# The Press.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1864.

☞ We can take no notice of anonymous communications. We do not return rejected manuscripts.

☞ Voluntary correspondence is solicited from all parts of the world, and especially from our different military and naval departments. When used, it will be paid for.

Mr. W. W. Reitzel, No. 504 Ninth street, two doors north of Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington City, is the Washington agent of The Press. Mr. Reitzel will receive subscriptions for The Press in Washington, see that subscribers are regularly served at their residences, and attend to advertising.


### The Union Party and the Peace Question.

There never was a great question presented to the people of this country more easily to be understood than that of peace or war now is. The peace question is not difficult in its theory, however it may be in its practice; and it only seems a complex and delicate matter because men who are not sincere are using it as the means of dividing the strength of the North. We have received many letters in regard to the peace policy of the National Union party, and while each of the writers seems to have a clear comprehension of what it should be, all of them are troubled lest the true policy should be mistaken by others. This uncertainty may be directly traced to the fact that it has hitherto seemed the mission of the Union party to conduct the war, and that the clamor for immediate peace has been confined to the opponents of the Government. The agitation of the question whether it is possible to obtain peace without fighting the war out to the exhaustion of the rebellion, by the organs of the Union party, has naturally somewhat surprised many minds. But a little thought will convince any one that the effort to obtain peace in the speediest and best way is morally and politically the especial duty and the great desire of the party which has had for the past three years the safety of the nation in its keeping. The peace question belongs to the National Union party by virtue of its superior strength, responsibility, and patriotism, and no other party has equal right to claim peace as its purpose.

If the earnestness of the majority of the people of the North in urging this war had any other motive than the preservation of the Union, then some color might be given to the pretence of the Opposition that peace must be preceded by the defeat of the present policy. But it is so clear that the war party of the North has had for its sole grand object the maintenance of the Union, that no sophistry can permanently miserlead the great sense and sympathy of the people. The war has been to it, and is, but the path to peace, and it is more than ready, it is anxious to substitute other means less expensive and destructive, if these can ever be found to be consistent with patriotic principles. There is not an officer of the Government, and very few men in the army or out of it, who would have the war prolonged unnecessarily. The rebel leaders are themselves piqued because the North does not hate the South; they are afraid of its magnanimity, and dread the day when their followers shall fully awaken to the great fact that the war is not waged in a spirit of hatred or extermination. The whole country in fact is aroused to the consciousness that the very justification of the war is that it is urged in the interest of peace, and that nothing is so much desired by the Administration as the conclusion of the war by the submission of the South to the Union. For this end the National Union party is prepared to sacrifice everything but principles, and to discuss all plans of peace excepting those which are based upon a division of the Republic. It is the only party which desires, and has the power to make, such a peace as patriotic men could accept. It is the true Peace party of the country.

### The Western Conspiracy.

We print to-day, from the Missouri *Democrat*, a further exposition of what is known as the Western conspiracy, in the form of a legal cross-examination. This testimony is the confession of several leading members of the "Order of American Knights," or "Sons of Liberty," lately arrested by Col. Sanderson, provost marshal of St. Louis. The witnesses, Hunt, Dunn, and Smith, acknowledge themselves to have been, respectively, Grand Commander, Deputy Grand Commander, and Grand Secretary, for the Order in Missouri, and are impelled to this confession by the fullness of the revelation which led to their arrest. The general objects of the Order, as explained by these gentlemen, is to assist the rebellion and establish the Southern Confederacy. Its main creed is that President Lincoln has usurped authority, and it is the duty of the Knights to expel him by force from power, if necessary. The impression of its members is that union with the Democratic party is necessary to aid the rebellion; and among its projects is one to arm and equip its members at Government expense for the benefit of the rebellion. The Order in Missouri was a coalition with the rebel General Price, and its numbers are stated at forty thousand, while in Illinois it is said to be one hundred thousand strong; in Indiana, eighty thousand, and in Ohio sixty thousand. Many names have been divulged, which the military authorities think it best not to make public. All this evidence is deposed within knowledge of a large city, and by men not unknown to the public. Leaving aside the loyal belief of the case, interests too many and too deep are involved, and the evidence is too full and characteristic to make it (what is hinted by journals of the Opposition) a conspiracy upon the part of the authorities against the Democratic party. So convinced are the loyal Western people of the reality of the dangers revealed in such testimony as we have printed, that we hear of a mass meeting at Indianapolis to adopt measures of warning and safeguard. Can the enemies of the Administration afford to throw ridicule upon the explicit proof of the complicity of a large portion of disloyal men North with the treason of the South? The mass of corroborative testimony during the war has been too great for loyal men to doubt the existence of a conspiracy in the North (whatever be its numbers or strength) to aid the South and to overthrow the Government.

The rumors of a conspiracy in the West have not been sudden. Throughout the past year, and, we think, for a much longer period, a suspicion was created in the Western papers of secret societies for resistance to the draft and the aid of the rebel invasions in the West. Correspondents of St. Louis, Chicago, and Cincinnati papers have given, from time to time, details of the organization and movements of the conspiracy in Indiana and Illinois. The attempted inroad upon the North from Canada, the raid in Indiana and Ohio, the burning of steamers on the Mississippi, the draft resistance in the Western States, and we might include the Reading and Pottsville troubles in this State, gave weight to the conviction that a portion, at least, of the opponents of the Government were none too good to oppose it by treasonable conspiracy. The shameful record which we notice we wish could be blotted out forever. The depravity and cowardice which would resort to conspiracy against a magnanimous Government, to aid a party or a rebellion, it is difficult to conceive. But the rebellion itself is the parent of conspiracy.

That a secret order should find its opportunity in the troubles of our Government to work evil to the country, is not altogether surprising. In a period of great war the anarchical spirit finds its temptation, and we presume that the numbers of the Order of American Knights have been recruited from the unsettled dregs of the country—the ignorant, idle, mischievous, and base. These form the ever-ready Judas party of the country. At their head Mr. Vallandigham is represented to be—Peter the Hermit of the new crusade for Disunion. If not indignant, he will be bold enough, we presume, to deny the impeachment at once. Whatever the proportion of the conspiracy revealed at St. Louis, its exposition is a caution to the Peace Democracy and a warning to the country.

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Anarchy, if it rests on anything, is based upon paradoxes; or, what is more easily appreciated, falsehood. The present arrogation of "principles" by the Democratic party justifies serious apprehensions if such a party is permitted to succeed. We are confronted with a rebellion founded on such equivocal principles as slavery and secession—one opposed to all liberty, as the other is to all authority. Absurdities as painful and gross as these may be found in the declared aims of the leaders of the Opposition. Almost as paradoxical as the South is the party which pretends to be saving the Union by legitimatizing the rebellion—which gives us rebel doctrine as a panacea for loyal troubles—which promises that there shall be no more debt and no more taxes, yet offers to assume the Southern war debt—and which asks for a Union reaffirming the very doctrine which threatens its destruction. Let Mr. Vallandigham's way of making peace prevail, and there will be an independent South beyond question. But who can affirm that we shall have a united North, when anarchy has achieved its first victory in the partition of the country? The North must be saved by saving the Union. The Union must be saved rather by courage and victory than by cowardice and surrender.

### LETTER FROM "OCCASIONAL."

Washington, August 23, 1864.

After several weeks of necessary silence, in consequence of severe indisposition, I resume my post. Since my last letter, the political and military situations have assumed new aspects. While the enemies of Mr. Lincoln's Administration, alike in civil as in martial life, are now more violent than ever, that very fact is, perhaps, the most hopeful sign of the times, for it is admonitory; it tells us that, to use the hackneyed but useful phrase, forewarned is forearmed; and, if we would beat both of these enemies, we, like them, must be active, united, and terribly resolved. It is most suggestive to notice how intensely the Unconditional Peace leaders of the North and West, and the War leaders of the South and Southwest, hate and oppose Mr. Lincoln, and how earnestly they will toil to defeat his re-election. The first of these elements has in view Peace with Union, if possible, even by the most degrading concessions, but peace anyhow. The second asks for peace only on the ground of the recognition of the rebellious Confederacy. Of course the re-election of Mr. Lincoln will kill the latter, and puts a *quietus* upon the schemes of the former. But there are a thousand other interests in both sections who do not hate Mr. Lincoln, and who hail his general policy as the only sure road to peace; and among these may be classed many who have been and yet claim to be Democrats. They may differ as to some of his measures, and as to some of the measures of his friends in Congress, but they now realize that his plan of closing the war is the best if not the only practical one. These interests insist that the Union must be preserved as the inspiring influence of the war on our side, and that there can be no peace unless upon the condition of the restoration of the Union; and this is the religious belief of Mr. Lincoln himself. The military situation is by no means so complicated. The rebels fight with their usual earnestness, but they admit that the Government of the old Union stands like a wall of fire against them, and that every day is adding new strength to its terrible resolve to put them down. And herein resides the secret of the weakness of the rebels and the power of the Government. The firm determination to enforce the draft in the loyal States has finally been fixed in the public mind; and the spirit of the law that the Government *does not want money, but men*, is universally recognized. Of course there will be complaints, and of course attempts at riot in some quarters. But as to the complaints, these are answered by the profound truth that every citizen owes a duty to his country which must be discharged; and as to threats of riot, they have only served to put our military authorities into a full and fitting condition for any emergency. That the drafting will be successful is proved by the efforts making everywhere to procure substitutes by those who cannot go, and by the willingness of those who can go to serve under the old flag for a new campaign. This will throw an immense army in the field for the fall and the winter. Can the rebels stand against this new manifestation of resolution and the resources of the American people and their Government?

Occasional.

## WASHINGTON.

Washington, August 23, 1864.

DEATHS OF SOLDIERS.

The following deaths in the hospitals here are reported: Samuel Tinklepaugh, Co. G, 98th Pa.; Aaron Ney, Co. F, 102d Pa.; Lawrence Atkins, Co. A, 102d Pa.

WOUNDED OFFICER.

The following wounded officer has reported: John Bernasdeffe, Co. C, 88th Pa. He has been ordered to Annapolis Hospital.

THE 10-40 LOAN.

The subscriptions to the 10-40 loan reported to the Treasury Department to-day amount to $233,000, and those to the 7-30 loan to $357,000. The total subscriptions to the latter loan are $22,307,600.

SURGEON GENERAL HAMMOND'S DEFENCE.

Dr. Hammond has published the following card:

The undersigned has read, in the *Sunday Morning Chronicle* of this city, the remarks of Judge Advocate General Holt on the proceedings of the court martial in his case. He learns from this review, and from the order of the President approved, that he has been dismissed the army, and prohibited from ever holding office under the United States.

The undersigned has no idea that he will lose one friend by this action of the Administration, but his good name is valuable to him, not only as regards those who know him, but those who do not. So much of the record as has been furnished with a copy of the findings and sentence of the court, he will present to the public a brief history of the facts leading to his arraignment and trial, a review of the record in his case, and some commentaries on the report of the Judge Advocate General. With these he will be content, and submit to the judgment of the world as to whether he has been guilty of the offences charged, and how far he has been the victim of conspiracy, false swearing, and a malignant abuse of official power. William A. Hammond.

Washington, August 22, 1864.

### The Conspiracy in the West—Union Meeting at Indianapolis.

Cincinnati, August 23.—The morning papers publish lengthy extracts from the Dodd correspondence captured at Indianapolis.

The manuscript copy of Dodd's address to the Grand Council is amongst the papers, from which it appears that a grand Convention was intended to be held on July 1st, two days before the Democratic National Convention was to have been held.

A spontaneous meeting was held at Indianapolis last night, to take counsel concerning the dangers surrounding the people.

The meeting was the largest ever held there, and was very orderly conducted, although there was a deep feeling against the conspirators.

Resolutions were adopted denouncing the secret order as most mischievous, and calculated to bring about civil war, and declaring the charge that the Union party intended to use the military power to prevent a fair election was a slander on the Union and was a brave soldiers.

### Deserters Sent to Fort Warren.

Boston, August 23.—Thirteen deserters from the 1st New Hampshire Cavalry, who escaped while that regiment was embarking, on Sunday, have been arrested and sent to Fort Warren, in irons. Twenty others are still at large.

### The Cumberland River.

Nashville, August 22.—The river is eight feet on Harpeth Shoals and still rising.

### Cape May.

Cape Island, August 23.—The season at Cape May is holding out beyond expectation. Hotels and boarding houses are yet comparatively full. The Columbia House holds the leading position this season, and is still the scene of much life and pleasure.

Branding Rejected Recruits or Drafted Men.—It has been the custom recently among some of our surgeons to brand such recruits as might have been rejected for physical reasons. This was done, they allege, in order to save them the trouble of examining such again, should they present themselves. However much this custom might obtain in New York and other places, the people of New Jersey do not seem to relish it. Two surgeons who performed this feat in Morristown have been arrested and held in $10,000 (!) bail to answer at court, branded men appearing as prosecutors, and each demanding $1,000 as damages. One of the physicians, when he understood that the sheriff of the town was after him, attempted to escape by running. He crossed a lot, but, while scaling a fence, the sheriff laid hold of the seat of his unmentionables, and forcibly detained him.

# THE WAR.

## THE FIGHTING NEAR PETERSBURG.

**Desperate Attempt of the Rebels to Retake the Weldon Road.**

**THE ENEMY REPULSED AND THE LINE HELD.**

**Gen. A. P. Hill Reported Mortally Wounded.**

**LARGE CAPTURE OF PRISONERS.**

## A Battle in the Shenandoah Valley.

**OUR TROOPS DRIVEN BACK, BUT THE GROUND RECOVERED.**

**The Rebels Driven out of Martinsburg.**

**THE ENEMY NOT ACROSS THE POTOMAC.**

## ATTACK ON THE WORKS AT ATLANTA.

**Desertion of Two Hundred of the Rebels.**

**CAPTURE OF PRISONERS AND DESTRUCTION OF RAILROAD BY GEN. KILPATRICK.**

## A Union Force Moving on Mobile.

## OFFICIAL REPORT OF ADMIRAL FARRAGUT

**General Granger's Forces within 300 Yards of Fort Morgan.**

## A General Assault to be Made.

### THE ARMY BEFORE PETERSBURG.

DESPERATE BUT UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS TO REPOSSESS THE WELDON RAILROAD.

Fortress Monroe, August 21.—The mail steamer Vanderbilt arrived at this port at 4.30 this afternoon from City Point.

She brings intelligence that the enemy have been making a desperate effort to retake the Weldon road, but have so far been unsuccessful.

Our forces now hold the road firmly, and have secured a position from which it is believed the enemy cannot drive them.

The enemy made three desperate charges on our lines yesterday, and were repulsed each time with very heavy loss to them.

Our loss was light, and it is reported that we captured 500 prisoners.

WARREN'S FIGHT ON SUNDAY—GENERAL A. P. HILL REPORTED MORTALLY WOUNDED.

New York, August 23.—A special Washington despatch to the *Commercial* says that General Warren's corps achieved a grand success on Sunday. The rebels attacked under orders from Lee that we must be driven from the Weldon Railroad at what ever sacrifice.

The rebels were allowed to pass through a gap left in our lines, and suffered severely, while their purpose was entirely defeated.

General A. P. Hill is reported mortally wounded, and Generals Heath and Lee, son of R. E. Lee, are said to have been killed.

The colonel of the 16th Mississippi is a prisoner. Our loss was 150.

DETAILS OF THE ATTACK ON THE 5TH CORPS—LARGE CAPTURE OF REBEL PRISONERS—THE REBEL GEN. HAGOOD REPORTED KILLED.

Headquarters of the Army of the Potomac, August 21—Evening.—This morning the enemy made a vigorous attack on the 5th Corps, on the left of the Weldon Railroad, at the same place where they were partially successful on Friday; but to-day they met with a different reception.

Our line was formed about the same as it was on that day. The 1st Division was on the extreme left; connecting with the cavalry, which covered the railroad towards Reams' station. The 2d Division was next, Cutler's (4th) Division across the railroad, and the 3d (Crawford's) Division on the right, forming with the 5th Corps, which connected the right of the new line with the left of the old one near the Jerusalem plank road.

During Saturday our men had strengthened the breastworks which they had temporarily erected, besides throwing up others in *echelon*.

Early this morning very heavy cannonading was opened by the enemy from their works extending towards Petersburg, and our guns replied very briefly, neither party, however, doing the other any particular damage.

About 7 A. M. a small force of the enemy were seen moving, as if to make an attack on the 9th Corps, but a few well-directed shells sent them out of sight rather quicker than they had advanced.

Shortly after a strong column emerged from the woods on the left of the railroad, and forming in line charged on what they believed to be our left flank, but which proved to be the left of General Ayres' front line.

They advanced in fine style and with the utmost confidence, evidently thinking the work before them was an easy one, but what was their surprise in discovering a second line behind us extending to the left of the first, from which a row of bayonets gleaned, with a battery on the left and another on the right, pouring a storm of shot into their ranks, almost every discharge causing large vacancies in their line.

As soon as they discovered the critical position in which they were placed, the entire command made signs to indicate their willingness to surrender, and the order to cease firing was passed along the breastworks, but as soon as they discovered this, a large portion of them broke and started for the woods, the remainder coming in and surrendering themselves.

The batteries sent several messengers after the retreating party, many of whom embraced mother earth instead of reaching their lines, and still remain where they fell, giving a decided tinge to the entire field and preventing the bodies from being carried away.

The troops who made the attack consisted of Hoke's division and Bushrod Johnson's division of Hill's corps, being principally South Carolinians and Mississippians.

Among the prisoners is one colonel, three lieutenant colonels, and thirty-seven captains and lieutenants. Lieut. Col. S. B. Thomas, of the 12th Mississippi, is wounded in the arm; Col. E. C. Councel, 16th Mississippi, wounded in the leg, which was amputated. Capt. T. W. Farnell, 12th Mississippi, was wounded in the arm; Capt. Jacobs, 58th North Carolina, wounded in the head and side badly; Lieut. W. C. Stoners, 6th Georgia, leg amputated; Lieut. N. L. Isbell, 7th South Carolina Battalion, wounded in the shoulder and elbow.

The number of men taken is about 375, besides about 25 wounded, who are in the hospitals.

General Hagood commanded the assaulting column, and shot Captain Daly, of General Cutler's staff, who was endeavoring to get possession of a rebel flag. Captain Daly is wounded in the side, severely.

Gen. Hagood was seen to fall from his horse, and is believed to be killed. His body lies between the lines, and is covered by the sharpshooters of both sides, so that neither can get possession of it. The prisoners also report him killed.

The troops which met the assault were the 2d Division and part of the 1st; Gen. Cutler was slightly wounded in the face. During the action Colonel Duchesne, commanding 2d Brigade, 2d Division, was killed.

Our loss in killed and wounded numbered about one hundred and fifty, and nearly one hundred were taken prisoners on the skirmish line. They were principally of the 50th Pennsylvania.

The rebel loss is believed to be at least five or six hundred killed and wounded.

The following is a list of the officers in the 5th Corps Hospital—only a few of whom were wounded to-day:

Lieutenant John Elliott, 5th U. S. Battery, in the foot; Lieutenant R. Catlin, 5th U. S. Battery, in the foot; Captain Charles Hyatt, 7th Wisconsin, leg; Lieutenant R. Hedgeclover, 7th Wisconsin, leg; Lieutenant S. G. Reed, 1st Maryland, arm; Lieutenant Robert Neeley, 1st Maryland, shoulder; Captain R. H. Hall, 10th United States, head; Lieutenant J. F. Huntingdon, 140th New York, back; Lieut. E. Williams, 5th New York, thigh; Lieut. G. A. Conner, 7th Md., hip; Lieut. Jas. Fay, 8th Md., breast; Lieut. B. Schanbenbach, 140th N. Y., arm; Lieut. W. Calder, Purnell Legion, sunstroke; Lieut. J. Wize, 7th Md., sick; Lieut. W. F. Purnell, Purnell Legion, diarrhœa; Lieut. Jas. A. Murray, 8th Md., jaundice; Capt. W. Stonebreaker, Purnell Legion, diarrhœa; Lieut. J. Reed, Purnell Legion, sunstroke; Lieut. F. W. Brown, 1st Md., arm; Lieut. Kneeley, 1st Md., face; Lieut. A. Conner, 7th Md., abdomen; Lieut. J. Flynn, 8th Md., throat; Lieut. A. Reynolds, 1st Md., dead; Capt. S. S. Newberry, 12th U. S., dead; Lieut. Colonel Miller, 11th New York Artillery, dead; Lieut. F. E. Crosman, 7th U. S., dead; Col. R. A. Bowman, 4th Md., arm; Lieut. Thos. Jones, 8th Md., leg; Lieut. Rogers, Purnell Legion, shoulder; Surgeon Albert Schenck, 46th New York, abdomen; Major R. W. Reid, 95th New York, knee; Lieut. Caitlin, Battery D, 5th U. S., both legs.

We took five sets of colors, the 53d Delaware taking two, and the 140th New York one set. Three of them are entirely new, while the others are much dilapidated.

In the fight on Friday our loss in prisoners is believed to be larger than heretofore reported in the 90th Pennsylvania; more than half were taken, as was the case to a fact with all the brigade. The 104th New York lost very officer on the field, and can muster but comparatively few for duty.

Had these troops held their position or changed front, as some did, they could nearly all have saved themselves and given the enemy a sound thrashing; but being told they were flanked they started for the rear, and fell into the arms of the rebels.

Colonel Wheelock, with the 2d Brigade, 3d Division, changed his front toward the rear, and, forming in line of battle, with skirmishers thrown out, advanced to see where the enemy were, and reached our second line without losing a man of those who remained by him, while all who left and ran were captured.

This brigade brought in with them over sixty prisoners and a dozen of colors, besides retaking many of our own men, who were being taken away.

August 22—Morning.—No further fighting has taken place since yesterday morning. The skirmishing has been very brisk on the left during the night, and a good deal of artillery was heard.

At six this morning all is quiet within sound of headquarters, but another engagement may take place at any moment. The enemy will not give up their hopes of regaining the possession of the railroad until they see the impossibility of consummating their purpose.

Our lines have been greatly strengthened within twenty-four hours, and should the enemy attack us they will fare even worse than they did yesterday.

Our lines were held successfully, and we captured some 1,500 prisoners. Three rebel battle-flags were also taken during the day. The enemy also lost severely in killed and wounded.

General Warren intimates that the enemy left more dead in front of his works than we lost in killed and prisoners in the fight on the 19th.

Notwithstanding the continual skirmishing and fighting since Gen. Warren made the descent upon the Weldon Road, our men have extended the work of destruction upon it, and it has been most effectually crippled.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT—1,800 PRISONERS REPORTED TAKEN.

Washington, August 23.—The *Star* correspondent writes by the steamer Vanderbilt as follows:

In the evening, information was received that between three o'clock in the morning and four o'clock in the afternoon the enemy made two distinct and desperate assaults, in which, seemingly, their whole force was thrown upon our line, but they were each time repulsed with heavy loss.

In the attack on Warren on Friday last, the rebels broke our line in two places, they making a desperate charge and flanking the brigade of regulars. General Ayres' division, which numbered 1,400 men, lost a large number of prisoners; less than 500 escaped.

The secrets of the 5th Corps and a division of the 6th Corps coming up, a desperate charge was made, and the lost ground was retaken. The enemy also lost heavily in prisoners in Friday's fighting.

THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY.

ANOTHER FIGHT IN THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY—THE 6TH, 8TH, AND 19TH CORPS REPULSE THE ENEMY.

Baltimore, August 23.—The following is published in the *American* of this morning.

Harper's Ferry, Va., August 22.—A brisk engagement took place yesterday, two miles beyond Charlestown, between the army of Western Virginia and the rebel force now in the Shenandoah Valley. The fight commenced at 8 o'clock A. M., and by a heavy column of rebel infantry and cavalry attempting to pierce our extensive front near Summit Point. After a sharp but decisive struggle our skirmishers were compelled to give way.

The 1st Division (General Wilson) of Gen. Torbert's cavalry corps were engaged on our right, and suffered heavily. Gen. Mackintosh's brigade of that division lost nearly 300 men, but only one officer was seriously injured. Acting Adjutant Lloyd, of the 22d Wisconsin Cavalry, and three other officers, were slightly wounded, but have not yet left their commands.

The movement had evidently for its object the possession of Martinsburg, for at the same time that the attack was made at Summit Point another false movement was made against our extreme left, then the attacking column slowly moved down towards our right, and then suddenly a new body of troops appeared in front of our right, the 6th Corps, and a short but determined battle took place.

The 6th, 8th, and 19th Corps formed in line of battle from right to left, as I have written them down.

The 6th Corps bore the brunt of the engagement, and the 2d Division lost heavily—some 200 men wounded, and from 60 to 70 killed and missing.

The loss of the enemy was fully as heavy.

Among the officers wounded in this corps are the following:

Lieutenant Colonel George E Chamberlaine, 1st Vermont.

Lieutenant Colonel A. A. Hale, 6th Vermont.

Major G. W. Dorinell, 6th Vermont.

Captain B. D. Fabgar, 6th Vermont.

Lieutenant Redenbach, Co. B, 61st Pennsylvania.

Lieutenant Charles C. Money, Co. C, 2d Vermont.

Lieutenant J. N. Price, Co. A, 61st Pennsylvania.

Our right drove the enemy for over a mile, and then fell back to their old line, holding it till ten o'clock, when the entire army retired toward Halltown, where they now lie in line of battle, on the first range of hills, in the immediate vicinity of that place.

The 8th Corps, Gen. Crook, were only partly engaged, and lost but a few men. The left, consisting of the 19th Corps, Gen. Emory, were not engaged, as their line rested on the Berryville pike.

The entire line extended from Berryville pike on the left, to Smithfield on the right, and occupied a commanding line of country running between these two roads, situated some two miles from Charlestown.

The cavalry corps, after the enemy had shifted his front from our left to right, retired down the Berryville pike and, passing through Charlestown, bivouacked in the fields to the right of the town.

All that night we were passing through Charlestown in the direction of Halltown, and the scene by moonlight was an extremely inspiring one. The cavalry were left in the front of Charlestown, and their pickets relieved the infantry before daylight.

At sunrise "forward" was sounded, and the entire corps moved forward and took up the position abandoned by the 5th and 6th Corps.

At 6 o'clock, as I rode away on my route to the ferry, a sharp and continuous skirmishing fire broke out and lasted until 9 o'clock, when it suddenly slackened, and before I left Halltown had entirely ceased.

The cavalry have orders to endeavor to push through to Martinsburg, and the infantry are busy pitching impromptu camps along the line of battle, awaiting the result.

Rumors are afloat that the rebels are crossing the Potomac at Martinsburg, with what truth I cannot say. Certain it is, however, that the rebels have possession of that town, whatever may be their ultimate intention.

Large numbers of loyal citizens are here, endeavoring to reach places of safety further North, fearing a total abandonment of the Valley.

Its return to-day, August 22—5.30 P. M.—Heavy firing was heard to-day in the direction of Charlestown, and the supposition is that an engagement is going on there.

There was a small skirmish yesterday at Dam No. 5, on the Potomac river. The rebel reconnoitering party was driven back, and prevented from crossing.

We held Martinsburg yesterday until 3 P. M., when the rebels entered it, Harry Gilmor's command being in the advance. During the night we drove them back again.

Up to this time no rebel force has crossed the Potomac between Williamsport and Harper's Ferry.

THE REBELS DRIVEN OUT OF MARTINSBURG—HEAVY FIRING HEARD TOWARDS CHARLESTOWN.

Hagerstown, August 21.—A detachment of the 3d Virginia Union Cavalry entered Martinsburg yesterday afternoon, about two o'clock, and drove out the rebels.

At the latest accounts the place was still held by our cavalrymen. There is considerable manœuvring going on between the two armies, and a general engagement may take place at any moment.

General Sheridan has his forces well in hand, and no fears need be entertained as to the result in case a fight takes place.

When the plan of the campaign is developed, it will be found that Sheridan is acting in intelligent co-operation with Gen. Grant.

Gen. Averill holds the river fords, and is keeping a watchful eye on the movements of rebel raiding parties.

The excitement here occasioned by the anticipation of an invasion has somewhat subsided.

In obedience to orders from Generals Averill and Couch, the telegraph operator at this place has shut down on all despatches relating to military affairs. All newspaper correspondents must have their despatches approved by one of the above-named officers.

Ten O'clock P. M.—Heavy and continuous cannonading has been heard here all the afternoon, from the direction of Charlestown. No doubt a severe engagement took place to-day.

We have no news up to the present time as to the result.

Many citizens are upon the streets, anxious to hear from the scene of conflict.

SKIRMISHING ALONG THE LINES—THE REBELS NOT YET ACROSS THE POTOMAC.

Baltimore, August 23—9.35 P. M.—Intelligence from the Upper Potomac speaks of nothing more important than slight skirmishing along the lines. Our forces occupy a strong position, and the rebels occupy the country in the direction of Martinsburg, but have not crossed the Potomac. The design of the enemy, whether to attempt to invade Pennsylvania or to make a demonstration toward Washington, has not yet been developed.

ALL QUIET ON THE POTOMAC—A REBEL SUPPLY TRAIN DESTROYED.

Washington, August 23.—A despatch from Hagerstown says that all was quiet to-day along the border, and no fighting in the valley so far as was known.

Yesterday our forces destroyed a long rebel supply train, on the Winchester and Martinsburg turnpike.

### THE SIEGE OF ATLANTA.

CHARGE ON THE REBEL WORKS—DESERTION OF TWO HUNDRED ON THE REBELS.

Louisville, August 22.—On the 18th instant, in front of Atlanta, the 15th Corps charged the rebel works, and at the same time Curtin's line engaged the enemy in skirmishing. The rebel soldiers in the rifle-pits were called upon to come out, when about two hundred of them leaped from their rifle-pits and fell, it is believed, into our lines and the fire of the remaining rebels. Curtin then advanced a strong body, and, after a skirmish, took possession of the rifle-pits, and now holds them. They are within three hundred yards of the enemy's works.

KILPATRICK RETURNED FROM HIS RAID—CAPTURE OF PRISONERS AND DESTRUCTION OF RAILROAD.

Washington, August 23.—Authentic information received here shows that General Kilpatrick has returned from his raid on the line of the Mason Railroad without any serious loss, but he has had a fatiguing and hard time.

He brought in one piece of artillery and seventy prisoners. He effectually destroyed the road for two miles and injured the track for ten miles in various places.

The official news from Atlanta is hopeful.

SUCCESS OF KILPATRICK'S EXPEDITION—DEFEAT OF REBELS AT RODGERSVILLE.

Nashville, August 23.—A despatch dated Lick Creek, East Tennessee, from Gen. Gillett to Gen. Johnson, says a detachment of his command, under Lieutenant Colonel Edgerton, of the 14th Tennessee Cavalry, attacked Rodgersville on the morning of the 22d, killing twenty-three and capturing thirty-five rebels, among them Col. Walker and several non-commissioned officers.

The river has six and half feet water on the shoals, and is falling.

General Kilpatrick returned yesterday to General Sherman, from an expedition to tear up the Macon Railroad, which he succeeded in doing most effectually, destroying three miles of the track, two trains and locomotives.

He encountered the enemy, and had a sharp conflict, dispersing their cavalry and capturing a battery and many prisoners. He destroyed all the guns except one, which he brought in with his prisoners. The rest of the guns he found to be too much of an incumbrance.

With the exception of this expedition, things have been quiet at Atlanta for some days.

OPERATIONS IN SHERMAN'S REAR.

GENERAL STEADMAN DRIVING WHEELER TOWARDS ROME.

Cincinnati, August 23.—A special despatch to the *Gazette*, from Nashville, says that Wheeler struck the Knoxville and Chattanooga Railroad, between Hiawassa and Loudon, destroying communication for a time, but did no serious damage. General Steadman is driving him towards Knoxville, where General Carter has a force in front.

### CAIRO.

BURNING OF A GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT.

Cairo, August 22.—The steamer Carrier, owned by the Memphis and St. Louis Packet Company, was burned to the water's edge, at six o'clock this morning, whilst transferring her cargo of naval stores to the naval-despatch boat Volunteer, at Mound City. The fire was caused by the ignition of a barrel of naptha which was being hoisted. The Carrier was valued at $50,000, on which there is an insurance of $25,000. She is a total loss. The cargo was a valuable one. No lives were lost. One man was seriously burned, but he will recover.

COTTON AND TOBACCO.

Eighty-seven bales of cotton and 27 hogsheads of tobacco have been received here from Hickman Ky., for New York.

### THE GUERILLA WAR.

EXECUTION OF GUERILLAS.

Franklin, Ky., August 22.—The guerillas, G. Bloom and W. B. M. Glassen, were executed here on Saturday, in retaliation for the murder of Union citizens by guerillas.

TWO NOTED ROBBERS KILLED.

Louisville, August 22.—On the 18th instant, in Meade county, a detachment of the 35th Kentucky came on a squad of guerillas, and killed Frank King and Burch, two notorious robbers.

CAPTURE OF THE REBEL JOHNSON—HIS FORCES DEFEATED.

Clarksville, August 23.—Lieut. Col. Johnson, of the 52d Kentucky, overtook the rebel Johnson's force at Canton, Ky., yesterday, while attempting to cross the river, and killed fifteen, wounded a large number, and captured 100 prisoners. Adam Johnson is severely wounded and a prisoner.

THE GUERILLAS DEFEATED BY HOME GUARDS.

Louisville, August 23.—The guerillas crossed from Shed county into Baltin, Ky., on Sunday, and were encountered by the Grayson Home Guard, who killed four of them and captured the remainder.

### DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF.

REBEL CAVALRY AT JACKSON, MISS.—KIRBY SMITH AT ALEXANDRIA.

Cairo, August 23.—The steamer Ida Handy, from New Orleans on the 16th, arrived at this port this morning. She brought 260 bales of cotton to Memphis.

A large force of rebel cavalry are reported to be concentrating at Jackson, Mississippi.

The New Orleans *Delta* has Alexandria advices of the 7th. Kirby Smith was there. Buckner commands Dick Taylor's troops. Taylor is at Atlanta, in command of Polk's old corps. The rebels were seizing the property of everybody suspected of being favorable to the Union.

A number of wealthy planters were living on rations in consequence of their houses having been destroyed.

The rebels are conscripting with great severity, and both conscripts and refugees swear that they will capture and hold Dick Taylor's children as hostages for the security of their families.

The *Delta* says the army worm is devastating whole plantations of cotton. Sales of 201 bales are reported, holders asking higher prices. The receipts amount to 550 bales. The stock of provisions and merchandise is limited, and there is no disposition to operate.

ADMIRAL FARRAGUT'S OFFICIAL REPORT.

Washington, August 22.—The following was received at the Navy Department this morning:

Flagship Hartford,
West Gulf Blockading Squadron,
Mobile Bay, August 8, 1864.

Sir: I have the honor to inform the Department that Fort Powell was evacuated on the night of the 5th inst. The rebels blew up much of the fort, but we took all of the guns, and those of the best quality. We took some covered barges also from Fort Powell and Cedar Point, which do us good service as a work-shop.

The fleet engineer and fleet paymaster came in the Stockdale, with iron, etc., for the repairs of our vessels.

On the afternoon of the 6th the Chickasaw went down and shelled Fort Gaines, and on the morning of the 7th I received a communication from Colonel Anderson, commanding the fort, offering to surrender to the fleet, and asking for the best conditions.

I immediately sent for General Granger, and in the evening had Col. Anderson and Major Browne on board, and the agreement was signed by all parties.

At 7 A. M., August 8th, Fleet Captain Drayton, on the part of the navy, and Col. Myer on the part of the army, proceeded to the fort to carry out the stipulations of the agreement, and at 9.45 the fort surrendered, and the stars and stripes were hoisted on the staff amid the cheers of the fleet.

Enclosed herewith are copies of the letter of Col. Anderson, and the reply of Gen. Granger and myself, marked respectively 1 and 2.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. G. Farragut,
Rear Admiral Comd'g W. G. B. Squadron.

To Hon. Gideon Welles, Sec'y of the Navy.

No. 1.

Headquarters, Fort Gaines, August 7, 1864.

*To Admiral Farragut, Commanding Naval Forces off Dauphin Island:*

Feeling my inability to maintain my present position longer than you may see fit to open upon me with your fleet, and being also the uselessness of entailing upon ourselves further destruction of life, I have the honor to propose the surrender of Fort Gaines, its garrison, stores, &c. I trust to your magnanimity for obtaining honorable terms, which I respectfully request that you will transmit to me and allow me sufficient time to consider them and return an answer. This communication will be handed you by Major W. R. Browne.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your ob't servant,

C. D. Anderson, Col. Commanding.

No. 2.

Flagship Hartford,
Mobile Bay, August 7, 1864.

Sir: In accordance with the proposal made in your letter of this morning, for the surrender of Fort Gaines, I have to say that, after communicating with General Granger, in command of our forces on Dauphin Island, the only offers we can make are:

First. The unconditional surrender of yourself and the garrison at Fort Gaines, with all the public property within its limits.

Second. The treatment which is in conformity with the custom of the most civilized nation towards prisoners of war.

Third. Private property, with the exception of arms, will be respected.

This communication will be handed you by Fleet Captain F. Drayton and Colonel Myer, of the United States Army, who fully understand the views of General Granger and myself.

Very respectfully, your obedient servants,

D. G. Farragut, Rear Admiral,
G. Granger, Major General U. S. A.
Colonel C. D. Anderson, comd'g Fort Gaines.

THE WOUNDED IN ATLANTA—THE REBEL DEAD.

Washington, August 23.—The following is extracted from various official reports received at the Navy Department relative to the casualties in Mobile Bay:

Killed on the Hartford—W. H. Higginbotham, acting ensign, and the following seamen, ordinary seamen, etc.: Charles Shaeffer, Wm. Smith, Lewis McLane, Benj. Harper, James B. Osgood, Adolphus Pulle, Thomas Bayne, John O. Scott, Thomas Stanton, James Wakefield, Nash, Jno. Doe, Wm. E. Andrews, Fred. Munsill, George Walker, Thos. Wildes, George Stillwell, David Morrow, Peter Dunn.

Andrew E. Smith, Francis E. Campbell, Charles Stevenson, David Curtin.

Number severely wounded and transferred to the hospitals at Pensacola, 20; wounded sl