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The Kent News.

CHESTERTOWN:

SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 28, 1862.

THE NEWS.

As well as we can make out from the dispatches from General McClellan, which we publish in another column, his army has had another fight with the rebels.—No locality is mentioned, except that the collision took place on McClellan's left wing; but as our army has been gradually approaching Richmond by means of scientific works, the ground must have been within a few miles of the city. The combat resulted from an advance of our left wing, and Heintzelman's corps appears to have done the fighting. The movement was entirely successful.

From the latest foreign news we are led to believe that the British government is again more sensible than the British press, and the threat of mediation is for the present laid at rest. No correspondence or communication has passed between the British or French governments on this point, and no intention now exists to offer mediation. This we take to be decisive, coming as it does from Lord Palmerston in the House of Commons, and Earl Russel in the Lords.

President Lincoln returned to Washington on Wednesday evening from his visit to West Point, New York. The return trip was accomplished with the same rapidity and quietness that characterized his progress there. A special train was used, the same car going through from Washington to New York, and the time made was the most rapid ever accomplished between the two points. The object of the visit was undoubtedly to enable the President to consult personally with General Scott in reference to matters connected with the campaign, the precise point to which the consultation referred being, of course, a matter of which the public have no right to know anything at present.—Gen. Scott's health not permitting a visit to Washington, the President went to West Point to see him. Gen. Scott accompanied the President on his return from West Point to New York. At Jersey City Mr. Lincoln, in response to the cheers of the people, said a few words to the effect that his visit was not "to make or unmake any Generals."

Four of the boats of the Mississippi gunboat fleet, carrying two regiments of troops, recently left Memphis for the purpose of removing the obstructions in White river, Arkansas, and reached St. Charles, 85 miles from the mouth of the river, on Tuesday, the 17th. The Rebels had erected two batteries here, which were immediately attacked by the boats, while the land forces moved on to storm the works, which was done, an Indiana regiment capturing the batteries and eight guns. The Rebel loss in men was one hundred and twenty-five killed and wounded, and thirty taken prisoners. While the engagement was progressing a shot from one of the batteries penetrated the boiler of the gunboat Mound City, causing it to explode, killing and wounding one hundred and fifty of the men on board. Captain Kilty, an old naval officer, a native of Baltimore city, was in command of the gunboats, and was on board the Mound City when she exploded. He was seriously injured. The success of the expedition was complete.

By the arrival of the steamer Coatzacoalcos at New York we have intelligence from New Orleans to the 18th instant.—The city was quiet, the weather pleasant, and some business doing. The four men sentenced by Gen. Butler for robbing citizens houses had been hung. Rebel officers and soldiers were allowed to return to the city on taking the oath of allegiance.—Commodore Farragut was before Vicksburg, and Commodore Porter's mortar fleet had gone there. A portion of the fleet had routed the Rebels from Grand Gulf.

A despatch from Harper's Ferry states that our forces are fortifying Bolivar Heights, beyond the Ferry. It was rumored that General Ewell was advancing on New Creek, beyond Cumberland, and reinforcements had been sent to General Kelly at that point. Generals Fremont, Banks, and Sigel, have joined their forces in pursuit of the Rebels under General Jackson.

A small rebellion in Utah is announced. About one thousand persons, under the leadership of one Morris, formed a settlement about thirty miles north of Great Salt Lake City, and committed depredations on citizens in the vicinity. A writ for the arrest of Morris being treated with contempt, a force of two hundred and fifty infantry, with artillery, was sent to enforce it. A fight ensued, in which the disaffected band was subdued, and 147 of them were taken prisoners.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN AND THE ABOLITIONISTS.

On Friday of last week a delegation from the "Religious Society of *Progressive* Friends," composed of Thomas Garrett, of Wilmington, Delaware; *Alice Eliza Hamilton*, of Chester county, Pennsylvania, and Oliver Johnson, of New York, called on President Lincoln and presented a memorial soliciting him to issue a proclamation "proclaiming immediate and universal emancipation" to the four millions of slaves who now "clank their chains in the house of bondage," and at the same time assuring the President that they were not office-seekers

The President said he was pleased that the delegation had not come as office-seekers, "for they were the source of his greatest troubles and perplexities. The *next* most troublesome subject was slavery."—It is a sad reflection that even in the present unfortunate situation of the country, the thirst for office should be so universal and persistent as to become the "source of the *greatest* troubles and perplexities" in connection with the administration of the affairs of the Government. It is said that individuals now holding office under the Government, have been heard to express a desire that the war might continue several years, seemingly with no other motive than their own personal aggrandizement; and the conviction has been repeatedly expressed that the suppression of the rebellion would have been long ago accomplished, but for the cunning and influence of army contractors and others who are making fortunes by the continuance of the war. Such men, we conceive, deserve to be classed with the worst enemies of our country, and would "sell their birthright for a mess of pottage." And scarcely less culpable is that numorous class who are continually annoying and distracting the Executive by their importunate supplications for government pap.

"The next most troublesome subject," said the President, "is slavery." The petitioners admonished him that he ought "not to allow the present *golden* opportunity to pass without decreeing the entire abolition of slavery throughout the land!" The President seemed to bewilder them by the simple interrogatory, whether they thought a "decree of emancipation" would accomplish their object. "New light" at once dawned upon their "one idea," and his petitioners came to the reluctant conclusion that it was one thing to "decree" the emancipation of slavery, and another and more difficult thing to "set them free."

The President evidently gave the delegation the "cold shoulder," notwithstanding they were "introduced and the object of their visit stated by *Senator Wilmot* of Pennsylvania," and concluded the interview by suggesting to his petitioners that "*perhaps* God's way of accomplishing the end which the memorialists had in view was *different* from theirs!"

As for "Thomas Garrett, of Wilmington, Delaware," one of the bearers of this silly memorial to the President, we hear it intimated that the slaveholders of Eastern Maryland have an account to settle with him, and in all probability before he succeeds in his cherished object of giving "freedom" to "four millions of the human race," *one* of the "race" of abolitionists will be "clanking *his* chains in the house of bondage!" We know not that "*Aliec Eliza*" is implicated in the same unlawful business, but wish that President Lincoln had given her an "*office*," whether she was a "seeker" or not—she would have doubtless made a valuable accession to Helper's school, in teaching young "contrabands" the "mysteries of the twenty-six letters!" The more we see of the doings of these abolition agitators, the more disgusting their conduct appears. It proves conclusively that theirs is a "zeal without knowledge," and that they do not comprehend in the remotest degree the misery and confusion which would be entailed upon the country in the event of the accomplishment of their long cherished object—the sudden "liberation" of the slaves and the substitution of universal freedom throughout the land.

CONFESSION OF DEFEAT.—A letter from the Richmond correspondent of the Charleston Mercury virtually confesses a defeat in the battles in front of Richmond. The enormous loss of the rebels in officers is fairly admitted, and the statement made that the city of Richmond is one "vast hospital." The severity of General Joe Johnston's wound is affirmed. The General's right shoulder was mangled by a piece of shell, or a Minie ball, and in the fall from his horse two of his ribs were broken.

GEN. POPE IN WASHINGTON.—General Pope, with a portion of his staff, has arrived in Washington, having been called there by the President. Gen. Pope is one of the most energetic and successful soldiers that the war has produced, a man of quick action and abundant resources. He would be the very man to send after the Rebel Jackson, and retrieve the blunders of the campaign in the Shenandoah valley.

The municipal officers of Norfolk still refusing to take the oath of allegiance, General Viele, on Wednesday, deposed them, declared Martial law, and prohibited the election for city officers which was to have taken place on Wednesday.

EMANCIPATION.

We publish on our first page quite a lengthy article on the subject of "*Emancipation in Maryland: the true questions involved in it*," written by Brantz Mayer, Esq., a distinguished Unionist of Baltimore, and chairman of the Union State Central Committee. We trust that none of our readers will fail to give it a careful perusal. The writer treats the subject in a sensible and eminently practical manner, and shows the difficulties and disadvantages which would attend the inauguration of a system of unconditional emancipation, in a light that may be new to many. The increase in the free negro population, under the present condition of things, is regarded as sufficiently rapid for their own good and the welfare of the State. Further reference to the article is deemed unnecessary, as all who feel interested in the subject will read it for themselves.

The subject of emancipation, unconnected with colonization, must, we think, ever remain an unpopular question in Maryland. It could not to-day command the assent of one in twenty of our voters.—The supposition that the people of Maryland would ever consent that the slaves of the State should be freed to remain in our midst, is as visionary as it is absurd. Senator Browning, of Illinois, in a recent speech in the United States Senate, said, that as much as he was opposed to any system of human bondage, he was decided in the conviction that "*while the two races remained together, their proper relation was as master and slave.*" This is the language of a Republican Senator, and it cannot be supposed that the conservative people of Maryland will ever take ground on this question in advance of the Republicans themselves:—they are rather inclined, and we think very properly, to keep somewhat in the back-ground.

If a system of gradual emancipation with colonization, of both free and *slave*, and proper remuneration to slaveholders, was proposed to the people of Maryland in time of peace, it is probable that it would find as many advocates as the naked subject of unconditional emancipation has now opponents. More especially would this be the case if the people were satisfied that their slaves were going to a place where their social and moral condition would be improved, and their happiness enhanced. It is not that our people love slavery in the abstract, or that slave labor is considered indispensable to the welfare and prosperity of the State, that renders them at present tenacious of the institution; but they are the guardians of the slaves, and consider it their duty to discountenance a measure which they know could not improve their condition, but in fact greatly militate against them.

We are pleased to observe an improved tone on this subject in several of the papers of the State. Some of them, in their zeal to sustain the Administration in the suppression of the rebellion, urged this measure upon the people; but after maturer deliberation they have reached the conclusion that its initiation at the present time would be an unwise and suicidal policy.

OUR editorial, a few weeks since, in reference to emancipation, and to the duty of the Union party of Maryland, seems to have displeased the *Cecil Whig*. When the lamented Ricketts edited that paper so long and ably, it was true to the principles of the Constitution and the Union and to a well-regulated Government, having respect to all sections and all interests, making war upon none, but upholding the best interests of all. Since his death, it has gone into other and different hands: its proclivities have been to sectionalism and we fear its tendencies are considerably to that worst of all—abolitionism. It is certainly far in advance of the moderate Republicans, who oppose any extended system of emancipation, unless accompanied with colonization. We do not believe it represents the Union sentiment of Cecil county, and unless its course be changed we predict that another paper will be started which will reflect the true conservative Union sentiment. The Union party of the State are not to be carried away from principle, or from policy, by the temporary excitements of the day, but they intend to stand by the Constitution and the Union as they have been derived from their founders, in the spirit they were transmitted to them. They are unanimous in their desire and efforts to have rebellion subdued, and peace, with its concomitants of harmony and prosperity, restored; but they desire the old constitutional Union, and a restoration of all things as they existed *ante bellum*.

MASSACRE OF CONTRABANDS BY THE REBELS.—Flag-officer Dupont writes to the Navy Department that the rebels, through information given by a negro who had been employed by our army, became aware of the absence of our troops from Hutchinson's island. They made a descent upon Mrs. Marsh's plantation, surrounded the house, and with the ferocity characteristic at all events of that part of the south, murdered in cold blood a large number of contrabands, who were awaked from their slumbers only to fall by the hands of the infuriated rebels.

Local Matters.

TAXES.—The County Commissioners on Tuesday levied the sum of eighty-four cts. on the one hundred dollars as the amount requisite to meet the County's liabilities for the year 1862. The apportionment is as follows: County tax 45 cts., State tax 25 cts., School tax 14 cts. The levy last year was 75 cents, as follows: County 52, State 10, School 13. The increase this year, it will be observed, is mainly in the item of State tax, fifteen cents on the one hundred dollars having been added in conformity with an act of the last legislature, to meet the State's proportion of the direct tax imposed by the General Government. The County tax has been decreased seven cents, while the increase in the School tax is one cent. But for the increase in the State tax the levy for the present year would have been sixty-nine cents on the hundred dollars. *The additional fifteen cents may be set down to the account of Secession.*

☞ Authentic information has been received by his parents of the death at Memphis, Tennessee, early in May, of Mr. Benjamin C. Vickers, son of General George Vickers, of this town. The deceased went to Memphis to reside a short time before the commencement of the war. During the excitement which prevailed in that State immediately after its secession, he was induced—much against the will of his father, who is well known to be one of the most staunch and decided Unionists of our State—to volunter in a regiment of Confederate soldiers, then being raised in Memphis. He was at the battle of Belmont, and escaped unhurt. At the battle of Shiloh it is reported that he was in command of a company, and in that frightful carnage received a wound which terminated in his untimely death. We would that he had perished in a better cause; but there are doubtless mitigating circumstances connected with his course, such as are incident to periods of great public excitement, which all can readily appreciate and understand. Had he remained in our midst he would in all probability have retained his attachment to that Constitution and flag which it is the pride of his father to venerate and defend.

A CURIOSITY.—We are in possession of a double head of wheat, pulled from the field of Mr. John T. Wilson, near Galena, in this county. The heads are perfectly distinct and well formed, branching off simultaneously from the end of the stalk, and contain about twenty grains each. It is something of a curiosity in the vegetable kingdom, nothing of the kind having ever before been seen in this vicinity.

FLAG RAISING.—We notice that Co. B, Capt. Chas. H. Wickes, participated in a flag raising, a few days since, at Cockeysville, Baltimore county, where the Company is at present stationed. Company A, Capt. Wm. H. Hamilton, is still at Parkton. The remainder of Col. Wilkins' regiment is encamped at Mount Clare, Baltimore, and doing guard duty in various sections of the city.

THE ORPHANS' COURT.—The harvest season having commenced, the Orphans' Court on Tuesday last adjourned for two weeks. Their next meeting will be held on the 8th of July.

THE GRAIN INSPECTION LAWS—*Decision of Judge King.*—In the Court of Common Pleas yesterday, Judge King decided that orders given by consignors or owners of grain to their consignees or agents to have their grain sold, without respect to the inspection laws of the State, as allowed by said law, previous to the passage of the amended act of the last Legislature, were valid. The question arose out of the cases of Seth and Godwin, an appeal from the judgment of Justice Hiss imposing a penalty of $5 in each case for weighing and inspecting grain (they not being State Inspectors) in violation of the provisions of that law. The Judge decides that the recent act of the Assembly does not repeal the original act, but only modifies it in some points, and that it also contains a proviso reserving to the owners of grain the same rights existing under the original law.—*Balt. American, of Thursday.*

NEGRO STAMPEDE.—The Port Tobacco (Md.) Times of Thursday last, says that on Friday night last some forty odd negroes, from Nanjemoy district, left their homes, or were abducted therefrom and conveved to the negro land of Canaan. Mr. W. H. Mitchell, we learn, lost thirty-seven, Mr. S. Adams lost five, and others we are told, left no doubt by the same means. In the case of Mr. Mitchell, old and young, hale and infirm packed off, bag and baggage.

REV. THOS. E. SKINNER, died at the residence of his father on Kent Island on Saturday the 14th instant. Dr. S. was a talented and promising young minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, whose loss will be deeply felt by the Church.

RELEASED.—A. A. Pascault, Esq., who was arrested in Easton on the same day that Judge Carmichael was, and confined in Fort McHenry, has been released by taking the oath of allegiance, and arrived home on the 18th instant.

CAMP MEETING.—A Camp Meeting for the Methodist Protestant Church, Warwick Circuit, will commence on the 14th of August, in the woods of Mr. A. D. Caulk, near Warwick.

From the Army of the Potomac.

Active Operations Commenced.

Enemy's Batteries on the Right Silenced.

OUR POINT FULLY GAINED.

BRAVERY OF THE TROOPS.

WASHINGTON, June 25.—The following despatches were received at the War Department from General McClellan this afternoon:

REDOUBT No. 3, June 25, 1.30 P. M.

We have advanced our pickets on our left considerably to-day, under a sharp resistance. Our men have behaved very handsomely.

REDOUBT No. 3, June 25, 3.15 P. M.

The enemy are making desperate resistance to the advance of our picket lines. Kearney's and one-half of Hooker's Divisions are where I want them.

I have this moment reinforced Hooker's right with a brigade and a couple of guns, and hope in a few minutes to finish the work intended for to-day.

Our men are behaving splendidly. The enemy are fighting well also.

This is not a battle—merely an affair of Heintzelman's corps, supported by Keyes', and thus far all goes well, and we hold every foot we have gained. If we succeed in what we have undertaken it will be a very important advantage gained. The loss is not large thus far. The fighting up to this time has been done by Hooker's Division, which has behaved as usual, that is *most handsomely*.

On our right Porter has silenced the enemy's batteries in his front.

REDOUBT No. 3, June 25, 5 P. M.

The affair is over, and *we have gained our point fully*, and with but little loss.—Notwithstanding strong opposition our men have done all that could be desired

The affair was partially decided by two guns that Capt. De'Russey brought gallantly into action under very difficult circumstances.

The enemy have been driven from his camps in front of this, and all is now quiet.

(Signed) GEO. B. MCCLELLAN,
Major General Commanding.

Despatches detailing movements of the army previous to the above, state that from the manœuvres of the Rebels on Monday, as well as from reports brought from their lines, it was believed that they were about to make an attack. Our forces were in readiness on Tuesday morning, but only a slight demonstration was made, and it was repulsed at every point. The arrest of the Secession residents within our lines has had a good effect upon those suffered to remain. The Richmond papers announce the arrival of General Price, but say nothing about General Beauregard.

Everything Ready for the Great Struggle—Strength of the Rebels—Scarcity of Food in Richmond.

We take the following from a letter in the New York Times, written a few days since by the Hon. H. J. Raymond:

So far as our army is concerned, there can be no reason for any great delay. We have all the troops we are likely to get, and it is believed we have all we shall need, though, if the Government had been wise, it would have sent fifty thousand more men than he has now under his command, to co-operate with McClellan from some direction. But it has not seen fit to do so. If he takes Richmond with his present force, he will win all the more honor, for the fight will be sharp enough to vindicate his preliminary prudence. If he fails in the attempt, the responsibility must rest with those who compelled him to fight, and withheld the means which he deemed important to an assured success.

The roads are now perfectly dry, and the fields are everywhere hard enough to make artillery movements perfectly practicable. Our bridges across the Chickahominy are completed, and afford means of crossing from one side to the other with ease and celerity. Our troops have been placed compactly upon a short front, and every disposition has been made which seems essential to success.

STRENGTH OF THE REBELS.

The reports received here as to the strength of the Rebel army continue to be conflicting. One of the prisoners taken yesterday, who says he has been attached to the Commissary Department, says that rations were issued on Tuesday for 102,000 men. This may or may not be true. If it is, their effective force cannot exceed 75,000 The general belief here is that they have enough men to make a very severe fight, and that they are determined to do it. No one in the army now expects to have a short and easy march into Richmond. They expect to fight their way, and it is but simple justice to say that they are ready and eager to do it. The whole army is tired of inaction, and will welcome most heartily the order to advance whenever the General may see fit to give it.

We hear from pretty good sources that the same feeling pervades the Rebel army. The troops from the Gulf States have been North a long time, on hard fare, with poor clothing, and without having accomplished anything of the least importance. They are getting tired of it, and are anxious to have the contest ended, one way or the other. Very many of them are losing their interest in the war, and are far more anxious to get home than to reap any laurels they are likely to win in this war. Gen. Stoneman says that he asked a squad of prisoners who fell into his hands a few days since, what they were fighting for. They replied, "To support *the gentlemen* who got us into it." An hour's speech could not better have explained the general motive of the mass of the Southern army. How long they will think it worth their while to support "*the gentlemen*" who have pushed them into the war, at such a cost of life to themselves, remains to be seen. If we beat this army, I do not believe they can ever raise another.

There can be no doubt whatever that not only the army but the people of Richmond suffer greatly from lack of provisions and clothing.

The Tax Bill Passed by Congress.

The internal tax bill has passed both Houses of Congress, and will, of course, receive the signature of the President, but will not go into operation until the first of August. The taxes imposed are of the following different classes, viz:

First. A tax on persons and corporations engaged in certain pursuits, for licenses. Second. A tax on manufactured articles, products, etc., to be paid by the manufacturer or producer when he sells such articles or products. Third. A duty on incomes of individuals, railroad and steamboat companies, public officers and others. Fourth. Duties to be paid for stamps, which the bill requires to be affixed to certain papers, medicines, etc.

Among the more important amendments finally adopted were the following:

Tobacco—On cavendish, plug, twist, fine-cut and manufactured of all descriptions, (not including snuff, cigars, and smoking tobacco prepared with the stems in, or made exclusively of stems,) valued at more than 30 cents per pound, 15 cents per pound. Valued at any sum not exceeding 30 cents per pound, 10 cents.

On smoking tobacco prepared with all the stems in, 5 cents per pound.

On snuff, manufactured of tobacco, dry or damp ground, of all descriptions, 20 cents per pound.

On cigars valued at not over $5 per thousand, $1.50 per thousand.

On cigars valued at over $5, and not over $10 per thousand, $2 per thousand.

On cigars valued at $10, and not over $20 per thousand, $2.50 thousand.

On cigars valued at over $20 per thousand, $3.50 per thousand.

On all cloth and all textile, or knitted or felted fabric of cotton, wool or other material, before the same has been dyed, printed, bleached or prepared in any other manner, a duty of three per centum ad valorem shall be charged.

On and after October next, a tax of ½ per cent. shall be paid on cotton.

No duty is to be levied on any sales by judicial or executive officers making auction sales by virtue of a judgment or decree of any court, nor to public sales made by executors or administrators.

On whisky 20 cents per gallon. There is no tax on rectified or mixed liquors. The tax on watches and piano-fortes is stricken out.

On all horned cattle, exceeding 18 months old, slaughtered and for sale, 50 cents ahead.

On all calves and cattle under that age slaughtered and for sale, 5 cents per head; and on all hogs, exceeding six months old, slaughtered and for sale, when the number thus slaughtered exceeds twenty in any one year, 10 cents per head.

Steam railroads and steamboats pay 3 per centum, railroads using other power than steam, and ferry boats, 1½ per centum, and toll bridges 3 per centum on the gross amount of all the receipts.

When the annual gains, profit or income exceed the sum of $600, but not $10,000, a duty of 3 per centum on the amount of the first named sum. If the income exceeds $10,000 a duty of 5 per centum upon all over $600.

Each policy of insurance or other instrument, by whatever name the same shall be called, by which insurance shall be made or renewed upon a property of any discription, whether against perils by sea or by fire, or by peril of any kind, made by any insurance company or its agents, 25 cents.

FROM MISSOURI.—*The Suppression of Guerillas—Secessionists to Pay Damages.*—General Schofield, commanding the U. S. forces in Missouri, has issued an order holding the rebels and rebel sympathizers responsible in their property, and if need be in their persons, for damages hereafter committed by guerrillas or marauding parties in that State.

Five thousand dollars will be enforced for every soldier or Union citizen killed, from one to five thousand for every one wounded, and the full value of all property destroyed or stolen by the guerillas will be collected from the class of persons above mentioned residing in the vicinity of the places where the act is committed. The sum thus collected will be paid to the legal heir of the soldier or citizen killed, or to the person wounded, or to the rightful owner of the property destroyed or stolen. Means have been provided to carry the order into immediate effect.

THE CAMP OF INSTRUCTION.—The Washington dispatch to the New York Times says:

The camp of instruction will be located at some point on the railroad nearer Washington than Annapolis, the latter place being deficient in good water. General Chapman has been designated as chief of infantry for the camp, but it is not probable he can be spared by Gen. McClellan, in whose army he now is.

THE REASON OF A UNITED SOUTH.—A lieutenant from Georgia, now a prisoner at the old capital, being asked the other day whether there were not Union men in Georgia, replied, "No, we won't let them live there. We look upon all who do not take an active part with us as against us, and either kill or drive them away. That is the reason," said he, "why we are all one way of thinking."—*Wash. Rep.*

A LOYAL ARKANSAS REGIMENT.—The first Arkansas regiment of cavalry is rapidly filling up. Hundreds are repairing to the recruiting rendezvous from the western and northwestern counties of Arkansas. This regiment will be organized in Missouri, though composed entirely of Arkansians. This makes three of the eleven seceded States in which troops have been raised for the Union army.

ILLINOIS CONSTITUTIONAL ELECTION.—Returns from all but four counties have been received. The proposition denying the negroes the right of suffrage and to hold office has been adopted by almost nine-tenths of the vote; and the proposition to exclude them from coming into the State is adopted by nearly two-thirds.