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The Kent News.

CHESTERTOWN:

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 1, 1862.

The Potency of Victories.

There is quite a numerous class of men who, in their conversation and conduct in respect to our national difficulties, manifest a strange and unaccountable inconsistency. They would give anything, they say, and make *any* sacrifice, to see the Union reconstructed; and yet they are found mourning over every disaster to the rebel cause, as if the obtainment of that object was dependent upon the success of the Confederate arms. It is well known that the former friends of reconstruction at the South—those who opposed secession the longest, and finally affiliated with it for the openly avowed object of ultimate readjustment—have long since repudiated the idea of reunion, and announced in the strongest terms, their determination never again to live, under one government, in harmony with "the North." It may then be fairly assumed that among the active participants in the rebellion, the reconstructionists, as a party, have ceased to exist. It must then be evident to every mind that there is no other way to bring about the desired restoration of the seceded States to the Federal Union, than by force of arms.

But, say the class of men referred to, fighting only tends to widen the breach between the sections—these Union victories, instead of exerting an influence favorable to the suppression of the rebellion, only exasperate and increase the obstinacy of the people of the South, and make them more determined to resist "the invaders." According to this method of *reasoning* a defeat is as serviceable to the cause of the Union as a victory; it matters not which way the tide of battle turns, if the argument be good, the South is certain to be benefitted by the result.

But, the truth is, their whole system of deductions is utterly fallacious. The effects which have followed the recent secession of Union victories plainly show that the rebels fully understand and appreciate the serious nature of the reverses which they have sustained. They confess that they have lost confidence and are dispirited; their papers speak in mournful strains of the present prospects of success, and insinuate that unless something is speedily done to retrieve their misfortunes and change the present aspect of things—unless there be "a change of men or a change of policy"—they have not much hope for the future of the Confederacy.

It is plain then that the rebels themselves regard the securement of their independence as altogether contingent upon the success of their arms. But it is reserved for those in our State who sympathize with them, to endeavor to keep alive the dying embers of secession in our midst by trying to make people believe that these Confederate reverses will have an effect contrary to that which the rebels themselves plaintively acknowledge. It is true the Richmond papers tell us that the defeat at Roanoke Island had a wonderfully exhilarating effect upon the waning spirits of General Wise, but this may have arisen from the pleasing reflection that he was not among the number of the captured! With this single exception, we do not remember to have seen an instance where any special benefit has been claimed by reason of their defeat.

The history of all wars proves that when a people are fairly conquered by force of arms, they are then compelled, reluctantly and unwillingly it is true, to cease their hostility, and become obedient to the victors; and this war, in this particular, will not be an exception to those which have preceded it. Just as certain as the armies for the Union are successful, just so certain will the erring States be brought back to their true and proper allegiance to the Constitution and the laws. A few more decisive victories, and the tottering fabric, which was erected in usurpation upon the shoulders of the stifled and unwilling masses, will crumble and fade away, as smoke before the passing breeze and as chaff when driven by the mighty whirlwind; and it will be spoken of and recorded in history as the most wicked and unjustifiable rebellion that ever disgraced the world of makind.

A more consistent course for these men to pursue, if they *really* desire the restoration of the Union, which may be seriously questioned, would be to advocate that policy which alone can bring back the seceded States. Their course will likely neither retard, advance, nor vary the final result; but since there is no alternative, and the contest *must* be decided by battle, a decent respect for a show of consistency should lead them at once to heartily espouse the Union cause, rejoice at the success of the Union army, and hail every victory as a harbinger of that welcome day, soon to dawn upon our political horizon, when peace shall again smile beauteously upon the land; when "the sword shall be beaten into the plough-share and the spear into the pruning hook;" and all sit down to enjoy in quietness the goodly land and the plenty with which the God of nature has so richly blessed us.

The News.

From Fortress Monroe we learn the failure of the attempt to lay the telegraph cable across the Bay. On the day the Hoboken sailed with the cable sixteen miles of it were laid in the most successful manner, when the operations were stopped for the night. On Monday the Hoboken was occupied in taking soundings, and, whilst so engaged, about noon encountered the severe gale which suddenly arose. Her steam pipe was broken soon after and she became unmanageable and drifted over, to Cape Henry beach, where she went ashore and broke in two the same night.

The latest despatches from Tennessee say that Governor Harris, previous to his flight, destroyed all the archives of the State. The Union men of Nashville immediately sent to Clarkesville for one of the Federal gunboats to come up for their protection, which we presume was prior to the arrival of Gen. Buell. Martial law has been declared over West Tennessee by General Grant.

A reconnoissance with five iron-clad gunboats, two mortar boats, and two regiments of infantry was made towards Columbus on Monday. There were evidences of a movement among the Rebels, but its meaning could not be ascertained. When the gunboats were getting into position the Rebels sent out a flag of truce. A consultation, lasting over two hours, took place, and our boats returned to Cairo.—The purpose of the flag of truce has not been allowed to transpire.

Commodore Foote, in a despatch to the Secretary of the Navy, announces the return of Lieutenant Gwin from the Tennessee river, with tidings of strong Union demonstrations in South Tennessee and North Alabama. He has sent him back with a regiment from Fort Henry to sustain the Union men of those sections in organizing forces for their own defence.

Direct information from the Burnside expedition states that the greater part of the force were still at Roanoke Island on Sunday. The burning of Winton is confirmed. A reconnoitering expedition was sent up the Chowan with the purpose, it is supposed, of destroying the railroad bridges over that river and the Blackwater, but on approaching Winton it was found that the Confederates were there in force, and attacked the gunboats, which replied by shelling and firing the town, and then retired.

Advices from Ship Island to the 18th have been received at New York. All was quiet at the Island. An English ship had been captured on the Rio Grande, while being loaded with cotton from a vessel flying the Confederate flag.

Advices from Arkansas state that Gen. Price has been driven from his position at Cross Hollow, leaving all his sick and wounded and some army stores behind him.

Intelligence has reached Paris, Kentucky, that the National forces took possession of Gumberland Gap without meeting with the least resistance, and that the Seventh Kentucky Regiment and Sixteenth Ohio are at the Gap, while the two Tennessee Regiments have passed into Tennessee.

General McClernand's Division in the attack on Fort Donelson had 321 killed, 1,054 wounded, and 150 missing. This division suffered from the attack of the Rebels in their endeavor to cut their way out of the Fort.

According to the census of 1860 Maryland is entitled to but five representatives in the lower house of Congress. It having consequently been made the duty of the Legislature to re district the State, Mr. Cresswell, from the committee on elections, has reported to the House a bill to that effect, which includes the entire eight Eastern Shore counties in one (the first) congressional district.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

The steamship Adelaide, from Fortress Monroe on Monday, brought up to Baltimore nearly four hundred released Federal prisoners. They left Richmond on Saturday afternoon. Among the officers released are Colonels Lee, Cogswell and Wood, and others who were held as hostages for the privateersmen. These prisoners comprise all who were at Richmond except three, who were too sick to be moved.—Col. Lee thinks the next prisoners released will be those who have been confined in North Carolina. Those in S. Carolina, including Colonel Corcoran, will follow, and lastly those who have been sent to New Orleans for safe keeping. Those farther South were already on their way towards Richmond for exchange, and it was thought within a week or ten days all would be restored to liberty and their friends. Colonel Lee will rejoin his regiment, the Twentieth Massachusetts, on the Upper Potomac.

Major General Wool on Saturday proceeded on a flag of truce boat, and, near Craney Island, met by appointment the rebel General Howell Cobb. The interview lasted nearly an hour, and is understood to have related to an exchange of prisoners.

The submarine cable, which is to complete telegraphic communication with Fortress Monroe, is probably laid by this time. A steamer started with the cable on Sunday afternoon, and in two hours laid out five miles. The whole distance across to the Eastern Shore is about thirty miles.

The Rebels appear to expect an attack on Norfolk from this side. They are strengthening their batteries, and are reported to have towed the ship-of-war Germantown down to Craney Island.

Local Matters.

MR. RILEY'S LECTURE.—In consequence of the interruption of steamboat communication with the city, Mr. Riley did not reach here to deliver his lecture on Thursday evening. Another day will be appointed for the lecture, of which due notice will be given.

COMMENDABLE.—We notice that the Messrs. Chance have placed a lamp on the corner in front of their store, the brilliant light from which is of great service to pedestrians on dark nights. If other merchants, in different parts of the town, will but follow up the example, our citizens can soon boast of well lighted streets, and the public no doubt would give them due credit for their enterprize.

LECTURE.

The Rev. J. J. MURRAY, D. D., will deliver a Lecture at the M. P. Church, at Kennedyville, on Thursday, the 13th of March, at 7½ o'clock, P. M. Subject—"*Matrimony.*" Tickets 25 cts., to be had of A. W. Melvin, J. A. Meredith, Daniel Jones, Jos. E. Weer, and at the door on the evening of the Lecture. Proceeds to be appropriated to the church debt.

The Storm of Monday.

GREAT LOSS OF VESSELS AND LOSS OF LIFE.

The storm of Monday last was one of the most fearful that ever visited this latitude. It is represented by those who encountered it on the bay as appalling and terrific in the extreme, and surpassing any ever before witnessed. A large number of vessels have been wrecked, and many lives lost. So far as we have been able to ascertain, no serious damage has been sustained in our county, beyond the demolition of fences, the uprooting of trees, &c. We give below an account of the principal casualties that occurred on Chester River, and also on the Kent shore of Chesapeake Bay, extending from the mouth of Sassafras river southerly to the mouth of Chester, a distance of about forty miles.

The steamer Chester, which left Chestertown at the usual hour on Monday morning, was at Queenstown wharf, and was just in the act of resuming her trip when the gale commenced. Luckily, she was made fast to the wharf before any injury was sustained. Some of her passengers returned to Chestertown on Thursday and report that she was still lying uninjured, but partially aground, *at the north side of the wharf.* The Captain thought he would be able, with a little exertion, to get off on the first full tide. Five vessels are ashore in Queenstown creek, two of which are so "high and dry" that it will be hardly possible to get them back again to the water.

There are five schooners and a brig ashore near the mouth of Chester river. The Kent Island shore is strewn with wreck timbers. Four bodies were found on the shore after the storm, and buried; and it is believed that many other lives were lost that vicinity.

Nathan Slaughter, aged about 22 years, son of William Slaughter, of Delaware, was drowned in Chester River, at Crumpton, during the gale of Monday. The wind blew his hat into the river, and he with two others went out in a small boat to recover it, when the storm capsized the boat, and unfortunately Mr. S. was drowned. The others narrowly escaped. The body had not been recovered up to yesterday, though unceasing efforts had been made to find it. We are requested to say that a liberal reward will be given for its recovery and delivery at Crumpton.

There are eight vessels ashore in and near the mouth of Still Pond Creek, six of which it is believed will be wrecked. Seven of them were laden with coal and bound for Washington, and one with flour. The cargo of this latter is said to be not much damaged, and will be saved with the expense of reshipment. A gentleman, who was on the shore and witnessed the almost superhuman exertions of the crews to save their vessels and themselves, says it was the most awful and exciting scene that he ever beheld. When the anchors were cast out, and efforts made to reach the shore in small boats, it seemed impossible that they could be successful. Several of them bilged or were capsized, and many narrow escapes were made, but fortunately no loss of life occurred.

Captain Cohee, who sails from Worton, was at anchor in Still Pond creek when the storm commenced, and his vessel was blown over the bar, in very shallow water, and it is feared it will be impossible to get her out.

There are two vessels ashore in Worton creek, two on the bay shore opposite Poole's Island, and a brig on Swan Point bar. Altogether these make a total of no less than twenty-seven vessels either ashore or wrecked on Chester river and the Kent shore of Chesapeake Bay, and there may be others of which we have received no account. We fear also that there has been a much greater loss of life than we are at present advised of.

The 22nd in Chestertown.

The 130th Anniversary of Washington's Birth Day was celebrated with much spirit in Chestertown, on Saturday last. At 12 o'clock the Union citizens assembled at the Court House, where prayer for the speedy suppression of the rebeliion was offered by the Rev. William B. Walton, chaplain of the Second Regiment, E. S. Vol., and Washington's Farewell Address was read in a distinct and forcible manner by Gen. Vickers. The out door ceremonies consisted of *one hundred and twenty-seven guns*, fired at intervals through the day. Congratulations of citizens were freely exchanged, and hopes expressed that the return of the memorable day may find the country at peace, reunited and prosperous. Gen. Vickers prefaced the reading of the Address with a few appropriate remarks, substantially as follows:

"In the history of nations and revolutions, great men, in one department, seem to have arisen with the genius, wisdom or courage equal to existing emergencies, and with apparent power to direct or control events of the greatest magnitude. In some countries, as in Greece and Rome, Demosthenes and Cicero wielded, with tremendous effect, the powers of eloquence and statesmanship. In France Napoleon I. arose like a brilliant meteor, and, by the number, extent and splendor of his victories dazzled and bewildered the nations of the world. But it was left to *our* country, the asylum of the pilgrim and the oppressed, the land of freedom and of the rights of man—the only country on the face of the habitable earth where man could stand in the upright stature of native nobility and breathe the pure atmosphere of liberty and independence—a country dedicated to freedom, to give birth to one who combined in his person all the elements of a hero and the attributes of a statesman, the skill and courage of a chieftain with the prudence and wisdom of a sage, the sagacity and valor of a soldier with the piety of a Christian and patriotism of an American.

"And the elements
So mix'd in him that nature might stand up
And say to all the world—*this was a man.*"

It was fit that he who had conducted us safely through the perils and conflicts of the revolution should possess the talent, experience and greatness to aid in the construction and organization of the great plan of Constitutional liberty which was to distinguish and elevate us above all the nations of ancient or modern times.

"As Washington was a chosen agent in the hands of Providence in rescuing us from colonial bondage and securing to us a national existence, so was he an efficient and able counsellor and the presiding genius of that assembly of noble and wise compatriots who framed and gave life and energy to the Constitution of the United States and to our imperishable Union. He who controls the destinies of nations did not forsake our forefathers when they gave form and consistency to our frame of Government and Constitutional charter. When about to retire to private life and lay aside the robes of official power, his affection for the American people, and his pure and ardent love of country, prompted him to issue the Address which I will read: a paper of inimitable beauty and strength, filled with the rich treasurs of experience, observation and loyalty, containing a thorough knowledge of the structure and principles of the Government, the securities for its preservation and the dangers that might assail it. It is the most intrinsically valuable legacy of a fond father to his children and descendants, and carries with it the evidences of the inspirations of patriotism, of wisdom and of truth. If we imbibe its spirit, cherish its principles and practice it precepts, no foe, however valiant, foreign or domestic, will be able to destroy or impair the fair fabric of the Constitution nor tarnish the bright escutcheon of the National Union. The dark cloud of treason that has been so long lowered over our political horizon will be dispelled; the grim visage of intestine war will be averted, and the white-winged angel of peace will soon spread her silvered pinions over the wide extent of our country, and the halcyonian days of prosperity and Union be restored. I have never yet doubted the result of the unnatural and unwarranted contest. The mission of our beloved country has not yet been fulfilled, and the time will come when the North and South, the East and West will bring to a common Constitution and Union the offerings of patriotism, and vie in maintaining the honor and dignity of the Government; when the remembrance of the combats, the sufferings and scenes of the present will be placed in the tomb of oblivion, or, if remembered, be only as beacons to the ship of State to avoid the dangers and disasters of civil war.

"Although three despotic powers have been clandestinely and will soon be avowedly engaged to engraft a sprig of royalty upon Mexican institutions, there are those who now hear my voice who will live to witness the ploughshare of liberty upturn and destroy the dangerous exotic, and leave not a fibre to vegetate in the soil once consecrated to freedom. Our mission is one of Christian benevolence, civilization and liberty. It is a mighty, grand, transcendent mission; and, until its great and final accomplishment, no power can subvert the pillars of the fairest and most beautiful superstructure the world has ever known."

Correspondence of the Kent News.

MILLINGTON, Feb. 22d, 1862.

Messrs. Editors:—We had a glorious jubilee here this morning, the one hundred and thirtieth anniversary of the birth of the "Father of his Country." At seven o'clock the loyal citizens of the town and neighborhood paid a noble tribute of respect to his memory by raising a magnificent flag, at the same time saluting it with one hundred guns, after which Washington's Farewell Address was read. Three beautiful cakes, with appropriate mottoes, were presented by the Union ladies of our town (God bless them) to those assembled to do honor to the memory of the immortal Patriot, and to renew their cherished respect for the flag which *he* fought to sustain Mr. Robert Ruth, on behalf of the ladies, presented the cakes with a short address, which was responded to by Dr. A. H. Bean. After three rousing cheers "To the memory of the noble Washington," and three more for the "patriotic ladies," the company partook of the cakes and then separated. LOYALTY.

[We have received a communication from another correspondent at Millington, since the above was in type, giving a fuller account of the celebration, but adding nothing of special interest.—EDS.]

☞ In the address of Cobb, Toombs, and others, recently made to the people of Georgia, they urged them to burn their houses and destroy their property on the advance of the Federal troops. But it now appears that after the rebels had fired Elizabeth City, under Gen. Henningsen's orders, and had retreated, that the people sent off for "the Yankees" to hurry in and assist them in extinguishing the conflagration. So it is seen that the advice of the "Georgia patriots" is not much esteemed.

CAMP CORRESPONDENCE.

Correspondence of the Kent News.

HOSPITAL, 2ND REG'T E. S. VOL.,
NEAR PONGOTEAGUE, VA., Feb. 25, 1862.

Messrs. Editors:—The "Kent News" does not make its appearance here as certainly as some of us desire. I see it sometimes, however, and give it a welcome, because it speaks of home and its associations. Presuming the many home friends we have in old Kent might possibly like to hear some particulars about ourselves and the people of Accomac and Northampton, I venture to give them an abstract of events as they heve occurred since leaving Chestertown. Our departure had a double aspect; one of gladness that our people were interested for us, and crowded the wharf to bid us God speed; and the other of open or silent grief at our parting from the dear ones we may never see again, verified in my case by the death of a valued relative and friend.

Our voyage down the bay was not marked by any particular incident of importance. We reached here at noon, on the day after our departure, and in a short time all our troops had passed ashore, and took up the line of march for Pongoteague and the camp. There being no wagons to convey our freight at the wharf, I remained at the boat with Quartermaster McDaniel, and Lieut. Stanley, who was left in command of the guard. In the afternoon, the tide having gone down some, I went ashore with the Quartermaster, and determining to get to the camp if we could obtain a conveyance, we applied at the first house on the right. It was a failure, *the horse was lame*, so we passed over to the next; the first person we saw here was a young man, who on hearing our request, informed us that the *carriage was broke*. Matters began to look desperate, however, we asked for the owner, and was directed to the kitchen, where we saw Mrs. Kelso, who quite unexpectedly hired us the conveyance we sought (a very ricketty affair) and off we started for Pongoteague. The roads were wretched, and getting into the pine woods, we encountered a fallen tree across the road Turned back, and seeing another track on our right, determined to try that, though the ditch required *bridging* to get to it. So the Quartermaster got out to put down the bridge, while I held the horse. In crossing this bridge, we broke the carriage sure, and got all one-sided, but soon striking the right track, we saw two darkies cutting wood, and hired them to tie up our fractured vehicle. On we went, and after a time arrived at Pongoteague, which is not much of a place, and just now seems "out at the elbows." It has two taverns and one store. Resuming our ride, we reached the camp two miles further on, and got out at "*Bobtown.*"—Congratulations were soon exchanged, and back we started for the boat again arriving safely just at dusk. Mr. Kelso had got home since we left, and we were pleased to find him a good Union man. He gave us some excellent corned *trout* for supper, and *desired* to return the money paid for his carriage. On the following day the teams came, and that evening found us all safe and quartered at "Bobtown"

Orders came soon after the arrival of the 3rd detachment, placing the whole regiment on picket duty along the telegraph line, a service not agreeable though doubtless necessary.

But what of the people? How do they look and act? Are they friends or enemies? To determine these questions aright, might seem to require a longer residence than I can claim, and a freer intercourse with all classes. But, if I have not been able to get at the depths of popular sentiment, I am convinced of one thing by superficial observation, and that is—that as a whole *we are not among friends.* I find but two classes here, the well to do and the indigent. The first are proud, haughty, and would be insolent if they dared, and it is this class, who meeting you on the road, either look away all together, or with an angry expression. Occasionally, one of these will *try* to be courteous, and still more rare, you will find one who is *really* so, but these are the exceptions. Among the poor, a large number are loyal and may be trusted, and if many are not so, it is because their leading public men have *taught* them lessons of treason. Such a man as *Henry A. Wise* can immensely influence the popular mind, and as this county was his home, it is not suprising that he is regarded as among the great of the land. The presence of the Federal troops is very distasteful to the "upper ten," and keeps them "showing their teeth." They would *bite* if they could. It is a consolation, however, to see indications warranting the belief, that as the *power* of the Government becomes more and more manifest in destroying the fabric of treason, so will the people here become more and more convinced, that they have never had any *just* cause of complaint, or any reason whatever for attempting to destroy the very "corner stone" of their political existence. The end of the "Southern Confederacy" is rapidly approaching. SURGEON.

Correspondence of the Kent News.

CAPEVILLE, NORTHAMPTON CO., VA.,
February 19, 1862.

Messrs. Editors:—I was one of the number that composed the last detachment of Colonel Wilkins' Regiment, which left Chestertown on Friday, the 7th inst. Our trip was quite pleasant; the weather being highly propitious, and the behavior of the men so unexceptionable that Capt. Tilghman voluntarily returned them his acknowledgments.

Within two hundred yards of Pungoteague wharf are to be found the abandoned fortifications of the Rebels, which want of time prevented us examining. We arrived at the landing on Saturday, the 8th inst., and after an hour's delay began our march to "Camp Bradford," distant five miles. Before our arrival there we were met by Companies A, B, C, F, G and H, as an escort under the immediate command of Major Rodgers. Our detachment was soon comfortably quartered, a portion occupying the stone buildings recently used by the Confederates. We were most cordially received and welcomed by our numerous friends, the soldiers, who were all anxious to hear from home, the dearest spot on earth.

We were notified the next day that our immediate command, in conjunction with two others, must be in readiness to march early the following morning (Monday) to Pungoteague wharf, thence to be conveyed in the steamer Balloon to Cherry Stone, distant southward forty miles. It may not be amiss here to note the fact that our accommodations the night before our departure from Camp Bradford were not equal to Barnum's, as we were obliged to sleep, or rather tried to sleep, in an open room, on the hard floor, without a sufficiency of covering, and with a pair of boots for a pillow. "Camp Bradford," called in honor of Maryland's distinguished Governor, is located in a beautiful pine woods, contiguous to a village and cross roads bearing the euphonious title of *Bobtown* — Puntoteague, lying equi-distant from that place to the landing of the same name, is a village containing over two hundred inhabitants, and like all other towns seen by us in Eastern Virginia, exhibits unmistakable signs of decay and want of enterprize.

We arrived in safety at Cherry Stone landing at three o'clock P. M. Monday the 10th, and were compelled to remain on board until next morning, in consequence of the destruction of the wharf by fire, by the Confederates, some time since. For war of lighters our debarkation was not effected until nine o'clock on Tuesday, no accident occurring except the ducking of a Spaniard, who shook like Belshazzar. Our command soon took up its march for Capeville, the most southern town in Eastern Virginia, distant six and a half miles from the extreme point of Cape Charles, where we were commanded to await the arrival of Major Rodgers. The Major being prevented from coming to Capeville on Tuesday as anticipated, in the absence of instructions we reluctantly occupied a Methodist church, the only suitable quarters to be found in the neighborhood, where we remained until Thursday. On Wednesday orders were received to distribute our command the next day from the southern land terminus of the Telegraph, which is near the extreme point of Cape Charles, northwardly about 11 miles. The submarine portion, which is to connect at Fortress Monroe, will be laid in a few days.

Major Rodgers' command extends from the Cape to Drummondtown, a distance of sixty miles, which he is expected to traverse weekly. This gentleman paid us a visit the other day, and although our acquaintance with him is limited, yet we feel justified in saying that we believe he would adorn almost any military position which could be conferred upon him. His headquarters are at Eastville.

Paymaster Townsend called upon us a few days ago, very opportunely, and left the necessary amount of "*spondulics*" to pay our entire company—E.

Colonel Wilkins' headquarters are at Drummondtown, distant 55 miles from here. He received from our command, at our separation at Cherry Stone, three hearty cheers. It is unnecessary to write that he has been industriously engaged since his arrival in Virginia in providing for his command. Although at present he has not the military experience of many occupying similar rank, yet we opine that should the war continue any considerable period (which God forbid), that at its expiration he will be second to none in Maryland.

Newspapers are scarce here. I have not read one since I left home.

In my next I may say something of the people, their mode of agriculture, and some few peculiarities about things in general which I have already observed. J.

Headquarters Co. "E," Capeville, Va.

The following extracts are taken from a letter of an officer of Company B, dated February 19th, and written at the headquarters of the Company, five miles below Drummondtown:

Our pickets are stationed from Pungoteague to Drummondtown, at a distance of a mile apart. Our headquarters are midway between the two places. One of the officers has to visit the line of pickets every day, which being about twenty miles walk, gives us plenty of exercise. We generally make one round answer for two days, by going up in the afternoon and back the next morning. I have several times slept on the ground, with a knapsack for a pillow and a blanket for covering, and rested as well as if I had been home in bed.

The health of our company is very good, there being but two men on the sick list, and these not dangerous.

We had very fine weather last week until Friday, when it grew cold and rained and snowed at intervals until yesterday, when it cleared off, and is now very pleasant and warm.

Our men have received a portion of their pay, and expect the balance in a few days.

DEATH IN THE PRESIDENT'S FAMILY.—We truly regret to state that one of President Lincoln's two little sons, who it is known have for some time been ill of typhoid fever, died Friday afternoon, a fine bright boy, named WILLIE, aged about twelve years. The whole country, we are sure, will sympathize sincerely with the bereaved parents in their affliction.—The other little sufferer, the younger of the two, is still ill, but it is hoped not dangerously so.

HOW TO TREAT THE REBELS.—Hon. Jas. Guthrie, in a speech delivered at Louisville on Saturday, advocated severe treatment of the leading captured rebels, but a general amnesty for subordinates at the close of the war.

THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS.—The actual number of prisoners taken at Fort Donelson was 13,300, among them Brig. Gen. West, not previously mentioned. This number does not include the 1,000 prisoners since captured near Fort Donelson.

It is stated that 7,000 of the prisoners taken at Fort Donelson are to be quartered at Camp Douglas, Chicago.