

News of the Week.

THE WAR.

THE REBEL INVASION.

We mentioned last week that a force of rebels had crossed the Potomac, with the intention of invading Maryland and perhaps Pennsylvania. These raiders have kept the citizens of these two States in a continued excitement during the whole week. One of the greatest difficulties connected with this raid, as, indeed, with every other, has been to ascertain the number and character of the enemy. In the absence of positive facts and figures, we have been flooded with speculations and rumors; so that, even now, it is very difficult to reach any idea of the truth. It would be well for the Governors of the invaded States to keep the people advised of the progress of the enemy, by official despatches, after the manner of Secretary Stanton. This would answer two purposes; it would keep the public from panic, and secure a more ready response to the Governors' call for aid in repelling the invasion. As it is now, the people living on the "border" are frightened out of measure under the idea that every raid is composed of the larger part of the rebel army; while those living at a distance from the scene of trouble are disposed to ridicule the idea that any considerable force of the enemy are near, or that any serious danger is to be looked for. All the previous raids toward Maryland and Pennsylvania have shown conclusively that both these extremes are evils from which the people should be delivered. Nothing, certainly, has done so much to aid the rebels, indirectly, as the paralytic fear of the people on the "border," and the apathy of those more securely located. We do not understand why competent scouts cannot be found, well acquainted with the country, who could watch the movements of the enemy, and ascertain something of his force and its character.

But there is another, and a far greater evil, which should be remedied. Everybody must know that the rebels attempt a raid upon the Maryland and Pennsylvania borders only because they know there is no considerable force to oppose them. Although we have had several raids, we do not seem to have learned that to insure safety against such incursions we need a remodeling of our militia laws, and a thoroughly organized and trained militia force. There are more men in the States of Maryland and Pennsylvania, able to perform military duty, than could drive back or utterly defeat the largest force the rebels can afford to send on a raid. But these men, unorganized, and without discipline, are a mere mob when opposed to veteran troops. The rebels know that we have no organized militia, and hence their boldness. Whatever may be the result of the present invasion, we hope the great lesson of the necessity of a good militia system will be thoroughly learned and improved by the authorities of Pennsylvania and Maryland.

The history of the present raid is somewhat as follows:

On Sunday, the 3d inst., Gen. Sigel, who was stationed with a small force at Martinsburgh, some dozen miles from the Potomac, learned of the advance of a body of rebels upon that town, and believing the enemy to be of much superior strength, he at once retreated to Harper's Ferry, from which he crossed the Potomac next day, and took up a position at Maryland Heights. The same day the rebel cavalry crossed the Potomac at points above and below Harper's Ferry—some crossing as high up as Williamsport, and others as far down as Point of Rocks. They advanced, followed at some distance by an infantry force, as far as Hagerstown and Frederick, both of which places were entered by detachments of cavalry, without any great resistance. Gen. Wallace, who commands the district of Maryland, at once gathered up such troops as were within reach, and near Baltimore, and advanced to Frederick, where he was on Thursday, the 7th. He took up his position a few miles east of the town, on the Monocacy River. On Friday there was skirmishing with the enemy; and on Saturday they attacked our troops in force, and after a considerable and sanguinary engagement our troops were defeated, and fell back upon Baltimore. During these days they plundered and destroyed all that came in their way. We shall not go into the details of their preliminary operations. This is, in brief, the history of the raid, up to this time (July 11th). We give the details of the

Battle of Frederick City.

Under the orders of Maj.-Gen. Lew. Wallace, who established his headquarters at Monocacy, near the Frederick City Junction, the extreme western limit of his department, on Tuesday afternoon, the 5th inst., a strong cavalry force, with two guns, under command of Col. Clendennin, was sent out on the 8th, with orders to reconnoiter the country, and to proceed beyond Middletown, if necessary, in order to feel the enemy. This force started about daybreak, and met the rebels a mile east of the town, which they had completely pillaged, robbing both friend and foe alike. Col. Clendennin had a brisk skirmish with the rebels, whose numbers he found to be vastly superior to his own. Slowly falling back, the rebels leisurely followed, considering that they had a good thing in hand—namely, bagging Clendennin's men, and the repossession of Frederick City, which is about six miles distant from Middletown. In this manner the rebels followed up Clendennin, skirmishing at intervals during the day. Gen. Wallace, having been informed by couriers of the exact condition of affairs, meantime sent forward re-inforcements under command of Col. Gilpin, consisting of the 2d Maryland, Baltimore Artillery, Capt. Alexander, and other regiments. The rebels, deeming that they could easily obtain a victory over Clendennin, formed line of battle a little before 5 o'clock in afternoon, about half a mile west of the City of Frederick, and fired the first gun from a battery which they had got into position on the brow of a hill. Their line was formed in a half circle from the Lime-House toward the Harper's Ferry Pike. Clendennin's battery replied promptly, and the firing was continued at intervals. Meantime Col. Gilpin came up with his column and took command. The fight was now opened in good earnest, Col. Gilpin advancing his lines, and repulsing the enemy three times, but successively falling back toward the city before

the superior forces of the rebels. We had three batteries—the same as the rebels—though their guns were rifled, and vastly superior to ours. Their shot and shell, for the most part, passed over the heads of our men, several exploding a few yards from the extensive hospital at Frederick, but happily doing no damage. All the stores in the city were closed, and many of the citizens went to the edge of the town, where they clambered upon wood-piles and fences to obtain a view of the fight. Maj. Gen. Wallace occupied a position on an eminence not far distant, where he could observe all that passed between the contending forces, and arrange his reserve for the defense of the Monocacy bridge, should the rebels drive our men from their position. Our cavalry had over ten horses shot under them, yet our loss, considering the duration of the fight was comparatively small.

The Fight at Monocacy Bridge.

The following are the only particulars of the fight at Monocacy Bridge, which have reached us: The troops engaged in the fight at Monocacy Bridge, formed in line of battle on the left of the railroad and on this side of the river. On the right two regiments were thrown out as skirmishers. The latter were attacked at half-past 7 in the morning by cavalry from the Hagerstown pike, when they fell back across the river in good order and with slight loss fighting all the way. After crossing, they succeeded in checking the advance of the enemy and held him here a long time. About 10 A. M., a desperate attack was made by his mounted cavalry, which was repulsed, and notwithstanding they repeatedly tried to dislodge our men from the position, they could not succeed. Their losses were very heavy, our men having the advantage of using rifles, while they had only carbines. After fighting until 3 P. M., a heavy body of the enemy—four regiments—were discovered to be moving upon our left flank, having crossed the river some distance below, and, in consequence, our troops had to abandon their position and fall back. The enemy followed for about three miles, but without inflicting much damage. Our loss in the action is said to be about 1,000 in killed, wounded and prisoners. Gen. Tyler was in command of some of the 100 days' men, and how he was captured is not known.

Further from the Invasion.

What was supposed at first to be a mere raid of horse thieves has turned out to be a formidable invasion, having as its object the capture of Baltimore and Washington, especially the latter city. On the morning of the 11th the rebels burned the residence of Gov. Bradford, a few miles from Baltimore. They also made a demonstration on the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad at a place called Magnolia, a little north of Baltimore. At this point they captured two passenger trains, robbing the passengers and burning the cars. About noon of the 11th, the rebels cut the telegraph between Baltimore and Philadelphia. They then proceeded to Gunpowder River Bridge, on the same railroad, but were driven off by gunboats. This mischief appears to have been done by a comparatively small number of the enemy.

For some time the citizens of Philadelphia and other places North of Baltimore were in total ignorance of what was going on and when the telegraph resumed its work about half-past ten at night the news was of the most unwelcome character. A body of the rebels appeared in the morning on the Rockville road, with whom our troops had a continuous skirmish until the rebels had advanced to a point about four miles west of Tenallytown. This latter place is about five miles Northwest of Washington City and within the District of Columbia. There the enemy was stopped. Subsequently the fighting was renewed on the Seventh street road, at a point due north from the centre of the city, and distant about six miles. In this vicinity it is reported that the rebels burned the residence of Francis P. Blair, Sr., which is at Silver Springs, just outside of the District line. There is no doubt that they occupy his farm.

The party of the enemy that plundered Rockville the night before is represented to have been about eight hundred strong; but the refugees who reached Washington from that village reported that large bodies of the enemy were crossing the Potomac all day Sunday and Monday morning. These were variously estimated at from twelve thousand to thirty thousand.

OPERATIONS IN FRONT OF PETERSBURG.

On the 7th inst., the enemy were discovered erecting a fort in front of our left center. A battery of 32-pounders, recently placed in position, opened upon them from the line of the 5th Corps. This suspended all operations at that point. All day our guns belled forth their thunders and were answered by the rebel cannon. Most of their shots fell short. For a season this destroyed the harmony existing between the two opposing lines. A number of rifles were used. On the afternoon of the 10th there was another outbreak along our line. Like the previous one it was brief, and in front of Turner's division of the 18th Corps, with this difference: On the 7th we provoked the attack. This afternoon the rebels were the aggressors. The day had been unusually sultry. No one expected an assault, and every one seemed pleased that there should be a momentary truce between the hostile cannon.

Burnside's left and Smith's right meet near the Prince George County road. Here the line is nearest the enemy's breastworks. About 4 P. M., the rebels opposite Gen. Turner's works sprang to their feet uttering a loud yell, which was accompanied by a rapid volley of musketry. It was disagreeable to move a limb under such a scorching heat, but our men sprang to their posts, responding to the rebel yell with a loud hurrah, and opening upon them with shot and shell.

The 13th Indiana, armed with seven-shooters, poured several close and well-directed volleys into the compact line of the enemy, which caused them to recede and crouch under the friendly shelter of their earthworks. In the meantime two full regiments were seen massed near a large house opposite our men. These were hurried down to strengthen their line at this point.

the rebels ever and anon trying to reach our guns, but falling miserably in every attempt. The enemy's battery across the Appomattox threw several shells into our works.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Destruction of the "Alabama."

The news of the sinking of this pirate reached us last week by telegraph, as we were going to press. Since then the secular papers have been filled with the details. The following dispatches have been received from Capt. Winslow, the commander of the Kearsarge: Dispatches from Capt. Winslow. U. S. Steamer Kearsarge, June 19, P. M., 1864.—Sir: I have the honor to inform the Department that the day subsequent to the arrival of the Kearsarge off this port, on the 14th inst., I received a note from Capt. Semmes begging that the Kearsarge would not depart, as he intended to fight her, and would not delay her but a day or two. According to this notice, the Alabama left the port of Cherbourg this morning at about 9:30 o'clock. At 10:20 A. M., we discovered her steering towards us. Fearing the question of Jurisdiction might arise we steamed to sea, until a distance of six or seven miles was obtained from the Cherbourg breakwater, when we rounded to and commenced steering for the Alabama. As we approached her within about 1,200 yards she opened fire, we receiving two or three broadsides before a shot was returned. The action continued, the respective steamers making a circle round and round, at a distance of about nine hundred yards from each other. At the expiration of an hour the Alabama struck, going down in about twenty minutes afterward, and carrying many persons with her. It affords me great satisfaction to announce to the Department that every officer and man did their duty, exhibiting a degree of coolness and fortitude which gave promise at the outset of certain victory. I have the honor to be, most respectfully, your obedient servant, JOHN A. WINSLOW, Captain.

Hon. GIBSON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy.

U. S. STEAMER KEARSARGE, (Commodore).

Sir: I inclose herewith the Surgeon's report of the casualties on board this vessel in the late action with the Alabama. Although we received some twenty-five or thirty shots, twelve or thirteen taking effect in the hull, by the mercy of God we have been spared the loss of any of our lives, where as in the case of the Alabama, the carnage, I learn, was dreadful. The ships were about equal in match, the tonnage being the same, the Alabama carrying a 100-pound rifle, with one heavy 68-pounder and six broadside 32-pounders; the Kearsarge carrying four broadside 32-pounders, two 11-inch and one 28-pound rifle, one gun less than the Alabama. The only shot which I fear will give us any trouble is a 100-pound rifle-ball, which entered our stern port, and remains at present unexploded. It would seem almost invidious to particularize the conduct of any one man or officer in which all had done their duty with a fortitude and coolness which cannot be too highly praised, but I felt it due to my Executive Officer, Lieut-Commander Thornton, who superintended the working of the battery, to particularly mention him for an example of coolness and encouragement of the men while fighting which contributed much toward the success of the action.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN A. WINSLOW, Captain.

Hon. GIBSON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy.

Well Earned Honors.

Secretary Welles has sent to Capt. Winslow of the Kearsarge the following recognition of his services in the destruction of the pirate Alabama: NAVY DEPARTMENT, July 6, 1864.

Sir: Your very brief dispatches of the 19th and 20th ult., informing the Department that the piratical craft Alabama or 290 had been sunk of the 19th of June, near Meridan, by the Kearsarge, under your command, were this day received. I congratulate you on your good fortune in meeting this vessel, which had so long evaded the fastest ships, and some of the most vigilant and intelligent officers of the service; and for the ability displayed in this combat you have the thanks of the Department. You will please express to the officers and crew of the Kearsarge the satisfaction of the Government at the victory over a vessel superior in tonnage, superior in number of guns, and superior in the number of her crew. The battle was so brief, the victory so decisive, and the comparative results so striking, that the country will be reminded of the brilliant actions of our infant navy, which have been repeated and illustrated in this engagement. The Alabama represented the most valiant effort of the most skilled English workshops. Her battery was composed of the well-tried 32-pounder of 57 cwt., of the famous 68-pounder of the British Navy, and of the only successful rifled 100-pounder yet produced in England. The crew were generally recruited in Great Britain, and many of them received superior training on board her Majesty's gunnery ship, The Excellent. The Kearsarge is one of the first gunboats built at our navy-yards, at the commencement of the rebellion, and lacks the improvements of vessels now under construction. The principal guns composing her battery had never been previously tried in an exclusively naval engagement, yet in the hour of our most fortunate meeting your antagonist, this fully ending her predatory career, and killed many of her crew, without injury to the Kearsarge or the loss of a single life on your vessel. Our countrymen have reason to be satisfied that in this, as in every naval action of this unhappy war, neither the ships, the guns, nor the crew have been deteriorated, but that they maintain the ability and continue the renown which ever adorned our naval annals. The President has signified his intention to recommend that you receive a vote of thanks, in order that you may be advanced to the grade of Commodore. Lieut-Commander James S. Thornton, the Executive Officer of the Kearsarge, will be recommended to the Senate for advancement ten numbers in his grade, and you will report to the Department the names of any others of the officers or crew whose good conduct on the occasion entitles them to special mention. Very respectfully,

GIBSON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy.

CAPT. JOHN A. WINSLOW, U. S. NAVY, Com'g U. S. Steamer Kearsarge, Cherbourg, France.

How Semmes Escaped.

The following statements, published in the London Daily News, will show the part taken by the English to enable Semmes to escape capture: "The fring of the Alabama was very inaccurate, that of the Kearsarge was excellent. A large pivot-gun was particularly effective. The Kearsarge is spoken of as being iron-clad; she was no more iron-clad than the Alabama might have been had they taken the precaution. She simply had a double row of chains hanging over her sides to protect her machinery. Two shots

from the Alabama struck these chains, and fell harmless into the water. The Kearsarge picked up 63 men, one dead body, and two men who have since died on board. She also took five officers. Capt. Winslow would now have all the officers and men of the Alabama as prisoners had he not placed too much confidence in the honor of an Englishman on board the Deerhound who carried the flag of the Royal Yacht Squadron. When the Alabama went down, the yacht, being near, was hailed by Capt. Winslow and requested to aid in picking up the men in the water. The request was complied with, and the Deerhound, after having rescued, as supposed, about twenty persons, including Capt. Semmes and First Lieutenant Keel, immediately left, running toward England. Capt. Winslow says the reason he did not pursue her or fire into her was that he could not believe any one carrying the flag of the Royal Yacht Squadron could act so dishonorably a part as to carry off his prisoners, whom he had requested him to save from feelings of humanity. Capt. Winslow considers Semmes and his officers bound upon their honor to give themselves up as his prisoners of war. About five minutes before the Alabama went down a boat from her came to the Kearsarge, with an officer, who surrendered the vessel, and then asked permission to return with his boat to assist in picking up the men. This was granted, when the officer left, and after receiving a number—principally officers, I understand—he went on board the English yacht and escaped. Please excuse the hurried style of this letter, but I was anxious that while Capt. Semmes and his party are being fed for their glorious conduct, you might be apprised of these positive facts. P. S.—The Alabama hauled down her colors and ran up a white flag at least ten minutes, I should think, before she went down. Prisoners taken from the Alabama state that about 3 o'clock in the morning before the engagement took place, the chronometers in the Alabama were transferred to the English yacht Deerhound, then lying in the harbor, not far from the Alabama. The Deerhound was, in fact, acting as tender to the Alabama before the action."

Depredations of the Pirate Florida.

We have intelligence to the effect that within a few days, about four, we think, the rebel pirate Florida has captured and destroyed six vessels just off our coast. One of the schooners was burned within twenty miles of Chincoteague, and all of them destroyed within fifteen miles of, at least, twenty of our gunboats. This is the most audacious act yet performed by this scourge of the sea.

One of the captures was a splendid steamer, bound for New Orleans, called the Electric Spark. She was on her second trip, since being built.

Several war vessels have been sent in search of the Florida, and it is to be hoped she will soon meet the same fate as the Alabama.

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