

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

Gen. Hunter's negro brigade at Port Royal, South Carolina, is said to have proved a failure, there not having been darkies enough, for one thing, to make such a corps as was intended, had they been disposed to become soldiers.

Late intelligence from Vicksburg represents that the damages done to the city by the Federal gunboats, during the bombardment, were being repaired, and the city was resuming its former stirring lively appearance.

Two steamers are reported to have collided on the Potomac on the night of the 13th of August; one of which, having on board convalescent soldiers returning to duty in Burnside's army, sank in a few minutes. Of the soldiers, seventy three were reported drowned, and about two hundred were rescued from a watery grave by the other boat which was not disabled.

The destruction of the Confederate gunboat Arkansas has been confirmed by subsequent reports. The first rumors that got into circulation concerning the fate of the noted craft were not generally believed, but it is quite certain that she is among the things that were. She got aground some six miles above Baton Rouge, and when in that position was attacked by the Federal gunboat Essex, got the worst of the fight, was deserted by her officers and crew, and blown up.

It was reported from New Orleans, about the 1st of August, that General Butler had issued an order stating that there were many destitute in the city who must be provided for, and, as a matter of right, those who had brought the calamity upon their fellow-citizens ought to relieve the sufferings of those made destitute by the operations of secession, and therefore he assessed a tax of three hundred and forty two thousand dollars upon the corporations and individuals who had aided in the rebellion and had tried to destroy the commercial prosperity of the city.

Gov. Magoffin, of Kentucky, on the meeting of the Legislature in extra session on the 16th inst., in accordance with his proclamation, delivered a Message, in which he condemned Morgan's guerrilla operations, objected to the arrest of citizens without process of law, and recommending Crittenden's resolutions for a solution of difficulties. He then resigned the office of Governor, and Hon. James Robinson, speaker of the Senate, a reputed strong Unionist, became Governor *de facto* of the State, which may and may not terrify the guerrillas who have been pouring into Kentucky from Tennessee in great numbers of late, and expect, in conjunction with the anti-Unionists within its borders, to win the State over to the Confederate cause.

The correspondence between General Halleck and General Lee, in relation to certain proceedings that have been had in the war;—such as, the hanging of Mumford by General Butler, at New Orleans, for hauling down the stars and stripes; Gen. Hunter's arming of the slaves in South Carolina; the imprisonment of seceders for refusing to take the oath of allegiance; and other matters deemed outrageous by General Lee, have been published. Both chiefs talk quite plainly to each other, and General Halleck replies to General Lee's threats of retaliation emphatically: "No threats of retaliation will deter the government from what is right and according to the rules of modern warfare."

A camp of instruction for fifty thousand men has recently been established at Washington, and the new volunteer recruits were arriving there at the rate of five or six thousand per day, and it was stated that, in an emergency, fifty thousand men could be sent to reinforce either of the armies in the field in Virginia within a week.

It is reported that Gov. Andrews, of Massachusetts, has ordered that the blacks in that State shall be enrolled among the militia for draft.

It was thought by a Fort Monroe correspondent that some portion of the army of the Potomac would remain in the vicinity of Hampton, as there were twenty acres of hospitals there filled with sick and wounded soldiers.

THE BATTLE OF BATON ROUGE.

The attack on Baton Rouge made by the Confederates under Beauregard on or about the 7th, was considerable of a fight, no doubt. The loss on both sides was heavy, according to the number of men engaged. The Confed-

erates admit a loss of about three hundred killed and wounded; several officers, including General Clark, Col. Allen, and Capt. Todd, Mrs. Lincoln's brother. Gen. Williams, commander of the Federal forces, was killed, and his body taken to New Orleans, where it was interred with imposing ceremonies.

There are so many rumors in circulation concerning the conflict and the number of the slain, that it is not possible to determine with much accuracy how many were killed. One statement makes the Confederate loss eight hundred. The official account sets down the Federal loss at two hundred and fifty. It is admitted that the enemy gained some advantages early in the day and the Federal troops had to fall back, the Confederates occupying the camps of three or four regiments for a time, during which they destroyed a vast amount of property, over a million of dollars worth, according to the Confederate estimate. The attacking party were at length repulsed; but the Federal ranks had been so much reduced by sickness and the casualties of the battle, that no pursuit was instituted, and the wearied soldiers who escaped unhurt contented themselves with burying the dead and caring for the wounded.

THE IRISH VS. THE NEGROES.

The Irish laborers in many of the cities of the Western States are not pleased with the influx of so many of the colored race, from the South into a section of country where they have heretofore enjoyed the undisputed privilege of doing most of the "digging" and other servile labor, which they are unwilling to share with the Africans, and consider the immigration of so many contrabands an intrusion upon their inherent rights, to maintain which demonstrations "with force and arms" have in several instances been made, and serious results are anticipated if the Irish cannot be made to understand that the negroes are not intruders. It is said by one of the leading journals in Illinois that many of the honest, hard-working Hibernians who have not gone to the war, have, under the teachings of seceders, "yielded to the snares of the tempter" in warring with "my people" of African descent.

Not only have the inimical feelings entertained by the laboring classes of foreign birth, towards the blacks who have emigrated of late from Dixie, been exhibited in violent assaults and conflicts in the west; but in several of the eastern cities, riots have occurred in consequence of the employment of negroes to perform service which white laborers thought they of right should be engaged to do. On the 4th of August, a serious riot is reported to have taken place in Brooklyn, N. Y., between the whites and the blacks. Over a thousand Irish laborers, including men, women and children, armed with stones, clubs, brickbats and other missiles, attacked a factory in which blacks were employed, broke open the windows and doors, and rushed into the building; but were prevented from entering the apartment where the negroes were at work by some policemen who had been secreted in the building for their protection. The rioters succeeded in setting fire to the building, intending to burn it up, negroes and all, which would have been accomplished but for the fortunate extinguishment of the flames before the fire had done much damage. A strong police force soon assembled at the scene of disturbance, and a severe contest took place between them and the rioters, the negroes taking part in the melee. Various kinds of weapons, including pitchforks, were used for offensive and defensive purposes. Many persons were seriously hurt, but none were reported killed. The police and negroes were victorious, but the blacks were sent off to prevent another assault by the infuriated rioters.

The immediate cause of the onslaught upon the negroes by the Irish in Brooklyn is alleged to have been opprobrious language used by the darkies to white females, and their assumption of important airs, which the natives of the "Green Isle" would not peaceably endure. Other manufacturing establishments than the one assaulted had to discharge their colored laborers to prevent being attacked by the Hibernians "in force," who made threats of demolition if their demands were not complied with instantaneously. What the future of such riots will produce, none seem able to predict. The negro question has not yet been fully solved.

THE WAR IN KENTUCKY AND TENNESSEE.

From the many reports that have gained publicity, it is fully made to appear that the Confederates have been, for some time past, decidedly in the ascendency in east Tennessee. Beauregard has been reported to have been at Chattanooga co-operating with Bragg and their combined forces constituted an army of over sixty thousand men. It is not certain, however, that Beauregard has again taken the field.

There was a fight of considerable magnitude came off at Tazewell, near Cumberland Gap, on or about the 9th of August. The forces engaged were Gen. De Courcay's brigade and the 14th Kentucky regiment on one side, and the Confederate Gen. Stevenson's division on the other. Both sides claimed the victory, but the testimony preponderates in favor of the Federals. Their loss, however, was considerable as was also that of the Confederates. The losses in the aggregate were three or four hundred killed and wounded.

Several fights are reported to have occurred with guerrillas in various parts of Tennessee and Kentucky between the 10th and 18th of August, and it was said that several new points in Kentucky had fallen into their hands of late, and it was the policy of the civil and military authorities to keep their successes from being known, as far as possible. Such was the excitement produced by their exploits that but little was said about them by those fully acquainted with the extent of their number and depredations. It was known, however, that large bands had entered that State from Tennessee, that they had captured and held Somerset and that Glasgow, Bowling Green and other towns were in danger of falling into their hands. A later report states that Clarksville had been captured by one of those bands, and that they were marching towards Forts Henry and Donelson.

The Cumberland river was reported to have been completely in the hands of the seceders and all communication with Nashville by railroad cut off.

Gen. Wright has been assigned to the command of the new district, established expressly for the suppression of the guerrillas in Kentucky, Tennessee and Missouri and called the district of Ohio, including Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and that part of Kentucky and of Tennessee most infested with that class of combatants, to resist which, most of the new troops from the north-western States are to be sent, and several regiments had, some two weeks since, crossed the Ohio into Kentucky, which movement did not seem to terrify the chiefs of guerrilla bands much, and the indications were that they would accept battle whenever offered.

INDIAN MURDERS.

Some weeks back we gave warning to immigrants passing through the Territory to put them on their guard against the Indians. It was then evident to us that the natives here, and on all the routes of emigration, were evil disposed and bent on mischief, if favored with the opportunity. The season of emigration has always been their harvest, and when they have not added murder to theft, it has only been when the immigrants have been prepared to receive them, and been ready to protect their lives as well as their property. Year after year we have urged upon passers-by this carefulness, but it would seem that nothing but painful experience will teach some folks the first lessons of prudence.

We regret to be obliged to add to the number of fatalities, the murder of five emigrants, and the wounding of several others, in the vicinity of Fort Hall, on the 8th and 9th of the present month.

Twelve packers, with twenty-five horses, on their way to the Eastern States, were attacked on Friday morning, the 8th, when they lost their twelve pack animals, and five of the men were seriously wounded. The packers fought bravely, but ultimately had to make tracks as well as they could with their wounded—the Indians pursuing them for several miles. They soon met a train for Salmon river, and returned with them to Snake river. Three of the wounded were brought into this city on Monday.

On the next day, at the same place, another company from Denver, for Salmon river, was attacked, and five men were killed and scalped,

and two men were wounded. The Indians got two wagons well stocked with groceries and retired to their wick-i-ups. Cattle and horses lying around, perforated with balls, indicated that other depredations had been committed.

ON FURLOUGH.—It was alleged that there were thirty thousand men, officers and soldiers, belonging to the army of the Potomac, who were neither sick nor wounded, at home on furlough, before the recent stringent orders from the War Department were issued, requiring all such to return to duty immediately.

The Union Herald, Springfield, Illinois says:

"It is the duty of all who meet such persons, to promptly discourage their lingering and expedite their return to the place where God and their country want them."

The editor must be a Yankee, or he could not have guessed so well, where the furloughed men were needed, in the hour of their country's peril, as neither he nor the others immediately concerned, according to report, have any communication whatever, with the court of Heaven.

"TREASON"—The Hon. Noah H. Swayne, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, lately delivered an able charge to the Grand Jury of the Michigan District, at Detroit. He charged the Jury that no mere conspiracy or mob would be sufficient to establish the crime of treason, but it must be some open act of levying war. It has been held, said his Honor, that the clause in the Constitution in relation to giving aid and comfort to the enemy, applies only to a foreign enemy, but there can be no doubt that extending aid and comfort to those engaged in actual war against the United States would be treason under the Constitution; that while the statute provided for the trial of those suspected of treason in the district where the treason was committed, it was competent to try those aiding and comforting traitors in the district from which the aid was sent, but he cautioned the jury that they must deliberate carefully these questions, as concerning the liberties of the people and the safety of the Government.

AN EVENTFUL PERIOD.—This is indeed an important era. The American people are now making a history that will be read with interest, not only when the boys and girls of to-day shall have grown gray with age, but for centuries to come. None of the events recorded in the history of Greece and Rome, that are still read with so much interest, were of such world-wide importance as what is now transpiring in this year of grace, 1862. Our young readers, and even grown people, who pore over the details of the war of the Revolution and that of 1812, can hardly realize that a greater strife, and, if possible, more important one, is now in progress in our very midst. The result is to determine for the whole world whether or not a free government like ours is a strong one, capable of endurance, and adapted to the wants of the human family. The struggle, its causes, its details, will be constantly written about, talked about, referred to in the highest legislative councils of this and other countries, longer than the youngest child that read these pages will live.

A THOUGHT.—When we contemplate the fall of empires and the extinction of nations of the ancient world, we see but little more to excite than the mouldering ruins of pompous palaces, magnificent monuments, lofty pyramids, and walls and towers of the most costly workmanship. But when the empire of America shall fall, the subject of contemplative sorrow will be infinitely greater than crumbling brass or marble can inspire. It will not then be said, "Here stood a temple of vast antiquity—here rose a Babel of invisible height, or there a place of sumptuous extravagance," but here a painful thought! the noblest work of human wisdom, the greatest scene of human glory, the fair cause of freedom rose and fell.

THE TRUE BUSINESS MAN.—Some wise one has written: "It is useless to have a large stock of goods on hand without notifying the public of the fact. The merchant who liberally advertises always does a large and paying business, and is regarded by his customers as a generous and honest trader, not afraid of a penny; while he who neglects or refuses to advertise is looked upon as a close dealer, and not over scrupulous in disposing of his goods. Advertisements are read by all classes, and people generally go where they know they can get what they want. No true business man neglects to inform the public what he has for sale, and what his business is."

AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE.—Lord Chief Justice Holt, when a young man, was very dissipated, and belonged to a club of wild fellows, most of whom took an infamous course of life. When his Lordship was engaged at the Old Bailey, a man was convicted of highway robbery, whom the judge remembered to have been one of his old companions. Moved by curiosity, thinking the fellow did not know him, Holt asked what had become of his old associate? The culprit making a low bow, and fetching a deep sigh, replied: "Ah, my lord, they are all hanged but your lordship and me."