

The Watchman.



J. T. ALEXANDER, Editor.
JOE W. FURRY, Editors.

W. W. Brown vs. Centre County.

Last week we gave our readers a somewhat detailed account of the result of the trial of this case, at our last term of court. We did so, because we believed it to be our duty as public journalists to acquaint the people of this county with facts in which they were all interested. The tax payers were really the defendants, being represented by the Commissioners, who, as their elected agents, had the matter in charge. We, therefore, deemed it proper that they should know the result of this trial—how it had and how it would effect the tax paying people of the county, &c., &c.

Upon a recent comparison of our statement with the Judge's notes and the notes of the counsel, we have found statements to be entirely correct. Some gentlemen who were upon the jury, say that there is any variance from the facts as developed upon the trial, it is in W. W. Brown's favor. Now, we intended that it should be entirely correct and impartial as between Brown and the people, never dreaming for a moment that any coloring that we were able to give it, could injure, in the least, the *reputation* of the very distinguished gentleman who for the last two years, has pretended to act as Treasurer of the county.

If our statement was in Brown's favor, as many say, we are glad to know it, because the case is bad enough for Brown as per our statement, and as for the other party interested, viz. the people, they would be well satisfied were the case as worse for them. But Cal. Brown, as we used to call him, affects to be terribly aggrieved by our statement, and has resorted to the law to obtain redress for the injury his fanatics did him by publishing the truth, which we had thought could not be injured by anything we might say, be it true or false, as his long connection with the *Centre Democrat* had so well versed him in the art that his qualities must have been known to the people of this county long before he had conducted, as a public officer, and it is our duty to detract from his fancied high reputation by publishing a true statement of the result of the trial between him and the county.

Some men call a publication of the truth and are willing that their reputations in the community shall stand or fall thereby. But this man has been leaning green to distraction, falsehood and slander from the day he first issued the *Centre Democrat* until the last, he has, through habit, acquired an aversion to the truth that fully agrees with a paranoiac's appetite for misrepresentation. And even now, knowing, as he does, that our statement was true, he denounces us, the editor of the *Press*, and one of our most respectable citizens, whose misfortune it was to be called a witness, and whose testimony did not suit the *Ex-Militia Colonel's* secondarily, libellous and falsified. How proper and justly merited by himself are the epithets heaped upon us, the people may judge from the facts as developed upon this trial.

He has even gone further than this and has actually made out before a Justice of the Peace in this town, that we libelled his character! Great God! Is it possible that a reputation like his can be injured more than it has already been by his own bad deeds? We think not—while we deny any intention upon our part to defame him, we also deny that we had ever so much intended it, from the very nature of the case we did not and could not injure him in the least.

If any of Brown's political friends doubt our statement, we refer them to the *Central Press* which, we believe, contains the same figures; and if they doubt that, we refer them to the notes of evidence taken by the counsel, and if they doubt those, we refer them to Judge Linn's notes, which may be found in the *Prothonotary's* office in this town. They will there see that it is a defaulter to the State; and if they will shut up the indictment, found and endorsed "A TRUE BILL," by the last Grand Jury, they will see that "he has embezzled, misused, squandered, loaned and converted to his own use, the public moneys," in violation of the 621 and 65th sections of the criminal Code, and for which he can, at any term of court, within two years, at the instance of anybody who may choose to prosecute, be tried, and, if found guilty, punished.

Now Mr. Brown expects to sustain the charge he has preferred against us before a court and jury, we are at a loss to know, according to the laws of this State, a publication of the truth in a matter in which the people are all interested, and which it is proper for them to know, is not a libel. Probably Mr. Brown's profound knowledge of the law may elucidate the subject and exonerate him from the difficulty in which, to all common legal minds he has placed himself.

It seems to us so strange that a man who has libeled more people, probably than any other living man, should now feel himself so terribly aggrieved by a simple statement of the truth. Where is the man who has been a candidate for office in this County, the current of whose politics ran counter to his, that has not been libeled by the now defunct *Centre Democrat*. Governor Pecker was a "public robber," and he had him pictured off in his paper with a huge bag upon his back, labelled \$90,000. Governor Bigler was a thief, &c., and so it ran throughout

The Splendid Victory Before Williamsburg.

As we get the more detailed intelligence of the rapid, valiant and irresistible advance of McClellan from Yorktown, the more gloriously does it appear. Those who were disappointed with the bloodless evacuation of any such remains, may now enjoy a brilliant and desperate battle. The movements of Monday and Tuesday were very difficult and trying for our troops, but they resulted in the entire discomfiture and rout of the rebels. Let us endeavor to present our readers with an outline of these splendid efforts, in a connected view, from the time of the evacuation, to the result of the brilliant affair before Williamsburg.

On Friday night, a week ago yesterday, under cover of the darkness, the Rebels began their retreat from Lee's Mill and the other advanced works. This discovery was made on Sunday morning, at six o'clock, and by noon of that day the entire fourth corps of the army was ordered forward in pursuit, under command of Gen. Keyes. Heintzmann's corps on the right was also pushed forward, and so rapid were their movements that Hooker's Division of that corps crossed the front of the fourth corps from right to left, and thus in advance of McClellan, with his forces reassembled, was at the latest accounts, within one day's march of Richmond, having out-generaled Joe Johnston by depriving him of his last chance of attacking the Union forces in detail. By this time, the last battle for the possession of Virginia has probably been fought, and we look hourly for intelligence of the capture of Jeff Davis' bogus capital.

The honor of this capture, with its valuable consequences by the way of the veteran General Wolf. So far as we can learn the Navy Yard and other public property is unharmed. The *Merrimac* is destroyed. While there are those who—carping at every advantage which is not purchased by the blood of our brave soldiers and sailors—would rather she had been captured by the fleet, all thoughtful men will wisely see in it only the great resulting good. The plans adopted for her destruction involved the certain loss of at least one costly ship; the probable loss of one or two others equally valuable; and an appalling sacrifice of human life. Perhaps the world will have been more glory in her capture or destruction by our fleet, but looking at the other side, 'tis better as it is.

She was a perpetual danger to McClellan's communications on the Peninsula. A raid as successful as her destruction would have destroyed a fleet of supply ships at a most critical juncture. Now that she is out of the way, although by generalship and not by battle, that danger is past. The James river is free for McClellan's transports of supplies. The gun boats can take part in the remaining operations against Richmond without an enemy in their rear. The *Galena*, the *Navagator* and the *Monitor* are released and may go South, where they are much wanted just now. The fleet is released for other important duties. Let us accept these great advantages of the completed destruction of the *Merrimac* by the rebels without criticizing the manner in which it was brought about. From the Far West we have also good tidings. Foster's flotilla has defeated the Rebel fleet off Fort Pillow or Wright. There is reason to believe that stronghold of the enemy has been evacuated. Beauregard acknowledging our possession of the Mississippi has called in the garrison of Fort Wright to aid him near Corinth. What glorious progress does all this denote.

The President and Ex-Mayor Berret.

It will be remembered that some eight or ten months ago, James G. Berret, Mayor of Washington City, was arrested, by order of the then Secretary of War, and sent to one of our forts, where he was confined for several months and then released. No charges were preferred against him when he was arrested, and he was discharged from imprisonment without a word of explanation. He had been elected Mayor of Washington the year previous by a decisive majority over his Republican opponent, and when he was arrested and deprived of his office, this defeated opponent was appointed Mayor of Washington! It is fair to infer, therefore, that the only object the Government had in view in arresting Berret and depriving him of his office, was to give the office to the hungry Republican who had been defeated by the people. This is made evident by a recent act of the President himself.

The act of Congress abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia, made it incumbent upon the President to appoint three loyal and intelligent citizens as Commissioners, whose duty it is to investigate and determine the validity and value of the claims (for the freed slaves) presented. In looking about for "three loyal citizens," the President finally selected Ex-Mayor Berret as one of the Commissioners, and, by naming him first, made him chairman of the commission! Of course Mr. Berret declined the appointment, but in doing so thanked the President for having manifested so much confidence in him (Berret) as a loyal and intelligent citizen. He proceeds in his letter to declare it as his opinion that the act of Congress manumitting the slaves of Washington is unconstitutional, and that such being his belief, he cannot as a loyal man, hold any office created by the act.

This is a severe but merited rebuke to the "power of the people," and a just tant to the official tyrants who had arrested Berret and confined him in a fort that they might take his office from him and give it to his defeated opponent. Berret has been declared a "loyal and intelligent citizen" by the President, who appointed him to a responsible and lucrative position, and thus the stain that the Administration attempted to attach to Mr. Berret's name has been wiped out; but yet Mr. Berret was robbed of the office which the people had elected him to. What will honest men think of this base and dishonorable transaction!—*Carlisle Volunteer*.

Sunday Battles.

The battle of Pittsburg Landing was fought on Sunday morning by the rebels, and they, the attacking party, were beaten. It is said that every battle fought on Sunday in this war has been lost on the side whose attack brought on the engagement on that day.

Wendell Phillips in New York.

When Wendell Phillips walked into the Senate Chamber some weeks ago leaning upon the arm of Senator Sumner, Mr. Vice President Hamlin descended from the chair to welcome and embrace him. He was fettered and petted and received with every mark of respect by United States Senators and members of Congress. The doors of the Smithsonian Institute were opened to him, and Government officials flocked to hear his lecture and to applaud his sentiments. The Abolition press of the country were in ecstasies that the leader of their clan, the man who had denounced the Constitution as a league with death and a covenant with hell and had spent nineteen years of his life in attempting to dissolve the Union, should be thus treated in the very capital of the nation. What a revolution in public sentiment! They exclaimed. Yes, it was revolution, and such a revolution as marked the departure from conventional principles and the decay of patriotism prevalent among a certain class at Washington.

The identical Wendell Phillips, who was fettered and applauded at Washington by Republican members of Congress, and who was invited to use the Senate chamber of Pennsylvania by a Republican Senate, recently delivered a characteristic address at the meeting of the American Anti-Slavery Society in New York, which we find reported at length in the *Tribune*. In speaking of the great Abolition orator said:

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Seeing their advantage of numbers the enemy determined to crush Hooker if possible, and at eight o'clock in the morning they sent out strong columns of infantry, which did for a while serious damage, and finally succeeded in capturing the guns of Brainhall's New York battery. Hooker's Division was ordered greatly and bore the brunt of the battle.

It is probable that Hooker himself would have been overpowered, had not a force from the fourth corps, about six thousand strong, come up immediately on Hooker's right, and by their unflinching boldness and deadly fire resisted every attempt of the enemy to move forward. This position they held almost the whole day, being relieved only towards evening. The battle tactics of the enemy had been at first to crush our left centre, a plan which was checked by these reinforcements from the command of General J. J. Peck. Thus the battle raged upon our left.

We now return to Smith's Division, which formed the right of our advance. It was pushed forward by a circuitous by-road to the right, and it was destined to surprise the enemy's left flank. Hancock led the advance. With incredible labor he pushed his way through a road of most yellow clay, and driving the enemy before him from some entrenchments not mounted with guns, he sent word back to Smith that if he could be reinforced, he could carry Fort Magruder, which blocked the road.

And here there was an unaccountable delay. Smith, Hancock's division commander, had been ordered to remain where he was, and thus he in turn had to send back for permission to reinforce Hancock. This permission was first refused, then given, then suddenly withdrawn and the suspicious moment passed. We do not presume to lay the blame; we are ignorant of the orders of the General to whom it belongs. The Rebels, taking courage from our delay and apparent indecision, at length moved forward to attack Hancock. Then came the lucky moment for him, and the action which has rendered him *superb* all over the country.

Issuing from a dense wood in strong and overwhelming numbers, the enemy advanced steadily and successfully, driving back our skirmishers of the Forty-third New York, the Fifth Wisconsin, and the Sixth Maine, and forcing Wheeler's battery to retire, which it did slowly, unlimbering and pouring in a deadly fire from time to time as it retreated.

Onward like an irresistible tide, they poured. It was the critical moment; in an other our troops would be overpowered. When Hancock, forming the Fifth Wisconsin and Forty-third New York in line of battle, and in close order, on the right of Wheeler's battery first directed a deadly volley from the whole line upon the advancing Rebels, and then ordered, "Charge bayonets—Double Quick!"

The effect was electric; the enemy first faltered, then turned in confusion, and then broke and ran in utter panic. One hundred and fifty-three prisoners were taken, and five hundred of the enemy killed and wounded. This was at half past four.

At five o'clock General McClellan arrived upon the field, and with ready judgment replaced the worn out veterans, who had fought the battle along the entire line, with fresh troops, and then another night of heroic suspended action movements. When the morning dawned the enemy had gone, leaving their killed and wounded behind them, while our troops marched through Williamsburg in hot haste, to leave them no rest or peace, as they were flying to Richmond.

On Wednesday they were beyond the Chickahominy. Since then he has used with Sedgwick and Franklin, after their gallant action at West Point, and we may now expect every hour to hear of his occupation of Richmond.—*Philadelphia Inquirer*, May 12.

"Be not above your profession, and always consider it as the first any man can follow. Never shrink from doing anything which your business calls you to do. The man who is above his business may one day find his business above him."

Glorious News—The General Breaking Up.

Every loyal and hitherto anxious heart, east of the Rocky Mountains, is now exultant with the glorious news. It comes with startling, overpowering succession and increase. Norfolk has fallen without a struggle, as we long since predicted, before a single march of General Wool. Richmond and Petersburg are probably ours, and the great and bridling front of the R-bellion has at length melted into the shadow of a shade. Speculation is on tiptoe for the next meliogenic. Where are they going, and how?

And what a change! But a few months since, they beleaguered Washington and threatened the Cumberland valley. The banks of the Potomac were bristling with Rebels; the blockade was efficient and humiliating. With a glass, at Washington, their manoeuvres on Manassas Hill could be clearly discerned. Their spirits were high, and we could only labor, and hope and wait. Then McClellan's consummate plans were conceived and projected, including the very movements now so brilliantly made.

Amid abuse and taunt, and more injurious calumnies, he has carried out his original design; and at length the rebels, whose first and last stand was on the "sacred soil," whose so-called Capital was a nest of unwarped power and the prison of loyal soldiers, have been obliged to retire in panic and confusion, and to seek for new strongholds and new combinations, if their utterly demoralized and destitute troops will permit.

We believe this to be the beginning of the end; the general break up has now commenced, and there will be small delay in its consummation. Follow them with alertness; leave them no time or means to rally, enclose them on all sides, in the mountains and the end itself is very near. Their military power being destroyed, the political fabric will crumble to dust; for the former is the foundation on which the latter is built. Iron battering rams and mail-clad monsters could not save them. The *Manassas* lies a mass of timber and iron at the bottom of the Mississippi, and the far famed *Merrimac* has gone into pieces to keep company with her noble victim, the glorious *Cumberland*.

If Mr. Lorey does not astonish his party by voting no thanks to McClellan the country will thank him with *Joanna* for victory in every city, town and hamlet in the loyal States and history will record the universal gratitude as honor to whom honor is pre-eminently due.—*Philadelphia Inquirer*.

The Flight of the Rebel Congress.

THE RICHMOND PRESS ON THE "SKE-DADDLE" OF THE MEMBERS.

[From the Richmond Examiner, April 22.]

"If there be any modern so outrageous a brave that he cannot admit of flight under any circumstances whatever, I say, (but I repeat that only with intention to give offence to any brave man in the nation) I say, rather, I whisper, that he is an ignorant fellow, and has never read Homer, Virgil, and knows nothing of Hector and Turnus; may that he be unacquainted with the history of some great man living, and suggest to him, as a tiger, to have run away the Lord knows how far, and the Lord knows why, to the surprise of their friends and the entertainment of their enemies."

By such reasoning does the immortal *Falstaff* justify the "falling back" of a heroic hero, and in searching a good plea for the dispersion of our Confederate army, the Roman-Senate, we can find none better. They, too, have been brave as lions, say, as tigers, and alas! they, too, have run a way. "The Lord knows why, to the surprise of their friends and the entertainment of their enemies."

It would be amusing, if it were not sad, to read and hear the protests that the opinion they ran from "apprehension" was altogether an "outside idea," and that their adjournment was for the simple fact that Congress adjourned because Congress had "no more business to do," while their record shows that the "hang" in medias res, would always be corded by the operations of such officers as both parties have in the field. No large city, defended by extensive lines and several great armies, ever was or can be surprised. Richmond will always be open on one side, and those who want to get out of it can do so at any time. It is hoped that here, at least, the Confederate army will not bounce off after burning a steamboat or two, and a bridge the moment they learn the enemy are in the neighborhood, without knowing how many there are nor whether they are not worse frightened than themselves.

Again we repeat, the falling of Richmond, if it takes place at all, will be a slow process, and we shall know all about it long before it comes to pass. Let no one therefore, get out of reach before the race. If the Confederate government is worth a rush it will defend Richmond to the last, for the leaving of it, thought it will give up to ruin many thousands of its citizens, will not be less fatal to the government itself. Nothing will remain for the heads of that government but speedy resignation to escape a load of execration and infamy such as would crush the greatest conqueror and despot that has ever ruled the world. They had better seek death on the field, than attempt to prolong a nomadic resistance at Montgomery. Though the people of the city and the country would loathe the occupation of Richmond, the members of the government would suffer more than any other individuals, and if they have a grain of common sense they know it. Hence it may be safely predicted that they will defend it place with all the force at their command. We have no doubt but the arrangements of Mr. Randolph are efficient, and our armies are competent to meet the demands of the

Important From Gen. McClellan's Army.

Baltimore, May 8. The following is furnished by the special correspondence of the *American*, dated Yorktown yesterday at 12 o'clock: To day at 11 o'clock my letter, the latest intelligence received from the field of battle is that Gen. McClellan has come up with the enemy about eight miles beyond Williamsburg, and after a pretty severe skirmish with his rear, he again put him to flight across the Chickahominy creek. A large additional number of prisoners have been taken, including many officers, who report that they have nothing to eat but a few hard biscuits for forty eight hours, and when brought in fell down in a state of exhaustion.

Heavy cannonading could be heard by the boats coming down the river as early as this morning. Nothing as to the result is ascertained. There is no doubt, but that the whole army of Lee, Johnson and Magruder is in a state of utter disorganization, and under the rapid pursuit of Gen. McClellan is fleeing with great precipitation and without the intention of making a stand anywhere, and unless they reach Richmond in boats by way of James river, will certainly be intercepted and captured by the forces landed and landing at West Point. A large number of prisoners are arriving at West Point, and others are being constantly brought in.

On Monday the enemy took about 80 of our men prisoners and captured one of the Pennsylvania batteries, having first killed all the horses, and then having left a small support of infantry, were overwhelmed by a superior force and were compelled to abandon their guns, but before the close of the day the battery with one of the enemy's was recaptured by Gen. McClellan, and the prisoners they had taken were found in the Williamsburg next morning. Without doubt left behind, their retreat was accompanied by too much confusion to be troubled with prisoners.

I just learn that the enemy has destroyed all the bridges across the Chickahominy, and that Gen. McClellan is resting his army on this side. It will be remembered that the Chickahominy river runs parallel with the James river, into which it empties. It is the general impression that Gen. McClellan now got the enemy just where he wants him.

Particulars of the Battle of Williamsburg.

Baltimore, May 8. The following is from the *American's* account of the battle of Monday.

The battle before Williamsburg on Monday was a most warmly contested engagement. Owing to the roughness of the country and bad condition of the roads, but a small portion of our troops could be brought into action. Gen. Sickles' Excelsior brigade of Gen. Hooker's division, bore the brunt of the battle and fought valiantly, though greatly overpowered by numbers and the superior position and earthworks of the enemy. The approaches to their works were a series of ravines and gullies, while the rain fell in torrents through the day. The men had also been living on their arms all the previous night, and were chilled with rain and chilled with cold. The battle raged from early in the morning until 5 o'clock in the afternoon, when Gen. McClellan arrived with fresh troops, and the division of Gen. Hooker, who were nearly prostrated with fatigue and exposure, whilst the 3d Excelsior regiment of the brigade had its ranks terribly thinned by the balls of the enemy. They are represented as having fought with such imprudent bravery that not less than 200 of them were killed and wounded.

After the arrival of Gen. McClellan, the enemy were fiercely charged upon by Hancock's brigade, and they were routed, their works before nightfall with heavy loss. Nearly 600 of their dead were left on the field with many wounded, though most of the latter were carried off by the Rebels. Our loss was less than 300 killed and about 700 wounded. Night having come on, we occupied the battle field, the enemy having been driven within a few miles of the city, and a considerable store of provisions were found in town, whilst the road was strewn for many miles with arms, accoutrements, a number of deserters also made their escape and came within our lines. They stated that the Rebels had been so routed that large numbers of the United States troops were landing on York river above Williamsburg to flank them.

A Great Naval Victory on the Mississippi.

TWO REBEL GUN BOATS BLOWN UP AND ONE SUNK.

FLAG SHIP BENTON ABOVE FORT PILLLOW, MISSISSIPPI RIVER, MAY 10th via Cairo May 11th. Hon. GEORGE WALLS Secretary of Navy.—The naval engagement, for which the Rebels have been preparing, took place this morning. The Rebel fleet consisting of eight iron-plated gunboats, four of which were fitted up with rams, came up handsomely. The action lasted one hour, and resulted in two of the Rebel gunboats being blown up and one sunk, when the enemy retired precipitately under the guns of the fort. Only six vessels of my squadron were engaged. The *Cincinnati* sustained some injury from the rams, but will be in fighting condition to-morrow.

Captain Smith distinguished himself. He is seriously wounded. The *Benton* lost No. 16, in charge of Second Master Gregory, behaved with great spirit. The Rebel squadron is supposed to be commanded by Commodore Hollins. (Signed) C. H. DAVIS, Captain Commanding the Western Flotilla on the Mississippi River, pro tem.

Norfolk, Portsmouth and the Navy Yard Repossessed!

WASHINGTON, May 11.—The following was received at the War Department this morning:—Fortress Monroe, May 10—12 o'clock at night.—Norfolk is ours, and also Portsmouth and the Navy Yard. Gen. Wool having completed the landing of his forces at Willoughby Point, about nine o'clock this morning, commenced his march on Norfolk with 5000 men. Secretary Chase accompanied the General. About five miles from the landing place a Rebel battery was found on the opposite side of the bridge over Tanner's Creek. After a few discharges by companies of infantry the Rebels burned the bridge. This compelled our forces to march around five miles further. At 5 o'clock in the afternoon our forces were within a short distance of Norfolk, and were met by a delegation of citizens, and the city was formally surrendered. Our troops marched in and we now have possession.

Gen. Vicks in command as Military Governor. The city and Navy Yard were not burned. The fires which have been seen for some hours proved to be the woods on fire. Gen. Wool, with Secretary Chase, returned about 11 o'clock to night. Gen. Huger withdrew his forces without a battle. The *Merrimac* is still off Swallow's Point. Commodore Rogers' expedition was heard from this afternoon ascending the James river.

THE REBEL STEAMER YORKTOWN SUNK.

New York, May 11.—Special despatches state that the iron old steamer *Gales*, which sunk the Rebel steamer *Yorktown*, and captured the *Jonestown*, in the James river.

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Norfolk, Portsmouth and the Navy Yard Repossessed!

WASHINGTON, May 11.—The following was received at the War Department this morning:—Fortress Monroe, May 10—12 o'clock at night.—Norfolk is ours, and also Portsmouth and the Navy Yard. Gen. Wool having completed the landing of his forces at Willoughby Point, about nine o'clock this morning, commenced his march on Norfolk with 5000 men. Secretary Chase accompanied the General. About five miles from the landing place a Rebel battery was found on the opposite side of the bridge over Tanner's Creek. After a few discharges by companies of infantry the Rebels burned the bridge. This compelled our forces to march around five miles further. At 5 o'clock in the afternoon our forces were within a short distance of Norfolk, and were met by a delegation of citizens, and the city was formally surrendered. Our troops marched in and we now have possession.

Gen. Vicks in command as Military Governor. The city and Navy Yard were not burned. The fires which have been seen for some hours proved to be the woods on fire. Gen. Wool, with Secretary Chase, returned about 11 o'clock to night. Gen. Huger withdrew his forces without a battle. The *Merrimac* is still off Swallow's Point. Commodore Rogers' expedition was heard from this afternoon ascending the James river.

THE REBEL STEAMER YORKTOWN SUNK.

New York, May 11.—Special despatches state that the iron old steamer *Gales*, which sunk the Rebel steamer *Yorktown*, and captured the *Jonestown*, in the James river.

Important From Gen. McClellan's Army.

Baltimore, May 8. The following is furnished by the special correspondence of the *American*, dated Yorktown yesterday at 12 o'clock: To day at 11 o'clock my letter, the latest intelligence received from the field of battle is that Gen. McClellan has come up with the enemy about eight miles beyond Williamsburg, and after a pretty severe skirmish with his rear, he again put him to flight across the Chickahominy creek. A large additional number of prisoners have been taken, including many officers, who report that they have nothing to eat but a few hard biscuits for forty eight hours, and when brought in fell down in a state of exhaustion.

Heavy cannonading could be heard by the boats coming down the river as early as this morning. Nothing as to the result is ascertained. There is no doubt, but that the whole army of Lee, Johnson and Magruder is in a state of utter disorganization, and under the rapid pursuit of Gen. McClellan is fleeing with great precipitation and without the intention of making a stand anywhere, and unless they reach Richmond in boats by way of James river, will certainly be intercepted and captured by the forces landed and landing at West Point. A large number of prisoners are arriving at West Point, and others are being constantly brought in.

On Monday the enemy took about 80 of our men prisoners and captured one of the Pennsylvania batteries, having first killed all the horses, and then having left a small support of infantry, were overwhelmed by a superior force and were compelled to abandon their guns, but before the close of the day the battery with one of the enemy's was recaptured by Gen. McClellan, and the prisoners they had taken were found in the Williamsburg next morning. Without doubt left behind, their retreat was accompanied by too much confusion to be troubled with prisoners.

I just learn that the enemy has destroyed all the bridges across the Chickahominy, and that Gen. McClellan is resting his army on this side. It will be remembered that the Chickahominy river runs parallel with the James river, into which it empties. It is the general impression that Gen. McClellan now got the enemy just where he wants him.

Particulars of the Battle of Williamsburg.

Baltimore, May 8. The following is from the *American's* account of the battle of Monday.

The battle before Williamsburg on Monday was a most warmly contested engagement. Owing to the roughness of the country and bad condition of the roads, but a small portion of our troops could be brought into action. Gen. Sickles' Excelsior brigade of Gen. Hooker's division, bore the brunt of the battle and fought valiantly, though greatly overpowered by numbers and the superior position and earthworks of the enemy. The approaches to their works were a series of ravines and gullies, while the rain fell in torrents through the day. The men had also been living on their arms all the previous night, and were chilled with rain and chilled with cold. The battle raged from early in the morning until 5 o'clock in the afternoon, when Gen. McClellan arrived with fresh troops, and the division of Gen. Hooker, who were nearly prostrated with fatigue and exposure, whilst the 3d Excelsior regiment of the brigade had its ranks terribly thinned by the balls of the enemy. They are represented as having fought with such imprudent bravery that not less than 200 of them were killed and wounded.

After the arrival of Gen. McClellan, the enemy were fiercely charged upon by Hancock's brigade, and they were routed, their works before nightfall with heavy loss. Nearly 600 of their dead were left on the field with many wounded, though most of the latter were carried off by the Rebels. Our loss was less than 300 killed and about 700 wounded. Night having come on, we occupied the battle field, the enemy having been driven within a few miles of the city, and a considerable store of provisions were found in town, whilst the road was strewn for many miles with arms, accoutrements, a number of deserters also made their escape and came within our lines. They stated that the Rebels had been so routed that large numbers of the United States troops were landing on York river above Williamsburg to flank them.

A Great Naval Victory on the Mississippi.

TWO REBEL GUN BOATS BLOWN UP AND ONE SUNK.