THE DAILY BEE.
PUBLISHED BY
G. F. WEISSE & CO.
O. F. WEISSE. | S. HARBY.
F. LIMET. | N. DUFOUR.
Daily Paper, one year (in advance) $12
Country Paper, semi-weekly 5
In all cases, subscribers must give one week's notice in writing before they can be allowed to discontinue. Any person receiving the paper through error of the carrier, or otherwise, will be considered as a subscriber, and obliged to pay, unless due notice is given of the fact to the office.

NEW ORLEANS.
MONDAY MORNING, MAY 6, 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.

PRETENSE AND REALITY.

The idea was at one time sedulously propagated that the South had many ardent and sincere friends in the non-slaveholding States. The facts of perpetual intercommunication and frequent intermarriage between the people of the two sections gave countenance and color to this impression. Besides, there was seemingly a mass of direct evidence to the same purport. Most of the Representatives of the Democratic party in the Congress of the United States were in the habit of proclaiming their attachment to the South, and to be styled Northern men with Southern principles was deemed no reproach. After the late Presidential election the Northern opponents of Lincoln still continued to speak of the South in kindly and fraternal terms—nor did their feelings appear to undergo any material change subsequently to the secession of seven States, and the formation of a Southern Confederacy. Our professed Northern friends ridiculed the idea of coercing the South, treated it as impracticable, and averred that it would destroy the Republican party, and that it would engender revolution in the North itself.

We really experience some difficulty in conceiving the possibility of so deliberate and shameless a display of double-dyed hypocrisy as that manifested by the North, and which recent events have brought to light. Take, for example, the files of any of the so called conservative journals of that quarter one month ago—take the *Herald*, the *Express*, the Boston *Courier*, the Cincinnati *Enquirer*, and then compare their language then with their language now, and note the glaring contrast. Remember, too, that this difference was not the gradual result of reflection and circumstances, but that it sprang up, so to speak, in a night—that the very shots which on the 12th April were hurled in condemning the policy of ABRAHAM LINCOLN and in denouncing coercion, three days afterwards emulated each other in the base office of flinging upon the South the filth and venom of their virulent hatred. Will any one pretend for a moment that it is the love these wretched prints bear the Union which has wrought this startling change? This cannot be, for these conductors are not simpletons. They know full well that to send fleets and armies to coerce the South, to preach murder and insurrection against the South, to suggest the chaining of our levees and the inundation of the whole country, to brand as habitually as rebels, and to threaten our extermination, are not means of maintaining or reconstructing the Union. The pretext is flimsy and easily detected. What is most remarkable is that it should be employed by such men as FILLMORE, BOOTH, DIX, DICKINSON, and other self-styled conservatives, who, as statesmen or politicians, cannot possibly be ignorant of the true issue which fanaticism has forced upon the South. For a man like MILLARD FILLMORE, who, in 1856, affirmed that the South could have a right to revolt if JOHN C. FREMONT were elected, to talk now of the necessity of sustaining that blacker Republican, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, and to gild his infamy partially with the glittering phrases of love to the Union, and the preservation of the Stars and Stripes, is certainly to make one of the most dishonorable and disgusting exhibitions of treachery and vergiversation which history has ever recorded.

No! These Northern pseudo-conservatives fell to us from the very first. They never cared a foot for the South. They wanted her good will, and, above all, her votes and influence which they sought for official honors and emoluments. They habitually wore the livery of Heaven to serve the Devil in. They were loud-mouthed and ostentatious in their professions of regard for us, while secretly and in the silence and shade of the night they cherished an internal cancer germ of sectional animosity. Behold it now in all the speed of evil in their hearts has bloomed and blossomed and borne fruit! All that was needed was LINCOLN's proclamation, and the loathsome hypocrites instantly threw off all disguise, and revealed themselves in their native deformity. Thank Heaven! we know them now. The mask is torn from their visage. Our experience has cost us dear, may be purchased with an uncalculable amount of blood and treasure, but it will stand us in good stead to all future time. The North has deceived us once. That was their fault. If they deceive us again, it will be ours. Whatever may betide the South—whether, as we firmly believe, she will emerge gloriously or triumphantly from the sanguinary ordeal to which she is apparently to be subjected, or whether bleeding at every pore, decimated of her sons, and exhausted by fruitless efforts, she is to be overrun and conquered, never will she of her own free will trust to that impious, cruel, perfidious and detestable faction which so long decided her with the spurious coinage of simulated friendship. Between us and the North there can never exist a voluntary political association. We may be neighbors, and may remain at peace but that is all. We can never enter into cordial alliance with those, or believe in the fraternal feelings of those who are now endeavoring to arouse the infuriated rabble to a crusade of death and destruction against us.

OUR PAPER.—We are compelled to issue the *Bee* on a somewhat smaller form than usual, in consequence of the difficulty of obtaining paper of the full size. This will make no difference, however, in the amount of reading matter.

ORDER HAS.—This evening that accomplished artist, Miss Mathieu, takes his benefit, and is almost conscientious, deserving vocalist and actor, we sincerely hope it may prove a bumper. The performances on the occasion consist of the delightful opera of "Lucie de Lammermoor, with Madame Frezzolini as the unfortunate heroine.

GRAND GERMAN VOLKSFEST.—This famous festival will be held on the grounds of the Mechanics and Agricultural Fair Association on Sunday and Monday, 19th and 20th instant. The proceeds have with marked generosity been assigned to the benefit of the families of our absent citizen soldiers. See advertisement in our columns.

TRUE NORTHERNER.—It is to our positive knowledge that Southerners coming home by way of the ordinary mail route have been grossly insulted and even maltreated while passing through Cairo and other places tenanted by Northern troops. Those who are compelled to travel would therefore consult their own comfort and safety by taking the Knoxville and Louisville route, by which they will journey exclusively on Southern soil.

ARRIVAL OF TROOPS.—The steamer W. Bartram, Captain Bonsall, arrived here last Saturday morning, having on board the Sabine Rifles, Captain A. McArthur, and seventy men from Sabine parish.

Also, Lieutenant Blair, with a detachment of thirteen men, the balance of the company from Natchitoches which arrived here a few days ago.

Lincoln said to a Baltimore committee that, "mathematically speaking, his troops could not crawl under Maryland, nor could they fly over it, and consequently they would have to come through it." There will soon be an arithmetical obstacle opposed to the passage of these incendiaries through Maryland, in the form of 50,000 Southern bayonets.

EAST TENNESSEE TRUE TO THE SOUTH.—All accounts from East Tennessee agree in representing the people as that division as loyal to the South. In every quarter military companies are being organized for active service against the aggression of Northern invaders, and there is no end of enthusiasm for such service, freely giving of their substance in support of the good cause. Despite what slanderers say of them, the people of East Tennessee are giving practical demonstrations of the fact that they are thoroughly with the South in this her hour of awful peril.—*Nashville Gazette.*

BOOKS, PERIODICALS, &c.—Messrs. Holle & Co., news agents, No. 61 Exchange Place are constantly laying on under obligations for the latest novelties in their line, and particularly for valuable exchanges. Messrs Holle & Co. receive regularly the illustrated journals, the monthlies, the New York *Daily Herald*, and the best of the foreign newspapers and magazines. We take occasion to inform our friends of the Second District that they will always find copies of the New Orleans BEE at Messrs. Holle & Co.'s establishment.

INSTANT RELIEF.—Under this head will be found an advertisement offering special remedies for croup, sore throat, coughs, worms and ulcers.

RHEUMATISM AND DIARRHŒA.—We invite particular attention to the certificates in our advertising columns attesting the efficacy of the remedies for rheumatism and diarrhœa to be obtained at No. 117 5th Ann street.

The New Orleans Bee.

Office, 73 Chartres street. NEW ORLEANS, MONDAY MORNING, MAY 6, 1861. Vol. XVII—New Series. Vol. XXXIII.—Whole No. 11,976.

BY TELEGRAPH.

[TRANSMITTED TO THE NEW ORLEANS BEE.]

The Confederate Congress—General Beauregard in Montgomery.

Montgomery, May 5.—Congress sat with closed doors all of yesterday.

The veil of secrecy was removed from an act, which, passed providing for the formation of a regiment of Zouaves.

A resolution was adopted allowing all persons in slaveholding States desiring patents to file caveats with the Attorney-General.

General Beauregard and Mr. Russell, correspondent of the London *Times*, are both in Montgomery.

There is nothing new from Pensacola.

TELEGRAPHIC.

Alexandria, May 4.—Federal troops are still pouring into Washington from all quarters of the North and West, and rumors of an attack on Alexandria are rife.

The bridges on the Baltimore and Wilmington Railroad, lately destroyed, are being rebuilt.

Montgomery, May 3.—In Congress to-day, a model for a seal of the Confederacy was offered and referred.

Congress will meet hereafter in the Representative Hall.

No business of an important character was transacted. Most of the day was spent in secret session.

Lynchburg, May 2.—The Mobile Rifles and Cadets have arrived here, all well and in good spirits. Tennessee is all right. It was one continued outburst of enthusiasm the whole route.

At the traitor Johnson's house the greatest demonstrations were made.

Virginia is all eager for the fray.

The other Mobile companies will be here to-morrow.

The women and children and all want to fight, and will move "Old Ade" and family soon.

LATEST FROM WASHINGTON.—Washington, May 3.—The Secretary of the Treasury to-day issues proposals until the 30th, unless the whole amount offered be sooner taken at par, for nearly fourteen millions of dollars, under the act of June, 1860.

Toronto, May 3.—The *Leader*, the Government organ, fears that Canada may become involved in the United States difficulties, and advocates an armed neutrality, and suggests that the Canadian Government represent to the imperial authorities the expediency of sending six or eight regiments of the line for the protection of the frontier.

Baltimore, May 3.—The Senate of Maryland has adopted a resolution recommending the appointment of a committee to wait on the President of the United States, the President of the Southern Confederacy and the Governor of Virginia, with a view of bringing about some understanding whereby civil war may be prevented.

Boston, May 3.—The brig St Mary, with five hundred kegs of powder, was seized to-day.

Annapolis, May 4.—The President has made another requisition on Pennsylvania for troops to proceed to Washington immediately.

Two first class steamers are now plying between Perryville and Annapolis.

Wilmington, Del., May 4.—Three companies have been sworn in under the Governor's proclamation.

The Knights of the Golden Circle are plenty, but quiet.

Hartford, May 4.—The Legislature of Connecticut has passed a bill appropriating $2,000,000 for military purposes.

Richmond, May 4.—Hon. Roger A. Pryor's regiment of Virginia volunteers is now fully organized and ready to defend the State.

Philadelphia, May 4.—Travel south of Philadelphia has been stopped.

Cyrus Grozzy has tendered his services to the Government

New York, May 4—The Pacific and Atlantic Mail Company a steamship Northern Light arrived at this port to day from Aspinwall.

She brings $800,000 in treasure or freight.

Advices from Valparaiso say that the towns of San Juan and Mendoza in Chile, have been destroyed by a terrific earthquake. Eight thousand lives were lost in Mendoza.

The Massacre at San Juan.

A letter of the 11th March from Buenos Ayres furnishes the following information:

BUENOS AYRES, March 14—At the date of my last letter we had received news that the Commissioner of the National Government, Juan Saa, Governor of San Luis had met the troops of San Juan, headed by the Governor of that province, at a place called Pontos, on the San Juan river, about thirty miles to the south of the town of San Juan. Previous to the bloody slaughter, letters had passed between Saa and the Governor of San Juan (Aberastain), which latter finally refused to acknowledge the rights of the National Government to send an armed force into a peaceful province, for the purpose of arresting the murderers of his predecessor in office (Virasoro). As a consequence, the battle of Pontos was the result, which took place on the 21st of February. The Government commissioner was backed by 1400 Gauchos, and Aberastain by the San Juan forces, amounting to about 1200, among which were a large number of the most intelligent population of the province. The combat lasted one hour, the San Juan people retreating immediately pursuing over to the invaders. Then commenced one of the most horrible butcheries which has ever disgraced the bloody annals of the Argentine republic.

Three leave and a half of bloody slaughter followed, during which time from four to six hundred men were lanced. It is said that Col. Saa and his brother killed until their lances dropped from their hands from pure exhaustion. But nine persons were killed on the part of the invaders, a fact which goes far to prove the previous account correct. Gov. Aberastain was taken prisoner, and after marching five leagues on hot across a desert, until he could march no longer, was cut to pieces in a most brutal and shocking manner. Not satisfied with and shot, and the most horrible barbarities being offered to his body. His head general was shot and beheaded, his head being afterwards stuck upon a bayonet and carried toward the city of San Juan, which city, upon the arrival of the invaders, was given up to the horrors of three days sacking, murder, rapine and bloodthirsty inventions of the invaders. San Juan was completely desolated, and thrown back at least a quarter of a century from the path of progress which she was beginning to tread.

These terrible events have stirred up every drop of revengeful and civil war blood in the veins of the Buenos Ayreans, and revenge is now the sentiment of every heart.

The Governor of this province has issued a proclamation, protesting against the horrible atrocities made in San Juan; calling upon the National Government to punish the invaders, and upon the people of Buenos Ayres to maintain their rights and sustain their principles, whatever events may occur.

The Richmond *Whig* says that circumstances render it highly probable that Richmond will speedily become the Capital of the great Southern Confederacy. President Davis, it is supposed, will make it his headquarters at an early day. The following resolution on this subject was adopted by the Virginia Convention on Saturday:

Resolved by this Convention, That the President of the Confederate States and the constituted authorities of the Confederacy be and they are hereby, cordially and respectfully invited, whenever in their opinion the public interest or convenience may require it, to make the city of Richmond, or some other place in this State, the seat of the Government of the Confederacy.

COUNSEL TO OUR VOLUNTEERS—*How to Prepare for the Campaign.*—The following hints to volunteers are timely, and should be heeded:

To Our Young Soldiers.

1. Remember that in a campaign more men die from sickness than by the bullet

2. Line your blanket with one thickness of brown drilling. This adds but four ounces in weight, and doubles the warmth.

3. Buy a small India rubber blanket (only $1 50) to lay on the ground or to throw over your shoulders when on guard duty during a rainstorm. Most of the Eastern troops are provided with these. Straw to lie upon is not always to be had.

4. The best military hat in use is the light colored soft felt, the crown being sufficiently high to allow space for air over the brain. You can fasten it up a continental in fair weather, or turn it down when it is wet or very sunny.

5. Let your beard grow, so as to protect your throat and lungs.

6. Keep your entire person clean. This prevents fevers and bowel complaints in warm climates. Wash your body each day, if possible. Avoid strong coffee and oily meat. Gen. Scott said that the too free use of these, together with the neglect of keeping the skin clean, cost many a soldier his life in Mexico.

7. A sudden check of perspiration by chilly or night air often causes fever and death. Wear thus exposed do not forget your blanket.

AN "OLD SOLDIER."

PLEASING ARRANGEMENT.—The New York *Tribune* has the following:

We hold traitors responsible for the work upon which they have precipitated us, and we warn them that they must abide the full penalty. Especially let Maryland and Virginia look to it, for as they are given over to our enemies, so their punishment will be heavier than that of others. Virginia is a rich and a beautiful State, the very garden of the Confederacy. But it is a garden that is doomed to be a good deal trampled, and its paths, and beds, and bowers will be very lucky if they be pretty completely obliterated before we have done with it. It has property in houses, in lands, in mines, in forests, in country and in town, which will need to be taken possession of and equitably cared for. The rebels of that State and of Maryland may not flatter themselves that they can enter upon a war against the Government and afterwards return to quiet and peaceful homes. They must choose to play the part of traitors, and they must suffer the penalty. The worn out race of emasculated First Families must give place to a sturdier people, whose pioneers are now on their way to Washington at this moment in regiments. An allotment of land in Virginia will be a fitting reward to the brave fellows who have gone to fight their country's battles, and Maryland and Virginia, free States, inspired with Northern vigor, may start anew in the race for prosperity and power.

FROM THE SEAT OF WAR.

Rumors in the Camp—Anxiety for a Conflict—Letters from Home—An Army Journal—Firemen Soldiers and Soldier Firemen—Current Items of Intelligence.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

WARRINGTON, FLA., April 29, 1861.

It would require a forty-horse power memory to keep track of all the rumors that abound in camp, and it would not be surprising if many of them gained circulation outside and traveled through the land as facts. Probability or possibility is not one of their components necessarily so that their range is an unlimited one, all through the extent of imagination and ingenuity. Last Saturday the mere fact that the stars and stripes were not floating from Fort Pickens, doubtless attributable to the stormy weather, was made the ground of a story that a revolution had taken place within its walls, that the abolition officers were in irons, and that it was to be hauded over to Gen. Bragg next morning. The Sabbath morn came, however, and up went the old gridiron in the bright sunshine.

Upon the heels of this rumor was started another of quite an opposite tendency, that Capt. Harvey Brown, in command of the fortress, had summoned Gen. Bragg to abandon his position within twenty-four hours, or he would shell him out. This canard also traveled round in different shapes, the time so kindly granted for our departure being extended to forty-eight hours and to six days, while a few others had it that Bragg had sent the demand, and that Brown had asked time to hold a council of war.

SANTA ROSA.

I believe that the report of the enemy throwing up batteries on Santa Rosa Island has reached your city. This probably arose from the perversion of a fact, that we were building a breastwork of sand bags (along the ramparts of Pickens to protect the gunners of the barbette guns. About half the length is thus protected, and the other half will probably be completed in another week. They have plenty of men at the fort, and are doing all they can to strengthen their position, but they have had to take every gun from the seaward side of the fort to make up the complement on our side, and have no pieces to spare for batteries along the island, besides which the ships of war, anchored outside, take the place of batteries.

The enemy could not take the first steps toward the erection of any works on Santa Rosa without its being known immediately at our headquarters, as there not a movement on the day time can be detected by the sweeping range of our spy glasses, and at night they are closely reconnoitered. Capt. Gerard sometimes lands upon the island, and runs up the sand hills to look around, in doing which he has been fired upon, but without effect. Mr. Florenville, of New Orleans, who accompanied him on one of these trips, bore away with him as a souvenir of his visit a sprig of evergreen, the first that has been plucked on Santa Rosa perhaps since the inauguration of war.

The other evening your correspondent, with some military friends, took a trip to Pensacola in a sail boat, and a storm coming on, they could not get back until morning. Their absence gave rise to a rumor that positive information had reached headquarters of their capture while foolishly reconnoitering on Santa Rosa Island.

SPOILING FOR A FIGHT.

As week after week passes by and nothing transpires but the routine of cooking, eating and sleeping, drilling, mounting guard and working in the sand, it is not to be supposed that the spirited young men who compose our army do not experience the restlessness consequent upon such monotony. They volunteered to fight, and if they had even a skirmish every a while they would be satisfied to wait in patience for a general action, but to stand with folded arms and loos across the bay at the guns that are thirsting for their blood is chafing to their high spirits. Besides, they have heard the clash of resounding arms" at the North, and they are anxious to finish the work here and join their comrades in Washington city. This feeling is growing in strength, and if there is a battle on the Potomac they will become dissatisfied with their position here, notwithstanding the knowledge that when the firing commences it will be hot enough and destructive enough to satisfy the most bloodthirsty disposition. Our boys cherish the hope of receiving marching orders some dark and stormy night and taking a little trip across the bay, but I do not think Gen. Bragg would risk so many lives when he can with so much less destruction of life breach the fortress and render it untenable, in case the enemy succeeded, which most likely blow it up and retreat to their ships. If a little brush could be devised, however, merely to pass away the tedium of a dark night, it would be a grand thing, and would infuse redoubled cheerfulness and vigor into the boys. Perhaps their considerate commander might be willing to oblige them in this respect.

LETTERS FROM HOME.

Amid all their duties, which include the theoretical study of tactics and the science of war, as well as its practical acquirement, the soldiers have plenty of leisure moments, and those oftenest fills this void in their minds. Through the post-office they get their best and most dearly prized enjoyments—the letters and newspapers sent them from friends at home. How anxiously the daily mail is looked for forward to and wanted for, can scarcely be appreciated by those who have not been isolated within the restricted limits of a military command.

Every noon one or two mail bags come here from Pensacola with letters and newspapers. Each regiment or separate command has its authorized postmaster, who is in waiting for them, and who assists in distributing the matter, and then carries away what belongs to each of them for redistribution among the happy recipients of these favors. There is great dissatisfaction regarding the postal arrangements between Pensacola and other points, and I have no doubt many letters and papers are lost on their route, but as the loss frequently occurs through misdirection, I would state for general information that besides the name of the party addressed, the name of his company and the State from which his regiment came should be given. All letters for the Louisiana Guards, Crescent Rifles, Louisiana Foot Rifles, Shreveport Grays and Terrebonne Grivot Guards should be directed to Pensacola. Letters for every other corps should be addressed to Warrington, Fla. As an example, I will give: "John Smith, Invincible Rangers, Mississippi Volunteers, Warrington, Fla."

Some of the letters that have found their way here bear rather humorous superscriptions. Not a few are directed to Fort Pickens, perhaps under the supposition that by the time they would reach their destination the parties to whom they were addressed would be drinking Slemmer's private brandy in his masonry-guarded quarters. Others were simply marked for John Smith or Bill Stubbs, Southern Army or Confederate States Army, and a third class was puzzling from the very superfluity of their superscriptions, having more words on the outside perhaps than within.

A NOVEL AUCTION.

When all want letters, and but few get them, the others must supply the need in some way or another, and a letter auction illustrates capitally the old adage that "necessity is the mother of invention." Pray, what is a letter auction? I hear many a reader ask. Quite as curious was I the other morning when I dropped in at a camp of jovial fellows, one of whom was perched upon an empty pork barrel, singing out, "going, going, going, gone!" in the most appropriate style of auctioneering, to a group of some thirty or forty lying around in the grass. In one hand the auctioneer had a package of letters, and in the other he was flourishing about a small-sized one in a pink envelope, the direction in a neat running hand. Ah, how pathetically he dwelt upon those sacred words, written between those graceful flourishes appended to the last letter of each word, and how cleverly he drew the inference that within were to be found "words of honeyed sweetness!"

The bidding had commenced at the moderate price of a pipe full of tobacco, but the dainty appearance of the envelope, the eloquent appeals of the auctioneer, and the known gallantry of the soldier who had received it by the mail of the previous day, produced a lively interest in the missive, and caused the bidding to become spirited in the extreme. A cup of coffee had been offered in vain, a slice of bacon had been passed by, and at last one enthusiastic fellow offered a whole day's rations. This might have carried the point but that an ambitious opponent offered a drink of whisky.

This announcement was received with melancholy mirth and sad derision, until the excited bidder explained that he had saved up in his haversack a drink of whisky in the pitch he had brought oil in to lubricate his revolver. Credence being given to his words, no one of course could outbid him, so he obtained the letter. By the rules of the auction, he was obliged to read his prize aloud. Imagine his chagrin, then, when its contents were found to be this brief announcement: "Sir—There is no flannel of that color to be had in this town." One of the next letters put up for sale created some curiosity by its *outré* superscription, and after quite a lengthy and laughable contest, was knocked down to a jolly little corporal for a paper of tobacco. How the woods rang with shouts of laughter when its contents were shown. I took a copy of it, and here it is: "I wont you sent mi letel bil Kite off Our I see youre Further sir i mak youre Cloths wel and I wont mi money."

AN ARMY JOURNAL.

It would be a good idea, and a profitable one, if some newspaper men were to establish a small daily journal in the camp here, on the plan of that issued from the traveling printing office that accompanied Gen. McClellan's army in Mexico. There are now an abundance of editors, amanuenses, compositors and presumes connected with the different regiments here, and nearly all of them have been pressed to undertake the thing; but from the great expense of the enterprise and the uncertainty attending only at by to be pretty completely obliterated before we have done with it. It has property in houses, in lands, in mines, in forests, in country and in town, which will need to be taken possession of and equitably cared for. The rebels of that State and of Maryland may not flatter themselves that they can enter upon a war against the Government and afterwards return to quiet and peaceful homes. They must choose to play the part of traitors, and they must suffer the penalty. The worn out race of emasculated First Families must give place to a sturdier people, whose pioneers are now on their way to Washington at this moment in regiments. An allotment of land in Virginia will be a fitting reward to the brave fellows who have gone to fight their country's battles, and Maryland and Virginia, free States, inspired with Northern vigor, may start anew in the race for prosperity and power.

young, daring and adventurous men of every community, who are always to be found first in the ranks where honor calls and danger is.

The New Orleans firemen are here in great number, and in more than one camp of an evening can you hear the lively breakdown that has kept time to the working of the brakes at many a configuration in the Crescent City. Happen ing upon a neat little camp in one of my strolls lately, I was quite surprised to see marked upon one of the tents, "American Hook and Ladder Co., No. 2;" and, upon further inquiry, I learned that this company had thirteen of its members in the command here, and that other New Orleans fire companies were equally well represented. If the walls of Fort Pickens are to be escaladed, the hook and ladder boys know how to do it, and some of the engine men are bound to have the "pipe" at the storming of that fortress.

SOLDIER FIREMEN.

In the navy yard there is an engine-house containing two "Hunnehman" and three "Smith" and "Button" engines, with accompanying hose, lanterns, buckets and axes. As an evidence of the preparations for a bombardment, workmen are busily engaged putting these apparatus and materials in complete order, ready for use. In the event of a cannonade, there is no doubt but the enemy will endeavor to destroy as much property as possible, from a spirit of pure vandalism. It will not be our forts and batteries that will receive all the shot and shell, but the beautiful structures in the Government enclosures, and the pretty little cottages of Warrington. No one here has a doubt of this.

No attempt will be made to save the town, for its houses, being of wood, will burn, too quickly, and are not of sufficient value, besides which the engines cannot be easily dragged through the deep sand of the streets, and there is not sufficient water convenient to supply the engines. But the valuable storehouses, foundery, and handsome dwellings in the navy yard, connected by walks of hard-burned brick, and furnished with plugs of water, give some opportunity for the engines to be worked with advantage, particularly as the structures are all of brick, and would resist a conflagration for some time.

I have heard it stated, although not *ex cathedra*, that a corps of one hundred and fifty experienced firemen will be drafted from the principal city companies here to take charge of these engines and work them during a bombardment. I have no doubt the fire boys would prove as serviceable under the hurtling of shot and shot as they have heretofore been amid the falling of walls and the crashing of timbers, and it is not every soldier that can be made use of in the batteries during a bombardment. Most of them would rather be at their old work in the exposed navy yard than standing under arms in the woods out of range of the enemy's guns. It is not at all improbable, then, that New Orleans firemen will soon be doing service in Florida.

CURRENT ITEMS.

A sutler has been appointed to the army here—Mr. Charles Noble, of New Orleans. I opened a store yesterday on the main street in Warrington, and his place was soon crowded with delighted soldiers, who made deep inroads upon his groceries and general stores. The fact that smokable cigars were to be had at last was soon noised around the camps, and it produced immense sensation, for the cabbage leaf affairs heretofore attainable in this place and Warrington have never been adulterated with "that vile weed, tobacco."

Mr. Wall, the member of the Louisiana Guards who was wounded by the accidental discharge of his revolver while in his pantaloons pocket during the march, as I have before written you, left the hospital yesterday quite recovered, and has rejoined his company at Pensacola, for active service. Some days after having been wounded before an action took place. Mr Dronett, a member of the Orleans Cadets, received a painful injury in his foot yesterday morning by spraining one of his legs. He had to be taken to the hospital, but will be out again in three or four days. H. C. W.

Important Intelligence—Escape of Two United States Soldiers from Fort Pickens—The Garrison Nearly in Rebellion—Their Nervous Apprehension of an Assault—Soldiers Entrapped under False Pretenses.

WARRINGTON, FLA., April 30, 1861.

All yesterday morning the air was damp and cool, the sky murky and of a leaden hue, and nature, seemingly sympathizing with the impending storm of a gathering storm. On Santa Rosa Island two soldiers of the First Artillery Regiment, Lincoln's army, who were out on patrol duty, agreed to attempt their escape from the thralldom of the abolition army officers under whose surveillance they had been slaving in a cause with which their heart was not.

For many days, almost from the time they had been landed from the transport steamer Atlantic, they had been planning with others to desert, but they had not enlisted to fight against Southerners, and now for the first time they saw before them a chance to carry out their cherished desire. They knew little of the island they were on except that it was thirty miles long and in parts well wooded, but in thirty miles there is much room for hope, and they were determined to risk their lives in the attempt rather than remain to be forced into fighting men whom they had no quarrel with, and who had never harmed them in any way.

THE ESCAPE.

It was about eight o'clock in the morning when they started off, and after a long and cautious trump of about five miles they came opposite a point of land some four miles from and in full view of the fortress. Here they found a canoe, which they launched and paddled over, dividing it into two branches or arms. At this place it is about a mile from Santa Rosa island across the mouth of the inlet to the end of the peninsular. The soldiers found an old worm eaten craft in a dilapidated condition on the beach, and in this unsafe craft they hazarded to cross.

The fissures and holes in the bottom of the boat were many and curious, and sturdily as the two men pulled in their endeavor to get across before the rotten boat was swamped, they found her filling and sinking beneath them before they got half way across. Seeing at once that they could not bail out the skiff as fast as it leaked, they made quick work of stripping off their clothes, and in a few seconds they were naked to the water, striking out for their lives and the opposite shore. After a skillful buffeting with the waves they reached the shore of the peninsular and crawled up the beach, almost worn out with fatigue and shivering with the cold. Their clothes they wandered along the shore for nearly half an hour before they were descried by Lieut. Renshaw, C. S. Navy, who was reconnoitering that part of the bay, very fortunately, in his barge.

The officer hailed them and took them into his barge, where they were temporarily furnished with clothing through the generosity of the bargemen. They were brought ashore and detained in the guard-house of the Marine Barracks, where, of course, they were provided with food and clothing. Colonel Gladden, commanding the left division, having been officially notified, visited them here, and had a long conversation with them. To-day they were taken before the Commander-in-Chief, and I know not what disposition he will make of them, although that will doubtless be as they desire themselves.

CAUSE OF DESERTION.

Their names are Ross and Scanlan; the first a Scotchman and the other an American, both twenty-one years of age. They solemnly affirm, of their own accord, that the officer who enlisted them in New York city entered them they were destined to fight the Indians and Mexican guerrillas in Western Texas; that they would not have enlisted if they had known it was to fight against the Southern States, toward the people and institutions of which they entertained no hostility of feeling; that they were misinformed and indeed deceived when they found to what work they were being brought, and that as they were entrapped into the army of Lincoln under false pretenses, they felt themselves by every moral and legal consideration free to escape if they could.

Ross says he has a cousin of the same name who is a citizen of New Orleans, where he is following the trade of a plumber, and who is his only relation that he knows of. All of Ross's relatives are in Scotland. They are intelligent looking young men, and speak without reserve of the manner in which they have been ill-treated by the officers in Fort Pickens, who are all, or nearly all, Abolitionists in heart, and maintain a reign of terror over their men, in whose fidelity to a bad cause they have little or no confidence.

NEWS FROM WITHIN PICKENS.

They state that the exact force in the fortress is 964 men, and that they have got their guns on the side bearing upon our works nearly all in position and readiness. Col. Harvey Brown, in command, has had some of the barbette guns shifted so as to bear upon Fort Barancas, of which he seems to fear much. He has also determined to throw up a sand battery on Santa Rosa Island, where the men of war are anchored, and directly opposite the navy yard, to create a diversion from Pickens during the cannonade. Work was commenced on this battery Saturday night, but it will be two or three weeks before it is completed. Col. Brown has no resources in the way of sand bags for erecting such works on the island; neither has he time to spare for them, nor the men to man them.

More than half of the United States soldiers are in a state bordering upon open mutiny, and these are the best fighting men of the command. The balance are in the main foreigners, who do not understand nor even care what the war is about, or who are the parties to the conflict, and most of them are a miserable set of wretches, who would speedily be in a jail or almshouse if turned loose in any city. The great cause of this discontent is the false position in which the men find themselves and the duplicity that was used in their enlistment. Observing this disaffection, their officers keep them down to the most slavish point of subjection, and are ever on the alert, by the spy system in the ranks and their own watchfulness, to discover and check a revolt.

The most extreme apprehension of an assault exists in the fort, the officers seeming to fear the result of that more than of a cannonade, and every dark and stormy night, they are restless with apprehension that a storming party is crossing the waters of the bay. They have had a great deal of work to do in mounting guns, preparing for a siege and storing away the provisions landed from the transports. Rose and Scanlan assert with confidence that if our troops were to assault the fort, not less than three hundred of the garrison would join them, or at least refuse to take part in the fight.

What a contrast, this state of affairs, to the spirit which infuses our volunteers as one man, and among whom, if there is a cause of dissatisfaction, it is because they are not allowed to pitch headlong into the fort and carry it as the bayonet's point, or leave their mangled bodies on its walls.

OTHER ITEMS.

The schooner Southerner arrived in the harbor yesterday morning, from New Orleans, with sutlers' stores and a quantity of good things for the volunteers here. She was not interfered with by the fleet or Fort Pickens, under whose guns she sailed lazily in with a very good grace.

Another schooner landed outside of Fort Pickens yesterday, and discharged a cargo, but I have no idea of what it consisted.

About nine o'clock, A. M., a salute was fired from the corvette Brooklyn. The reverberation of the cannon stirred up every camp to a pitch of curiosity, and it was rumored that another ship of war had arrived, but I have seen nothing of the new-comer. H. C. W.

MOST DIABOLICAL RASCALITY.—We were informed by a gentleman on Wednesday, who has just passed over the Weldon and Wilmington Railroad, that an attempt was made to destroy the bridge about one and three-quarters of a mile north of Wilmington, N. C., on Monday night, for the purpose of preventing the passage of troops from the South to our borders. Two sills were found to have been cut, and had not the discovery been made in time, it is supposed that great damage would have been the result, not only to the property, but by the breaking of the bridge on the passage of a train over it, to human life also. A man suspected of the deed has been arrested.—*Petersburg Express*

NEWSPAPERS AND THE WAR.—Besides the papers already noticed, we see the call of the State has taken away the force of the Unionville *Times* and caused that paper to suspend. In North Carolina, too, the newspapers have felt the effects of the excitement in the loss of many of their hands. The Charlotte *Bulletin*, one of the best of our North Carolina exchanges, has been obliged to come down to a half sheet—having but two journeymen and an apprentice remaining in the office, who get up four columns a day. The Wilmington papers have also felt the war movement, the *Journal* having been obliged to reduce its reading matter, and a recent number of the *Herald* coming to us as the "*Hatley Derald.*"

We sympathize with our North Carolina friends, for we miss the usual variety in their neatly printed little sheets, but we fully expected this to occur; for, knowing the patriotism of the people, we felt sure that the first intimation of danger to the State would take off nearly every printer from their offices.—*South Carolinian.*

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Fire at Gretna.—Last night, at 10 o'clock, a fire broke out on board a steamboat lying at Gretna, on the other side of the river, near the Atlantic Dock. Before the alarm was given in the city and the fire engines could reach the spot, four or five other steamers were reduced to ashes, and the dock itself was partially destroyed. At the hour of going to press, the fire was yet raging. As much as we could ascertain on this side of the river, among the number of steamers wrapped in the immense sheet of fire was an old steamship and the packet boat Telegram, of the line to Lake Ponchartrain.

What the Ladies Will Do for the Army.—The action of New Orleans proved last week that under their lovely graces they hid in their hearts the purest and most energetic patriotism, not unequal to that of the Spartan women. Their first act was to present to each of the companies which left for the seat of war the flags which, we hope, will soon bear our soldiers to victory. Then they set themselves to make uniforms for those left behind, and prepare relief for the young victims who may return to us with glorious wounds. This is not all; for, in the kindness of their amiable hearts, they thought also of the families for which the departure of a brother or a son for the wars may be a cause of privation, and, under the inspiring influence of charity, they opened at Odd Fellows' Hall one of the most brilliant and successful fairs it has been our pleasant duty to speak of in these columns.

On Friday afternoon three of these ladies' associations held meetings to adopt their respective constitutions and by-laws. The first, composed of highly respectable ladies, was held in the third story of Odd Fellows' Hall, with Mrs Henry Barnett in the chair, and Mrs. E. Covington acting as Secretary. Here is the preamble and resolution adopted by them, and of which they may well be proud, for they breathe throughout the highest degree of patriotism, clothed in the most elegant and impassionate language:

Inasmuch as our beloved country is now threatened with civil war, and our fathers, husbands and sons are called to a most fearful conflict in defense of their homes and the cherished ones of their domestic circles, and since these are no blessings that go forth to battle for offended rights, therefore we, their wives and sisters, do hereby form ourselves into a band to pledge ourselves to any service in our power for the benefit of the Confederate States' army of America.

Article 1—The name of this association shall be "The Ladies' Society of the Confederate Army.

Article 2—The object of this society shall be to do any sewing that may be put into our hands for the benefit of the army, also to provide lint and bandages, with all such articles of clothing as may be necessary for the sick and wounded during the ensuing campaign.

Article 3—Each member of this society shall be willing to give one dollar per month, if possible, to the purchase to any of the sick or wounded of the army, or procure a substitute for the same through this society.

Article 4—The officers of this society shall be a president, two vice presidents, a treasurer, a secretary, our business shall become no private, and our hands shall work willingly for the comfort of those who shall have fought for our protection and independence.

Article 5—The sum of one dollar shall admit a lady as a member of this society

We were informed that this society will meet every Tuesday morning, at 10 o'clock, at the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association, No. 83 Camp street, where subscriptions in money or clothing will be also received. We hope the public will generously encourage the praiseworthy intentions of these devoted daughters of the South.

The Ladies' Volunteer Aid Association assembled also last Friday afternoon in the lecture room of Odd Fellows' Hall, to form an association for aiding and equipping those who fight for the country. This meeting was also very largely attended, and the fashion and beauty of the city were considerably represented. Mrs. Randall was called to preside over this assembly, and Mrs. Purdpe acted as Secretary.

The ladies who had the management of the military fair held last week at Odd Fellows' Hall, met last Friday to make a report of the sums received at the several tables. The results were most satisfactory, and fully fulfilled the most sanguine expectations, as may be seen by the following synopsis of the report of the managers of the several stands:

Alabama, @1132; Confederate States, @566 95; Beauregard, @106; Mississippi,