THE DAILY PITTSBURGH GAZETTE.

ESTABLISHED IN 1786. PITTSBURGH, MONDAY MORNING, JUNE 22, 1863. VOLUME LXXVI---NO. 188

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Pittsburgh Gazette.

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No Reaction--We Cannot Afford It.

As some will, no doubt, interpret the news we have received during the past twenty-four hours as indicative of most serene peace and security for the future, so far as Pennsylvania is concerned, we think that the paramount duty of the hour which presses upon our more intelligent citizens, is to counteract this false and superficial view of the late movements of the rebels, both as regards Lee's "change of bars" in Virginia and the consequent expeditions sent out for reconnoitering and plundering purposes into Maryland and this State. One of our eastern contemporaries has some remarks on this subject which are timely, and which we will quote as well worthy of being pondered by those who would give way to this delusion of "no danger," thereby lulling themselves into a false sense of security.

After referring to the exaggerations of the reports, which prevailed in the beginning of the week, of so many many impossible thousands of rebels here and there and everywhere in the border counties of Maryland and Pennsylvani, and following this often-experienced but always humiliating picture of panic and alarm, with the very striking contrast which was presented when the actual facts became known, as if "one day the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is rocked to its foundations, and the next it is laughing at its fears," he goes on to say:

Thus it appears at present. But this cannot be the end of the matter. In fact, it is likely that we have not yet seen its beginning. We have not yet heard of Lee. We have not yet heard of Stuart. Somewhere among these Virginia mountain ranges there is a great rebel army, which moved up there with some object yet unaccomplished and undeveloped. It may be that the object was baulked by the rapid northward movement of Gen. Hooker. But no good General starts out on a campaign of such magnitude as that which Lee had evidently projected with only one fixed line of movement or plan of action—with only one string to his bow. By returning to Fredericksburg, Lee's campaign would be a ridiculous fiasco—he would have to acknowledge it a failure in its very inception.

We have, by telegraph, from the headquarters of the Army of the Potomac, a very incid statement of the line of movement of the different columns of Lee's army for the last thirty days. This statement shows that the movement at the beginning was not a sudden one. And it would seem to point clearly to some such campaign as that of last year in Maryland. It may be that this is still feasible. At all events, we would not advise the army or the country to fall back with the fancied security from which they were so suddenly aroused a few days ago.

The Fight at Milliken's Bend, La.--How the Negroes Fought.

"Mack," the well-known correspondent of the Cincinnati *Commercial*, gives the following clear and detailed account of that affair:

THE BRAVE FORCE AND OUR FORCE.

A couple of weeks since, nine regiments of Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana rebels left Little Rock, Ark., for Northern Louisiana, for what particular purpose has not yet been learned. They arrived a week ago at Richmond, the county seat of Madison Parish, twelve miles from Yazoo Point, and about the same distance from Milliken's Bend. Scouts and citizens gave to their commander, General Walker, information concerning our force at the bend. It consisted only of portions of the 9th and 11th Louisiana (negro) regiments and 140 men belonging to the 23d Iowa—800 negroes and 140 white men. Our officers took the precaution a week or two ago to dig rifle-pits, and make a weak show of fortifying.

The estimate put upon the fighting qualities of the negroes by the rebels may be judged from the size of the force brought against the eight hundred contrabands. They knew our strength to a man, and pitched four regiments against our small force of darkies. The regiments were, 90th Texas, Colonel Waterhouse commanding; 60th Texas, Colonel Flournoy commanding; 70th Texas, Colonel Fitzhugh commanding; 20th Texas, Colonel Allen commanding, all forming one brigade under Gen. McCullough, nephew of the late Ben. McCulloch.

AN EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCE.

Before being informed how the battle went, the reader should be told that the negroes were neither drilled nor disciplined sufficiently to warrant the most sanguine friends of the experiment of contraband soldiery in anticipating good results from their first fight. A majority of them had not had guns in their hands more than three days. Some of them were furnished with muskets for the first time after the fight had actually commenced. Under these circumstances, any person who remembers how poorly some of our volunteer regiments stood fire at the commencement of the war, will be prepared to hear that the darkies evinced unmistakable signs of panic and demoralization, and did more running than fighting day before yesterday. But they didn't run a foot. On the contrary, they conducted themselves throughout the engagement with remarkable coolness and courage. Some will say they fought because they feared that, if taken prisoners, they would be summarily dealt with. But I do not think they had any such fear before them. They obeyed orders more strictly than men who think it is a question of victory or death to them individually are apt to do.

THE PICKETS ARE CAPTURED AND ESCAPE.

The rebel brigade left Richmond on the 6th, and arrived at the picket post of the Band early on the morning of the 7th. There were six negroes on picket. They captured these without much difficulty, tied them up hands and feet and left them at a cotton gin near by, telling them to stay there till they (the rebels) returned. While the darkies were standing statue-like, against a fence, one of them discovered that the cord by which his hands were fastened was poorly tied, and without much difficulty he loosed his hempen fetters. His next work was to set his comrades free, and in less than an hour after their capture the picket were taking a circuitous route to camp, where they arrived ahead of the rebel column, and in time to give valuable information as to the number of rebels engaged in the attack. They brought their arms and cartridge-boxes with them, having found them where the rebels had left them in the cotton-gin.

THE REBELS ADVANCE UPON OUR WORKS.

Between our picket post and rifle-pits there was a large open field, in which several hundred head of cattle were grazing. The advance-guard of the rebels drove the cattle before them, thinking in this way to crawl up to the rifle-pits and surprise their occupants. But the darkies were wide awake. Indeed, I am convinced that they were more wary than their officers in this respect; for while the latter insisted, for a time, that it was our own pickets who were coming in, the former were fully persuaded, from the moment the cattle turned toward them, that the Confederates were advancing. As one of them said to me, yesterday, "We b'lack uns knowed dey was comin'. Dey couldn't fool us. An' we wanted to shoot, but de officers said dey was our pickets." However, even if the officers had known what the darkies say they knew, they would not have opened fire until the Confederates got close to them. It was their policy to let the Texans come within good and easy range, and then give them such a volley as would make them withdraw more hastily than they approached.

A CHARGE UPON OUR RIFLE-PITS.

The rebels advanced confidently, with the intention of charging over the rifle-pits. When they were within a hundred yards of the works, our men discharged a volley at them, but without much effect. The white soldiers did considerable execution with their fire, but the negroes did what all troops have to be repeatedly cautioned against—they aimed too high. The rebels received the fire, and again advanced. The contrabands loaded their guns so quickly that, before the enemy had made twenty yards further progress, a second volley was poured into them, with murderous accuracy. More than fifty rebels were killed and wounded, and the survivors fell back in disorder.

THE REBELS MAKE A FLANK MOVEMENT.

The rebels finding it impossible to charge the rifle pits, fell back and reformed. Gen. McCulloch then moved his brigade to the left, for the purpose of flanking our works. The Texans marched rapidly round, and soon had a deadly fire directed into the rifle pits. The fight was going against us, and our men would probably have been compelled to leave their works but for the timely arrival of the gun boats Tyler and Choutean, which came up and threw a few shells into the rebel ranks, killing and wounding a great many, and making the whole command fall back. As the rebels retreated, some of our negro soldiers left their shelter, and a good deal of hand-to-hand fighting ensued.

THE RESULT.

The result was, that between the 800 negroes, 140 white men, and the assistance rendered by the gunboats, the rebels were thoroughly defeated. One hundred and fifty-two dead rebels were counted on the battle-field. Not less than five hundred were wounded, most of whom they succeeded in carrying away. We took nearly a hundred prisoners. Our loss will reach about two hundred killed and wounded. The 23d Iowa lost eighty out of one hundred and forty—twenty-three of them killed on the field. The loss of the negro regiments was proportionately much smaller. A Captain commanding the 11th Louisiana (colored) regiment was killed. I have forgotten his name. Col. Lolly, of the 9th Louisiana, (colored,) was slightly wounded. He is a very brave and efficient officer.

A SLAVE CAPTURES HIS MASTER.

Among the incidents of the fight worthy of note, was the capture of a rebel soldier by a darkey, who was his master three months ago. The Texan was caught in a tight place by one of Col. Leib's men, who cried out to him, "Hold on dar, and put down your gun, or I'll shoot." The rebel surrendered unconditionally, but after identifying his captor, said to one of our officers that he protested against being held as a prisoner by his own slave. "It's good enough for you," said the officer; "that's just the man to guard you. And Jim (addressing the soldier), if he don't behave himself, shoot him down." The chivalrous Southerner was very indignant, and his wrath effervesced in a series of "d—d damns" which fell upon the ears of the "intelligent contraband" without effect. The dusky warrior kept a close eye upon his prisoner, but refused to "parley" conversation with him, or answer any of his questions as to when he enlisted, or how he dared to level a gun at his master.

ARE THE NEGROES COWARDS?

I know it is said by many that negroes are naturally cowards, and will not fight against white men in battle. Apart from the refutation which the engagement of the 7th affords to this statement, there was an instance worthy of special mention. On the battle-field, yesterday morning, there were found two dead men lying side by side. One was a Texan rebel, the other an emancipated slave, belonging to the 9th Louisiana Negro Regiment. *They had bayoneted each other.* The negro's bayonet was actually in the abdomen of the dead rebel, and the Texan had killed the negro with his bayonet. Here is another instance: During the fight one of the negroes got short of ammunition. He had fired his last cartridge, when a rebel attempted to run him through with his bayonet. The negro deliberately seized the barrel of his gun and cut the rebe.'s head open with the butt of it. This scene was witnessed by hundreds.

THE NEGRO HOSPITAL.

The wounded colored soldiers were yesterday put on board the steamboat Pringle, and I took occasion during the day to visit the floating hospital. The patience and endurance with which the poor fellows bore the most terrible wounds struck me as remarkable. Among an equal number of white soldiers there would have been more groaning and complaining. But in very few cases did the unfortunate blacks give audible expression to the most intense suffering. Amputations of legs and arms were made in some instances without the use of chloroform. Those who were but slightly hurt seemed to take a pleasure in ministering to the wants of the more seriously injured, and from this fact very few had to be detailed from the ranks as nurses.

READY FOR ANOTHER FIGHT.

The negro command was in good condition yesterday, and eager for another fight. The dead were decently buried, and the wounded all removed soon after the termination of the engagement. The battle of the 7th afforded a happy solution to the vexed problem as to whether slaves could be made to fight against their masters and for their freedom. All they want is good guns and good officers.

The Storming of Port Hudson.

An officer with Banks' army relates, in a private letter, an incident which occurred during a temporary truce at Port Hudson, on the 27th of May. He availed himself of the opportunity thus afforded to ride to the rebel works as close as he could to get a good view of them, when he saw a regiment of the enemy throw down their arms, and heard them give three cheers and say "We surrender!" The rebel officers at once approached them, and, with drawn swords and pistols, overpowered and controlled them, and compelled them to take up their arms and resume their positions.

The same officer, at a truce entered into next day, for the purpose of looking after the dead and wounded, while riding as near to the rebel lines as he could get, was hailed by a rebel officer within the works with the question whether he did not think, upon reflection, that he was coming nearer than was exactly proper. Our officer replied in the negative, saying we had had men wounded and killed as near to the enemy as he himself then was. A conversation then ensued, in which the rebel officer spoke of the Sherman charge of the preceding day, and remarked that "inside" they regarded it as the finest thing of the war. Our officer did not belong to Sherman's division.

Important from Fortress Monroe.

A dispatch from Fortress Monroe, dated Wednesday, June 17, gives a very interesting hint of important operations being on foot in that department. It will be remembered that we referred, a day or two ago, to a demonstration against the rebel capital from the Peninsula, or perhaps on the south side of the James river, which we found some allusions to in the rebel papers both of Richmond and Petersburg. This interpretation which we give to those allusions, is fully borne out, we think, by the dispatch from Fortress Monroe now before us. It reads as follows:

The Yorktown *Cavalier*, of the 16th, says: "Our most important local news is for the present contraband. Great activity prevails in the Department, and is particularly manifested in this command."

Maj. Gen. Keyes is in front to conduct aggressive movements in person, and Brig. Gen. King is in command at Yorktown.

The Rebels on the Potomac and West of Harper's Ferry.

From the Baltimore papers we learn that the rebel forces invested Harper's Ferry on the 16th inst., on the Virginia side, and made an attack, hoping to surprise General Tyler's forces. The latter, however, after some resistance, retired to the Maryland Heights, from whence the rebels were shelled, and compelled to evacuate the town. The rebels then retreated to Williamsport, when Gen. Tyler reoccupied his former position. Travel between Harper's Ferry and Baltimore is resumed.

It is also stated that General Mulligan has asked to be allowed to remain at New Creek. He thinks he can hold New Creek against a vastly superior force, and will be permitted to remain.

The Baltimore *American*, of Thursday, gives the news from the Upper Potomac and westward, as follows:

Yesterday morning Gen. Tyler evacuated Harper's Ferry and removed his forces to Maryland Heights, where, at last advices, he had not been disturbed by the Confederates.

The news from Western Maryland last night was of the most exciting character.

Official military dispatches, advices from the railroad officers on the west end of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, and private information, all agree in placing the state of affairs in that vicinity as follows:

A large body of the Confederates have moved both on the Maryland and Virginia sides of the Potomac, and also along the line of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad towards Cumberland and New-Creek. The railroad track and railroad bridges are reported to be burnt and destroyed, but the real damage, of course, cannot yet be ascertained.

A body of the Confederates occupied Cumberland yesterday afternoon for a short time, and then joined the main force that was advancing upon New Creek Station, distant about 21 miles west of Cumberland. All the tracks, &c., were reported as being entirely destroyed between New Creek and Cumberland.

Gen. Kelly, at last advices, had arrived with all his forces at New Creek, and had marched out on the road to meet the advancing Confederates. A battle was imminent.

All the railroad stock had been removed from Cumberland before the present troubles commenced.

The passenger train on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad (as we stated yesterday) now only runs to Monocacy Junction and Frederick. The road between the Monocacy and the Ferry is only used by Government trains. The passenger train that arrived at six o'clock yesterday evening from Frederick brought no wounded officers or soldiers, as was expected. It is asserted that there were but few of the wounded at the Ferry, the most of them having been taken prisoners.

Major General Milroy left the Camden street depot at two o'clock yesterday afternoon in a special train for the Ferry. It is stated that he desired to return to his command, and volunteered to act in any position that he might be deemed most serviceable.

Washington News.

The eastern papers have the following telegrams:

WASHINGTON, June 18.

SENATOR WILSON.

Senator Wilson is here on the patriotic errand of persuading the Government to adopt his plan for bringing immediately back into the service the discharged two years and nine months men, in anticipation of the draft. By special indulgements, he proposes to get the whole of these experienced soldiers, who are worth treble their number in green troops.

GEN. COUCH AND THE COLORED TROOPS.

General Couch's refusal to muster in a company of colored troops that went to Harrisburg, was based on the law. Orders were sent him this morning to receive them.

[We trust that like orders have been sent to General Brooks, who, was under the necessity of refusing the offer of colored troops here for the same reason assigned above for General Couch's refusal of them in Philadelphia.]

MILROY'S FORCE.

It is stated that all but 200 of the 2,000 man who were missing from Gen. Milroy's command when it reached Harper's Ferry have come within our lines safe and sound.

A SUIT AGAINST MR. SEWARD.

George W. Jones, late Minister to New Granada, who was arrested in November, 1861, by the Government, and kept four months in Fort Lafayette, has sued Secretary Seward for $50,000 damages. The case is just entered in the Supreme Court of this city.

In answer to a telegraphic dispatch sent to him by a gentleman of Philadelphia, General Simon Cameron denies positively that, in a recent speech delivered by him at Harrisburg, he advised that the command of the State troops should be taken from General Couch, and given to either Generals Franklin or McClellan. As we know the McClellanites everywhere falsifiers, as well as blind partisans, none of their acts now surprise us. They are desperately wicked.

THE JENKINS RAIDERS.—A dispatch from Baltimore, dated Thursday, says: A squad of Jenkins' cavalry, captured at Greencastle, arrived to-day. Their complexion is insurrectionary and reckless. The rebels are plundering promiscuously about Hagerstown and Williamsport. Horses and cattle are the chief converts to the Confederacy.

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