

IN TIMES OF GREAT TRIAL it is proper to disengage the mind from its too intense contemplation of the present, and direct it upon the probable wants and necessities of the future.

The spectacle of a nation undergoing organic change seldom recurs in an ordinary lifetime. We who behold this great struggle for national life are accustomed, and are teaching others, to regard it as sudden and violent; while the truth is, that various causes have been at work every hour since the birth of the nation to produce just the effect now being witnessed, with various emotions, by the civilized world. Nor is this struggle unique in kind, cause and probable result. Every nation worthy of the name has its record of experiences exactly similar. The only material difference is that we have a larger repository of fact and experience to resort to than any that have gone before. Shall we wisely open our eyes and make the most of this extra privilege, and thereby gravitate to a firm anchorage among nations, or shall we refuse to be taught by fact and experience and enter upon the precarious revolutionary existence enjoyed by the South American and Mexican Republics?

These are serious questions. It may be proper to refer to our national past in plain terms. As a people we have been neither disinterested nor virtuous. We have not been true patriots. If the interest of any class have suffered, that class itself is to be charged with the blame. We have habituated ourselves to the thought and practice that certain classes needed protection from the rapacity and bad ambition of other classes. We have created this idea and taught the people to harbor it. Why? Because we have been misers heaping up a certain kind of capital, known as political capital, with reference to the aggrandizement of organizations of men. The fact is, that every class is, in this country, able to care for itself. All the patronage any class or interest needs from parties or government is simply relief from outside influences. That the rich are the natural enemies of the poor in this country is a false teaching. And that the poor hate the wealthy is equally false. These are some of the falsehoods which have been disseminated among the people by designing men for selfish purposes, and which have had their share of influence in precipitating the present struggle. Time was when these appeals to the worse passions of men were the stock in trade of the democratic party.

The fierce struggle in which we are engaged will operate in many ways to elevate us in the scale of national life. It will act as judge, jury and executioner of our great popular crimes. It will act as the idol-breaker in the temples we have erected for the worship of falsities. It will act the great physician to purge popular opinion of its gross impurities, and it will cleanse the political and moral atmospheres of their corrupt and heaven-insulting stenches, as the hurricane purifies the atmosphere of the natural world of pestilence and plagues. Whatever may be the immediate loss, the mitigation can be nothing but a great and saving gain. Posterity will see that this war was as inevitable as it was necessary.

There is another great evil of which we have made no mention, and which such strife as we are now waging is destined to prove a corrective. Heretofore we have sought men for places not so much for their peculiar fitness, as for that something which may be anything or nothing,—availability. The meaning of this term is vague. The nature of the quality it pretends to name and define is necessarily gross and impure. Sometimes a man is available because he has money, and can bear the expenses of a campaign; or, he understands the "ropes" that lead to the most excitable passions of the multitude, and is therefore available; or, he is a great political general, or manager, and can move puppets in high places. But how seldom have we heard men urged for place, among the managers, because of their peculiar descent and fitness! No wonder if we have been early wrecked by bad rulers and misled by evil counsel! No wonder that we are disfiguring the ago with the most stupendous civil war yet recorded in history! All this must be changed before we can hope for a stable government and a united people. Mere politicians must go the wall and the real men, who constitute the spinal marrow of the nation, must be brought forward and put in their places. Those who have served faithfully and well must be constrained to continue in the public service. The best men—men who can be trusted—whose lives have grown to be efficient guarantees of their ability and integrity—these must be preferred in the new order of things. And we stand upon the threshold of that new era in our history. Already it is time to act in obedience to the behests of that better future which must succeed this better present.—If there be any yet unconvinced the day is not far distant when the conviction will be forced upon them.

Some of Gen. Crawford's men made a reconnaissance on Monday up the Shenandoah Valley to the town of Luray. They drove out the rebel pickets, and had a skirmish on the Newmarket road, a mile beyond the village, taking four prisoners. One of our men was killed and three were wounded. The enemy had no stores at Luray.

THE SITUATION IN VIRGINIA.

From a variety of sources, the authenticity of which is unquestionable, we learn that the latest advices from McClellan, received in Washington, up to noon on Monday, were to the date of Saturday, at 2 o'clock, p. m. Up to that time he had successfully carried out a plan which he had pointed out some time ago, as one which he was very likely to put in execution, should circumstances render it expedient to do so. That plan was to swing his right wing toward the rear, including the divisions of Fitzjohn Porter, Hooker, and Hancock, being all the forces which lay north of half way between Bottom's Bridge and New-Bridge, while, at the same time, he advanced his left wing toward the James River, and opened communication with the gunboats.

The attack of the enemy in great force on the right wing, last Thursday, rendered it expedient to resort to this strategic movement sooner than was intended. Of course, this change of position necessitated a change of the base of operations, and White House Landing was ordered to be abandoned, in conformity with the prearranged plan.

Under the direction of Gen. Casey, this difficult undertaking was accomplished with entire success. All the sick and wounded were carefully shipped off, the ordnance and commissary stores placed on transports, and the troops and property embarked for James River, the refuse left behind, which did not exceed \$5,000 in value, being given to the flames. The mile and a half of steamboats, with a large number of sloops, brigs, and schooners, moved off, under convoy, and on Monday were at Turkey Island, on the James River, about eight miles below Fort Darling, and fifteen from Richmond, as the crow flies.

To return to McClellan and the army.—After an interruption of nearly 48 hours in his intercourse with Washington, during which he was completely isolated from his communications, and, as it were, buried in the Chickahominy wilderness, so that the most painful apprehensions began to be entertained for his safety, the head of his left wing emerged from the swamp, and touched the James River, on Monday, near Turkey Island Bridge. Of course, he immediately opened communication with Com. Rodgers of the James River flotilla, and through him with Washington, to the great joy of all who were favored with the glad tidings. The result of this movement may be briefly stated. If we are not mistaken, ere many hours his mile and a half of steam transports may relieve his weary soldiers of the fatigue of marching to Richmond, by landing them within easy approach to the rebel capital, after the gunboats shall have sufficiently smoothed the road thither.

In thus returning to the original plan of the campaign, frustrated for a time by the presence of the dreaded Merrimac, and extricating our gallant army from the malarious swamps of Chickahominy, placing them in the pure atmosphere and on the high grounds of the James River, a great advantage has been gained. Of course, this has not been obtained without a heavy cost of life; but the enemy has equally, if not more severely suffered, at our hands, and we trust that the time has come for making the campaign against Richmond "short, sharp, and decisive."

IMPORTANT ARMY CHANGES.—The forces under Maj. Gens. FREMONT, BANKS and McDOWELL have been consolidated into one army, called the Army of Virginia, and Major General Pope has been especially assigned by the President to the chief command.

The forces under Gen. FREMONT constitute the first army corps, to be commanded by Gen. FREMONT.

The forces under Gen. BANKS constitute the Second Army corps, and are to be commanded by him.

The forces under Gen. McDOWELL constitute the Third Army Corps, to be commanded by him.

McClellan's Division, 10,000 strong, which formed a part of McDowell's corps, has reached McClellan by water, and another division is to follow immediately in the same way, while Gen. POPE will also operate against the enemy at Richmond.

Besides McClellan's Division, Gen. McClellan has received other reinforcements to the amount of several thousands, since the battle of Fair Oaks.

The first work of the new Commander will of course be to take in hand that audacious rebel marauder, Stonewall JACKSON, (and in this business of rebel catching, he has had more experience than any man in the field,) and drive him finally out of the region which he has so long ravaged—or, what would be still better, and more accordant with Pope's antecedents, "bag" or destroy him and his entire command.

The following order was issued from the War Department under date of June 27:—

1.—Major-General John C. Fremont having requested to be relieved from the command of the first army corps of the Army of Virginia, because as he says the position assigned him by the appointment of Major-General Pope as Commander-in-Chief of the Army of Virginia is subordinate and inferior to that heretofore held by him, and to remain in the subordinate command now assigned would, as he says, largely reduce his rank and consideration in the service, it is ordered that Major-General John C. Fremont be relieved from command.

11.—That Brigadier-General Rufus King be and he is hereby assigned to the command of the first army corps of the Army of Virginia, in place of General Fremont, relieved by order of the PRESIDENT.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

By an arrival from Port Royal, we learn that Gen. Hunter has withdrawn his forces from James Island, and that the reinforcements expected from Key West had arrived in good health. Deserters professing to come from Beauregard's army state that large numbers of his men, while on the way to Richmond, had been diverted toward Charleston, to re-enforce the rebel army there.

THE WAR FOR THE UNION.

Operations Before Richmond.

Three Days Important Events.

A GREAT BATTLE ON FRIDAY.

WHITE HOUSE EVACUATED.

THE ENEMY REPULSED.

GAINES HILL, Friday, June 27, 1862.

The army of the Potomac is having a week of work, and the promise of the prevailing signs is that the closing day of the last week in June is to witness hard fighting. Yesterday afternoon, at about 2 o'clock, the rebels, who had crossed the Chickahominy at Meadow Bridge, two miles below Mechanicsville, attacked with artillery from across the river, and with a strong infantry force, the regiment composing the First Brigade of McClellan's Division—the Pa. K. tails, the Tenth, Eighth, Ninth and Fifth Pennsylvania Regiments. They were promptly met by the Pennsylvanians, who fought them for two hours, when the Second and Third Brigades of McClellan's Division, comprising six regiments, reinforced their hard-pressed comrades, and fought them until evening, repulsing them at every point. Our men suffered a very considerable loss in killed, wounded and prisoners, something like three hundred—the figure is merely estimated—but were ready for further work this morning and in high spirits. The Pa. K. tails were especially unfortunate—Two companies of them were surrounded by the enemy. One of them succeeded in escaping, but the other Company K, fell into the clutches of the Confederates. The Captain was taken, took advantage of a temporary confusion and made good his escape. First Lieut. Welch, of the same company, was left in the hands of the rebels. After holding the enemy in check for four hours, McClellan's Division was reinforced by two brigades from Gen. Fitz John Porter, and the rebels were again driven back, they making a further attack, with a heavy loss. During the action severe cannonading was kept up by both parties, the rebels, however, failing to do much damage with their shells. They advanced upon us in great force. It is estimated that at least 30,000 men were brought by them into the field, to make a desperate effort to flank our right. Our far inferior force, however, held them effectually in check and eventually drove them back.

Gen. McClellan himself arrived on the ground to ward evening, and immediately sent a despatch to be read to the troops on the other side of the Chickahominy, to the effect that Gen. McClellan had repulsed the enemy and driven them back upon their entrenchments.—The despatch was read to the troops just at dusk, and from that hour till late in the night all along the lines of our army, cheer after cheer went up.

The fight was renewed early in the morning, when the enemy were again repulsed; but at about 6 o'clock, in accordance with strategic plans of Gen. McClellan, our troops fell back two or three miles, the rebels following.

The fight has proceeded to day on better ground and satisfactorily. The movements of the army are important, but I am forbid to state them in detail.

From White House we hear of a probable advance of the enemy on that post of supplies, and everything there is ready to receive them.

All along the lines to day there has been vigorous firing, the enemy attempting to shell our camps.

Much of our paper is occupied with details of the operations of the Army of the Potomac during the last three days of last week. It is hardly possible to weave the several accounts into any connected narrative, nor is it precise to clear from any or all of them what has been done and what has been the result. The first indication of "something in the wind" was observed at White House, one of the main depots for commissary stores—on Wednesday last, when a fleet of boats began to remove the stores down the York River toward City Point. This was done very privately, all inquiring correspondents and civilians being kept off. The sick and wounded were also safely removed, and the few troops at White House ordered to be ready at any moment to leave. During the morning there was a report abroad that a division of the rebels, the forces of Stonewall Jackson and Gen. Ewell, were approaching and threatening to open the way by the right bank for a raid on the White House.—Meantime, the trains on the railroad were kept running night and day, carrying forward nothing but ammunition and non-combatants of war, and siege and rocket trains, and field pieces. The last event of Wednesday night was the arrival of nearly a hundred wounded men of Hooker's division, who had participated in the mysterious movement of Gen. McClellan on that morning, securing Tavern Hill (the "important point" in Gen. McClellan's dispatches,) which commands Richmond. Nothing of great importance occurred on Thursday morning; the removal of stores and munitions of war continued. About noon the enemy made their first attack in a feint upon Gen. Stoneman's forces, near Hanover Court House, but about 2 p. m. crossing the Chickahominy, and making a desperate attempt to drive back our men. The only forces engaged here were McClellan's division, who were located on the opposite side of a swampy ravine, about a mile and a half back from the Chickahominy River. The battle lasted from about 2 until 9 p. m., when the enemy drew off, renewing the attack at the break of day on Friday, and, after several hours of hard fighting, Gen. McClellan's division were ordered to fall back. The fighting, especially on Friday, is said to have been terrible. The rebels had overwhelming forces, and as soon as they met our repulse, they returned doubly strong. They came in such dense masses that the shell and grape poured into them made great gaps in their lines, which were immediately filled up, and they moved forward most determinedly. Their artillery was so poorly served that the damage to our ranks was light in proportion. They still moved on, and exchanged showers of Minnie balls; but when Gen. Porter ordered a bayonet charge, they retreated in double quick, though he pursued them but a short distance. The enemy again rallied and approached our lines, when the same terrible slaughter ensued. This time their artillery was more effective.

On coming to close quarters they were again repulsed, and driven back a still greater distance, the twice fought-over battle-ground being literally strewn with the dead and the dying. Gen. Porter a second time fell back to his position, and waited nearly an hour for the

enemy to renew the assault. They finally came on in increased numbers, having been largely re-enforced, and were again received with shell and grape, causing great chasms in their ranks. A third time they bore down most determinedly on our lines, and this conflict was the most severely contested of the whole, but when the bayonet was brought to bear he fell back, and was pressed toward Richmond fully a mile beyond our original lines. Again, for the fourth time, General Porter fell back to his first position, when an order was received from Gen. McClellan to continue his retrograde movement slowly and in order. The enemy again pushed forward boldly, when their advance was checked by the entire reserve force. This fresh force held the enemy in check, while the force which had previously borne the brunt of the battle moved back in good order, carrying with them their wounded and dead. The enemy made a fierce attack on the reserve, but cannon were posted at various points of the route by which they were retiring toward the Chickahominy, which occasionally poured in shot and shell upon them, and checked their movements, and enabled the troops to move back in order. At one time in this retrograde movement, the reserve force of Gen. Sykes charged on the enemy with the bayonet and drove him back nearly a mile. This is about the substance of the fighting, which closed on Friday night. Our loss is estimated at 1,200. The loss in officers is heavy. There are many wild rumors afloat, but we place little reliance upon them. A letter writer, who ought to be well informed not only of results but of plans, comes to the following gratifying conclusions: That the object of Gen. McClellan, long before the battle on Friday, was to abandon the White House, and also draw in his right wing across the Chickahominy. That he has accomplished this most masterly movement with but little loss in comparison with his punish ment of the enemy there can be no doubt, and that he has strengthened his position by contracting his lines, and changing the base of his operations to the James River, is equally self-evident. There he will have the cooperation of the gunboats, and if the enemy attempts to interrupt his supply-vessels by making a dash on the James River, they will meet with prompt punishment from the gunboats, and so weaken their forces in front that the city will fall into his possession with but a slight struggle.

FURTHER PARTICULARS.

WASHINGTON, June 29, 1862. Since closing my letter at the White House I find myself very unexpectedly in Washington City, and in possession of most trustworthy information from White House, and other points on the Peninsula, nearly a day later than is contained in my letter.

It appears that telegraphic communications between White House and Gen. McClellan was not broken until near 1 o'clock on Saturday, and then the wire was cut at D'spatch station, 11 miles out. Tunstall's station, 4 miles, was in our possession until 4 o'clock in the afternoon, at which hour the operator at White House heard a strange signal coming over the wire.

On going to the instrument, he was heralded with what the Union soldiers call the Rebel national salute—"I say, oh, Yankee son of a—!" This was the signal given for final evacuation, when a portion of the infantry forces immediately embarked on steamboats in waiting for them.

The last of the transports was moved off by steamtugs, and a few articles scattered about on shore, even some damaged hay, feed. The whole was of a very small value. Thus of the many millions of property here a few days ago perhaps not \$5,000 worth was destroyed.

In the midst of this closing scene in the beautiful Chickahominy region, I regret to have to state that some valuable set fire to the White House, and it was entirely consumed. The enemy made his appearance in considerable force at the White House about 7 o'clock on Saturday evening, and, although he neither found bread for man nor hay for beast, was welcomed with heavy showers of grape-shot from the three gunboats which were ranged along in front of the building.

They were supposed to be 30,000 strong, and unless they brought their heavy-arms well supplied, must have gone supperless to bed.

In the best of times I found starvation staring me in the face, at the White House, and I hope the rebels found no better fare.

The cavalry at the White House guarded the departure of the last wagons and horses, which moved off at the final evacuation, and joined the forces of Gen. Stoneman, who were moving in the vicinity all day.

After passing these trials off, and securing their entire safety, Gen. Stoneman, with the entire force, moved off in a direction that I am not at liberty to state.

Gen. Casey reports that he lost not a man nor did he leave a soul behind, not even a contraband.

At 10 o'clock on Saturday morning Col. Ingalls and Capt. Sautele were before Yorktown, with an immense convoy of vessels and steamers on their way to the new base of operation on James river.

They would doubtless move down immediately to Fortress Monroe and await the instructions of Gen. McClellan. A number are, however, already up the James River under the protection of the gunboats.

Since an early hour on Saturday morning, Gen. McClellan has been deprived of his telegraphic communication with Washington. He abandoned its use several hours before the wires were cut, doubtless being fearful that the enemy might, by placing a magnet on the wires, read his orders.

Direct communication with Gen. McClellan is now being opened, however, by the gunboats up the mouth of the Chickahominy, and will soon be right in this respect.

There are signs of activity in the neighborhood of Vicksburg. News received at Cairo states that our fleet of gunboats had passed the Mouth of Yazoo, and gone on to within four miles of Vicksburg; that men had gone overland and communicated with Commodore Farragut, whose fleet lies just below the city; that the Commodore had sent a despatch to Capt. Davis at Memphis, and that the latter officer immediately started down the river with the gunboat Benton, others of his flotilla being directed to follow immediately. The Memphis Appeal of the 23d says that the Union fleet of twenty gun and mortar boats opened upon the Vicksburg lower batteries on that morning. The result was not known. Van Dorn is the Rebel commander, having superseded Mansfield Lovell in that Department. Rebel authorities say that Van Dorn had advised families to leave the city, as he intended to defend it at all hazards.

ARRIVAL OF THE ERICSSON.

Interesting from South Carolina.

New York, June 28, 1862.

The United States transport Ericsson, Captain Lowber, from Tortugas 16th instant, Key West 18th, and Port Royal 23d, arrived here yesterday morning. She brought a large mail from all the above places and 181 passengers, among whom are General Benham and staff. She also brought fifty-seven soldiers who were wounded in the late engagement on James Island, S. C. They are in charge of Surgeons Craven and Scholl. She brought from Key West four companies of the Ninetieth New York State Volunteers, and landed them at Port Royal; also the Ninth New Hampshire, and four companies of the First United States Artillery (regulars).

The United States troops, under General Benham, made an attack on the morning of June 16, at four o'clock, and were repulsed after four hours' hard fighting, with the loss of six hundred and sixty-eight men killed, wounded and missing. The Michigan Eighth had but two hundred and fifty men left at roll call. The New York Seventy-Ninth suffered severely. The Union troops were obliged to retreat under the cover of the gunboats.

Gen. Brannan, from Key West, was expected to arrive at Port Royal daily.

Col. Perry, of the Forty-Eighth regiment, (of Brooklyn,) died at Fort Pulaski, June 18, of apoplexy.

The United States ship San Jacinto was at Key West. All well.

By the Ericsson we have full particulars of the operations of the Federal forces on James Island, near Charleston, up to the end of last week. There have been two engagements with the rebels—the first of which occurred on the evening of the 10th instant, resulting in little loss; and the battle of the 16th, which was the only check our forces have received at any point on the coast since the war began. Nearly six hundred men were lost.

The first reconnaissance in force, which was to be made by our troops on James Island, was ordered for the 11th inst., but was postponed on account of an attack by the rebels on the Federal camp on the night of the 10th. This attack was, however, repulsed with little loss on our side. The fact that the enemy had ventured to approach our camp, for the evident purpose of ascertaining the extent of our force, and in which effort they were successful to some extent, induced Gen. Benham to change his plan, and to make an attack instead of a reconnaissance in force, with the intention of storming the rebel works, if circumstances were favorable.

The battle of the 16th instant began at four o'clock in the morning. The design of our officers was to approach the rebel works near Secessionville before daylight; but the delays incidental to an advance over ground where not perfectly understood, prevented the execution of this programme.

It is proper to remark that this attack was decided on in consequence of information received from rebel deserters—afterwards found to be correct—who represented that the rebel works were very strong, and that a number of additional guns had been received and would at once be mounted, thus rendering an approach exceedingly hazardous if not impossible.

Gen. Benham assumed command, and our men, with the Highlanders and Eighth Michigan regiment in the advance, marched gallantly on the enemy's works. This charge was so rapid that the rebels were unable to bring their guns into full use until the Federal force was very near. They poured in a destructive fire, including musketry, and remained inside their intrenchments. There was but little pause. The regiments we have named rushed up to the trenches and into and through them and directly to the breastworks, where a terrible struggle took place, in which the enemy were driven from their guns. A large number of our troops scaled the parapets, the rebels retreating.

There are conflicting statements regarding the battle at this point. The officers of the storming party declare that they were not supported—that Gen. Stevens failed to bring up his forces in time; and a halt, it appears, was ordered. It is believed by the troops who constituted the advance that they could have cleared the defenses if they had followed up the advantage while the rebels were disorganized and expected to be pursued. The halt, however, enabled the enemy to collect their forces. They soon recommenced the fight, and a sanguinary hand-to-hand conflict ensued, in which the vastly superior rebel force brought against the small number—variously stated at one to three hundred men—who had actually scaled the parapets, enabled the rebels to force them back and into the trenches. Here a terrible and destructive fight took place. The rebels obtained positions whence they could pour an enfilading fire upon our troops, and four hundred men of the Federal force were either killed or wounded before a retreat could be successfully accomplished.

CLEARING THE MISSISSIPPI.

Communications between Commodore Davis and Farragut.

UNION FLEET, OFF VICKSBURG, June 26.—P. M. } Via MEMPHIS, June 25.—Via CHICAGO, June 30. }

The Union fleet communicated with Commodore Farragut on Wednesday. He was to attack Vicksburg on Friday. Twenty were in position at Vicksburg.

Farragut was so confident of victory. The rebel force is estimated at 12,000. It is reported that Farragut destroyed the town of Warrington.

The cotton was burned all along the rivers. Commodore Davis's flotilla is to cooperate with Farragut.

The fall of Memphis was unknown at Vicksburg.

Curtis is in a perilous situation in Arkansas. The rebel Gen. Raines is in his rear with fifteen thousand men. The gunboat Arkansas is aground in the Yazoo River. There is great distress and alarm in the South.

MEMPHIS, June 28, 1862.

The Grenada Appeal of the 23d learns that the Union fleet, to the number of twenty gunboats and mortars, opened fire at an early hour that morning on the lower batteries at Vicksburg. The result is not stated. Van Dorn is in command there, having superseded Lovell in the command of that department.

A letter to the same paper from Chattanooga, the 16th, says: "We have direct news this morning that the enemy are falling back before our advancing columns from Powell's Valley to Big Creek Gap. While this is

going on, Mitchell is moving on our rear in the vicinity of Battle Creek, waiting to fall upon his prey.

The Grenada Appeal of the 25th says:—"Gen. Van Dorn advised all families in Vicksburg to move eight miles back from the river. He intends to defend that department to the last extremity." That paper also says that on Saturday last the Union mortar fleet, in tow of gunboats from below, was repulsed at Grand Gulf by our batteries of six and twelve pounders. The same day the gunboats at Vicksburg opened a brisk fire on the batteries, which continued over an hour without doing any injury.

Of affairs in Arkansas, the Appeal says that "the rapid movements of General Hindman's forces have a most rid the State of Curtis's army, and that they have succeeded in driving him back to a position within a short distance of the Missouri line. When our informant left they were still retreating."

At an election in this city on Thursday, John Park, the Union candidate for Mayor, received 724 votes, being all the votes cast.

CAIRO, Monday, June 29, 1862.

The steamer Forest Queen, from Memphis, arrived with 650 bales cotton.

News from the flotilla is highly interesting.

Our gunboats and rams passed the mouth of the Yazoo River and proceeded to within four miles of Vicksburg, from which point seven men went by land to the Louisiana side and communicated with Farragut's fleet. Com. Farragut has since sent a dispatch to Captain Davis, which reached Memphis Saturday morning. Capt. Davis immediately started down the river with the Benton, and others of the flotilla will soon follow.

FROM GEN. McCLELLAN'S ARMY.

ADVANCE TOWARD RICHMOND.

McClellan's Headquarters, Wednesday, June 26.—Evening. }

Gen. Hooker, at 6 o'clock this morning, advanced his Division with the view of occupying a new position. The result was that his troops met with a most determined resistance from the enemy, which lasted until four o'clock in the afternoon, but the rebels were forced to give way before the invincible courage of our men.

During the day everything indicated a general engagement, but the enemy for some reason or other, backed out of it.

The troops all fought as gallantly as ever. The loss on our side will be about two hundred killed and wounded.

The following are among the wounded.

Col. Morrison, volunteer Aid to Gen. Palmer, wounded in the hand.

Capt. Rafferty, of the Second Excelsior Regiment, wounded in the leg.

The loss among the officers in the First Massachusetts Regiment, which suffered the most, is as follows:

Capt. Wild, wounded in the hand.

Capt. Curran wounded in the breast.

Capt. Chamberlin wounded in the face.

Lieut. Thomas, wounded in the arm; amputated.

Lieut. Dalton, wounded in the breast.

Lieut. Parkerson, wounded in the leg.

Our killed is small, most of our men being wounded.

The loss of the enemy is not known, but it is believed to be equal to our own.

The camp of the rebels in front of Gen. Hooker was captured, and is now occupied by his troops.

The ground fought for was a swamp, with thick underbrush, beyond which is an open country. The woods intervening between our troops and the enemy prevented the result of our artillery being from being known.

Two Napoleon 12 pounders, under Capt. DeRussy, succeeded in getting through the swamp during the afternoon, and did excellent service. An effort of the enemy to capture them resulted in their being driven back with severe loss.

The result of today is highly important to the health of the army, as but a little more ground is to be gained to place our troops beyond the swamp.

Gen. McClellan was present during the whole day, superintending all movements.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, June 26.

A despatch, received at the War Department, this afternoon, from Gen. McClellan, states that the affair of yesterday was perfectly successful; that he held the new picket line undisturbed, and that all is very quiet on the banks of the Chickahominy.

From Memphis.

MEMPHIS, June 27, 1862.

The Little Rock Democrat says that there are in Arkansas from 10,000 to 12,000 Union troops scattered over a large extent of country. The largest body, amounting to 5,000 or 6,000, are in the vicinity of Batesville. The latest advices are, that they have crossed the White River, and are retreating toward Missouri.

The railroad from Columbus, Ky., to this city is now in operation, and in a day or two there will be railroad communication to Corinth, and from there to Huntville, Alabama. Enough rolling stock has been secured to commence operations with.

Over 1,500 prisoners have taken the oath of allegiance since the occupation of this place. All is quiet at Corinth. That point is garrisoned by two divisions, and it is reported that Gen. Halleck will return to St. Louis very soon.

Gen. Lew Wallace and staff left here yesterday for their homes. Gen. McClellan and staff are still at Jackson, Tenn.

A fleet of steamers, with supplies for Gen. Curtis's army, has arrived, and will be escorted up White River, Ark., by a strong guard. Mayor Parks and Aldermen Robinson, LeGree and Hurlburt, have taken the oath of allegiance, but the remainder of the Board hang back.

It is reported that there are 23,000 troops at Vicksburg, under Bragg and Pillow.

The Grenada Appeal says that Vicksburg will be held at all sacrifices, and that all non-combatants have been sent away.

The Vicksburg Citizen says the Rebel force at Tupelo has been greatly increased, and their camps much improved.

The Citizen publishes a letter from the Lieutenant commanding the gunboat Miami to the authorities of Rodney, warning them that if the Union transports are fired upon from the batteries erected at or near that point, the same punishment will be visited upon that town which the City of Grand Gulf received; to which Gen. Lovell replied that his batteries are located at the best points, and that he shall fire when he pleases.

It is now stated that General Rosecrans takes command of Gen. Pope's command, instead of Gen. Hamilton's Division.