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NEW ORLEANS:
THURSDAY MORNING, AUGUST 22, 1861.

SUBSCRIPTIONS BY THE WEEK

The carriers of the BEE are authorized to receive subscriptions to our paper, at the rate of 25 cents a week, payable in all cases to the carriers themselves.

Sales at Auction To-Day.

By M. Barnett, Jr., corner St. Louis and Chartres streets, blankets.

COMPETENT COMMANDERS.

We hold the opinion that the unexampled success which has crowned the Southern cause up to this time is greatly due, among other reasons, to the judicious system that has prevailed of appointing only the best men to posts of trust and responsibility. Even the holiest cause may sometimes fail in hands incompetent. The system we speak of was signalized by the election of Jefferson Davis to the Presidency. This one step exercised a greater effect for good than can be well explained in brief space. It was a harbinger of success, for it gave the people an immediate confidence in the ability of their provisional government to carry the nation triumphantly through the impending struggle.

The same principle was carried out by the President, we had statesmen in the Cabinet and soldiers in the field. The appointments of Beauregard and Bragg, and afterwards of Cooper, Lee and Johnston, were hailed throughout all the Confederate States as an evidence that no motive other than a wise discrimination in favor of the greatest fitness and talent could approach our Government in the prosecution of the war, and the very names of these great captains had a talismanic effect in assuring us of coming victories and adding the momentum of confidence to the irresistibility of Southern valor.

At the same time that the South glorified in having at the head of its legions, not only brave and heroic men, but soldiers by profession, study and experience, and pointed with pride to what could be accomplished by such generals, they had before them the opposite spectacle at the North of appointments made through favoritism and for political effect. There, politicians and lawyers were placed in command of armies and divisions, while most of their professional soldiers were left in obscurity. This characteristic experiment of their dedased Government, however, soon rebounded upon it, and the shocking absurdity of trying to make good generals out of poor lawyers became so plain to the whole Northern public, bleared as the moral eye-sight was, that even their tyrant quailed before the censure of his subjects. Pierce was sent home in disgrace. Butler was given "leave of absence," Patterson and Cadwallader were "honorably discharged," and, in fact, there was a general clearing out of these incompetencies, and the prospects for promotion among the regular army officers went up more than fifty per cent. Only such powerful Abolitionists as Fremont and Banks are now allowed to hold prominent positions in the Northern army, and these fellows will doubtless soon follow in the way of the others. Bitter as the pill may have been, the North was forced, by the slaughter of its troops, to take this lesson from the South, and every further disaster will improve them in it.

We cannot see why there should be any exceptions to the admirable system of which we speak. We cannot conceive the possibility of any general officer being abler because of not having devoted his life to the study of military science, practically as well as theoretically. Even were it probable that great military geniuses exist among the walks of civil life, all their natural talent would not compensate for their ignorance of those indispensable details which are only acquired by long and actual experience and in the attempt to bring out these natural strategists, so many mistakes might be made as to far outbalance the value sought to be obtained. We can imagine no reason why actual knowledge should be superseded by supposititious talent. It is better to make sure of a good we have than run the risk of hazardous experiments.

While we rejoiced to see the appointments made by President Davis from among the late United States army officers and the graduates of that thorough school of military training and education at West Point, we were glad to see the same wise discretion exhibited by most of the volunteer organizations of the South, who, where they could obtain such thoroughly qualified soldiers, invariably chose them to the principles over every other candidates. But if it is though; well for captains and regimental officers, whose duties are limited to one branch of service, to be professional soldiers, how much more requisite is it in general officers, who ought to understand not one branch, but be familiar with infantry, cavalry, artillery and engineering in all their details, besides the science of strategy and other special qualifications of the commander.

It is, then, with regret that we learn of a departure by our Government from its established practice of appointing to high commands in the army none but soldiers of recognized ability, and we can see of no reason why so pure and satisfactory a system should be broken in upon, even in a single instance. It is only an aggravation if the exception is made for a statesman who recently held a position in the Cabinet and who therefore might be supposed to have claims of friendship and sympathy upon the Administration. In the organization of brigades, also, where one of the colonels is to be selected for the general command, the right of seniority should not be overlooked where fitness and experience favor its support. We are not of those who seek to find fault with the arrangement that has so signally manifested ability and impartiality, but we fear that in the instances of which we speak the good judgment of our President has been biased by outside influence, and the importance of the subject to our cause and to our self-sacrificing volunteers impels us to appeal against the repetition of such unfortunate mistakes.

SOUTHERN PRINTING INK.—The ink manufactured by the Southern Ink Manufacturing Company at Amite, Louisiana, is now used by us, and we find it equal in every respect, except perhaps that of brilliancy of color, to what we formerly obtained from the best Northern manufacturers. Our readers can judge for themselves by the appearance of our paper. The sole agents for the company are Thos. H. Shields & Co., No. 59 Gravier street.

HOTSON ST. LOUIS.—The Warren Artillery, Captain Charles Sweet, and the Swamp Rangers, Captain H. V. Keep, left Vicksburg on Monday for St. Louis, via Arkansas.

COL. B. L. HODGE.—We see that Col. Hodge has given up his idea of getting cavalry, and is trying to raise a battalion, or at least a company of infantry, in Caddo. At the same time he recommends all who prefer the mounted service to organize and join Col. John S. Scott. J. H. Reid, Land Agent at Natchitoches, is raising a mounted company for Scott's battalion.

AT THE ACADEMY TO-NIGHT.—Remember the entertainment given to night at the Academy of Music for the benefit of the Orleans Cadets, Company D, and our volunteers in Virginia. We expect to see a crowded house this evening.

ANOTHER DISCOVERY.—Those New York papers are great on startling discoveries. In its issue of the 17th the *Herald* reports the discovery of an attempt to blow up Fort Columbus, on Governor's Island. Four men are represented to have gone there Monday with the intention of laying a train to blow up the magazine and destroy several hundred tons of powder and a large number of soldiers.

ROSECRANS' CHEATED.—We are glad to see that the bankrupt Lincoln Government are disappointed in their hope to make $200,000 by throwing into prison Mr. Thomas S. Sorrell, of Philadelphia, on the false assertion that he was a Londoner. Mr. Sorrell probably had his notes payable to his own order, and in their rare at not being able to make use of their plunder, they thus naively disclose their felonious intent:

NEW YORK, August 17.—It is understood that the money found on Sorrell, the rebel messenger of Jeff Davis, on board the Perrin, is worthless. It consists of post notes of the Bank of England, payable only to his order.

THE SUICIDE MYSTERY EXPLAINED.—Coroner Eden held an inquest on Thursday evening last upon the bodies of Patrick Donnelly and Patrick Martin, the two men whom we hastened in our last issue as having been found to death on Shideway. The following is the verdict rendered by the jury: "From the evidence before us, the deceased two men were in a state of the stock of Edward Morse, and were using a cavass to tie for shelter. the deceased, Patrick Martin and Patrick Donnelly, were discovered this morning (15th) lying dead and badly burnt, and rent also burnt to ashes; there was a severe thunder-storm yesterday afternoon, (14th) and from the lightning under which the tent was pitched, and stories on the poles which supported it, the jury believe that the men were struck by lightning." The verdict, therefore, was at rest the jurors from the men were murdered or unlawfully dealt with.—*Savannah Republican.*

BY TELEGRAPH.

[TRANSMITTED TO THE NEW ORLEANS BEE.]

News from the Confederate Capital—Proceedings of Congress.

RICHMOND, August 19.—The President approved to-day the act authorizing the issue of treasury notes, and providing a war tax for their redemption.

The Secretary of the Treasury, under specified conditions, is authorized to issue not exceeding one hundred million dollars treasury notes.

The act provides for a tax of fifty cents on every hundred dollars of real estate, slaves, merchandise, bank and other stock, money at interest, excepting Confederate bonds; also, taxes at the same rate on cash on hand, cattle, gold watches, gold and silver plate, pianos, pleasure carriages, etc. Any family whose property is less than five hundred dollars, is exempt from taxation. Colleges, schools and charitable institutions are, also, exempt. The act passed unanimously.

Appointments in the Army.

Congress confirmed, to-day, P. O. Hébert, of Louisiana, as Brigadier-General; also, John A. Jones, of Georgia, and Hugh McLeod, of Texas, as Majors; and, also, Charles Stringfellow, of Virginia, Assistant Adjutant-General, with the rank of Captain.

Nothing else was done in open session.

The Reported Battle near Leesburg.

There is not a particle of truth in the Leesburg report, about a fight and the surrender of 1,600 Federals, and it is utterly untrue that the War Department received any dispatches confirming such a statement.

The city is free of rumors to-day. We have nothing of interest from the camps.

Spanish War Frigate Aground Off Cape Henry.

A Spanish war frigate is aground off Cape Henry. Eight Confederates attempted relief, but a Lincoln war steamer fired into the relief party.

The first report represented the craft as being a French frigate, but the French Consul here received intelligence this morning indicating the belief that she is a Spanish vessel.

Capture of Fort Fillmore.

SANTA FE, August 8.—Major Lynd, with 500 Federals, surrendered to the Texans, 3000 strong. Lynd abandoned Fort Fillmore on the 26th ult.

The commanding officer having Fort Union is entrenched.

Col. Loring, formerly a Federal, is commanding the Texan Rangers.

From St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS, August 21.—Commerce has again fallen into the hands of the Confederates. The Confederates retiring without a fight.

Small Battle in Missouri.

CAIRO, August 21.—A small battle was fought last night at Charleston, in which the Confederates are reported worsted—the Confederates, 600 strong, under Col. Hunt, losing 40 killed and 17 wounded.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, August 21.—Anderson, of Fort Sumter celebrity, left for Kentucky yesterday, intending at once to assume command of his department.

Gossip of the N. Y. Tribune.

NEW YORK, August 21.—The *Tribune's* Washington correspondent says that on McClellan's order, all the women, except two hospital nurses, will be ordered from the camps across the Potomac.

NIGHT DISPATCHES.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, August 21.—Blair says he has no power to stop correspondence by express, that power belonging to the Secretary of the Treasury.

The Privateer Jeff Davis.

NEW YORK, August 21.—The privateer Jeff Davis was at St. Johns, Porto Rico, on the 30th of July.

Arrest of a Baltimore Merchant.

Mr. Douglass, a Baltimore merchant, was arrested for tampering with the officers of the army.

Arrival from Bermuda.

A British schooner, from Bermuda, with 500 barrels of turpentine, has arrived.

Tremendous Rain North.

CINCINNATI, August 21.—We have been visited by a tremendous rain which filled the cellars to overflow and washed away the railway tracks.

Washington Gossip.

NEW YORK, August 21.—The *Post's* Washington correspondent telegraphs that the Navy Department is certain of its ability to keep open the Potomac.

He also says that the Government is sending arms into East Tennessee.

The *Commercial's* correspondent says that the feeling among the military is intense against Lincoln, of the London *Times*.

He also states that there is less anxiety respecting an attack on Washington.

Arrest of a Virginia Congressman.

WASHINGTON, August 21.—Alex. R. Boteler, a Congressman from the Harper's Ferry District, Virginia, has been sent to Fort Lafayette.

Affairs in Missouri.

JEFFERSON CITY, August 21.—Governor Gamble orders out the militia. He has appointed inspectors in five of the seven military districts.

The report that Fort Scott is in the hands of the Confederates is contradicted.

ST. LOUIS, August 21.—Price's official report of the Missourians in the battle near Springfield says they numbered five thousand, of which one hundred and fifty-six were killed and five hundred and seventeen wounded.

New York Cotton Market.

NEW YORK, August 21.—There were sales of 2500 bales of Cotton to-day at 28c.

Princess Clothilde at Louisville.

LOUISVILLE, August 21.—Princess Clothilde and suite will arrive here to-morrow.

The Louisville Courier in St. Louis.

LOUISVILLE, August 21.—The *Courier* circulated three thousand copies in St. Louis.

From the Confederate Capital.

RICHMOND, August 21.—The President approved to-day an act empowering the President to appoint two other Commissioners to Europe. The act also empowers the President to determine to what nations the Commissioners now in Europe shall be accredited, and to prescribe their duties. The two additional Commissioners shall receive the same pay as those now in Europe.

The President also approved an act to aid the State of Missouri in repelling invasion. The act also authorizes her admission into the Confederacy.

The following are the preamble and resolutions:

Whereas the State of Missouri having been prevented, by unconstitutional interference of the Federal Government, from expressing its will in regard to its union with the Southern Confederacy, and that the Secessionists now being engaged in repelling lawless invasion from their territory by armed forces, the Confederate Government consider it their right and duty to aid the Government and people of Missouri in resisting invasion and in securing their opportunity to express their will upon all questions affecting their rights; therefore,

Resolved, That the President is authorized to co operate through the military power of this Government with the authorities of Missouri in defending their State against lawless invasion by the United States, and in maintaining their liberty and independence with Missouri; with power to accept the services of troops sufficient to suit the purpose.

The act also provides for the admission of Missouri into the Confederacy upon an equal footing with the other States, when the Provisional Constitution shall be modified by the Legislature and constituted authorities of Missouri, and an authentic copy communicated to the President.

The President is then directed by proclamation to announce the admission of Missouri into the Confederacy.

GUSTAVE LOBLITCRE, of Texas, introduced a resolution, which was unanimously adopted, complimenting the splendid victory gained by General McCulloch and his brave army at the battle of Springfield, Missouri.

We have nothing from the camps to-day.

Military Resources.

The war is fast developing the mechanical skill and resources of our people. On Saturday we examined at the foundery establishment of Messrs. Cameron & Co. a beautiful wrought iron twelve-pounder gun, recently made from original models and under the immediate superintendence and direction of the enterprising proprietors. The piece has not as yet been tried, but from its appearance there can be no doubt that it will prove a most efficient weapon for either field or privateering purposes, or in a fortification. It is intended for rapid firing, and can be moved very quickly from place to place. The piece is at the workshops now of Howard street, and open to the examination of the public.

It will more than repay a visit. We also witnessed in successful operation a percussion cap making machine, capable of turning out from 25,000 to 35,000 caps daily. This machine was invented by that skilful draughtsman and master mechanic, Mr. Taylor, one of the proprietors. Although simple in its operation, much thought and patient perseverance were requisite to bring all the nice combinations to work with accuracy and facility.

But the necessities of the State demanded it. Mr. Taylor was furnished by Col. Manigault, Chief of the Ordnance Department, with a strip of copper, a cap, and a star cut from the copper to show how the caps were made. Mr. Taylor immediately set to work, and in less than a months' time the machine was in operation. The copper is cut into strips of the proper width, and then passed through rollers which form the caps. From that they are carried forward to a die and made into a cup. We would advise the curious, however, and all interested, to see the operation themselves. The proprietors take great pleasure in extending to all visitors every possible facility. A large 32-pounder, recently fitted at the establishment, and destined for Fort Beauregard, was also exhibited to us. An attempt at description of this immense piece of workmanship would only mar the pleasure of an examination. The proprietors have invented a machine for rifling cannon of any size or twist that may be desired, from ten to forty feet. These gentlemen deserve the highest credit for their enterprising spirit and the rapidity they have exhibited to render service to the State at a moment of pressing emergency.—*Charleston Courier.*

The Battle of Springfield.

The following letter is from the Little Rock (Ark.) *State Gazette* of the 17th, and gives interesting particulars concerning the great battle near Springfield:

FORT SMITH, August 13.

Messrs. Ragsley, Hassler & Gaines—The greatest excitement prevails in town. Accounts of the battle were by our troops near Springfield, Mo., are coming in. I need not repeat what is in the paper this morning, but will add such particulars as I could gather from the messengers, whom I well know as a reliable man. He arrived about 5 P.M., with dispatches direct from the battle-field. From his statement it appears that on the morning of the 10th instant Gen. Lyon attacked Gen. McCulloch by surprise. He took our pickets without firing a gun, approached our army on three sides without being observed. They were in the midst of Col. Churchill's regiment before the sleepers soldiers were aware of any danger. Col C.'s men had barely time to snatch their arms and escape with their lives. That regiment is said to have suffered terribly, and was so badly scattered that it was not able to rally until late in the battle. Two Missouri regiments fled. Their officers rallied them three times—three times they fled. The Arkansas regiments, the gallant men from Texas, and that from Louisiana stood and fought like enraged tigers, with their bayonets, their rifle butts and the butts of their muskets, for six hours and a half, and finally compelled a retreat.

Capt. Totten's battery opened a most destructive fire on our forces, but was soon taken at the point of the bayonet. Our troops mostly from this vicinity. Lieut. J. Walton, a very popular merchant from this place, fell, leading his men gallantly in the charge. One hundred and fifty Louisianians were surrounded by over three hundred Federal troops, but forced their way out with the butts of their muskets. Capt. Woodruff's Artillery, from Little Rock, behaved most gallantly. They have to lament the loss of Lieut. Weaver, who was struck in the breast by a cannon ball. The report of our loss or that of the enemy has not arrived yet, but the following