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On the 13th inst., President Lincoln was visited upon by a deputation of persons from Chicago, and urged to issue a proclamation for emancipating the slaves of the South. In reply to their arguments and requests, the President said:

"I admit that slavery is the root of the rebellion, or at least its sine qua non. The ambition of politicians may have instigated them to act, but they would have been impotent without slavery as their instrument. I will also concede that emancipation would help us in Europe; and convince them that we are incited by something more than ambition. I grant further that would help somewhat at the North, though not so much, I fear, as you and those you represent imagine. Still, some additional strength would be added in that way to the war. And then unquestionably it would weaken the rebels by drawing off their laborers which is of great importance. But I am not so sure we could do much with the blacks. If we were to arm them, I fear that in a few weeks the arms would be in the hands of the rebels; and indeed thus far we have not had arms enough to equip our white troops. I will mention another thing, though it meets only your scorn and contempt: There are fifty thousand bayonets in the Union armies from the Border Slave States. It would be a serious matter if, in consequence of a proclamation such as you desire, they should go over to the rebels. I do not think they all would—not so many in deed as a year ago, or six months ago—not so many to-day as yesterday. Every day increase their Union feeling. They are also getting their pride enlisted, and want to beat the rebels. Let me say one thing more: I think you should admit that we already have an important principle to rally and unite the people in the fact that constitutional government is at stake. This is a fundamental idea, going down about as deep as anything."

In bringing the interview to a close, after an hour of earnest and frank discussion, of which the foregoing is a specimen, Mr. Lincoln remarked: "Do not misunderstand me, because I have mentioned these objections. They indicate the difficulties that have thus far prevented my action in some such way as you desire. I have not decided against a proclamation of liberty to the slaves, but hold the matter under advisement. And I can assure you that the subject is on my mind, by day and night, more than any other. Whatever shall appear to be God's will I will do. I trust that, in the freedom with which I have canvassed your views, I have not in any respect injured your feelings."

The beautiful district of country over which the great battle of Wednesday raged, presents a melancholy picture of devastation. A number of houses were destroyed, fences scattered as if a tornado had swept them away, hundreds of acres of corn trampled down and destroyed, and wreck, ruin and desolation meet the eye at every turn.

On the 21st of last month the first railway train drawn by locomotive engines crossed the chain of the Cantabrian Pyrenees over the northern division of the Tudela and Bilbao railway, from the seaport of Bilbao to the town of Miranda, on the Ebro, in Spain.

One of the five guns captured of the Confederates by Griffin's brigade, was a 10-pound Parrott,—originally captured from Griffin's Battery at Bull Run, on the 21st of June, 1861. It was recaptured by the 4th Michigan, who have returned it to its original battery.

Dr. Hammond, Surgeon General U. S. A., has just returned from the battle field between Manassas and Bull Run. He reports that the Federals 'ave buried' three thousand Confederates left dead and unburied on the field.—He adds that there yet remain there six hundred more Confederate corpses to be thus interred.

On Tuesday, Capt. Bingham, sent from Gen. Sigel's headquarters to capture a lieutenant and fourteen men on the Leesburg turnpike, patrolled the road carefully as far as Goose Creek, without finding any trace of the Confederates or their pickets. They encamped for the night, and yesterday morning charged into and through the town of Leesburg. They examined the hospitals, &c., but found none except the sick and their attendants in and about them.

On Wednesday, two hundred and twenty-five prisoners of war and about twenty-five state prisoners were sent from the Old Capitol to the Sixth street wharf, where they went on board the steamer Swan, and started for Fortress Monroe, to be sent through the lines for exchange. Among the latter are Richard Washington, Mayor Slaughter, and the other citizens of Fredericksburg, who have been held as hostages.

General Prince and other officers recently captured from the late army of Gen. Pope, have been released by the Confederates.

Information has been received in Washington that the difficulties with the Chippewas, in Minnesota, has been adjusted, but it is feared that the troubles with the Sioux will be of long continuance.

From information received it appears that the Confederates have not left the line of the Potomac, but are engaged in operating injuriously on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad between Harper's Ferry and Cumberland, some of the most important bridges having been destroyed.

It is reported that the Confederate force in the Kanawha valley, Western Virginia, now numbers nine thousand men, under command of Generals Loring, Eckles and Williams.

Gov. Stanly, having transacted his official business, will immediately return to North Carolina. It is understood that the relations between the government and himself are entirely harmonious.

The Cincinnati Gazette says the combined Confederate forces in Kentucky are estimated as follows:—"Bragg's army 35,000, Kirby Smith 20,000, Humphrey Marshall 4,000; total, 59,000. This may be farther increased, somewhat, by raw recruits, but the combined efficient forces will not much exceed 60,000."

There is some hope now that the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal may be rendered navigable again for the fall trade. It is found that the damage done to it by the Confederate forces was not so great as had been apprehended.

The Memphis Appeal says:—"The President (Davis) having authorized the enforcement of the conscription law in Tennessee, officers are now engaged in the preparatory steps for its execution."

We gave some account yesterday of the excitement caused in England by the supposed invention of a method by which flax, hemp, and jute can be prepared to take the place of cotton. The article of 'jute' is known as East India hemp; from it gunny bags and gunny cloth are manufactured, and can it is stated be produced in almost any amount in British India.

Two companies of the Ninety-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteers, at Hilton Head, on the 12th instant, threw down their arms and refused to do any more duty. The ground of this mutiny was the fact that the regiment had not been paid for six months. The mutiny has since been quelled, and the men have asked for their arms, which have been restored to them.

Hagerstown is now the basis of supplies.—McClellan's headquarters are at Sharpsburg, from which point orderlies are continually dashing about the country conveying despatches to the different corps and divisions. The cavalry, artillery horses, &c. are suffering much at present for forage. There is very little to be had.

Gov. Curtin of Pa., has issued a proclamation discharging the volunteers under his call from the service of the state.

The Jewish festival of Rosh Hashonah, or the New Year, commenced last Wednesday at sunset, and will terminate this evening.—During the two days such Jews as strictly observe the ancient customs, abandon all secular affairs. This festival is the commencement of the series of Hebrew holidays.

Stuart's cavalry have captured a large number of boats on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal loaded with provisions.

The publicity given by the Paris journals to the case of a French officer named Lesenne, who fell in one of the recent engagements in America, had led to the discovery of his widow, who has been to the Prefecture of Police in that city, and obtained the jewels deposited there for her by the gentleman who received them from her dying husband.

We have advices from the Bahamas, dated at Nassau, N. P., on the 2d and 5th of September. The Secession shipping interest in the town was beginning to experience losses, in consequence of the vigilance of the U. S. cruisers.

Cannon have been placed at the ends of the main streets in Memphis, leading east of the city, and should an attack be made upon it, it will be reduced to ruins before it is surrendered. Preparations have been made to that effect.