

[From our Extra of the 31st Inst.]

EASTERN NEWS

BY TELEGRAPH AND PONY.

At about two o'clock this afternoon the Eastern Express arrived, bringing important dispatches from "down below," where they are exerting themselves mightily to fulfill what the Prophets have spoken concerning them, and from present appearances they will accomplish their work much sooner than has generally been anticipated by those who have been long looking for the "days of vengeance." We give the dispatches nearly entire.

WASHINGTON ITEMS.

Washington city was thrown into a state of excitement on the morning of the 25th, by the report that martial law was to be immediately declared. The authorities had not decided to take such a step.

The *Tribune's* Washington correspondence of the 25th says—there was a false alarm during the morning church service on that day. A picket guard reported the enemy advancing from Fall's Church; Gen. McDowell telegraphed to Gen. McClellan, and preparations were being made for meeting the enemy, when another telegram came explaining that the first was unfounded.

Government was considering the propriety of organizing a national detective police; New York, St. Louis, Chicago and other cities were represented in the conference. The plan is to have agents distributed through the country, forming a net work of surveillance.

The detective force in Washington had been largely increased by recruits from New York and Philadelphia.

A woman from Beauregard's headquarters was arrested while passing through the lines into Alexandria. An Irish woman searched and found some twenty letters addressed to and implicating prominent citizens in Washington and Alexandria.

All the mutineers in custody, including those of the 2d Maine, 13th and 21st New York regiments, were sent to the dry Tortugas on the 25th.

Several persons were arrested that day, among them Mrs. Greenhow, widow of the former librarian and translator at the State department. Mrs. Senator Gwin's trunk, ordered to go on to West Point by Express, was examined and plans of the fortifications at the Chain Bridge and on the other side of the Potomac, traced on paper by some clerk in the War department, were found. Dr. Manning was also arrested, and other arrests would soon be made.

It was understood that orders were sent to cause the arrest of Mrs. Gwin, then at West Point.

Mrs. Greenhow remained under guard in her own house. Political arrests are no longer to be published as the purposes of the Government are thus interfered with.

The female rebels then under arrest, were transferred on the 28th to the commodious dwelling temporarily hired for the purpose of keeping them in confinement. Several more had been arrested besides those whose names have been published.

An officer who came from Gen. Bank's column reported the Maryland side filled with refugees from Loudon county, Va., who were keeping out of the way of the rebels engaged in impressing the men and plundering the country.

A Committee from Boston had been endeavoring to persuade the President that he ought to change his constitutional advisers. It is said these gentlemen represented the sentiments of certain prominent monetary interests in Boston, who demand that the heads of the War and Navy Departments must come off, else they will not risk their capital further.—The presentation of their case created considerable feeling.

The new Treasury notes were eagerly taken for home circulation in Washington city.

A special to the *Commercial* of the 26th, says: The secessionists were greatly alarmed by the late arrests. They begin to think the matter is growing serious to them. Several persons of suspected loyalty were under the surveillance of the authorities.

Orders had been forwarded to the United States pension agents to administer the oath of allegiance to all persons drawing pensions.

Captain Foote has been ordered to command all naval forces on Western waters.

Richard Wallace was, on the 26th, elected mayor of Washington, vice Barrett.

Several soldiers, claiming to be British subjects, have been discharged from the army through the intervention of Lord Lyon.

It is declared to be useless to apply to the Secretary of War for military appointments, there are no vacancies except those that are reserved for meritorious conduct.

The *Philadelphia Press*, of the 26th, says:—"General McClellan went out several miles on Friday to review General Hooker's brigade. He returned to the city after dark. During the review a number of Secessionists were discovered in ambush and were arrested near the road between the troops and the city. It was thought their object was to assassinate Gen. McClellan.

The *Post* learns that the government has re-fund to Illinois forty per cent of the expenditures of the State in fitting out the volunteers which gives the State one million dollars

Through the agency of some traitor the plan of Gen. McClellan for making a reconnaissance in force of infantry, cavalry and artillery, which might have resulted in cutting off the rebels from this side of Fairfax was betrayed to the enemy, hence their sudden stampede.

A Brigadier General's commission has been issued to Daniel E. Sickles.

Amos Kendall and family had abandoned their home near Washington, and removed to Trenton, New Jersey.

It was reported that the English and French fleets on our coast are intended for service at Vera Cruz, intervention in Mexican affairs being the probable design of those Governments.

Captain Keys of the District militia was arrested on the 27th at the Chain Bridge, and put in jail. An alarm was occasioned at the Chain Bridge over the Potomac on the 26th, by a report that the enemy were advancing, but no enemy appeared.

Secretary Seward left the city on the 27th for New York, whither he went to arrange a new passport system.

The Navy Department was satisfied with the abundant proofs which Commander Porter had presented in refutation of the charge against his loyalty. His own affidavit shows the alleged secret letter to his son to be a forgery.

The Secretary of the Treasury has issued a circular of instruction to collectors and other officers of the customs, calling their attention to the act of Congress further to provide for the collection of duties on imports and other purposes, approved on the 13th of July, and to the proclamation of the President of the United States of the 16th of August, made in pursuance thereof, both of which are annexed. In view of this act and proclamation the Secretary directs and instructs the officers of the Customs to use all vigilance in preventing intercourse with the inhabitants of States in insurrection, excepting in the special cases in which it may be allowed by license or permit, as therein set forth.

The instructions of the 2d of May and 12th of July, heretofore in force will be regarded as superseded by the more comprehensive provisions of the act and proclamation. The collectors and other officers of the customs will report all seizures under the proclamation to the proper district attorneys for such proceedings as the law and facts may justify in each case; and as frequently afterwards as may be convenient report their view in relation to the commercial intercourse contemplated, and the permits proper to be granted or withheld in the forms accompanying the weekly returns required by the circulars of the 5th of August last to be made to the Treasury Department. Collectors and other officers of the customs will be careful to state what permits are asked for the shipment of goods, by whom asked, and the grounds on which the applications are based.

Two ladies from Norfolk say the rebels have lately assembled in large force near Sewall's Point anticipating an attack from Old Point.

The Secretary of War had ordered the stoppage of all telegraphic dispatches for points south of Kentucky.

General McClellan went over the Potomac on the 28th to visit the camp and inspect the troops. Mr. Russell, of the *London Times*, was invited to attend him. No other correspondent was favored with a pass.

The statement that news had been received, indicating a certain and speedy recognition of the Confederate States, is said to be unfounded. On the contrary the indications are that all the European Governments intend to continue to respect the blockade, and to wait the result of the contest.

A messenger from the Virginia side on the morning of the 29th states that the picket forces advanced to Bailey's cross roads on the 28th, and drove the secession pickets a mile and a half. It is said the latter had taken possession of a commanding eminence and were throwing up entrenchments. There was much firing during the day, but without fatal results. It is reported that a dash of secession cavalry was made at what was supposed to be a deserted cannon. After about twelve rounds had been fired at it from howitzers on a near approach, however, they discovered it to be a sham.

It is authoritatively announced that old postage stamps are good where the new ones are not on sale.

Mr. Eastman, of Chicago, an old anti-slavery man has been appointed consul to Bristol.

A circular letter was recently sent from the office of the Auditor of the Treasury for the post office department, to proper persons, near the residences of certain mail contractors in the States of Kentucky, Missouri and Maryland, for the purpose of ascertaining whether those contractors are faithful and loyal to the Union and to guard against any improper use of their facilities for secession purposes. Much valuable information was received from this inquiry.

It turns out the firing on the flag of truce from Crany Island, some weeks ago, was entirely unauthorized by General Hager. On hearing of the outrage he sent an apology to Commodore Stringham.

For the future no clearances of goods will be allowed for Matamoros in Mexico. The above is by order of the Secretary of War.

A special to the *New York Evening Post* says, the *Washington Republican* of that morning expressed opinion that a battle across the Potomac cannot be avoided many days longer.

Mr. Russell of the *London Times* had returned from his expedition among the camps, and reports our troops are wonderfully improved within the past fortnight.

It is thought Eliza Burritt will receive the

appointment as consul to New Castle, England.

Considerable alarm was occasioned in Washington by accounts of the skirmishing on the 28th, but a quiet note followed. There were strong indications, however, of an attack from the rebels within a very short time. The enemy were in full possession of Bailey's cross roads and were bringing up their baggage from Springfield a distance of four miles.

It is extremely difficult to obtain reliable intelligence respecting the result of the picket encounter, but there seems to be truth in the report that several Federal troops were killed and others wounded along the lines.

The War Department has issued the following:—

"By the 57th article of the act of Congress, entitled 'An act for establishing rules and articles for the government of the United States,' approved April 10th, 1806, holding correspondence with or giving aid to the enemy, either directly or indirectly, is made punishable by death or such other punishment as shall be ordered by the sentence of a court martial. The public safety requires the strict enforcement of this article. It is therefore ordered that all correspondence or communication in any way respecting the operations of the army or military movements on land or water, or respecting the troops, camps, arsenals, entrenchments, or military affairs within the several military districts, by which intelligence shall be directly or indirectly given to the enemy without the authority or sanction of the general commanding, be and the same are absolutely prohibited and, from and after the date of this order, persons violating the same will be proceeded against under the fifty-seventh article of this act. Another article provides that the commissioned officers of all the volunteers and military organizations, no matter whether established under the authority of a State or the United States, will be regarded as having been commissioned on the day when mustered into the service of the United States, and will take rank in their respective grades and will be entitled to pay and be obeyed and respected in their several positions from that day. Hereafter no minors will be mustered into the service of the United States without the consent of their parents or guardians."

The Post Office department, having authentic information that the mails have been repeatedly violated and cannot be carried in that part of Kentucky named herein, it is ordered that the post offices at Hickman, Columbus and Paducah, Kentucky, and all other post offices and post routes in Kentucky west of the Tennessee river, be discontinued, except as follows: Route number 9552 from Russellville via Cadiz and Marysville is discontinued as far as Melborn, and all post offices on that route, except Aurora, are discontinued. Also route 9694 from Eddyville to Olive; and the post offices there are to be discontinued.

All volunteers in the service, who have been taken prisoners by the rebels and released on parole, are to be discharged.

NEW YORK ITEMS.

The *Post* says a large quantity of provisions, including 9000 barrels of flour, went last week to Curacao and St. Thomas, and hints that they have gone to ports of the seceded States.

The New York, Poughkeepsie, Albany, Troy, Utica, Syracuse, Rochester, and Buffalo offices on the New York, Albany and Buffalo telegraph line are kept open night and day for the transaction of business, with the exception of the Sabbath. On Sunday night dispatches can be forwarded to and from the offices above mentioned after 10 p.m.

The proprietors of the *New York Daily News* fearing an attack on their establishment on the 26th, applied to the police superintendent for protection. A force of four hundred police was held in reserve at the lower stations, but their services were not called into requisition.

It was understood that forty men, armed with revolvers, were retained by the *News'* proprietors to meet an emergency.

At an early hour on the morning of the 26th, a force of deputy marshals was sent to the office of the American Express Company, in New York, where it was understood a large edition of disloyal papers had been lodged for transmission by express. The officers seized six packages of the *Daily News*. The publishers of the *News* finding themselves excluded from the post office, Adams' Express, and Ross and Toucey's agencies endeavored to employ the American Express Company, which they supposed was not watched.

At Albany on the 28th, Deputy United States Marshal Burt seized a package containing eleven hundred copies of the *New York Daily News*, which he was notified was in the American Express office in that city. They were brought there by Spears' Newspaper Express, and transferred to the Express Company.

Samuel J. Anderson, a person well known among sporting men, was arrested on the 27th, at New York, on suspicion of being in correspondence with the rebels. He was lately Deputy sheriff, and was once in the Custom House, and for some time acted as clerk in the House of Representatives in Washington. It is said that most of his appointments were obtained through the influence of A. H. Stevens, Vice-President of the Confederate government; and that he has constantly been in correspondence with him since the commencement of the Southern rebellion. J. A. Macnam, a well known slave dealer, was also arrested and held to bail.

According to the confession of Anderson he had for months past contributed editorial articles for the *New York Day Book* and *Journal of Commerce*. An intercepted letter from Washington advised him to go South via

Kentucky as a passport would not be obtained from the government. He states that Ben. Wood and Isaac Rynders have communicated with the South as extensively as he has done. His correspondence gives a good deal of important political information besides implicating parties well known in that State.

The brig Grace Worthington, Captain Trethy, from Balize Honduras, Aug. 8th, reports that on her passage out she was boarded by a full rigged brig calling herself a privateer and belonging to the Southern Confederacy. After examining her papers the Grace Worthington was allowed to proceed.

Mr. Patrick, a Wall Street broker was arrested on the 28th and sent to Fort Lafayette.

Negotiations are on foot to change the ownership of the *Journal of Commerce*. The present editor, Hallack, to withdraw.

The *Herald*, of the 28th, says, notwithstanding the apparent quietness on the part of the U.S. authorities in that city, in relation to the suppression of the secession newspapers, it is not true that they are not doing anything in the matter. That morning every mail and express train which left carried with it a detective officer whose duty it was to search all packages and suspected baggage, with a view to ascertain if there were any secession papers on the train, and, if so, to seize them; and if any such journals should be found in the possession of any person, to bring him back to the city. Also as soon as the District attorney, Mr. Smith, returned to the city, measures would be taken to suppress the publication of papers which administered aid and comfort to the Confederates.

VIRGINIA ITEMS.

On Sunday, the 25th, a N. Y. regiment, Col. Kerrigan, encamped near Bailey's road was ordered to occupy a position on a hill to the left of their camp. They had no sooner done so than the enemy, who had a battery within range, fired fifteen shells into the new camp causing them to take a new position. It was subsequently ascertained the rebel battery consisted of nine guns of large and improved calibre, and could reach the fortifications on the union side.

A skirmish occurred between some fifty pickets of the N. Y. 37th and 2d Mich. and a party of rebels on the 26th. A private of the 37th was killed and two of the rebels, one at least wounded.

Mrs. Faulkner was at her husband's house, near Harper's Ferry, before his arrest and made profuse offers of hospitality to General Banks' officers, and soon after suddenly disappeared.

Notwithstanding the statement that the rebels had retreated from before the union lines on the south of the Potomac on the Virginia side, it was believed that the contrary was the fact.

It was reported that the rebels at Leesburg, where their forces were estimated at thirteen thousand, had taken two of the engines from the London and Hampshire railroad to be used on that line.

A flag of truce arrived at Fortress Monroe from Norfolk on the morning of the 26th, with three ladies and a number of prisoners captured by the Confederate privateers. As the object of sending the flag of truce at that time was deemed rather inquisitive, Gen. Wool decided to detain the flag until the next day. It was considered high time by some that an end was put to the constant intrusion of the enemy to obtain information. Whenever they think an important movement is on foot they are sure to be on hand with a flag of truce.

On the 27th another flag of truce came from Norfolk to inquire after that which came on the 26th and was detained until four o'clock p.m. This flag of truce brought Capt. Hussy and crew of the ship C. B. Thompson, of Maine, captured May 18th off Savannah Bar and taken into Beaufort, N. C., by the privateer Lady Davis.

The *Memphis Appeal's* Richmond correspondent says, there was much sickness among the Confederate troops at Manassas; that the water was full of Virginia red mud, and that ice was extremely scarce at ten cents per pound.

The steamer Jamestown—by rebel baptism—Patrick Henry, is said to have run the blockade at Fortress Monroe and gone to sea on the night of the 18th. She is fast and must prove dangerous.

A special to the *New York Post* of the 28th says the enemy's force is concentrating in large numbers a short distance from the Chain Bridge, on the Virginia side of the Potomac between the Chain Bridge and Leesburg.

Advices from the Kanawha state that Col. Tyler's forces were surrounded and badly defeated by the rebels, under Floyd, on the morning of the 26th, near Summerville.

The battle of Cross Lanes, near Summerville, on the 26th inst., proved to be a bloody affair. The following are all the particulars learned: The 7th Ohio regiment, Col. Tyler, was surrounded while at breakfast and attacked on both flanks and in front simultaneously. His men immediately formed for battle and fought bravely, while they saw but little chance of success; the enemy being too powerful. Col. Tyler sent back to the baggage train, which was coming up 13 miles distant, and had it turned back towards Gauley, which point it reached in safety. Companies B. C. and I. suffered most severely. They particularly were in the hottest of the fight and stood up to it bravely and fought their way through against fearful odds, making dreadful slaughter in the enemy's ranks. The rebel force consisted of three thousand infantry, four hundred cavalry and ten guns. The Federal forces scattered after they had cut their way through, but soon formed again and fired but received no reply on pursuit of the enemy. The union loss could not be definitely ascertained, although two hundred were missing out