

News of the Day.

Edwards' Ferry, October 24.—Yesterday, on learning that a large force of the enemy were approaching, and had arrived at two points above and below in the immediate vicinity of the ferry, it was judged advisable to withdraw our troops from the Virginia shore, both at Edwards' Ferry and Harrison's Island. This was rendered the more necessary from the high stage of water and the prevalence of a gale, which made it a matter of impossibility to throw over a sufficient force to make our positions there perfectly secure against a general attack.

The force at Harrison's Island were removed first, in the face of, and unmolested by a large body of the enemy, who wisely, perhaps, forbore to make any demonstration. Gen. Stone commanded the division opposite Edwards' Ferry, and removed them during the tempestuous storm in the night with safety. Gen. Stone was among the last to leave the shore, and no accident whatever occurred.

The numbers of the enemy are not known to outsiders, but it is inferred that they had between 13,000 and 20,000. Their positions were in dangerous proximity to the ferry, and a night attack would have been disastrous to our small numbers there. This morning none of their troops or encampments are visible, except perhaps a soldier occasionally passing along the roads through the opening in the forests.

More Particulars of the Battle Near Edwards' Ferry. WASHINGTON, October 25.—Col. Joshua T. Owen, of the Second Regiment of the California Brigade, arrived here last night, direct from Edwards' Ferry, and has related the following additional particulars in regard to the recent engagement: The force was 1,735 on our side. Of the number killed, wounded and missing, 237 belonged to Col. Baker's regiment. Captain Vaughan, who was sent over to bring the dead, report that a large number of the rebels slain were carried away, while others were interred on the battle field. The impression is that their killed far exceeded ours, owing to the efficiency of our artillery.

Lieut. Col. Wistar, who was wounded in the shoulder, arm and jaw, is considered out of danger. Capt. Markee, of Philadelphia, was wounded in the arm, and taken prisoner. Lieut. Williams, of Captain Putnam's company was killed.

Col. Owens further states that immediately previous to the fall of Col. Baker, the rebels made a flank movement to turn the latter's line. Col. Baker perceiving this, immediately wrote an order to be conveyed to the companies of the Tammany regiment, which had just arrived, and while immediately facing his command to meet the flank movement, and about giving orders to charge, he was killed, falling ten feet in advance of the column.

The field on which the battle was fought is circumscribed within an area of six acres. Lieut. Bennett, who was taken prisoner, reports that Col. Hatton, of the rebel army, was killed at the commencement of the engagement.

Bishop Bowman's Successor. PHILADELPHIA, October 25.—The special convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church concluded its session yesterday, by the election of Rev. Wm. Bacon Stevens, D. D., to the office of Assistant Bishop, made vacant by the death of Bishop Bowman.

Obtention of Smith, the Pirate. PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 24.—The jury in the case of Milburn Smith, charged with piracy in connection with the privateer Jeff. Davis, rendered a verdict of guilty this morning.

The Battle at Edwards' Ferry. The most that can be said of the battle at Edwards' Ferry, is that it was a complete success for the Union forces. The rebels were driven from the Virginia shore, and their positions were abandoned. The Union army suffered no serious losses, and their positions were perfectly secure against a general attack.

The Rebels Dividing their Forces. Positive information has been received, says a Herald despatch, that recent occurrences have occasioned a division of the rebel army on the Potomac. Reinforcements to a very large extent have been sent to Leesburg, with the expectation of a renewal of the attack on that point, and an immense force has been congregated at Norfolk, under the impression that the expedition fitting out in the Chesapeake Bay was intended to make a demonstration there. The centre of the rebel army rests at Centerville, and has been much weakened by the withdrawal of these forces on the right and left. General Johnston is the general commanding. Beauregard commands the forces opposite the city of Washington, and Gustavus W. Smith, late Street commissioner of New York city, commands the forces at Leesburg. It is stated that a rumor was current at Richmond a few days ago that an important advance movement of the whole rebel army was to be made before the 1st of November, but perhaps the fight at Bull's bluffs, and the sailing of the great naval expedition, has rendered a change of programme necessary.

Another Great Well. Another extraordinary vein of oil was tapped on Oil Creek last week. The oil was forced into the air a height of several feet, and the gas igniting from the engine house the well was soon in a blaze. While matters were in this state a spectator procured a barrel, which he cut in two, and one half of which he filled with combustible matter. Wrapping himself in wet blankets he rushed up to the blazing well, and setting the half-barrel over the pipe succeeded in driving a plug into the tube through which the oil flowed, thereby extinguishing the fire. He received 400 barrels of oil for his trouble, so that both the owners of the well and himself were handsome gainers by the operation.

The Rebel Routine at Romney. A correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial gives the following account of the clearing out of the Rebels by General Kelley, at Romney, Virginia: The hour appointed was twelve M. for the start. The 4th Ohio had left their camp at Pendleton, distance thirty-two miles, and were within six miles waiting to join us. About 500 of the 7th Virginia under command of Col. Kelley, a son of the General's Captains Dayton and Hagan's companies, also Virginia troops, were with us, together with the Ringgold Cavalry and McGhee's Virginia Lancers. The force, numbering about 2500, with the wagon train, soon after twelve P. M.—The General overtook them the next morning, when he took charge in person. When within seven miles of Romney, our advance guard were attacked by the unbrushed pickets.—Every step of the way was hotly contested, the Ringgold Cavalry under Capt. Keys, performing feats of valor, driving the enemy before them. Three companies of infantry were ordered to their support, rushing on the double-quick in the face of a hot fire from their heavy pieces of cannon. Shot and shell were literally raining around them. The enemy's fire was well directed, but invariably went over our heads.

In the face of heavy musketry and cannon, a gallant dash was made for the rebel battery, when their whole force gave way and took to the woods, making Flora Temple time, leaving us possessors of all their camp equipage, wagons, over a hundred horses, stores and ammunition, in all value fully twenty thousand dollars; and this discomfiture effected at a loss to us of only one man killed and five wounded. The loss occurred in the Virginia 7th. We now hold Romney, and purpose occupying it. Time and opportunity will suggest the next step. Meantime, the glorious success attending our arms at Romney, will give a blow to the rebel cause in that portion of Virginia which will tend very much to break up the crude and disorderly band which their leaders took pride in calling "Our Army at Romney." From their wounded prisoners in our hospital at Romney, we learn that their force was 1,700—nearly all cavalry. One of their Colonels, Mr. Armstrong, formerly a resident of this place, and a member of the late Wheeling Convention, was taken prisoner.

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The Naval Expedition. As most all the vessels of the great maritime expedition are steamers, which can put out to sea when a storm breaks out upon the coast, there is not the same danger from shipwreck to them as to the sailing vessels that afloat time constituted the Spanish Armada and other expeditions that have been destroyed by the force of winds and waves. And though the armament of vessels is more formidable than of old, so also are the means of resistance of forts and other land batteries likewise augmented.

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Lord Wellington once said in Parliament that ships, however well commanded, or however gallant the seamen might be, were incapable of engaging successfully with stone walls.—Our experience during the present war confirms the truth of that view. But sea and land expeditions are another thing, yet they have not been

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Patriotic Letter from Garibaldi. The following patriotic letter written by Garibaldi, at Caprera, September 10th, to Mr. Quiggle, the United States Consul at Antwerp, settles the question with reference to the coming of the Italian Liberator to this country, at least for the present: "My Dear Sir—I saw Mr. Sanford and regret to be obliged to announce to you that I shall not be able to get to the United States at present. I do not doubt of the triumph of the cause of the Union, and that shortly. But if the war should unfortunately continue in your beautiful country, I shall overcome all obstacles which you detain me and hasten to the defense of a people who are so dear to me. Yours, GARIBALDI."

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The Absconding Secretary. Some excitement has been created by the rumor that the secrets of the Naval Expedition had been betrayed by the private secretary of Commodore Duyont, or some other person. The New York "Evening Post," in commenting upon this report, says: "Our own correspondent with the naval expedition mentions, incidentally, as a matter of small importance, that a master's mate on one of the ships, a crazy fellow, had suddenly disappeared, and it was feared he had, in moment of temporary aberration of mind, wandered beyond our lines, where he would be shot by the enemy." We suppose this is the ground of fact on which the "Tribune's" alarming rumor is founded.

The First Battle. It is now generally conceded, says the New York World, that the first great battle in the advance will probably take place at Centerville. The rebel army is massed between that point and Bull Run in force. From the cautious manner of McClellan's advance they see that it will not do to give up Centerville heights without a struggle, as they may be used to shell the batteries on the old battle ground.—From the present rate of advance, it may not be a week before Gen. McClellan reaches that point. There may, however, be a dash in another direction as a diversion, but it now looks as though there will be a series of battles—at Centerville, Bull Run, and Manassas. With equal bravery and even less men our immense advantage in rifled cannon and arms ought to give us the victory.

A Day of Thanksgiving Appointed. Governor Curtin has issued his proclamation appointing a day of public Thanksgiving and Prayer for the people of the State. The day fixed is Thursday the 28th of November, and his Excellency recommends that it be set apart as a day of solemn Thanksgiving to God, for having prepared our corn and watered our furrows, and blessed the labors of the husbandman, and crowned the year with His goodness, in the increase of the ground and the gathering in of the fruits thereof, so that our barns are filled with plenty; and for having looked favorably on this Commonwealth and having strengthened the bars of her gates and blessed the children within her, and made peace to be of one mind, and preserved peace in her borders. Beseeching Him also on behalf of these United States, that our beloved country may have deliverance from these great and apparent dangers wherewith she is compassed, and that He will mercifully still the outrage of perverse, violent, unruly and rebellious people, and make them clean hearts, and renew a right spirit within them, and give them grace that they may see the error of their ways and bring forth fruits meet for repentance, and hereafter, in all godliness and honesty, obediently walk in His Holy commandments, and in submission to the just and manifest authority of the Republic, so that we, leading a quiet and peaceable life, may continually offer unto Him our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

The Confiscation Law to be Enforced. A correspondent of the N. Y. Times says that the Government is rapidly preparing for enforcing the confiscation law passed by the last Congress. On Saturday attachments were served against a lot of furniture belonging to a man named Shields, who is a Captain in the rebel army, and who owns a number of houses and lots in Washington.—This is to be a special case, and if the law is sustained, the Government will at once proceed to confiscate the property of every known Confederate as fast as they come within the jurisdiction of the Federal arms. The same correspondent says: An application was made to Provost Judge Frieze, of Alexandria, on Saturday, to have the Government take possession of the estate of the late John A. Washington, at Mt. Vernon, for the purpose of securing the claims of Union men. When John A. Washington left for the rebel army, he placed the care of the estate in the hands of one Turner. Turner, however, soon caught the secession fever, and went down to Occoquan creek to join the rebels there. Nearly all the slaves were either taken away or ran away. The army captured all the horses and cows, and only one able-bodied man, a slave, named Gabriel Johnson, was left on the place with a few superannuated contrabands. Gabriel was true to his trust, and worked the farm as best as he could—hiring help, selling grain, paying claims, and acting as general agent. There is now stand on the farm one hundred and fourteen acres of corn, of which Gabriel has sold one hundred acres, at ten dollars per acre, to be cut, measured, husked and carried off at the expense of the purchaser. Judge Frieze complimented Gabriel on his faithfulness, and promised to see him taken care of.

Romney, Va. This village, the scene of the late brilliant achievement of Gen. Kelley, in which he captured three cannon and a large number of prisoners, together with wagons and camp equipage, is situated in a bowl of mountains. There are rich fertile valleys running along their bases. The country surrounding is productive of the cereals. The town itself is one of the most thriving in that part of Virginia. Many of the inhabitants still long for a restoration of the old Union. It can be easily fortified and held. But its position, except as a point to guard the rear of an advancing column, is of little military importance. Winchester is the strategic point of that region. Col. Wallace's Indiana Zouaves, early in June last, while stationed at Cumberland, made a dash upon a party of Confederate troops stationed at this point, and took all their camp equipage and a large number of arms, routing them completely.

BIGAMISTS BY MISTAKE.—Two young married men, of Searsburg, Vermont, who left for California some years since, and returned home recently, found their wives married. They having heard nothing from their husbands since their departure applied to a young lady spiritualist, who was very exact in describing to them the death and burial of their husbands, the date of their funeral, and the disease of which they died. Their wives supposing this to be reliable, re-married, and there was a funny time when the long absent husbands returned.

John Brown, Jr.'s sharpshooters, numbering 66 men, passed through Chicago on Tuesday, on their way to Kansas.

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The Rebels Dividing their Forces. Positive information has been received, says a Herald despatch, that recent occurrences have occasioned a division of the rebel army on the Potomac. Reinforcements to a very large extent have been sent to Leesburg, with the expectation of a renewal of the attack on that point, and an immense force has been congregated at Norfolk, under the impression that the expedition fitting out in the Chesapeake Bay was intended to make a demonstration there. The centre of the rebel army rests at Centerville, and has been much weakened by the withdrawal of these forces on the right and left. General Johnston is the general commanding. Beauregard commands the forces opposite the city of Washington, and Gustavus W. Smith, late Street commissioner of New York city, commands the forces at Leesburg. It is stated that a rumor was current at Richmond a few days ago that an important advance movement of the whole rebel army was to be made before the 1st of November, but perhaps the fight at Bull's bluffs, and the sailing of the great naval expedition, has rendered a change of programme necessary.

Another Great Well. Another extraordinary vein of oil was tapped on Oil Creek last week. The oil was forced into the air a height of several feet, and the gas igniting from the engine house the well was soon in a blaze. While matters were in this state a spectator procured a barrel, which he cut in two, and one half of which he filled with combustible matter. Wrapping himself in wet blankets he rushed up to the blazing well, and setting the half-barrel over the pipe succeeded in driving a plug into the tube through which the oil flowed, thereby extinguishing the fire. He received 400 barrels of oil for his trouble, so that both the owners of the well and himself were handsome gainers by the operation.

Patriotic Letter from Garibaldi. The following patriotic letter written by Garibaldi, at Caprera, September 10th, to Mr. Quiggle, the United States Consul at Antwerp, settles the question with reference to the coming of the Italian Liberator to this country, at least for the present: "My Dear Sir—I saw Mr. Sanford and regret to be obliged to announce to you that I shall not be able to get to the United States at present. I do not doubt of the triumph of the cause of the Union, and that shortly. But if the war should unfortunately continue in your beautiful country, I shall overcome all obstacles which you detain me and hasten to the defense of a people who are so dear to me. Yours, GARIBALDI."

More Rebel Brutality. A gentleman at Hopkinsville, Kentucky, about three weeks ago was taken into the woods by the rebels, when they first took possession of that place, and there stripped and scourged with a raw hide until the blood flowed to the ground. He says he received at least one hundred lashes. A rope was then placed around his neck and he was actually hung to the limb of a tree which fortunately broke. At this critical moment some of the mob who were members of the order became aware that he was a Mason, and exerted themselves to save his life, and at last succeeded in placing him beyond the reach of these fiends in human shape. His wife and children are still there, exposed to their tender mercies.

The Absconding Secretary. Some excitement has been created by the rumor that the secrets of the Naval Expedition had been betrayed by the private secretary of Commodore Duyont, or some other person. The New York "Evening Post," in commenting upon this report, says: "Our own correspondent with the naval expedition mentions, incidentally, as a matter of small importance, that a master's mate on one of the ships, a crazy fellow, had suddenly disappeared, and it was feared he had, in moment of temporary aberration of mind, wandered beyond our lines, where he would be shot by the enemy." We suppose this is the ground of fact on which the "Tribune's" alarming rumor is founded.

The Rebel Routine at Romney. A correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial gives the following account of the clearing out of the Rebels by General Kelley, at Romney, Virginia: The hour appointed was twelve M. for the start. The 4th Ohio had left their camp at Pendleton, distance thirty-two miles, and were within six miles waiting to join us. About 500 of the 7th Virginia under command of Col. Kelley, a son of the General's Captains Dayton and Hagan's companies, also Virginia troops, were with us, together with the Ringgold Cavalry and McGhee's Virginia Lancers. The force, numbering about 2500, with the wagon train, soon after twelve P. M.—The General overtook them the next morning, when he took charge in person. When within seven miles of Romney, our advance guard were attacked by the unbrushed pickets.—Every step of the way was hotly contested, the Ringgold Cavalry under Capt. Keys, performing feats of valor, driving the enemy before them. Three companies of infantry were ordered to their support, rushing on the double-quick in the face of a hot fire from their heavy pieces of cannon. Shot and shell were literally raining around them. The enemy's fire was well directed, but invariably went over our heads.

In the face of heavy musketry and cannon, a gallant dash was made for the rebel battery, when their whole force gave way and took to the woods, making Flora Temple time, leaving us possessors of all their camp equipage, wagons, over a hundred horses, stores and ammunition, in all value fully twenty thousand dollars; and this discomfiture effected at a loss to us of only one man killed and five wounded. The loss occurred in the Virginia 7th. We now hold Romney, and purpose occupying it. Time and opportunity will suggest the next step. Meantime, the glorious success attending our arms at Romney, will give a blow to the rebel cause in that portion of Virginia which will tend very much to break up the crude and disorderly band which their leaders took pride in calling "Our Army at Romney." From their wounded prisoners in our hospital at Romney, we learn that their force was 1,700—nearly all cavalry. One of their Colonels, Mr. Armstrong, formerly a resident of this place, and a member of the late Wheeling Convention, was taken prisoner.

General Kelly's Column. This gallant Virginian has not only recovered from his severe wound, inflicted by the treachery of rebels, last summer, but is again actively at work in the field. His headquarters have alternated lately between Grafton and New Creek. He has had six regiments under his command, and these have been stretched in line from Cumberland (Maryland) to Grafton. Their principal business has been to guard the line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad between these points, and to keep the secessionists from making incursions into the valley of Virginia into the Western part of that State. By his movement upon Romney, the Secession forces in the valley of the Shenandoah are outflanked, and Winchester, only 25 miles from this point is seriously menaced. By this route Manassas can be completely turned, or a march made upon Richmond, through Staunton, without regard to Beauregard's army. It is doubtful however, whether Kelly has sufficient force to do more than maintain himself. If he has more than enough there will be a forward movement upon Winchester. The crossing of the river at Edwards' Ferry, by Stone's column, was evidently to be in concert with General Kelly's advance, from the Northwest, in the same general direction.

From Kansas. KANSAS CITY, October 20.—The Santa Fe mail furnishes the following additional particulars: About the 1st instant a company of New Mexican volunteers, under Capt. Mink, was attacked in the night at Alamosa, 35 miles below Fort Craig, by 110 Texan rebels and their horses stampeded. Capt. Mink proposed to surrender his company, but his men dissented, secured their horses, and retreated to Fort Craig; subsequently about 100 United States troops from Fort Craig pursued the rebels, overtook them, killed their Captain and ten men, wounded about thirty, and killed about thirty horses. The balance of Texans escaped to Mesilla. Another band of rebels who had been encamped on Arkansas river, were being pursued by a company of U. S. dragoons from Fort Wise and a company of New Mexico volunteers.

The Naval Expedition. As most all the vessels of the great maritime expedition are steamers, which can put out to sea when a storm breaks out upon the coast, there is not the same danger from shipwreck to them as to the sailing vessels that afloat time constituted the Spanish Armada and other expeditions that have been destroyed by the force of winds and waves. And though the armament of vessels is more formidable than of old, so also are the means of resistance of forts and other land batteries likewise augmented.

Our coasts being fortified only here and there, while bays and inlets abound where troops may be landed out of the range of batteries, a maritime expedition may operate much more advantageously than in Europe, where cannon frown in every direction.

Lord Wellington once said in Parliament that ships, however well commanded, or however gallant the seamen might be, were incapable of engaging successfully with stone walls.—Our experience during the present war confirms the truth of that view. But sea and land expeditions are another thing, yet they have not been

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