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GAZETTE ASSOCIATION,
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The Reading Matter on this Page is from Saturday's Evening Gazette.

The War in Missouri—The Capture of Farmington.

A special correspondent of the St. Louis *Democrat* gives full details of the capture of Farmington by the rebels, from which we make the following extracts:

On Saturday afternoon, about four o'clock, the rebels made their appearance in the outskirts of the town, which was garrisoned by a squad numbering some dozen soldiers, of Colonel Fletcher's regiment, the 47th Missouri, the squad being under the command of Lieutenant Hilber, of company I. The little garrison made a gallant defense, retiring from the Court House, and succeeded in saving the rebels out of town. The citizen reports are loud in their praises of the bravery of the boys of the 47th.

On Sunday morning at nine o'clock, the rebels again made their appearance in larger force than before, and surrounded the Court House, where the Union soldiers were garrisoned. One man went into the upper story, and the rebels, pairing of making them surrender without a hard struggle, *built a fire to the lower story of the building*, when our men seeing no alternative but to surrender or burning alive, chose the former.

After having obtained possession of the town, the rebels continued to flock in in large numbers, having been reinforced from a force close to Ironton. They went first to the residence of Judge Carter, the judge of the circuit court, and took him prisoner, announcing to him that he was under arrest himself a conscript for the Confederate army, but by a shrewd artifice he escaped from their clutches.

Every dry goods store in the town—all of them being owned by Union men—were sacked, and the entire place stripped of everything that was of value to the rebels. The Cassyr, father and son, last heavily—between four and five thousand dollars. The rebels ransacked every drawer, every desk, every county treasurer, in their hands, as a conscript, but the being sick and ear, they let him go; after first, however, having forced him to open his safe and deliver up to them the county funds in his hands, amounting to some $600, besides some private money, making in all about a thousand dollars taken from him.

John Prock, seventeen years of age, was shot in the head by the rebels, while attempting to get out of the town, and killed instantly.

Jesse Hivins, a soldier of the 47th regiment, was severely wounded while defending the town.

One of the rebels was mortally wounded, and while dying, stated that Sterling Price was at Fredericktown with 12,000 men.

At near as could be ascertained, the notorious Captain Dick Bowls had command of the force which captured Farmington.

Among the conscripted in Farmington was Ed. Bebsdale, young Meredith, and other leading citizens. The rebels announced that they had *orders to conscript every male between the ages of Sixteen and fifty*. No distinction is made between Union men and secesh.

The Rebel Press on the Defeat of Early.

The Richmond *Enquirer*, of the 26th ult., gives an account of the defeat of Early, and the pursuit of Sheridan. It admits "hasty abandonment" of the strong position at Fisher's Hill, with a loss of twelve guns. The *Enquirer* comments as follows:

The enemy are following up their success in the valley with great vigor. Sheridan is determined not to permit his opportunity to slip by while the ink is the most of it.

Fisher seems to have been bad management in those affairs in the valley. The duty of ascertaining this, and taking steps to remedy our fortunes, is with General Lee. As it could not be entrusted to abler and better hands, it is not necessary for the people to be over-anxious or very unhappy. For three years our fortunes have rested upon his broad shoulders, and, under Providence, he has brought our cause through. He has been heavily reinforced by the report for duty of Lieutenant General Longstreet, that "old war horse" who so distinguished the embrace of Gaul, and who has visited the field of Sharpsburg. Longstreet comes back most opportunely to rectify affairs in the valley. *Want of co-operation, more than the preponderating numbers of the enemy, has caused the disaster in the valley.* The presence of two lieutenant generals, the one not subordinate to the other, but intended to co-operate, has prevented; when there should have been concentration. The presence of Longstreet in the valley would restore unity of command and check the advance of the enemy. Notwithstanding the losses sustained in the late disasters, if seven of the worthless horsemen that have been routed by the enemy could be brought to the trenches at Petersburg, and their places supplied by real cavalry, all our reverses may be repaired, and the valley preserved, if not regained, to the banks of the Potomac.

From the first year of the war the valley of Virginia has been the scene of just such events as are transpiring at present. General Jackson once marched down the valley and was driven back, and again advanced and retreated. General Siegel marched up and was whipped back; Hunter, after a complete victory over Jones, paralyzed by the defenses of Lynchburg, and was hurled back, broken, routed, and ruined. Sheridan has now begun the same perilous role, and the same fate will befall him. Neither party can permanently hold the valley.

Our people become elated by success, and they sink down to the deepest depression upon the first disaster. Have not three years of war taught them the lesson that the "morning cometh, but the night cometh also;" that victory is not always to be had, nor is defeat unbroken. *The future of the enemy does been greatly magnified and exaggerated*; they did not number thirty thousand, all told—infantry, cavalry, and artillery. The infantry of the enemy is worth very little; it has been permitted to be thrown in overwhelming numbers upon first one division and then upon a second, and then upon a third, and the cavalry of the enemy, picked and selected, are opposed by the disorganized and demoralized horsemen, who remain behind the stragglers and horse details, it is not surprising that disaster should result.

The Bombardment of Charleston.

It is reported, through deserters who recently came into our lines, that the city is suffering to a very considerable and serious extent under our present bombardment. The 100-pounder rifles have now attained the proper range, and throw shells two blocks beyond. Calhoun street, in the business heart of the city. The range which 80-pounders are now put to is found to reach far beyond the "burned district," and the present 100-pounders were substituted with marked success. Their range is greater, and the effect produced by the explosion of their shells is immeasurably greater. They have already destroyed a number of buildings, and are rapidly demolishing others in the neighborhood, making it decidedly an undesirable place for quiet-loving men to transact business in.

The rebels have 25,000 men at work on the defenses of the city, repairing and strengthening old works, and constructing new ones. They are preparing for the day of trial thoroughly and as well as they may.

GEN. BUTLER.—B. F. Taylor says of General Sheridan: "There is no waste timber about Sheridan—stuff to him physically, bulgingly put together. Auburn hair, a warm, black eye, a pleasant smile, a peach of a under jaw, and a healthy tint; when he will, he will, you may depend on it. Black hair trimmed round like a hedge border, no Hyperion curl about his sunburnt brow. Cavalry clothes, cavalry boots, cavalry hat, cavalry gauntlets, cavalry spurs and cavalry sword, and a cavalry horse between his legs. Sheridan is a cavalry officer, and looks it. Not a fop about him, but a man who has a keen eye for the fitness of things, and who has the taste to dress in accordance with his position. Sheridan is a handsome man, and a manly man, and a man of mark."

Lincoln Lamp Wicks.—The present price of kerosene lamp wicks, it is said, makes a better wick than they buy by making it up three thicknesses, just wide enough to go into the tube, and running the whole with corresponding fullness.

Hon. F. Hassaurek on the Presidential Campaign.

Hon. F. Hassaurek, the distinguished German of Cincinnati, delivered a speech on Thursday evening, in Mozart Hall, on the occasion of his return from a long absence in Ecuador. The following is his conclusion:

I tremble to think that the election of the Democratic candidate would be the death-knell of the American Republic. Born to light and glory, she would lead in humiliation and defeat. Our flag dishonored, our nation disrupted, our national honor lost, our inability to maintain our cherished system of government demonstrated, the seeds of rebellion and anarchy sown, the flower of our country sacrificed in vain, our credit destroyed, an enormous national debt fruitlessly incurred, our self esteem surrendered, our name a by-word abroad, our enemies rejoicing all over the world, European monarchies established, one after another, from Mexico to Cape Horn, our spirit broken and our prestige gone, the memory of the revolutionary fathers discarded, the hopes of all friends of liberty disappointed, the remnant of our once glorious land a subject of sneer and ridicule, our own North torn by dissentions, strife and repentence, the plighted faith of the nation violated, the Unionists in the South abandoned to their fate, the mouths of many of our rivers in possession of a foreign and hostile power, extraordinary concessions to Europe bolted, our greatest national effort but our most signal national failure, contempt and contumely abroad, bitterness, shame and mortification at home; this would be the end of the American Republic. Then let history record that the American Republic perished because the men of '64 were too weak, too pusillanimous, too faint-hearted to preserve the legacy of the men of 1776. Then let us drag on a dishonored existence and from the noble and commanding position, of the first power in the world, let us sink into insignificance and littleness, with the burning confession on our lips that twenty millions could not put down a rebellion of less than eight. If you are prepared for such a humiliation and for the acknowledgment of the most shameful failure after the most high-sounding, pretentious and announcements; if you are prepared to renounce greatness, honor, self-respect, your rank in the family of nations and your future hope of glory, then vote for an immediate cessation of hostilities, then confer the greatest of compromise and conciliation" vote for peace and separation, vote for McClellan. Then let our new President send a begging embassy to Richmond to ask Jefferson Davis whether the revocation of our noble proclamation of emancipation, and the violation of the national faith pledged to an unfortunate race, will not induce him graciously to condescend to come back into the Union as it was; and in consideration of additional guarantees to slavery, condescend to rule as they did before. They are to witness the shameful mortification of a retreat and either the dismemberment of their independence, or another war after an armistice, or a short, illusory peace, as fatal to us as advantageous to the enemy. The hour approaches and you may have your choice.

But no! The fundamental principles of American civilization, represented in this contest by Abraham Lincoln, are hoped for, carry the day. The American people are determined to restore the Union and unity will do it. It will not consent to peace, until the supremacy of the Constitution and the laws is restored all over the land. It will not consent to peace with a divided country. It will not consent to rebellion and secession is forever put down. It will not consent to peace as long as a rebel remains in arms. It will not consent to peace until the soldier's grave in every cemetery has spoken President Lincoln's proclamation of freedom, is fully carried out. It will not consent to peace until by a reorganization of the South on the basis of free labor, that peace can only be made a real, lasting, an eternal peace, the glorious end of the first, last and only civil war in the United States. Then this country of ours will bless the memory of the men who saved liberty and the cause of constitutional self-government in the trying hour of '64.

Census of the Freedmen on the Mississippi.

Col. Eaton, General Superintendent of Freedmen for the Department of the Tennessee and the State of Arkansas, makes the following interesting report:

"This supervision, embracing the territory within the lines of our army, from Cairo down the Mississippi to the Red River, together with the State of Arkansas, numbered in its care during the past year 113,650 freedmen." These are now disposed of as follows: In military service, as soldiers, laundresses, cooks, officers' servants, and laborers in the various staff departments, 44,159; in cities, on plantations, and in freedmen's villages, and cared for, 72,500.

"Of these, 62,500 are entirely self supporting—the same as any industrial class anywhere—planters, mechanics, harbers, hackmen, draymen, &c., conducting enterprises on their own responsibility, or as hired laborers. The remaining 10,000 receive a substance from the government. 3,000 of them are members of families, whose heads are carrying on plantations, and have under cultivation 4,000 acres of cotton; and are to pay the government for their assistance from the first income of the crop.

"The other 7,000 includes the paupers (those over and under the self supporting age, the crippled and sick in hospital,) of the 113,650, and those engaged in their care; and instead of being unproductive, have now under cultivation 500 acres of corn, 760 acres of vegetables, and 1,500 a res of cotton—besides the work done at wood chopping, &c.

"There are reported in the aggregate something over 100,000 acres cotton under cultivation. Of these about 7,000 acres are leased and cultivated by blacks. Some of these are managing as high as 200 or 400 acres. It is impossible to give, at the present date, any definite statement of many of the forms of industry; 5,000 cords of wood are reported to me by Col. Thomas, Superintendent and Provost-Marshal of Freedmen, cut within the line of 110 miles on the river banks above and below Vicksburg.

"It would only be a guess to state the entire amount cut by the people under this supervision; it must be enormous. The people have been paid from fifty cents to two dollars and fifty cents per cord for cutting. The wood has been essential to the commercial and military operations on the river.

"Of the 113,650 black above mentioned, 12,350 have been under instruction in letters; about 4,000 have learned to read quite fairly, and about 2,000 to write."

BE CAREFUL. WHAT YOU EAT.—A sad mistake occurred, about two weeks ago, to a family living near Clear Spring, Maryland. It appears that a gentleman, by the name of Levi Bowers, was engaged in night fishing at the Conocoheague, when he caught what he supposed to be an eel. Without stopping to examine it, he cut off the head, and skinned it. Taking it home with the fish he had caught, his wife cooked it for breakfast. After eating heartily of their meal, Mr. B. and his wife became deadly sick, and could not account for it. Mrs. B. immediately went to examine the remaining pieces of the supposed eel, and found that it looked very like, unlike the color of an eel. (A doctor was sent for, and he at once pronounced the parties poisoned, and, after an examination, found that what was supposed to be an eel was a snake. Mr. B. died, and his wife was quite ill for several days.

SINGULAR CASE.—A boy picked up lately in one of the streets of Baltimore a military jacket, which he saw a soldier throw away. On examination, two hundred dollars in greenbacks were found sewed up in the lining of the sleeve of the jacket. A person who saw the boy with the money, and suspecting that he had not come honestly by it, had him arrested and placed in confinement. As no one, however, appeared to claim the $200, the boy was released, and the money remained to speak for itself.

The loss of life this year has been very great, and without stopping to say it by words hardly appear credible. Both sides to will bring fully up to three hundred thousand men. West of the Mississippi the number is 34,000; in Georgia 75,000; in Virginia, North Carolina, and Florida, 200,000—making in all 309,000 Americans, including both sides, that have been destroyed in the battles of the first nine months of 1864.

FERNANDO WOOD said, in a recent speech, "General McClellan, if elected, will be the creature of our votes." This is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth; and Vallandigham, who moved to make McClellan's nomination unanimous, Wood, who forced the Peace party in New York to sustain him, Pendleton, who is his influential fellow-candidate, will, if he is elected, be the Dictators of the country.—*Phil. Press.*

THE prize steamer Montegordo, alias Alice, captured September 19, by the U. S. steamer Magnolia, arrived at Boston on the 29th ult. She was from Galveston bound to Havana, and was taken off Yucatan Banks after a chase of five hours, with a cargo of 400 bales of cotton on board. She is an iron side-wheel steamer of about 600 tons, is quite fast, and was built at Wilmington, Delaware.

BALTIMORE OYSTER TRADE.—It has been ascertained that the number of persons, white and colored, employed by the city of Baltimore in opening and handling oysters in 1863, and that the number employed in procuring and bringing oysters to market in 1860, making a total of 12,500 persons employed in the Oyster trade. The number of vessels employed in bringing oysters to market is as follows:

The vote in Kentucky for Governor in August, 1863, was 115,000. The vote in Kentucky for Governor in August, 1864, was 115,000. For Lincoln, 1200; McClellan, 200.

LIEUT. COL. CHARLES H. HALPINE, well known as Miles O'Reilly, was admitted to practice as an attorney in the Superior Court of New York on Wednesday.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.

Casualties in the 139th and 1024 Penn'a. Regiments.

The following is a list of the killed and wounded in the late fights in the Valley, as far as heard from, up to Sept. 22d:

139TH REGIMENT.

Killed—Sergeant John Morrow, Co. G; Sergt Geo Bental, Co H; D Altman, Co A; Samuel Gross, Co A; Alexander Rose, Co F.

Wounded—Major E Merrow, hand, severe; Lieut J D Heber, leg and hand, severe; Captain D Crum, leg amputated; Lieut Bartley, Co F, arm, slight; Captain J McGregor, contusion of thigh, slight; Lieut T A Armstrong, slight contusion of stomach; Sergt William Forrest, Co K, thigh, severely; Sergt H G Owens, Co E, breast and arm, severe; Sergt D Campbell, Co K, arm amputated; Sergt S S W Steel, Co C, right shoulder, severe; Sergt J Cowan, Co D, thigh, slightly; Color Sergt D Young, shoulder, slight; Corporal L S Solasburg, hand, severe; Corporal I Pepperday, leg, severely; Corporal Jos. Walker, leg, dangerously; Corporal Thos Ogden, hand, dangerously; Corporal A Mock, arm, seriously; Corporal James Stamm, face slightly; Corporal Jas Brandon, head, severe; Sergt L B Garner, leg, severe; Sergt John Dawson, leg, slight; Corp W Smith, Co B, arm, severe; Corp Sam'l Marshal, Co F, side, slight; Corp Wm Montgomery, Co F, leg, slight; Corp W S Springer, Co K, back, slight; Lewis Ramsay, Co F, leg, very severe; W Bonch, leg, severe; O M Rhodes, Co B, bowels, severe; A Campbell, Co B, shoulder, slight; Corp E McKeown, Co G, hand, slight; A Hamilton, Co G, bowels, severe; T Whales, Co G, loins, severe; D Hisler, Co K, hand and leg, severe; J R S McClusky, leg, slightly; J Badger, Co I, arm, slight; S Peters, Co C, leg, severe; W Shakely, Co C, hand, slight; Acting Adj John C Semple, scalp, very severe; Jacob Cross, knee, slight; David Ford, ankle, very slight.

ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND REGIMENT.

Company B.—Killed—1st Sergt. Alex. Somerville.

Wounded—B. Gross, severely, leg amputated. N. Doty, severely, left foot; John Rosewell, severely, left foot; Benj F. Gilmore, hand and toe, severe; Corp. Wm. Buck, left eye, slight; W. B Sands, face, slight; Dan. Smith, thigh, slight; Sergt. Wm. Hight hand, severe; Wm. Shields, right wrist, slight; Wm. O. Bigham, missing.

Company F.—Wounded—John Bell, leg, slight; Wm. Booth, leg, slight; Wm. O'Meally, hand, slight; Sergt. Jas. Porter, leg, slight; Joseph Woods, breast, slight; Wm. Anderson, leg, slight.

Company G.—Wounded—Sergt. Jas. Ferguson, through face, severe.

Company H.—Killed—Corporal James Adams.

Wounded.—Capt. R. W. Lyon, leg, slight; Lieut. Shael Barclay, thigh, severe.

Company M.—Wounded—Lewis Rouse, leg, slight; Sergt. Wm. P. Brown, leg, severe.

Company D—Wounded, Sep 20th over 19th and 22d—Capt. Jas. Paisley, left arm, slight; Lieut. Robt. R. Lowry, through foot, severe; Corp. Patrick Gavin, leg, slight; Dan. Marsh, right shoulder, severe; John Urown, both thighs and groin, severe; John Clary, severe hand, shoulder, arm; Sergt. Alonzo Sterling, flesh wound.

Company I—Killed—Corp. Orlando T. Bacon, John Shannon and Henry Gratty.

Wounded—Corp. Geo Wanaka, groin and thigh, severe; Wm. Phails, leg, severe; Levi Fetts, head, slight; Isaac Boon, throat, severe; Sergeant Henry Wambach, arm, slight.

Company B—Killed—Sergt. Rogers.

Wounded—B J Brown, leg, severe; Lt W Morrow, breast, slight; J C Prichard, hand, slight.

Company L—Killed—Albert Beatch.

Wounded—Capt. Jas D Kelly, shoulder, slight; Sergt G W Wilson, right arm, amputated; Sergt S T Boyard, leg, severe; Corp. Jas. Hunt, Jr., arm, severe; Albert Luscoke, leg amputated; James M'Conachy, hip, slight.

Wounded—Sergt. Wm Schindler, severe; A Younger, Co C, severe; W Phillips, legs, Co D; J Shlond, arm, Co D; J G Guthrie, arm, severe, B; W D Kintshead, severe, B; J Patterson, leg, severe, D; Pat Brennan, leg, severe, D; Wm Berry, dangerously, skin, C; A C Byers, slightly; J R Clark, hand, slight, A; H A Gemble, hand, slight, A; A Dedniston, severe, arm, A; J Shrum, severe, thigh, H; Geo Anderson, flesh, slight, H; Schrecengost, arm, slight, B; B Bonch, leg, slight; Wm Bonch, head, slight; Wm McGarvey, slight.

The Moisture on a Lamp Chimney.

Probably most of our readers who use petroleum lamps have observed that when the lamp is first lighted the luster of the chimney is dimmed, and the flame is obscurely seen with the outlines not sharply defined. In a minute or two the dimness disappears, and the glass presents its usual clear and transparent appearance. The *Scientific American* says:

This phenomenon is doubtless produced by the deposit of water upon the inner surface of the chimney. Petroleum is composed of hydrogen and carbon, and both of the elements in burning combine with the oxygen of the atmosphere, the carbon combining with oxygen to form carbonic acid, and the hydrogen combining with oxygen to form water. Both on the first production are in the gaseous form, and the carbonic acid being incondensable except under very great pressure, passes off as an invisible gas; but the water, though at first in the form of steam, requires to be cooled down to 212° to be condensed into the liquid form. As it comes in contact with the cold walls of the chimney, it is cooled to this point, when it deposits itself as a fine dew over the inner surface of the glass.

So soon as the heat of the flame raises the temperature of the chimney to 212°, the water is re-evaporated, and passes off as invisible steam, leaving the glass transparent as before.

A Seed Bag.

Mr. Overton, in explaining at the Polytechnic Association the mode of raising petroleum in the oil region of Pennsylvania, stated that after the holes are bored through the earth and rock down to the cavities containing the oil, a pipe is inserted through which the oil is pumped up. As, in sinking the holes from 100 to 600 feet, several surprising streams of water are usually encountered, this water, if allowed to fall down to the bottom of the hole, would require to be raised by the pump, and would add much materially to the expense of procuring the oil. To prevent the water from falling to the bottom of the hole, the annular space around the pipe is closed water tight near the top end of the pipe. This is effected by surrounding the pipe with a bag some two feet in length filled with dry flax-seed. After the bag is in place the seed absorb water, and swell so as to close the space perfectly water-tight.

The Twenty-Inch Gun.

The editor of the *Scientific American* has seen the great twenty-inch gun, and has *been inside* examining it! He says:

The first 20-inch gun, the largest piece of practical artillery ever constructed, is lying on the wharf at Fort Hamilton, eight miles below this city. The muzzle is marked "20 inch No. 1, Fort Pitt, 1864, 116,497 pounds." The gun was cast at the Fort Pitt Foundry, Pittsburgh, Pa., on the 11th of February, 1864, under the superintendence of B. Aaller, U. S. N. The diameter of this monster cannon are, total length, 20 feet 3½ inches; length of bore, 17 feet 6 inches; greatest diameter, 5 feet 4 inches; least diameter, 2 feet 10 inches. The chamber is simply a hemispherical cavity of the bottom of the bore, as was ascertained by going inside and examining it.

Escape from the Girard House.

Thomas Whittaker, a notorious deserter, who was in confinement at the Girard House, succeeded in making his escape at a late hour last night. Whittaker has been arrested *seven* times for the same offence, but has always managed to escape before reaching his regiment. The Provost Marshal, determined to keep him this time, has him heavily ironed, but he succeeded in releasing himself from a portion of his shackles, and escaped from the building by means of a window. It is supposed that he was assisted in this by other prisoners confined in the guard room, and the work was done so quietly that the guard at the door knew nothing of it. A vigilant search has been made for him, but he has not yet been found.

Deserters from Camp.

We understand that over five hundred recruits have deserted from Camp Copeland within the past few months. The military authorities are making an effort to recapture some of them, and guards slightly patrol our streets, and visit all places of public amusement, in order to hunt them up. Yesterday one of these skulkers, named Robert Bailey, was arrested, and upon being searched, a considerable amount of money was found in the lining of one of his boots. He was enlisted in Col. Gallupe's regiment some weeks since, but deserted after receiving his bounty money. Bailey, who is understood to be a horse jumper, was turned over to Major M'Candless, commander of the post.

Highly Important News!

GRANT NORTH OF THE JAMES!

The Movement a Brilliant Success.

STRONG REBEL WORKS CARRIED.

Richmond Really Seriously Threatened.

GENERAL BURNHAM KILLED.

Everything Highly Encouraging.

ADMIRABLE BEHAVIOR OF THE COLORED TROOPS.

Our Forces Within Four or Five Miles of Richmond.

REBELS DRIVEN IN CONFUSION.

Rumored Battle at Petersburg

HEAVY REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVING

The Army of the James in Motion.

BEAUREGARD TO COMMAND HOOD'S ARMY.

FORTRESS MONROE, Sept. 30.—Advices by the hospital steamer, arrived here, give additional particulars regarding the action on the north side of the James river, which has, thus far, proved a brilliant success. The works captured by us are very strong and fully equal to any the enemy have around Richmond. Birney's corps gained an important position, seriously menacing Richmond.

All accounts agree that the colored troops behaved admirably.

Gen. Ord's wound is slight. Gen. Burnham was killed.

Latest reports from our army on the north side of the James represent everything highly encouraging. Our forces were within four or five miles of Richmond this morning, (the date not given), having driven the enemy before them in confusion.

We had about 570 wounded in the action of Thursday, a large portion among the colored troops.

NEW YORK, Oct. 1.—The *Herald's* Fortress Monroe correspondent of the 29th says: Rumors of a heavy battle near Petersburg have been afloat for the past two days, and have caused great excitement, but all inquiry into the facts proves nothing more than the usual amount of picket firing which has disturbed the quiet spell in the vicinity of the city.

While, however, there has been no pitched battle fought of late, still everything is preparing for a most sanguinary conflict, and at the time it does occur the grand and decisive movement will be commenced, which must result in a great Union victory.

Heavy reinforcements for the front are arriving, and all within around the James river in the vessels which brings them, or are reshipped on light draught steamer.

This morning the ocean steamer Argo, Capt. Henry Goddard, arrived here, en route for Hilton Head, and discharged a large number of recruits, who were sent forward to City Point.

The *Herald's* headquarters army of the James correspondent, of the 30th inst., says that the army of the James is in motion, and the fact by itself is not deemed contraband by the military authorities. It may be further stated that its operations during the next few days may be of a most important character. The men are really in the finest spirits, and are equal to strong undertaking.

Though the movement has been organized and conducted thus far with the greatest possible secrecy, still the most gratifying confidence is felt, and it is unreservedly expressed, that a great effort is to be made to accomplish the long desired objective point of the campaign.

The Charleston *Mercury* says Beauregard has accepted the command of Hood's army.

FROM SHERIDAN'S DEPARTMENT.

Another Account of the Battle at Fisher's Hill.

DISPATCHES RECEIVED FROM SHERIDAN

Nothing Later from Gen. Grant.

NEW YORK, Oct. 1.—The *Herald's* correspondent with Sheridan gives the following account of the Fisher's Hill engagement:

At four o'clock on the afternoon of the 21st, the 19th corps succeeded in driving the rebels from a line of rifle pits on the right of the Pike, between Strasburg and Fisher's Hill, and the corps was set to work immediately to convert into regular breast works. The 6th and 8th corps had gradually been working around to the right with a view of flanking the rebels.

Between four and five o'clock p. m. a rapid advance of these two corps was ordered. They advanced so far to the right as to be out of range of the rebel batteries they had flanked, the one my being upon his right flank and rear. The line was then formed, with General Crook's command upon the right, and Gilly's division of the 6th Corps in the centre, while the 3d division of that corps formed the left, and the west division was held in reserve. In this order they advanced up n the enemy's works, and after several brilliant charges up the steep side of hills and through woods and open fields, the rebels were driven back into their intrenchments, and in spite of the furious fusilade of the infantry and the shot and shell of the artillery, the position was carried at the point of the bayonet. When the enemy discovered that he was flanked and beset in his lair so completely, he fled with the utmost precipitation, leaving muskets, cannon and all manner of military implements behind.

The Sixth corps captured two battle flags, and Crook's corps two more. Sixteen pieces of cannon were captured and about 1,500 prisoners. The victory was complete, and the enemy put to a greater rout (if possible than he was in the recent battle at Winchester.

The 19th corps was still at work upon the line of works captured from the enemy, when Gens. Wright and Crook assailed the position, and at this corps was immediately ordered up, and although the men threw down the pick and spade and seized their muskets with all possible haste, yet they did not arrive in time to take any very prominent part in the engagement.

The casualties in the 19th corps amount to about fifty killed and wounded. Those in the 6th corps will probably amount to one hundred. Nearly all of the enemy's killed and wounded fell into our hands.

Early then retreated toward Mount Jackson, to which place he was closely pursued, fought step by step, and was at length obliged to evacuate that place in the night.

In the morning our forces were after them again.

LATER.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1.—The War Department has received dispatches from Sheridan, giving his successful operations since the last report. They are dated Harrisonburg, Va., 29th and 30th inst.

Secretary Stanton says, no report of the operations in front of Richmond and Petersburg later than my telegram last night has reached the department.

UNION MEETING IN THE SIXTH WARD.—A meeting of the 6th ward was held last evening on Wylie street, in a vacant lot adjoining the engine house. Wm. Little, Esq., was called to the chair, and Wm. Floyd, Prof. Bigue, Lloyd Magee, Esq., R. McKnight, John Robertson and Anthony Tighe delivered Vice Presidents. Joseph A. Butler and T. H. Coolley were appointed Secretaries. Patriotic addresses were delivered by Messrs. Magee, Floyd, Bigue and Williams.