

ances, must have contained over 100,000 men. What wonder then if Philadelphia was in mourning for so many of her sons!

These, however, were the only signs of war till we reached the Susquehanna, where we came fairly on its trail. On either branch we found a strong guard stationed, and another on the steamer, and henceforth soldiers almost lined the railway. At every half mile or so a small detachment was encamped, whose duty it was to guard against any interruption of communication, a danger the government may not unreasonably apprehend, considering the temper of the Marylanders, and the vast importance of the line.

It was late in the afternoon before we entered Baltimore, where our impatience was relieved by news of a battle then going on, but our apprehensions were not dispelled by the equivocal nature of the message.

The paper which conveyed the intelligence was a shabby sheet of two pages, printed on brownish paper, and with such wretched type as to be almost illegible. It purported to be, however, the organ of the Union, taking for its motto "UNION AND LIBERTY—ONE AND INSEPARABLE—NOW AND FOREVER," and it seemed to be no unfit representative of Union influence in Maryland, nor a false exponent of Union feeling, judging by its rancorous abuse of Great Britain.

The sun was setting as we travelled through the fertile plantations of Maryland. Now and then we found a slave returning home from work, or a group of little blacks before a cabin door, or a planter's residence surrounded by its squalid village; but the most unmistakable indication of slavery was afforded by the altered aspect of the country, which was now no longer cultivated with that neatness and care, which gave such an air of comfortable prosperity to the free states. And there were many signs of an approach to a more temperate clime than that which we had just left; yet none more striking than the wintry traces of a luxuriant vegetation in the woods. Our own hardy northern trees stood there as majestic as in our own forests, but around them were entwined creepers, whose thick stems wound around the trunk and sent their shoots to the topmost branches. It must be strange to witness the transformation which in summer this almost tropical foliage and flowers must effect in our old favourites.

The approach to Washington was marked by the increasing numbers of encampments, not now of half a dozen men, but entire regiments, whose tents covered whole hill sides. It had grown quite dark, but the long rows of watchfires, not bright enough to light up the intervening rows of tents, though strong enough to throw out into indistinct relief the little knots of soldiers gathered round them produced a novel scene.

Scrambling into one of the Willard Hotel busses—to which the passengers *en masse* proceeded to transfer themselves—we started through