

EXETER NEWS-LETTER.

XXXVII. CONGRESS. --- Extra Session.

NEWS-LETTER.

EXETER, MONDAY EVE., AUG. 6, 1861.

FRIDAY, July 26.

SENATE. Mr. Kennedy presented a memorial from the Mayor and citizens of Baltimore, complaining of the usurpations of the military forces in that city...

HOUSE. The House, after some discussion about the time of final adjournment, went into committee of the whole on the direct tax bill.

SENATE. A petition from the city of Washington to close all rum shops was referred to the District Committee.

HOUSE. The Senate bill appropriating two millions of dollars for arms for the loyal men in the rebellious States passed.

SENATE. The bill increasing the Medical Corps was passed. The bill for suppressing the sale of intoxicating liquors in the District of Columbia...

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TOPICS OF THE PAST WEEK. There has been much said respecting the great battle at Manassas Junction. It appears that our troops were not able to compete successfully with so large and well fortified a force as they met at this place.

Our government is preparing an effective blockade of the Southern coast, and more vessels are left preparing for active service.

The force of General Beauregard at Bull's Run, is reported to have been 27,000 and increased by Gen. Johnston 8,000 the day before the battle, and 5,000 during the time of the battle.

The talk at Manassas and Richmond is said to be of concentrating a strong force on the lower Potomac, and making a descent into Maryland.

The Southern accounts of the late battle indicate that the result was trembling in the balance for hours and that it was only by the most determined charges of the Southern cavalry and infantry that the Federal troops were driven back.

THE ARMY WORM.—This destructive animal has appeared in Exeter. It was first seen, we believe, last Tuesday, on the east side of the river, and doing considerable damage.

The Arlington House is a very large, old fashioned rectangular structure with eight or ten high pillars in front. It commands on the east a most magnificent view of the Potomac, city of Washington and hills and valleys of Maryland.

Some five or six miles out we met a secessionist in a carriage, who gave us a fearful account of the ravages committed by the rebels, and advised us to get back; but perceiving his malice and his motive, we pursued our way, and soon met with this little incident, which in any other place, would hardly arrest attention.

My Dear Sir.—It may be gratifying to you to learn something of your townsman, Col. Marston, and to hear of his heroic conduct at the terrible battle in the vicinity of Bull's run on Sunday last.

Col. Marston's regiment belonged to Col. Burnside's Brigade, and with the two Rhode Island regiments and the N. Y. 71st, went early into the action. Soon after the commencement of the action, Col. Marston, being then on foot, as most officers were on account of the rugged ground, was struck by a common musket ball, in the out side of the right arm, about two inches below the point of the shoulder.

Some one said, "we hope you will not lose your arm." Col. Marston said, "I had rather lose both, than this regiment should run, or be whipped."

He was then carried to the hospital, and his wound was cared for. He then expressed his desire to take his place at the head of his regiment.

Young Mr. Sullivan is with him, and will take good care of him. I was at the camp of his regiment yesterday, and his men were loud in their exclamations in his praise.

Our men fought admirably, and performed prodigies of valor. Had they been cared for, and led as well, the result would have been different, in my judgment. We won the field, and lost it, because the men were required to do more, and fight longer,

than it was possible for them to do. The disorder of the retreat was mainly owing to the want of discipline and experience.

For the News-Letter. THE WAR. A VISIT TO THE ARMY AT CENTERVILLE, VA. JULY 19 & 20. AND NOTES ON THE BATTLES OF BULL RUN.

It was a beautiful morning—that of Friday after the first battle of Bull Run,—and as soon as the intelligence of our conflict was received in Washington, I resolved to visit the out-posts of our grand army,—now amounting to over 50,000 men.

We pay the ferryman 50 cts., and observe the banks of the river beautifully shaded with oak and willow interspersed, and decorated with wild roses and the clambering "Traveller's Delight."

The heights above the shore are lined with the tents of the soldiers as far down as Alexandria, and now left empty by the grand forward movement of the army. On ascending the hill opposite, we came to the fort recently constructed by the brave New York 69th Regiment and named appropriately from their Colonel, Fort Corcoran.

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between the smile of a Union man and a "secesh," in this region—made all right again, and opened the door for us. Our pickets are compelled to fire at once in self-defence, unless the countersign be given.

Not deeming it quite safe to sleep in a secessionist tavern, where the people are kept down only by the bayonet, we went on to the beautiful "cannon" occupied by the Michigan 4th around the Court House, and laid down with the soldiers upon the green grass with a soldier's blanket over us; and there, while the moonbeams were stealing through the foliage of the huge oaks that spread their branches for a canopy, we united with the regiment in singing, as we lay upon our backs, the stirring notes of the "Star Spangled Banner."

"White, Red and Blue." "My Country, 'tis of Thee," and other national songs. We sung them with a will; and never did music sound sweeter to my ears, or with a more profound feeling the secret chords of my soul.

The soldiers sunk into the arms of morpheus around me; but the occasional crack of a rifle from some distant picket, and the novelty of the scene, kept me awake till morning broke. A shower fell in the night; but so weary were the soldiers, that it did not seem to break their slumbers.

On entering the Court House in the morning, said to be the place where Patrick Henry made his celebrated speech in favor of American liberty, we found its walls covered over with caricatures of the President, made by Gen. Bonham's officers, who had their headquarters here.

It was a matter of some pride to me to learn that the beautiful flag presented to the N. H. 2nd Regiment at New York, was the first to float over this Court House after the costly secession sheet had been torn down.

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ering to ground—equal to the ice and snow of Egypt.

Princess Louis (son of Jerome by his Spanish wife) who married the daughter of the Duke of Sardinia, has arrived in the U. States. They do no less than make a call on the once honored Miss Patterson at Baltimore, whose son has been attending upon his mother's sick in the city.

A Fighting Catholic Bishop. Bishop Hopkins, of Louisiana, has accepted the appointment of Brigadier General in the Confederate army. He is full of Southern fire. The President should be taken and hanged, the Confederacy would be a poor protection.

The delegates to the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church, assembled at Baltimore, definitely agreed upon a platform of "non-resistance from the North." Bishop Hopkins is most protested.

Within a few days, our army will be formidable, with efficient commanders. The pursuit (not like that at Waterloo) was continued but two or three miles, is good evidence of the fact. Indeed the battle had been won against all odds when the panic ruined all. But passes all place in armies of regular soldiers. The army has extended much, had the rebels been driven instead of three miles off.

Washington, July 27. Mrs. Hinsdale's husband is a member of the second Michigan Regiment now on the Virginia side of the Potomac. She returned here from Manassas Junction on the 24th of the month, and waited there for her husband, who had been captured by the rebels, and was a prisoner in the hands of the Confederates.

The enemy say they have a prisoner of our men; she brings her messages from the rebels to their friends, and says that the rebels rendered all the prisoners provided they will take the oath not again to take up arms against the Confederates.

The Captain of a Maine Regiment and his wife accepted the condition—the other officers of Mrs. Hinsdale says the Confederates "shall not be sent as far as they could be recovered, but that every representative of this number there are safe but that they would exceed 1500. She saw many of our dead unburied as she passed over the ground, and distinguished some of them by their uniforms. She says that the force of the enemy at Manassas was very large, and that many officers were drilling their troops, and that Gen. Beauregard is constantly on the move, going from one camp to the other arranging, as they say, some great movement. She reports that a large force of the enemy is at Fairfax with heavy guns.

Kansas City, Mo., July 29. Colonel Kearney this evening and reports that on the night of the 25th, 300 mounted rebels were discovered at a hill surrounding Harrisonville, Mo. They were attacked by Captain Williams with 50 men. The third round the enemy fled, and a foot race place. Six rebels were killed; our loss was none.

The following morning the Federal troops Major Vanhook took possession of the town, and the American flag flew over it. Subsequently he returned to this place, where reports of his progress will be detained as escort to Government troops. It is stated that the rebels around Harrisonville were nearly 1600.

New York, July 29. The Herald's Washington dispatch says—Secretary Wells has ordered powerful naval force to guard the river below Washington, so that it would be impossible for the rebels to cross it. Above it is equally secure.

The Division of Gen. Banks having been reinforced with the number of those returned home, the statement that Gen. Lee intended to cross the Rappahannock between Washington and Harper's Ferry is considered absurd, as he is considered too discreet to attempt to be caught between the divisions of General McClellan and Banks.

It is said there is to be a change in the whole organization of the army, placing each brigade and division upon a more satisfactory footing.

New York, July 31. The Tribune's special Washington dispatch says—Gen. McClellan expresses the opinion that this will be an artillery war, and asks for as many batteries as it is possible to provide. A regiment has been sent from the Potomac line of pickets along the Potomac to Harper's Ferry. Seven additional regiments have been ordered to the front. There are fresh indications of the operation of a more vigorous policy. Gen. McClellan inspires and supervises everything.

The same dispatch says we learn from reliable sources that Fort Fillmore in Texas has been reinforced by ten companies. Also, that Col. Caldwell has fitted out such an expedition against Fort Fisher, now held by the Texans, and will make his appearance certain.

The schooner Tropic Wind reports, bearing heavy fire in the direction of Fort Mifflin on the 28th.

Schooner A. E. Willard reports, on the 28th, that she saw two steamers firing at a point near the shore. A fire was started on the shore, and another coming toward them.

Washington, Aug. 1. Mrs. General Gaines returned from New Orleans. She is a strong Union woman. She considers the Southern Confederacy a failure, and says such a general feeling that the objects for which they are fighting as that now arrayed under the banner of the U. States—its stars and stripes. Nor is the result at all doubtful. The writer thinks it may end in hastening the downfall of slavery itself. So it may; but so far as this ever being an object in putting down a wicked rebellion, we now notice a military order not to harbor or employ any slaves. We are not expected to catch runaway slaves, we have something else to do. But we have constitutional obligations to regard, though disregarded by rebels in arms. If in restoring order in a rebellious State some of this property (for it has legs) is lost, that probability should have been considered before it has put at hazard by war upon the government.

Most of the three months regiments, as their times expire, are re-organizing, and many whole ones have enlisted in a body for the three years. This does not look like being disheartened at any partial reverse amongst raw troops. One of the New York regiments, in the hardest of the battle fought on the last day of their volunteer service. They have all, it is said, entered for the war.

A Zouave, one of the prisoners who escaped with a broken hand upon his wrist, says the Zouave prisoners were treated with Indian barbarity—many being plinoned to the trees, and tormented with bayonet thrusts.

Enlightened Abolitionism.—When Jefferson Davis threatened, what has since been carried into effect, making war upon private property, the N. Y. Courier and Enquirer at once said, we will return good for evil. "If you play the Corsair, we will set the part of benefactors and not leave a slave in his fetters!"

The "army worm," so called, in Taunton, New Bedford and other towns, is represented as carrying to ground—equal to the ice and snow of Egypt.

