# THE DAILY PITTSBURGH GAZETTE
## AND COMMERCIAL JOURNAL.

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Pittsburgh, April 1, 1862—ap2:6m

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SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 19.


## FACTS OF THE GREAT BATTLE.

GOV. YATES, OF ILLINOIS, VISITS THE FIELD.

On arriving at Pittsburgh yesterday morning, the first care of Gov. Yates and party was to examine the battle field. This required active exertion on horseback till about two o'clock. Meantime word had gone about the camps that all the wounded Illinois boys should be notified and placed upon the steamer in the afternoon. The facts narrated by the members of the party are full of thrilling interest. Most of the battle field is heavily wooded, and the trees on both sides are, in some parts of it, literally filled with musket balls—the side of the tree in which they are found at once indicating the source from whence they come. The under-brush appears literally mowed off about breast high, by some unheard of machinery that has gone crashing through with fearful power. The effects of the cannon shot are of course the most marked and terrible. Some awful fiend seemed bent on mutilating the grand old forest in every conceivable form. Every where all the elements of death and desolation seemed to have followed the battling hosts, and to have grappled in hateful strife for the mastery. No language can give even a faint idea of the fearful reality. One of the tents where Dickey's cavalry was encamped, showed two hundred and thirty bullet holes through it.

"In their opinion, they have won a great victory. They claim to have routed us from our camp, captured our guns, and taken 8,000 prisoners. The fight on Monday was simply defensive, as they claim they retired in good order from the field. Their camp, they state, is now at Pea Ridge, a few miles south of Pittsburgh, where they will make a grand stand."

Of course rebel testimony in such a matter is to be taken with many grains of allowance; but as it is supported by the complaints of every letter writer from the camp, whether he be a soldier or civilian, that part of it which relates to the disposition of the enemy before the attack, about which there is now no inducement to lie, may, we think, be received as a near approach to the truth.

SOME ONE BLUNDERED.

I propose now to allude to two circumstances which require very delicate handling, as the causes are not fully explained, and innocent parties may be censured.

All have, no doubt, asked the question how it was possible that, in the immediate vicinity of an enemy so powerful and wary, when such enormous issues were at stake, our army should have been surprised, that sixty thousand troops should have moved upon our advance so that they were upon us, and captured three regiments, as appears in many cases, before their guns were loaded?

"Some one had blundered."

One statement is that the captain of the picket guard of Gen. Prentiss' brigade was so drunk as to be totally unfit for duty. This may be only a report. Possibly the pickets were captured.

THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Another circumstance, which, whether owing to mismanagement of negligence, or want of material and men, is unutterably melancholy, was the want of medical attendance. I stumbled into a tent not fifty yards from the hospital, where lay one of the rebel wounded, a young man apparently not over eighteen years of age, who said he had received no attention for two days, except what the unskilled hands of kind hearted soldiers could administer. He said that he had been forced into the rebel service. This morning, when I tried to find him he was gone, whether to the boat or grave I know not. In another tent lay two of the dead. On the evening of the battle, directly in the pathway, lying in the mud with nothing but a blanket beneath him, and surrounded by curious lookers on, was a Confederate officer, groaning and apparently dying. Two or three hours afterwards the scene was being enacted. I related these circumstances to one of the surgeons, who told me that all was disorder and confusion; that there had been no organization or system. This, perhaps, was unavoidable, in view of a demand so sudden and tremendous. But would it not be humanity and economy of life, if our medical corps were doubled, in anticipation of such calls?

ANOTHER ACCOUNT—NEGLECT OF THE WOUNDED.

The horror of horrors connected with this battle, is the treatment of the wounded. In the first place there were poor facilities for treating them; and in the second place there were not a fifth enough surgeons to attend to them. I would gladly draw a veil over the horrors on this point, but duty to our gallant volunteers demands that the truth be told. A large number of the wounded had crawled or been carried to the bluff opposite the Landing, on Sunday and Monday. Some found the shelter of tents, but others lay out in the open air. *There those men lay, without a surgeon or attendant, without a mouthful to eat or drink, until Wednesday morning.*

They groaned and died with no one near to pity them, and the dead and the dying lay there together. On Wednesday morning one surgeon was sent to them, and one attendant with hard crackers and water! And that was their treatment until they either died or were conveyed to one of the boats which presently came to the relief of the wounded.

If spirits of the heroic dead could return to earth, the shades of the murdered wounded of the battle of Pittsburgh, should haunt the halls of Congress day and night. I say murdered, for with an efficient medical department, hundreds who are now dead or will die, would have been saved to their friends and their country.

At present, nearly a week after the battle, many of the wounded are not fully cared for. They are lying about in tents, upon straw, with no nourishment, and exposed to the weather. Several boat loads have been shipped away; but still many, very many, are here. I now write in the cabin of the Tycoon, with four rows of them in front of me.

Our boat, the first one of the Cincinnati Sanitary Commission, arrived at three o'clock. By eight o'clock her cabin, her guards and her decks, were filled with the wounded. How thankful the poor fellows were when laid on soft beds, between clean sheets, and stimulated by nourishing diet. They forgot their wounds, their pains and hurts, and laid down and sweetly slept.

BRAVERY OF OUR GENERALS.

If, in the main, the generalship of the battle cannot receive unqualified commendation, the gallantry of our Generals certainly can. Nobody, I suppose, has doubted Gen. Grant's courage at Belmont. At Pittsburgh Landing the proper discharges of the duties of Major General Commanding; did not call him so conspicuously into the great heat of the action, but he nevertheless displayed his usual recklessness of personal danger. At one time a bullet struck his sword scabbard. Gen. Buell's praise was in all mouths. He was perfectly cool, and wherever his duty called him along the lines he went.

Gen. Sherman did everything possible to rally his surprised regiments, and was compelled, in doing so, to be constantly passing through the enemy's line of fire. That he escaped with two light wounds seems almost unaccountable.

Gen. A. McDowell McCook's personal conduct on the field was all that his most earnest friends could desire. I have written nothing but the truth about Gen. McCook heretofore; I shall certainly write nothing but the truth about him now, when his conduct comes to deserve the highest commendation instead of censure.

Nobody needs be told about how Lew Wallace behaved. He has been tested too often for the country not to know what to expect of him now.

Gens. Rousseau and Tom. Crittenden have made themselves the idols of their commands. Nelson, too, is eulogized by his troops for his reckless daring.

McClernand, Hurlburt and W. H. L. Wallace were in the terrible exposure of the first day. The latter fell, mortally wounded, after having inspired his men to a brilliant resistance by his unshrinking coolness. The others were in almost equal danger for still another day, but wonderfully came through unhurt.

Certainly, if personal courage among the Generals could have averted them, the disasters of Sunday would never have befallen us. But there are higher qualifications for important commands in the army than courage alone.

## THE GREAT RIVER EXPEDITION.

### COMMODORE FOOTE'S PROGRESS.

### First Shots Exchanged.

From the following letter, it will be seen that the great river fleet is on its way down the Mississippi, and that it is driving the rebel gunboats before it, and that it is now probably before Fort Pillow:

SUNDAY, April 13.

"We found the fleet this morning at two o'clock lying anchored abreast of Needham's Island, and at the mouth of a cut off, on the Tennessee shore, fifty-nine miles below New Madrid. Needham's Island and cut off are usually designated simply as Needham's Cut Off. These "cut offs" are channels formed by the current in the circular bends of the river. The floods are constantly washing away the banks by which new channels are formed, and in this instance running some distance inland, communicating with the river again about a mile below. The whole fleet was lying upon the Tennessee shore, with the exception of the ammunition boat Great Western, which was anchored in the Arkansas shore opposite. The composition of the fleet was the same as at the Island, with the addition of the gunboat Cairo, which was ordered from above two or three days since, and is now making her first appearance in Mississippi waters.

At daylight this morning we discovered the first symptoms of the enemy by the black columns of smoke rising from the chimneys of their gunboats over the distant woods. The mere clearly to understand our position, I refer the reader to the map, especially that part from the upper "cut-off" to the First Chickasaw Bluff on which is located Fort Pillow, or as it is now called by the rebels, "Fort Wright."

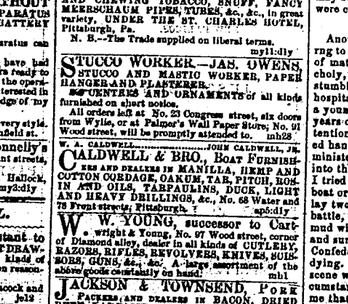
At three o'clock the Benton's tug Dauntless, Capt. Charley Leeds, who would follow the Benton into ten thousand batteries if necessary, made a night reconnoissance with a picked and well-armed crew up the Obin river. The Obion rises in West Tennessee, and flows south-west into the Mississippi just above the cut-off before alluded to. The tug went up several miles to ascertain whether any of the rebel gunboats were in the river. The reconnoissance, however, developed no valuable results. Several of the natives were found, most of them reiterating the old story of "devotion to the Union." One of them gave information of the locality of a barge and hay belonging to the Confederacy some miles further on, but there was no time for hay expeditions.

From the appearance of the smoke it was evident that the rebel boats were very rapid in their movements, and although when their smoke was first observed they were ten or twelve miles distant, still it seemed only a few minutes before they were behind Hale's Point, concealed from our view by the heavy timber.

The Flag Officer and the crews of the boats were in the very best of spirits. It has long been the desire of our officers to meet the rebel gunboats upon the Mississippi and test their vaunted superiority. The rebel newspapers have teemed with reports of the strength and formidable character of their gunboats, floating batteries, rams and whatnots in the shape of a flotilla. Common rumor has added its version, until we really expected to find behind that distant point a small fleet of Monitors, which would blow us out of existence, or annihilate us by running us down without firing a gun. Now the time had come, and the Flag Officer was quick to improve the occasion.

One of these useful couriers of the fire—a tug—was sent down the river reconnoitering, and reported three gunboats behind the point with another making rapidly up.

About eight o'clock the Benton displayed her signals and rounded out into the stream. At this time the scene was animated in the extreme. In the distance the mysterious enemy, his locality visible only by the tell-tale streamers of smoke; in the immediate foreground the gunboats, several in number, rounding out with the signals displayed in answer to the Benton, and taking their position; along the Tennessee shore the mortar, tows, and other boats were firing up in expectation of orders to move; and in the far distance up the river Gen. Pope's transports laden black with troops were rounding a point. At nine o'clock the anxiously looked for signal to drop down was displayed and the boats were immediately under way, in the following order of battle:




The Mound City went through the cut off, lest some rebel craft might be lying *yards* behind the timber, ready to come out in our rear and attack the transports. The Conestoga remained behind to protect the mortars and tows which had been directed to keep their positions until further orders. The Benton had the advance, the Carondolet being about two lengths behind to the left, the others following down at intervals at about a quarter of a mile. The rebel boats were soon in sight. They were lying bows up stream, two of them alongside, the third some distance to the left, evidently their flag ship. A fourth was rapidly coming up the river but not yet visible. When about two miles distant the Benton sent her compliments to the rebel flag ship in the shape of a shell from her bow rifles. The elevation was excellent and the shell exploded directly over her. The Carondolet followed suit, and the Benton sent another, the latter taking effect, but with what result is not known. Immediately after the last shot, the rebel flag ship returned fire, their shell exploding directly over the Benton, the fragments dashing into the water between her and the Carondolet. Again the Benton returned the fire, when it was evident that the rebel fleet was leaving. The fire became animated for a few minutes, the Cincinnati, which had come down in range, joining in. As the enemy's boats disappeared down the bend, they fired one more shot which struck the water a few feet in front of the Benton. All steam was crowded on our fleet, but the rebels could outsail us, and were soon out of sight around Plum Bend. A courier was then sent up, ordering the mortar boats down, and the fleet steamed along more leisurely, and rounded to in Plumb Bend, just below the little town of Osceola, the county seat of Mississippi county, Arkansas. The afternoon was spent in reconnoitering, and at four o'clock the boats moved to the Tennessee shore awaiting further orders.

We are lying in the Plum Point Bend, probably the most difficult place in the Mississippi to navigate. The channel here is constantly changing, and new bars are yearly thrown up in which immense amounts of drift collect and become imbedded, rendering navigation extremely difficult. The Arkansas shore makes a bold sweep here, running down to a narrow point, behind which is the first Chickasaw Bluff, six miles below us. A few cabins skirt the Tennessee shore, the inmates of which are regarding us with curious eyes, but we can learn nothing from them as the Commodore has strictly forbidden communication with the shore.

This ends the first day of the expedition, having for its attainment the capture of Fort Pillow. Prompt action is expected and decisive work is ahead.

## IMPORTANT FROM THE GULF.

### Ten Union Mortar Boats Pass Forts Jackson and St. Philip, on the Mississippi River--Condition of Affairs at Pensacola, &c.

KEY WEST, April 9, 1862.

The transport steamer Philadelphia, from Fort Pickens, arrived here this morning. The Philadelphia left Fort Pickens on Sunday night, the 6th inst., and brings important intelligence. By her we learn that General Arnold had received authentic information *that ten of the mortar vessels with three steamers, had successfully run the gauntlet of the forts on the Mississippi at night without a shot being fired at them.* This is great news, for if ten have gone by the balance will have no difficulty in doing the same thing. Farther than this regarding the operations on the Mississippi I am not at liberty to state at present.

Pensacola is not yet evacuated. The information is in all respects reliable. Mr. N. W. Wood, who has been living and doing business in Pensacola, and who made his escape from there on the 26th ult., tells me that there are yet at the fort about one thousand men, under the command of a Colonel Jones. Many of the guns have been buried, others spiked, and the heaviest and most valuable removed to the interior. He also says that both Forts McRae and Barrancas are undermined, and slow matches are ready to blow them up whenever we make the attack. From this account, everything in and about Pensacola, the Navy Yard and the forts, are on their last legs; they (the people and troops) are desperate, and appear determined to destroy everything rather than let it fall into the hands of the Yankees. The health of the garrison at Fort Pickens and on Santa Rosa island is excellent.

The Philadelphia has eight or ten deserters from the rebel army, all of whom confirm the representations of Mr. Wood.

[From the New Orleans Delta—no date given.]

The city was somewhat excited yesterday with rumors of fighting at Forts Jackson and St. Philip. We have ascertained that seven or eight of the enemy's fleet approached tantalizingly near the forts, and were fired upon from some of our guns, when they hastily retired. Of course this, and a similar approach on a previous occasion, were not designed for a serious attack. Their object was doubtless to reconnoitre the forts and test our metal.

## Pennsylvania Troops in the Battle at Pittsburgh Landing--Col. Stambaugh's 77th Pa. Regiment.

A letter just received from Dr. Irish, of this city, Surgeon of the 77th Regiment, Pa. Vol. (Col. Stambaugh), written upon the field of the recent engagement at Pittsburgh Landing, contains the following allusion to the part taken by that Regiment in the engagement:

"We were, I believe, the only regiment in the field from Pennsylvania. We have earned an inscription for the magnificent banner presented us by the Governor before leaving the "Smoky City." The Regiment were 30 miles distant from the scene of action when the battle commenced on Sunday morning. Our Division, (McCook's) throwing aside baggage and knapsacks, and leaving behind all their stores and provisions, marched with all speed to Savannah, a distance of 23 miles, "to (towards, not from,) the sound of the enemy's cannon, which place we were forwarded by transports to the battle-field the same night.

After waiting in the mud and rain until 7 o'clock next morning, our brigade went to the front in handsome style, and stuck to the rebels until the middle of the afternoon, when the day was decided in our favor. Our regiment (the 77th) formed part of McCook's reserve, and was exceedingly lucky throughout the day. Our Colonel, (Stambaugh) though under fire all that terrible day, escaped unharmed. His coolness, courage and skillful management deserve the highest praise. About the sharpest part of our work consisted in a struggle for a battery, taken from our forces by the enemy the day before. At this time the 77th came to the relief of the other three regiments of the brigade, who had been gallantly breasting a murderous storm of shot and shell, from the battery in question. The position of the brigade was now such, that the battery was accessible to the 77th only. Already, on this day, had this battery been retaken by our troops, and again lost. With cheers for old Pennsylvania, that rose high above the din and roar of battle, the 77th went at them, and into them, with the bayonet, killing men and horses, and *relock* and *kept* that battery until the day was over. It is now one of our trophies. Late in the day a body of those renowned Texan Rangers made a dashing charge at the 77th, but were so warmly received, and their saddles sorapidly emptied, that the charge was not repeated.

Among the prisoners taken by the 77th was Col. Battles, of the 20th Tennessee regiment, who delivered his sword to Col. Stambaugh on the field.

I could load a wagon with trophies and curiosities connected with the battle, but I have no means of sending them home.

Col. Stambaugh's regiment lost five killed, and twelve wounded. The 5th brigade, of McCook's division, to which it belonged, lost 50 killed, and 200 wounded.

## A Munificent Present from Com. Vanderbilt.

Com. Vanderbilt has made Mr. Lincoln a present of his steamer Vanderbilt, now lying at Hampton Roads; and has offered to sell his next best steamer to the Government, ironclad, at a price to be fixed by its own appriasers. In consideration of this generosity of Com. Vanderbilt, his willingness to carry the mails, and his contract with the Overland Mail Company to carry newspapers, the Conference Committee on the Post-office Appropriation bill struck out the section requiring ocean steamers to carry mails under penalties, and the bill was passed in this shape. The bill as passed appropriates $20,000 instead of $25,000 for carrying the mails between San Francisco and Crescent City.—*Special Cor. N. Y. Tribune*

## The New Iron-Clad Gunboat.

A description of the new iron-clad gunboat, the Galena, which was partly built at Mystic, Conn., and afterwards brought to this port to receive her engines and armament, and be prepared for sea, was published in the *Evening Post* recently. Some very important alterations in the plan of construction have since been made, by which her strength and power of resistance will be rendered much greater than was at first deemed practicable. The most important of these alterations are, first, the extention of the iron mail over the bow and stern of the boat, instead of using common plates, according to the original design; and second, the increase to three and a quarter inches in thickness of the mail on the upper wall or shot-proof covering of the fighting deck which protects the batteries. This covering slopes inward at an angle of about forty-five degrees, and the sheathing was to have been but two inches in thickness. The changes, it is believed, will effectually protect the gunners, and render the vessel absolutely impregnable to ordinary projectiles.

The object which it was designed to secure in the construction of this vessel has hitherto been deemed impossible of accomplishment, and the project was, therefore, like the building of the Monitor, an experiment. The novel proposition, and one that seems wholly inconsistent with itself, was made by a citizen of Boston—the well known naval architect, Samuel H. Pook. It was substantially as follows: That a vessel could be built, two hundred feet in length, thirty-six feet breadth of beam, and of one thousand tons burthen—the size and description of a war vessel of the ordinary construction, which would require a depth of water of about twelve feet—and yet that the boat should be strong enough to sustain a shot-proof covering, have a draft of water of but ten to twelve feet, and contain engines and machinery which would give her a speed of twelve knots per hour—in short, that she should be entirely seaworthy, as perfectly adapted to the purposes of cruising as the "wooden walls" in common use, and, in addition, be impenetrable.

To accomplish these objects a hull of peculiar model, designed to effect a greater displacement of water than is ordinarily secured, was built, and upon it four hundred tons of armor have been placed, with entirely successful results. Experiments have been made with the machinery, which justify the expectation that the speed of the vessel will be equal to what was originally anticipated—twelve miles per hour.

At a little distance the appearance of the Galena is smoothe and regular, her curved lines and rounded form, di