

War News.

From Lee's army, the Express reports affairs unchanged, and states that there are undoubted evidences of the diminution of Grant's army, near Petersburg, by the recent withdrawal of forces. The greater portion, if not all of these withdrawals, went down James river. It is supposed that they have been sent to the Upper Potomac. Out of this there is no positive evidence.

From the Upper Potomac we learn that Gen. Early reported officially on the 8th inst., that Gen. McCausland had arrived in Hardy county, having sustained very little loss. The statement in the Yankee papers of his defeat, on which the rumors of Wednesday were based, is untrue.

The Sentinel says dispatches received in Richmond Wednesday from General Bradley Johnson's command, report his safe return.

The Sentinel thinks there is no doubt that everything is progressing favorably to the Confederates in the Valley.

Of the affairs in Georgia the papers speak very hopefully. The Chronicle and Sentinel of the 12th, says that Sherman has been brought to a stand before Atlanta. His inability to whip us in battle, or carry our entrenchments, has been demonstrated in five engagements since he reached the environs of the Gate City. His banking strategy is exhausted. His raiding experiment has proved an ignominious failure. Our glorious army, commanded by the intrepid and invincible Hood, opposes a living wall of defiant valor to his further advance. He has reached the termination of his campaign, though not the goal of his ambition.

An official dispatch to Secretary Mallory, from Mobile, shows that our little fleet there covered itself with glory, in the recent naval engagement with the enemy. That a fleet of 28 first class war vessels, including four powerful monitors mounting 212 guns, after a desperate engagement, in which the Tecumseh, one of their finest vessels, was sunk with nearly all on board, and the gutted Powell burned, it succeeded in dispersing and partially destroying our little fleet of four vessels, with 22 guns, is not a matter for much congratulation to the enemy. But for the blunder and unaccountable surrender of Fort Gaines, we could point to the defeat of Mobile with pride and satisfaction.

Reinforcements are arriving, the people and troops are in good spirits, and we confidently believe that the enemy will be ultimately defeated and the city saved.

The following is the dispatch alluded to above.

Mobile, Aug. 5, 1864.

The enemy remained in through the main entrance with four monitors and about sixteen heavy vessels of war. The Tecumseh, Commodore Chester was sunk with nearly all her crew, and also another gunboat, the Phillips, which I have quietly burned. The Richmond, Hartford and Brooklyn, in line of battle, followed by the remainder of the fleet, pushed by Fort Morgan under full headway, where they were encountered by the Tennessee, Morgan, Gaines and Selma. The Tennessee and the other vessels stemmed in close range of the advancing force, and poured a heavy fire into the leading ships. After a desperate engagement between the fleets the Gaines retired to Fort Morgan in a sinking condition; the Selma, cut off, surrendered, and the Morgan escaped to Fort Morgan. The Tennessee, so far uninjured, stemmed the whole fleet and, after an obstinate fight, surrendered; her rudder disabled, her smoke stack carried away, and, as we suppose, her crew in an exhausted and smothering condition.

On the Tennessee, Admiral Buchanan was severely wounded by a splinter in the leg; two killed and several wounded among her crew. On the Gaines, two killed and two wounded. On the Morgan, one wounded. On the Selma, eight wounded, including her executive officer, Lieut. J. H. Comstock, and seven wounded. The enemy suffered severely, and here requested permission to bury his dead.

Respectfully,

G. W. HARRISON, C. S. N.

THE WORK GOES BRAVELY ON.—Lieut. no one is disheartened, says the Sentinel, by occasional and partial successes of the enemy. The work of exhaustion is going on, whether they succeed in battle or are defeated. Victories cost them a great many men and a great deal of money, and they are already very short of both men and money. When not fighting they are exhausted at the rate of three millions of money a day, and probably lose a thousand men a day by natural death, by desertion, and by the expiration of terms of service. When they fight and get advantages, or even victories, the loss in men and money is doubled or quadrupled, and the process of exhaustion goes on twice or four times as fast as when there is no fighting. When they fight, and are defeated—as they usually are—the loss in money, or money's worth, ranges from ten to a hundred millions per diem, and the loss in men from three or four to fifteen or twenty thousand.

Time is victory to us and defeat to them; for every day weakens and exhausts them, whether they be killed, defeated, or victorious. Nobody now apprehends subjugation in the South, and no one hopes for it in the North. The war is reduced to a mere question of time. How long out the North hold out? Time fights on our side, and time conquers all things. Let's be patient—and happy, too, in anticipation of the many enjoyments that surely coming peace will bring along with it.

THE PEACE PARTY IN THE NORTH.—Among the resolutions adopted at a meeting of the Mozart Democracy, in New York, was the following:

Resolved, That the masses of the Democratic party of this city and State are in favor of a immediate cessation of hostilities, and for the instant inauguration of negotiations for ending the present war; and that we demand a platform favoring an armistice and a convention of State from the Chicago Presidential Convention.

"Thank God," said a Virginia lady to one of Hunter's ruffians, when passing through Bedford County, "you cannot always open." That lesson of repose and safety is always accessible.

The light that reigns from Mobile to Petersburg is certainly surprising. Some good news is being spread, or Lincoln's forces are weaker than we have any idea of. Sherman and Thomas, both telegraphing to Washington that Atlanta is to fall this week. McClellan telegraphed the same concerning Richmond in 1862, and so did Grant in 1864 but Richmond is not captured yet. Well, may Grant say with Richard III:

"I think there be six Richmonds in the field."

Grant has battled long with Richmond, and, ere long, Richmond will slay him, as it did McDowell, McClellan, Pope, Burnside and Hooker. The tone of confidence assumed by Grant, and re-echoed by the Southern press, which he took command of the army of the Potomac has cooled down amazingly. He has begun to learn that it is easier to capture that city in General Orders, than in the face of Lee's army. Grant is not fighting for Richmond; he is fighting for Grant. If Richmond falls, Grant must fall. Lincoln knows also, that with the fall of Grant falls the Illinois Ape.

We like the news, however, from Washington. It indicates that there is a nice family quarrel in the household. Lincoln has led to give way to the pressure, and has accepted the resignation of Stanton as Secretary of War. This is a McClellan triumph, and will lose Lincoln the support of his own party proper, while it will add but little strength to his administration from the opposition.

Later reports represent heavy firing at Fort Morgan on Tuesday and Wednesday.

FROM THE VALLEY.—Alluding to the late affair at Moorefield, the Richmond Engineer of the 11th says, that the War Department received official information on yesterday that nearly all of McCausland's men who had escaped to the mountains by scattering, had returned, and almost many who were supposed to have been captured. The command, though smarting under the surprise, were in good spirits, and anxious to obliterate the bluish upon their vigilance and gallantry. We will soon hear from them.

The Northern papers reported a few days ago that McCausland had been found at New Creek. This was false, as will be seen from the following, taken from the Charlottesville "Chronicle" of yesterday:

We saw an officer on yesterday direct from Gen. McCausland's command. He left it at Romney, in Hampshire, where it had retired after one of the most successful raids of the campaign. Instead of sustaining reverses, as reported by the enemy, the expedition was attended by uninterrupted success. In numerous engagements he repulsed and routed the enemy's forces. At one point on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, he captured a block house with 200 prisoners, who were released according to the terms of his surrender. This officer knew nothing of the affair mentioned by the enemy, with Gen. Kelley, at Cumberland. McCausland's forces are in the saddle against the Government for a second time with spoils, which to our army and cause will be invaluable. We await anxiously further intelligence from this bold young leader.

A NET OF PRIVES.—The police have succeeded in making quite a discovery in town within the past few days.—They have arrested three negroes, who had, doubtless with aiders and abettors, been plundering the citizens to an alarming extent during the past winter and spring.

On the first of this week the house of G. W. Williams was entered by three negroes, and a quantity of clothing, bacon and, in fact, everything they could lay their hands on was taken. This led to a search and the search to the exposing of the guilty parties. They confess to the robbery of not only Mr. Williams, but Messrs. Duxton, Blake, Hall, McRae, and a number of others. They have stolen thousands of dollars worth of meat, &c. The trial will doubtless reveal many facts and implicate many others. We expect to give the full testimony when it occurs. The principal negroes engaged are a boy of Mr. Huske's, one of Mr. C. McMillan's, a boy belonging to Dr. Haigh, and one to Mr. Glover.

THE THEATRE.—Last night the play of "Perfection" was given with much success. The Hall was well filled and the audience seemed delighted with the performance. The ladies, always delighted when one of the fairest sex succeeds in bringing down the pride of a coxcomb and humbling him at her feet, seemed particularly pleased with the successful trap laid by the "Maid of Munster" which caught "Charles Paragon" who would have nothing but a "model wife." The laughable farce of "Raising the Wind" was most excellent; and, although a farce, much of human character, its virtues and follies were displayed. Miss "Laurilla" was as ugly as an old maid could well be, and "Peggy" had all the romantic notions of our young ladies.—She fell in love with "Mortimer" and seemed to rue her bargain when she found his name was "Jeremy Diddler." Mortimer was certainly possessed of a capacious stomach.

To-night the play of "Toodles," so much admired, will be given. See advertisement.

AMEN AND AMEN! We hope, further, that the funeral obsequies of all such "bitterness" as we have seen in all columns of our North Carolina cotemporary, will be attended by as noble a throng of good men and true, as marked to the polls and redeemed the old North State from damnation.

WITHOUT BENEFIT OF CLERGY.—It is not a fact generally known, that Charles Sumner, Fessenden and Wilson, the three arch-devils of the Abolitionist party, were illegitimate children. Sumner is not recognized by the members of his family, and Wilson does not wear his true name. John C. Fremont is the son of a French girl, was born in Charleston, and unacknowledged by marriage. Hamlin, the Yankee Vice President, is a nabaloo. Lincoln is in the same catalogue.—South Carolina.

GEN. PILLOW RELIEVED OF HIS COMMAND.—The Greenback (Ala.) Democrat publishes the following extract of a letter received by Rev. C. C. Galloway, from his son Derby, of the "Pillow Cadets," written from Montgomery, under date of the 23d ultimo:

Gen. Pillow has been suspended from the command of this brigade. He was relieved upon the ground that Ball's and Armstrong's regiments were illegally raised, and that the Secretary of War had decided that they properly belong to the infantry, and that to that branch of the service they must go. Gen. Pillow asked the privilege of resigning; Gen. Bragg would not consent to his doing so, saying that he would give him another command. Gen. Pillow then asked the privilege of taking his staff and escort with him.—Bragg granted his request in part. He permitted him to take his staff only.—Capt. Shockey was ordered to report to Gen. Lee. He did so. The "Pillow Cadets" are in the hands of an escort to Lieut. Gen. Stephen D. Lee.

It will be seen by the announcement in our advertising columns, that the Dramatic Company will remain here but three nights longer. We advise our readers not to lose the opportunity of witnessing the performances of this corps during their stay here, as it is seldom our town is visited by so much talent. The performances are equal and of the same caliber as played in New Orleans, Mobile, and other large cities and towns. Mr. John Davis being the recognized leader and stage manager of Theatros in this city; and the performances being under his direction, we trust the lovers of the Drama in this city will turn out and give them a good house.

WAR DEPT. TAYLOR WAS RELIEVED.—There has been much surprise and speculation in regard to the relieving of Gen. Dick Taylor. The Montgomery Advertiser explains the matter thus:

Several causes have been assigned for Gen. Taylor's being relieved of his command, and understood with Kirby Smith, imprudently pushing the war to the point of starting for New Orleans, becoming mixed with Gen. Smith for disapproving of his expedition to New Orleans, and refusing the reinforcements he called for that expedition. The most probable, and doubtless the true reason, has come to our knowledge.

It seems that he fought the battle of Pleasant Hill contrary to orders, whereby he failed to have in the fight about ten thousand of his army. He was ordered to fall back and toll on Banks till he got to a range of hills about sixteen miles in the rear of Pleasant Hill, a most admirable position. Here he could have had the additional thousand men alluded to in the action, and would almost certainly have annihilated the Yankee army. He gave battle too soon, and without his strength, and although a great victory was achieved, the large bulk of Banks' army escaped back to Alexandria and along the current devastated country.

Again, Gen. Smith's plans were laid not only to utterly destroy the army, but to capture the Yankee gunboats and transports above the Falls near Alexandria, which would have done it the battle had come off in the admirable position. We think that Gen. Taylor's conduct and the possession of these gunboats, the Mississippi river could have been restored to our control, including New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Port Hudson, Natchez, Vicksburg and Memphis. It is obvious to every one what a change would have been wrought by carrying out the plan, which he abandoned. The result of his efforts in the future conduct of the war cannot be over estimated; it would have changed the grand coup d'etat of the war and in our opinion would have done more to bring about an early peace than anything that has occurred. It is not very far from the truth, for its important bearing is patent to all.

THE PEACE MOVEMENT.—Whether the rumor concerning the peace movement be true or false, or whether it be partly true or partly false, there is a moral to be drawn from it which no thoughtful person can fail to understand and appreciate. It may be accepted as an indication of the change of the popular feeling. These blind movements in the direction of peace, irresponsible as they may be, and wholly unauthorized as they are said to have been, do but represent that longing for a cessation of hostilities which all classes—with the exception of those who fear the consequences of their acts, and those who are enriching themselves in various ways by the war—are beginning to experience, coupled with the hope that something may be done to put a stop to that dreadful slaughter which has blackened all the land with mourning garments.

We have spoken lightly of these self-constituted negotiators and their doings; but the more an examination of peace comes, whether there have been any such or not, without drawing down upon the alleged actors in them the denunciations so unsparingly meted out to even hints of the kind at an earlier day is more than a step towards a pacific adjustment of the quarrel. It may be accepted as an augury that the next lot of men to be tried in that way, and that these whippers of peace are but the forerunners of peace in earnest, as the first warm airs that follow March winds are the harbingers of the coming spring.—Baltimore Gazette.

THE EXAMINER THINKS THAT THE FAILURE OF THE GRAND PYROTECHNICAL EXHIBITION at Petersburg winds up the Yankee campaign for the capture of Richmond. It seems to have produced a conviction of that kind on the Northern people themselves—not because it was in itself more disastrous than the numerous bloody repulses which Grant had previously suffered, but because it exhausted the repertory of Yankee expedients. It was the last card—the ace of spades—but did not turn out to be a trump. Hence Grant, so our cotemporary supposes, has yielded to Lincoln's call and is packing up his bag and baggage, with the intention of abandoning that beautiful line on which he was going to fight it out all summer.

The "finest army on the planet" has come, for the present, to the end of its invasive career, and henceforth will do guard duty on the Potomac, whether the scene of the campaign is about to be transferred.

LORENZO DOW, the itinerant preacher, so famous in his lifetime for his eccentricity, commenced his sermon on one occasion by reading from St. Paul, "I can do all things." The preacher here took off his spectacles, laid them on the open Bible, and said: "No, Paul, you are mistaken for once; I'll bet you five dollars you can't, and stake the money"—at the same time putting his hand in his pocket, he took out a five dollar bill, laid it on the Bible, took up his spectacles again, and read:—"through Jesus Christ our Lord." "Ah Paul!" exclaimed the preacher, snatching up the five dollar bill and returning it to his pocket—"that's a different matter; the bet's withdrawn."

PROFICIENCY OF THE LINCOLN ADMINISTRATION.—One of the subscribers of the Budget (Connecticut) writes under the following slip, clipped from the New York Ledger of July 19, 1864, which is curious when contrasted with the expense account of the present day. The editor of the Ledger expressed a doubt when he quoted under the expenses of the Government under Mr. Pierce, and emphasized his alarm with platitudes of exclamation points, as is seen in the extract referred to:

LIBERAL EXPENDITURES.—The expense of the Government of the United States, during the present administration, are as follows:

\$75,000,000 a year!!
6,307,300 a month!!
1,432,920 a week!!
207,560 a day!!
8,600 an hour!!
144 a minute!!

"Two dollars and forty cents for every tick of the clock! That will do for Young America! But where does the money go? For what is it applied? Under Mr. Polk's administration, during the Mexican war, when we had a hundred thousand men under arms, and large armies and numerous garrisons in Mexico, the annual expense of the Government was a little over forty-four millions a year."

After producing this the Farmer shows the "other side of the picture" as follows: Look on this picture. The expenses of the Government of the United States under Mr. Lincoln's administration are as follows:

\$1,000,000,000 a year!!
83,333,333 a month!!
20,833,333 a week!!
3,000,000 a day!!
125,000 a day!!
2,083 a minute!!
35 a second!!

Thirty-five dollars every tick of the clock! There is no use of asking where the money goes, for what is it applied. Some of it is used for making war-like implements, vessels and missiles—millions of it to enrich contractors and officials—all of it—otherwise than wasted.

FROM NEW ORLEANS.—New York, Aug. 3.—The steamer Yazoo, from New Orleans on the 27, has arrived. A letter received by her, states that a raiding party of Texans, on the 23rd, were whipped opposite Natchez, losing several men and all their horses. Some three hundred mounted Rebels were also badly defeated a few days since thirty miles from Baton Rouge. Twenty were killed and 150 stand of arms and four rebels captured, and all their ammunition.

The new Constitution of Louisiana is to be submitted to the people on the first Monday of September. All the troops here started up the river on the 28th inst., it being rumored that the Rebels are advancing on Morganza.

Thomas R. May, editor of the times, and Sub Treasurer, has been arrested and sentenced to imprisonment for ten days in the Parish prison, for violating the convention and posting Union reverses on his bulletin board to operate on the gold market.

The convention passed a resolution recommending the President to remove him. He has been released from prison. All the troops here started up the river on the 28th inst., it being rumored that the Rebels are advancing on Morganza.

THE EXPRESSION OF DRESS.—Women are more like flowers than we think. In their dress and adornment they express their nature, as do the flowers do in their petals and colors. Some women are like the modest daisies and violets—they never look or feel better than when dressed in a morning wrapper. Others are not themselves unless they can come out in gorgeous dyes, like the tulip or the bush rose. Who has not seen several daisies, geraniums and poppies. There are women fit only for veils, like the daisies; others are graceful and airy, like azaleas. Now and then you see hollyhocks and sun flowers. When women are free to dress as they like, uncontrolled by others and not limited by their circumstances, they do not fail to express their true characters, and dress becomes a form of expression very genuine and useful.

A CHARACTERISTIC YANKEE THICK.—It appears from the annexed note that a quantity of forged Confederate bonds of \$20 each, have been put in circulation in this country.

I have discovered that a large amount of counterfeit Confederate \$400 bonds have been sent here from New York and sold. I know of one batch of \$72,000 sold here to go to Holland. I have no doubt an enormous amount has been put in circulation. Of course, the trade will continue. It certainly is the duty of somebody to make this thing known, and to caution the public to avoid all bonds coming from doubtful sources. I have now before me five \$100 counterfeits, purporting to be of July, 1864, per Act of Congress, Aug. 19, 1861, and dated 7th and 8th of May, 1862. The engraver of the genuine is named in the serial and prominent on their counterfeits beyond question.—[London Times (City Article), June 15.]

"THE THUNDERBOLT" ON AMERICAN SOLDIERS.—The London Times says: "It is one of the most astonishing incidents in the remarkable struggle, that battles which are fought by armies and generals extemporized for the occasion. It is a lesson which should be carefully noted. There is hardly a regular battalion in the whole of the commonwealth which are contenting with such unparalleled ferocity and resolution. The veterans who are occasionally spoken of as more than ten years' standing. Our own valiant officers are of troops that those under Grant or Lee. The whole of the dreadful fighting has been done by volunteers, and to matters without as much training as our own soldiers. Yet these raw companies, without professional spirit or regimental traditions, with captains snatched from the counter or the store, and with Gen.ials who were attorneys a few months ago, are fighting with as much bravery and heroism as Napoleon's Old Guard of Germany's bravest warriors. There may be little science in the business, but of all that makes soldiers there is as much as in any war of which we read."

WHAT IS ASTRAKAN.—Many women the past winter have worn Astrakan without thinking what it is. Astrakan as its name indicates, is an Asiatic invention.—They couple a black ewe with a black ram. Before the dam has given birth to the young she is killed, and the lambs are taken from her womb. Their wool is jet black and of an extreme fineness.—It costs very dear; there are Parisians whose Astrakan bonnets are worth 500 francs (\$700 apiece). This statement is verified by ladies who have had Astrakan bonnets made in New York, and who have seen the process of their being made and dyed.—N. Y. Tribune.

PERSONAL.—MR. MUMFORD has arrived in Charleston. General Chase is also in the city.

FROM THE UNITED STATES.

FROM GRANT'S ARMY. Headquarters army of the Potomac, Aug. 3, 1864. The enemy appear to have been reinforced to some extent since the engagement on Saturday, their lines in our front having been considerably strengthened.—It is hardly probable, however, that the secessionists include any other troops than those which had been sent away to resist our threatened advance on Richmond from Deep Bottom.

There is reason to believe that at certain portions of our line the Rebels are attempting to undermine our works, but there is little cause to apprehend that they will be able to carry out the design indicated.

FROM PENNSYLVANIA. Speaking of the fight at New Creek, near Cumberland on the 4th, the correspondent of the Inquirer states: "The whole rebel force occupying Hagerstown and Middleburg, it is said, does not amount to over five thousand."

It is regarded as a feat to cover more important movements in the rear of Hagerstown. Col. McClure, who is here from Chambersburg, says it is generally regarded there as a feat to draw General Hunter up the river, with a larger force pounces upon Washington.

A gentleman who has arrived at Chambersburg, telegraphs that he was at Shepherdstown when the rebels crossed the Potomac on their advance, and that they had not more than eight thousand cavalry and infantry, but it was said more were coming.

Many refugees from the valley arrived in the train this evening. Col. McClure denies that he paid five thousand dollars to the rebels to save his house, as reported in the New York Times.

[Special dispatch to the Inquirer.] MONOCACY, Aug. 5.—Late yesterday afternoon, the enemy appeared in some force at Charlestown, apparently menacing our position, but upon the appearance of our cavalry in force the enemy retired precipitously, and his movement appeared to be nothing but a reconnaissance.

This is vexatious in this section. Get the enemy where you want him and attempt to put your hand on him to whip him, and he is not there. Aside from this little episode, which for a few hours gave a sort of excitement to military affairs, I must again reiterate my telegrams of the past three days—all quiet.

General Wallace gave orders to make prisoners of no more men found within his lines making hostile demonstrations, or engaged in any kind of plundering, who are clothed in Federal uniform or citizens' dress.

Under this order Mosby's men, who have been stealing over the river in this disguise to rob and murder, will stand a very gratifying chance of being shot on sight, and it will, to a great extent, stop Mosby's operations.

Gen. Wallace is determined to no longer accord highwaymen the dignities and immunities of soldiers. A Harrisburg dispatch of the 5th states: "The rebels have entered Middletown, eleven miles north of Hagerstown. In what force they entered Middletown is not known."

It is presumed that they have moved the five regiments which entered Hagerstown this morning. The movements of the rebels are entirely inexplicable, and they seem determined to invest their operations with as much mystery as possible, both as to their numbers and the columns in which they are advancing, as well as the point at which they design to deliver their blows. As an evidence of this fact, at the same time that the five regiments are advancing towards Chambersburg, another column is reported to be moving up the Potomac in the direction of Chambersburg.

None of our officials have been able to obtain the strength of this column. A report has just reached these headquarters to the effect that passengers by stage, represent that a fight had taken place at Cumberland on Thursday, resulting in a loss of 20 killed and 30 wounded of the United States forces. No other particulars are given.

THE MARRIED LIFE OF JOHN WESLEY. When Wesley settled, he said "It would be more useful to marry." He married a widow, who, through her jealousy, led him a life of wretchedness and misery.—At last his spirit was up, and he wrote to her: "Know me and know yourself.—Suspect me more; do not any longer contend for mastery, for power, money or praise; be content to be a private, insignificant person, known and loved by God and me." It was not likely that a woman would be pleased at being recommended to be an insignificant person. After twenty years of disquietude she one day left him. He bore it philosophically. He went even beyond it—he took his diary and put the most pithy entry in it to it I ever met with in a diary. "Non enim reliqui, non demisi, non revoca- bimus" which may be translated thus: "I did not leave her; I did not send her away; I shall send her back." And so ended the married life of John Wesley.

Mrs. EX-PRESIDENT POLK.—A Nashville letter says that the widow of the late President Polk has continued at her home in Nashville during all the troubles of the times, and is one of the quietest and most respected citizens. She is neither excitable nor inaccessible. Intelligent, cultivated, courtly, dignified, she is yet unassuming and affable, with a charm about her conversation which the visitor is sure to confess. The pleasant grounds of her place of residence tastefully arranged, and fresh and blooming in this early Summer time, are open to all who wish to enter them, attracted chiefly by her late husband's monument, a conspicuous foreground feature. I was much gratified to hear her speak in praise of our brave soldiers' count at all visiting her grounds, and of their constant devotion.

WE have at our office a stack of them with ten well-formed ones of the firm of Col. Chas. A. Simmons, on the Neck.—[Chas. Mercury.]

GRANT HAS ADDED ANOTHER ELEMENT TO HIS AMPHIBIOUS NATURE. Hitherto his operations have chiefly been on land and water; but he is now sought in the air. The Rebels have been boring for him at many points on the line, and he is frequently reported to be found. If our men pushing down their instrument, happen to strike a rock they often conclude that they have found the timber which braces up the tunnels of Grant. We are busily engaged in fortifying and preparing for any explosion which the enemy may make in our lines.

The North Carolina election is over, and things will move on in their accustomed channel. However much some of our people may be dissatisfied with the present state of affairs, it is believed that at least an acquiescence in the faithful administration of the laws will be observed by them.

It has not been the business of your correspondent to sound the feelings or opinions of men on the character of the government, which they prefer. Yet at the same time he has not shut his ears to voluntary declarations of several made in his presence, to the effect that they are in favor of a "strong," "consolidated" or "centralized" government. This feeling seems to be gaining adherents. As to absolute strength, we cannot form an estimate. We are informed, as you are aware, by a member of Congress, that this feeling prevails in every State. As to the particular form of a "strong" government, it seems not to be agreed what precise one would be best—some preferring a limited monarchy, others an aristocracy, while some prefer to see these with a democratic branch united. It may not be out of place to state that that of England appears to be the "model government," the genus in which all the theories of this class of governmental admirers concentrate.

There is a leading editorial in the Richmond Sentinel of to-day, which, if we do not misconstrue, may be a judgment in accordance with the view above presented; especially when we consider the relations which, it is understood, that paper sustains to one of the branches of our government. After this war shall have ended, the people will want repose, and many will be in favor of that form of government which will best secure them that blessing. On the other hand, there are perhaps a majority of the people in the Confederacy who do not for a moment entertain the idea of giving up a Republican form of government. Should our independence be achieved, it is not at all impossible that political parties will arrange themselves according to the above principles and limitations.

ALEXANDER.

Correspondence of the Carolinian. WILMINGTON, N. C., August 11, 1864. Mr. Editor.—It is passing strange that it now takes two days for the mails to make the trip from Fayetteville here.— This change has taken place during the last ten days. We do not know whether the Post Office Department is cognizant of the fact, or whether the contractor or his carrier is stopping by the way, and quaffing some of the good old hot-potable farmer's cider or not. This much we do know; it now takes two days instead of one, as heretofore. We sincerely hope it may be remedied ere long.

The great political contest for Governor is now over, and quiet reigns supreme in political circles. Holden is now dead and buried, we believe, but as he has the power to "kill and make alive," we expect to hear of him coming out again, ground over as fresh and fair as ever. Those who have made such a hue and cry about nothing, appear somewhat embarrassed at the fact they kept up during the late campaign.

It is a glorious victory—a full demonstration, that the escutcheon of the old North State is yet fair, without spot or blemish, and the bright star of her reputation is eclipsed by none.

All eyes are now turned to Mobile. Her fate is trembling in the balance. From all accounts, we have traitors or great cowards there. But let us wait for full particulars before we pass an opinion or condemn any one.

The "Reliable Gentleman" and "Madame Rummour" will be here in a day or two with the very latest news from the "front," and will give us a full and impartial account of matters in general. They have sent us several telegrams by their line, the Grape Vine, which has just been completed between Atlanta and Mobile at a vast expense to the parties.

In the meantime, we will always hope for the best and patiently await the final result.

G. C. Mc.

ANOTHER SURPRISE IN THE VALLEY.—Official intelligence was received on Tuesday says the Petersburg Express, announcing a disastrous surprise to a portion of our troops in the Valley, at any early hour on Sunday morning last. It appears that McCausland's and Bradley Johnson's cavalry were at Moorefield, in Hardy county, where they were resting after their hard work of the previous two weeks. On Sunday morning, while they were sleeping, and it would appear while their pickets, if they had any, were enjoying the same luxury, Averill's command made a descent upon them, capturing four hundred horses, and four pieces of artillery.—The remainder of our two commands scattered among the mountains.

A Wish.—The Boston Commercial Advertiser, after announcing the purchase of the Mercury rams by the British Government, adds: "To our own Navy Department this will be a great relief, for they are as unprepared to meet the rams as they are to capture the Alabama and her consorts. We wish they would purchase the rebel ram Albemarle also, and the other rams in Charleston and Mobile."