

The Columbia Spy.

COLUMBIA, PA. SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1862.

For Justice of the Peace. We are requested to announce that J. W. Hamilton...

We call attention to the large stock of Carpentry, &c., advertised by Haldeman...

PENNSYLVANIA CANAL.—We learn that water will be let into the Canal on Monday...

We are indebted to Mr. N. W. Greene for a supply of fancy patriotic stationery...

The Hutchinsons.—This celebrated troupe of singers announces a concert in Old Fellows Hall...

SERGEANT MAJOR SMITH.—We regretted to learn some weeks since of the illness of Sergeant Major R. B. Smith...

EXTENDED RAILROAD FACILITIES.—Proposed completion of the Reading and Columbia Road...

THE KEFFER ORCHESTRA.—On an invitation we spent an evening last week at the room of the 'Keffers'...

A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE OF RELIEF.—When a week or two since, news arrived of severe fighting on the Potomac...

Our Army Correspondence. COLUMBIA, March 13th. 1862. Mr. Srv.—Your communications from our boys in the army have been numerous...

I left Columbia on Saturday, March 1st, for the city of Washington, my errand being simply to visit my numerous friends...

I spent a week with our friends enjoying the visit hugely, in spite of rain and mud. I found the Columbians all hearty...

Can we not be really for such a dread emergency as this? Can we not organize a committee whose duty it shall be to look after our wounded, in the event of a conflict with the enemy...

We may mention that the suggestion came from Col. Welch, whose experience of the depressing monotony of hospital life dates back to his first service...

The Earl's Heirs. By Mrs. Ellen Wood, author of "East Lynne," &c.

Messrs. Peterson has here given to the public the very best story we have read since "Winnie Collins' Woman in White..."

The publishers will send the work, post paid, to any part of the country on receipt of the price...

EXTENDED RAILROAD FACILITIES.—Proposed completion of the Reading and Columbia Road.—The report made from the House Committee on Roads and Canals to-day...

Our Army Correspondence. COLUMBIA, March 13th. 1862. Mr. Srv.—Your communications from our boys in the army have been numerous...

I left Columbia on Saturday, March 1st, for the city of Washington, my errand being simply to visit my numerous friends...

I spent a week with our friends enjoying the visit hugely, in spite of rain and mud. I found the Columbians all hearty...

I also frequently reviewed the regiment when on dress parade, and found their proficiency in drill, &c., entirely satisfactory. The new Colonel—Neill—is bringing the boys out, and has done wonders for them...

Can we not be really for such a dread emergency as this? Can we not organize a committee whose duty it shall be to look after our wounded, in the event of a conflict with the enemy...

The boys were rejoiced that the long wished for advance had at length been ordered. By three o'clock everything was packed and we were off...

Up to near this point I felt as good a soldier as any other man, although the rain had been falling for some time and the mud was knee deep...

Capt. Haldeman relieved me of my musket and ammunition, the boys took my hand and told me blow my nose and stop crying...

I wended my way back to Washington and from the paring. On Tuesday I arrived at home, and to-day I give in my experience...

The Great Battle in Arkansas. THE COMBINED REBEL ARMY DEFEATED. OFFICIAL REPORT OF GEN. CURTIS.

St. Louis, March 11.—The following is the official report of Gen. Curtis of the great battle in Arkansas: HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE SOUTHWEST, Pea Ridge, Arkansas, March 8.

On Thursday, the 8th inst., the enemy commenced an attack on my right, assailing and following the rear guard of the detachment under General Sigel...

During the night I became convinced that he had moved on so as to attack my right rear. Therefore early on the 7th I ordered a change of front to the right...

The plan of the attack on the enemy's centre was gallantly carried forward by Col. Osterhaus, who was immediately sustained and superseded by Col. Davis' entire division...

Col. Carr's Division held the right under a galling and continuous fire all day. In the evening, the firing having entirely ceased in the centre and the right being now on the left...

This change had been partially effected but was fully in progress when, at sunrise on the morning of the 8th, my right and centre renewed firing, which was immediately answered by the enemy with renewed energy along the whole extent of his line...

I immediately ordered the centre and right wing forward turning the left of the enemy and cross-firing on his centre. This final position placed the enemy in the arc of a circle, when a charge of infantry...

Our loss is heavy. That of the enemy can never be ascertained, for his dead are scattered over a large field. They wounded, too, many of them being lost and perished. The foe scattered in all directions...

Gen. Sigel follows towards Keithsville, while my cavalry is pursuing him towards the mountains, scouring the country and bringing in prisoners...

report, but I will refer you to a despatch I will forward you very soon. The officers and soldiers have all displayed such unusual gallantry that I hardly dare to make distinctions...

Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio and Missouri may proudly share the honor of the victory which their gallant heroes have won over the combined forces of Van Dorn, Price and McCulloch...

GLORIOUS NEWS FROM VIRGINIA. Manassas Evacuated by the Rebels.

The Union Troops in Quiet Possession. WASHINGTON, March 11, A. M.—Manassas has been evacuated by the Rebels and our forces have taken peaceful possession...

WASHINGTON, March 11.—The reliable details of the evacuation of Manassas and its occupation by our troops have not yet been received. The whole fortifications were abandoned...

WASHINGTON, March 11.—Yesterday morning our forces, amounting to upwards of 2,000 men, proceeded to Centreville and occupied that village about 4 o'clock...

The entire command thence proceeded to Manassas, arriving there in the evening. The Rebels had destroyed much of their property, which they could not carry away...

When some time ago it was stated in this correspondence the Rebels were falling back from Manassas the assertion was industriously contradicted, but there is now satisfactory evidence that the main body left their lines nearly two weeks ago...

The whereabouts of the Rebels who retreated from Manassas is a subject of earnest speculation.

Upon closer examination it was discovered that the Rebels before evacuating their much-boasted stronghold had set fire to such of their commissary stores as they could not conveniently carry off...

The Rebels also blew up the bridges along the line of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad for some miles below Manassas. Such of the locomotives as were out of repair were also destroyed...

Large numbers of contrabands have reached our lines, which now extend beyond Manassas Junction, and are still coming in by droves.

On our way from Centreville yesterday morning we passed at least one hundred, who were making their way to Washington. Some of the refugees claim to have come from twenty miles west of Manassas.

The contrabands state that a portion of the force which left Manassas passed northwards, but this is considered improbable, but if they did it was for the purpose of reinforcing Jackson at Winchester.

Our troops on arriving at Fairfax Court House found not more than a dozen families. The soldiers rushed into the Court House and brought away some of the records, but this being discovered the officers directed their return.

When our troops learned that Manassas had been evacuated their spirits suddenly became depressed, as they had anticipated a spirited conflict with the enemy. About a mile and a half before reaching Centreville a number of graves were discovered...

On Thursday 13th the President transmitted to Congress the following message: Fellow Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives: I recommend the adoption of a joint resolution by your honorable bodies which shall be substantially as follows:

New York, March 11.—The Tribune's special says that the companies under Major Hatfield were ordered on Sunday morning to go to Fairfax Court House by the old BrajLack road.

The United States steamer Alabama, Captain Lanier, arrived here yesterday, direct from Fernandina, Florida, bringing Captain Davis, late Flag officer of the South Atlantic Squadron...

STATE OF FLORIDA. CAPTURE OF FERNANDINA, FLA. AND BRUNSWICK, GA.

The first point of the coast approached by the fleet was the town of Brunswick, Georgia, the enemy abandoned their works and precipitately flying at the approach of the gunboats...

Brunswick being disposed of, the fleet moved twenty miles further to Cumberland Sound, the entrance to the harbor of Fernandina, Florida.

The fleet entered Cumberland Sound in the following order.—The Mohican, flag-ship of Com. Dupont, the Ottawa, the Seminole, the Pawnee, the Flag, the Bienville, the Alabama, the James Adger, the Florida, the Seneca, the Huron and the Pembino.

When the expedition came in sight of Fort Clinch the Rebels were discovered making a hasty flight, and fired two or three random shots from the barrette guns of the fort.

The shells of the fleet, however, caused a hasty evacuation, and Fort Clinch was immediately taken possession of, and the flag of the Union raised on the old staff which has been so long disgraced by the traitors' colors.

As the fleet approached the fort a train of cars was observed leaving Fernandina, and as the track runs some three miles along the shore of the Sound, Com. Dupont sent one of the gunboats in pursuit of the train.

An exciting race took place, the steamer throwing shells at the flying train, some of them falling in such close proximity that some of the fleeing rebels jumped from it and took to the bush.

The old casemated Fort Clinch having been taken possession of, the flag was also speedily raised from the eight Rebel earthworks abandoned by the enemy. Twelve large guns fell into our possession...

The expedition accomplished its mission on the 4th of March, the anniversary of the inauguration of President Lincoln. The troops of General Wright were landed, and Commodore Dupont handed over to him possession of the forts and earthworks...

Most of the male inhabitants of Fernandina had fled, and the city was taken possession of. This has been one of the most useful ports to the Rebels, a large number of vessels having run the blockade here.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT.

He Indicates a Policy on the Slavery Question. On Thursday 13th the President transmitted to Congress the following message:

Reverend, That the United States ought to cooperate with any State which may adopt the gradual abolition of slavery, giving to such State pecuniary aid, to be used by such State in its discretion, to compensate for the inconveniences, public and private, produced by such change of system.

If the proposition contained in the resolution does not meet the approval of Congress and the country, there is the end, but if it does command such approval, I deem it of importance that the States and people immediately interposed should be at once distinctly notified of the fact...

GRADUAL EMANCIPATION RECOMMENDED.

On Thursday 13th the President transmitted to Congress the following message: Fellow Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives: I recommend the adoption of a joint resolution by your honorable bodies which shall be substantially as follows:

The Federal Government would find its highest interest in such a measure, as one of the most efficient means of self-preservation. The leaders of the existing insurrection entertain the hope that this Government will ultimately be forced to acknowledge the independence of some part of the disaffected region...

The States north of such parts will then say—The Union for which we have struggled being already gone, we now choose to go with the Southern section.

make it certain to the more Southern, that, in no event, will the former ever join the latter in their proposed confederacy.

War has been made, and continues an indispensable means to this end. A practical recognition of the national authority would render the war unnecessary...

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Exciting news from New Madrid is expected hourly. Large gangs of negroes have been working in Forts Randolph and Pillow, on the Mississippi river; the former mounts 100 guns.

FROM MISSOURI.

Cairo, March 10.—A despatch from General Pope's column says his forces have reached New Madrid. Heavy cannonading has been heard in that direction.

The total number of torpedoes found in the river thus far is four hundred. Exciting news from New Madrid is expected hourly.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

Particulars of the Attack of the Rebel Iron-Plated Steamer Merrimac on the Fleet. GREAT BATTLE—SEVERE LOSS OF LIFE.

HEROIC BRAVERY OF AMERICAN TARS. CAPTURE OF THE FERRATE CONGRESS—SHE IS BURNED TO THE WATER'S EDGE.

THE CUMBERLAND MAKES A BRAVE FIGHT. ONE OF THE REBEL STEAMERS DISABLED. ANOTHER REBEL STEAMER CUT IN TWO.

THE MINNESOTA GOES TO THE ATTACK BUT GETS AGROUND. SHE ESCAPES WITH NO MATERIAL DAMAGE.

OPPORTUNE ARRIVAL OF THE MONITOR. A PIERCE FIGHT—THE MERRIMAC HAS A HOLE BATTERED IN HER SIDE AND RETIRES.

NO DAMAGE TO THE MONITOR. SHELLING OF NEWPORT NEWS. FORTRESS MONROE, March 9, P. M.—The long expected and talked of Rebel steamer Merrimac has at length made her appearance in these waters.

The Merrimac was first seen from the ramparts of Fort Monroe, on her way to Newport News, at about a quarter to one o'clock. Two gunboats followed, all carrying the detested Rebel flag at their stern.

The Merrimac had a flag at her bows, which was thought by some to be a Commander's blue flag, but by others it was set down to be a black flag, but most likely it was the Union Star.

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of the fortress was fired and the whole garrison promptly turned out under arms, eager for the anticipated fight.

The first shot was fired from the frigate Cumberland at a little past two o'clock. The Sewell's Point Battery then opened upon the Merrimac, which was passing up, and the Sawyer gun from the Rip Raps replied with a few shots at the Sewell's Point Battery.

The progress of the action could not now be seen from the fortress, but the telegraphic line which kept General Wool advised of the progress of events.

A despatch was after a time received announcing that the Cumberland and the Merrimac were in close quarters. As the latter approached the Cumberland she did not pay any attention to the Congress, but after firing two guns struck the Cumberland with her sharp bows, making a jagged hole in her side...

The Merrimac, backing a short distance, ran into her second time, making another terrible hole, which admitted the water at a furious rate. She continued firing, however, but her crew working at her guns until the water began to enter her port holds.

Shortly before three o'clock the Jamestown and Yorktown arrived from the James river, but the latter was disabled by the Cumberland shortly after her arrival and had to put in shortly after her arrival for repairs.

The United States frigate St. Lawrence arrived here during the afternoon, and without dropping anchor proceeded up the river. She followed the example of the Minnesota and Roanoke in firing upon Sewell's Point...

The gunboat Mystic was also towed up in the afternoon. At sundown the Roanoke, St. Lawrence and Mystic all returned. After 4 o'clock the Merrimac continued to throw shells into the camp at Newport News...

During the evening the frigate Congress was set on fire and made a brilliant spectacle. At midnight she blew up with a tremendous explosion. During Saturday evening the Monitor (Erie-son Battery) arrived very opportunely, at once proceeded up the river, although not prepared for immediate action...

Reinforcements of men and ammunition were sent to Newport News early in the afternoon. But little serious damage was done there, and no one was killed.

The Battle Reneged. This (Sunday) morning the conflict was renewed by the Rebels. Until the presence of the Monitor was known to the Merrimac the latter was engaged with the Minnesota, and but for the fortunate arrival of the Monitor, the Merrimac might have been lost...

The two iron-clad batteries now engaged each other for three or four hours at long and short range. For a long time no perceptible effect was produced upon either.

The crew of the Minnesota were brought on shore this afternoon, and with the assistance of the steamer Spaulding she has been got off, and is now on her way here.

Over one hundred men, including but one officer, the escaped crews of the Congress and Cumberland had arrived here. The Monitor has come up to the expectations that were entertained of her and has proved herself impregnable to the heaviest shot at close quarters.

The crew of the Minnesota were brought on shore this afternoon, and with the assistance of the steamer Spaulding she has been got off, and is now on her way here. She received numerous shots, but no serious damage.

Capt. Worden of the Monitor, was wounded in the head while looking out of the wheelhouse. No other accident of any kind occurred to the battery or crew.

At about the same time the alarm signal gun was fired, and the Merrimac was seen to be on fire in the water.