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"Not slothful in business: fervent in spirit."

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WHOLE SERIES.
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Poetry.

Light in Darkness.

How often we, like Hagar, mourn
When some unlooked for blight
Calls us away, no more to turn
To joys we fancy bright.
Forced from our idols to retreat,
And seek the Almighty's care,
Perchance we are sent forth to meet
A desert-angel there.

Thou who didst sit at Jacob's well,
The weary hour of noon,
The languid pulses Thou canst tell,
The nerveless spirit tune.
Thou from whose cross in anguish burst
The cry that owned Thy dying thirst,
To Thee we turn, our Last and First,
Our Sun and soothing Moon.

From darkness here and dreariness
We ask not full repose,
Only be Thou at hand, to bless
Our trial-hour of woes.
Is not the pilgrim's toil o'erpaid
By the clear rill and palmy shade?
And see we not, up earth's dark glade,
The gate of heaven unclose?

KEBLE.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

United States Correspondence.

THE BULL RUN AFFAIR. WASHINGTON CORRUPTION IN SUPPLYING FOR THE ARMY. AMERICAN CUPIDITY IN TREATIES WITH ENGLAND. BACKING DOWN. BRAGGING. INERTNESS OF THE GOVERNMENT. FAVOR SHOWN TO SLAVE-OWNERS. GREAT EXPECTATIONS. A VISIT TO THE WHITE HOUSE—RECEPTION BY THE PRESIDENT AND LADY. GENERAL MCLELLAN. HOPES.

My Dear Brother,—

Being in Washington some days preceding the "Battle of Bull's Run," I wrote you at some length on the existing state of affairs; intending to conclude it with the sequel of the "Advance of the Grand Army to Richmond" already on its march; but the terrible disaster and route of the Union troops in that battle cast such a dismal shade on the hopes and prospects of our army and people that all minor subjects were entirely ignored; for the maimed, wounded and runaways poured into Washington with such doleful tales of suffering and defeat, and the pursuit by the enemy, that a question of vital import came home to every one as to their personal safety, and a general flight from the Capital became the order of the day. "For if 30,000 were overwhelmed," as they said, "by 90,000 rebels, why should they not follow up their victory and take the city," which was the idol of their ambition. So gloomy and sad a day I never saw; a pall almost of despair hung heavily on every heart. The day before, all were jubilant and gay; as the echo of every peal came booming from the battle field—on the western wind—distinctly heard on the heights around Washington, bringing to the eager listeners hopes of valorous conquest.

The churches that beautiful Sabbath day were mostly abandoned, and the city presented more the appearance of a carnival than the Sabbath repose of a civilized and christian people—the Military of all grades were moving round; regiments with gay music were filing through the streets surrounded with strolling noisy crowds. That morning I listened to a discourse from Dr. Samson (Baptist) tempered with but little hope or encouragement to the Union (you may know that Dr. Samson is president of Georgetown College, attended principally by sons of the South, and is himself tintured with Secession). In the evening I attended Rev. Kennaut's Church, his subject was "The Christian Warfare," and though more to my mind he seemed much disturbed by the prevailing excitement and did not acquit himself as well as usual. On returning from Church we were met continually by knots of people relating the successes of the day in favor of the Federal troops; that "there had been a terrible carnage 2000 to 3000 killed on each side and that the rebels 90,000 strong were routed." I went to my hotel—a private one

—it was almost forsaken, and the inmates hanging along the street. There was so much commotion that rest, or quiet was impossible. I strolled Pennsylvania Avenue, and all along the line of hotels were such scenes of excitement as are seldom known. Up to this hour reports were all in favor of the Union, for, twice the rebel hosts had fled before the terrible onslaught of the loyal troops. But now half-past nine P. M. fresh arrivals came in fast with adverse news, that "while the advanced brigades were resting on their laurels, after a hard fought battle, and sought the shade at 4 P. M. to refresh themselves for the first time since half-past 2, A. M. (over 13 hours) General Johnson arrived on their right flank, with a fresh army of 25,000 men and in such splendid array poured in their murderous fire on our exhausted troops that they in turn fled in dismay, following their officers who first ran (!) "in every direction." All seemed to doubt the possibility of such a result, but the flying witnesses came in so fast and thick that by 11 o'clock the city assumed a different phase and gradually hushed down the forlorn groups of muttering despair! "Oh what a fall was there my brethren!" Many waked and walked in solemn mood that sultry night. Never did a sadder people try in vain to bury in oblivion the records of the past few hours than did the Sabbath breakers of the capital that night. The next day brought a dismal dawn, a funereal gloom. I was on the pave at five—broken vehicles of all kinds with mutilated soldiers and worn out animals, began to pour in over the long bridge, led by men cursing their officers for cowardice and drunkenness. They had made their way through the debris of the crushed and scattered trains of the flying squads, the vanguard of a routed and panic-stricken army. The demoralization was complete, and had Davis or Beauregard followed it up Washington could have been taken by 5000 men. Since that time we have had few boasts of the advance of "the GRAND ARMY OF THE UNION." Within a week after that disgraceful stampede between 200, and 300 political mushroom officers of the Grand Army resigned their positions and went home to the tender embraces of their anxious families grateful for their escape from the consequences of the "Grand Spree" in which they had enlisted.

But while I would scathe these cowardly leaders, let not a word impugn the valor of the brave men of rank and file. They presented to their officers many brilliant exploits and examples of heroic courage and endurance. The foreign element which is largely represented is not the least behind the native, and all they require to crush out this most infamous and wicked rebellion, is, leaders of the right metal who are in earnest in the matter.

Here I pause—Let no one suppose that the "Sachems" and managers of this desolating, fratricidal war are in any haste to force it to a termination; are not those devoted people pouring out their treasures in hundreds of millions, and must not the "Nabobs" and their subordinates line their pockets while the war lasts. If it closes will not their fat contracts and extortions cease? Do not believe that "ourselves" are to be neglected. Will the people allow it longer, and permit this cupidity to fasten on the nation till its vitals are consumed? In view of the menaces from abroad, they must consummate the integrity of this entire republic at once, or it will fade (with its glorious hopes) before them like the cloud of a summer sky.

While in view of the sequel to the Mason and Slidell case they see the necessity of more urgent action, for a speedy and successful issue, they cannot but feel the humiliation they have called down upon themselves by the manner of their conduct towards Great Britain and other powers. Let them reflect upon their course towards England, during my short memory, and the boastful scorn and contumely of their press on every occasion when British interests were concerned. There was the (Aroostook) Frontier question in '33: their sympathy with the Canadian rebellion in '37: the "Oregon Boundary" in '44: the Irish rebellion in '48: the fishery and reciprocity question in '50 and '51: the enlistment question in '56: the constant taunts and calumnies heaped upon the English

during the Russian War: the seizure of *San Juan* in the Pacific in '58; (my memory of dates may not be correct) and other questions with like scurrilous abuse—which need not be mentioned, if I may except the ever repulsive flaunting of the "Monroe doctrine" in the face of England every time a British Man-of-War anchored in the waters of the American Continent; and the wholesale repudiation of British bonds. There was also the abuse of Austria, and Italy, and Spain, and of the Inauguration of the New French Empire, as if they alone were the boastful Umpires on all these questions. They now lament that "there is not one European nation (save Russia) to show them any sympathy in their hour of trial. They abused England because she wasn't neutral in this rebellion, and they abused her again when they found she was. Respectable Englishmen who abound in this land and are still as ever devoted to the "mother country," have to sit by in silent sorrow, almost like the captives in Babylon and hear their kin and country slandered.

Truly may these defamers shrink upon themselves when Britain speaks, or the *London Times* retaliates, and remember that their deserts may surely come. When in '44 their watch word was (54° 40') "fifty-four forty or fight." Sir Robert Peel rose in his place and said simply "We have our rights in Oregon, and are prepared to maintain them," this nation trembled like an Aspen leaf from Maine to Mexico, and thought they already heard the words "Cry havoc! And let slip the dogs of war." They soon came down to "forty nine," (49°) relinquishing many thousand square miles of seized valuable territory. And now when Earl Russell sends through Lord Lyons what Mr. Seward calls a "courteous" invitation for Mason and Slidell to take passage in a British ship, they go into hysterics, and imagine the "blockade raised," the "Rebels recognized," their "shipping all captured on the ocean," and their "seaboard cities shelled and in flames," and "begin to say, "now don't roar good Mr. Lion, please take away those pesty rebel ambassadors, and we will disavow privateering "and if you want a "slice of Mexico," or "the Key-West corner of Florida, or the "Northern corner of Maine for a road to "Canada, or any other little favor we shan't object; only don't roar or begin to show "your teeth so profoundly; for we are indeed "very sensitive;" and then Jonathan turns aside and whispers, "wait till this rebellion is settled, and then we'll take Canada, and sweep England's commerce from the seas, with our privateers, free Ireland, and whip England besides." This is not extravagance, but specimens of daily gasconade and such is the corrupt course, with few exceptions, of the entire secular press of this country, who profess to guide the public mind.

With regard to the rebellion, the administration and its adherents seem to "take it quite easy," pursuing an expensive and do-nothing policy. With over 600,000 soldiers in the field and on the coast, and near 300 war-vessels, as they claim, on the rivers and ocean, yet they hesitate as to an aggressive policy and are held in abeyance by an army of half their size, which they say are "poorly clad, fed, or equipped, and are demoralized and unfit for service," with no commerce or vessels of war, save a few privateers which they have pursued for 8 months, and which, notwithstanding their severe depredations on our shipping, they have failed to catch except in one or two instances.

Certainly the Naval expeditions acted gallantly at Hatteras and Port Royal; but they failed to follow up their advantages in Napoleonic style, to reap the desired benefits:—else would Wilmington, Newbern, and Beaufort, N. C., together with Charleston and Savannah, and the entire coast, with their depots of rice and cotton, be now in Federal possession. Europe will not consent to wait years for this contest to culminate, and be debarred from the commerce and supplies of half a continent, with her accustomed resources shut out from her needy or starving people to indulge an offensive rival in a long fratricidal war. Besides Europe looks on this conflict not as one for the overthrow of the great national sin of Slavery,—the sum of villainies,—but how on one side it shall be "extended," and how on the other (the North) it shall be "sustained," for this is

thus far the practical working of the army operations, and in every place the soldiers who were obliged to catch and return the slaves of rebels, declare that "there is more protection and favor shown to their property than to the property of loyal men."

Such has been the dilatory course of the Government that Missouri, which under the brave Lyon was nearly redeemed and loyal, has been again over-run and despoiled by the rebel hordes, and the apparently loyal men have again taken sides with the rebels. General Halleck, of that department is now reclaiming the state, and rapidly driving the rebels out.

In Kentucky, Gen. Buell has the command of over 100,000 men, and is in many places in close proximity to the forces of the enemy, and a conclusive battle or a "foot race" is imminent. We look daily for a "great victory." (?) In Western Virginia the rebels are "driven out with considerable loss," into winter quarters. Along the Potomac the main Armies of 300,000 loyal and 200,000 rebel soldiers daily pay their respects to each other in scouting parties and skirmishes, occasionally picking up prisoners, pigs, and poultry; the one longs to winter in Richmond, while the other doats on Washington; and the leaders seem striving with all their might "how not to do it." At Hampton roads the formidable Burnside expedition is almost complete, and gives promise of soon "crossing the rubicon" where "a great victory will be won." The enemy are in terrible suspense as to where it will strike whether at Norfolk, up James River or on the Potomac and are proceeding hugely for defence and retreat. The force at Hatteras remains in statu quo, watching the inlets and the little vessels running the blockade. The Squadron at Port Royal and Tybee Island, is very effective, and have blockaded the channels of Charleston harbor with old hulks laden with stone, while General Sherman's command have established themselves at Port Royal and Beaufort. But we learn they have been repulsed by General Lee in an advance on Savannah. They have however with the aid of slaves already collected over two millions worth of cotton which they are shipping in an unginnet state to New York. There is no report of any thing further from the Gulf, but the firing of a few shot from Fort Pickens on some rebel craft at Pensacola, and there is some appearance at Washington of the army going into winter quarters, and from the manner in which the subject is handled by Congress and the Cabinet, one would think they take it coolly and cosily, as though "nobody was hurt," and nothing the matter.

Spending a few days recently in the Federal City, I attended a reception by the President and lady. Two gentlemen accompanied me from the Hotel. We soon found ourselves in the large vestibule, the entrance hall of the White House. Our coats, caps, &c., were put in places prepared for them, and a check given each of the number of the recess. We mixed in the crowd, circulating through an elegant suite of rooms, till we came in front of the President, where we stood *vis-a-vis* waiting for some one to announce us. In the absence of that functionary, "Old Abe" seeing us halt, smilingly said (for we were fashionably late in going) "Have you passed through before?" I answered "No, Sir," when he reached out his long arm and gave me a hearty shake, (and to all alike) saying very cordially, "How do you do, gentlemen? I am glad to see you." And I have no doubt he was, for he seemed to be enjoying himself very much. But his once white glove showed the marks of the "unwashed democracy" who had thronged past before us and retired. We passed on to make our bow to the lady of the Presidential mansion who stood surrounded with a gay coterie of both sexes, in which Gov. Newell of New Jersey officiated in presenting the "distingui" to her ladyship. She appeared as the "belle of the evening," dressed in the height (I should say the depth) of fashion, with much of her fine bust and arms exposed, all rouged and powdered to excess,—a rich white silk, with flounces, and a wide border of neat figures in green; on her head a wreath of white and green flowers; a costly necklace terminated with a brilliant jewel pendant in front. I have been thus particular to show you the absurdity of a woman's notions, whom while