

To CORRESPONDENTS.—Persons writing to us on their own private business, and requiring answers, will please include stamps to pay postage. We will accommodate all our friends if we can and will give them the use of our envelopes and paper, but we do not think they require us to pay postage. It is simply an oversight.

The Tendency of Growing.

To destroy confidence in President Davis, or rather the attempt to destroy it, is simply an attempt, however unintentional, to weaken our whole political system, and to lead only to disastrous results. He is the chief magistrate of our young, struggling Republic. Chosen our Provisional President by the Provisional Congress, amid the first throes of the Revolution, he was unanimously elected President by the people, as soon as they were allowed to signify their choice through the ballot box. During the protracted period of five years, from the fourth of March next, unless sooner removed from office, by death, resignation, impeachment or counter revolution, he will continue to fill the high, but arduous station he now dignifies and adorns. It is a sacred duty which all men owe, as well personally to President Davis as to the cause of the Confederacy, to stand by him as patriots to their country and martyrs to their faith. Why is our President? Would all the honors and all the wealth which the richest nations can bestow require for the mental anxieties, cares and troubles, and bodily fatigue, labor and privation, which he is constrained to undergo? What man of ordinary wisdom, regarding his personal ease and comfort, would wish to change places with President Davis? An implacable enemy, guilty of every vice and crime which has given chiefs and leaders to the great council-chamber of evil spirits, is thirsting for his blood, and threatening our common country with conquest and subjugation. He stands, under God, as a wall of fire between us and that enemy, exposed, every hour, to all the harassing cares and perplexing anxieties and debilitating toils to which any man, in any age, in any situation has been called upon to endure. A contemporary has well said that Jefferson Davis is our Moses leading us through the wilderness of Revolution and War to the Canaan, the promised land of independence and prosperity, and each one of us should, like Aaron and Hur, hold up and strengthen his hands that, under his lead, and the guidance of God, we may prevail against the Northern Amalekites and smite them effectually.

We need not advert to the state of the country when President Davis was called to the management of its affairs. We had no army, no navy, no munitions of war. We were shut out from all the world where supplies could be obtained. Our proud, oppressive enemy had double our population, a large army and navy and access to all the ports of the whole civilized world, whence it could purchase and import every element of strength which we did not possess on our own soil. Notwithstanding all this, we have fought him for nearly two years and whipped him unmercifully on almost every field where he dared to meet us. A volume would not contain the glories of our achievements, when the disparity of forces and material employed are taken into the account. Another volume, equally large, would not contain the commendations due to President Davis for his wisdom and prudence which enabled him with such small means to achieve so mighty results. The wonder is, not that more has not been done, but that our country is still free and our armies still victorious under his mild, just and virtuous administration. The Lord is on his side and with him; and if disappointed and envious malcontents will leave the management of affairs where they legitimately belong, our independence under God, with Jefferson Davis as his instrument, may already be enumerated among the realities of life.

It would perhaps be unfair, and we know it would be unwise, to impugn the motives of those who have entered upon a crusade against President Davis and his administration, and seem to be pursuing him with relentless hate. Fair criticism of men and measures is a laudable work, but when criticism degenerates into denunciation, the country must suffer. It takes not the spirit of the Seer to point out the errors which experience has brought to light, and he who protests first about the blunders of others after time has revealed them, would most likely have made them tenfold worse, had he had the management of the affairs which developed them.

These who are constantly censuring President Davis and the administration do it chiefly by expressing regrets that Washington had not been captured, that victories have not been followed up, that Hatteras, Roanoke, Norfolk and other places have been wrested from us, that the war has not been aggressive. In addition to this, officers of the army and navy and members of the Cabinet are denounced by name and without stint, and arraigned and condemned without a trial or the means of making a defence. That many deserve censure there cannot be a doubt. President Davis says that many officers, elective and by appointment, have been unwisely filled. He recommends a remedy for the evil and requests Congress to apply it. If he have committed errors himself, it is only because he is not superhuman. Let him, among his accusers, who is free from error cast the first stone.—He has had a Herculean task to perform and with an energy and fidelity, equalled perhaps but never excelled, that task has thus far been performed.

Results speak for themselves. Let the Administration of President Davis be tried by results and the world will express amazement, and his friends delight and astonishment. These results we cannot enumerate. The whole Yankee army, or at least its flower and boast, demoralized and on the retreat, bespeak a result which needs no comment. Reverses have overtaken us, but what army since the first war trumpet was sounded, has not had its reverses? The great preponderance of victory has been on our side and to an extent which has excited the admiration and plaudits of trans-atlantic soldiers and statesmen. No President, since the days of Washington, either as soldier or statesman, ever received higher commendations by the press and statesmen of Europe.

JEFFERSON DAVIS is pre-eminently worthy of the unqualified confidence and undivided support of the Southern people. As a man, he is not unknown to them. As an orator, a statesman and a soldier, he occupies no equivocal position before them. Under the old government he was equally the ornament of the Senate chamber and the Cabinet. On the plains of Mexico, his gallantry and courage thrilled the hearts of his victorious comrades and stamped him one of his country's bravest spirits and rarest favorites. Since his unanimous election as Chief Magistrate of the Confederacy, his every act and sentiment has tended to increase the entire confidence of the people in his patriotism, integrity and ability to bring from the grasp of the Northern tyrant the complete emancipation and independence of the South.

In conclusion, we cannot better subscribe the cause of the South than by warning the people against the

voice of grumblers and fault-finders. Censure for cause, duly and temperately specified, is both admissible and commendable, but indiscriminate censure will work the ruin of our cause. Let the people see that their confidence in the administration, and especially in Jefferson Davis, be not lightly shaken.

Col. Vance on Conscription and the War.

The following sketch of a speech made recently in Asheville, by Col. Vance, is taken from the Asheville News of the 28th. We have no doubt of its correctness, and we pronounce it the best speech ever made by Col. Vance. We are truly glad to see the bold ground here taken by the Governor-elect. Let him but hold to the course he has thus far marked out for himself and he will have a bold ground of the people to the extent of ninety-nine hundredths of the entire mass. When Col. Vance said the Conscription law "was a measure of necessity, and that it should receive the cordial approval of every patriot"—he said only what every patriot has been saying since the law was enacted. Still we regard the statement coming from Col. Vance at this time not merely as an expression of his own opinion but, as an intimation to those who have heretofore denounced the law, publicly and privately, that their course shall hereafter meet with no favor at his hands. The Conscription law has been affirmed and re-affirmed by Congress with all the light which experience can throw upon it, and it should now be the duty of every man to proclaim himself in favor of its rigid enforcement, as the only practicable method of raising troops to end the war. And now will the Standard support Col. Vance's administration in reference to the Conscription law? It is useless to go over the record of that paper on this head. It has been against the law and has done much to render it ineffectual. Will it continue in that course? And Gov. Graham, too, what will be his course on this question? We learn he stumped the county of Orange against the law. The election is now over. Will Gov. Graham now lead his support to Gov. Vance and stand with him for the country in the vigorous prosecution of the war? Gov. Graham will be a controlling spirit in the new legislature. In what direction will he throw his influence? There can be but two courses. The Conscription law is the only practicable means by which our army can be kept up. Volunteering has seen its day. A thousand volunteers could not be raised in this State in three months for ordinary military service. Those opposed to the Conscription law are opposed to fighting. But fighting must yet be done, and therefore the necessity for the law. This law, then, must be sustained or opposed. He who opposes it, in view of its necessity, is opposed to the independence of the South.

The following is the extract to which we have referred:

"Four volunteer companies were in our town on Saturday last—two from Haywood and two from Transylvania—belonging to Col. Love's regiment, on their way to the rendezvous at Jonesborough, Tenn. Gov. Vance being in town was called on for a speech, and responded in a brief address. It was all that the most ardent Southern man could desire. He pledged himself to enforce the conscription law, or make the State too hot to hold the recreants—said that the law was a measure of necessity, and that it should receive the cordial approval of every patriot. He gave the volunteers much good advice, and assured them that the Confederate government had done, and would continue to do, all in the power of man to provide for the comfort of the army.

We, in common with the large crowd present, were well pleased with Gov. Vance's speech. It was patriotic, encouraging and well-timed, and is, we believe, an index to a vigorous and patriotic administration of our State affairs.

Gen. Branch.

The Fayetteville Observer in noticing the successful vindication of Gen. Huger, alludes to the injudicious done to Gen. Sidney Johnston, and then makes the following remarks in reference to Gen. Branch: "We had a case nearer home. Our General Branch entered the service without experience—a mere practical general—whose appointment we regretted, as did many others. He did not acquire himself well at Newbern; and if his enemies had then labored to destroy him with the zeal displayed by the enemies of Gen. Huger, he would doubtless have sunk into contempt; but it is due to truth and justice to say, that we believe he is proving himself a gallant and valuable officer, and we are proud to say it, no matter to what party he belonged, or may hereafter belong. Justice comes tardily. The Observer is like the old 'damning with faint praise.' Of all the 'political generals' appointed—and amongst them are many of the very best we have—General Branch seemed to be the only one whose appointment was 'regretted' by certain politicians. And how comes it that the Observer should talk so flippantly of General Branch 'not acquiring himself well at Newbern?' Who says so, beyond those who previously 'regretted' his appointment? He did acquit himself not merely well but very well at Newbern, if President Davis is any authority. And yet, though General Branch drew a remarkable letter of commendation from General Lee (to whom he was even personally unknown) for his gallant conduct and able generalship at Slush Church, and though he and his command were publicly thanked on the battlefield of Cedar Run, by General Stonewall Jackson, the acknowledgment comes very tardily from those whose 'regrets' had been so swift, or are wholly left back and kept from the public, so far as such defamers as the Editor of the Standard can do so. But General Branch has justified his appointment, and he will yet have justice done his gallantry and his merits.

The First false Step.

We see it announced that the inauguration of Colonel Vance, as Governor, is to be made a matter of "jubilation" here on Monday next. It is to take place in the "public square" we are told, and a military band has been engaged in Virginia for the occasion. We regret to see this. It is unnecessary and unusual. With the inauguration of Governor Vance will also be inaugurated a system of circus flap-trap and show, incompatible with the character of the office and the spirit of Republicanism South of Washington City. It is in fact to be a kind of mimic or puppet Presidential inauguration.

Is there any necessity for this show and music? Is there any party to be celebrated, as such triumphs never have been? Is it intended to allay party strife? Is the time or the occasion fitting for the indulgence of such nonsense? We repeat, in all seriousness, that we are sorry to see this first false step taken. Our Governors, heretofore, have quietly taken the oath of office indoors, delivered their addresses in a dignified way and quietly entered upon the duties of their office without show or parade of any kind. Governor Ellis' last inauguration was "celebrated" privately in his own office, we believe, without even an address. We trust Colonel Vance is no party to this petty proceeding announced for Monday, and that on his arrival in this city he will set his face against it. By doing so he will do himself credit.

The Atlanta Intelligencer mentions a report, which it regards as probable, that Buell had resigned his commission and left Tennessee. The cause assigned is the return of the Federal General Mitchell to his command in Tennessee, notwithstanding the charges by General Buell against him.

General Beauregard has recovered, reported for duty and is assigned to the command of the District of South Carolina.

Glorious Victory on Manassas Plains.

Praised be God, our troops have shed new lustre on our cause, and added another glowing chapter to their own fame. Manassas, already loved by Fame, is now smiled upon by Immortality. The sun which shone upon the flying hosts of the insolent, untrained enemy in July, 1861, looked down again in August, 1862, upon the scattered remnant of the trained hirelings as they fled before unconquerable Southern valor. The combined armies of the Rappahannock and the Potomac have been dissipated and the soil of the old Dominion may be said to be free from their polluted tread.

The details of this sanguinary struggle reach us slowly, and are so indefinite as to leave us in complete ignorance of the whereabouts of our own troops or the destination of the flying invaders. Enough, however, is known to enable us to state that our triumph is complete and that the cause of the Lincoln government has received a blow from which it will not readily recover.

We will now sketch the victory as best we can from the few materials at our command.

The battle which terminated this struggle, on Saturday, was fought in the already famous Manassas Plains of Manassas—our forces occupying the identical position of the enemy in July 1861, they ours.—The movements which led to this disposition of the relative forces are said to have been the following:

On Monday, General A. P. Hill moved down from Salem along the Manassas Gap railroad, and on Tuesday took possession of Manassas Junction, capturing several hundred prisoners and eight or ten guns.—General Ewell followed General Hill, and General Taliaferro commanding General Jackson's old division, followed General Ewell. General Taliaferro reached Manassas Wednesday evening just as the troops of Ewell and Hill were evacuating that position and falling back towards Bull Run in the direction of Centreville. General Taliaferro occupied Manassas, and made a show of throwing out heavy pickets towards the enemy, who was at Bristow station, on the Orange and Alexandria railroad, five miles distant in a southerly direction; but shortly after nightfall, calling in his pickets, he also fell back towards Centreville, and took position near Groveton, where he remained all night. His position was to the right of Generals Hill and Ewell. At dawn the next (Thursday) morning, occasional reports of cannon and musketry began to be heard towards the left, which were kept up at intervals until evening. Still no enemy had yet been seen from that portion of the field occupied by General Taliaferro's division. But about five o'clock, P. M., they were suddenly borne down upon by several heavy columns of the enemy, numbering, it was estimated, twenty thousand men. The fight was opened on both sides with artillery; at first at long range, but gradually the enemy drew up his batteries to our lines. By six o'clock the distance between the combatants had been reduced to musket range, and the fight along the whole line of Taliaferro's Ewell's and Hill's divisions began in earnest. The enemy fought with great obstinacy, being inspired, it is thought, by the supposition that they had caught General Jackson in small force, and had an opportunity of crushing him. But as often as they charged our lines they were driven back with thinned ranks without being able to move us from our position.—Finally, night closed over the scene, and the enemy retired from the conflict. The battle was, however, kept up until nine o'clock by the artillerists on both sides.

Our men rested on their position that night, and on Friday morning moved forward a mile in the direction of the enemy.

Our loss in this battle is estimated at between eight hundred and a thousand killed and wounded. The enemy's is known to have been more than double that number.

The accounts represent our losses as heavy. In all probability our brave men had to contend in this conflict, with far greater odds than heretofore—the combined armies of Pope and McClellan, with Burnside's reserves being massed against them. But the enemy's loss far exceeds that of our own forces. The following brief account of Saturday's fight was furnished by a participant to the Richmond Express:

After a severe cannonade a great portion of the morning (Saturday) the battle commenced in earnest about three o'clock P. M. The enemy at first contented steadily every inch of the ground, but were finally repulsed, flying in confusion. Several of their regiments were almost entirely annihilated. The slaughter was immense, and the field for three miles was covered with dead and wounded.

The fight commenced on the Warrenton turpicks and gradually became general. Our troops fought with animation and obstinacy.

The Division under the immediate command of Brig. Gen. Kemper, captured three batteries (some three pieces) we have captured numerous stands of colors, arms, and thousands of prisoners.

The casualties among our officers are greater in wounded than killed. Gen. Jenkins was wounded in the chest and leg; Gen. Trimble was shot in the head; Gen. Field in the thigh; Gen. Ewell in the right leg; Col. Baylor, in command of the "Stonewall Brigade," was killed; Col. Bag of Santa Carolina, was wounded, not seriously. Lieut. Col. Feary, of the 7th Virginia, was also wounded.

It is reported that Pope and McDowell are both mortally wounded, and that Sickles, of Barton Key, was killed.

A friend just in, states that when he left, the whole Yankee army, pursued by ours, was flying towards Washington.

From last night's mails we gather the following particulars of this fight: Our army having previously "headed off" the Federal army under Pope, had possessions of Manassas plains, Centreville and a post some eight or ten miles east of the Manassas Junction, forming the segment of a circle, the design of which was to force Pope back deprive him completely of direct communication with Washington or Alexandria, and eventually induce his surrender or annihilation. But it appears that McClellan, by a circuitous route, striking south, and then west from Alexandria, succeeded in forming a junction with Pope. The Confederate army now fronted to the South, and the Federal army towards Washington. The advance corps from Burnside was marching on rapidly from Fredericksburg to complete the amassment on the Federal side.

Gen. Jackson commanded the left (east) wing of the Confederate army. Gen. D. H. Hill the right, resting on the Warrenton turpicks, and Generals Longstreet, Anderson and others forming the centre.

The battle commenced on our right, the enemy making the attack. Burnside's advance forces reaching the ground in good time, rendered the resistance of the Federal army, against our advancing columns, an impediment to a speedy success of no insignificant nature.

The tide of battle, however, was soon developed in favor of our arms, and the enemy defeated on all sides, as our forces closed upon them, retreated across the railroad, into the road taken by McClellan, and thence, it is presumed to Alexandria, leaving behind vast quantities of arms and munitions of every description, large numbers of dead and wounded, and upwards of 10,000 prisoners.

The army of Gen. Pope, it is estimated, did not escape with one half of its men. The movement on the part of the enemy was a daring one and was designed, no doubt, with the view of retreating in the

direction take, as the only means of extricating Pope from his almost hopeless dilemma.

A writer from Gordonsville, on Saturday night says, the enemy outnumbered us, by their own statement, nearly three to one.

Gen. Jackson's corps is supposed to have lost from 600 to 800 killed and wounded.

The enemy were reported to be retreating in the direction of the Occoquin, but the truth seems to be that the position of either army was not definitely known.

Of the North Carolina troops engaged we have no intimation beyond the fact that A. P. Hill's division took an important part in the battle, and that contained Gen. Branch's celebrated brigade, and Gen. G. B. Anderson's brigade also. These brigades are composed almost exclusively of North Carolinians.

But we must await particulars, and in the meantime the people of the South may lift up their hearts to God in thankfulness and rejoice as patriots, whilst they mourn the gallant dead.

The Conscription Law.

It is very certain the conscription law will be so amended as to bring into the service all white men between the ages of 35 and 45. The necessities of the war need this amendment and we may as well make up our minds to sustain it. We are decidedly in favor of the measure. It is folly to talk of raising men to meet the new Yankee levies of 600,000 men by enlistment. It can't be done, and the man who insists upon it is either a knave or a fool, or worse.

We believe, too, that the substitute system is an evil, and that we should have no system of exemptions. The proposed amendment will take us and we are in favor of it. We claim and ask no exemption.

Besides this, we think the idea of some of our would-be officers that the State should organize and outfit these new levies, is ruinous. The conscripts should be made to fill up the skeleton regiments now in service, where they will be officered by veterans who know their duty, and who, if they had no advantage from their training and their familiarity with fire and death, deserve, richly, as a reward for the great voluntary services, the commands sought to be given to raw and untrained officers. The regiments now composing our army are not more than half full, while the cost of outfitting them is as great as if they were full. This sapient proposition would entail upon the country the expense of thousands of new officers to command full regiments of inefficient men, whilst the old, experienced commanders would be left with skeleton regiments.

We trust Congress will see to this. Let the old regiments first have their full complement of men, and then let new regiments be organized out of the conscripts remaining, and let the gallant old volunteers who have shed immortal glory upon our arms be promoted to officer them.

Death of Maj. Gen. McClellan.

A private dispatch received here this (Friday) morning, states on the authority of the Baltimore Sun, that Major Gen. George B. McClellan is dead. He died of wounds received in the late bloody battle of Manassas Plains.

Taking this for truth, we cannot refrain from the expression of a feeling of sorrow, for McClellan was one of the few gentlemen commanding the Northern army. We can say this of him at least, that he was a great general we never believed; for with the means at his command and the opportunities vouchsafed to him, he did absolutely nothing. But we believe McClellan to have been a good man, and a humane gentleman. As such we say peace to his ashes. His death will not give place to a better man and it is another staggering blow to the invaders of the South.

Substitutes and Exempts.

In our last paragraph on this subject we were misinformed and rendered almost unintelligible by the failure of our compositors to correct our proof-sheet.—We intended to say in that article, speaking of the Senate bill regulating exemptions, that the proposition to exempt the owners of fifty slaves and upwards was wrong, and that the reason for it was ridiculous, viz: that such large bodies of slaves should not be left without a head. We intended to say of this pretext, that there are hundreds of men holding commissions in the army whose slaves have been left in the charge of others, and that the mere draft of the owners of such masses of property being drafted into the army as privates did not affect the safety of their property. In other words, fifty slaves belonging to a private need no more watching than fifty owned by a commissioned officer.

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.—We copy a long article, to-day, from the Richmond Enquirer in defence of Mr. Secretary Mallory, of the Navy. He has been the object of much censure, and we are inclined to think unjustly. Mr. Mallory is confessedly a true and tried patriot, and his no doubt used all the means within his control to advance the cause in which we are all so deeply concerned. Under the circumstances, we can't see how much more, if anything, could have been done. The favorable results have been few, though much work has been done, but they depended on contingencies which Mr. Mallory could not control.

THIRTY-FIRST NORTH CAROLINA TROOPS.—The companies composing this regiment were ordered by their commanding officer to rendezvous at Raleigh on Wednesday last. Promptly at the hour company I—the "Cap Fear Boys"—at Harroet, arrived at the encampment, determined, as they vow, to revenge the fall of Roanoke Island, where they were taken prisoners. This company is commanded by Captain J. A. D. McKay, and the first Lieutenant is the gallant C. H. Coffield—the other officers we do not remember. This company was not merely the first, but we learn it was the only one that reached here on Wednesday. The others will have doubtless found their way to camp by this time. The regiment is to be reorganized here.

MONEY TO SPARE.—The bills for advertising BLUE MASS, authorized by this paper, are requested immediately.

A DARING SPY HUNG.—A man named Mason, a resident of Fairfax county, Va., but a native of Pennsylvania, was hung near Gordonsville a few days since. The division commanded by Gen. Longstreet was pushing for Gordonsville, which it was known the enemy desired to reach and occupy. As the column was pressing forward a courier, pretending to have orders from Gen. Lee, halted each brigade until he reached the last, when Longstreet, observing the movement, desired to know what it meant. He was told that General Lee had ordered the halt, and upon demanding to know the authority for the order from General Lee, was pointed to the courier, who had not had time to make his escape. The man was immediately arrested by Longstreet, who frustrated his designs. He was examined and condemned on the spot. Forged orders to both Jackson and Hill were found on his person, those for Longstreet having been delivered, and he acknowledged that he had been acting as a Confederate scout for eleven months, and at that time was a traitor and a spy. He was then condemned and executed in about fifteen minutes.—Richmond Dispatch, 27th.

PRO INOX.—This article is very scarce just now, and ready sale is found for all offered. Small lots of Scotch pig sell at \$200, and Virginia iron at \$100@125 per ton. Good scrap cast iron is selling readily at three cents per pound.—Dispatch.

Latest News.

ANOTHER GLORIOUS VICTORY—THREE THOUSAND PRISONERS.

CHATTANOOGA, Sept. 3.—The following dispatch from General Kirby Smith, dated Richmond, Kentucky, has just been communicated. We had three fights on the 30th near this place. The enemy were completely routed. Gen. Nelson was wounded in the thigh. Gen. Miller was killed. Three thousand prisoners were captured, including Gen. Mansson and staff, together with all their artillery, small arms, wagons, &c. Our loss small.

EVACUATION OF FREDERICKSBURG.

The Yankees evacuated Fredericksburg on Sunday last, and departed in the direction of Aquia creek.—They had been engaged for several days in the work of destroying all the property in their possession, and the Federal commander, Kingsbury, previous to leaving, transferred the government of the town to the civil authorities, and advised them to place a force of citizens on guard, Sunday night, to protect private property from plunder by the army stragglers. The advice was followed and nearly every citizen kept watch through the night. The enemy set fire to the three bridges, which were injured by explosions of gunpowder placed there for the purpose of blowing them up. Large fires were seen burning during the whole night on the opposite side of the river, in Stafford, where all the expensive deposits of provisions, commissary stores, bakeries, tents, &c., were located. They were all destroyed, together with the large barn of Major Lacy, on the Chatham estate, which was filled with stores. They accomplished their work very thoroughly, as if they had no intention of returning. A letter from a citizen of Fredericksburg says that refugees can safely return to their homes and families. Several men of Union prejudices, including J. W. Hambrick, editor of the Christian Banner, went with the Yankees.

YANKEE REINFORCING AT SUFFOLK.

The Petersburg Express says the Federals have now a force of 10,000 troops at Suffolk. It is said they anticipate an attack and have pushed an advance guard to Franklin and Blackwater.

MORE GLORIOUS NEWS—CAPTURE OF BULL NELSON'S ARMY OF TEN THOUSAND MEN!

To the politeness of Mr. Dallas, of the Southern Express Telegraph, the press of this City is indebted for the following dispatch received on Thursday night last:

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Sept. 3. A letter from Captain McCallister, Quartermaster of General Smith's army, just received from Richmond, Ky., dated August 30th, 9 P. M., says: "Colonel John Scott's Louisiana cavalry just returned, report General Nelson's whole army captured, numbering 10,000 prisoners. Our loss in killed and wounded not over 200. The enemy lost between 4 and 600. There is no enemy now between this place and Lexington, Ky. God be praised."

A RICH HALL IN THE CHESAPEAKE.—On Friday night last, a steamer, having some twelve or fifteen loaded barges in tow, passed up the bay from Fortress Monroe, in a heavy gale, and upon reaching a point opposite the city of Mathews and Middlesex, seven of the barges broke from the tow lines and were dashed ashore. The citizens next morning took possession of them, and captured nine Yankees who were thrown with them on the shore, each of whom was armed with a musket; and after the contents of the boats were secured, they were marched to the shore by Lieut. Fitzhugh, of the Matthews Cavalry.

One of the barges contained one hundred and thirty three-inch shells, 100 Enfield rifles, 6,000 knapsacks, and other articles. Two others were loaded with wagons and harness. Another contained numerous boxes of axes and engine tools, overcoats, baggage, &c. Others contained tents and tent poles, eight hundred overcoats, (about 2,800 in each) and all sorts of army equipments. The prisoners, while in the custody of Lieut. Fitzhugh, were under the belief that a large force of 'rebels' was in the vicinity, and submitted quietly. They were told in a friendly manner by the Lieut.

Confederate States Congress.

SENATE.

MONDAY, September 1st, 1862.

Mr. Simms, of Kentucky, offered the following preamble and resolutions, which, on his motion, were laid upon the table for the present:

Resolved, That the President be and he is authorized to issue a proclamation, to be signed by him, in which he shall express his hearty approval of the noble services of his brave and heroic defenders:

Resolved, That the President cause to be prepared medals, or badges, with suitable designs or inscriptions thereon, to be presented to such of our officers and soldiers as may have, or shall hereafter, distinguish themselves by deeds of personal gallantry upon the battle-field; which medal or badge, when presented, shall be to such officer or private a lasting memorial of a nation's grateful tribute to his patriotic and heroic defenders.

Resolved, That in all cases where such officer or soldier shall be killed by the enemy upon the battle-field, or shall have died of wounds received in the service of his country, or shall have been honorably discharged, the President shall cause the same to be delivered to his widow, or children, if any, and if there be no widow or child, then to the father or mother, if any.

Resolved, That in order to execute the intention of Congress, as above expressed, the Secretary of War shall prescribe such regulations to determine the claims of each officer or private who by his conduct in battle may merit this special honor at the hands of his country, and in cases of especial merit he is hereby authorized to confer upon brigades, regiments, and battalions, or other corps, such evidences of appreciation as will impress upon the mind of each soldier that he is in the service of a country proud to do honor to his patriotic sons.

Mr. Davis, of North Carolina, from the committee on claims, reported back the memorial in behalf of General Hardee, in connection with his work on Military Tactics, and requested to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject, the committee approved, and at this time, to inaugurate the policy of bestowing pecuniary rewards upon persons, however meritorious. The memorial was laid upon the table.

The bill concerning substitutes, which was taken up from Friday last, was taken up.

After much debate the bill was passed in the following form: Sec. 4. That hereafter substitutes for persons liable to military duty shall not be allowed, except in cases where the person offering the substitute is killed and actually employed in some mechanical pursuit, the prosecution of which, at the time, the Secretary of War may declare to be important to the public interest.

Resolved, That all cases where substitutes are received, the person furnishing the substitute shall guarantee his fidelity, and in case he deserts, the principal shall be held to service as if no substitute had been furnished by him.

Resolved, That the Secretary of War and commanders of brigades and divisions shall detail to any farm or plantation worked by slaves, when the owner thereof is a female slave, a minor, or a person in the service of the Confederacy, one enrolling private for police duty thereon, and to act as overseer, under the direction and control of the owner thereof, or his legal representative: Provided, That said detail be made upon the application and designation of the owner, or the

representative of the owner, of such farm or plantation, and that the person so detailed shall be drawn upon the application of such owner or his representative: And provided further, That said private shall not, whilst so detailed, receive any pay or allowance from the government, but shall be paid by the owner of the farm or plantation an amount to be agreed upon between them; and when recalled, said detailed private shall immediately proceed to the brigades and report for duty, under the penalty of being punished as a deserter.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Curry, of Alabama, offered a joint resolution of thanks to Captain Raphael Semmes, and the officers and crew of the steamer Sumter, for gallant and meritorious conduct in inflicting injury upon the commerce of the enemy. Adopted unanimously.

Mr. Hanley, of Arkansas, introduced a bill to provide for the payment of small contractors for services performed by them after their States had seceded from the United States, and for receiving any pay or allowance from the government, but shall be paid by the owner of the farm or plantation an amount to be agreed upon between them; and when recalled, said detailed private shall immediately proceed to the brigades and report for duty, under the penalty of being punished as a deserter.

Mr. Gattrell, of Georgia, presented a resolution that the committee on military affairs be instructed to inquire whether the officers and men of the Provisional Army have been regularly paid, and if not, what legislation is necessary to insure their prompt payment. Agreed to.

Mr. Tripp, of Georgia, introduced a memorial in reference to the property of the infant children of Stephen A. Douglas. Referred, without reading, to the committee on claims.

Mr. Moore, of Kentucky, introduced a resolution that it be referred to the military committee to inquire into the expediency of increasing the medical corps of the Provisional Army of the Confederate States.

Mr. Brock, of Kentucky, offered a resolution to refer to the committee on ways and means a bill to inquire into the expediency of employing a complete corps of competent reporters and printers to publish substantially the debates and proceedings of this House.—Not agreed to.

Mr. Lankford, of North Carolina, introduced a bill to amend the act to exempt certain persons from enrollment for service in the army of the Confederate States. Referred to military committee.

Mr. Smith, of North Carolina, offered the following, which was referred to the military committee: Whereas, conflicting opinions exist as to the mode of filling vacancies in the offices of the regiments organized under the authority of the States and transferred to the Confederate Government, and still retaining their organization: Therefore,

Resolved, That where any such vacancies now exist, or may hereafter occur, the same shall be filled according to the laws of the respective States from which said regiments are raised, and the said States shall be notified by the committee on military affairs, reported a bill to provide for the filling up of certain companies, squadrons, battalions, and regiments, and to increase the Provisional Army of the Confederate States. This bill provides for the extension of the Conscription act so as to embrace all persons between the ages of 35 and 45 years. It moves that it be laid on the table, printed, and made the special order of the day for Wednesday next at 1 o'clock. Agreed to. The House then adjourned.

TUESDAY, Sept. 2.

In the House, a communication from the President transmitting copies of dispatches from Gen. Lee, was read.

The President says that from these dispatches he has seen that God has again blessed His shield to our patriotic army and blessed the cause of the Confederacy with a second signal victory on the field, forever memorable by the gallant achievements of our troops. Such praise cannot be bestowed upon the skill and daring of the commanding General who conceived, and the valor and hardihood of the troops who executed the brilliant movement whose result is now communicated.

In the Senate to-day the bill concerning Pariz in Rangers, was rejected after a lengthy discussion—yeas 9, nays 12.

A resolution of thanks to Commodore Eben Parizal and other officers and men under his command for gallant and meritorious services at Fort Drewry, was adopted.

In the House the resolution for the appointment of three additional standing committees to relieve the pressure of business on the committee on military affairs, was adopted.

The House adjourned at an early hour to draw the Senate in the Hall recently referred for their consideration.