



ALTOONA, PA.

TUESDAY, JULY 21, 1863.

The Situation.

In all wars, successes are hoped for, and reverses must sometimes be expected. But when reverses, or want of success fill up the measure of days and months, the heart of a nation grows sick.

The invasion of Pennsylvania filled many hearts with dread, and was on the part of the Rebel leaders a desperate undertaking, and, in some respects, destined to have its results.

But above all, the cherished ones of many homes, sleep, on the red field, "the sleep that knows no waking." Some have gone down in the prime of their manhood, and others, with the tenderness of boyhood still lingering on their brows, have closed their eyes amid the thunder of battle, to open them no more upon the green fields of earth; and now over many unmarked and nameless graves, the evening wind sings a sad requiem.

But the same wind sings a song of brilliant achievements, and fans the laurel which is woven in wreaths of impassable beauty and glory around the names of the lamented but honored dead.

Though Gen. Lee has again effected his escape, yet his defeat and rout have been of incalculable importance. The army of the Potomac which has fought and suffered so much, but with frequent ill success—in a measure disheartened—was permitted to reach the rebel leaders and their followers, that the soil of Pennsylvania, though it might produce here and there a straggling traitor, was nevertheless a soil illly adapted to the growth and success of treason.

Our soldiers on the field of Gettysburg received a new impetus, inspired thus and flushed with victory, their loss in numbers will be more than made up in the renewed energy which will fill every breast. If there were no other benefits arising from this success of our arms, this alone would be a victory in the present crisis worth contending for, but the result is doubled when we reflect that Lee's army has just experienced the reverse.

It came, as with the tread of a conqueror on a triumphant march. It has fallen back defeated, dispirited and demoralized. And though, through the awkwardness—which we are willing to accord—to its commander, it has once more reached the "Sacred soil," it has reached that soil no longer to be deemed as it once was.

Another advantage we have gained by this repulse of Lee is the lesson they have been taught concerning our reserved strength and its readiness and willingness to rise at a moment's call to beat back the invaders.

We are credibly informed that they expected to find but few men at home in Pennsylvania, and those few favorable to their cause. They did find a few of this character, and they so worthless that even the rebels themselves spurned them, and in addition they found thousands of the honest and able of the land leaving their fields and their work-shops—their offices and counting-rooms—shouldering their trusty firelocks and going forth to drive the traitor from their fields and mountain fastnesses.

But Gettysburg stands not alone in the events that mark the past few weeks. Victory at Vicksburg, re-asserting the Fourth of July glory, and gaining to us a strong hold which Jeff. Davis himself admitted was the key to all their prospects. Victory at Helena, when they hoped to succeed but were fearfully repulsed; victory a Fort Hudson and the Mississippi opened to navigation for Union vessels, but closed to supplies for the rebellion.

Thus summing all up we feel that we have decidedly the advantage in our favor, a balance to our credit greater than at any time since the rebel vicer uncloated itself. Verily we think we see light ahead.

Tax \$300 EXEMPTION.—It has been decided by the Secretary of War that a drafted man who believes himself physically incapable of doing military duty, and desires the opinion of the examining surgeon, has but to deposit \$300 with the Collector of Internal Revenue, and, if upon examination it is found that he is entitled to exemption the money will be returned him, while if a different conclusion is arrived at in his case he can obtain exemption either by permitting the \$300 to remain in the hands of the Collector, or furnishing an acceptable substitute.

GODDY'S LADY'S BOOK.—We have received this excellent Monthly for August; and, upon examining its neatly-printed pages, we find it replete with highly interesting and useful reading matter, besides its usual quota of splendid engravings, fashion plates, patterns, &c. Goddy is a regular ladies' man and knows how to tickle their fancy. Our "better half" would not do without the Lady's Book for twice the price of it, which is only \$3.00 per annum.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF REBEL DISASTERS.—The Richmond Inquirer, of the 14th, in an editorial, says: "The fall of Vicksburg, the retreat of Bragg, the repulse of Lee, and the advance on Charleston, are all serious disasters, the most serious that have attended our arms since the commencement of the war."

STORMING OF FORT WAGNER.

The 7th P. V. in the Fight.

OUR TROOPS REPULSED!—WROG HADLY WAS IT!

In the Boston Herald's correspondence concerning the recent unsuccessful attack made by our troops upon this rebel stronghold, we find the following paragraphs:

"On the 12th instant, General Gilmore ordered the storming of Fort Wagner by the Seventh Connecticut, Ninth Maine and Forty-seventh and Forty-eighth New York Volunteers, and the two first named regiments had actually reached the top of the parapet, when a murderous fire from the enemy drove them back. The Seventy-sixth Pennsylvania, which were to support the assaulting party, did not come up in time, and our troops had to withdraw.

"The cause of the failure of the Seventy-sixth Pennsylvania is ascribed to the fact that Colonel Strawbridge and the Lieutenant-Colonel were in the hospital sick, and as the Major was shot in both legs early in the day, the command devolved upon a Captain, in whom the men had no confidence, and thus faltered at the time they were wanted."

By the following particulars of the engagement, which are permitted to glean from a private letter received by a citizen of this place, it will be seen that the Herald's correspondent does not tell the truth in regard to the actions of the gallant 76th; on this occasion. The letter is dated "Hilton Head, July 18th, 1863," and says:

"Operations are progressing on Morris and James Islands finely, with the exception of the slight repulse at Fort Wagner, where the 9th Maine failed to support the 6th Connecticut and 76th Pennsylvania regiments. The batteries on Morris Island are all in the hands of our men, except Fort Wagner and Cummings Point. Many prisoners were captured, and but for the falling of the 9th Maine in front of Fort Wagner, Major Hicks says, the Fort would have been taken; but, as they were so much exhausted, they could not hold it without support. Major Hicks fell on the glacis of the Fort, wounded by a grape shot through both thighs. His wound is not considered mortal, although the ball passed through within an inch of the arteries. When the Major fell, Capt. Jos. R. Findley took his place and pressed onward; his clothes were riddled with bullets, but he escaped uninjured.—Lieut. Col. Rodman, who led the detachment of the 6th Connecticut, was wounded in the thigh—supposed to be mortally. Capt. Knerr, of Co. H, 76th P. V., was also wounded in the thigh. Lt. Miller, of the same company, and Adjutant of the regiment, was killed on the top of the parapet, gallantly charging into the Fort at the head of his regiment."

Does this look as if the 76th "faltered?" If it does, we "can't see it."

The letter goes on to say: "The loss of the 76th is about 100 or more, out of a detachment of 380. Lts. Stombaugh and Beltinger were both wounded and taken prisoners. Company F is badly cut up—only 18 men being able to answer to their names—although many, it is supposed, were exhausted and would be in after some time; also, that many were in the hands of the enemy as prisoners. Orderly Sergeant Crawford Ghin is among the missing. But Wayne is slightly wounded, and young Connor killed. I am expecting a list of the killed and wounded as soon as it is compiled at the Hospital, when I will forward you a copy."

"It was after taking five other batteries that the attack was made on Fort Wagner, and then thearrison was reinforced by those who escaped from the batteries. Another great cause of the repulse was, that the guns of Fort Sumpter were able to throw shells over Fort Wagner, and thus annoyed our men greatly. Fort Wagner is iron-clad, and, through exhaustion and want of support, our men were forced to retire. The Monitors are at work at Fort Wagner, and the Engineers are erecting batteries to command both Wagner and Cummings Point. Although slightly repulsed, our men are anything but discouraged, as they have great confidence in General Gilmore, who has only been here a month and has accomplished so much. In the opinion of Major Hicks, Fort Wagner will be taken just as soon as they have batteries erected to protect our men, which will be before long, as every available man, horse and mule, is working to the utmost."

This letter was closed on the 14th, when the writer says: "General Gilmore is now erecting a battery within 250 yards of Fort Wagner, and mounting 200-pound guns, with which he can afterwards reach Fort Sumpter. Monitors and gunboats are playing away on Sumpter, and by the end of this week they expect to be able to open on it an uninterrupted fire from Morris Island—General Gilmore is working in his shirt-sleeves with his men, and eating "hard tack" and pork, as they do. Great confidence is placed in him."

THE POSITION OF GEN. LEE'S ARMY.—A Herald's special from Washington the 19th, says: "The rebel army has not made rapid progress toward Culpeper as has been generally supposed. There is good reason for stating that the bulk of Lee's army is still in the vicinity of Winchester. There was also quite a large rebel force at Bunker Hill, which is between Winchester and Martinsburg, yesterday. It would be improper to state where Gen. Meade's army is, but there is good ground to hope that they may complete the destruction of the remains of the rebel army."

The Philadelphia Inquirer has a dispatch dated Hagerstown, the 16th, stating that the rear guard of Lee's army left Martinsburg on Saturday morning. Our whole force is across the river. The Potomac was falling rapidly—Lee is retreating with his main force by Strasburg and Staunton, and not by way of Culpeper."

ROSCREANS PURSUING BRAGG CLOSELY.—A dispatch, dated Memphis, July 17, says:—"General Herbin's scouts arrived at Corinth to-day from Decatur and Jacksonville. They report Bragg retreating precipitately into Georgia, followed by Roscreans' forces. Roscreans' advance is reported at Rome, Ga. Scouts report Bragg endeavoring to make a junction with Johnston, and that desertions from his army are numerous."

KILLED BY A HANDSPIKE.—Thomas D. Devaux, of Cambria Co., while assisting one of his neighbors at log rolling, was struck by a handspike which was thrown by the sudden turn of a log sending him back a considerable distance and causing a fracture of several of his ribs. The poor man, unconscious of the extent of his injuries, walked home some three miles, causing an inflammation which resulted in his death a few days afterwards.—Ebensburg Sentinel.

THE DEPARTMENTS OF NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA have been consolidated into one department, and Major-General Foster, has been designated as the general commanding.

Temperance & Morality.

For the Temperance and Morality Column.

THOUGHTS BESIDE A GRAVE.

BY ALYTTIUS.

Ah! who lies here? My childhood's friend,

A noble heart and brave, Who, early yielding to the cup,

Became its willing slave.

I saw the trace upon his brow,

Left by the rum-fiend's tread;

I heard his wife in anguish moan,

His children beg for bread.

I saw his home made desolate

And ruin crowd around;

I saw his bloody, mangled corpse

Upon the railway found.

'Twas asked, who spread this cloud of night?

Who threw this gloom afar?

A widow's trembling hand was raised

And pointed to the "bar."

The "bar," whence flows so much of death,

The "bar," where furies dwell;

The "bar," the fittest earthly type

Of demon's work in hell.

The Ruined and Rescued.

BY ALYTTIUS.

'Twas midnight—starless midnight—yet from

those heavy clouds fell not the raindrops; its dull

sound might have been music to her heart. But it

was the winter clouded sky, and the cold wind

whistled through the many crevices of that log

dwelling. Lonely, because happy smiles, loving

words, and ever fond hopes had long ago had it

adieu. Hark! the sound of merry sleighbells and

the gleeful laugh of light-hearted maidens is carried

on the air, but there is no gladness in that sound

for her. Ah! no, it is a very mockery, and the

thoughts it stirs, seems to freeze with very coldness

her already crushed heart. It brings back to her

remembrance, hours of long ago, when with light

she descended marble steps to seat herself

beside him she loved, and listen with different feel-

ings from the present, to the happy chime of the

rattling bells. Ah! those were happy days when

even the wintry wind had glad music in its sound,

but they are passed and now in that dim-lighted

hovel, she sits—sits all alone, shivering with cold,

with her hugs, and sad at heart.

The scene here introduced had not its birth in

imagination—it is no fiction, and perhaps to-day

ten thousand pale emaciated women in our land

would start, to read our narrative, and feel, with

but few exceptions, the misery was at least their

own.

Cornelia—, and this is no borrowed name,

was a young lady of actual intelligence and worth;

not, it is true, superior to many others, but inferior

to few. Her childhood and girlhood had been spent

in comparative luxury, yet she had not been denied

the opportunity of becoming acquainted with the

duties incident to the every day routine of life.—

In a word, she was well prepared to grace the

kitchen, dining-room or parlor, to bake bread or

touch the keys of the piano with artistic skill. She

was not what the world calls handsome, and when

her full soul welled up into her eyes or spread

upon her face in smiles she was beautiful. She

was just such a being as was well qualified to make

home happy.

She was half orphaned—her father had been cut

down in the prime of his manhood, and in the

midst of a useful life, by that dreadful disease—the

cholera; but her mother was left her—a woman

full of energy, guided by unswerving principle and

christian rectitude. Under her guiding care and

instruction Cornelia grew up an affectionate

daughter, and a devoted christian.

It was in her nineteenth year that she first met

W. He was a young man of fine abilities, noble

mind, and generous heart. Possessed of much of

this world's goods and enjoying a reputation as a

christian, it was not strange that his visits were

satisfactory both to parent and daughter. Nor is

it strange that he was soon the accepted suitor of

Cornelia; and with her joyous and pleasant prom-

ises, and the joyous sleighride of which we have

already spoken. But why lengthen my story.—

Items About the Draft.

The following items of information respecting

the coming draft will interest our readers generally:

THE SIX MONTHS' MEN IN THE DRAFT.

The Provost Marshal General has issued a circular

of instruction in relation to the draft, in which he

states that all men who have been mustered into

the United States service, under the call of

the President of the United States, dated June

15, 1863, for troops for six months' service, or

who have volunteered for State service, are

liable to draft under the enrollment act. If any

of those who have been mustered into the United

States service should be drafted, they will receive

credit for the time they may have served, or

may yet serve, under the present engagement.

Those so drafted are to be taken up on the des-

criptive roll of drafted men, and notified through

the present commanding officer. They will,

until further orders, continue on duty with the

organization to which they may belong at the time

of the draft, and at the expiration of that service,

will be assigned to three years' regiments for the

completion of their term of service. Those called

by the Governor of States, for State service, and

not mustered into the United States service, will,

if drafted, be duly notified through their command-

ing officers, and required to report to the Provost

Marshal of the district where they were drafted,

to be entered in the United States service for

three years from the date of such enrollment. This

settles the question of the liability of the six

months militia to the draft.

DISPOSITION OF THE CONSRIPTS.

A special dispatch from Washington states that

the men raised under the draft are not to be

new regiments by themselves, but are to be

assigned to fill up the old regiments in the Army

of the Potomac and other armies. They will thus

at once get among veterans, well disciplined, well

equipped soldiers; and in a few weeks they will be

quite equal to those in military capacity and

power of soldiers.

ALIENS AND THE DRAFT.

By the President's proclamation of May 8, no

plea of alienage will be allowed to exempt any

person of foreign birth from the draft who shall

have declared on oath his intention to become a citizen

of the United States, and who shall be found

within its limits at any time during the continu-

ance of the rebellion, at or after the expiration of

sixty days from the date of the Proclamation.—

The time thus specified expired on Monday,

July 13th. The Provost Marshal has issued the

following explanatory instructions:

1. Any drafted person paying \$300, under

Section 13th, of the Enrollment Act, is thereby

exempt from further liability under that draft, but

not from any subsequent draft.

2. Any drafted person, furnishing an accepta-

ble substitute is exempt from military service for

the period of which said substitute is mustered into

the service.

3. A substitute once mustered into the service

cannot be drafted a second time.

4. A drafted man cannot pay commutation

money or present a substitute after he has reported

himself to the Board of Enrollment for examina-

tion.

5. Men who, on the third of March, 1863, were

in the military service of the United States, and

who were drafted under the draft of 1862, and whose

terms of service have since expired, are not liable to

the present draft, but the persons for whom they were

substituted are liable to the draft, the same as though

they had not been drafted and furnished substitutes

under the draft of last year.

6. In serving the notice as required by regula-

tion No. 42, from this office, a reasonable time to

reply shall in each case be granted by the Board of

Enrollment to men in the State service who have

been or may be drafted.

JAMES B. FRY,

Provost Marshal General.

A day of Thanksgiving and Prayer.

WASHINGTON, JULY 15.

Lee's Losses.—We copy the following dis-

patch, dated Baltimore, July 16th, giving an ac-

count of the rebel loss in their late raid into Pen-

sylvania.

Surgeon General Howard, of the United States

Army, arrived at Baltimore this morning, and had

an interview with Major General Schenk. Upon

questionable authority he reports the following

casualties of Gen. Lee's army at Gettysburg:

Left behind 11,000 wounded, 8,000 wounded taken

away by him, 4,500 buried by the Federals, and

17,000 taken prisoners; captured at Falling Waters,

of Gen. Pettigrew's command, 1,000 prisoners

and 4,000 killed and wounded—making an aggre-

gate of 45,500 of Lee's army.

General Howard reports further that only six

rebel surgeons were left behind at Gettysburg, and

with one or two exceptions, manifested utmost in-

difference as to the condition of their wounded,

nor did they leave any medical stores on the field.

This fact, so contrasted with the battle at Chan-

cellorsville, where Lee received medical stores and

Surgeons from the Federals, who took good

care of their wounded.

MONDAY'S DEPARTURE.—Cincinnati, July 20.—On

Saturday morning Morgan's force overtook