

Editorial Items.

THE ASSEMBLY AT DAYTON.

To-day the General Assembly commences its sessions at Dayton, a beautiful inland town in Ohio. It will be opened with a sermon by the last moderator, Prof. Henry B. Smith D. D., of Union Seminary. We should judge from the list of delegates thus far published, that it will contain a very fair proportion of the working force and talent of the body. Among the questions to come before it, there will probably be none of greater importance than the one pertaining to the Publication cause, particularly the completion of its endowment, and the proposed hymn and tune book. The question of union with other bodies of Presbyterians will doubtless be mooted, in what form precisely, it is impossible to tell. Should overtures on this subject actually be made by the Assembly meeting at Newark, interesting developments of feeling and sentiment would follow. We much misjudge the temper of either body, however, if they take any decisive steps at this time on the subject. Both assemblies will celebrate the Tercentenary of John Calvin's death, May 27th, with appropriate ceremonies.

We regret that our own arrangements for fully reporting the Assembly have fallen through, from the failure of the reporter, whom we had, as we thought, engaged for the service.

Rev. J. GARLAND HAMMER, of the Presbytery of Wilmington, has kindly consented to act as our agent at Dayton.

PLEDGE OF THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

For three years, or for the war, we pledge ourselves to each other and the country, to purchase no imported article of apparel.

A badge was proposed by Mrs. Ann S. Stephens, the authoress—and adopted, viz., a black bee, with wings enamelled according to nature, worn with tri-colored ribbon, a little in front of the left shoulder.

The following resolution, adopted by the ladies inaugurating the movement, is especially commended to the sex whom it concerns. Resolved, That while as the wives and daughters and women of America, we are ready and determined to practice self-denial for the benefit of the country and our sex, we earnestly request the men of America, also to abstain from the use of imported articles, especially wines, liquors and cigars.

News of the Week.

THE GREAT STRUGGLE IN VIRGINIA.

The Power of the Republic at last Demonstrated.

THE DOWNFALL OF THE PRO-SLAVERY CONSPIRACY.

We said a few weeks ago, that the Government was determined to put forth such a degree of strength in the opening campaign, as by the favour of Providence, would suffice to give the death blow to the rebellion: The destruction, rout, or capture, of the rebel army of Virginia, was at length admitted to be the surest way of effecting this object, and consequently, preparations on a grand scale to overmatch it in strength and generalship, were made. To this end, the most successful general in the National Army, Gen. U. S. Grant, was placed in supreme command, with especial reference to the movements of the Army of the Potomac. His policy, which is also that of common sense, to make the enemy feel the weight of our numerical superiority, guided the Government, in mustering an immense army, far greater, probably, than any with which Lee has hitherto been confronted. That army, composed largely of re-enlisted veterans, well drilled, abundantly equipped and furnished for its deadly work, and last—not least—toned up to a comparatively wholesome moral condition by the work of God, at the various stations and headquarters during the Winter and Spring, moved forth upon its mighty errand, amid the intense and prayerful expectation of the people, commencing its march from various stations, on Monday the 2d day of May.

The crossing of the Rapidan was effected without opposition on Tuesday and Wednesday, at Culpepper, Jacobs', Germania and Ely's Fords. No rebels were seen, except a few pickets, who retired as they advanced. Burnside's corps crossed on Thursday. Simultaneously with this advance to the right flank of Lee's army, Gen. Butler, with Gen. W. F. Smith, who fought under Grant in the Vicksburg campaign, Gen. Gilmore whose army had been brought up from Charleston, and a formidable fleet of gunboats and iron-clads, advanced up the James River, and threatened Richmond from City Point and positions higher up the river. Gen. Sigel moved up the Shenandoah Valley to cut off the railroads supplying Gen. Lee from that quarter; and Gen. Averill still farther west, be- haviour column from the Kanawha Valley, moved upon the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad. Gen. Sherman moved in force from Ringgold upon Dalton, on the same day. The vast conception of a simultaneous and distracting onslaught of the National forces upon all the vital points in the revolted territory, was thus carried out as by the impulse of a single and intelligent mind and powerful will.

Returning to the Army of the Potomac, by dark on Wednesday, an immense army, with all its trains, artillery and appendages, had been moved an average distance of fifteen miles, and thrown over a considerable river. Not a straggler was left behind: not a horse or mule strayed by the wayside; not an abandoned wagon was encountered in the rear; not a single one of the usual signs that mark the path of an army even inconsiderable size was visible. So compact, so orderly, so swift a movement, says the correspondent

of the Inquirer, I believe to be without parallel. The beauty of the movement, says another, was astonishing to the army itself.

Instead of moving against the centre of Lee's army at Mine Run, Gen. Grant, by a sudden march, threw himself at once across the Rapidan, and upon the enemy's right flank. The consequence was the turning of that flank; and the lines of the contending armies, in place of extending east and west, changed to north, west and south-west. Thus, the Rappahannock and Fredericksburg were in Grant's rear. He moved without any loss, as in the first advances on Vicksburg, taking sixteen days' rations in wagons and on the men. The section of country thus reached, including the old battle-ground of Chancellorsville, is called the Wilderness, very densely wooded with low timber, almost impracticable for artillery and affording excellent cover to an advancing foe, familiar with the country.

The Battles Commence.

Thursday, May 5, commenced a series of battles in which both armies fought as if, indeed, the fate of the Nation and of the rebellion were now at last to be decided. Such rebel stubbornness and vehemence, met by such unflinching firmness and tenacity by the brave soldiers of the Union, with such fearful slaughter on both sides, had not been seen in the whole course of the war, if ever before in the history of man beligerent.

Thursday May 5.

On learning that Lee had left his entrenchments, our army which had advanced a few miles from the Rapidan, formed on some eminences stretching from Chancellorsville towards Germania ford, to meet him. Our men passed towards Orange Court House, and their movements were upon the turnpike and plank-roads running southwest from Fredericksburg to Orange Court House. Sedgwick was ordered to take the right, Warren the centre, and Hancock was expected to come up on the left. Warren and Sedgwick got into line about 11 o'clock, and soon after skirmishing was heard on the front. About noon Gen. Warren was ordered to push Griffin's division forward to the right and left of the turnpike, and ascertain what the enemy were about. Bartlett's brigade moved up the left. And Ayers' regulars to the right of the road—Switzer's following in reserve. After advancing about three quarters of a mile, they suddenly found themselves confronted by a well-ordered and strong rebel position on a thickly wooded ridge. A severe fight ensued. Our two brigades held their ground against evidently greater numbers for nearly an hour, but the enemy succeeded in overlapping Ayers' regular brigade, and forcing it back precipitately. The flank of Bartlett's brigade being exposed, it was also soon forced back for some distance. Two pieces of the 2d Massachusetts Battery had to be left behind in consequence of the killing of nearly all the horses, and fell into the hands of the enemy. Two other brigades came up to sustain these, when the enemy withheld further demonstrations on the part of the line. Our loss is estimated at 600.

Meanwhile, Hancock on the left, could fully execute his movement, and my under Longstreet, at 3 P. M., attempted to get between him and the remainder of the army. Getty's division of Sedgwick's corps was ordered at once to stay this dangerous demonstration. Hancock's advance, Mott's division, arrived just in time to form with Getty's, to the left and right of the plank-road leading directly from Chancellorsville to Orange Court House. Gen. Grant ordered them to attack the advancing enemy, in order to give the remaining divisions of Hancock's time to come up and form. They did so, and became at once hotly engaged in woods so thick that it was almost impossible to advance in line. The enemy in vast force pressed energetically and repeatedly upon the front, and a most furious musketry fight continued for nearly two hours. The heavy timber and dense undergrowth rendered the use of artillery impossible, and only a few rounds from heavy pieces were fired on either side, but as to violence, the musketry surpassed everything in the history of the Army of the Potomac. Our line steadily held its ground until the whole corps was forward, when nightfall prevented an advance on our part, and put an end to the fight. Probably less than 1,000, including Brigadier-Gen. Hays, of Pittsburgh, Pa.

Gen. Lee made two attempts to cut our army in two, both on the right and left, by getting between the river and Warren's and Sedgwick's corps, with only part of Burnside's across on the one side, and between Hancock's corps and the remainder of the army on the other. That he was foiled in both purposes and that the army has been concentrated, notwithstanding his two well-conceived attacks, constitutes a most substantial success for Gen. Grant. Not one-half of the army was engaged to-day. At night, every corps was in proper position. Burnside's being fully up.

Friday, May 6th.

This day's fighting was a terrible trial to the spirit of our army and its leader. So fierce, so bloody, so dubious, nay so nearly a disaster in its general results, that as Mr. Lincoln is credibly reported to have said, any other general, meeting with such a reception from the rebels would have been back again at his old position across the river. In nothing has the indomitable spirit of Gen. Grant been better displayed, or the endurance and spirit of the army, when under a competent leader, been more honorably vindicated, than in the conduct of both of the sanguinary and awful conflicts of this day. It reminds us somewhat of Rosecrans and his gallant army the night after the indecisive conflict of Stone River.

A light haze covered the ground when day dawned on Friday morning. As it disappeared before the sun, and as the pickets of both armies came in sight of each other, hostilities began from a slow and straggling interchange of shots between the pickets. The firing increased in warmth until six o'clock, when the engagement became general, and continued with little abatement throughout the day. Longstreet, reinforced during the night, fell on our left under Hancock's corps, and the remainder of the army.

This magnificent soldier, once a Confederate, now a Union soldier, during the morning had terrible work before him. Pressed by the apparently constantly increasing forces of Longstreet, he struggled hard, fiercely and long to hold his own, but was twice driven back to his breastworks, and once the adventurous Rebels ventured to plant their colors within his field-works, but the insult was instantly avenged by hurling the enemy, neck and heels, out of the sanctuary. At last relief came in the shape of the 5th Corps, under the gallant Burnside, and Hancock was allowed to breathe the free once more. Such fighting as Hancock did that day had probably never been seen before. Back and forth, first charged and then charging, the bodies of Union and Rebel dead lying side by side by hundreds on the contested ground, attested the unparalleled severity of the conflict.

The charge of Longstreet was overwhelming and crushing. Solid masses of infantry were hurled upon Hancock, line after line, with an impetuosity which nothing could withstand. It was exceedingly fortunate for the sixth corps, and for the whole army, that he was checked at the critical period, and driven back with as much precipitation as he came. At night Hancock occupied his breastworks, and had nothing but prisoners and rebel dead to show for the slaughter of the two days' fighting. He behaved with conspicuous gallantry throughout, and was on the field in person when dangers were thickest.

So much for our left. Our centre, under Warren, was also hotly assaulted, and late at night, according to correspondents, was compelled to abandon its first line of breastworks, bringing the skirmish line within a half a mile of Gen. Grant's headquarters. But the most furious, sudden and damaging onslaught was made upon our extreme right under Sedgwick. The battle was believed to be ended and our men were busy entrenching, when A. P. Hill's rebel division assaulted them with such fury, that our right was turned at once, and according to correspondents, two brigades, those of Gen. Seymour (Florida) and Gen. Shaler, with their Generals, were cut off and swept completely away by the reflux tide. As however, Gen. Grant himself states officially that we have not lost any organization, not even a company, the statement is doubtless incorrect. One of the disgraceable incidents of the day was a wild stampede of straggling soldiers, and teamsters which threatened serious consequences for a time.

Brig. Gen. Wadsworth was killed in these sanguinary engagements.

The enemy had thus turned our right flank, and the impracticability of a further engagement against the enemy in that position was easily perceived. Our right was turned, and Germania Ford was potentially in the hands of the enemy. Our line was now bent into an angle, and facing both south and west. Earthworks skirted our entire front. Our losses in killed, wounded, and missing could not thus far have been less than fifteen thousand, and we had only gained a slight advantage on the enemy's right. But the enemy, though successful on our right flank, was unable to profit by the advantage gained.

Saturday, May 7th.

Saturday morning came and went, and the enemy showed no signs of ability to improve the advantages gained. Soon from along our lines came reports that the enemy were retreating, and it was soon quite evident that only a small force was before us, and that the rebels were making the most diligent improvement of their time in getting safely back to such a position as would give them the start in a race toward Richmond. Indeed, it was to be feared that the enemy had already moved so far on the route as to put us second in chase.

At 5 o'clock P. M., our army was again on the march, through Chancellorsville towards Spottsylvania C. H. on the road to Richmond. There was a cavalry fight on the road, at Piney Branch Church. All the wounded, reported at 12,000, were sent to Fredericksburg, which from that time has been used as a depot for hospital purposes.

General Butler.

Pausing a moment to look at simultaneous movements on other parts of the field, we note that to-day General Butler sent out a column, which, after a severe struggle, succeeded in reaching and destroying a railroad bridge over the Appomattox river on the Richmond & Weldon R. R., between Petersburg and Richmond. The Shawshens, an old ferry-boat, fitted up as a gun-boat, was destroyed by a shell exploding the boiler. The Com. Jones, a boat of the same character, was exploded by a torpedo. General Kautz had also advanced with his cavalry command from Suffolk, and destroyed a bridge over Stony creek, below Petersburg. By these operations Gen. Beauregard is prevented from reinforcing Lee, and his own command was cut in two.

Sunday, May 8th.

At Todd's tavern, the enemy had planted a battery commanding the road by which part of our army moved. A series of conflicts ensued in which the battery was driven back. The position reached by the army to-day was about 2 miles from Spottsylvania C. H. It was very important to reach the C. H., so as to command Lee's road and cut off his retreat to Richmond. Towards evening General Warren, with a portion of his corps, again moved out on the Spottsylvania road, towards the Court House, and discovered the Rebels in great force. This corps was supported by that of General Sedgwick's. Warren immediately gave fight, which, after an engagement of half an hour, resulted in driving the Rebels a short distance beyond the ground they occupied, and also taking possession of their breastworks.

Monday, May 9th.

To-day there was a lull until 5 o'clock P. M. At this time, in consequence of a suspicion that the bulk of the rebel army had gone to Richmond, leaving only one corps to hold us, Grant decided on another attack, which was accordingly commenced, and raged in earnest for several hours. Hancock's corps crossed the river Po in the face of a terrible fire, and established itself on the south bank.

This battle demonstrated that Lee still had his whole army with him, his line of battle forming a double curve in front of the court house. The losses in this fight were severe, but Grant took several thousand prisoners, among them being a whole regiment, mostly men recently exchanged. An order from General Lee was found on the prisoners taken in this fight, directing them to try to capture supplies from Grant, as he had no rations to give them, and his communications with Richmond were broken. The effect of this and the severe beating they had suffered began to show on his men, who did not cheer, as usual, but fought in silence. Our troops constructed strong breastworks in front of all their positions.

General Sedgwick was shot by a rebel sharp-shooter while riding at the front to-day, and died a short time after. The bullet entered beneath his left eye, and came out at the back of his head.

Tuesday, May 10th.—Battle of the Po.

Another great and bloody battle, with a general, though not decisively favorable result to our arms, was fought to-day. It is a primary question like that discerned by Wellington, at Waterloo, when the French Cavalry were destroying his infantry squares. "Hard pounding, gentlemen," said he. "It all depends on who can stand it the longest."

On Tuesday, Gibbon and Barlow's divisions were withdrawn from the south bank of the Po, the latter's division closely followed by the enemy, who were checked by our artillery. Our line was formed with Burnside in the rear, to guard the trains. The guns, 30 in number, were immediately turned on the flying enemy. The assault was continued till nearly the whole division of the corps was captured, and other troops amounting in the aggregate to a thousand men. The prisoners were at headquarters by seven o'clock, where several interviews of an interesting character, between our own and the rebel

officers, who were old acquaintances, are reported to have taken place. It is said that Hancock extended his hand first to Johnson, who was so much affected as to shed tears, saying that he would have "preferred death to captivity." Afterwards he offered his hand to Stuart, whom he had formerly known, saying, "How are you, Stuart?" The rebel officer, assuming an air of quiet haughtiness, replied sullenly, "I am General Stuart of the Confederate army, and under present circumstances I decline to take your hand." To which Hancock very promptly replied, "under any other circumstances, General, I should not have offered it."

Barlow and Barlow's Divisions of the Second Corps were the ones that made the original charge upon the first line of the enemy's breastworks. We had taken thirty-nine guns and thirty stand of colors. These guns were together captured by the troops of Generals Birney and Barlow. Gen. Birney's Division will not number over twenty-five hundred men out of seven thousand, the number of his original command.

On other parts of the line, our success was but partial compared with the brilliant achievements of Hancock. Warren on the right was drawn back, Lee having repaired his left in a strong position which could not be carried. Burnside on our extreme left, advanced but slowly during the morning, through a dense woods, in which the Rebels had dug small detached rifle pits at every favorable point, from which they fired with deadly effect as we advanced; but, in spite of their advantages, they were steadily pushed back, driven from their advanced earthworks, and compelled to take refuge in their main line of intrenchments.

An assault was ordered at 3 P. M., during which our extreme left was flanked by a rebel brigade, and three regiments of Col. Hartraft's brigade, including the 51st Pennsylvania were boldly cut up, their surrender being demanded by the rebels on the flank. The demand was not acceded to, and an extremely sharp hand-to-hand conflict ensued, our men bravely holding their ground for a time and gallantly defending their colors. About three hundred men of the Seventeenth Michigan and Fifty-first Pennsylvania were, however, ultimately made prisoners, including Lieutenant-Colonel Chas. N. Swift, of the Seventeenth Michigan. A stand of colors of the 51st Pa., with Capt. Alabough who had bravely seized it was captured. The other color was brought off, the corporal who carried it bayoneted a rebel soldier who endeavored to take it. The Michigan then retired, but the seventeenth Michigan or rather the field of the woods, but however, to bring off the field of the woods, their own number as prisoners, including Colonel Barber, of the Fifth North Carolina who was in command of the brigade on their flank.

The enemy rushed on in eager pursuit, but were suddenly checked on emerging from the woods into an open field by finding themselves literally mown down by a tempest of grape and canister from two or three batteries planted in line and nearly together on the opposite side of the field. They retreated in confusion, leaving their dead and wounded lying in heaps upon the ground at the edge of the woods. The portion of our line which had given way then brought up, and although it was not possible to resume the attack on the Rebel fortifications with any prospect of success, we held our ground up to the furthest point attained, and gained the advantage of a considerably better position than that previously occupied.

The losses of the entire corps in this engagement must have been nearly, if not quite three thousand.

Despatch from Gen. Grant. "SPOTTSVYLVANIA C. H., May 12, 6.30 P. M.—The eighth day of battle closes leaving between three and four thousand prisoners in our hands, for the day's work, including two General officers and thirty pieces of artillery. The enemy are obstinate and seem to have found the last ditch.

"We have lost no organization, not even a company, while we have destroyed and captured one division (Johnson's,) one brigade (Dobbs's,) and one regiment entire, of the enemy."

Gen. Meade's Congratulatory Address.

HEAD-QUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, May 13, 1864.—Soldiers:—The moment has arrived when your Commanding-General feels authorized to address you in terms of congratulation. For eight days and nights, almost without intermission, in rain and sunshine, you have been gallantly fighting a desperate foe, in positions naturally strong, and rendered doubly so by intrenchments. You have compelled him to abandon his fortifications on the Rapidan, to retire and attempt to stop your onward progress, and now he has abandoned the last intrenched position so tenaciously held, suffering a loss in all, of eighteen thousand two hundred and eighty thousand prisoners, including two general officers. Your heroic deeds and noble endurance of fatigue and privations will ever be memorable. Let us return thanks to God for the mercy thus shown us, and ask earnestly for its continuation.

Soldiers! your work is not yet over. The enemy must be pursued, and if possible, overcome. The courage and fortitude you have displayed renders your Commanding-General confident your future efforts will result in success. While we mourn the loss of many gallant comrades, let us remember that many must have suffered equal if not greater losses. We shall soon receive reinforcements, which he cannot expect. Let us determine to continue vigorously the work so well begun, and under God's blessing in a short time the object of our labors will be accomplished.

GEORGE G. MEADE, Major-General Commanding. Official—S. WILLIAMS, A. G. (Approved). U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant-General Commanding the Armies of the United States.

Saturday, May 14th.

The excessive rain of Friday delayed or wholly prevented further movements of a serious character for the time being. A general assault was to have been made on the enemy's right wing on Saturday morning, but owing to the wretched condition of the roads, which had been rendered almost impassable by the storm, a portion of our army failed to get into position in time, and the attack had to be abandoned in consequence. In the afternoon the rebels, by a sudden dash, drove our men from a strong position held by the 5th corps. Just before dark, a column led by Ayres brigade retook the position, driving back the rebels with severe loss. Our own loss was as high as two or three hundred.

After the repulse of the rebels one of the divisions of the 5th Corps made a charge upon the enemy's position, and, it is reported, captured a rebel battery and a number of prisoners. Reinforcements are going to General Grant daily and have begun to reach his army. In Maryland, Kentucky and New Jersey, the militia have been summoned for a hundred days, to relieve veteran regiments from guard duty, and allow every available man to go to the front. The N. Y. Herald puts down our

loss at 35,000, 5000 of which are prisoners; very many of the wounded are slightly so, about 4500 have been killed. These figures are not official, and may be exaggerated. It is said we have captured 12000 prisoners, 9000 of whom were on their way to Washington on Saturday. The loss of the enemy is unknown. His troops, according to prisoners taken, are on quarter rations.

Friday and Saturday, May 13th and 14th.

General Hancock with his indomitable corps, renewed operations to-day, and pushing forward, learned that after the severe punishment of the day previous, General Lee had retired four miles, and had his army in position. On Friday night, a movement was made by our 5th and 6th corps to the left with a view of attacking early on Saturday morning. Correspondents say that Lee's wagon-train was moved westward and the belief spread that he designed retreating towards Lynchburg. Up to seven o'clock Sabbath morning, May 15th, there had been no further fighting. The roads are very heavy from the protracted rain.

General Sherman.

By brilliant and energetic strategical movements General Sherman, well seconded by General McPherson, had May 14, compelled the evacuation of Dalton, by the rebel Johnson. The position would probably have defied a direct assault.

The flanking movement by General McPherson was admirably conceived and executed, and secured a vital point at Snake Gap, opening upon Resaca, fifteen miles in the rear of Dalton.

No sooner was this done than General Sherman shifted the main body of his troops to the right, following General McPherson. Johnston had no alternative but to take flight from his stronghold on the mountain. General Kirkpatrick at the head of a division of cavalry, reached Johnston's rear, and destroyed the railroad a few miles south of Resaca May 8th.

General Butler.

General Butler's despatches dated May 14, at 8 A. M., and 10 A. M., show him to be stirring at an early hour. He was conducting regular siege operations against Fort Darling, assisted by the renowned siege officer, the Hero of Pulaski, Gregg, Wagner, Sumter and Charleston, General Gilmore. This general on the previous evening, assaulted and took the enemy's works on their right. General Smith, of Vicksburg celebrity, carried the enemy's first line on Saturday morning, the 14th, whereupon the enemy retired into 3 square redoubts.

Latest.—Tuesday.

Up to 8 o'clock Monday morning, the operations of Meade's army continued suspended, on account of the roads.

At 12 o'clock Sabbath night, May 15th, the rebel Gen. Johnston was compelled by Sherman, to evacuate his position at Resaca. Resaca is on the Atlanta and Chattanooga Railroad, fifty-six miles from the latter place, eighty-four from the former, and sixteen miles south of Dalton, Johnston's first position. It is also about forty miles northwest of Rome. Our loss is unofficially stated at 3000.

Butler's movements of May 14, 15, and 16, are unofficially stated as follows:

Gen. Burnham's Brigade charged upon the enemy's outer works at Frooty's Creek, and carried the entire line, section by section. At ten, A. M., our batteries opened upon the enemy, who had fallen back to heavy earthworks near Fort Darling. Our loss is one hundred and fifty men, and we took a few prisoners. At 4 P. M., a shell exploded a magazine in Fort Darling.

May 15.—A small rebel gun-boat came down opposite Fort Darling this morning, and threw several shells into our cavalry, after which she retired. At noon the enemy came out of his fortifications to attack Heckman's Brigade. The fight lasted until 4 P. M. Our musketry drove the enemy back to his works, and the sharpshooters along the lines kept the rebel artillery silenced. At 9 P. M., the enemy advanced upon our line, near the Petersburg turnpike. After a short and sharp engagement with musketry, we drove the enemy back to his breastworks.

May 16, at 10 A. M., the enemy made another sortie which was repulsed with slight loss on our side.

The Navy.—Capture of Blockade Runners.

Captured on the 7th, off Wilmington, blockade runner Young Republic, of Nassau, formerly the Conqueror of New York, from which port she sailed about forty days since. Her cargo consisted of 600 tons of tobacco and 1,300 bales of cotton, all on Confederate account, and she was commanded by rebel navy officers, Capt. Frank W. Harris acting as commander. The Navy Department has received information of the capture by the United States steamer Connecticut of the new iron screw steamer Grayhound, off Wilmington, on the 10th inst. She loaded at, and cleared from Liverpool in January last, and is owned or held by Henry Laforet, the rebel agent. Her cargo consists of 106 bales army cloth, and 158 bales and boxes, contents unknown; soda, iron, &c. She has arrived in Hampton Roads, and the passengers captured on her is the notorious woman Belle Boyd, who has been several times under arrest.

Incidents of the Battles.

Far down the plank-road where Hancock fought, beyond the thickest rebel dead, lay a boy severely wounded—perhaps not less a soldier than he was—but a boy. He had fallen the day before, when we were farthest advanced, and had remained unmolested within the rebel lines. They had not removed him, and he was alone with the dead when I rode up. The poor fellow was crawling about gathering violets. Faint with loss of blood, unable to stand, he could not resist the tempting flowers, and had already made a beautiful bouquet. Having caused a stretcher to be sent for, I saw him taken up tenderly and borne away wearing a brave, sweet, touching smile.

The following incidents will show the enthusiasm of the troops:—A soldier, with an arm amputated, said:—"I am sorry I have lost it, for I want to be at them again." He sang "Rally Round the Flag Boys," and a score in the hospital joined the chorus.

General John C. Robinson, commanding the 2d division of the 5th corps, received a minie ball in his knee, inflicting a painful wound. The General was struck twice on Sunday, the first ball striking his spur, and glancing off, it struck the belting of his servant, who was immediately behind, and the ball again glanced upwards, striking the General near the elbow, and passing through the servant's arm.