

[Special Correspondence of the Philadelphia Enquirer.]
STRENGTH OF THE CONFEDERATE
ARMIES.

344,000 VETERANS REPORTED IN THE FIELD.

NASHVILLE, TENN., March 2.

The great war of the American rebellion has progressed nearly three years, and yet brilliant campaigns are being anticipated by the nation, and, doubtless, being conceived by the leading military and political spirits upon both sides. The interest taken in the rebel situation engrosses the attention of the whole world. The dirty crowd which was to have been annihilated before the Fourth of July, 1862, exists as a veteran army in action, which, in magnitude, is only second to our own in numbers and discipline in the world's present history. The country which was to have been starved out before the 1st of January, 1864, still feeds its own army and a large portion of ours. Since General Sherman has penetrated the heart of the Confederate States, his scouts have reported to these headquarters that the country through which he has marched abounds in life's necessities for man and beast. The people who heretofore had depended upon the manufactures and mechanism of the North for the simplest commodities of universal use, now loom up as a fraternity conversant with all the arts and sciences in vogue throughout the hemispheres. Such a people, who have grown from a billock to a mountain in mechanical immensity, must be attentively watched during the next four months, lest they achieve successes which must postpone the termination of hostilities for a long time. For the past month I have been preparing the following, which, with the facilities afforded me here, in connection with those which I obtained in my last trip to Chattanooga and Knoxville, place me in the position to give you a pretty complete and reliable daguerreotype of the present rebel situation.

First, let me make a remark which will often be contradicted, viz.: That the rebels have as large a force in the field, armed and equipped, as ourselves, not counting in the colored troops. The above paragraph is an absolute fact, but in all other respects we are hugely advantageously situated. It is really laughable to read the correspondence of some gentlemen connected with the army. For instance, a telegram from the Army of the Potomac to some Northern journal, a few days ago, stated that in the three armies of Lee, Longstreet and Johnston, there were but about seventy thousand men. This is an error almost too ridiculous to again bring into notice. That these three Generals have twice that number may be chronicled as a fixed fact. The following number and disposition of the rebel troops you may rely upon as nearly correct. There may have been some changes since portions of my notes were obtained, which the public must overlook. I shall only speak of veteran troops in giving the numbers of soldiers in the respective armies of the Confederacy, subsequently giving you the number of conscripts which have been added to each. That portion of the southern army which constitute the forces under General Lee (counting in Longstreet, who commands a portion of his army) numbers ninety thousand troops. This is also counting in the troops which are in the vicinity of Abingdon, Lynchburg, and other portions of Southwestern Virginia and East Tennessee, formerly under General Sam Jones, who was detached from Lee's army late in September, to operate against General Burnside, and which are now under the command of John C. Breckinridge. At Richmond and at Petersburg there are, not counting in citizens and Home Guards, about three thousand men. Between Petersburg and Weldon there are one thousand men. All along the railroad, between Weldon and Wilmington, there are at least six thousand men. The forces under General Pickett number eight thousand men. Imboden and Mosby together have four thousand men, all guerrillas. This swells the army in Eastern Virginia and North Carolina to twenty-two thousand strong. The second great army in the Confederacy is that under General Joe Johnston, a large portion of which is cavalry. The army known as the army of Tennessee is composed of two corps, each of which has six divisions of infantry, numbering thirty-six thousand men. There are also several divisions of cavalry, numbering at least eighteen thousand men, making an aggregate of fifty-four thousand. This includes the four divisions sent to reinforce Bishop Polk, and the two divisions sent to Mobile, and also the entire cavalry under Wheeler, Wharton and John Morgan. Joe Johnston also has the command of all the Confederate forces in Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, except those at Savannah, Mobile, and under Forrest, who has an independent (roving) commission. Before the arrival of Sherman at Meridian, Polk had eighteen thousand troops, only two thousand of which were veterans, however. Eight thousand is a strong number to put down for Joe Johnston, of veterans, outside of the Army of the Tennessee, in these three States. The forces in South Carolina and at Savannah, under General Beauregard, and in Florida, under General McCown, will number ten thousand. (The reader will recollect that this only includes the veterans, or old soldiers, as the armies in these three localities above mentioned at present number twenty-five thousand men.) The next regular armies of the Confederacy are the Trans-Mississippi forces, scattered in different portions of Arkansas and Texas, and all under the command of Lieutenant-General Kirby Smith; the army in

Arkansas, under Holmes; and the army in Texas, under Magruder, the old soldiers of which number twelve thousand men. The forces at Mobile, under Generals Dabner, Maury, and Claiborne (not Cleburne,) number about eight thousand. The forces under General Forrest, and under Chalmers, Lee and Richardson, will amount to six thousand, which will include all the veterans in the rebel service. To this may be added, however, in the same line, twelve thousand soldiers engaged in important prison guard, and in the hospitals and quartermaster's and commissary departments. There are also about two thousand men engaged in the guerrilla warfare on the banks of the Mississippi. No other guerrilla bands of importance exist in General Grant's department. There is not a single squad in Kentucky, East and Middle Tennessee, Northern Alabama, or Northern Georgia. There are still several guerrilla organizations in West Tennessee and Northern Mississippi. The people themselves have rid the country of these infernal murderers and robbers in this section.

The following table will be of interest:

Number of troops in Lee's army, including Longstreet's and all other forces in East Tennessee, and Breckenridge's and all forces in Southwestern Virginia,	90,000
Number of troops in North Carolina and Eastern Virginia, under Generals Pickett and Barclay, including those at Richmond and Petersburg, and along the line of the Virginia and North Carolina railroads,	22,000
Number of troops in Joe Johnston's command, including the army of the Tennessee and other portions of his command distributed in portions of Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi,	62,000
Number of troops in South Carolina, Savannah and Florida, under Generals Beauregard and McCown	10,000
Number of troops in the Trans-Mississippi army, under Generals Kirby Smith, Holmes and Magruder,	12,000
Number of troops at Mobile, under Generals Maury and Claiborne,	8,000
Number of troops under Forrest, Chalmers, Lee and Richardson,	6,000
Number of troops detailed as special guards, quartermaster's clerks, hospital assistants, etc., etc., etc.,	12,000
Number of troops engaged on the banks of the Mississippi, in the guerrilla uniform.	2,000
Total veteran troops in the rebel service,	224,000
Number of conscripts lately added to the rebel armies,	120,000
Total number of troops in the rebel army,	344,000

Portions of these figures may seem huge to some, but you will yet find, and in a short time, that they are not out of the way.

EASTERN ITEMS.

GENERAL GRANT AT WASHINGTON.

A dispatch from Washington, dated March 8, has this announcement of the arrival of Lieutenant-General Grant at Willard's Hotel:

"At 5 o'clock this afternoon, an officer, leading a child by the hand, quietly and modestly entered the dining-room at Willard's, and took a place at the table. A gentleman from New Orleans and his two daughters recognized him, rose from their seats and shook hands with him cordially. In a flash, as by electric communication, the news that Gen. Grant was in the room spread through the immense hotel, and the hundreds of guests, Senators, Representatives, Supreme Court Judges, women, officers, lawyers and all the customary household of Willard's, sprang from their seats and cheered in the most tremendous manner, and crowded around the blushing and confused object of this sudden ovation, and overwhelmed him with their admiring interest. When his meal was concluded and he left the room, it was but a fall into another scene of enthusiastic love that awaited him from a great crowd in the lower hall. His retreat from this superior force up the staircase and to his room was characterized by most unsoldierly blushing. The reception of Gen. Grant at the President's levee in the evening was more furious than any scene that ever transpired in the East room. He was literally lifted up for a while, and in obedience to a demand and to a necessity, so great was the desire to have a fair look at him, he was obliged to mount a sofa, under the auspices of Secretary Seward, who preceded him to that elevation. There has never been such a coat-tearing, button-bursting jam in the White House as this soldier has occasioned. The cheering and waving of handkerchiefs was in the customary fury of Americans over popular favorites."

On Wednesday afternoon the President of the United States formally presented to Major General Grant his commission as Lieutenant-General. The ceremony took place in the Cabinet Chamber, in presence of the entire Cabinet. General Halleck, Representative Lovejoy, General Rawlins and Colonel Comstock, of General Grant's staff; the son of General Grant, and Mr. Nicolay, private secretary to the President.

General Grant having entered the room, the President rose, and addressed him thus:

"General Grant: By the nation's appreciation of what you have done, and its reliance upon you for what remains to do in the existing struggle, you are now presented with this commission, constituting you Lieutenant-Gen-

eral in the Army of the United States. With this high honor devolves upon you, also, a corresponding responsibility. As the country herein trusts you, so, under God, it will sustain you. I scarcely need to add, that with what I here speak for the nation goes my own hearty personal concurrence."

To which Lieutenant-General Grant replied as follows:

"Mr. President: I accept this commission with gratitude for the high honor conferred. With the aid of the noble armies that have fought on so many fields for our common country, it will be my earnest endeavor not to disappoint your expectations. I feel the full weight of the responsibilities now devolving on me and I know that if they are not met it will be due to those armies, and, above all, to the favor of that Providence which leads both nations and men."

The President then introduced the General to all the members of the Cabinet, after which the company were seated, and about half an hour was spent in pleasant social conversation.

PRESIDENTIAL MATTERS.

The correspondent of the New York World, on the 14th ult., says:—

The withdrawal of Secretary Chase from the Presidential canvass has by no means smoothed the course for President Lincoln; on the contrary, it has become more difficult. He is assailed with an activity and spirit in his own party, against which, it is believed, he will find it impossible to stand up. Already a combination has been formed in Congress to compel him to follow Mr. Chase's example; and the prudent men of the party, who see that Mr. Lincoln's continuance in the field will hopelessly divide the party, so that by June, it will be impossible to unite upon any candidate, are quietly lending themselves to the project. If the country realized the bitterness of the intestine feud in the administration party, it would create a panic, overthrowing the credit of the government and demoralizing the people.

The air is filled with rumors of defections from Mr. Lincoln toward Gen. Grant in the Republican party. It is said that Gen. Halleck's friends are about taking steps to place him before the Democratic party as a candidate. Every hour the kaleidoscope of the Presidential struggle changes; but the Democratic members of Congress continue to express the most perfect confidence, judging by what they hear from their constituencies, that the Chicago nominee cannot fail to be the successful candidate.

ONE COSTLY BLUNDER.

Gen. Meade, in his examination before the committee on the conduct of the war, claims that it was his intention to have turned Lee's right flank at Gettysburg, and to have placed his own army between the Confederates and the Potomac before giving general battle. He says that he was perfectly confident of his ability to defeat Lee, and could then have captured him, bag and baggage, but that Gen. Sickles by disobeying orders advanced his own corps too far, got it involved; and it then became necessary to engage the whole army in order to save Sickles. Meade says that it cost three thousand men merely to repair the blunder of which Gen. Sickles was guilty; and in this view, Gen. Halleck, or otherwise hostile to Meade, fully sustains him.

COLONEL STRAIGHT'S ESCAPE.

Col. Straight who made his escape out of Libby Prison, by the famous underground passage, reached Fortress Monroe on the 27th of February, in company with the following officers: Colonel Charles W. Tilden, 16th Maine; Major J. H. Hooper, 15th Massachusetts; Captain B. F. Fisher, Chief of Signal Corps Army of the Potomac; Captain H. B. Chamberlain, 97th New York; Lieutenant Randolph, 5th United States Artillery. Colonel Straight reached Yorktown twelve days after leaving Richmond. The New York Herald's Fortress Monroe correspondent gives the following account of Col. Straight and Captain Chamberlain:

It was about 9 p.m. when he left the prison. Passing up Canal Street two squares, they turned to the left and went into Second street, thence going to the right and keeping on the east side of the town. At this early hour in the evening, it was impossible not to meet and pass a good many, but they did so without exciting suspicion. Going by the fortifications they saw no one. Taking a northeasterly course, they continued their journey, proceeding slowly and cautiously, of course, until 4 a.m., when they halted in a dense wood close by Chickahominy swamps, and remained the next day. Several times during the day squads of rebels, sent in search of the missing prisoners, passed close by them, but happily without discovering their places of concealment. At dark they started again on their journey, crossing the Chickahominy on a fallen tree, and, as good luck would have it, encountering no pickets. They got into a terrible thicket, and this night accomplished only five miles. They lay in this thicket all the second day, and the frequent firing of guns about them materially dissipated whatever of poetical enjoyment they might otherwise have derived from their wilderness lodge. Thus far they had slept but little in the day; but nevertheless, on the third night they made another start, now striking for the Pamunkey river. The detours they had to make to keep themselves under cover of the woods, and swamps to traverse, made this journey slow, and daylight only found them mid-way be-

tween the Chickahominy and Pamunkey. The next day they paused in a swamp. Rebel scouts were still prowling about; but they lay low and quiet, and were not discovered. They suffered greatly from cold. Next night they reached the Pamunkey, near Piper's ferry, and some ten miles above the White House. How to get across the river—which here, although not very wide, is deep and dangerous, and the weather meantime, had reached a degree of coldness making swimming it an impossibility—was now the question and it was a difficult one to solve.

Thus far they had abstained from coming in contact with any one, white or black. They were compelled to call in contraband assistance, and in accomplishing this were four days. At length they got a negro, and the negro got a boat, and in this way they got across the river. And now good fortune smiled on them. This negro turned them over to another negro who piloted them fifteen miles down the opposite bank of the river. As a good many of the rebel soldiers, and particularly the cavalry, living in this vicinity and Gloucester county, were home on furloughs, they still had to move with exceeding caution. But the kindness of the negroes saved them from capture. They were brought down to York River, and sent across by a skiff at Bigelow's Landing. From here they went down the river, passing West Point in daylight. Here, seeing no one save negro soldiers on picket, was the first positive assurance of reaching our lines.

Rowdyish.—A Sergeant from Camp Douglas—whose name we have not learned—attracted considerable attention on Main Street last Friday, by sundry acts and maneuvers not very popular in this part of the world. The gallant volunteer drew his pistol on a civilian for simply requesting him not to break down a garden fence; on the proprietor of the Ban-nock restaurant he repeated the same operation for as little offence, and because the Captain of the Police would not promenade at the volunteer's bidding he drew his pistol a third time. He was very anxious to "blow off the top of somebody's head," but no person being exactly in want of such accommodating services, the police seized his pistol and took him under their kind care and keeping and conveyed him to the calaboose till a guard came for him from Camp. Three other "blue pants" from their anxiety to deliver their sergeant came in for a share of the calaboose at the same time.

We know no hing about the military regulations of Camp Douglas, nor yet very much of its uses of punishment; but are told that there is an excellent "sweating process" up there occasionally applied to strangers. It is not very likely that our recommendation will accomplish much, but we should think the drunken rowdies who are ever ready to draw pistols would benefit considerably by the shower bath and sand packing operations.

MUSICAL.—We are pleased to notice that the Deseret Musical Association resume their rehearsals, and that Mr. Calder relieved from a part with the Theatrical Orchestra for a season, steps out again for the advancement of music as a branch of early education. We take this occasion to draw public attention to his advertisements in to-day's paper. The high social standing of Mr. C., his integrity as a man of business, and the passionate devotion he has so long manifested for the culture of music are guarantees of reliability and capacity that purchasers of musical instruments and music will appreciate.

THE WEATHER.—The most apprehensive of drouth are certainly now satisfied with the abundance of snow and rain that has fallen during the past ten days. The mountains are well packed with snow and the fields drenched with water. The roads east and west, in many places, are literally pools of mud. Unless there is an early change to better weather, the "grief" will be found on the other side.

THE U. S. DISTRICT COURT.—This Court met in the State House of this city, on Monday at 11 A. M.; his Honor John Titus, Chief Justice, presiding; Patrick Lynch, E. q. clerk.

—We find the following curious statement in Mrs. Atkinson's "Recollections of Tartar Steppes":—"At Irkoutsk, a strange case, in connection with the prevalent passion for gambling, came under my notice. In one of the magazines of the bazaar, a lady was observed, whose history might be briefly surmised in the statement that she was lost and won at cards. Her husband had been a wealthy Siberian, but, like many of his countrymen, he was an inveterate gambler. In one night he lost every kopeck he possessed—land, house and furniture followed—and, last of all, he staked his young and beautiful wife. She was also "lost," and the victor entered calmly into possession of his winnings. It is not a little curious to hear that the pair thus curiously mated had lived together twenty years, and led a most happy and exemplary life."