

News of the Week.

THE WAR.

The news from our armies during the past week has been remarkably scarce. Nothing whatever seems to be moving in any of the Departments. There are a few guerrilla operations, and some additional movements of the rebels in Missouri, but nothing of moment. The most important event of the past week has been the elections in the different States of Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana.

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

A despatch from Washington dated the 11th inst., says:

Information received from the Army of the Potomac to-day, states that on Sunday night, between twelve and one o'clock, the enemy opened fire toward the second corps, and continued the attack only twenty or thirty minutes. Our troops did not reply. It is not known that the enemy inflicted any damage on our troops. Another dated at the headquarters of the army on the 11th says: Last evening and a part of the night, firing was brisk in the centre of the line in front of Petersburg. Large bodies of the enemy's troops have been seen moving toward our left the past twenty-four hours, which received the attention of our gunners, whenever they appeared within range. There is nothing new from the Army of the James. That army remains in its former position at Chapin's Bluff, the enemy not seeming desirous of attacking the line there.

The special correspondent of the Washington Chronicle, at the front, under date of the 16th inst., says:—The Fifth and Ninth Corps advanced their skirmish lines Hoffman, Baxter and Bragg pushed their lines about a mile, discovering the strong front of the enemy on the Weldon and Vaughan roads. On the left of this, down the Squirrel Level road, the rebels were numerous. The One Hundred and Ninety-first Pennsylvania and Fourth Delaware pushed forward and destroyed the house of W. W. Davis, which has been used as a shelter for rebel sharpshooters. The destruction of this house rids our army of a very serious annoyance. The skirmish line of the Ninth Corps was advanced over a mile; a trail line of works abandoned by the enemy was found and a number of our men wounded. A little to the right, Winslow's and Monk's batteries opened and drew forth emphatic responses from the guns of the enemy. Several horses were killed, but no men were struck. Near nightfall the rebels charged our pickets to the right of the Weldon road. The line then fell back to its original position, which was better than the one newly captured. On the extreme left of the Ninth Corps we succeeded in unfolding so as to gain a position less than a mile from the Southside road, where a fort is erected commanding the track.

The following is the vote in six regiments in the Army of the Potomac. It may be taken as a fair sample for all the Pennsylvania volunteers:

Table with 3 columns: Regiment, Union, Dem. One-hundred-and-fourteenth, 140, 24. Twenty-first, 142, 2. Fifty-sixth, 160, 2. Sixty-eighth, 101, 19. One-hundred-and-sixty-eight, 310, 60. Fifty-six, 100, 2.

SHERIDAN'S ARMY.

The following details of the cavalry engagement on the 9th, are furnished by Gen. Sheridan:

"I have seen no sign of the enemy since the brilliant engagement of the 9th instant. It was a square cavalry fight, in which the enemy was routed before my power to describe. He lost everything carried on wheels, except one piece of artillery, and when last seen it was passing over Rudes' Hill, near New Market, on the keen run, twenty-six miles from the battle-field, to which point the pursuit was kept up. The battery men, and horses, etc., were captured. The horses were in good condition and were all exchanged by our cavalrymen for their broken down animals."

ARMIES OF THE SOUTHWEST.

Letters from Jefferson City, Mo., say that the Rebel demonstration on that place on the 6th was merely to occupy our forces while the enemy's main body crossed the Osage River. After feeling our fortifications and finding them strong, they passed Westward during the night, twenty thousand strong, with sixteen to twenty-five cannon, and a long train of wagons. Gen. Pleasanton arrived on the morning of the 8th and assumed command, with about 5,000 cavalry. At night reports reached Jefferson that we had engaged Price's rear, while Gen. Curtis, coming from Kansas, was fighting their front. Gen. Price has issued a proclamation stating that he had come into the State intending to remain. He desired to make friends, not enemies, and the depredations he had committed were a military necessity.

A despatch from St. Louis of the 10th says: About 2000 rebels with two guns, under Jeff. Thompson, attacked Sedalia at two o'clock yesterday, and drove the militia out of that place. A few of the militia resisted the attack, but finally surrendered, and were paroled on the spot. The citizens were released without parole. The rebels left during the night, and a Federal infantry force arrived there this morning. The rebels robbed the stores of several thousand dollars' worth of boots and shoes, and burned the water station, but did no other injury to the railroad. The rolling stock was all sent to Tipton. Price is represented to be moving on Lexington, Bill Anderson out the North Missouri Railroad at High Hill, and is reported to have visited New Florence.

Nothing definite is known as to Sherman's whereabouts, but he is known to be energetically at work to open and keep open the route to Atlanta, no matter what rebel column may intercept. Our forces have re-occupied Ringold and the block-house three miles in advance, and found the railroad and bridge safe. It is generally believed that Dalton, with the Forty-sixth Colored regiment, surrendered to Hood's army on the 14th, but nothing official has been received. There is no communication yet with Sherman. There was an abundance of supplies at Atlanta in anticipation of such a movement by the rebels. A despatch from Sherman dated October 16th, reports Hood retreating from the railroad after tearing up fifteen miles of it.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Rebel Vice-President on Peace.

A letter of Alexander H. Stephens, written under date of September 23, has made its appearance in print. In this Mr. Stephens discusses the question of peace, and, as usual, writes plausibly and dispassionately. He speaks, of course, with approval of the Chicago platform, an armistice, a convocation of States, State sovereignty, the right of secession, and of "giving aid and encouragement to the Peace party at the North," for which purpose the letter itself is evidently written. Speaking of a Convention of the States, Mr. Stephens says: "The properly constituted authorities at Washington and Richmond, the duly authorized representatives of the two confederacies of States now at war with each other, might give their assent to such a proposition. Good might result from it. It would be an appeal on both sides from the sword to reason and justice. All wars which do not result in the extinction or extermination of one side or the other must be ended sooner or later by some sort of negotiation."

"From the discussion or interchange of views in such a Convention, the history as well as the true nature of our institutions, and the relation of the States toward each other and towards the Federal head, would doubtless be much better understood generally than they now are; but I should favor such a proposition only as a peaceful conference, as the Convention of 1871 was. I should be opposed to leaving the question at issue to the absolute decision of such a body."

"Delegates might be clothed with powers to consult and agree, if they could, upon some plan of adjustment, to be submitted for subsequent ratification by the sovereign States whom it affected, before it should be obligatory or binding, and then binding only on such as should so ratify it."

"All questions of boundaries, confederacies, and union or unions would naturally and easily adjust themselves according to the interested parties and the exigencies of the times. Herein lies the true law of the balance of power and the harmony of States."

Mr. Stephens, it will thus be seen, acknowledges only one way to treat with the South, and that by acknowledging the Confederacy. Union he mentions very shadowily. Peace is the main idea of his letter, and separation its only deduction. Nothing can be done unless sovereign State rights are recognized as greater than those of the General Government. This is a curious attitude for the man who at the beginning of our trouble strove hard to show a stubborn people that they had not a grain of reason to secede or rebel, and who would now insist that a great Government should be liable at any time to find itself at the mercy of the smallest dependency and the meanest minority.

Gen. Butler on Retaliation.

The following communications explain themselves: HEAD-QUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA AND NORTH CAROLINA, AT THE JAMES, IN THE FIELD, Oct. 12, 1864. Sir: I enclose copy of an advertisement out from a Richmond paper, where the military officer commanding the camp near Richmond calls upon their masters to come forward and make claim to the services and labor of certain colored men therein described. Some of those are believed to be soldiers of the United States army, captured in arms. If I am mistaken in this belief I desire to be properly corrected. I have ordered to such manual labor as I deem most fitting to meet the exigency an equal number of prisoners of war held by us, and I shall continue to do so until the number of the United States, who I have reason to believe are held to labor and service by the forces you represent, until I am notified that this practice on your part has ceased.

Much as I regret the necessity imposed upon me to do this, yet I am compelled by the strictest conviction of duty thus to inaugurate a system of retaliation which will be firmly carried out. I have the honor to be, very respectfully, BENJ. F. BUTLER, Major-General Commanding. To Hon. ROBERT OULD, Commissioner of Exchange, Richmond, Va.

HEAD-QUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA AND NORTH CAROLINA, IN THE FIELD, Oct. 12, 1864. Sir:—I enclose herewith an affidavit, showing the employment of one hundred and ten United States colored soldiers by the artillery officers of the Confederate forces in the trenches near Fort Gilmer, a practice justified by no rule of war, or claim heretofore made by the Confederate authorities. I have ordered a like number of officers and soldiers, captured by us, especially as many of the Virginia reserve forces by whom this outrage being done as I have captured—into the canal at Dutch Gap, and put them at hard labor, and shall continue to add to their number until the practice is stopped. I have the honor to be, very respectfully, B. F. BUTLER, Maj.-Gen. Commanding. To Hon. ROBERT OULD, Commissioner of Exchange, Richmond, Va.

Accompanying the last communication are four affidavits made by deserters, establishing the fact that the rebels are doing just what General Butler alleges, namely, putting the colored soldiers captured from us to work upon their fortifications.

The October Elections.

Three of the great States of the loyal North, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana held their general election for Congressmen and State officers on the 11th inst. The result which we give below will rejoice the heart of every loyal man and every lover of his country. Whatever hopes the leaders of the rebellion may have reposed in the success of their "natural friends and allies" in the North, will doubtless be crushed when the news reaches them that three of the Northern States whose votes exercise a controlling influence in the electoral college, have declared for the Union and the utter destruction of rebellion. We rejoice especially at this, because we fervently believe it will serve to hasten the close of the war, and thus stop the effusion of blood.

The issue in Pennsylvania is very close, on the home vote. This is owing to the absence of the great mass of the Republican voters in the army. The soldier's vote will put the question beyond doubt and give us a majority of at least 15,000. As it is we have gained three or four Congressmen, have elected a majority of the members of the Legislature, and nearly all the city and county officers of Philadelphia. The majority thus far is 3743 on the home vote. This may be greatly increased when all the returns come in full. Indiana, which State the opposition expected to carry by a large majority has gone against them by at least 20,000 majority. Governor Morton, who

has done so much to strengthen the hands of the Federal Government, has been re-elected. Four Congressmen have also been gained for the Union side. Ohio, as was to be expected has gone overwhelmingly even on the home vote for the Union candidates. Such rabid secessionists as S. S. Cox, Long and others of their school have been taught a wholesome lesson by the good people of Ohio. They are all defeated in their hopes of reaching Congress. Sixteen Union Congressmen go from this State and perhaps seventeen. The Union majority in Ohio in the home vote is over 40,000.

MINISTERIAL RECORD.

Alford, John Ref. Pres.—resigned pastorate of New Castle and Neshannock, Pa., on account of ill health. Anderson, Thomas C. Pres. O. S.—resigned pastorate of Rehoboth Church, Del. Biefeld, Hermann Pres. N. S.—dismissed from Second German Church, Newark, N. J., and recommended to Reformed Dutch Classis of Clarion. Black, Andrew M. D. D. U. Pres.—elected Prof. Bib. Lit. in U. P. Seminary, Monmouth, Ill. Boyd, F. F. U. Pres.—accepted call to Laurel Hill, Pa. Bullman, David G. U. Pres.—died in West Milton, N. Y., September 29. Boyney, W. W. Pres. N. S., Missionary of American Board—died at Canton, China, July 27. Boing, E. L. Pres. N. S.—installed at Angelica, N. Y., October 12. Beadle, Elias R.—accepted call to First Presbyterian Church, Rochester, N. Y. Dimock, S. R. Cong.—installed pastor of Plymouth Church, Syracuse, N. Y., September 14. Dodge, David Stuart Pres. N. S.—ordained Evangelist by New York Third Presbytery, October 16. Dwight, Edward S. Cong.—installed pastor of Russell Church, Hadley, Mass., Sept. 27. Day, D. D. Henry N. late President of Ohio Female College—dismissed from Hamilton Presbytery to New Haven West Association.

Fairbairn, A. Pres.—removed to Bloomfield, Sonoma county, Cal. Fullerton, G. H. Pres.—transferred from Lancaster to Sandusky, Ohio. Gallaudet, S. H. S. Pres. O. S.—called to Dickinson Church, Pa. Galloway, J. M. Pres. O. S.—dismissed at Clearfield, Pa., October 11, on account of failure of health. Gibson, D. D. W. J. Pres. O. S.—called to Pine Grove, Pa. Gordon, D. M. licentiate U. Pres.—accepted call to Fourth U. P. Church, Philadelphia. Hamilton, Lawrence Pres. N. S.—now of San Jose, called to Oakland, Cal. Hart, William Pres. N. S.—installed at Malden, N. Y., September 28. Hayes, Edward Cong.—dismissed from Waterville, Me., October 5, to accept call to Central Congregational Church, Philada. Kurtz, J. C. J. Ger. Ref.—appointed to mission in Schuylkill county, Pa. Logan, David S. Pres. O. S.—died at Bridgewater, Pa., September 15. McMahon, James J. Pres. N. S.—received from the South as a member of N. Y. Third Presbytery.

Reed, Alexander Pres. O. S.—now of Parkersburg, Pa., called to Central Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia. Reily, W. M. Ger. Ref.—accepted call to Lewisburg, Pa. Roberts, W. C. Pres. O. S.—elected associate pastor with Dr. McGee at Birmingham, Ala. Rogers, James U. Pres.—accepted call to Canonsburg and Leipsic, Ohio. Spalding, G. B. Cong.—installed pastor of North Church, Hartford, Conn., formerly Dr. Bushnell's. Stevenson, James E. Pres. N. S.—ordained and installed pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, Jersey City, October 10. Ten Eyck, W. N. colored Pres. O. S.—to be ordained Evangelist for colored people in Elizabeth City, N. J. White, N. J. Pres. O. S.—to be installed at Williamsburg, Pa., November 9. Wynkoop, Theodore S. Pres. O. S.—ordained and installed pastor of Second Church, Huntington, Long Island, October 13. Wells, John O. Pres. N. S.—transferred from Greenville, N. Y., to Romulus, N. Y. Young, Alexander H. Pres. O. S.—accepted call to South Salem, Ohio.

U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

Cash acknowledgments for the week ending October 12, 1864:—

Ladies' Chris Com. proceeds of a fair held at San Francisco, Cal. (\$14,000 in gold coin), add'l, 28,000; Chris Com, Peoria, Ill, per Wm Reynolds, 5,000; Army Com, Cleveland, O, per S H Mather, Treas, 1,000; Coll'n at Newburg, N. Y, per S R Van Duzer, 3,054 62; Army Com, Portland, Me, per Thos R Hayes, 1,500; Chris Com, Bangor, Me, per T G Stickney, Treas, 250; Chris Com, Albany, N. Y, per Wm Williams, Treas, 250; S S class of M. E. Ch, Williamsport, Pa, Newburg, N. Y, per J F Smith, N. Y, 100; Proceeds of subscriptions for a silk quilt, held by the ladies of Mercersburg, Pa, per J W Carson, 200; Proceeds of a fair held by the children of Lambertville, N. J, per Mrs T Paul, 117; Ladies' Christian Com, Central M. E. Ch, Phila, per Miss M Gray, 100; Ward, Armitage & Co, Manchester, Eng, per Stuart & Bro, (£10 stg.), 109 33; Lewis Lawrence, Utica, N. Y, 100; L B Walls, Treas, Westminster ch, Utica, N. Y, 41 75; 1st Pres ch, Utica, N. Y, 13 41—155 16, per R S Williams, Treas; M E Ch, Hudson, N. Y, per Miss Louisa A Macy, 152 23; Ladies' Chris Com, 1st Pres ch, Newburg, N. Y, per M C Balknap, 230 19; Ladies' Chris Com, Perry, Allen co, Ind, per Rev A S Evans, 101 50; Ladies' Chris Com, 5th Ref Pres ch, Phil, 200; Contributions received in Mower U S A Hospital, Chestnut Hill, 11 50; Centremoreland Soldiers' Aid Soc, Wyoming co, Pa, per Dr Wm Thompson, 77; Mrs John W Barton, Reading, Pa, 10; Aid Soc, Branchport, N. Y, per Julia L Wheeler, 14 03; Pres Sab-sch, Clayville, N. Y, per R S Williams, Treas, 77 59; Little girls' festival held at Allentown, Pa, per Miss Louisa Grim, Treas, 50 10; Ladies' Chris Com of Moravian ch, Phil, per Rev E A Beinke, 50; Ladies' Benevolent Soc, 1st Pres ch, Newburg, N. Y, per Bishop, 51 50; A fair, friends near Adams Mills, Ohio, per M Scott, 63; Friends in Etana, N. Y, 67 77; Ladies of Ithaca, N. Y, 14—20 77, per J L H; Mrs A Myers, Phil, 5; Rev J Rice Taylor, Tecumseh, Mich, 40; Ladies' Chris Com, of United Pres ch, Cabin Hill, N. Y; 55; Monthly Concert of Seb-sch of 1st Pres ch, Bridgeport, Ohio, per Wm Alexander, 27 07; Con'n of Rev S Vohz, East Saginaw, Mich, 16; Corporal Francis Weis, co G, 39th N. Y Vols, per H H Dudley, 10; Soldiers' Aid Soc, Savona, N. Y, per J O Mallory, 10; Westminster Ref Pres Con'n, Newburgh, N. Y, per J R Thompson, 24; Village Green M. E. Ch, per R B Quigg, 85; Coll made by Mrs E Erwin, Lewistown, Pa, 15; Citizens of Lawrenceville, N. J, per E P Beary, 33 50; Sab-sch 1st Baptist ch, West Phil, per Rev J H Castle, 25; Ladies of Grotton, N. Y, per Mrs H Boker, 2; Sab-sch 1st Pres ch, Southward, Pila, 6; Wm E Chull, co H, 2nd Minn Vols, 1; cash 70c; M E Ch, Mahoning city, Pa, per Rev H H Davis,

10, Youths' Olive Prayer Meeting, per J C Chance, 8; Infant Class of the Howard Mission Sab-sch of Phil, 3 43; "M. W. P.," Norristown, Pa, 10; cash 5. \$41,368 73 Amount previously acknowledged, \$846,684 33 \$888,053 06

Error in acknowledging remittance from Oregon, \$272 25 Total, \$887,780 81 JOS. PATTERSON, Treasurer.

The United States Christian Commission begs leave to acknowledge the receipt of the following additional stores, up to October 13, 1864.

Pennsylvania—Philadelphia, 2 boxes, Ch of the Covenantant, 1 box, 1 bbl, Pa Relief Soc; 1 pkg, Mrs Dr Mitchell, 1 pkg, Miss Jackson, Muncy, 4 boxes, Ladies' Aid Soc, Danville, 2 boxes, 14 bbl, Soldiers' Aid Soc, Newmans Mills, 1 box, Ladies, Lebanon, 1 box, 1 can, Fairview, 1 box, Ladies' Soldiers' Aid Soc. New Jersey—Marksboro, 1 box, Philadelphia, 2 boxes, H M Woolton, Belvidere, 1 keg, Mrs Robeson, Mrs Blakely, Allowaystown, 2 boxes, Ladies' Aid Soc, Princeton, 3 boxes, Ladies' Chris Com, Bordentown, 1 box, Shiloh, 1 box, Ladies' Ben't Soc, Flemington, 1 box, Soldiers' Aid Soc. New York—Albany, 4 boxes, Branch U S C C, Poughkeepsie, 3 boxes, Ladies' Chris Com, Green Point, L I, 1 box, Ref Dutch ch, Penn Yan, 1 box, Aid Soc, Camden, 1 box, Mrs M S Aiden, Franklin, 1 keg, Army Relief Soc, Buffalo, 2 boxes, Ladies' Chris Com, Jasper, 1 box, Hampshire Sab-sch, Troy, 1 bbl, Oneida, 14 bbl, Massachusetts—Boston, 22 boxes, 6 bbls, 2 kegs, Army Com Young Men's Chris Asso, Middleboro, 1 box, Aid Soc. Connecticut—Hartford, 4 bbls, 2 kegs, 1 cask, Soldiers' Aid Soc. Rhode Island—Providence, 3 casks, Branch U S C C. Ohio—Belone, 1 box, 2 kegs, Soldiers' Aid Soc. Unknown—2 casks. GEO. H. STUART, Chairman, 11 Bank street, Phila.

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