize the employment of volunteers to aid in enforcing the laws and protecting public property."

Sec. 19. And be it further enacted, That whenever a regiment of volunteers of the same arm, from the same State, is reduced to one-half the maximum number prescribed by law, the President may direct the consolidation of the companies of such regiment: *Provided*, That no company so formed shall exceed the maximum prescribed by law. When such consolidation is made, the regimental officers shall be reduced in proportion to the reduction of the number of companies.

Sec. 20. And be it further enacted, That whenever a regiment is reduced be [illegible] no officers shall be appointed in such regiment beyond those necessary for the command of such reduced number.

Sec. 21. And be it further enacted, That so much of the fifth section of the act approved seventeenth of July, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, entitled "An act to amend an act calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Union," and so forth, as requires the approval of the President to carry into execution the sentence of a court martial, be and the same is hereby repealed as far as relates to carrying into execution the sentence of any courtmartial against any person convicted as a spy or deserter, or of mutiny or murder; and hereafter sentences in punishment of these offences may be carried into execution upon the approval of the commanding general in the field.

Sec. 22. And be it further enacted, That court martials shall have power to sentence officers who shall absent themselves from their commands without leave, to be reduced to the ranks to serve three years or during the war.

Sec. 23. And be it further enacted, That the clothes, arms, military outfits, and accoutrements furnished by the United States to any soldier, shall not be sold, bartered, exchanged, pledged, loaned, or given away; and no person not a soldier, or duly authorized officer of the United States, who has possession of any such clothes, arms, military outfits, or accoutrements, furnished as aforesaid, and which have been the subjects of any such sale, barter, exchange, pledge, loan, or gift, shall have any right, title, or interest therein; but the same may be seized and taken wherever found by any officer of the United States, civil or military, and shall thereupon be delivered to any quartermaster, or other officer authorized to receive the same; and the possession of such clothes, arms, military outfits, accoutrements, by any person not a soldier or officer of the United States, shall be prima facie evidence of such a sale, barter, exchange, pledge, loan, or gift as aforesaid.

Sec. 24. And be it further enacted, That every person not subject to the rules and articles of war who shall procure or attempt to procure or entice, a soldier in the United States to desert; or who shall harbor, give employment to a deserter or carry him away, or aid in carying him away, knowing him to be such; or who shall purchase from any soldier his arms, equipments, ammunition, clothing, uniform, or any part thereof; and any captain or commanding officer of any ship or vessel, or any superintendent or conductor of any railroad, or any other public conveyance, carrying away any such soldier as one of his crew or otherwise, knowing him to have deserted, or shall refuse to deliver him to the orders of his commanding officer, shall, upon legal conviction, be fined, at the discretion of any court having cognizance of the same, in any sum not exceeding five hundred dollars, and be shall be imprisoned not exceeding two years nor less than six months.

Sec. 25. And be it further enacted, That if any person shall resist any draft of men enrolled under this act into the service of the United States, or shall counsel or aid any person to resist any such draft; or shall assault or obstruct any officer in making such draft, or in the performance of any service in relation thereto, or shall counsel any person to assault or obstruct any such officer, or shall counsel any drafted men not to appear at the place of rendezvous, or wilfully dissuade them from the performance of military duty as required by law, such person shall be subject to summary arrest by the provost martial, and shall be forthwith delivered to the civil authorities, and, upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment not exceeding two years, or by both of said punishments.

Sec. 26. And be it further enacted, That immediately after the passage of this act, the President shall issue his proclamation declaring that all soldiers now absent from their regiments without leave may return within a time specified to such place or places as he may indicate in his proclamation, and be restored to their respective regiments without punishment, except the forfeiture of their pay and allowances during their absence; and all deserters who shall not return within the time so specified by the President shall, upon being arrested, be punished as the law provides.

Sec. 27. And be it further enacted, That depositions of witnesses residing beyond the limits of the State, Territory, or district in which military courts shall be ordered to sit, may be taken in cases not capital by either party, and read in evidence; provided the same shall be taken upon reasonable notice to the opposite party, and duly authenticated.

Sec. 28. And be it further enacted, That the judge advocate shall have power to appoint a reporter, whose duty it shall be to record the proceedings of and testimony taken before military courts instead of the judge advocate; and such reporter may take down such proceedings and testimony in the first instance in short hand. The reporter shall be sworn or affirm faithfully to perform his duty before entering upon it.

Sec. 29. And be it further enacted, That the court shall, for reasonable cause, grant a continuance to either party, for such time and as often as shall appear to be just: *Provided*, That if the prisoner be in close confinement, the trial shall not be delayed for a period longer than sixty days.

Sec. 30. And be it further enacted, That in time of war, insurrection, or rebellion, murder, assault and battery with intent to kill, manslaughter, mayhem, wounding by shooting or stabbing with intent to commit murder, robbery, arson, burglary, rape, assault and battery with intent to commit rape, and larceny, shall be punishable by the sentence of a general court-martial or military commission, when committed by persons who are in the military service of the United States, and subject to the articles of war; and the punishment for such offences shall never be less than those inflicted by the laws of the State, Territory, or district in which they may have been committed.

Sec. 31. And be it further enacted, That any officer absent from duty with leave, except for sickness or wounds, shall, during his absence, receive half of the pay and allowances prescribed by law, and no more; and any officer absent without leave shall, in addition to the penalties prescribed by law or a court martial, forfeit all pay or allowances during such absence.

Sec. 32. And be it further enacted, That the commanders of regiments and of batteries in the field are hereby authorized and empowered to grant furloughs for a period not exceeding thirty days at any one time to five per centum of the commissioned officers and privates, for good conduct in the line of duty, and subject to the approval of the commander of the forces of which such non-commisioned officers and privates form a part.

Sec. 33. And be it further enacted, That the President of the United States is hereby authorized and empowered, during the present rebellion, to call forth the national forces, by draft, in the manner provided for in this act.

Sec. 34. And be it further enacted, That all persons drafted under the provisions of this act shall be assigned by the President to military duty in such corps, regiments, or other branches of the service as the exigencies of the service may require.

Sec. 35. And be it further enacted, That hereafter details to special service shall only be made with the consent of the commanding officer of forces in the field; and enlisted men now and hereafter detailed to special service, shall not receive any extra pay for such services beyond that allowed to other enlisted men.

Sec. 36. And be it further enacted, That general orders of the War Department, numbered one hundred and fifty-four and one hundred and sixty-two, in reference to enlistments from the volunteers into the regular service, be and the same are hereby rescinded; and hereafter no such enlistments shall be allowed.

Sec. 37. And be it further enacted, That the grades created in the cavalry forces of the United States by section eleven of the act approved seventeenth July, eighteen hundred and sixty two, and for which no rate of compensation has been provided, shall be paid as follows, to wit: Regimental commissary the same as regimental quartermaster; chief trumpeter the same as chief bugler; sadler sergeant the same as regimental commissary sergeant; company commissary sergeant the same as Co. quartermaster's sergeant: *Provided*, That the grade of supernumerary second lieutenant, two teamsters for each company, and one chief farrier and blacksmith for each regiment, as allowed by said section of that act, be and they are hereby abolished; and each cavalry company may have two trumpeters, to be paid as buglers; and each regiment shall have one veterinary surgeon, with the rank of a regimental sergeant major whose compensation shall be seventy-five dollars per month.

Sec. 38. And be it further enacted, That all persons who, in time of war or of rebellion against the supreme authority of the United States, shall be found lurking or acting as spies in or about any of the fortifications, posts, quarters, or encampments of any of the armies of the United States, or elsewhere, shall be triable by a general court martial or military commission, and shall upon conviction, suffer death. [Approved, March 3, 1863.

EASTERN NEWS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE ARGUS.]

Sunday's Dispatch.

San Francisco, May 12.—The Danish bark Jorgen Lonnesen, from San Francisco, was totally wrecked on Christian's Island in January last.—The captain, his wife, and crew, left the island in open boats, and have not been heard from.

The bark Commerce, 70 days from New York, bound to San Francisco, had been spoken at sea, by whaling ship Mt. Wallaston. The Commerce reported that a rebel privateer had taken a schooner. The captain and mate were killed in the capture. The privateer took the prize to the Brazilian government. The probability is that the privateer will be confiscated.

The wounded by the late steamboat explosion are gradually recovering. Mrs. Sanford and Miss Herford are still in great danger.

The secession city ticket in Los Angelos was elected.

Receipts from the internal revenue last steamer day amounted to $1,500,000(?). Legal tenders 66 to 66.

New York, May 12.—A Pittsburg dispatch of yesterday says the rebels made a raid to Running Springs, Oil Wells, and Kanawha river, 30 miles from Parkersburg, and burned the boats and destroyed a large amount of property.

Headquarters Army of the Potomac, May 11th.—Gen. Hooker has issued a general order to the Army, tendering congratulations, in which he says, "We have taken from the enemy 5,000 prisoners, 15 stands of colors, captured and brought off seven pieces of artillery, placed *hors de combat* 18,000 of his chosen troops, destroyed his depots filled with vast amounts of stores, and damaged his communications, and filled his country with fear and consternation."

N. Y., 11th.—A special Washington dispatch to the Post says: Hooker's army has not recrossed the river. His personal arrangements however indicate that he expects to be employed in some new enterprise soon. An officer who arrived from Falmouth this morning also states that the Army of the Potomac has not left that place.

Head quarters Army of the Potomac, 12th.—The medical directors in the charge of our wounded on the field, report that they are all comfortable, and number about 1500.

Washington, 12th.—A report was current yesterday that the rebels had left his position along the heights back of Fredericksburg, but close observation discloses the fact that their number there had not been diminished since the time of our crossing to the north side of the river. It is believed that only two divisions of the enemy's force remain on our front near Chancellorville as a rear guard. Notwithstanding the reports, we had not recrossed the Rappahannock up to Monday noon.

San Francisco, May 12.—The approaching city election is engrossing public attention—the contest being between the Citizens' and the People's tickets. The latter has heretofore been successful in controlling elections.

The steamer Panama, from Crescent City, arrived to day, with a large quantity of copper ore.

The steamer Orizaba cleared, with $1,300,000 in treasure and about 200 passengers, for Panama.

About 150 journeymen tailors are on a strike for higher wages, demanding an advance of 25 or 30 per cent.

Money easy. Legal Tenders lower, at 65 to 67.

Monday's Dispatch.

New York, May 13.—Gen. Meagher has tendered his resignation as the commander of what he not unjustly states was once the Irish Brigade.

The Herald says the Navy Department has ordered the construction of two vessels of war of great speed. They will carry eight heavy guns, and it is believed that they will be the fastest vessels of war ever built.

Headquarters Army of the Potomac, May 12.—Richmond papers of yesterday announce the death of Stonewall Jackson on Sunday afternoon from the effects of the recent amputation of his arm and pneumonia.

A large train of ambulances proceeded to-day toward U. S. Ford, for the remainder of our wounded within the enemy's lines.

Gen. Lee has issued a congratulatory address to his army expressing his sense of the heroic conduct displayed by the officers and men during the late operations in which they had just been engaged.

Chicago, 13th.—The New York Herald has the following: West Point, Va. May 9th.—A portion of the 4th army corps, Maj. Gen. Keyes commanding, reached this point after 1 o'clock Thursday night. The troops are conveyed hence in a large transport, convoyed by a fleet of Gen. Bowen. The landing was undisputed by the enemy. Immediately on landing Gen. Keyes ordered a reconnoissance up York river on the road towards White House, the old base of operations of our army last summer. It was discovered that all the track of the railroad from West Point to White House was recently repaired by the rebels—that the railroad and bridges across the Rappahannock were destroyed by our cavalry.

Chicago, 13th.—Special dispatches say that in the late raid of Gen. Stoneman, 400,000 bushels of corn were destroyed at Ayletts Station.

Newbern, N. C., May 11th.—It is stated that the rebels refuse to receive disloyal citizens sent out of our lines, except those who give security for their ability to take care of themselves.

Chicago, 13.—From private telegrams since Saturday up to last night, it appears as if the Government censors had determined not to allow anything truthful in regard to the movements of the Army of the Potomac to come by the wires. It now appears as if the stories of the capture of Richmond, and of crossing of the Army again to the south side of the Rappahannock were all made out of whole cloth, by some manufacture. The reports, as they came, seemed so well authenticated, and taken together so probable, that I could do no less than send them to you. The Army since its return to Falmouth has made no movement whatever although the different correspondents are certain that Hooker will soon do something damaging to the rebels. Signed, "Your correspondent."

Philadelphia, 13th.—A special dispatch from Cincinnati to the Bulletin says that the rebel cavalry in front of Murfreesboro are constantly changing their position.—The rebel Gens. Wheeler and Morgan, with 5000 cavalry are at Liberty and Alexandria. It is supposed they are meditating an attack on Nashville.

Cairo, May 13.—Grant had a severe battle with the rebel General Rowan, at Clifton, ten miles from Jackson, on the railroad, last Wednesday, and Rowan was beaten and driven back. The women and children are leaving Jackson, and the men are preparing to defend the place. It is reported that a large force of rebels are coming from Charleston and Mobile to prevent the capture of Jackson and Vicksburg, and Grant being apprised of their movements, fell back to await reinforcements.

Washington, 13th.—The Secretary of War has received orders that while the Army of the Potomac remains in its present position at Falmouth, no passes shall be granted to persons to visit it with a view of obtaining the bodies of deceased friends.

New York, 14.—The Times has advices direct from the army of the Potomac to Tuesday which confirms the statements that no movements whatever have taken place since the return to the old camp at Falmouth. The troops are in fine spirits.

New York, 13.—Sterling Exchange firm and quiet at 164 and 165; Gold quiet at 49 and 49¼; Government stocks less active; Sixes of 81 Coupons, 107¾.

Wilmington, 13.—The steamers Bashaw and Pet, arrived this morning from Nassau.

Tuesday's Dispatch.

Washington, May 14.—Gen. Lee has issued a general order announcing the death of Stonewall Jackson, who expired on the 10th.

Philadelphia, 14th.—A special to the Enquirer says Vallandigham was convicted of the charge against him, and sentenced to the Tortugas until the close of the war. Burnside approved the sentence, but the President changed it to sending him South.

N. Y., 14th.—The Express understands that McClellan last week sent a request to the President to either accept his resignation or place him in active service. Rumor says that the President stated that the active service of McClellan would be required at an early day.

The Tribune says Sigel has returned from Washington, after an ineffectual attempt to return to duty, even on the staff of the Commanding General.

Washington, May 14.—A gentleman from Richmond says there are no indications of a movement.

The censorship over telegraphic reports, instead of being lessened, has, if possible, become more and more stringent.

N. Y., 14th.—Stoneman is at the headquarters of the army of the Potomac.

The World's correspondent says the [illegible] are that the enemy is swinging round his left on the Gordonsville and Richmond railroad, with his right resting on the Fredericksburg and Richmond road at Bowling Green, protecting the upper end of the triangle formed by those roads at Hanover Junction.

The Richmond Dispatch says communication by railroad has been re-established with Fredericksburg.

Sterling firmer, with moderate business, 64 1-2; Gold closed at 50 1-4.

Memphis, 12th.—The Jackson Appeal of the 7th says Grant proceeded toward Fort Gibson with the main body of his army, and that he is throwing up intrenchments.

The very latest from Grant's army is to Friday morning the 8th, at which time his advance was within 15 miles of Edwards' Station, which is 18 miles east of Vicksburg. We have nothing confirming the report of a battle on the 6th at Clinton. Grant was being reinforced. Two divisions of Sherman's corps had arrived. A new road has been opened from Young's Point to the river, 8 miles long, which will greatly facilitate the forwarding of men and supplies. Ten negro regiments had been formed.

Wednesday's Dispatch.

Washington, May 15.—Navy Department has information that the steamer Cherokee, a blockade runner, was captured by our squadron off Charleston on the 8th of May.

Washington, 13th.—Gen. Curtis has been relieved of the command of the department of Missouri. Gen. Schofield succeeds him.

N. Y., 13th.—Sterling at 155; Gold closing at 150.

Fortress Monroe, 15th.—Saturday papers of Richmond have been received, with dates to the 13th from Charleston. One dispatch says the enemy (Federal) is unusually active. He has built formidable batteries on Folly Island bearing on the southern extremity of Morris Island. Several Yankee regiments are fortifying Seabrook Island, and the iron clads and the newest transports are in that vicinity. Several steamships have arrived from Nassau, having run the blockade.

N. Y., 15th.—An outbreak occurred at Camp Sprague on Stratton Island on the 13th. Some mutineers attacked the guard with clubs, stones, and pickaxes. They were finally suppressed. One was killed and several wounded; 28 were captured afterwards.

By general orders just issued, all officers and men who have been delivered at City Point up to May 6th, and captured and released on parole up to April 1st, wherever captured, and all captured in North Carolina and Virginia, and released on parole, up to March 1st, are declared duly exchanged.

A special to the Times says the President received from headquarters of the Army of the Potomac an original letter by Jeff Davis, addressed to one of his Colonels, in which he speaks very despondingly of affairs in the Southwest and on the Rappahannock. The letter was found in a rebel camp at Fredericksburg, and dated April 2d.

A dispatch received at the State Department from Minister Corwin shows that up to the 21st of April the French had not obtained possession of Puebla.

The Herald's dispatch says that previous to the falling back of Hooker a council of war of corps commanders was held, and four of the six urged upon Hooker an immediate advance on the rebel army.

The Richmond Sentinel of May 12th, says the Courier, professes to have information that Kirby Smith with 10,000 raw recruits whipped Banks, driving him out of Washington, La.

Murfreesboro, 14th.—The position of the rebel army is thus described by a correspondent of the Atlanta Confederacy—the right flank rests on McMinnville; the line thence extends westward by the way of Winchester and Shelbyville through Columbia. It forms the arc of a large circle curved slightly toward the south; while the rear extends as far up as Estelle Springs. Their right flank is protected by Elk Creek and the abrupt peaks of the Cumberland mountains, and several thousand dashing cavalry under Gen. Morgan.

Fortress Monroe, 16th.—The following is from Southern papers: Gen. Banks has issued orders at New Orleans, requiring all registered rebels to take the oath of allegiance before the first of May, or prepare to leave before the 15th.

Washington, 15th.—A dispatch from Gen. Grant to the 8th inst., has been received. He expressed satisfaction with the appearance of affairs in his vicinity, and states that Port Gibson has undoubtedly been evacuated except by a small garrison and their heavy artillery.

Chicago, 15th.—The Springfield Journal states that Ross, Steele & Co. have contracted to build 350 miles of railroad to the Pacific. This division lies within the boundary of Kansas, beyond which the Union Pacific road policy commences. It is intended to have forty miles open during the present year. The rails, spikes, &c., are all purchased and the work will be pushed on vigorously.

New York, 16th.—Ocean Queen arrived from Aspinwall bringing private advices from Hilton Head May 10th, which state that the iron-clads are thoroughly repaired, all injuries done by the forts having been remedied. The armory on the hull and turrets was now perfect. It was generally believed that the 15 inch guns would be replaced by others of smaller bore.

Washington, 15th—Gen. Stahl sent a scouting party to Leesburg to hunt the rebels, but none were found in force. A skirmish with a few Black Horse cavalry near Warrenton Junction resulted in killing one citizen and wounding several rebel soldiers. We had 3 wounded.

New York, 16.—The last of our wounded, left on the other side of the Rappahannock, have been brought across. As good care was taken of them while they remained within the enemy's lines as could be reasonably expected. Our surgeons have been with them since Hooker crossed the river. The medical stores sent over at the suggestion of Gen. Lee were taken possession of by the rebels, but were issued to our soldiers on proper requisition.

Washington, May 15.—Evidence in Gen. Buell's case has arrived here, and there is reason to believe the finding of court is such as to show that the President had ample reason for removing Buell from command, and that she Gov[illegible]ment erred in post[illegible] long.

[illegible] VOLUNTEERS

[illegible]-d[illegible] who had [illegible] progress toward[illegible] The Mexicans defended the place with desperate courage. Commonfort had received reinforcements and was about to assume the offensive.

Washington, May 16.—A special dispatch from Washington to the World says that Hooker came up with the army last night, and had an interview with the President, after which he returned to the army. From what we can learn Hooker has retained his present command of the army unaided by Halleck.

Philadelphia, 16.—The following are the latest reports:

Jackson, Miss. May 10.—Eleven of Grant's cavalry entered and burned Crystal Springs, on the New Orleans R. R. to-day. The enemy are fortifying at Rocky Springs. Grant will probably advance east and not direct to Vicksburg.

Vicksburg, May 11.—Nothing of importance has transpired to-day. A barge laden with coal ran the batteries last night. The enemy's fleet above the city is increasing.

Charleston, May, 12.—The steamer Britain, with merchandise arrived through the blockade. She started from Nassau on Thursday in company with the steamer Nassau, which has not been heard from.

Tullahoma, 12.—Bragg reviewed his Northern Alabama troops yesterday, he addressed them briefly in highly complimentary terms, he gave a spirited and encouraging account of the situation in front and expressed the hope that they may meet the enemy; he leaves to-morrow to inspect the front. All is quiet at Richmond. The Enquirer has a savage article on Burnside, on his order against spies and traitors, and condoles with Vallandigham in his prosecution.

Washington, 15.—The Provost Marshal in this district has seized the real and personal property of several persons who were formerly citizens, but are now in the service of the Confederacy. Gen. Carrington, who is now in the service for the District, is rapidly maturing proceedings against the property of all persons who have left their homes and joined the rebels. He expects to have it nearly all completed by the first Monday in June. The return day is fixed by order of the Att'y General, issued several months since.

Cairo, 16.—The Jackson (Miss.) Appeal, has the following:

Vicksburg, 7.—There was skirmishing between the outposts along the Big Black river, on Monday. There was a brisk artillery duel across the river to hold the Federals in check should they be desirous to cross.

THE RIGHT PLACE TO HIT.—We were shown a letter yesterday from a gentleman in Washington, sufficiently high in the confidence of the Administration to be trusted with its purposes, stating that if a collision were produced in the West by the malignant efforts of the Copperhead leaders, the Government would lay its hand on those leaders, promptly and heavily, and not upon the poor misguided men who may have been coaxed into treason by those whom they have trusted. It is the intention to hold those responsible who have taught the spirit of resistance to the laws, and devised the means of making resistance formidable. This is right. It is striking in the right place. There is no justice in punishing the heedless or ignorant instruments of those men's designs, and allowing the real rebels to escape to renew it. There are men in Indianapolis to-day far more guilty of the attempted murder of our soldiers in Morgan county, and of the rebellious outbreak in Rush county, than those who fired the shots or hid the deserters. Upon them the Government proposes to lay the weight of the vengeance which any bloody collision shall demand, and as truly as God lives, to them will belong the crime and the stain of [illegible] every drop of blood that [illegible] taught [illegible] [illegible] G[illegible] the guilt of [illegible] be theirs, and ought to be [illegible] them.—*Indianapolis Journal, March* 21.

That the Government is in earnest in this matter can be seen in the arrest, condemnation, and sentence of the traitor Vallandigham, just reported by telegraph.

PERSECUTION OF UNION MEN IN TEXAS.—The San Antonio [Texas] *Herald* of the 13th of November says that strong Union sentiments prevailed in the western and northern portions of Texas, and it threatens the men entertaining them. "They are known" it says, "and will be remembered. Their numbers are becoming every day less. In the mountains near Fort Clark, and along the Rio Grande, their bones are bleaching in the sun, and in the counties of Wise and Denton their bodies are suspended by scores from blackjacks." The Houston *Telegraph* also says that a secret "Abolition" organization exists in northern Texas, having a grip, a sign and a password, and extending to all classes of community—clergymen, professional men, farmers, &c. Up to Oct. 27th, twenty-two men belonging to the organization had been hung. Since the above date evidence has reached us of great atrocities perpetrated on Union men, the effect of which, it is believed, has been to urge the Government to the adoption of plans for their relief with the greatest possible speed.