

Summer Campaign.

are the reverse of... The siege of Richmond... quick to avail themselves of the advantages gained over us in the Peninsula, the rebels, animated by a despairing and almost superhuman energy, have been pressing hard against the gates of Washington. And while our fortifications at the capital are sufficiently strong, on every side, to be impregnable to the assaults of the enemy, it is humiliating to consider that the expenditure during the past few months of thousands of patriot lives and millions of money, has resulted in nothing more than placing us again on the defensive, where, instead of making the war aggressive, we can at best only hope to hold our own.

Our files leave us in doubt as to the exact condition of affairs. The papers, as late as the 6th inst., contain no definite intelligence, but are filled with rumors of an ominous character. Sifting these reports, we are led to believe that the enemy is determined to transfer the desolations of the conflict to Northern soil. His entire force had disappeared from in front of our lines, and was supposed, at last accounts, to be concentrating upon the upper Potomac with the intention of crossing over into Maryland. Color is given to this supposition from the fact that the river is very low—some of the fords not being more than a few inches deep—and the passage is not only practicable for cavalry, but also for light artillery. The rebel army left Richmond short of supplies, and the means of communication being imperfect, it could not, without great difficulty and delay, obtain relief from that quarter. In the neighborhood of Washington the country is like a desert, and the supplies captured from Gen. Pope would afford but temporary relief. In their distressed condition they must return towards Richmond, at the risk of disheartening and disorganizing the troops, or take the fearful risk of crossing the Potomac to draw sustenance from the rich farms of Maryland. Doubtless they have chosen the alternative which—seeming to them the only chance of salvation to their cause—is quite as likely to result in their utter discomfiture. The occupation of Maryland appears to be a part of a general plan of the rebels to invade the loyal states. We do not for a moment believe that they could penetrate far beyond our borders, but there are evidences that the attempt will be made. The news reaches us that a strong rebel force is threatening Louisville, Ky., and simultaneously a force equally strong is marching upon Cincinnati. The surrender of Clarksville, Tenn., is followed by an attack upon Fort Donelson. Gen. Bragg is marching through Western Virginia, towards the Ohio river, with every chance of an uninterrupted advance.

In view of these audacious threatenings and our disastrous Summer campaign, the nation cannot but feel mortified and disgraced. We look to our Generals and ask upon whom rests the responsibility? It is singular that the confidence of the people is not utterly paralyzed; but they still seem filled with a sublime courage, and an unwavering hopefulness. Our new levies come forward with unlooked-for readiness, and we will soon have mustered a mightier host than has ever before rallied to the support of any Government. The crisis of the war appears to be at hand, and upon our Generals rests the fate of the Nation. Heaven grant that they may yet prove themselves equal to the grand emergency!

regions which one... It is not expected... Gen. Mitchel goes down as the third who has essayed to rule the Sea Island region, succeeding Gen. Hunter, who replaced Gen. Sherman. Unless there be something in the genius of the place that turns the best head, the Government has at last found a man fit for the post and the work. Gen. Mitchel is an educated soldier; but he superadds to this a practical administrative talent, that the mere soldier rarely shows. If his energetic and versatile mind fails to control the refractory elements of that region, we may well despair of finding any man fit for the task.

The appointment of Gen. Mitchel to this command, restores to active duty a soldier who should never for a day have been allowed to be out of harness; while, at the same time, it admits of the transfer of Gen. Hunter to some new and more congenial field of duty.

No one will pretend to see any political significance in the change, as both soldiers, in so far as they are politicians, think very much alike. We presume the only object of the measure was to put at the head of the Department of the South a man peculiarly fitted for the post, while the services of the relieved General can be made not less but more available elsewhere."

Gen. Stevens.

A late steamer brings intelligence of the death of this gallant officer. He fell at Chantilly, on the evening of the 2nd inst., pierced in the forehead by a Minie ball, while bravely carrying the colors of his Division, after the standard-bearer had been shot. Gen. Philip Kearney was killed in the same action. Both were dauntless, impetuous soldiers, eminently possessing those qualities of leadership which can alone win respect and confidence from newly-organized troops. They were fighting-men, by the loss of whom the nation suffers severely. With the active operations of this command, the name of Isaac Ingalls Stevens is so intimately identified that it would be superfluous to recount his recent history. Sufficient to say that he was honored and beloved by us all, as a sterling Patriot, an able General and an earnest Friend; and we mourn his death with keener grief for its occurrence when yet the bays were yielding leaves of fresher laurel for his brow. The record of his life shows a brilliant page of military and civil success. Born in Massachusetts and educated at West Point, he was graduated in time to serve with marked distinction as an engineer on the Staff of Gen. Scott, in the Mexican War. He afterwards became connected with the U. S. Coast Survey, and subsequently superintended the construction of a U. S. fortification in Maine, which still exists as a monument of his engineering skill. Next we find him surveying the overland route to Oregon and participating actively in the political affairs of that Territory, to become whose representative in Congress, he resigned his commission as Captain of Engineers. At this time he rendered valuable service to the Government by forming treaties on its behalf with the Indians of Washington and Oregon Territories, which are still in force and likely to remain many years longer as mementoes alike honorable to his judgment and humanity. Subsequently, he became Governor of Oregon Territory, and soon after this war began he was appointed Colonel of the 79th Highlanders, vacating that position in a few months for that of Brigadier General. Such is a brief outline of his public career. Among the names of the wounded in the action at Chantilly are those of Capt. Hazard Stevens, son of the General, Col. Leasure of the 100th Penn., Col. Farn-

Growling.

It is a good thing to be patient. A Job-like man is a moral hero. Nobody will gainsay that. But there is a wide diversity of human organism, and even the best of men are sometimes unable to keep calm. The past week has afforded us a striking illustration of this truth. We have had two arrivals from the North, and not only received no mail, but not even a stray newspaper. At the same time we have been fed to repletion with rumors of dire calamity and black disaster to our arms. With neither the power of verifying nor of disproving the dreary tidings, everybody has been chafing and burning under the slow fires of suspense. On Wednesday, early, the *Ericson* came from Fortress Monroe. Naturally she was supposed to bring newspapers, possibly a mail-bag. Sharp was the disappointment when it was ascertained that she brought neither. She had been dispatched to carry hence some companies of the Massachusetts cavalry, when an order forbidding their removal was issued by the War Department, as long ago as the 26th ultimo. The fermenting public mind could not be restrained longer. It effervesced in expressions of gentle oburgation upon stupid quastermasters, and overflowed in tumultuous streams of abuse against the *Ericson's* officers. Then, having exhausted its fury in allegro it subsided to pensive andante, and proposed a handsome subscription for the purser of the vessel wherewith to purchase newspapers should he come again this way. If he does not return it is stipulated that he must dole out the money to street beggars in sums of one cent, hoping that he may thereby acquire a taste for practical benevolence. Patience is a virtue, but there are cases when it is excusable to growl and this was one of that kind.

WHY DON'T WE HAVE A RAILROAD?—This question has occurred to every one, during the past week, who witnessed the mighty expenditure of negro and horse power required in the removal of heavy ordnance from the pier, through the deep sand, to the yard. Three months since the rails and cars were brought here, and then the matter rested. A railroad from the end of the pier to the storehouses and ordnance yard would afford advantages which can scarcely be over-estimated.

THE NEWS FROM THE NORTH.

Arrival of the Steamer George C. Collins.

The Government steamer *George C. Collins*, Capt. Lunt, arrived on Thursday evening from New York, bringing recruits for nearly all the regiments in this Department, and a heavy mail. From our files of New York papers we extract the following:

—Our army in Virginia was gradually massing in the immediate vicinity of Washington. The determined attacks of the rebels on our supply trains in the rear of Gen. Pope, which came near being successful on Sunday, were persisted in with such vigor, that a large force was sent to put a stop to it. A company of the second United States Cavalry, under Capt. Hight, were taken prisoners, but the object of the rebels was temporarily foiled. With a view to secure our trains beyond peradventure, our forces were, on Monday the 2nd, pushed forward from Centreville to Fairfax Court-house, Reno's Division leading, and McDowell's following. Near Fairfax Court-house, about 4 P. M. on Monday, Reno's Division met a detachment of the rebel Gen. Hill's Division, under Gen. Stewart, and a sanguinary conflict ensued. Gens. Reno and Stevens immediately formed in line of battle, but, while gallantly leading a charge, the latter was instantly killed by a Minie ball. His troops, however, drove the enemy before them. It was in this engagement that Gen. Kearney was killed. Skirmishing was kept up about three hours when the enemy were forced to retire, after a heavy loss. At another point on the same day, they were, however, fortunate enough to capture a train of a hundred of our supply wagons.

—There was much excitement in New York on the 5th in consequence of a report that the rebels