

NOTES ON MILITARY AND NAVAL AFFAIRS.

No event of any importance has occurred during the past week. It seems that our armies are so frittered away, that until they are recruited nothing can be done. The nation, with inexhaustible patience, is devoting itself to the effort of again filling the ranks. All over the country meetings are being held, and subscriptions are being raised to offer bounties to recruits. The meeting in Philadelphia illustrates the spirit universally displayed.

The Mayor stated that he was waited upon a few days ago by several gentlemen, who agreed to contribute certain sums to aid in recruiting, provided \$100,000 could be obtained for the same object. They placed the following in his hands, which he read to the meeting:—

To His Honor Mayor Henry, Philadelphia.—The undersigned acting upon a suggestion made in one of the city papers a few days ago, to raise \$100,000 or more to aid in the immediate enlistment of ten new regiments in this city, herewith hand you a list of the amounts we have subscribed and offered to pay as soon as the sum named above is pledged, the whole, if the other subscribers consent, to be expended at your discretion, in such manner as will best promote the object desired. Believing that the sum could be made up very soon if the plan were more fully known, we would respectfully suggest that you give the matter the sanction of your name by a notice in the city papers.

Wm. Sellers & Co., \$2,000; A. Whitney & Sons, \$3,000; M. W. Baldwin & Co., \$2,000; Belmont & Dougherty, \$1,000; Matthews & Moore, \$1,000; Thos. Potter, \$1,000; John Rice, \$1,000; A. Jenks & Son, \$1,000; Wm. F. Potts, \$1,000; Jos. K. Wheeler, \$1,000; Andrew Wheeler, \$1,000.

The following subscriptions were then announced:—

Chas. Gilpin.....	\$1,000	Wm. Welsh.....	\$1,000
J. T. Lewis & Bro.....	1,000	John Ashurst.....	1,000
J. E. Caldwell.....	1,000	John Haseltine.....	1,000
McKean, Borie & Co.....	3,000	Hanson Robinson.....	1,000
Sam. S. White.....	1,000	Stuart & Bro.....	1,000
Wm. H. Kearns.....	1,000	S. & J. M. Flanigan.....	1,000
E. C. Knight & Co.....	1,000	M. V. Baker.....	1,000
George H. Stuart.....	1,000	S. A. Mercer.....	1,000
H. M. Watt.....	1,000	Welling, Coffin & Co.....	1,000
F. J. Dreer.....	1,000	Bailey & Co.....	1,000
J. B. Myers & Co.....	1,000	J. B. Myers.....	1,000
Taylor, Gillespie & Co.....	1,000	De Coursey & Co.....	1,000
Sherman & Co.....	1,000	Whitney & Sons.....	3,000
Sellers & Co.....	2,000	Geo. D. Wetherill.....	300
Thomas W. Price.....	300	Cornelius Walborn.....	300
Dr. McClintock.....	100	Geo. R. Smith.....	100

Mr. Wm. Welsh said he had been authorized by a friend to subscribe \$1,000 to the fund; and it was stated that a subscription of \$50,000 to the object had been made by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

Several recruiting offices are opened in New York, and a curious principle of human nature is illustrated in the fact, that, while those in the buildings on Broadway and other streets are generally empty, the tents on the Park are nearly always surrounded by a crowd. We observed the same circumstance when the enlistments were going on last spring.

ENFORCEMENT OF THE CONFISCATION ACT.

In accordance with one of the provisions of the confiscation act, the President has issued the following proclamation:—

In pursuance of the sixth section of the act of Congress entitled "An act to suppress insurrection, to punish treason and rebellion, to seize and confiscate the property of rebels, and for other purposes," approved July 17, 1862, and which act, and the joint resolution explanatory thereof, are herewith published, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, do hereby proclaim to and warn all persons within the contemplation of said sixth section to cease participating in, aiding, countenancing, or abetting the existing rebellion, or any rebellion, against the Government of the United States, and to return to their proper allegiance to the United States, on pain of the forfeitures and seizures as within and by said sixth section provided.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

Annexed is the sixth section of the confiscation act referred to by the President in the above proclamation:—

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That if any person within any State or Territory of the United States, other than those named as aforesaid, after the passage of this act, being engaged in armed rebellion against the Government of the United States, or aiding or abetting such rebellion, shall not, within sixty days after public warning and proclamation duly given and made by the President of the United States, cease to aid, countenance and abet such rebellion, and return to his allegiance to the United States, all the estate and property, moneys, stocks and

credits of such person shall be liable to seizure as aforesaid, and it shall be the duty of the President to seize and use them as aforesaid, or the proceeds thereof. And all sales, transfers or conveyances of any such property after the expiration of the said sixty days from the date of such warning and proclamation shall be null and void; and it shall be a sufficient bar to any suit brought by such person for the possession or the use of such property, or any of it, to allege and prove that he is one of the persons described in this section.

RUNNING THE BLOCKADE.

According to the Charleston *Mercury*, the *Nashville* not only entered that port recently, with arms and ammunition, in spite of the blockade, but has gone safely to sea again in company with another vessel, the *Kate*.

CAPTURE OF A BRITISH STEAMER.

The United States steamer *Ocolora*, with Commander Porter in command, arrived at Fortress Monroe on the 26th of July, from New Orleans. On the 24th ult., the steamer fell in with the British screw steamship *Tubal Cain*, near Charleston, bound from Nassau, loaded with munitions of war. After a gallant chase of six hours, Commander Porter captured her. A prize crew was put on board, and she was sent to New York, where she arrived on the 29th. She is 194 tons burden, iron built, fifty-horse power, was built at Paisley, and is nine years old. The vessel and cargo are valued at \$250,000. Her cargo consists of small arms, saltpeter, salt, soldiers' buttons, shells, and various other goods suitable for the Southern market.

ARRANGEMENT FOR EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

An arrangement has been made for a general exchange of prisoners, and on the 25th of July, 900 arrived at Harrison's Landing from Richmond.

GUERRILLAS IN TENNESSEE AND ALABAMA.

On the 22d of July, attacked Florence, Alabama. They entered the city and burned all the warehouses used for our commissary and quartermaster stores, and all the cotton in the vicinity. They also seized the United States steamer *Colonna*, used for conveying army supplies over the shoals. They took all the money belonging to the boat and passengers, and then burned her. The property destroyed is reported to be of great value. A small detachment of General Mitchel's army was captured. The rebels then proceeded down the Tennessee river to Chickasaw, Waterloo and the vicinity of Eastport, and burned all the warehouses which contained cotton. Another band of forty rebels attacked a wagon train near Pittsburg Landing, and captured sixty wagons conveying commissary and quartermaster stores.

The 10th Ohio regiment, guarding the Memphis and Charleston Railroad between Decatur and Courtland, were attacked on the 26th of July by a large force of guerillas under Starns and Ward. Thirty or forty of the regiment are said to have been killed. The road was considerably damaged, but not so much as to cut off communication.

The Oldest Existing Photographs.

[From the Photographic News.]

At a recent dinner of "The Photographic Club," we had an opportunity of examining one of the most interesting mementoes of early photographic investigation and experiment. It consisted of a heliograph, in the possession of Mr. Joseph Ellis, of Brighton, whose name will be familiar to old photographers. Mr. Ellis gave some interesting details of the history of the picture, and of his possession of it. M. Nicéphore Niepce, it may be remembered, had obtained permanent photographic pictures many years before the publication of Daguerre's discovery, and in the year 1827 visited this country, in the vain hope of being able to obtain the attention of the Royal Society. It appeared that he resided at Kew, and the picture in question had been given by him to his landlord at that time, in whose hand an inscription at the back is found to the following effect:—"This prototype [probably error for phototype] was presented to me at Kew, in the year 1827, by M. N. Niepce, the discoverer of the art.—B. Cussell." Mr. Ellis had seen it in Mr. Cussell's possession some year's ago, and desired to obtain it. Mr. Cussell refused, however, to part with it, regarding it with almost superstitious regard and reverence. For the time, Mr. Ellis had to waive his desire, resolving, however, to keep his eye upon it. He recently learnt that the owner had died, and found, on inquiry, that his effects had been sold by auction. A little search

discovered this picture in the hands of a broker, whose chief idea of its value was based on the notion that it was executed on silver. The back had been scratched to test it, and it is to the fact that the metal used was pewter and not one of the noble metals, that this interesting memento, probably one of the earliest sun pictures in existence, was saved from the melting pot. Mr. Ellis purchased the picture, and preserves it with the care naturally pertaining to a picture possessing such historic value. It is a copy of an engraving produced in the camera by the action of light on a film of bitumen, on a pewter tablet. The size was about the ordinary half-plate; the effect is in some respects similar to a Daguerreotype, the image being vigorous and well defined. We may here take occasion to refer the reader interested in the historic details of photography, which are somewhat scarce and scattered, to a couple of published lectures of Mr. Ellis, who, with considerable research, has carefully, and with much ability, traced the earliest known facts, evidently entering upon the task as a labor of love.

RIFLED ORDNANCE AT THE WORLD'S FAIR.

The celebrated Armstrong gun, in all its various stages of manufacture, has been placed in the exhibition by the British Secretary of War. It is constructed entirely of coils of wrought iron, and not, as some have supposed, of a cast-steel tube, hooped with bands of wrought iron. The basis of the gun is a long iron bar, which is first heated and twisted into a spiral form, then hammered into a coiled tube. Several of such coils are shrunk over one another and then drawn out to form the barrel of the gun. At the breech it is strengthened by increased coils, and the fiber of the first one runs longitudinally, while the others run round the barrel. There is a chamber at the breech in which a vent piece is fitted and held in place by a hollow screw.

The quality of the metal used and the workmanship employed in these guns have been highly extolled by all who have visited the exhibition. A smooth-bore muzzle loader and a rifled muzzle loader 70-pounder, made by Sir Wm. Armstrong, are also exhibited; also a shell invented by him, which is furnished with a percussion igniter and also with a time fuse. This shell is made in segments, and bursts into 200 fragments.

J. Whitworth, of Manchester, exhibits a 12-pounder, which is made of soft steel, cast solid, then bored out. The rifling is a twisted hexagon, and the rule of the twist or pitch is one turn in every twenty diameters of the bore. A one-inch gun, therefore, makes one revolution in twenty inches. Mr. Whitworth does not give his rule in the work which was published on rifled guns—the above information is obtained from the London correspondence of the *Scotsman*. The twist is regular, and is much shorter than that followed by American armorers. Whitworth's 12-pounder is a breech loader, and at 35° elevation it has sent a shot to a distance of 10,000 yards.

Captain Blakely exhibits a five hundred pounder. It is a cast iron gun, strengthened with wrought iron hoops, and loads at the muzzle. J. Lancaster, who made the first siege rifled gun used in the Crimean war, exhibits a large gun weighing 10 tons, and Mr. Clay, of Liverpool, exhibits the steel breech loader, illustrated on page 48, Vol. IV. (new series) *SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN*. Italy, Germany and Norway have sent samples of cannon to the Exhibition, all of which have been considered inferior in workmanship to the Armstrong and Whitworth guns. This is believed to be due to the use of superior tools in the fabrication of the latter, not to the principles upon which they are constructed.

The Paris *Moniteur universel*, of July 12th, says:—"The Lenoir motor, of which the principle is the dilation of air by gas inflamed by electricity, has just realized the hopes which we conceived at the time of its first appearance. A machine of six horse power, with two cylinders, operates, at the time we write these lines, the presses of the *Moniteur universel*."

The seed of winter wheat retains its germinating powers from three to four years, of spring wheat two or three years, oats two years, beetroot six to seven, swedes turnips five to six.