

☞ We have many "articles" ready for this number, but our want of space compels their omission. There is at present no remedy, as our press will not admit of a larger sheet.

Evacuation of the Peninsula.

The most important news received by the last mail is contained in the fact, previously foreshadowed, that Gen. McClellan's army has withdrawn from the Peninsula. The campaign in Virginia is now to be conducted from a new base of operations, and while the great object of advancing upon Richmond is still before the army, it is to be attempted on a different plan.

It is certainly a bitter pill for the nation to swallow, and a great disappointment to all its hopes, that a position where we have fought so many battles and suffered so much, both from the climate and the enemy, should be thus abandoned. But for some time the step has seemed to be inevitable and it is a confession on our part that the campaign there has been almost a failure. Of the cause of this failure it would be useless now to speak, but there is a lesson taught by it which should not be lost to the nation. We had been accustomed, through the language of the press and of the people, to think that our army under Gen. McClellan was invincible, and to speak of the successful accomplishment of its object as a foregone conclusion. We now see plainly enough that our boastfulness was ill-timed and unbecoming, and that our overweening confidence should be replaced by a stern determination to wage this war for the preservation of our country and its free institutions, in a wiser and more sober spirit, which will not anticipate success while ignorant of the means by which it is to be secured.

The army of Gen. McClellan, though thinned in battle and having lost large numbers by disease and the hardships incident to a long campaign, is still the most thoroughly drilled and disciplined of any in the field, and is yet capable of achieving great results. Because it was unsuccessful before Richmond, it is not to be supposed that it will fail at every other point.—And because Gen. McClellan may have failed to meet the expectations of the country in one instance, it is not fair to assume him incapable of any great achievement. One success does not establish a General's fame, nor should a single failure ruin a reputation which has been once established.

We are glad that the Yorktown Peninsula has been evacuated. The army while there was a source of solicitude to the whole country; and, from the nature of the case, was perfectly useless. Now, in co-operation with the other large forces in Virginia, it can be hurled with united front upon the very centre of the rebellion. Our forces, before scattered along the Shenandoah, on the Rappahannock, and in the Peninsula, have been able to accomplish little of lasting good; but now, massed in a single army, and setting out on a new and more practicable route for the rebel capital, we may reasonably expect that its day of victory has dawned.

Our files also bring us the cheering information that the gloom which clouded the public mind after our reverses before Richmond is fast being dispelled. The great levies which have been called for by the Government are rapidly filling up, and there was no doubt that at the end of this month an additional army of 300,000 men raised by voluntary enlistments would be ready to join that already in the field.—The proposition to raise another 300,000 men by

drafting, has also been received with hearty approval by the loyal masses, who—fully realizing that unless this rebellion shall be crushed and the Union restored, the nation will be forever ruined—are determined upon making every sacrifice, both in men and "sinews of war," to attain their patriotic purpose. We have, so far in the conduct of the war, only put forth a tithe of our power with no other than the natural and unsatisfactory result. Now that we are to fight no longer with one arm bound helpless behind us, and our real strength is to be called into action, we may hope that this horrible contest is fast approaching its end.

Dispensing with Bands.

Congress towards the close of its last session set itself briskly to playing tunes on the economies, and turning the key of retrenchment, wherever there was opportunity for staving off army expenditures. Among other methods of barring the public money chest and stopping the holes through which it was becoming empty, a ban was placed upon regimental bands. Without casting any slur upon the usefulness of musicians, we cannot but endorse the action of our M. C's. The minimum estimate of the sum devoted to payment of regimental bands last year exceeded \$4,000,000; and in view of the vast increase of the army, had the old system continued in force, the money expended would swell that sum to an extent altogether disproportionate to the benefit which music confers. Thus it will be seen that it was not simply a crotchet of Congress to take note of this matter. None of us can help regretting that the necessity for dispensing with the bands has arisen, and every soldier in the field who has been cheered on the march and inspirited in the camp by the thrilling strains of good music will be apt to look upon the deprivation at first with a degree of dissatisfaction. But consider for a moment that this gigantic war—conducted upon the most economical plan—requires an enormous expenditure which in time would prey upon the vitals of any nation not excepting so sturdy and sinewy a one as ours and then ask if it is not the hour for a cheerful sacrifice of every comfort and every pleasure which cause a drain upon the treasury and are not of absolute necessity to the army. We are not, however, to be deprived of music entirely. Each brigade is allowed to have a band of sixteen musicians, which is sufficient for the real needs of the service.

MAJOR GENERAL H. G. WRIGHT.—The promotion of Brigadier-General H. G. Wright to the rank of Major General is announced, to date from the 19th instant. On the same day a new military department, composed of the states of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Kentucky, east of the Tennessee River, including Cumberland Gap, and the troops operating in its vicinity, was created, and the command thereof assigned to Gen. Wright. He has thus been called to one of the most active and useful positions at the disposal of the Government.

Horatio Gaines Wright, though the last Major-General appointed, is among the first in the order of military accomplishments, and his promotion, we trust, will be as satisfactory to the country as it is gratifying to his friends in the army.

Gen. Wright is a native of Connecticut, and entered the Military Academy at West Point as a cadet from that state in 1837, graduating in June, 1841. The following month he was appointed second lieutenant in the corps of engineers. He was detailed as acting assistant professor of engineering in the Military Academy from January, 1842, to August, 1843, and assistant professor to July, 1844. He was appointed first lieutenant in February, 1848, Major August 6, 1861, and Brigadier-General of Volunteers, September 3, 1861. At the fitting out of the expedition to this Port, General Wright commanded the second brigade of Sherman's division. Prior to the sailing of the expedition from Annapolis, he devoted his whole time in getting his command in a state of efficiency,

displaying a zeal and knowledge of military affairs that created confidence among his officers and an *esprit du corps* among the rank and file. He commanded the military portion of the expedition to Fernandina and on the occupancy of the place was placed in command of a military district, having his headquarters in that city. His great executive ability, rigidity of discipline and his gentlemanly accomplishments, won for him the esteem of all with whom his official position brought him in contact. Subsequently he was in command at Edisto; and in the occupation of James Island he led the first division. When that point was evacuated, he asked for a position of activity, and at his own request was relieved from duty here to join McClellan. The confidence of the Government has been wisely bestowed in his recent promotion, and we predict for the new Major-General a brilliant career in the widely-extended department which he has been called to command.

LOCAL NEWS.

ESCAPED FROM SAVANNAH.—Capt. Van Brunt, Provost Marshal of the Post, has three men in custody who escaped from Savannah last week and came down to Pulaski. The prisoners are Northern men,—giving the names of William Hoyt, of Philadelphia, James Williams, of Rhode Island and William Peck, of Chicago—who were compelled in the early stage of the rebellion to join the army. But their hearts were not in the service, and they took the earliest opportunity of escaping to our lines, bringing their rifles with them. They described the condition of the troops at Savannah as being disagreeable in the extreme. Their clothing is worn to tatters, their rations are scant and of the poorest kind,—consisting of five ounces of flour per day and a half ration of bacon or fresh beef twice a week; but there is an abundance of corn meal which alone keeps them from starving. Sickness—principally remittent fevers—prevails to a great extent, and medicines being scarce, in consequence of the rigidity of the blockade, there is much suffering which otherwise might be alleviated. These hardships have naturally resulted in making the troops despondent and disgusted with the rebellion which they fervently desire to see crushed out. One of the prisoners professes to have seen the ram *Fingal*, a few days before he escaped, and in his opinion she will not be ready for operation before two months,—as the work of mauling her has not yet been finished, nor has her armament been put on board. The floating battery *Georgia*, of which we have often heard, has proved a total failure, and her guns have been taken out of her. The steamer *Nashville*, according to the statement of the prisoners, succeeded in running the blockade at Wassaw Sound, about six weeks since, landing a cargo of arms, dry goods and medical stores within seven miles of the city, and then loading with cotton, with which she expects some dark night to escape. The steamer *Emma*,—one of Tatnall's musquito fleet, which figured here, just before the forts were taken—is also laden with cotton in the Savannah River, and hopes for a chance to run by Fort Pulaski and make her way to Havana or Nassau. The boat which occasionally runs down the river in sight of Fort Pulaski, is the steamer *St. John's*, plying to and from the salt works below the City. Whether the reports of these prisoners may be accepted as true, is a matter upon which we can give no opinion.

THE MEDICAL EXAMINING BOARD.—This board which commenced its sessions on the 9th of July last, has adjourned *sine die*. Since its organization 311 cases have been brought before it, all of which had been recommended for discharge by regimental surgeons. Of these cases about 100 were of sham diseases, and the tricksters were returned in disgrace to their regiments. The remainder were soldiers entitled to discharges for permanent disability or to furloughs for temporary ailments. The sessions of the board developed the existence of hernia among the troops to a remarkable extent, and the certificates of disability were granted mainly for this cause. Hereafter, the business of the Board will be conducted by Dr. Crane, the Medical Director, in person, and soldiers making application for discharges must present themselves to him for examination. The members of the Examining Board have been assigned to duty as follows: Dr. Craven, Medical Purveyor of the Department; Dr. Crispell, Health officer of the Port; Dr. Dalrymple, Surgeon of the Post.

Since the above was written a second Medical Board has been organized, by command of Gen. Hunter, composed of the following named surgeons:—Dr. Craven, U. S. V., Dr. Everhart, 97th Penn., and Dr. Stickney of the 3d Rhode Island Regiment. These gentlemen are to examine such cases of disability as may be brought before them. The Board commenced its daily sessions at the office of the Medical Purveyor yesterday forenoon and will remain in session from day to day until legally dissolved.