

WHY THE VALLEY WAS CLEANED.—Those who take exceptions to the severe military measures adopted in the Shenandoah Valley, will find occasion to reconsider their opinions, if they reason like the old campaigner with Sheridan, who, according to a war correspondent, thus stated the case :

I asked them about Sheridan's order to clear the Valley. "Well," said one, "I tell you ; 'tis pretty hard. We got orders to clean out a section. The Captain, he picks his men," (there they all grinned,) "he knows pretty well who to take, and then we get orders to burn every barn, every stack of grain, everything except the houses, and then we started the people. We go out in squads of ten or a dozen, and the way we ride is a caution. You see the most of 'em secesh families ; the women are Union—to a man," winked he, "and their husbands, and brothers, and sons, in with the rebs ; but for all that it's hard when the women come out on their knees, crying and praying and the children clinging to 'em."

"But," said he, "it's a good deal harder to go along a road, and right along by the side of the woods, to find your own brother hanging to a tree, with his ears, his nose, and his lips cut off, as I did mine last week ! These devils," said he, "if they'd only come out in clear day and fight us as we do them, and not murder us, they never would have had their country cleaned out as we have been forced to do."