

B. F. McNEIL, Editor and Proprietor.

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Select Poetry.

A REBEL POET. An agreeable army correspondent of the Syracuse Journal, writing from near Brandy Station, Va., under date of April 21st, says:

Strange as it may seem, we made some very pleasant acquaintances among the prisoners we were sent to guard, some of whom we had helped to capture, and one case for whom we had fought. One rebel, Maj. McKnight, of the rebel Gen. Loring's staff, was an especial favorite.

MY LOVE AND I. My Love reposes on a rosewood frame, In a bunk bed; I, A couch of feather down fills up the same;

SONG OF THE ARMY HORSE. The army horse was woefully thin, The ends of his bones stuck through his skin.

COPPERHEAD COMPLIMENTS DIS-TASTEFUL TO THE SOLDIER. A recent Copperhead convention, composed of the semi-traitors of Allegany county, Md., endeavored to contrail the good feeling of the second Maryland Regiment, Potomac Home Guards, by complimenting it for its courage and endurance.

PROFANITY IN THE CARS. A writer in one of our exchanges has the following to say about what has been observed by many persons, viz.: the rapid increase of profanity and vulgarity on the cars.

The War for the Union.

THE GREAT BATTLES.

Terrible battles between the armies of Grant and Lee took place on Thursday and Friday.

The special correspondent of the Rochester Democrat has arrived in Washington, with the following account of operations up to Friday morning:

CROSSING THE RAPIDAN. "The whole Army of the Potomac effected the passage of the Rapidan on the 4th instant. General Wilson's cavalry division forded the river at Germanna Ford, and General Gregg's division at Ely's Ford, eight miles below, at daybreak.

THE BATTLE OF THURSDAY OPENED. "Reveille was sounded at 3 A. M. on Thursday, and our whole army was again in motion at daylight.

SEVERE FIGHTING. "After advancing about three quarters of a mile they suddenly found themselves confronted by a well formed and strong rebel position on a thickly wooded ridge.

FRESH TROOPS ORDERED UP. "Hancock's corps had been ordered to turn off the road he had started on, and march over a cross road as rapidly as possible for this point, to complete the formation of the line of battle.

TERRIBLE MUSKETRY FIRE. "The enemy in vast force pressed energetically and repeatedly upon the front, and a most furious musketry fight continued for nearly two hours.

FAILURE OF LEE'S TACTICS. "Hancock's men behaved most admirably. The Fifth New York cavalry, in advance on the road to Parker's Store, was attacked by superior force in the morning and driven back with considerable loss.

Meade in the evening, to the effect that he had met part of Stuart's cavalry and was driving them in every direction. General Lee made two attempts to cut our army in two, both on the right and left, by getting between the river and Warren's and Sedgwick's corps, with only part of Burnside's across on the one side and between Hancock's corps and the remainder of the army on the other.

THE BATTLE RESUMED ON FRIDAY. The special correspondence of the Times, writing from headquarters at Wilderness Tavern, Friday evening, May 6, gives the following intelligence of the great battle on Friday:

REPORTED LOSSES. "The number of our wounded is reported at about ten thousand. The killed at two thousand. Hancock's corps was to general upon Chancellorville, southwestwardly on the Pamunkey road to Grove Church, Gen. Warren's from Old Wilderness Tavern to Parker's Store, on the Orange Court House plank-road.

SATURDAY THE THIRD DAY. From the Philadelphia Inquirer. WILDERNESS, Va., May 7, 1864. A deep and almost impenetrable mist pervaded the whole battle-field at sunrise this morning, and we were not as usual greeted with the salute of the cannonade in the morning.

THE REBELS. "About 6 o'clock last evening, Gen. HANCOCK, holding the right of our line, crossed Po Creek and seized the Black House Road, the direct line from Parker's Store to Spottsylvania Court-House.

DISPATCHES FROM CAIRO, dated Friday, state that a Union train of two hundred and forty wagons, while returning to Pine Bluff, was captured by the Rebels on the 25th ult., together with the escort, under the command of Col. Drake, comprising the Twenty-sixth Iowa Regiment, the Seventy-seventh Illinois, and the Forty-third Indiana Regiment.

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momentous event in the present great movement of the army, but up to the time I write but little has transpired of moment beyond a desperate fight between the old First Army corps, now attached to Warren's corps, and a portion of the rebel army who attempted to check our advance near Todd's Tavern.

A full account of the fighting has been forwarded to you, and it is only necessary for me to allude to it in this connection. In the morning Generals Grant and Meade established their headquarters at Pine Branch, about two and a half miles from Chancellorville, on the Todd's Tavern road.

THE WEATHER. The weather to-day is intensely hot, and the soldiers, in their onward career, suffered greatly from the intense heat. As division after division filed over the various roads on their way to Spottsylvania Court House, every stream, small creek and pool of water was eagerly sought after by the tired soldiers, when, after filling their canteens with muddy water and applying them to their parched lips, they would proceed on to the next Richmond.

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FROM GENERAL BANKS' ARMY.

THE RETURN TO ALEXANDRIA.

The Retreat Conducted by General Franklin. A Severe Engagement.

The special correspondent of the St. Louis Republican with the Red River expedition, gives full particulars of General Bank's retreat to Alexandria. Our forces arrived at that place on the 26th and 27th of April. The Republican's correspondent says:

GENERAL FRANKLIN CONDUCTING THE RETREAT. General Franklin and General A. J. Smith held a consultation on Grand Ecore last week, and agreed upon a program by which they could bring the Army successfully back to Alexandria.

A SEVERE ENGAGEMENT. General Franklin took up his march from Grand Ecore last Thursday, destroying all the stores for which he had no transportation.

GUERRILLAS. This place has been in a constant state of excitement and alarm since it was known that the army was falling back upon Alexandria.

THE GUNBOATS. The gunboat opened on them, and shelled the opposite shore for about an hour. This caused almost a panic in Alexandria.

THE BLACK FLAG. Before the battle of Pleasant Hill, General Dick Taylor sent in by a flag of truce, a letter to General Banks, in which he told him that if negro troops were used against the Confederate army, he (Taylor) would raise the black flag, and show no quarter.

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