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PITTSBURGH:
WEDNESDAY MORNING, OCT. 30, 1861.

LATEST FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 27, 1861.

The Great Naval Expedition.

In every one of the Departments, and in the White House, the utmost astonishment and indignation is expressed at the publication in New York of the details of the great naval expedition. It will surprise no one to hear, that a newsboy was arrested this morning by our pickets, this side of Fairfax, with an unsold quantity of the New York *Times* of Saturday, which was going to market among the rebels.

The Chase After the Sumter.

Lieut. Porter, commanding the steamer Powhatan, which has been cruising in search of the Sumter, writes to the Navy Department, from Maranham, coast of Brazil, 24th of September, that he arrived there only five days after the Sumter left. For two days more, the pirate cruised at the mouth of the harbor, in hopes of falling in with the brig Maria, of New York, which she learned was hourly expected. The brig and the Powhatan entered the port in company. The Governor of Maranham treated the officers of the Sumter with great courtesy, did everything but return her salute; promised that she might sell the Maria there, if captured, supplied her with coal, and seemed anxious to do so, but did not care about granting the same privilege to the Powhatan. Lieutenant Porter entered a protest against such treatment of a privateer. In entering the harbor the Sumter got ashore and lost her false keel, and when she left, was leaking badly. She left under sail, having housed her smoke-stack. She left port with fifteen men in irons. She had taken no prizes since the Abbie Bradford, and it was understood at Maranham that hereafter her motto was, to "burn, sink and destroy," particularly Boston and eastern vessels. Captain Semmes told the Governor of Maranham that the South was fighting the battles of Brazil, while the North was fighting to exterminate slavery, and if she succeeded in conquering the South, would turn her hand to abolishing slavery in Brazil. A party of Americans there backed this statement, one of whom lent the Captain of the Sumter $3,000 to pay for coal, taking in return Confederate scrip. Lieut. Porter left Maranham on the 28th of September, and took the track of vessels from East India, Pacific and Brazil, until nearly abreast of St. Thomas, where he put in for coal on October 9, and where his last dispatch is dated.

The Mathias Point Battery a Myth.

The battery of eighteen guns, discovered a week since on Mathias Point, is a myth. It must have been field-pieces which fired upon the Freeborn and Island Belle. Lieut. A. D. Harrell, commanding the steamer Union, a few days since landed and thoroughly examined the place. He found neither guns, intrenchments, nor rebels. The woods were sufficiently cleared to enable field-guns to operate. The Assistant Secretary of the Navy, on his return from Hampton Roads, where he delivered sealed orders to the commander of the great naval expedition, passed without molestation by Mathias Point in the Baltimore.

The Blockade of the Potomac.

The rebel batteries between Shipping and Freestone Points are believed to command the river for a space of five miles. At Evansport is a new battery. The Assistant Secretary found the population of the section of Maryland through which he passed hostile, and the country very poor and wretched. The story that 500 rebels crossed to Maryland in the George Page is untrue. A few ventured over and celebrated their captures of oyster-boats at one Posey's mansion.

The rebel steamer *Page* has been obliged to take refuge in Occoquan Creek, and, from the rapidity with which our lines are reaching that point, there seems a fair probability of her inland communications being soon cut off. Gen. Heintzelman's pickets already extended below Pohick Church, and a glance at the map will show his proximity to the Occoquan.

Chincoteague Island.

Lieut. Alex. Murray, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, now in command of the United States gunboat, *Louisiana*, off Chincoteague Island, eastern shore of Virginia, has rendered efficient service in protecting the loyal population of that island from attacks of the rebels from the main land. They trust that the Government will not withdraw him. When he got aground upon the island they volunteered and rescued him from a most critical position. They watched and stood by him from Sunday morning, until Monday afternoon. Lieut. Murray has returned to them his warm thanks for their kindness and hospitality.

The *Louisiana* is a new steamer, built for J. & Stephen Finnigan, of Philadelphia, and was intended to run between New Orleans and one of the Texan ports. On two occasions Lieut. Murray displayed great gallantry and promptitude, and showed the fact that his ship was capable of performing efficient service; first, when he drove the iron-clad *Yorktown* back into the James river, and under the rebel guns; and next, when he was attacked from the main land at Wishes' Point, by three hundred men, and with two cutters containing twenty-four men, forced them to fly and leave a schooner which had been beached, and fired and destroyed her.

The Reported Escape of Mason and Slidell.

Three or four days before the false news that Mason and Slidell had sailed from Charleston for Europe in the Nashville, reached here, a letter from one Rebel in Richmond to another was intercepted, containing this passage:

"I have just bidden farewell to Slidell, who is about starting for Europe with Mason. They are going through Texas, and will sail from a Mexican port."

Recent intelligence leads to the conclusion that they went by this route.

Columbus Camp of Instruction.

The 16th Infantry, one of the new regiments, now some five companies, has been ordered from Chicago to Columbus, Ohio, where a camp of instruction will be formed.

Position of the Rebels.

The Rebels are fortifying Centreville. They have no force this side of Fairfax Court House, which our scouts prowl about at night without entering. They still have pickets. Our troops occupy Vienna, and our pickets are a mile beyond Anandale.

Gen. Stone's Orders to Col. Baker.

The following are exact copies of the orders from Gen. Stone to Col. Baker, which were found beneath the lining of the latter's hat by Capt. Young, his Aid, after the body had been taken from the field. Both are deeply stained with Col. Baker's blood, and one of the bullets, which went through his head, carried away a corner of the first:

H. Q. CORPS OF [Here the bullet struck and a word is missing] EDWARDS' FERRY, Oct 21, 1861.

Col. E. D. Baker, Com. of Brigade.

COLONEL: In case of heavy firing in front of Harrison's Island, you will advance the California Regiment of your brigade, or retire the regiments under Cols. Lee and Devens, now on the [almost rendered illegible by blood] Virginia side of the river, at your discretion—assuming command on arrival.

Very respectfully, Colonel, your mo. obt. servt., CHAS. P. STONE, Brig. Gen. Comdg.

The second order, which follows, was delivered on the battle-field by Col. Coggswell, who said to Col. Baker, in reply to a question what it meant, "All right, go ahead." Thereupon, Col. Baker put it in his hat without reading. An hour afterward he fell.

HEADQUARTERS CORPS OF OBSERVATION, EDWARDS' FERRY, Oct. 22—11:50.

E. D. BAKER, Commanding *Brigade*—COLONEL: I am informed that the force of the enemy is about 4,000, all told. If you can push them, you may do so as far as to have a strong position near Leesburg, if you can keep them before you, avoiding their batteries. If they pass Leesburg and take the Gum Springs Road, you will not follow far, but seize the first good position to cover that road.

Their design is to draw us on, if they are obliged to retreat, as far as to Goose Creek, where they can be reinforced from Manassas, and have a strong position.

Report frequently so that, when they are pushed, Gormer can come on their flank.

Yours respectfully, and truly,
CHARLES P. STONE,
Brigadier General Commanding.

The Victory at Romney.

Lieut. Gen. Scott to-day received the following dispatch, dated

"ROMNEY, Va., Oct 26—p. m.

"In obedience to your orders, I moved on this place at 12 o'clock last night, attacked the enemy at 3 o'clock this afternoon, and drove in their outposts, and after a brilliant action of two hours completely routed them, taking all their cannon and much of their camp equipage and many prisoners. Our loss is but trifling, but cannot say to what extent.

"Brig. Gen. B. F. KELLY, Commanding."

Gen. Kelly's Victory.

The instructions from Gen. Scott, in pursuance of which Gen. Kelly won his victory at Romney, were that he should move from Grafton down the Baltimore and Ohio road, driving off bridge burning marauders and guarding the road. After proceeding as far as Cumberland he diverged to Romney. Should Gen. Lander's wound prevent him from assuming command of the department of Harper's Ferry, constituted in a recent general order, which is now temporarily suspended, it is probable Gen. Kelly will take it.

Order in Relation to Contrabands.

The following order was sent out with the commanders of the forces accompanying the expedition:

WAR DEPARTMENT, Oct. 14, 1861.

Sir: In conducting military operations within States declared by the proclamation of the President to be in a state of insurrection, you will govern yourself, so far as persons held to service under the laws of such States are concerned, by the principles of the letters addressed by me to Major General Butler on the 30th of May and the 8th of August, copies of which are herewith furnished to you. As special directions, adapted to special circumstances, cannot be given, much must be referred to your own discretion, as Commanding General of the expedition. You will, however, in general, avail yourself of the services of any persons, whether fugitives from labor or not, who may offer them the National Government; you will employ such persons in such services as they may be fitted for, either as ordinary employees, or, if special circumstances seem to require it, in any other capacity, with such organization, in squads, companies, or otherwise, as you deem most beneficial to the service. This, however, not to mean a general arming of them for military service. You will assure all loyal masters that Congress will provide just compensation to them for the loss of the services of the persons so employed. It is believed that the course thus indicated will best secure the substantial rights of loyal masters, and the benefits to the United States of the services of all disposed to support the Government, while it avoids all interference with the social systems of local institutions of every State, beyond that which insurrection makes unavoidable, and which a restoration of peaceful relations to the Union, under the Constitution, will immediately remove. Respectfully,

SIMON CAMERON, Sec'y of War.

Brigadier General T. W. Sherman, commanding expedition to the Southern coast.

From Kentucky—Great Haul of Rebels Near Winchester.

The men, whose capture is described in the following article from the Lexington *Observer*, passed through Cincinnati, on Saturday, en route for Camp Chase:

Information was received at Winchester, Ky., on Thursday morning last, that a company of 45 or 50 men, finely mounted and fully armed, had passed through Bourbon into Clarke county, on their way to the rebel camp at Prestonburg. At a later hour, information was received that they had made their way to the farm of Mr. Benjamin F. Vanmeter, a Secessionist, and that they were then encamped there. Upon the reception of this intelligence, Capt. J. W. Craddock and Maj. Benj. F. Buckner set to work to raise a company of men to go out to Vanmeter's to capture them. They succeeded in raising twenty-four men, and left Winchester about 11 o'clock for Vanmeter's, which is about seven or eight miles from town. The farm on which Vanmeter resides comprises some two thousand acres, and it is said that it has been a favorite stopping place for many of the squads of Secessionists who have passed up to Prestonburg from the counties below. Shortly after their arrival upon the place, they came upon the men in a retired part of it, evidently resting after a hard night's ride. They were speedily advised, however, by the presence of Craddock's men, and immediately sprang to their arms, forming themselves in line of battle. Craddock at once dismounted his men, and, while they were forming, the secessionists broke ranks, and dodged over the brow of the hill on which they were standing. Shortly after, however, the Captain of the gang presented himself, and, throwing up his hand, invited a conference. Major Buckner advanced to meet him, joined immediately by Captain Craddock, who took from the secession Captain two pistols and a bowie knife, and he then surrendered and was passed to the rear of the company. The men then reappeared, and formed again in the line of battle, with their guns in hand and ready for action. They were told, however, that they had better surrender, and after a few minutes' consultation they concluded to do so. They were then ordered by Capt. Craddock to march forward, ten at a time, and lay down their arms, (a precaution which was rendered necessary by reason of the fact that they numbered *forty-two*, while his force was but *twenty-four*) which order was complied with, and they were thus disarmed.

Capt. Craddock and Major Buckner then took their horses, all their arms, of which they had forty-two muskets, and enough side arms to supply a hundred men, their baggage of every kind, and two negro men who were along with them. Thus disarmed, they were marched to Winchester.

We may add to the above narrative, that the rebels were induced to so easy a surrender by being informed that a body of 400 Union men were concealed in the woods near by. When they discovered the trick which had been played on them, their rage knew no bounds. Some of them formerly resided in Covington and its vicinity.

Secessionists in Louisville.

The Secessionists here are neither dead nor asleep, but hold their counsels darkly. One can discern a knot of them in conversation on the streets at the distance of a hundred yards. There is a crouching in their manner, a restless watchfulness, and a constant disposition to whisper to each other, which put the mark of Cain upon them. They would burn down the city if their own escape were sure. Some of them would not hesitate to burn their own offspring. It is thought they are holding secret meetings, which they attend in disguise. If one should be caught firing the city, it would go hard with him—he'd be compelled to *take the oath or give bonds!*—*Cor. Cin. Gazette.*

NEW DEPOT FOR PRISONERS OF WAR.—A depot for prisoners of war is to be established at Johnson's Island, Sandusky Bay, a short distance from Sandusky—17 buildings, to accommodate 1,000 prisoners, are to be erected at a cost less than $25,000, by December 10th. Lieut. Col. Hoffman, 8th Infantry, Commissary General of prisoners, who has been looking for a proper place, recommends this, and the recommendation is approved by the Quartermaster General and the Secretary of War.