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PRINCIPLES, not MEN.

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Correspondence.

LETTER FROM CHEST CREEK.

Editor Republican:
 DEAR SIR:—In looking over a late copy of the *Clearfield Republican*, I noticed, in the editorial, that you seemed to think the conscripts belonging to the Democratic party would stand no chance of entering the service, owing to the great rush of the abolition conscripts! However this may be in your town, I can assure you it does not apply to this section of the county. The Abolitionists here are not only desirous of the Democrats taking their term, but they would not be offended in the least if the Democrats stepped in just ahead of them. In fact, some of our Abolition friends here would be perfectly willing to give a few hundred dollars to any one of those who, for years, they have been calling "Copperheads," "Rebel-sympathizers," "Traitors," and such mild names, rather than face their Uncle Abe's music. Yes, they would be willing to employ those whom they have been denouncing as "traitors" to fight in their stead!

How valiant! How patriotic! What a man they thus manifest in the cause! Send them to fight against Traitors! What fine flights of fancy sometimes cross an Abolitionist's brain! Indeed, I believe as Democrats would be at a premium here were it not for that inherent and inalienable principle, ever uppermost in the mind of an Abolitionist—*give a good man a good bargain!* This principle appears as plainly in a Pennsylvania Abolitionist, as in the genuine Yankee, though perhaps not quite so fully developed. Whether they buy a jack-knife, with which a whetstone, or a white man to beath in a shirt, or their motto seems to be "take the cheapest!"

Though these men proclaim to every man they meet that the war is just about over, as the rebels must necessarily be starved out by this time, having had nothing eat for the last three years and nine months; that the re-election of Lincoln has assured them that we are in earnest; that their fighting men were all killed, bagged, and that their present army is only made up of such material as they got by "robbing the cradle and the grave;" that Gen. Lee has surrendered—that Jeff Davis is resigned. Yet these men will give us the last dollar, borrow, go in debt, and save themselves, rather than enter the service! In December they will preach again that the war will be over before the blasts of the January storm traverse the Allegheny mountains; in February they will tell you it will be over before the first of April; in the latter part of March they extend the time till May; they believe their own lies! "Evidently they are living epistles known and read of all men."

What an incalculable amount of mischief has been done by those who profess to be the spiritual advisers, but who are in fact the political advisers, of men, will be better known when the history of the next time shall be written by an impartial hand. I once heard one of these fellows, whose ignorance was proverbial, say for the Northern part of this country: "I mean, whose mind is so narrow and contented as not to desire the welfare of his fellow-country, is not fit to live in this country; let him go! Much better to let others live their day to their country! The name of my papa 'O, Lord, give us peace—as we would peace.'" Thus manifesting his love that the Almighty might do a *disobedient* act, unless he winks with his eyes at the Supreme Ruler of the Universe!—I heard another of these political tricksters, after delivering a political harangue, held forth in these words: "If you are interested in me for throwing out Jeff Davis, they are welcome," "I was once offered, but some thought stood at a very respectful distance—one three or four hundred miles—from the object at which he was throwing his sticks." MORANON.

VERITAS.

A Paris letter says: "Gen. McClellan intends to prolong his sojourn in Paris for some weeks, and thence go to Rome and Dresden, with the intention of spending the summer in the south of France, and returning to America next autumn."

We advise all our readers having property to sell to give wide notice of the fact, both through the papers and by hand-bill. It costs but little, and by exciting competition among purchasers, may add hundreds of dollars to the sum the property will sell for.

The Democratic members of the Legislature have united in an address to their party friends in the State, recommending the *Harrisburg Patriot* to their support as the central Democratic organ.

THE WAR NEWS.

CAPTURE OF RICHMOND.

DETAILS OF SATURDAY'S MOVEMENTS.
HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, APRIL 11.—The greater portion of this army has not been engaged with the enemy to-day, the time being occupied in erecting works on the new line, and repairing the roads connecting the different corps.

The late rains render it impossible to move the wagon trains as fast as the troops advanced, one train taking forty-eight hours to move five miles, one thousand men assisting. But through the untiring energy and perseverance of the officers in charge of the Quartermaster and Commissary Departments, the army has been almost as well supplied as while in their old quarters.

When the news of Sheridan's repulse reached here last evening, a part of the Fifth corps was at once despatched to its aid, and it is expected that to-night or in the morning we shall receive good news from that quarter.

It appears that Sheridan was moving on the road leading to a place called the Five Forks, which is about three miles from the Southside railroad, when two brigades of Pickett's division, which had been ordered out in a great hurry, came down on a road which runs from Sutherland Station to the one on which we were.

Sheridan's cavalry having for the most part, passed the junction, this movement of the enemy threatened to cut him off. He, however, discovered his danger in time to get to his command with only a slight loss, at the same time taking about one hundred prisoners.

Both of the lines were present, but one of them at a respectable distance. On being relieved this morning by the Fifth corps, the enemy fell back so rapidly that their dead and many of their wounded fell into our hands, as well as those of our own unavoidably left behind yesterday afternoon.

The attack made on the enemy's line in front of the Twenty-fourth corps was by Foster's division, and about 200 prisoners were brought in, the 19th New York taking the most of them.

Some three hundred or four hundred yards of ground was taken from them, and our picket lines much further advanced. At 4 A. M. this position was assaulted and a few of our men captured, but in a very short time it was retaken with about sixty prisoners and a stand of colors.

Our loss up to the present time will not exceed 2,500, while that of the enemy on some parts of the line, at least, was greater than our own, but of course the total cannot be given. Major Dickinson, of the 15th New York heavy artillery, is wounded and a prisoner.

The sharpshooters brought into the Fifth corps headquarters this morning sixteen cavalrymen, belonging to William Henry Lee's command. They had been on picket, and were cut off by the force sent to the assistance of Sheridan.

[SECOND DISPATCH.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, APRIL 11, MIDDLETOWN.—A courier from Sheridan has just arrived with the most cheering news. The combined force of cavalry and Warren's infantry advanced against the enemy this afternoon, driving them several miles, and capturing about 4,000 prisoners and a number of guns.

They retreated to Five Forks, where they were flanked by a part of the Fifth corps, which had moved down the White Oak road. It was here the large number of prisoners were taken. The rebels then retreated south, along the White Oak road, and were vigorously pursued by Gen. Sheridan, while McKensel's cavalry, from the Army of the James, advanced west on the Ford road toward the Southside road, and after the messenger left was only about three miles from it and *was*, undoubtedly, *was* it before morning.

Was the last great line of railroad the rebels to supply their capital and Lee's army about to be severed and it is firmly believed they will immediately leave their present positions at Petersburg and Richmond.

Sharp reconnoitering is now going on near the centre of the line held by the 1st of the Sixth corps.

The Battle on Friday—Fall Particulars.

DAVIS'S MIND, APRIL 11.—To understand the operations of today, the reader must bear in mind the configuration of the line, and the parts occupied by the different corps before the last advance. The left of the Sixth corps extended to Hatcher's run. The Second corps extended down the run from the left of the Sixth, at nearly at a right angle, until reaching the crossing of Vaughan road. The Fifth corps was substantially in reserve, and extended back at a right angle from the left of the Second, in rear of the Sixth.

When the present forward movement commenced the Fifth corps was moved southwesterly across Hatcher's run, and then northwesterly to the Quaker road and Boydton plank road, between Hatcher's run and Gravelly run. The Second corps crossed Hatcher's run simultaneously, and moved up the South side of the creek, towards the Boydton road. The Twenty-fourth corps was put into the place occupied by the Second, and assists in forming the main line, and is also somewhat in the position of a reserve.

Sheridan in the meantime moved his entire cavalry command around Dinwiddie Court House, thus threatening the Southside railroad, and the enemy's right flank. At dark on the evening of the 30, the left of the Second corps rested on the Boydton plank road, near Burgess' tavern

about one mile south of the bridge across Hatcher's run. The Fifth corps had pushed on nearly due west, and lay fronting northward, with the pickets of Ayres' division within five hundred yards of the White Oak road, at a point between two and three miles west of its intersection with the Boydton road.

On the morning of the 31st the rebel troops, composed of Wise's, Bushrod Johnson's and a part of Pickett's command, brought from the Chickahominy within the past forty-eight hours, and perhaps detachments from other organizations, fell on the left of the Fifth corps, and succeeded in throwing it into great confusion. Ayres' division is reported to have fought well, but to have been overpowered. Crawford's division was thrown into irreparable confusion also, and was driven back pell-mell for at least a mile and a half. They were finally reformed beyond the Boydton road, in front of the house, led to the attack before noon and by half-past four P. M. he last only regained the best ground, but established two brigades on the White Oak road.

In front of Ayres' position in the morning the fight was purely an infantry one, and the troops that behaved so gallantly in the famous fought like veterans before night.

At sundown last evening our left flank reached to William Dabney's, on the White Oak road, three and a quarter miles from Five Forks to the westward, and three miles from the intersection of White Oak road with Boydton road. From Mr. Dabney's we held the road about one mile eastward. From that point our line ran across in an irregular semi-circle form to the Second corps, near Burgess' farm.

Sheridan found himself strangely confronted with infantry yesterday, that he was unable to make any substantial advance. Late in the evening he had a stubborn fight, resulting in a drawn battle, the details of which will be given by our correspondents with his consent.

During the night a part of the Fifth corps was moved to his support, with the expectation of striking the rebel infantry on flank and rear, cutting them off from Petersburg entirely. If not apprised of our approach we shall probably succeed.

The losses of the Fifth corps yesterday are just ascertained to have been not far from one thousand in killed, wounded and missing.

Cavalry Operations.

DINWIDDIE COURT HOUSE, APRIL 12, A. M.—On arriving within a short distance of Dinwiddie we encountered and skirmished with the 10th North Carolina Independent Battalion, now only about eighty strong, a small body of troops who have been ranging about the country seeking forage for their horses and themselves.

They were a lawless band, whom the citizens feared much more than they respected. This small party attempted to check our advance by skirmishing freely and felling trees across the road. Finding it would not do to let them go on in this way, Gen. Irwin Gregg ordered Colonel O. B. Knowles, commanding 21st Pennsylvania, to charge with a portion of his regiment, and drive the rebels off. The charge was accordingly made, and was successful.

We took one officer and a few private prisoners. After this there was no more skirmishing, and we entered Dinwiddie without opposition. As we entered the town the sun was setting; it had just rained some during the day, and the roads were rather muddy. What few people had remained in the place now came out to see us and when they ascertained that Gen. Sheridan was in command they manifested a strong desire to see him, and the general inquiry was, "Where is he? Where is he?"

That night the troops encamped in and around the town, and that night, too, the privates fared better than the generals, for while the latter had their rations and beverages with them, the latter had not, and as the several headquarters' wagons did not get up, the generals and their staff had nothing to eat, and both went to bed hungry. On this occasion hard luck was at a premium around headquarters. The town could not afford us anything to eat, and consequently we did not get an opportunity to live on it.

For the night Gen. Sheridan made his headquarters at the hotel, and Gen. Crook hung his banner on the outer wall of the Court house opposite. The other generals took up their quarters in the field around the town. Some of the staff officers slept in the post office, and before going to bed amused themselves with reading the contents of the mails.

They found many sly love letters, letters containing Confederate notes, rings, etc., and private and public letters of a more interesting than important character. Most all of the letters contained references to the suffering condition of the Southern people, and some of them contained paragraphs on the question of and lamenting the necessity for conscripting, pressing, and arming the negroes.

During the night of the 28th we opened communication with the infantry on our right. On the 30th it rained hard and the roads were soon rendered almost impassable. Do all we could it was found impossible to get our trains up. By reason of this no small portion of the command had to be left a long distance back to protect the train from capture by the enemy's cavalry. This was known to be near by, patiently watching for an opportunity to make a dash. It is almost needless to say it did not get one. Early in the morning of this day, after having protected our rear, we opened communication with the infantry on the Boydton plank road. Here we rested our right.

West of the Boydton plank road is a road running to Five Forks in this latter

road General Merritt advanced a portion of his corps. General Dronels led the advance. They had not got far out before he came upon the enemy's cavalry. This he charged and drove back in confusion, taking quite a number of prisoners. He continued to follow up his success until he arrived within sight of the Five Forks, where the enemy's infantry was found to be posted behind breastworks or rifle-pits. He was now within three miles and a half of the Southside railroad. After a careful reconnaissance of the enemy's line we advanced again, moving forward—but no matter where we struck out we found the infantry line opposed to us. Soon after we learned that General Pickett had command of this rebel infantry line, that it was his division that held it, and that Pickett's right rested by White Oak swamp and his left by the rebel fortifications near Hatcher's run. Pickett's division is reported to be between eight and ten thousand strong, and is said to be containing numbers as many divisions in the rebel service.

The rebel line we could have broken had it not been for the fact that to the right of us lay the White Oak road, parallel to which road the enemy had established a strong line. The particular point was this—the White Oak road runs from the Boydton plank road over to and connects with the road necessary for us to move on in order to reach Five Forks. We could not move on the Boydton plank in the direction of Petersburg, and then turn off the White Oak road, for the reason that on and parallel with the railroad the enemy has established a strong infantry line.

It, therefore, became necessary for us, in order to continue on, to move to the next available road to the westward and left. This we did for a short distance, when it was found that our column would have to move by the front of the rebel line, and not far from it, and that should we do this, and the enemy found it out, which no doubt he would, his first move would be to cut our column in two and attempt the capture of the party cut off.

Any person at all acquainted with military matters knows how a cavalry command will string out, how narrow how close the column is marched. The road necessary for us to travel on was narrow and long, through a thickly wooded and swampy section of country. By the time the head of our column could have got well on in the direction, it was quite dark. The rear would have been cut off by the Boydton plank road.

Had the enemy then made an attack, and we been compelled to form into line to meet him the advantages would have been greatly in the enemy's favor. We could not charge the enemy mounted, for the ground was heavily wooded, besides being swampy. Again, had our men been dismounted and sent into fight, the long range rifles and muskets of the enemy's infantry would have soon driven off our boys, with their short range carbines. The disparity between the ranges of the two arms would soon have settled the matter.

This now brings us to the morning of the 31st. The day opened cloudy and rainy, and the roads and ground generally were in no wise improved. The smallest runs were as small creeks, and the creeks as rapid streams. Every hollow noted for a water puddle was now marked by a miniature lake. Traveling along any road was attended with a constant sounding of bottom.

Between eight and ten o'clock in the morning an advance was made on the right of the cavalry line down the White Oak road by a portion of the Fifth army corps. From some cause, as yet not fully explained, the movement proved a failure. The cause attributed by some to the troops being overmarched in numbers, and by others to widely different causes. At any rate the movement was not successful, and hence the cavalry could not go on in the old position of Five Forks.

About an hour or so after the Fifth corps troops had been repulsed, a spirited attack was made by the enemy's cavalry on that portion on the left of General Slaughter's line held by General Charles H. Smith's brigade. The enemy came up in good style, but was repulsed with considerable loss. As soon as possible General Smith made a counter-charge, driving the enemy back, and taking over thirty prisoners in this charge.

Major Paul Cashmore, commanding 2d New York Mounted Rifles, was wounded in the shoulder. General Smith had a horse shot under him, besides receiving a trifling wound in the leg. The wound was so slight that General Smith continued on the field during the remainder of the day.

We killed in this movement a rebel colonel named Neal, belonging to a North Carolina regiment. Had the ground admitted to anything like a steady charge we would have captured very many more prisoners before the rebels reached and were covered by their infantry.

While General Smith was fighting, General Davis moved across with a portion of his command and engaged the enemy on Smith's right. Under Davis, the 10th New York, Colonel M. H. Avery; 24th New York, Colonel W. C. Newberry, and 1st Pennsylvania, Major H. S. Thomas, were engaged. The 1st Maine, Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan P. Chaffey; 6th Ohio, Colonel M. H. Cryer, and 2d New York Mounted Rifles, and 13th Ohio, Colonel Stephen R. Clarke, were also engaged.

York and the 10th New York were again engaged, this time very heavily.

At this time no small portion of the cavalry command was back on the Vaughan road, about three miles. Matters threatening to be very serious, an officer portion of said command as a reinforcement arrived in good season to participate. Affected by the enemy had gotten over the ford he continued to demonstrate against our left flank with a view to deceiving us as to what other movements he was then making. He opened against us with artillery, but it neither scared or injured any of our men.

Foremost among the troops on the left centre was the 2d Pennsylvania, Colonel O. B. Knowles; 10th Pennsylvania, Col. J. M. Robinson, 4th Pennsylvania, Lieut. Col. Wm. A. Crane, 4th Pennsylvania, Lieut. Col. A. P. Duncan, and 2d Pennsylvania, Colonel W. Sanders.

All along the lines, from the extreme left to the extreme of the left centre, the stand made by our men was admirable. The headquarters flag of General Charles H. Smith and J. Irwin Gregg could have been seen flying here and there through the woods, while their commanders cheered the men on, and the men hung to the fighting like savages.

At this juncture General Custer arrived upon the field with two brigades of his division. The bright flags that ever accompany this General were indeed a welcome and inspiring sight. The fighting had now got directly upon our centre.

It was here that one division of General Merritt's corps was posted in the midst of thick woods. We had a line formed, consisting of men dismounted for the purpose. General Gibbs' command fought on this line. The enemy kept up a strong fight with a weak line of infantry, until joined by Lillie's brigade of Gordon's corps, when he formed a regular line of battle and advanced.

The 1st, 5th, and 6th United States Regulars and 6th Pennsylvania regiment here did most of the fighting. The commands of Generals Davis and Acting Brigadier Generals, Colonels Peter Fogg and Charles L. Fitzhugh had by this time got over to the Boydton plank road, and they prevented the enemy from gaining a foothold on that road to-day.

It is probable that the 5th and 2d corps and a portion of Ord's army will be heavily engaged in the service some very important information; hence this account of cavalry operations is not as full in detail as it otherwise would be.

It was at this period that the real battle commenced. The moment was a critical one for us, and General Sheridan saw it. He, therefore, dashed forward, followed by his staff, headquarters flag and escort; and with his hat off, waving it in the air, he cheered the men, and they cheered him. He told them to remain firm; and the cheers and the answers they gave in return told plainly enough they would.

The sight was a thrilling one. The enemy had driven our men out of the forts, and the fighting was in the open fields. Along the line of the woods the enemy reformed his line. Colonel Caphart's brigade and Colonel Pennington's brigade were stationed from the left of the line to support the centre. Just before the enemy had got out of the woods our men made a low breastwork of some general's, it did not afford them any particular protection.

At five and a half o'clock the enemy made a grand advance in two lines of battle from the woods across the fields. These immediately followed the hardest fighting of the day. There, too, the clouds parted, and a golden flood of light burst in upon the scene and made our arms to glisten and the colors of the different commanders to look brighter than ever before. The field was crowded with generals, who together with their staffs and escorts, added much to the picturesque appearance of the aspect.

The enemy got about midway between the woods and our line when he was checked. He continued to hold his line for some time, and he had much the advantage of us, in this way—that his files arranged our carbines, and gave him the odds in distance for firing.

The engagement continuing on batteries poured in a well-directed fire, which more than once broke the enemy's line, and threw certain portions of it into confusion.

By dark the enemy delivered one terrific volley; it seemed to be a continuous line of flame. As it did not move our men any, the enemy broke and went back, and we were left in possession of the field, and our position at Dinwiddie Court House.

Among the wounded sent to the rear was Col. Morrow, 6th Pennsylvania, and Lieut. Tison, of the 1st Pennsylvania. Lieut. McGee, of the 6th Pennsylvania, was carried off the field dead.

The total cavalry losses for the day are between five and six hundred; probably not more than five.

During the night Gen. Grant ordered a portion of the 6th corps to advance, so as to strike at the rear of the infantry force which attacked Sheridan, and it was thought Pickett had now got his command into a position from which he would find it very difficult to extricate it.

We are expecting more and very heavy fighting.

The Victory of Sunday.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, APRIL 12.—The most important victory of the Army of the Potomac has ever gained in Virginia was won to-day, and the outer limits of the work which we have been trying in vain for months to overcome, has at last yielded to our victorious arms, and the greater portion of this army are to

night within a mile and a half of the city, on the southwest side.

The struggle made by the enemy to retain their works had been of the most desperate character, and for the success obtained to-day we are indebted not only to the strategy exercised by the commanders, but to the overwhelming numbers and bravery of the troops that did the work.

The orders for an attack on the line east and south of Petersburg by the Sixth and Ninth corps were carried out punctually at daylight, the artillery having been hammering away the greater part of the night along the entire line held by the above corps. Such a furious cannonade has been very seldom heard during the war, not even surpassed by that which was heard on the occasion of the mine explosion.

The Ninth corps troops engaged in the action were the Second and Third divisions and Colonel Sam. Harrison's brigade of the First division. The charges were made in front of Fort Hell and Line, on the Jerusalem road, and were so successful that by 8 a. m. we were in possession of three fortifications, Fort Mahone being the most extensive and valuable.

These works contained four or five guns, some of which were at once opened on the enemy by men belonging to the infantry regiments. Just inside, and about one hundred yards from Fort Mahone, was another work, to which the rebels retreated, and from which they threw a most destructive fire upon our men, causing them to retire from the north side, when the rebels made a dash, thinking to recover it entirely, but the general's right wing, as well as in the rear, had been manned and shotted, and the rebels were driven back.

From this time till late in the afternoon the struggle continued, the enemy using every effort to recover the lost, while our men were determined to retain possession of what they had fought so hard and paid so dearly for.

About noon the chances seemed that we should lose it, but soon after the Provisional brigade, under General Collins, and the Engineer brigade, under General Eganham, with General Hamilton's brigade of the Sixth corps, came on the ground, and by their timely arrival saved the gallant men in the work from capture and again caused the enemy to retire.

The fire which rained on the ground showed the character of the work, and its character, and to stand and see men advance and run through the very thickest of it—many of them torn to pieces and lost to sight before they crossed half the distance—was a sight not soon to be forgotten.

At dark the position of the contestants was the same as during the day.

General Wilcox with a part of his division made an attack in front of Fort McGilvery, near the Appomattox, and took part of the line, but was soon after forced to retire to his former position, owing to a lack of support.

The loss of the Ninth corps will reach from eight hundred to one thousand, in killed, wounded and prisoners, among whom were General Potter, commanding the second division, who is badly wounded in the groin, but not fatally, it is thought; Col. Getchell, of the 31st Maine, severely; Major Betton, 31st Maine, severely; Col. Gregg and Lieut. Col. Winslow, 17th New York, wounded; Major Morrow, 26th Pennsylvania, lost a leg; Lieut. Alexander, 20th Pennsylvania, killed.

The corps have taken 14 guns, about 200 prisoners, and two battle flags—the latter by the 21st Pennsylvania.

The 6th corps struck the enemy's line in front of Fort Welch, near the celebrated lead works, and carried them with very slight loss. They at once pushed for the Southside road, which they reached about nine o'clock, and in a very short time several miles of it were torn up and destroyed.

They then moved on down toward Petersburg, driving the rebels before them, across four runs, and into their inner lines, close to the city.

They took a large number of prisoners, about 2,000, and some twenty guns. No attack on the inner line has been made as yet, as the position is a strong one, and will either be defended to the last or evacuated during the night.

The Twenty-fourth corps, holding the line north of Hatcher's run and south of the Duncan road, engaging with the Sixth corps on the right and the Second on the left, advanced at daylight and took the works in their front with slight loss.

Over one thousand prisoners were captured here. These troops were Foster's and Turner's divisions, under Gen. Gibbons. They were supported by the colored division of the Twenty-fifth corps, but the latter did not get into action.

The Second corps, which held the line from the run, a mile and a half east of the Boydton road, to over a mile west of it, delayed advancing until Sheridan with the Fifth corps got within supporting distance on the extreme left, when the entire line moved forward, carrying the works almost without opposition.

The enemy was found to have fallen back from this part of the line, owing to the Sixth corps cutting them off, they having reached the Southside road early in the forenoon, and being busy in tearing it up. This of course cut the rebel army in two, and the two divisions thus caught between the Sixth and Second corps, at once stood across the Southside road towards the Appomattox, hoping to be able to ford it and thus escape capture. But it appears they ran against Sheridan, and putting on a bold appearance made a show of fight.

News to this effect reaching headquarters, two divisions of the Second corps were at once sent to flank, and if possible to capture the entire command.