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COMMISSION, &c.

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I concur most heartily with the above. LEONARD H. EATON.
I cheerfully concur in the opinion expressed above. W. B. FREW.
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MONDAY MORNING, MAY 19,

The Battle of Williamsburg--Who Fought It?

A letter to the Philadelphia *Press*, from Gen. Frank Patterson's command, which was in the battle of Williamsburg, after giving an account of the fight which had been raging all day, says:

A battery of regular artillery, just as we were coming out of the woods, came very near causing a panic, by shamefully abandoning their guns and dashing away on their horses. The enemy immediately took the battery and used it, with terrible effect, on us. It was at this moment that our fates trembled in the balance. Should Sickles' men waver (and death and destruction raged rampant in their ranks,) our defeat and annihilation seemed inevitable. General Heintzelman, our corps commander, rode everywhere here, there and yonder, encouraging those that fell back to close up to the front. Gen. Hooker sat, cool and collected, watching the progress of the fight; when, at half past four, all seemed lost, he ordered up Smith's battery to the centre of the road, to fire on the rebels should any retreat be made. Just then the distant sound of bugles apprised us of reinforcements coming to our aid, and soon after General Kearney, (formerly of the First New Jersey Brigade,) now in command of Hamilton's division, rode up, and we saw we were saved. Tears of joy sprang to the eyes of every one, and, with one wild shout, those brave boys rushed into the field. The enemy fell back gradually, the firing ceased slowly, and, with their arms beside them, our tired soldiers sank down on the damp ground to rest. Other reinforcements came up during the night.

H. J. RAYMOND, Esq., in the last *Times*, gives an account of the battle, as follows:

The first of our troops that came up on Sunday morning were of Gen. Hooker's division. As they advanced by the James river road, and came to the opening they were met by a storm of balls and grape from the earthwork in front; and as the men were deployed in the woods and attempted to advance over the fallen timber, they were shot down by the rebel infantry close in front, concealed in their rifle pits or behind the trees. I heard one of the Excelsior Brigade say to a rebel prisoner in Williamsburg to-day: "We didn't give us a fair chance,—as fast as one of us tried to climb over the trees you had cut down, you popped us over," and this, I presume, describes pretty accurately the nature of the fight at the outset. Gen. Hooker ordered up a piece of artillery—but just as it left the woods and was coming out into the open ground, the wheels stuck fast in the deep clay mire, in which the horses vainly floundered in the effort to draw it out. The rebels had pushed their infantry into the woods on their right (our left,) and were pouring their deadly volleys into the ranks of our struggling troops,—so that they were compelled to retire. The horses of the battery were shot to prevent their aiding the rebels in hauling it out, and the gun was abandoned. Hooker's men struggled nobly against the terrible disadvantages under which they were fighting,—for the rebels, seeing the progress they were making, sent back for reinforcements, and, according to the best evidence to be had in Williamsburg, not less than 25,000 of their troops turned back from their retreat, with Gen. Joe Johnston at their head, to join in the fight. Hooker received no support, but fought desperately on—now pushing the enemy back and now being pushed back in turn. Meantime Gen. Peck's brigade came up on the York river road, and received the cross-fire of both batteries for some time with perfect steadiness, pushing forward into the open plain, but finally being checked and compelled to retire for lack of reinforcements.

It is not easy, of course, to fix the responsibility for this lack of support, as the Generals on the ground at the time by no means agree. Gen. Sumner was the senior officer present, and although none of his immediate command were with him, he assumed, as was probably his right, the supreme command. If there was fault anywhere, therefore, it was probably his; in this, however, I express the opinions of other officers with whom I have conversed, rather than venture any of my own. One thing seems to be concealed: Hooker was not properly supported, although there were troops within easy reach that had not been brought into action. Gov. Sprague, who was present, seeing that our men were at a disadvantage, and that they were likely to be repulsed, at 2 o'clock started back and rode in person to Gen. McClellan's headquarters, a distance of ten miles, to solicit his immediate presence on the field.

Gen. Hunter's Emancipation Order,

Has created quite a sensation. The papers approve or oppose, according to their leanings on the abstract question. The New York *World* is astonished, and seems unable to solve the puzzle, whether the President, Secretary STANTON, or General HUNTER is the author of the order. It says:

The general order of the commander of the military Department of the South, which we print this morning, is the most extraordinary document that has appeared since the beginning of the war. It is equally enigmatical whether we suppose it to have been, or not to have been, authorized by the President. General Hunter served in Missouri as the subordinate of General Fremont when the latter was in command of the Department of the West. General Hunter knows the history of Fromont's famous proclamation, in which emancipation was ingrafted on martial law, and the association publicly repudiated by the President. With this example fresh in his recollection, it is difficult to suppose Gen. Hunter would venture to take a longer stride in the same direction, on his own responsibility and subject to a similar mortifying reversal of his action by the President.

The New York *Tribune* says:

This order, we understand, is based upon explicit instructions to Gen. Hunter, to counteract any attempt of his traitor adversaries to use the negroes against him by the most obvious and efficient means. The instructions carried out by Gen. Sherman would of themselves have justified this step, but we believe there are others to the same purport, but more recent and explicit. * * * * *

At all events, this order is a great fact. It indicates progress. It points the way to unity and victory. Revolutions take no backward steps till their circle is accomplished. And this infernal rebellion, fomented and inaugurated in the interest of slavery, and designed to insure to that great wrong boundless aggrandizement, security and sway, is destined, in the Providence of God, to work its utter downfall and ruin.

The New York *Times* is shocked at HUNTER'S temerity. It says:

Gen. Hunter has been for some time releasing those slaves who could be proved to have been employed by their masters in aiding the rebellion. This was in conformity with the law of Congress. But this latest step of his sets at defiance all law and all common sense. It seems to be simply an attempt to "cut under," (as politicians phrase it,) both General Fremont and Gen. Phelps. It certainly goes a great way beyond either of these Generals in its attempt to take captive the abolition sentiment of the country. We do not believe that it will meet with any better success.

The *Herald* does not comment on the matter at all. It merely states the fact. We now await action at Washington.

From the Mississippi Flotilla--The Rebels Open a Bombardment on Our Fleet.

MISSISSIPPI FLOTILLA, OFF FORT PILLOW, *On Board steamer John H. Dickey, Tuesday, May 13.* Via Cairo, May 15, 1862.

Our mortar boats, one of which for the past three weeks has kept up a steady day bombardment on Fort Pillow, from beneath the protection afforded by Craighead Point, was yesterday morning withdrawn and silenced by order of Commander Davis, after firing one or two shells. The cause of this change was not apparent to outsiders, until dark last evening, when the rebels commenced shelling the place, either from their works at the fort, or from the Tennessee shore under them. They kept up their firing during the night, their shell bursting wide of the mark, firing generally two mortars in quick succession at intervals of about twenty minutes. We have just opened the ball for the day in the same style. They are provided with heavy mortars and shell equaling in weight of metal and efficiency those used by this fleet, and are rapidly gaining in their gunnery.

Our mortar has thus far remained silent, and I can see no outward signs of excitement or preparations among the Union gunboats. Every man is on the alert, awaiting an attack. Two of the rebel rams came within sight of our fleet on the eastern shore yesterday, instead of one. They offered no fight, and were not fired upon by the Benton, who lay nearest them.

Captain Winslow was dispatched from the fleet post haste, yesterday, by the mail steamer, for St. Louis, for the purpose of bringing our rams to this place as soon as possible. The Captain is an old and experienced navy officer, and was to have taken command of the gunboat St. Louis before the occurrence of the necessity for the speedy completion and transportation of the rams.

We cannot get them here too soon. Mr. Reynolds, the fourth mate of the Cincinnati, who was wounded in the abdomen during the engagement of Saturday, died yesterday at 11 a. m., having suffered terribly up to the moment of his decease.

11 A. M.—It is represented in the fleet that the bravado of the rebels in firing their mortars, is actually intended to cover their evacuation of the fort. It was their game at Yorktown and other places, and may be the case here. This is a mere rumor or supposing, and must be accepted as such. The probability is, the rebels feared the erection of batteries on our side of the point. The gunboat Louisville, which has of late been stationed at Hickman, arrived here a few moments since. She will adequately replace one of the disabled steamers, and once more renders our fleet nearly perfect as to numerical strength. Preparations are now being completed on all the gunboats now here, which it is the opinion of the ablest engineers will most effectually block the game, and render useless any rebel contrivance of the ram species. It is not necessary to explain the modus operandi employed, in the present dispatch. It may be done hereafter. The conclusion easily arrived at and strengthened by the movements actually going on, is that something is going to be done at no very distant day.

It appears that matters are moving again in the vicinity of Cape Girardeau under the efficient management of Colonel Daniels, of the First Wisconsin cavalry.

On the 9th inst., six squadrons of the regiment started for Bloomfield, and arrived there at five o'clock Saturday afternoon. Early on Sunday morning, they fell upon the rebel Col. Shelby's camp, scattering them in wild confusion to the forests and swamps. One rebel was killed and eleven were taken prisoners. A large quantity of horses, oxen, camp equipage and ammunition fell into our hands. Two Lieutenants were captured, and the camp effects and private property of the Colonel were taken possession of.

The enemy's force consisted of four hundred men. There are six hundred rebel troops at Chalk and Poplar Bluff, who are impressing every man in the country capable of bearing arms.

The country is being swept of horses, cattle and supplies, and sent Southward. Col. Daniels is after them with a sharp stick, and will doubtless cause them to hunt their holes in double-quick. The country is represented to be in a state of terror indescribable. The Colonel has sent for artillery, which will be speedily forwarded.

Gen. McClellan and the Politicians--Letter from Senator Wilson.

Senator Wilson has f