

This city, like nearly all the great cities of the Northern and Western States, continues to improve, notwithstanding the stupendous war in which we are engaged, and which would paralyze, if not overwhelm, almost any other people.

It is less confident, and therefore less virulent than they have been. Besides, the antecedents and the character of many of the leading copperheads in this city are not of a very flattering character, and therefore not likely to impress honest and well-meaning democrats with any exalted ideas of their loyalty or sincerity.

William B. Reed, for instance, was formerly the agent and Attorney of the old United States Bank, in some of its most objectionable transactions. He was the man who said, "Lehigh must do better for the Whigs. He has been Anti Mason and Know Nothing—turned democrat for office under Mr. Buchanan's administration, and is now considered one of the leading copperheads of Philadelphia, and as his ancestors were more than suspected of treason, it is very natural that he should tread in their footsteps.

Another of the same class, Josiah Randall, has been all his life, or until President Fillmore refused to appoint him to a cabinet office, not only a violent opponent of the Jackson democracy, but one of the most unscrupulous and reckless politicians of his day.

Reflecting democrats who know these things begin to pause before they consent to put themselves into the hands of such leaders. Such is the character of these men, all over the State. Their patriotism and their love for what they call democracy, almost always results and ends in their love of office. Even the editor of the copperhead organ in our county, who migrated to Sunbury not many months since, we believe, presumes to be a candidate before he is properly warned in his new post. How many will have their eyes opened before the election nears to be seen.

It is said the best and most reliable citizens of all parties in Philadelphia, are uniting themselves with the Union Leagues in this city. What, is perhaps, most singular, is the fact that the copperheads are almost unanimous in denouncing these leagues in favor of the Union, while they have not a word to say against the Southern Leagues and their Northern allies, the "Knights of the Golden Circle" who are using every effort to destroy the Union.

The work of consolidation in rail roads seems to be going ahead. It will be seen by a notice in our advertising columns this week that the newly contemplated railroad namely: the "Schuylkill Haven and Lehigh River Rail Road" is to be merged and consolidated with the Mine Hill and Schuylkill Haven road—for which purpose a meeting will be held on the 14th of May. After this is accomplished the "Mine Hill and Schuylkill Haven road" is to be absorbed by the Reading rail road. The terms are already agreed upon. The stockholders of the former, we understand, are to receive \$120 for \$100 of their stock, in the stock of the Reading Company. The Reading Company also assumes the contract of the Navigation Company with the Mine Hill Railroad, and concedes to the Navigation Company forty-five per cent. of the coal tonnage of the Schuylkill Region during the season of navigation; or, if it fails in this, pays to the Navigation Company 25 cents per ton on so much tonnage as will make it equal to that amount. The advantage resulting to the Reading Railroad Company, over and above the general one of harmonizing the carrying trade of the region, is that it removes the threatened rivalry of a railroad from the Mine Hill Road, by way of Lizzard Creek, through the Lehigh Valley to New York, which it was contemplated would be made, by which the Reading would have a competitor for its tonnage during the winter months.

Horrible Rebel Barbarities. The assistant surgeon of the Ninety-ninth Ohio regiment, P. H. Clemens, writes to a lady in Sandusky from which the Register quotes the particulars of one of the most outrageous cases of rebel barbarity having the history of the war furnish. Having previously spoken of a scout of five or six days in which his brigade had participated, he says:

"While we were out on this last trip I crossed the wounds of a soldier (Seventy-second Indiana) who had been taken prisoner with a comrade up to his hands, and both up to a tree with their hands behind them, a captain deliberately shot them both—killing the other man on the spot. After shooting the one I saw once through the face and once through the neck, so that I cut the ball out just below the bend of the jaw on the opposite side, uttering him, they still found him alive, uttering him, when the second shot again in the back of the head while he lay writhing on the ground, the ball entering just at the base of the ear and coming out at the left eye, completely destroying it."

"And yet with all these wounds, in the head, neck and face, that man got up and wandered around until he came across our brigade and so fell into my hands."

"General Stanley's cavalry, which were out with us had taken a lot of prisoners, and as soon as General Stanley heard of the outrage he sent word to me to have the wounded man brought up to his headquarters; the next morning he had him brought on the porch and compelled all these prisoners to come up and confront him separately, telling him that if he could recognize any one as among the traitors who had wounded him, there would be another shooting match on the other side of the house. But the wounded man shook his head and said there were none of his persecutors among the lot. I sent him to the hospital and hear since that there is some chance of his recovery."

The President has made proclamation that of the expiration of sixty days the State of West Virginia will be regularly admitted as a member of the Union. The old flag will, therefore, add another star—the 35th—on the Fourth of July next.

REBEL RAID.

Western Virginia in the hands of 8,000 Rebel Cavalrymen.

The Borders of Pennsylvania Again Threatened.

Pennsylvania, Pa., April 28. An express messenger arrived at Pittsburgh at two o'clock this morning, who stated that a body of 4,000 rebel cavalry were within a few miles of Morgantown, Va., en route for Pennsylvania.

The track of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad between Gratton and Cumberland was destroyed.

This movement is undoubtedly a raid for horses and commissary stores. The idea of tearing up the railroad is to prevent being cut off by any Federal forces from the Potomac.

LATER. PITTSBURGH, PA., April 28, 5 o'clock, A. M. The rebel force is now said to be 8,000 strong. Great consternation prevails among the farmers, who are gathering their horses and cattle and sending them beyond the reach of the highwaymen.

The point arrived at by the rebels seems to be in the neighborhood of Uniontown, Pa.

The latest intelligence received here confirms the rebel raid into Western Virginia, in considerable force, with the object, probably, of drawing the attention of our troops from another quarter.

Efficient means have been taken to intercept the enemy, and the prospect of their capture, we are happy to say, appears to be good.

A rumor prevails that 700 of the rebels had already been captured, but it does not appear to be well founded.

Every precaution is being taken by the State authorities here to be ready in case an invasion of the State is attempted.

We have full particulars of the operations of the rebels, crossing at Duncan's Springfield Furnace, about twelve miles south of Uniontown.

The postmaster at Uniontown, Pa., writes on the post bill, dated noon Tuesday: The rebels are crossing Cheat river into Fayette county, Pa.

Cheat river is about the State line. We learn from other sources that they were, on Tuesday, crossing at Duncan's Springfield Furnace, about twelve miles south of Uniontown.

A letter from Washington, Pa., dated Tuesday, from a reliable person says that a Mr. Boyd, residing two miles from Morgantown, Va., had arrived late on Monday night. He reports that a portion of the rebel force, supposed to be fifteen hundred strong, had possession of Morgantown. On approaching his house, he had secured his horses and fled to Washington.

The effects of the Wheeling post office were received here last evening, and in pursuance of instructions from that office, notices were sent there on Wednesday morning.

THE VERY LATEST. By telegram from Wheeling it appears that the bridges that have been destroyed on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad were probably burned by secessionists who live in the neighborhood. The people of Wheeling, although much alarmed for the last twenty-four hours, seem now not to apprehend any attack in that quarter from the rebels.

The 15th regiment Penna. militia and Capt. J. H. Foster's independent company met on Tuesday evening, and still hold themselves in readiness for any orders that may be issued, should their services be required.

THE WAR IN TENNESSEE. NASHVILLE, April 27.—A part of General Green Clay Smith's Brigade, consisting of two hundred and fifty cavalry, commanded by Colonel Watkins, of the Sixth Kentucky Cavalry, this morning made a dash upon a Rebel camp of the First Texas Legion, eight miles south of Franklin, on Carter's Creek Pike. They captured one hundred and twenty-eight Rebels, including three captains and five lieutenants, together with the same number of horses, fifty mules, and an ambulance loaded with medical stores, and burned eight wagons.

Thirty-three hundred citizens, male and female, had taken the oath of allegiance and given bonds for its faithful performance to Gen. Mitchell.

A startling rumor is current to-night in this city that Gen. Bragg was shot and instantly killed by Gen. Breckinridge, at Tullahoma, yesterday.

MEMPHIS, April 26.—General Reynolds today sent in 130 prisoners, from Liberty.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF.

GENERAL BANKS MOVING TOWARD TEXAS.

His Triumphant March.

OCCUPATION OF THE OPELOUSAS COUNTRY.

BATTLE OF VERMILION BAYOU.

EARTHWORKS AT BATELA-ROSE REDDED.

Large Number of Prisoners Taken—Rebels Destroy Two Gunboats and Many Steamers to Prevent their falling into our hands.

NEW YORK, April 26. The steamer Fulton, from New Orleans, has arrived at this port with important advices.

On the night of the 17th inst., General Banks had reached Vermillion Bayou after a hard fight at Vermillion Bayou, where the rebels had posted batteries and infantry, but they were driven from them, after a hard fight, with considerable loss on both sides.

A letter in the Era, dated on the field, above New Iberia, April 16, states that Col. Kimball, with the 53d Massachusetts regiment, entered the rebel works at Bethel Place on the morning of the 14th, planting our flag on the parapet. General Weitzel's division followed, succeeded by the whole line.

The rebels left numbers of their dead unburied, and evidences were plenty of bloody work in their ranks.

Large stores of ammunition, some English field and other arms, were captured.

Our army then marched through Pattersonville, skirmishing continuously, and reached Franklin on the 16th.

Prior to Tuesday night some thousand prisoners had been brought to Franklin, captures of whole companies of rebels, including the cavalry, and the capture of the gunboat Corine was captured, with three officers of the late gunboat Diana on board, thus restoring them to our service. The Rebels also destroyed ten steamboats, to prevent their falling into General Banks' hands, and also two large gunboats and the Diana, included in the destruction of these boats were immense stores of provisions, twenty thousand pounds of bacon, and a thousand cases of ammunition. It was expected that Gen. Banks would capture Opelousas on the 18th, and occupy it.

The expedition of General Grover had been eminently successful, and in a late order to the number of over a thousand, he had charged the rebel line and batteries supported by the 29th Maine, 25th Connecticut, 12th Maine, and 91st New York, and defeated them, leaving a silk flag and other trophies in our hands.

The rebel force consisted of two regiments of Louisiana and the batteries including the famous Pelican and Sims batteries.

The whole rebel force at Bethel Place and Irish Bend numbered some one thousand, posted in a highly-advantageous position, under command of General Dick Taylor, a son of the late Zachary Taylor.

Important captures of horses, mules, beef cattle, to the number of over a thousand, were made. The celebrated salt mine or salt rock was captured and the rebel works destroyed.

The rebel soldiers were not loth to be captured, and over 1,000 are in our hands, and more are being taken.

An abandoned rebel foundry was found near New Iberia, containing a quantity of shot and shell.

Our field has reduced the rebel fortifications at Bute La Rose—an important point. The prospects are that the rebels will be driven out of Opelousas county or all captured.

Our troops are in splendid condition. The wounded in the late battle have nearly all reached New Orleans, numbering 179, where they are quartered at the Mechanics Institute Hospital. Among them are Lieutenants Oliver and Bonina, of the 25th Connecticut. All were doing well.

A large number of rebel wounded were in the hospitals at Franklin and Iberia. There is nothing new from Key West.

Official from Vicksburg, Miss. WASHINGTON, April 27.—The despatches received by the President from Major-General Grant and the Army of the Tennessee are dated before Vicksburg, April 23. They announce that on the evening before, six gunboats and twelve barges had passed the Vicksburg and Warrenton batteries, which opened with a terrific fire upon the vessels. Buildings in Vicksburg which were prepared for the occasion, were fired to light up the river and enable the rebel gunners to see the boats.

Over five hundred shots were discharged at the fleet. None of the barges were hit, and only one steamer was injured badly enough to cause her to be abandoned. She floated three miles below Warrenton, when she was sunk, but all hands on board of her were saved.

Another steamer was somewhat injured, but she can be easily repaired. To the credit of the troops it is said that, when some of the crews of the boats refused to take their chances in making the fearful trip, the former, belonging to the Illinois regiments, volunteered to do the boatman's work, the crews having been left behind.

The second splendid success of throwing a great land and naval force below Vicksburg, completely flanking the Rebel position was accomplished with the loss of only two men mortally wounded, and a few more, not exceeding ten, severely and slightly wounded.

The pilots were made the targets of the Rebel sharpshooters who lined the shore, and in order to prevent being splintered in case they were wounded, had their pilot-boats removed, and exposed themselves to the fire.

General Grant telegraphs to the President that he considers this movement, in view of its importance, the terrible fire to which the boats were exposed, and the slight loss of property and men, a magnificent success.

THE PORT HUDSON FIGHT. The New Orleans Era of the 9th inst., publishes the following interesting facts in reference to the engagement of Admiral Farragut's fleet with the batteries at Port Hudson:—

"We learn from one of the paroled seamen of the steamer Mississippi, who was taken prisoner at Port Hudson, that our fleet did great damage to the batteries of that place. He was not enabled to ascertain the total number of the killed, and he thought it was evidently very great. In one battery alone he learned there were twenty-five Rebels killed."

"Our fleet drove the enemy from his guns several times by the rapid and accurate firing of grape and canister; and he learned from an old shipmate, who had formerly been in the navy, that one of the lower tier batteries was spiked; and there is no doubt that the others would have followed the example if the engagement had lasted much longer."

"He says two of the rebel officers he saw were formerly in our navy, and they complimented our gunners in the warmest terms. They could hardly be made to believe that it was nothing more than a fleet of ordinary wooden vessels which were firing upon the batteries. The Rebel gun-boat Webb was completely destroyed during the fight."

Ohio has passed an act providing that her soldiers in the National service shall vote at every State Election hereafter.

The Invasion of Missouri.

THE REBELS ATTACK GENERAL McNEIL AND ARE REPULED.

St. Louis, April 26.

Despatches from General McNeil, at Cape Girardeau, dated seven o'clock on Saturday evening, announced that the rebels, about eight thousand strong, under command of Marmaduke and Burbridge, were eight miles distant and approaching on two roads.

This morning a flag of truce brought a demand for a surrender in half an hour, signed by order of Major General Price, to which a defiant reply was returned.

11:30 A. M.—The rebels attacked our position in force, and after three hours' severe fighting, were handsomely repulsed. It is supposed, however, they would change position and attack from another point. Reinforcements reached General McNeil to-day, with two gunboats ready for any emergency, and express the utmost confidence in his ability to whip the enemy, and pursue them in case of a retreat.

No apprehension need be felt for the safety of Cape Girardeau.

No mention is made of the loss on either side.

A strong force of artillery and cavalry occupied Fredericktown last night, and nearly all the rebel prisoners confined here have been removed to Alton, and all the gunshops of the city are placed under guard.

LATER. THE REBELS REPULED WITH SEVERE LOSS.

A later despatch from General McNeil says we have repulsed the enemy with severe loss. He is now retreating, but will be taken care of. Our loss is less than twenty in killed and wounded.

IS ANOTHER ACCOUNT. The steamer Hyatt arrived this evening, having left Cape Girardeau at 3 o'clock P. M. Her officers report a collision between our troops and the rebels at 11 o'clock this morning. The fighting continued two hours, when the enemy was repulsed. No particulars are given.

FROM NEWBERN, N. C. NEWBERN, N. C., April 21. The Rebels have abandoned their attack on Washington N. C., giving it up as a hopeless task. The fortitude and plucky perseverance with which General Foster and his little band of twelve hundred men held out successfully and kept at bay for many days and nights, seventeen thousand of the enemy constitute a noble achievement, unparalleled in the history of the war, and one which has endeared this popular and victorious leader still more strongly to his command.

Gen. Heckman's brigade, which arrived here from Fort Royal, with the rest of Gen. Foster's troops still at that place, are so anxious to return to this department that they offer to re-enlist for the war if they can be allowed to return to the old North State and fight under their old commander.

An order was promulgated on the 18th inst., by Gen. Foster, ordering all the rebel sympathizers and government papers outside of our lines.

General Nagler and staff arrived here from Newbern on the 19th inst., and on the next day at the head of an expedition in pursuit of the enemy. The return of this gallant and distinguished hero was the occasion of a flattering ovation. After a successful operation against the rebels he returned this day to this place with the commander of the department.

Rebel deserters are coming in daily. They confirm the reports of disaffection and starvation in the rebel army.

NEW YORK, April 25.—A letter from Newbern contains the following: Gen. Foster left Newbern on the 18th, with a large force to relieve Washington, and drive the enemy from that place. Gen. Nagler commanded the advance, consisting of the 24th New York, the 3d New York cavalry, with a light howitzer. They overtook the rear guard of the enemy on the road leading west from near the mouth of Blount's creek.

At Chocomaith creek, about six miles from Washington, the enemy made a stand, but Gen. Nagler, with his staff, and the 24th New York, drove the enemy precipitately from behind his works, capturing a number of prisoners, including the Colonel of the 2d Georgia cavalry. Our pursuit was so vigorous that the enemy were compelled to break and scatter in confusion toward Greenville.

THE WAR IN TENNESSEE. MEMPHIS, April 23. General Hazen at Reedville, reports that a party of refugees have arrived, who left on the occasion, were fired to light up the river and enable the rebel gunners to see the boats.

Over five hundred shots were discharged at the fleet. None of the barges were hit, and only one steamer was injured badly enough to cause her to be abandoned. She floated three miles below Warrenton, when she was sunk, but all hands on board of her were saved.

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Lieutenant-Colonel Mason, a Rebel, was

mortally wounded. Mr. Green, mail officer, Mr. General Reynolds then moved towards Liberty, but General Moran had departed towards Carlisle, near Alexandria.

Our scouts are picking up the Rebels every half hour. Among them are Captain Reynolds. They also destroyed a mill at Liberty, which had been doing good work for the Rebels.

LOUISVILLE, April 24. After the destruction of Colina, Tennessee, a party of Rebels entered Tomkinsville, Kentucky, on Wednesday, and burned the Court House, and half a dozen other buildings at that place. Five or six Union men were killed. The enemy then retreated.

Department of the Ohio. PLATTERING SUCCESS OF OUR LATE EXPEDITION TO DELINIA, KY.

WASHINGTON, April 25. The following despatch has been received at the headquarters of the army: CINCINNATI, April 23, 1863. To Major-General H. W. Halleck, General-in-Chief: The following despatch has just been received: HEADQUARTERS, LOUISVILLE, April 22.—The expedition to Delina was entirely successful. Colonel Graham reports, through General Hobson, that they destroyed the town, 100,000 pounds of bacon, 10,000 bushels of wheat, 10,000 bushels of corn, 100 barrels of whiskey, 100 barrels of flour, a considerable quantity of sugar, coffee, tea, salt, and other stores, and forty boats, which had been used in transporting supplies from Burksville and other points on the Cumberland.

The rebels report a loss of ninety killed, but Colonel Graham is of the opinion that the number is greater. We had one hundred and one missing.

The result is highly creditable to the troops engaged. Indeed, it was a perfect success.

Brigadier-General Whitely, A. E. DENNIS, Major General.

CINCINNATI, April 25. A special despatch from Stanford, Ky., says: Captain Sough, of the 4th Ohio, with 150 men, attacked a body of the enemy, below Rockhold, on the Williamsburg road, on the 23d, killing four, capturing nine, and driving the enemy across the river. We sustained no loss.

THE WAR IN NORTH CAROLINA. AN EXPEDITION FROM NEWBERN AGAINST THE REBELS.

NEW YORK, April 24. The steamer Dudley Buck arrived here from Newbern on the 21st, and confirms the report that General Foster left for Washington with reinforcements.

A letter from Newbern, N. C., dated the 19th inst., says the rest of General Foster's forces at Fort Royal were so anxious to return to North Carolina that they offer to re-enlist for the war, if they can be allowed to do so.

General Nagler left on the 18th, at the head of an expedition in pursuit of the enemy.

The Rebel deserters are coming in daily, and confirm the report of disaffection and starvation in the rebel army.

An order has been promulgated by General Foster, ordering all Rebel sympathizers and Government papers outside of our lines.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT. The Rebel's getting into rather close proximity to Newbern, General Foster determined to chase them away. He accordingly organized an expedition, comprising five thousand men, sent from General Heintzelman's force and part of the old force, and left the town on Thursday, the 16th inst., and took a northwesterly direction on the Trent river. When last heard from, on Friday morning, he was at a place called Deep Gulch, but had not met only a few straggling enemies.

On Friday afternoon, towards sunset, brisk cannonading was heard at Newbern, in a northwesterly direction, but it was not known what caused it. Rumors, however, reached that General Hill, with his Rebel force, was somewhere in that direction, and it was thought that an engagement was going on. The cannonading lasted about an hour and a half, when it stopped.

General Foster, before leaving, ordered that the families of all persons now in the city of Newbern be removed to the rear, and leave Newbern on Thursday, the 22d inst., and General Palmer, the commanding officer, caused this order to be read on Sunday last, from every pulpit in the place, accompanying it with the declaration that he