BEDFORD INQUIRER.

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BEDFORD, Pa.

Friday Morning, Feb. 28, 1862.

"FEARLESS AND FREE."

D. OVER-Editor and Proprietor.

To all whom it may Concern.

We have a good deal of money to pay the com-ing spring, and judging the future by the past, we do not consider it worth while to send out accounts.---We will therefore from this time forth place our acounts that are over two years old, in the ha a Justice, in Bedford, for collection. So look out, take warning, and don't get mad for we intend to commence this week. We intend, also, to strike off our list all worthless subseribers; they are the drones that keep printers down.

The following article from the Harrisburg well as that of flarrisburg. Who can't point out on our streets, at any moment, one of these aiders and abettors, but now "new made patriots." For our part, we do not intend that they shall claim precedence over honest men for the Union. But read the article, and see how admirably the Telegraph depicts them:

victory makes in the way that some people re-gard the rebellion. There are fellows around who have for menths been decrying the war, who have persistently argued that the govern-ment could never "conquer the south;" that the longer the war continued the stronger and as possible, in the following order: more determined the rebels would become, and that the only true policy was to recognize the independence of the southern ocnfederacy.-the Union army has been the constant built of their remarks, and Bull Run and Big Bethel were standing jokes with them. They secretly upplauded at every reverse and sneered at and depresated every victory of the government arins. But now when Gen. Scott's big snake begins to contract in earnest, when the rebels find themselves flanked in all directions: when the eastern coast is at lastonen to our advance and we have effected an opening through the very beart of rebeldom, indicating and promising a speedy wiping out of the traitors from the face of the earth, -- these fellows begin to sing a different tuue and talk in the most pa, triotic manner of the cause of the Union and the villany of the rebels, and are even ready to "pledge their lives, their fortunes and sacred honor for the support of the government." The north just now is full of these newly made patriote. It is astonishing to see their seal now-a-days for the war! We would suggest, however, that the government owes them small thanks for their sudden ardor in its cause .-When the nation was in gloom and dismaywhen treason was jubilant and audaciouswhen the three months recruits demanded to be discharged-these now noisy friends of the government, were then the equally noisy defamers of what they termed its imbecilities and failures. It is well to mark such men. In

We publish an article on the election of ile, and in the front Capt. Sekwartz had got a storming THE ENEMY'S REDOUBTS ON THE everywhere to the front of us, I feared that / man, and as may be imagined, the events of school Directors, from our paper of March 1860. couple of his guns in position, ready for any emergency. Gen. Gr ant here gave orders for It is from the pen of Mr. J. R. Durbarrow .-

Some fellow, under the signature of Block Log, has published this article as his own, in the Shirleysburg Herald. The Shirleysburg Herald. We understand that the Sunday School exand would soon be up to support any advance

which might be made. bibition at Bloody Run, on Friday and Saturday nights last, was at excellent affair. There will be another exhibition on Saturday night. After considerable scouring of the woods to Let all attend the north, it was discovered that what rebels

Our boys at Port Royal, have sent home several thousand dollars. Good.

VICTORY OF FORT DONELSON.

FULL AND THRILLING ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE.

[Correspondence of the Missouri Democrat.] FORT DONELSON, Moaday, Feb. 17.

THE MOVEMENT FROM FORT HENRY. Wednesday was quietly consumed in moving from Fort Henry and getting into position be-

fore the rebels a mile and a half from the Cum-berland and the Fort against which we were moving. It was a most glorious day. The atmosphere was cool and invigorating, yet with a bright sun and genial breeze wafted up from the South, it seemed more like a day in May than one still in the winter solstice. Its effect

upon our troops was excellent. Enthusiastic and eager to meet the enemy any time, they left their camps, which many of them were The tottowing article from the Harrisburg The trough, suits the lasitude of Bedford, as ness and buoyancy of spirits which would lead ignorant spectators to suppose that some gala Fort Henry achievement, and had decamped day entertainment was at hand.

Most of Gen. McClernand's division had crossed the slough of despoud which encircles Fort Henry, the afternoon before. General Smith's division began their transit across the and true patriots, in their new-born love river at a seasonable hour, and at nine o'clock the fight, with a determination and coufidence the move to the eastward. The character of the movement of the army from Fort Henry NEW MADE PATRIOTS. It is wonderful what a difference a Union lowing order of the night previous:

HEADQUARTERS, DISTRICT OF CAIRO,

FORT HENRY, Tenn., F.b. 11, 1862. [General Field Orders, No. 12]

One brigade of the first division will move the Telegraph Road directly upon Fort selson, halting for further orders at a distance of two miles from the fort. The other brigades of the first division will move by the Dover Ridge road, and halt at the same dis. tance from the fort, and throw out troops so as to form a continuous line between the two wings.

The two brigades of the second division now at Fort Henry, will follow as rapidly as practicable by the Dover road, and will be followed by the troops from Fort Helman as fast as they can be ferried across the river.

Oue brigade of the second division should be thrown into Dover to cut off all retreat by the river, if found practicable to do so.

The force of the enemy being so variously reported, it is impossible to give exect details of attack, but the necessary orders will be given on the field.

By order of Brigadier-Goveral U. S. Grant, JOSHUA RAWLINS, A. A. G.

DEPARTUAE OF GEN. GRANT.

The army being well started, Gen. Grant and staff leit their headquarters on the steam-er Uncle Sam, about ten o'clock, and followed rapidly after a division which had taken the ridge, or more southerly route. The roads, after once getting beyond the low grounds in the immediate vicinity of the fort, were admius with, afforded, for the most part, our only le The sandy soil had soon great amount of rain which had fallon a few evonings previously and which had so retarded the advance of our army on Fort Henry-and now fairly on the high fand, infantry, artillery and cavalry moved forward without delay.

RIGHT. In the afternoon Gen. McClernand deter-

a still further advance to the next ridge North and left of u4, and then returned to the fur-doubt of the enemy frenting about the centre this point the ground was for the most part

void of large timber, the barren extending even beyond the road on the ridge over which our troops passed. The batteries on this recoult had got a very perfect range here, and gave our troops considerable unessinoss by bla-zing away at them whenever they passed over brow of the hill. Three regiments were detailed for the work - the Forty-eighth, Sev-enteenth and Forty-ninth Illinois. They ad-vanced in line of battle order, the Forty-ninth, Col. Morrison, on the right, the Seventeenth, under command of Major Smith, (both Colunel and Leot. Colonel being absent,) in the centre, and the Forty-eighth, Col. Hainey, on the left. Col. Morrison, as senior Coionel, icd the attack. The advance was a most beautiful one. With skirmishers advanced in front, the three regiments swept down the hill, over a knoll, down a ravine, and up a high hill on which the redoubt was situated, some 250 or 300 feet in hight, covered with brush and stomps, all the time receiving a galling tire of grape, shell and musketry, with a preotsion which would have done them credit on the parade ground. The breastworks were nearly reached, when Col. Morrison, who was gallantiy leading on his men, was struck by a musket ball. The captain of the company on his right also fell, and the Forty-ninth fell in me confusion; but unparalieled, the Seventeenth still gallantly pre-sed forward and penetrated even to the very foot of the works. But it was not in the power of man to scale the abattis before them. Brush piled upon brush, with sharp points fronting them every where, met them wherever they turned; and so, after a few interchanges of musketry with the swarming regiments which had been concentrated here, the order for retiring was given. It was done in good order by filing off to the left, and obliquing into the woods below; but many a gallant soldier was lett behind underneath the entrememberts they had vainly sought to mount. They were not, however, destined to die unavenged. Scarcely had our retiring

columns got out of range, ere Taylor's Chicago battery opened on the swarming rebel masses with shell and shrapnel, with fearful effect THURSDAY'S OPERATIONS. Thursday opened as clear and screne as the and every one of them did bonor to his mark-

A SORTIE ON THE LEFT.

About the same time that these stirring scenes were being enacted on our right wing, the enemy made a formidable sortio on our left. The Twenty fifth Indiana, one of the regiments of Gen. Smith's division, having at one time during the course of the day got into an exposed position, the enemy promptly availed themselves of the opportunity afforded the boats were steadily advaucing. them, and made a most formidable sortie from their entrenchments. Although taken at a disadvantage, the Twenty-fifth met the advano ing forces bravely, and although suffering severely, with the aid of other regiments, which promptly proceeded to their assistance, drove them back to their hiding places. The lesson seemed to be most salutary. No further sorties were made in this direction.

THE FLERT.

During the day much uncasiness was felt as to the whereabouts of the gan-bost fleet.-It was, therefore, with no little gratification that information was at last received about noon on Thursday, that the avant courier of to three hundred feet in height, and are eov-ered with the most dense timber and under-bad arrived below the fort. In the afternoon growth, concealing in a great measure the cha- the report of her guns was received with cheer racter of the enemy's defences, the few balls upon cheer by the troops encircling the bewhich they were induced to occasionally favor leagured fort.

Lieutenant Walker's operations this after-

a matter of considerable time. But, cold and hungry, and with garments stiff with frost, the long desired orders for an assault of the enehe were so, who would admit it. The univer-sal sentiment was, as bluff Col. Oglesby ex-private feelings in regard to the present conpressed it. "We came here to take that fort, and we will take it," and it is this self-same spirit of dogged determination, and steady, long enduring courage, peculiar to the Anglo Saxon of the North, that at last outwore the perhaps more impetuous bravery of the opposing force. Nothing of especial note transpired along

the lines on Friday. The sharpsbooters not-withstanding the cold, ensconsed themselves in their old positions on the hillsides, and were as great a terror as ever to the gunners of the batteries above them. Cavender, Taylor, Woods, (of McAlister's battery), Dresser and Swartz would occasionally exchange a valentine, as they were playfully called, but there were no such bloody affairs as had characterized the operations of the day previous. The batteries, too, had got the range of one anoth-er's positions so accurately, that I imagined both parties had preferred, in absence of any positive orders to the contrary, to linger beside the camp are, just out of range of the other's guns, than to indulge in idle badinage.

ARRIVAL OF REINFORCEMENTS -- THE GUN-

BOAT ATTACK.

The long expected gun-boat fleet, together with the reinforcements, had, however, come to hand, and it was, expected that the latter could be brought up, so as to join with the other forces as a general assault in the rear while the gun-boats attacked in front. The distance from the river to the left of our right wing was, however, so great, that but few regments arrived even before dark. Gen. Grant's adgment, therefore, much against his will, led him to adjourn the assault until he had all his available force in proper position. The bombardment of the gun-boat fi et be-

cours. Four of the iron-clad and two of the was of a fearful nature. Expecting the assault on the rear of the fort, I was not present to witness the naval attack, and shall not attempt therefore, to give any detailed account of it. It is however, described by the officers engaged in it, as altogether exceeding in fierceness the bombardment of Fort Henry. At all events the effect upon the boats was much more severe, and subsequent investigations have led me to believe that the injury inflicted on the rebels was not so great either as at the fortifications. This latter 18, probably, owing to the fact that the twelve guns of the fort commanding the river were at a considerable elevation, and it therefore was much more difficult for the naval gunners t, get their exact range, or one obtained to keep it, while

FATURDAY.

Saturday, which was destined to witness the grand denouement of the tragedies which had a scene about Donelson, was cold, damp and cheerless. Our troops, however, had but little time to cogitate upon the weather, or any other subject, ere they were called upon to attend to more serious matters. The enemy during the night, had transferred several of their batteries to portions of their works within a few hundred feet of which our extreme right wing was resting. Upon the first coming of dawn these batteries suddenly opened on the Ninth, Eighteenth, Twenty ainth, Thirtieth and Thirty-first Regiments, comprising Oglesby's Brigade, and who had the advance. Simultaneously with the opening of the batteries, a force of about 12,000 infantry and a regiment of cavalry, was hurried against the Brigade with a vigor which, made against less stoady and well disciplined troops, must surely have resulted in their en. of a reconnoissance, were considered by the rebel officers, as I have since ascertained, as the part of the enemy, it did not find the galone of the most formidable attacks they had last Illinoiats upprepared to meet them. The to encounter. Hidden behind a jutting prom- attack was made in columns of regiments, ontory of the river bank, the Corondolet itself which poured in upon the little band from no secure from the heavier shots of the columbi-ads of the fort, hurled shell upon shell into regiment of the brigade found itself opposed to three, and in many cases to no less than four different regiments. Undismayed, however, by the greatly superior force of the enemy, and unsupported by adequate artillery, the brigade not only held their own, but upon two occasions actually drove the rebels fairly into their entrenchments, but only to be pressed back again into their former position, until at last, having expended every round of their ammunition, they were obliged to retire and give way to the advancing regiments of Col. W. H. L. Wallace's brigade of the eleventh Twentieth, Seventeenth, Forty-fifth, Fortyeighth Illinois, and Forty-ninth Indiana reg-

the task of reducing them would be at the best the morning had tended to decrease in no measoldiers were still hopeful and firm. I did not find a single discouraged man, or one, if could it have been seen by his maligners, private feelings in regard to the present con-test. All the arrangements were completed by three o'clock, and his column was put in motion scon after. The force under his command was as follows:

Col. Cook's Brigade-Seventh Illinois, Fif-tioth do., Twelfth Iowa, Thirteenth Missouri, Fifty second Indiana. Col. Lauman's Brigade-Second Iowa.

Seventh Iowa, Fourteenth Iowa, Twenty-fifth Indiana, Fifty-sixth Indiana.

Under cover of Capt. Stone's Missouri battery, this force began the assault. It was a formidable undertaking, which, under a less brave and skillful commander than Gen. Smith might have proved a disastrous failure.

The hills at this point are among the most precipitous of those upon which the enemy were posted. Selecting the Second and Sev-enth lows, and the Fitty second Indiana for the storming party, Gen. Smith deflected the main portion of his division to the right, and having succeeded in engaging the attention of the enemy at this point, himself headed the storming party and advanced upon the works from his extreme left. It was a most magnificent sight. Unappalled by the perfect storm of Bullets which rained about him, the General on horseback, and with his hat on the point of his sword preceded his troops, and inspired them with a future there was no with standing.

Steadily with unbroken line, the gallant Hawkeyes and Indianisos advanced. The enemy's grape and canister came plowing through eir raoks, but not a shot was fired in return. Closing up the ranks as one after another of the brave fellows dropped to the earth, and animated by the fearless example of their undaunted leader, they pressed steadily on .- The works gained, one tromondous volley was gun about half past two, and continued two poured into the astonisbed enemy, and with fixed bayonets, a charge was made into their wooden boats participated in the fight, which | ranks which there was no withstanding. They fled in confusian over the hills, and at last we had penetrated the rebel Sebastopol, and the misfortunes of the morning were retrieved. Capt. Stone's battery, which, in the meantime, had been doing tremendous execution in the rebel ranks, was promptly advanced to the position gained, and instantly, support ed by the remainder of his division, the point was secured against any force the enemy could bring to bear against it.

> GEN. LEW WALLACE'S ATTACK ON THE RIGHT. In the meantime, Gen. Lew. Wallace had completed his preparations for an attack on the enemy occupying the position he had wrested from us in the morning, some two miles and a balf to the right. Just as his column was being put in motion, a messenger ar-rived with the joyful tidings that Smith was inside of the entrenchments.

> With a cheer that resounded for and near, the irresistable Eighth Missouri and Eleventh the irresistable Eignth dissourt and Eleventh Indiana, which occupied the front, advanced on the double quick into the encounter they had so long been seeking. These two regiments, from their superiority in drill and fighting capacitles have been considered a "crack corps," and most nobly did they uphold to the letter their enviables reputation. They did not tarry long to bother with the pow-

> They did not tarry long to bother with the pow-der and ball, but with a shout of itself terrific enough to appal their foes, gave them the cold steel with a will which will long be remembered.— Shell and round shot, grape and canister were hurled at them in vaia.

Still onward they pressed, and regiment after regiment fiel before them. Valiantly supported by the First Nebraska, Thirteenth Missouri, and other regiments of Col. Thayer's and Craft's brigades, a steady advance was made, until by dusk the ground which had been so hotly contested in the morning, was ours again, and once more the rebels were for-ced to seek the protecting shadow of the earthworks. The effect of these successes upon the army was electrical-six hours before, with ganboats disabled and the enemy in possession of a portion of our ground, the position of affairs was gloomy, indeed. But now all was changed. Elated with victory and the knowledge that at last they had obtained a foot-hold in the enemy's fortifications, and savage at the thought of the privations they had excountered, and at being so long balked in the possession of their prey, officers and men alike clamored for an immediate assault that night. Gea. Grant, however, mindful of the risks atten-ding such an operation, even with troops exhibiting ding such an operation, even with troops exhibiting such veferan characteristics as those under his com-mand had displayed wisely postponed the final coup de main till the coming of the morrow's light. de main till the coming of the morrow's light. What the morrow brought forth, and how the rebels, worn out and dispirited by the protracted beleaguerment concluded to give up their strong-hold and lay down their arms is already well known. The more detailed particulars of the surrender of Fort Donelson, and its cordon of field works, the departing mail allows me no time to speak of. G. W R G. W. B.

first it was difficult to ascertain where the rebel forece had been distributed. One of the 12-pound rifled James' cannon of Dupee's battery, was ordered to stir them up a little, but although he threw a shell with such accuracy, not a response could be got, and were it not for indications of a large force posted on the ridge to the west of the camp, it would have seemed their chivalry had repeated their

A CAMP OF THE ENEMY DISCOVERED.

were to be seen were on the road to the front

of us. Our advance soon after discovered

their encampment on a barren billside, direct-

ly in front of us, and on the main road lead-

ing to the Camberland. A further movement on the part of Gen. Oglesby's division disco-

vered more forces ported on a high ridge lead.

ing west of this encampment, and as our regi-

ments swept around from their respective po-

sitions on the road to the right and left, and

gradually coming round with a face to the

north, there we were face to face with the ene-

my. This, however, was not discovered in-

stantly. The encampment of the enemy very

naturally was the chief point of attraction,

and towards it, having got his troops in proper

position, Gen. Grant first directed bis attention.

But few troops were visible about it, and at

on our approach. Thus were matters at halfpast three o'clock, P. M., when Oglesby's brigade, which occupied the road on the bill, filed out into an open field to the left, and formed in line of battle. Other regiments went on the ridge still farther to the west.

day before it. Upon the first coming of the mauship. dawn cur skirmishers had descended into the vailey, and our artillery, posted on the bills, had opened an experimental fire, which being occasionally returned by the enemy, gave us some information in regard to the position of their batteries. The night before we were in possession of but little information in regard to the character of their fortifications, and although it was generally supposed we were in front of some rather formidable works, I do not think even our Generals were prepared for the disclosures which the operations of the morning had made known to them. Instead of an outer work to temporarily impede our approach, it was soon ascertained that we were directly in front the rear of the fortification of the fort itself. These works begin-ting on the Cumberland, at the southerly side of Dover, and the main fort ran around on the

top of the high ridges before us to the head of the back-water on the north, here and there with bastion works of a formidable character, and at all points with formidable batteries sweeping the more available approaches. --These ridges vary from one hundred and fifty to three bundred feet in height, and are eov-

were ordered to advance. They filed donw the bill, anticipating an immediate opening of the entire army, about 18,000 strong, were on most inspiriting. Some were still smoking their pipes with easy nonchalance, while all went forward with a spirit and will which well foreshadowed the gallant deeds subsequently performed by them. The Eighteenth, Eighth, and Thirtieth reaching the bottom of the hill,

this city they are known for their vituperation of Republicanism, and their sickly adulation of the rebel leaders. We venture the assers tion that there is not a man who reads this paragraph but knows men such as those to whom we now refer, and who sould, if necessary, point to these individuals daily in the streets

22D OF FEBRUARY.

of his country, was celebrated at the Bedford or even of cultivation, but rarely visible. Hotel, in the evening. An excellent en- might here state that all of the section between tertainment, in the shape of a splendid supper, Bort Henry and Douelson is of thills and valleys, thickly was gotten up by "mine host;" Col. Jno. Ha- wooded with oak and "second growth," and fer. After doing full justice to the "good with bere and there a cluster of pine groves, things" which abounded on that occasion, the whose evergreens contrasted with the barren erowd adjourned to the parlor, where Hon. vegetation surrounding. The ridges vary Alexander King was chosen Chairman The hight. Through most of the valleys are pure Farewell Address of the Father of his coun- streams of water, which, as they approach the try was then read in a clear and forcible man. Tennessee and Cumberland, to which they are ner by Hon. Samuel L. Russell. After the tritutaries, gradually assume, on account of reading of the address, patriotic speeches were streams, which in no small degree anoyed made in response to calls from the crowd, our Generals in their maneuvering of their by Major S. H. Tate, Geo. H. Spang, Esq. | commands. Hop. Alex. King, John Palmer, Esq., and We pressed on amid the moving columns David Over. The crowd adjourned some time before the "we sma' hours" in the best of

Messrs. Jas. B. Sansom & Bro., have disposed of the Falton Democrat, to Messre. H. G. ley and up to the ridge, in front and to the Smith & J. U. Shafer. Mr. Sansom, has conducted that paper for over twelve years. We wish the retiring and new editors all the peconiary success in the world.

publish a long and interesting account of the oupied by our forces moving in line of battle battle of Fort Dongluon. It was finely executed-the men push-

It is not yet known how many killed and wounded we have lost at Fort Donelson, but it is thought it will reach ten or twelve bundred carried out, sharp musketry firing was heard and that of the enemy fully as many.

dued at Newark on the 15th inst. He was ascertained that a small advance force of the elected Speaker of the House of Representatives after the protracted struggle in 1860 .-He was a good man and a patriot.

Nathanial Gordon, the Slave trader, was hung in New York on last Friday. This is the first execution for this crime in the United States.

FROM FORT HENRY TO THE ENEMY.

The route for the most part led along the high land of the ridge, through densely wood-The anniversary of the birth of the Father | ed country, with signs of a human habitation,

which lined the road without any incident worthy of special note, until one o'clock, when emerging from the woods into a little cleared humor. Altogether it was a decided success. | valley, we found Gen. McClernand and staff. Several regiments were drawn up is line of battle order on our right, and through the valnortheast of us; we could see the gleaming of the bayonets of Oglesby's brigade, our advance.

THE ENEMY.

Receiving information that the enemy had been seen on the ridge in front of us, General To the exclusion of many other things we Grant immediately ordered the bills to be ocing forward with even front through the brush, over brooks and fences, until the desired point

had been reached. In the meantime, while this order was being up the hill over which the read led, and occuied by Gen. Oglesby's Brigade. It was but Ex-Governor Pennington of New Jersey, brief, however, and upon going forward it was enemy had been met by the Eighth Illinois, under Lieut. Colonel Frank Rhodes, and after a slight skirmish, driven back with a loss of a few killed and wounded on their side and four wounded of the Righth, who were now being promptly attended to by the sur-

geons. nois were drawn up on the road in line of bat- | on the left,

lue as to the calibre of their guns.

During the night previous, Gen. Oglosby, in advancing along the ridge running toward the river above the fort, and which formed cur right wing, suddenly came upon a battery sweeping the road upon which he was advan-The enemy, either not aware at the cing. time of the vicinity of the force, or wishing it to advance still further, refrained from opening, and the General managed to withdraw his men without suffering anything worse than a bad scare. If the battery had given them the contents of their guns, the fire must have docimated the entire brigade. Some few guns were discharged by our men in the confusion of the moment, and the horse of a certain chaplain became frightened and began a flight which bid fair to land the non-combatant plump over the batteries. A few agonizing "whoas" and still more emphatic pulls, how ever, checked the rebellious tendencies of the beast, and the parson, I noticed, eschewed horses ever after.

This morning, Gen. O.'s brigade forced the enemy from this position, and subsequently from another, and advanced the right wing still farther towards the river. A subsequent movement completed the lines of giroumvallation nearly to the river itself, and gave us a position rendering the arrival of any more renforcements from Nashville hardly probable. OPERATIONS OF BIRGE'S SHARPSHOOTERS.

In the meantime Birge's Sharpshoeters were doing good execution both to the right and in. The only demonstration of importance on left of this position. In squads of skirmish- the part of the rebels, during the night, was ers they crawled up the ravines, of the ridge a formidable attempt on the right wing to obon which the batteries and the rifle-pits of the | tain Taylor's Battery. The Twentienth Indienemy were located, and lying concealed be- ana, lying in the woods below it, however, afhind stumps and logs, were to the unwary rebel who dared to show his head above the entrench-sent the intraders back to their fortifications ments. The continual crack of the Dimick again. rifle could be heard from these ravines all day, and at last became a perfect terror to the enemy. Lying in this position, these men for half a day completely silenced the battery which covered the road over which the Seventh had advanced in the morning. In vain attempt after attempt was made to man the guns, but hardly had the gunners grasped their swabs ere a score of bullets would drop them in their tracks. The enemy were not without their sharpshooters, too, who would in turn attempt a response, but so vigilant were the Birgos, that but few of their ballets did much harm. I have heard of but eight or ten easualties in the entire regiment.

Thus passed Thursday morning. General McClernand's gradually closing in toward the surely completing his line of circumvallation ou the left. Friday again, and witnessing the formidable six miles in extent), which reared themselves The Eighth, Thirtieth and Thirty-first Illi- surely completing his line of circumvallation

noon, although partsking more of the nature tire demolition.

the water batteries of the fortifications. The commander of these batteries has recently informed me that the fire of the Corondolet did more actual damage to his guns than the heavy bombardment following the succeeding day.

TRURSDAY NIGHT.

The night of Thursday will long be remembered by the troops surrounding Donelson. The weather, which for the two previous days had been so mild and genial, toward the close of the afternoon became chilly and lowering. About six o'clock a heavy rain set in. During the warmth of the day before, when moiments. mentarily expecting to meet the enemy, whole regiments had cast aside their overcosts and blankets, and without tents, and, in the great majority of cases, occupying positions renderng a fire a sure mark for the enemy's batteries, with nothing to eat but cold rations, their condition was deplorable indeed. -

To add to their discomfort, when thoroughly saturated with rain, a pelting snow storm set in, with an enemy in front continually annoying and annoyed, but little sleep was indulged

FRIDAY.

The weather of Friday was in striking cons trast to that of the morning previous. The ground was covered with snow to the depth of couple of inches, sud a breeze that would have done honor to the Artic regions, swept across the desolate ridge upon which our ar-my was lying. The inhabitants of the coun-try roundabout averred that they had rarely experienced so severe a day. Still was our force on the outer edge of the formidable works, that wander where one might, he was sure to find rising before him. The entrance to these works were still to be gained-the los cation even of the door still was to be found . I must admit, that riding along our lines on

The battle, for the most part, was fought in a forest, with a thick undergrowth beneath, and regiments acted mostly on the principle of hitting a head wherever it could be found. Swarming on all sides of them, they were not at a less to find them. One regiment was only driven from before them when another sprung up to take its place, and there is hardly a regiment of the force engaged but was pposed to tripple its numbers. Thus went the tide of battle for five hours-new gaining a little, but upon the whole obliged to retire Officers and men dropped upon all sides. Field. offisers were borne, killed and wounded from the field, and their next in command coolly Lientenant-Colonel Smith of the Forty-eighth, Lieutenant-Colonel Irvin of the Twentieth, and Major Post of the Eighth filinois, and scores of company officers were all killed, gallantly leading on their men.

And still with unyielding courage the gallant Illinoisians and Indianians would not ac-knowledge themselves vanquished. When the last cartridge had been expended, and orders were given to retire for other regiments to take their place, soldiers, grim with smoke and powder, would angrily inquire for what, and beg to be allowed to use the bayonet .--But it was not in the power of mortal men, occupying the position ours did, and exposed to such a raking artillery fire as the enemy subjected them to, to maintain their ground against the overwhelming force which the rebels continued to push against them.

GENERAL SMITH'S ASSAULT.

Gen. Smith, is, emphatically, a fighting ranks.

MORE GOOD NEWS FROM THE WEST.

Sr. Louis, Feb. 20 .- Gen. Halleck bas sent the following despatch to General Mo-Clellan:

"Clarksville has been taken, with supplies enough for our army for twenty days, and is now occupied by General Smith's division,

"Gen. Price, being reinforced by MoCulloch's command, made a stand at Sugar Creek Crossing, in Arkansas, on the 19th, but was defeated after a short engagement and again fled. Many prisoners were taken and a quantity of arms which his men threw away in their flight."

SPEECH OF, CHAS. J. FAULKMFR.

A despatch from Frederick, dated Feb. 19, states, that on Sunday night, a complimentary dinner was extended to Hon. Chas. J. Faulkner, Ex-Minister to France, at Martinsburg .--That gentlaman (who, it will be remembered was exchanged for Mr. Ely,) in a spech on that occasion said, in effect, that the policy of secession, as it had been carried out, had been a failure. It had been accompanied with unnecessary waste of life. The best blood of the South and an immense amount of property had been sacrificed. If this course was continued it would pile ruin on ruin. The public sentiment of Western Virginia was opposed to it. He also intimated that he had no effiliation with those who wished the present war to continue. His remarks were acquiesced in by the large audience present. And there is no doubt but that he reflected the true sentiment of nine-tenths of the people in the upper counties of the Potomac.

Reports from usually reliable resources say that between 300 and 400 of the Berkley county militia have deserted in a body, and are en route to cross the Potomac and join our