Forces of the Mountain Department.

The forces under Gen. Fremont embrace Gen. Carter's division, near Cumberland Gap; Col. Cranor's brigade at Pikeville, in Eastern Kentucky; Gen. Cox's division (which wintered on the Kanawha,) now at Giles C. H.; seventy miles south, and within fifteen miles of the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad; Gen. Milroy's division, near Staunton; Gen. Schenck's division, advancing towards Milroy's via Moorfield; and Gen. Blenker's division, also advancing with Schenck's to the support of Milroy. Besides these, Gen. Kelly has some troops guarding the line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and other troops are employed, in detachments, against the bushwhackers, who are just beginning to thaw out. The Wheeling correspondent of the Cincinnati *Gazette*, writing on the 5th, says:

Gen. Fremont and Staff left here very quietly on Saturday morning, on the Baltimore & Ohio railroad. Their destination is understood to be New Creek, about fifteen miles this side of Cumberland. From New Creek it was expected Gen. Fremont would proceed southward to-day, toward Moorfield. It is expected that he will concentrate the Blenker Division with the forces under Milroy and Schenck, and proceed southward toward the Virginia and Tennessee railroad. The distance from New Creek to the Tennessee railroad is one hundred and fifty or two hundred miles. Milroy is at Monterey, about half way. Schenck is south of Moorfield a few miles, and the Blenker Division is expected to make a junction at Moorfield.

The difficulty in making a rapid advance is the want of transportation. Nearly all the transportation in this Department was sent to Gen. Lander's Division last winter, and is now in Banks's column. The Blenker Division was nearly destitute of transportation also. Milroy has been drawing his supplies from Grafton, Clarksburg and Cheat Mountain. The roads have been so bad that it takes fifteen days for a team to reach him with a small load. The result, therefore, has been that supplies could not reach him to enable him to make an advance. But he has been obliged to put the men on limited rations and confine their operations to scouting and pursuing guerrilla parties. Supplies for Milroy and all the other forces will hereafter go by way of New Creek and Moorfield. The road is good on that route, but the distance from the railroad is so great that it will require a very large number of teams to transport sufficient supplies for the army on the expedition. Fremont is making every effort to procure transportation, and to make thorough preparation for the campaign. But the difficulty of advancing supplies is so great that he will not, probably, be able to go further South than Moorfield for some days.

He will not probably encounter the enemy in force, until he threatens some point on the railroad, when the enemy will prepare to resist him.

The Suez Canal--As it was 2,000 Years Ago, as it is Now, and as it will be in 1865.

[From the Boston Courier.]

Those who take an interest in the Suez Canal, will hear with pleasure that the work is so far advanced that the water on the Mediterranean has probably by this time entered Lake Timsah, situated, as it is known, half way, or about forty miles between Pelusa and Suez. On the 1st of February last, the Miratime Canal had reached a point within seven miles of Timsah, and building materials of all kinds were brought from different ports of the Mediterranean through the canal as far as it reached.

A secondary canal, or, as it is called, a canal of irrigation and of fluviatic navigation, now brings the fresh water of the Nile to Lake Timsah and then diverges into two branches, one of which flows towards Pelusa and the other toward Suez, in a line parallel with the Great Maritime Canal. This little fresh water canal is intended for supplying the wants of 20,000 laborers now at work, and for irrigating the country surrounding the Isthmus.

It is well known that the Isthmus of Suez is a neck of land which separates the Mediterranean from the Red Sea. The distance from one sea to the other is thirty leagues. The Canal of Suez will thus be about eighty miles in length, 240 feet wide, 24 feet deep, a depth sufficient for vessels of 3,000 tons. It will cost about $60,000,000 and will probably be finished within three or four years from the present time.

On the route of the Suez Canal there is three lakes; the first, near the shores of the Mediterranean, is Lake Menzaleh; the second and largest is Lake Timsah, located about mid-way; and the third is the Bitter Lake, about 20 miles from Suez, near which city will be the terminus of the canal.

The navigation through the Suez Canal will shorten the voyage for ships going from ports of the Mediterranean to India 12,000 miles; for those going from the European ports of the Atlantic, 9,000 miles; from northern ports of the United States, 7,000 miles. Consequently the reduction of expenses of ships passing through this short cut will be about fifty per cent.

From the statistical reports published in 1855 in the *Annales du Commerce Exterieur*, the tonnage of the various ships navigating from ports of Europe to India was, in 1853, 2,000,000 tons. The navigation between the United States and India was 280,000 tons. Progressive increase from 1853 to 1862, 800,000 tons. Total, 3,080,000 tons.

The capital which will be spent in the construction of the canal is estimated, as we have said, at sixty millions of dollars. Vessels going through will pay at the rate of 10 francs per ton (about two dollars,) which, on 3,080,000 tons will give an annual income of nearly $6,000,000. In addition to this, the culture of 500,000 acres of land granted by the Viceroy of Egypt to the company, and the toll paid by boats on the fresh water canal, will amount to $4,000,000. Total, $10,000,000.

Thus the annual income will be ten millions of dollars, or about 16 per cent on the capital.

The importance of connecting the Mediterranean with the Red Sea is not a new idea for it was suggested 2600 years ago. Rhamses the Third, known as the Great Sesostris, was the first king of Egypt who undertook the digging of a canal for the junction of these seas, and it was commenced 750 years before Christ.

Nechoe, one of the successors of Sesostris, contributed considerably to the construction of the canal; but a prophet having predicted that, if completed, it would open Egypt to foreign invasion, the Prince ordered that the work should be at once abandoned.

After the conquest of the Persians, Darius, the son of Hystaspes, sent a large number of laborers to work on the canal, but unfortunately he died before its completion.

The invasion of the Macedonians soon followed, and Ptolemy Philadelphus, a worthy successor of Alexander, after many years of exertion, had the happiness of seeing the canal finished.

This great and useful work was accomplished 280 years before Christ. It is said that 120,000 laborers lost their lives from want of water and food, while at work on the canal.

Thus five centuries passed away from the time that Sesostris began its construction to the day of its completion. It was afterwards Canalis Ptlemeus, and, according to Pliny, was 100 condees wide, (150 feet,) 30 feet in depth and 100 miles in length. It opened at the Pelusian branch of the Nile, near Bubastus, and terminated at Assinia, on the Arabic Gulf.

It seems that the rulers of Egypt still feared the foreign invasion predicted to Nechos, as gates were placed across the canal dividing it into sections from one end to the other. These gates opened to admit one or two vessels at a time, and closed immediately behind them.

However, the great Miratime Canal, the pride and glory of Egypt, was soon to be destroyed by the despotic and barbarous Saracens. The Calef, Abou Djaffar El Mansour, having heard, a Governor of Medina, had revolted against him, determined to take that city by famine, and, in order to cut off all supplies from the rebels, he ordered the Ptolemy Canal to be filled up with sand.

The destruction of the Ptolemy Canal happened in the year 1200 after Christ.

The canal, filled with fresh water from the Nile, had the great advantage of irrigating and fertilizing all the lands of the Isthmus; and soon the once desolate and sandy desert was covered with numerous fields of corn and all kinds of agricultural produce. Large and opulent cities rose as if by magic, along the line of that great thoroughfare, and traders from every part of the world exchanged their goods with the Egyptians, as they crossed with their ships from one sea to the other.

Since that time to the year 1859, no effort had been made to reconstruct the canal, but the ruins of Bubastic, Heroopolis, Sarapseum and other great cities formerly standing on its banks, attest to its past commercial importance, and of the large industrious population of its neighborhood.

If we contrast the Ptolemy Canal, and all the unhappy circumstances attending its protracted construction, with the Suez canal now progressing, we gratefully thank the Almighty for blessing our age with the great improvements of modern civilization.

As we have said, heretofore, the ancient canal was 500 years in progress of construction, while it is expected that the modern one will be made in six years.

Through ignorance and mismanagement, 120,000 laborers lost their lives while engaged on the ancient canal, whilst with the knowledge, talent, and abundant means now at hand, no apprehension of losing human lives can be reasonably entertained.

The Ptolemy canal was destroyed, through selfish and revengeful motives, by an ignorant and tyrannical monarch, whilst the new Maritime canal, protected and patronized by Mohammed Said, the talented Viceroy who now rules Egypt, bids fair to last for ages, as a standing monument of his wise and active government; handing down to posterity his name and that of Ferdinand de Lesseps, the promoter of this great and useful enterprise.

The Church of France Against Slavery --The Bishop of Orleans Prays for the Union Cause in America.

[From the London Star, April 23.]

Mgr. Dupanloup, Bishop of Orleans, having recently addressed a letter to the clergy of his diocese condemning slavery, the *Temps* praises without restriction the sentiments of the learned prelate, and expresses satisfaction at being able to admire at the same time the eloquent language employed and the opinions expressed.

We openly acknowledge, says that journal, that the Bishop of Orleans has been happily inspired in this circumstance. While protesting that he will take no part in the lamentable quarrel which now divides the United States, Mgr. Dupanloup sums up the circumstances of it in striking terms; he then recalls the regular, equitable and pacific measures proposed and adopted to put an end to slavery, concluding in the following precise terms:

It is the first time within sixty years that the central power has adopted a decided line of conduct in the matter, and that it has engaged the entire nation in a vigorous effort against the evil. The question, therefore, without being terminated, is seriously entered on; a step has been made, a path of hope has been opened. This is an additional motive for myself, and an impervious need to pray God that He may deign to bless an enterprise the pacification of which must be ardently wished for.

Then, rising above the local question, Mgr. Dupanloup combats hand to hand the principle of slavery, and terminates by quoting that famous declaration of the Council of La Rochelle, drawn up in 1653, shortly after the emancipation of slaves in the French colonies. The Catholic Church has always deplored the severe slavery in which a multitude of men are retained, to the great detriment of their souls, and has never ceased to labor to remedy so great an evil. Without, indeed, examining too closely if that has always been the doctrine of the Catholic Church, we applaud the "ardent vows" formed by Mgr. Dupanloup, "that this severe slavery should at length cease on the entire surface of the Christian world."

A Richmond Opinion of McClellan's Parallels at Yorktown.

[From the Richmond Enquirer, April 30.]

The probability of a battle at Yorktown diminishes. McClellan came there to vanquish our army, it was said, but betook himself at once, and diligently, to the construction of defenses! The two armies have placed obstacles between themselves which neither can easily pass. They are shut out from each other. McClellan has commenced the siege of Richmond 60 miles away, and is busy digging his parallels and zig-zags. At the rate of his present advance, he would by the rules of arithmetic, reach Richmond in about thirty years.

The opposing lines are now, however, pretty close, and we shall probably either have an artillery duel very soon, or Johnston will fall back and give McClellan further room for ditching and parallels. He may thus allow McClellan to dig his way, prolonging his distance from his base, and otherwise exposing him to advantages, until we get the enemy where, in case of a defeat, they could not take swift shelter in Fortress Monroe.

We should not be surprised if this shall prove to be the programme of the campaign in the peninsula. McClellan is working upon "science," and will not leave cover, or fight except at an advantage to himself. Gunboats, long-range cannon, ditches, and breastworks are the substance of him, who, surely by contrast, is called Napoleon. Imagine Napoleon three weeks in the peninsula, on a tour of conquest, and his enemy before him, and no fight!

More Work for Pro-Slavery Jurists.

[New York Evening Post.]

The country is menaced with more slavery litigation of the Dred Scott order in the United States Supreme Court. It is said that Reverdy Johnson has given it as his opinion that the District of Columbia abolition act is defective in some particulars, such as in the mode of assessing the value of the slaves liberated, in the character of the testimony to be admitted, in excluding parties from the benefits of the act because of their disloyalty, and in one or two other minor details; but I learn that that Mr. Johnson considers the ordinary and supreme power of Congress to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia. It is assumed that the questions thus raised may be thrown into the courts, and that we are to have another Dred Scott affair, but as yet it is not known what the masters intend to do in the matter. They claim that the act might have been made more palatable to them, of which there can be no doubt; but as Congress decided to frame it as it stands, and as there are as good lawyers in that body as out of it, it is not to be presumed that they did not take care to make the law hold water.

At all events, none of the objections said to be taken by the distinguished barrister above named go to the pith and marrow of the act, and no court in Christendom, not even the United States Supreme Court, the citadel of slavery, can recall the boon granted to the subjects of the statute. They are free forever, and the District of Columbia is forever free.

Ohioans at Pittsburg Vindicated!

Gov. Tod of Ohio communicates a Special Message with a report of Lieutenant Governor Stanton, giving the result of his recent trip to Pittsburg Landing, with the steamer Glendale, for the relief of the sick and wounded soldiers of Ohio. One portion of Mr. Stanton's report deserves circulation in justice to the Ohio regiments whose conduct in the Pittsburg battle has been severely commented upon. He says:

At the risk of being charged with impertinence, I must be permitted to give my opinion of the part which the Ohio troops played in the late battle at Pittsburgh Landing. I have spent two days upon the battle ground, in constant intercourse with officers and men of all grades and ranks, from Major-Generals commanding divisions, to privates in the ranks, and have availed myself of these facilities to the utmost of my power, to procure such information as would enable me to form a correct judgment in the premises. And I have no hesitation in declaring it to be my settled and deliberate conviction, that the Ohio volunteers have been basely slandered, and that, in truth, not a single regiment from Ohio is justly chargeable with cowardice or with any other misconduct in that battle. That the disasters of Sunday, April 6th, were the result of a surprise, which is justly chargeable upon the commanding officers, and not upon the men on whom the responsibility is now sought to be thrown. Whenever the occasion shall demand, justify or excuse a statement of the facts and circumstances upon which this opinion is based, and the names of the officers whose criminal negligence has occasioned the disaster of the day, I shall be prepared to give them. In my judgment the honor of the State, and justice to our brave volunteers, demands that a thorough examination should be had, and the responsibility thrown where it justly belongs.

Keep Your Stock off the Roads.

The Legislature of New York has passed a righteous law to prevent farm stock from running on the highways. It is designed as a substitute for the several local bills on the same subject, and, being just the thing desired, will meet with general approbation. We copy a synopsis of it from the *Rochester Evening Express*:

The bill provides that it shall be lawful for any person to seize and take possession of any cattle, horses, sheep, or swine which may be in any public highway, opposite premises owned or occupied by him, or which may be trespassing upon his premises; that he shall then give immediate notice to a Justice of the Peace or a Commissioner of Highways, who shall thereupon give notice by affixing the same in six conspicuous places, of the sale of such animal or animals at public auction. The sale shall be made in not less than fifteen, or more than thirty days thereafter, for cash; and out of the proceeds thereof the Justice shal retain the following fees and charges for his services in giving said notice and making said sale, namely: For every horse sold, $1; for every cow or calf, or other cattle, 50 cents; and for every sheep or swine, 50 cents; and shall then pay to the person who shall have seized the said animal or animals the sum following, that is to say: For every horse so seized and sold, $1; for every cow or calf, or other cattle, 50 cents; and for every sheep or swine, 25 cents; together with a reasonable compensation, to be estimated by a Justice or Commissioner, for the care and keeping of said animal or animals from the seizure thereof to the time of the sale.

The surplus money from the sale shall be paid to the owner or owners of said animals, on proof of such ownership, provided such surplus moneys shall be claimed within one year after the sale; otherwise the same shall be paid to the Supervisor of the town for the use of the town.

The owner of any animal so seized may redeem the same by paying the several sums so mentioned, together with a reasonable compensation to the person making the seizure, for the care of keeping such animal.

The final section provides that in case the animal so seized shall have been so running at large or trespassing by the willful act of any other person than the owner to effect that object, such owner shall be entitled to the possession of such animal by making the demand therefor and the proof required in the next preceding section, and paying to the person making such seizure the amount of compensation fixed by such Justice or Commissioner for the care and keeping of such animal, and without paying any other charges. And the person committing such willful act shall be liable to a penalty of $30, to be recovered in an action at law at the suit of the owner of such animal or the person making such seizure.

Hospital Stores.

For the guidance of those of our readers who desire to respond to the appeals of the Sanitary Commission we republish the following from official sources:

Shirts—made of coarse bleached cotton cloth; open in front; tied with tape, instead of buttons; wide sleeves with hem and string to gather the sleeves about the wrist, instead of wristband.

Drawers—*made lagre*, with hem and string at the top, instead of waistband. Hem and tape around the ankles to draw together.

Slippers—manufactured from pieces of carpet are needed for the convalescent. Woolen or cotton socks.

Sheets for single beds, pillows and pillow slips.

An old, worn, soft cotton or linen cloth, to be torn up and used as occasion may require.

Dried fruits, of any kind; currant jellies are used largely for acidulated drinks.

Bandages.—Care should be used in preparing bandages. They should be rolled firmly from the commencement. It is most conveniently done by two persons. The following are the sizes needed. Those 2, 2¼ and 3 inches wide will be used in much greater proportion:

1 inch wide by 1 yard long.
2 inches wide by 3 yards long.
2¼ inches wide by 3 yards long.
3 inches wide by 4 yards long.
3¼ inches wide by 5 yards long.
4 inches wide by 6 yards long.

These are the articles most needed. Persons desiring to contribute can make up a box, and mark it as follows: "Dr. J. B. Whiting, Mound City Hospital, Ill., care of Hon. Mark Skinner, President of Sanitary Commission, Chicago." Be careful, also, to mark upon the boxes, "Hospital Stores," as the Chicago Committee have an arrangement with the railroads for forwarding them. Those who cannot conveniently unite with others in making up a box, may send their packages to us, with a label containing a description of the contents and their names, and we will forward them, as above.

Loyalty and Fidelity of the Negroes.

There have been very few instances of deceptions practiced upon our commanders by escaped slaves who have come into the camps, while white men and pretended refugees have often given false information. Mr. Forney says in one of his letters to the Philadelphia *Press*:

"They (the escaped negroes) have repeatedly shown, and are repeatedly showing, how entirely they may be confided in. There is not a general officer in the Union service who will not testify that his best intelligence of the movements of the enemy, and of the topography of the seceded country, has come from the blacks. Three poor people seem everywhere to feel that it is their duty to show their gratitude to the soldiers of the Republic. A very distinguished officer, who has been stationed far beyond Mount Vernon, on the Lower Potomac in Maryland, and who, until he took the field, was an uncompromising friend of the South, and of the Southern school of leaders, gives some thrilling accounts of the fidelity and bravery of the slaves in the neighborhood of his command. He says he was never once deceived by them. 'They knew the forests around them as the seaman knows the sea.' Most of them are the slaves of rich and educated secessionists, and more than one had the blood of the white aristocracy in their veins. They would cross the Potomac at night, from the Virginia side, detail their narrative, and recross before morning; and in every instance they seemed to be fully aware that if detected their lives would be forfeited. It is stated of one of the most intelligent, that some time before, his master, whom he had served with great devotion from boyhood, had him severely horsewhipped, which was a sure preparation for a change of feeling in the latter, and he seized the first opportunity to escape. After getting into our camps, he hired himself as a body servant to Gen. ——, and soon displayed all the qualities which had made him so valuable to his owner. One dark night he was missing, and just before daybreak he was seen coming to the river side in a boat containing his wife and four children. It is well known that the intelligence of the retreat of the rebels from Manassas, so much discussed and doubted, was derived from fugitive slaves. Every item of their information was found to be correct. They came into Washington at the imminent hazard of their lives, and if, instead of being black, they had been white men, they would at once have been honored by appointments in the army. How completely such self-sacrifices and fidelity as this put to shame the sneers and falsehoods of those who know not better than that of declaring these poor outcasts not only incapable, but unworthy of their liberty!"

☞ We fully agree with the St. Louis *Republican* that there should be some fixed, uniform policy adopted by the Government respecting the disposal of contrabands. It pointedly remarks:

"While the Washington Administration seeks to obey the Constitution and faithfully execute the laws, we repeat that there should be some general policy to govern the action of all our army commanders, and particularly at this juncture, upon the subject of slaves. With one General excluding negroes from the lines altogether, another coming to them in, another dealing with negroes by arbitrary military law, and a fourth leaving them altogether to the civil authorities, who can tell in what direction the political interests of the country are drifting?"

☞ The Boston *Transcript* learns that Geo. B. Emerson, LL. D., is the gentleman nominated by the Fellows of Harvard University as successor of late President Felton. It is understood that the Hon. Robert C. Winthrop declined to have his name used in connection with the Presidency of the institution.

☞ Nations, like individuals, rarely accomplish anything without fixed principles. Old John Brown, fanatic as he was, with a score of followers and an *idea*, struck more terror into the South than the Grand Army of the Potomac!

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AT
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For Nett Cash Only.
100 Pieces Good all Wool De Laines
For Two Shillings a Yard.
50 Pieces Fine Silk and Wool Challies
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50 PIECES WIDE, HIGH LUSTRED
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SPRING STYLES PLAID SILKS
FOR THREE SHILLINGS.
EXTRA HEAVY
Double Faced Black and Colored Figured Silks
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Real French Ginghams for 1 Shilling
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In fact our store is full of bargains in all kinds of Goods.
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Of every description.
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my6-r73-3m

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