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The Kent News.

PLUMMER & USILTON,..Editors.

Chestertown:
Saturday Morning, July 13, 1861.

Judge Carmichael's Petition.

The late hour at which we received this document last week prevented us from expressing but a few thoughts upon its general character. We have since then read it with deliberate care, in connection with the editorial comments upon it in the "Centreville State Rights," and now purpose taking the liberty of saying in unmistakable language just what we think of it. "It is well known" (says the editorial commentator) "that he" (Judge C.) "never in all his life, at the bar, or on the bench, or even in his petitions, was given to mince his phrases." The suggestion is gratefully received, and if we happen not to *mince our phrases* in giving scope to our thoughts, we shall but follow the example of the honorable gentleman whose "petition" we mean to handle according to its merits. The great ocean of *truth* lies before us, and upon its calm surface we launch our bark, unmindful of the spite or hate that may greet us at the termination of our voyage.

The people of Maryland have fully come to understand *their* rights and duties, and just as thoroughly comprehend Judge Carmichael and his *petition*, as he and his friends could possibly desire.—They deeply regret that the ermine has been soiled, and, that losing his temper as well as his judgment and discretion, the Judge has fallen into the bottomless pit of "*secession*." If he ever gets out, it will be with a damaged reputation for sagacity, and abundant time to reflect upon the absurdity not to say injustice of his language and conduct. Addressing the Legislature, chiefly composed of men as politically excited as himself, and quite as ready not to mince *their* phrases, it ought not to excite surprise that he permitted himself to ignore the facts, nor that he could find it reconcilable with his ideas of propriety, to insult his fellow *citizens* in the grossest terms. He and the immortal 48 who signed the petition, are undoubtedly *citizens* of Queen Anne's County, *citizens* of Maryland, and *citizens* of the United States, and they had an equally undoubted right to make their petition; but, they had *no right* to say that those *citizens* who had petitioned for an adjournment of the legislative body, only "*professed*" to be such, or had "*assumed*" anything. We signed a petition *requesting* the Legislature to go home and *stay* there, and hundreds of *citizens* did the same thing. Judge Carmichael and 48 others "*insist*" that it shall not do so, and insinuate that we are *not* citizens. The inference is, that rights were all on his side, and that "others" who had asked for an adjournment were only *assuming* to be what they were not.

The Governor of Maryland, under the pressure of an excitement inaugurated by a band of conspirators for ulterior purposes, was induced to call the Legislature together. The "*high trust*" committed to that body at the time of its election, did not embrace a solitary point involved in the present state of affairs, nor did it cover any authority or power to peril the peace of the State or the welfare of the people. But how did our legislators fulfil the trust? By honorable and dignified measures looking to the great interests involved, and the solemn obligations imposed upon them in the terrible crisis through which the nation is passing? No! but they hastily and wickedly *conspired* to subvert the Constitution of the United States and to thrust Maryland into the position now occupied by Virginia. They *endeavored* to ruin our people, to place the State in an attitude of open hostility to the national government, and then to rule in the —— of their own creation. This is what they *tried* to do, but thanks be to God they failed. The people saw the danger in time, and gave warning of *their* wrath, if legislative folly presumed too much. If Maryland is "debased and oppressed" at this time, *traitors* in and out of the Legislature have done it, and the curse be theirs. Judge Carmichael and 48 others have done all they could to chain Maryland to the car of S. Carolina, and to bring upon the people the consequences of a rebellion against the Federal Government.

By Executive proclamation the General Assembly met at Frederick instead of at Annapolis. The Baltimore riot of the 19th of April had created the *necessity* for sending troops around the city in their progress to Washington, instead of through it. Annapolis was thus unavoidably filled with armed men, *loyal citizens* of the U. States, and entitled by the Constitution to "all the privileges and immunities" of citizens of Maryland. They *were* friends, and it would not have been unsafe for the Legislature to have met at Annapolis.—Why then did they not meet there? Because "artful and designing men" willed it otherwise, and the Governor assented to *their* persuasions. The *riot* was in the programme of the conspirators in Baltimore, and *by that means* was the Executive deceived into the false move of convening the General Assembly. He called the Legislature together under the counsel of others, and every day has but demonstrated the proceeding to have been unwise.

But, the "armed force"—"the strangers to the State," have we are told been "daily committing acts of atrocious outrage." Among these atrocities are the suspension of the *habeas corpus*, and depriving the people of their arms, thus jeoparding "the security of a free State."—We are quite as well aware as Judge Carmichael that the writ of *habeas corpus ad subjiciendum* is justly regarded as the great bulwark of personal liberty. But, it is obvious to every reflecting mind that we are living in *perilous* times, and surrounded by *extraordinary* circumstances, consequently *cases of a peculiar emergency may arise, justifying, and even requiring, the temporary suspension of any right to the writ.* Does not Judge Carmichael *know* this, and does he not also *know* that the *right* of the people to bear arms is never molested, unless held for a purpose hostile to the Government of the United States or of the State? Suppose a company or a regiment organized in Kent county at this moment, and unlawfully armed for the purpose of violently dispersing the Legislature when it next assembles? Shall they be disarmed *by authority* in due season, or must they be permitted to retain their arms, and consummate their design? Will Judge Carmichael answer? If disarmed, is it oppression and outrage? The learned Judge doubtless remembers the fable of the bull and the ox—let him apply the principle and the moral.

If any especial proof were required that when Judge Carmichael wrote his petition he was in a hallucination, it is readily fonud in the *term* he uses to designate the volunteer soldiers who so promptly and patriotically responded to the call of the Government. His words are—"*They who ask your honorable bodies*" (the Legislature) "*to adjourn, are the confederates of the Governor and these* OUTLAWS." There is no *mincing* of phrases in this sentence certainly, but it contains two *outrageous* misstatements. One is, that we and our fellow-citizens who petitioned for a *sine die* adjournment, are the confederates of anybody; the other is, that the soldiers are "*outlaws*." The word outlaw means "one excluded from the benefit, aid, or protection of the law; a robber, a bandit." "It imports the forfeiture of property and loss of civil rights." As the word neither does nor can apply to those for whose benefit our learned Judge selected it, we must conclude that he did not comprehend fully the import of the abusive language which he used.

"The undersigned are citizens of the State of Maryland, who hold as their highest obligation, their allegiance to the State." Again: "They are fully conscious of the *obligations* which their relation to the Government of the U. States imposes." Here are two sentences brim full of fallacy. The supremacy of *State* allegiance is an utter fiction. As citizens of Maryland and necessarily of the United States, every man's *highest* allegiance is due to that *power* and *authority* which the Constitution declares to be the "supreme law of the land." The Constitution and *laws* of every State are null and void if in conflict with the Constitution of the United States, and "the Judges in every State" are *bound* by the latter. Having a national Government, *that* ought, to the extent of its powers and rights to be supreme, for otherwise it would be a perfect solecism. The man who tells us he is conscious of the obligations imposed upon him by the Constitution of the United States, and then informs us that he holds a *higher* allegiance to the State, is simply asserting a contrivance of his own brain to release himself from those obligations. Judge Carmichael does not "recognize any powers" in the Federal Government but such as were delegated, &c., "and are expressed." But those very *powers* gave it supremacy, and him a *nationality*. The United States became his country, and their flag his protector and shield throughout the world. He can perceive nothing *outrageous* and *criminal* in the efforts of a band of traitors to overthrow the Government and the Union; but when that Government, (the best the world ever saw,) after a long forbearance with treason, determines to protect and defend itself from destruction, it instantly becomes "*usurpation*," and the *loyal* people of Maryland are called *traitors*.

We can tell Judge Carmichael and his co-operators in the Legislature and elsewhere, that it is not within the scope of *their* authority or power to bring the State to the heresy of "secession," or to induce the people to be their own destroyers.—The rottenness as well as the fatality of that proceeding has been abundantly demonstrated. The people have discovered the black spot in the accursed thing, and have fully resolved to place no further confidence in the present Legislature.—The popular will has been recently and significantly expressed. We agree that "the end must come," and care not how soon the advent may be. It does "belong to the people" to redress their own grievances, and they will do it most effectually in consigning to political death and infamy the men who have deceived them, and who are at heart a set of conspirators.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

This paper has been variously received, the Republican press lauding it, and the Rebel press denouncing it, of course.—There are some things in the message out of place, whilst there is much to commend. We believe Mr. Lincoln, in the main, desires to be patriotic, but he has in his party such beasts as Greely, Lovejoy, Hickman, Thad. Stevens and others, which excite the distrust of all true men, and make them look with caution on his acts and proceedings. We have as little faith in Greely & Co. as we have in Jeff. Davis and his band of traitors, and view them as equally responsible for the present condition of things, and have always thought that if an equal number of these abolition brutes and disunion rebels had been put upon a common gallows six months ago and hung, this country would now be united and prosperous.

The document is devoted mainly to a recapitulation of events in the history of the secession movement and the doings of the Administration consequent thereupon; the right of suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus* in certain cases; and the relations of the State and Federal Governments to each other. The most important and practical points of the message are the recommendations to Congress to place at the control of the Government the men and means necessary for the successful prosecution and speedy termination of the war, and the course of the Government towards the Southern States after the rebellion shall have been suppressed. The following are the portions of the message bearing upon these subjects:

It is now recommended that you give the legal means for making this contest a short and a decisive one; that you place at the control of the Government, for the work, at least four hundred thousand men and four hundred millions of dollars. That number of men is about one-tenth of those of proper ages within the region where apparently all are willing to engage, and the sum is less than a twenty-third part of the money value owned by the men who seem ready to devote the whole.

A debt of six hundred millions of dollars now is a less sum, per head, than was the debt of the Revolution when we came out of that struggle; and the money value in the country now bears even a greater proportion to what it was then than does the population. Surely each man has as strong a motive now to preserve our liberties as each had then to establish them.

A right result at this time will be worth more to the world than ten times the men and ten times the money. The evidence reaching us from the country leaves no doubt that the material for the work is abundant, and that it needs only the hand of legislation to give it legal sanction, and the hand of the Executive to give it practical shape and efficiency. One of the greatest perplexities of the Government is to avoid receiving troops faster than it can provide for them. In a word, the people will save their Government if the Government itself will do its part only indifferently well.

Lest there be some uneasiness in the minds of candid men as to what is to be the course of the Government toward the Southern States after the rebellion shall have been suppressed, the Executive deems it proper to say *it will be his purpose then as ever to be guided by the Constitution and the laws;* and that he probably will have no different understanding of the powers and duties of the Federal Government relatively to the rights of the States and the people under the Constitution, than that expressed in the Inaugural Address.

He desires to preserve the Government, that it may be administered for all as it was administered by the men who made it. Loyal citizens everywhere have the right to claim this of their Government, and the Government has no right to withhold or neglect it. It is not perceived that in giving it there is any coercion, any conquest or any subjugation, in any just sense of those terms.

The Constitution provides, and all the State have accepted the provision, that the United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican form of Government. But if a State may lawfully go out of the Union, having done so it may also discard the Republican form of Government, so that to prevent its going out is an indispensable means to the end of maintaining the guarantee mentioned; and when an end is lawful and obligatory, the indispensable means to it are also lawful and obligatory.

It was with the deepest regret that the Executive found the duty of employing the war power in defence of the Government forced upon him. He could but perform this duty or surrender the existence of the Government.

THE STEAMER CHESTER, Capt. Young, was seized at her wharf in Baltimore, on Tuesday morning last, by Marshal Kenly for an expedition down the Potomac, in search of the balance of the St. Nicholas pirates. Capt. Thomas, alias the "French Lady," with seven or eight of his companions, were captured the evening before, on their way to Baltimore, and the others were reported to be off the mouth of the Potomac awaiting their return. Two companies of troops from Fort McHenry, and two 24-pounders were placed on board the Chester, and at 7 o'clock she proceded on her expedition. She returned at a late hour on Tuesday night, unsuccessful, having went six miles up the Patuxent river to Millstone landing, and ascertained that the pirates, on board of a schooner, had been there in the morning, numbering thirty men well armed. The above will account for the failure of the Chester to make her trip here on Tuesday last.

UNION HOME GUARDS.

The formation of secession companies throughout our State, has naturally induced the organization of Union Home Guards. We regret that the disunionists have initiated such steps, as we believe it totally unnecessary for our citizens to be armed, and it were better that neither side should have so organized. Still, if the disunionists arm, every one will see the propriety of the Union Home Guards organizing also; and hence we find the Union men moving. By the following from the New York Herald, we learn what is doing in Baltimore:

"The Union men of Baltimore have organized in each ward of the city companies, sworn to be loyal to the Union and the government, as a Home Guard. They are anxious to be furnished with arms and equipments, in order that they may be able to protect themselves against the disunionists in case it should at any moment be necessary to remove from the neighborhood the Union forces, which alone keep the rebel sympathisers there in check, and prevent the repetition of the outrages of the 19th of April."

Mr. Madison on State Sovereignty.

IN the debates in the Philadelphia Convention on the 29th of June, 1787, Mr. Madison used the following significant language:

"Some contend that the States are sovereign, when in fact they are only political societies. There is a gradation of power in all societies from the lowest corporation to the highest sovereign. The States never possessed the essential rights of sovereignty. These were always vested in Congress. Their voting as States in Congress is no evidence of sovereignty. The State of Maryland voted by counties; did this make the counties sovereign?—The States at present are only great corporations, having the power of making by-laws, and these are effectual, only if they are not contradictory to the General Confederation."

"The States ought to be placed under the *control* of the General Government."

The above authority is quite sufficient to settle the question of "State Sovereignty," about which so much has been said and written. Mr. Madison also said in the same debate, that all ought to be convinced "of the necessity for a strong, energetic Government, to give energy to and protect the State Governments." (See Yates's Min. of the Federal Convention.)

VANDALISM.—The State of Maryland is deeply interested in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad State Bonds have been given to near $10,000,000 to aid the construction of these works, and upon these bonds we are paying our annual State tax. The Virginia troops, without even the pretext of "military necessity," have wilfully destroyed portions of these works to the extent of several millions of dollars, and yet our Legislature have not said one word in condemnation of these infamous proceedings. Virginia did it, and Virginia being a seceded State, it was, in the view of our Legislature, all right. Maryland may be kicked and cuffed with impunity, provided secessionists do it.

A SUGGESTION.—It will be remembered that when the "French *lady*" and *his* band of pirates seized the St. Nicholas, the ladies on board, who became greatly frightened, were assured that they were in the hands of "*high-toned* Southern gentlemen" and that there was no cause of alarm.—Since the arrest of the "lady," the question has been mooted whether a "high-toned *gentleman*" would shut himself up for an hour in a *bureau drawer* for the purpose of evading the consequences of his conduct. We suggest to Jeff. Davis the propriety of appointing a *bureau-guard* (Beauregard) for the protection of his "*brilliant exploiters*" on the Chesapeake!

LEGISLATIVE JOKE.—In the course of some proceedings of the Legislature, one of the resolutions offered spoke of Maryland "*trusting to the honor of Virginia*," and this in view of the vandalism of that State. It created a general laugh, which was very natural, as secession and honor hardly go hand in hand, as Virginia has fully demonstrated.

MARSHAL OF POLICE.—Geo. R. Dodge, Esq., a well-known and highly esteemed citizen of Baltimore, has been appointed under authority of Gen. Banks, Marshal of Police, Col. Kenly being relieved at his own request in order to take command of his regiment. Gen. Banks states that the appointment of Mr. Dodge has been made at the suggestion and upon the advice of many influential and honorable citizens, and in order that public opinion shall have proper influence and civil authority due weight in the municipal affairs of the city. The troops stationed in the city have been withdrawn.

ELECTION OF UNITED STATES SENATORS AT WHEELING.—John S. Carlisle, of Harrison, has been unanimously elected U.S. Senator for the long term, in place of Hunter, and W. T. Willey, of Monongalia, for the short term, in place of Mason. In addition to this elections for various State officers took place on Tuesday. The new Government is now under full headway, and its recognition is gradually extending over all Western Virginia.

NO LIQUOR TO SOLDIERS.—A bill will be introduced in Congress, during the session, to prohibit the sale of liquor to the soldiers of our army.

A Sealed Letter from Jefferson Davis to President Lincoln.

The Washington Star of Tuesday gives the following interesting account of the arrival of a bearer of a dispatch from Jeff. Davis to President Lincoln:

A FLAG OF TRUCE FROM THE SOUTH.

Yesterday, while Col. Andrew Porter, U. S. A., was scouting at the head of a party of eighteen in the immediate vicinity of the disunion lines on the other side of the river, a party of twenty-two mounted disunion troops was observed approaching them. Col. Porter immediately put his men in a position for a brush, and awaited their nearer approach. Perceiving, when they got within hailing distance of him, that one of them had in his hand, trailing, a white flag, he demanded that they should halt where they were, and explain their errand. They came to a halt, and declared that they bore an important communication from Jeff. Davis to the President of the United States.

Col. Porter requested them to dismount and approach him with it on foot, a measure of precaution rendered necessary by the fact that the officer bearing the flag was accompanied by a larger escort than that (twelve men) incident to the presence of a flag of truce. His request was complied with, and he found their representation correct. The disunion officer proved to be Capt. Tom Taylor, of Frankfort, Ky. (a connexion of Old Zack's,) who bore a sealed letter from Jeff. Davis to President Lincoln, according to a representation upon the back, written and signed by Beauregard, at Manassas, explaining the fact, and asking that Capt. Taylor might be facilitated in his mission. Col. Porter accordingly sent Capt. Taylor and his missive forward with an officer and an orderly, and directed the disunion escort to return forthwith into their own lines.

Captain Taylor was carried immediately to Gen. McDowell's headquarters, where, by telegraph, directions were received to send him to General Scott's headquarters here. After a brief interview with Gen. Scott, he was sent to the President. His business was disposed of at the White House in a very few minutes; for in that time he was sent back to General Scott, the President not deeming the communication he brought such as required him to enter into any correspondence whatever with Mr. Davis.

Captain Taylor was next immediately faced in the direction from which he came and marched back to General McDowell's headquarters, where he was kept under a strict guard until an early hour this morning, when he was escorted to his lines.

We are able to assure the public that the letter amounted to nothing of earthly importance in the present crisis. On the contrary, it was of so little importance in its tenor as to lead to the irresistible conclusion that the real purpose of sending the flag of truce here was but to get an opportunity to communicate surreptitiously with spies in this city.

CONGRESS.

Congress assembled in special session on the 4th inst. The House was organized by the election of Hon. G. A Grow, of Pennsylvania, as Speaker, and of Hon. Emmerson Etheridge, of Tennessee, as Clerk. The members from Western Virginia were all sworn in. At the opening of the Senate Messrs. Breckinridge and Powell, of Kentucky, and also Senator Johnson, of Tennessee, took their seats. The venerable John J. Crittenden, appeared and was qualified as a member of the House from Kentucky. The President's Message was received and read.

In the Senate, on Tuesday, the death of the Hon Stephen A. Douglas was announced, and the usual resolutions of respect were passed. Messrs. McDougall, Collamer and Trumbull delivered eulogies on the character and services of the deceased. The Senate by vote decided to consider no subject during the special session except war matters.

The House of Representatives passed the bill appropriating six millions of dollars for the payment of the three months volunteers. The resolution of Mr. Lovejoy declaring it to be no part of the duty of soldiers of the United States to capture or return fugitive slaves was adopted by a vote of ayes 92, nays 55. Messrs. Crittenden, Richardson and other members paid high tributes to the memory of the late Senator Douglas.

In both Houses, on Wednesday, debates took place in relation to war measures. The Senate passed the bill legalising certain acts of the President. The bill for the increase of the Army and Navy was also passed.

In the House Mr. Mallory, of Kentucky, declared that that State would by an overwhelming majority support and maintain the Government and the Constitution of the United States. The bill to provide for the collection of duties on imports at the ports of the Seceded States was passed by the House and also by the Senate. The bill authorising the Secretary of the Treasury to borrow on the credit of the United States two hundred and fifty millions of dollars also passed the House, only five negative votes being recorded against it. The whole of the Maryland delegation, except Mr. May, who was absent, voted for it.

THE Secession organs are all weeping over what they call the wrongs and persecutions of poor Maryland. They tell us that the Federal Government has oppressed poor Maryland as no State was ever oppressed before But poor Maryland doesn't seem to be aware of her own oppressions. She has just had an election, and her people, exercising the most perfect freedom of suffrage, have, by a large majority, declared for the Union and against Secession.

Isn't it about time then for the poor Secessionists to stop pitying poor Maryland?—*Louisville Journal.*

THE State Central Committe of the Union Party of Maryland has been published. The members from Kent are Edward Wilkins and Simon Wickes. Cecil—S. S Maffit, and E. D. McClennahan. Queen Anne's—Robert Goldsborough, and Lemuel Roberts.

FROM MISSOURI.

Reported Battle—Conflicting Statements.

KANSAS CITY, July 10.—The Fort Scott Democrat of the 7th inst., states that 10,000 Missouri State troops under Governor Jackson and General Rains, were attacked by 1,500 Federal troops, Col. Siegel, who broke their centre, when the rebels ordered a retreat, but the flanks not hearing the order, the Federal troops were very near being surrounded, but finally they retreated in excellent order, fighting all the way back to Carthage, the artillery covering the retreat, and doing immense havoc. Several hundred Confederates were killed and wounded, and some dozen of the Federal troops were also killed.

Subsequent reports state that Governor Jackson occupied Carthage, and that Col. Siegel was retreating two miles from there with considerable loss.

It is also stated that the notorious Ben McCulloh had cut off 200 Unionists at Neosho, and murdered them all, with his force of ten thousand.

Another report is that Col. Siegel was attacked near Sherman, and his force cut up with a loss of from 300 to 1,000. Col. Brown, with a force of 3,000 Federal troops, had gone to reinforce Col. Siegel.

Gov. Jackson's Secretary has called a session of the Legislature, to meet seventy miles south of Fort Scott, to pass an order of secession Several leading Unionists had been hung by the rebels.

THE LATEST.

Details of the Battle of Carthage.

ST. LOUIS, July 10.—A special messenger arrived here this evening by the Pacific Railway, with despatches from Col. Siegle to Adjutant Harding. The following is an abstract written for the *Democrat:*

"On the morning of the 5th, Col. Seigle, with a portion of his regiment, a part of Col. Soloman's, and ten pieces of artillery—in all about 1100 to 1200 men, were attacked by 6,000 Rebels under General Raines and Col. Parsons, about seven miles east of Carthage. The enemy had many mounted men.

Col Siegle began the action at half-past nine in the morning, breaking the enemy's centre twice, and after half an hour's fighting, silenced their artillery. The Rebels had three flags, one of the State of Missouri, and two of the Confederate States. The latter were twice shot down; and were raised no more.

The enemy tried to outflank our troops with their cavalry, and cut off the retreat of our baggage, but Siegle made a retreating movement, keeping up a constant firing, and ordered the baggage train to advance, which was formed into columns, with the battalion of infantry, supported by four pieces of artillery in front and on the flanks. The Rebels then attempted to cut off his communication with their cavalry, but our artillery took them at a cross fire, which played havoc with their ranks, and opened a road.

Colonel Siegle then fell back on Carthage, the enemy harrassing his flank up to the town, were another stand was made. The Rebels being in possession of the place, Siegle surrounded the town, throwing shell and grenades into the enemy's cavalry, and using his infantry with great effect.

While attempting to reach an adjacent wood, to prevent the use of their cavalry, the Rebels made the most serious attack, and their the bloodiest part of the battle was fought; but the enemy were finally routed, and forced to withdraw.

Siegle then fell back on Mount Vernon, where he could be supported. The sole capture was an officer, who was taken about five o'clock. He reported the enemy's loss at near 250; but, as the severest fight took place subsequent to his capture it is believed their loss is considerably greater.

Forty-five prisoners were taken. Our loss is eight killed, and forty five wounded and missing

LATER.—Col. Siegel has been reinforced, and is pushing forward rapidly. He attacked the rebel forces early yesterday morning. The rebels are retreating southwardly between Larcoxie and Mount Vernon, with their baggage and plunder under cover of their cannon. A report states that Siegle is attacking their rear.

Gen. Morris's detachment of the Western Virginia army had a skirmish with the Confederate force near Buckhannon early on Monday last. The Confederates retreated with a loss of twenty-three killed, two hundred prisoners, and seventy-one horses. Gen. McClellan was expected to come up with Gov. Wise's force on Thursday.

There have been several skirmishes between the outposts of the two armies near Alexandria, with a loss of several men on each side.

Latest from Western Virginia!

McClellan and Wise Engaged!

Two Days' Fighting at Laurel Hill!

[From the Baltimore papers of yeeterday.]

From Western Virginia we learn that the Confederates at Laurel Hill have been driven within their entrenchments by General McClellan's division. They were completely surrounded and their communications cut off. The opposing forces had been engaged for two days with cannon, the Federal forces having the advantage in the long range of their guns.

A Georgia regiment ventured out to make an attack on the Federal lines, but they were quickly scattered, and could not be again rallied.

A courier who left General McClellan's camp on Thursday morning says that his force had divided and started in two divisions to surround the enemy, who have a force of 2,500 men, and are well fortified.

At Alexandria all was quiet, but active preparations were making for a forward movement. The sick were being sent to Washington, and the general baggage reduced to the smallest extent.

There is nothing important from Gen. Patterson's division. He had been reinforced, his command now numbering upwards of 20,000 men. Nothing important from Fortress Monroe.