# THE DAILY PITTSBURGH GAZETTE
## AND COMMERCIAL JOURNAL.

ESTABLISHED IN 1786. PITTSBURGH, FRIDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 7, 1862. VOLUME LXXV---NO. 303.



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ja26:1yd

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JOHN FLOYD & CO., WHOLESALE PRODUCE AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS, No. 172 Wood and 229 Liberty street, Pittsburgh. ja16

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mh6

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FRIDAY MORNING, NOV. 7.


### Interesting Letter from the Advance---The Fight on Sunday---Splendid Practice of our Artillery---The Main Rebel Army Trying to Reach Gordonsville.

The army correspondent of the New York *Times* writes on the 3d inst., dating his letter "One mile from Union Town, Va., and twenty-six from the Potomac," and giving the following interesting account of the advance under Gen. Pleasanton:

Another Sunday fight, and another victory for the National army! All day, yesterday, the booming of artillery resounded through this picturesque and hitherto quiet region, and the clashing of arms indicated that loyalist and traitor had again met in conflict.

Saturday morning, about 9 o'clock, General McClellan's advance, comprising several regiments of cavalry and the Second Artillery Battery, all under command of Gen. Pleasanton, broke camp at Purcellville, and began the onward march. Our road lay through a most beautiful section of country. The road winds through picturesque forests, over hill and through dale, now over a pure and limpid brook which flows down from the mountain, now by some more picturesque stream which meanders through the meadow.

The famous "Snicker's Gap" at which the enemy are collected in large numbers, can be seen a short distance to the right. The little significant village of Snickersville is clustered around the base of the ridge, while the tortuous road, as it winds through the gap, is plainly visible. Still the scouts ahead report no enemy, and we press forward, reaching Philamont at 11½ o'clock. This is a small secesh village of some 150 inhabitants, situated on the Winchester and Alexandrite road, about five miles from Snicker's Gap. Just before entering the town we halted, while the skirmishers went forward, ascertaining that some fifty of the enemy's cavalry had been there this morning, but had suddenly disappeared. On entering, pickets were thrown out on all the roads leading from the village. The town was in a terrible state. On entering one house I found a girl seven years old with her head under the bed-clothes, while the mother was nursing a brother of full five years of age in order to keep him quiet. Lieut. Erin, of Gen. Pleasanton's Staff, who was appointed Provost Marshal of the village, immediately arrested all the male citizens of the place and assembled them in front of one of the stores preparatory to taking the oath. Twenty-six comprised the number, consisting of old men, middle-aged and youths. They answered as their names were called. "Don't like to take the oath of allegiance on Southern soil," responded the first one addressed---a fat, good-natured Methodist of the "Dr. Bond school." "What is the oath," inquired the Provost Marshal then proceeded to read the oath to them, remarking that those who took it would receive National protection. "I should think you were premature," spoke up one old man of full seventy years. "This is a hard thing on us," said a spruce-looking young farmer. "You will soon be gone, and the Confederates will come in and seize as if we take the oath," remarked a third, and said so they gave their excuses for failing to be loyal one after another. But they proved of no avail. The fact as their names were called off, the insignificant dash was affixed which meant contempt and confiscation of homes. "No, Sir," replied Richard Wilmot, in an insolent and defiant manner, which will undoubtedly cost him a few weeks of extra imprisonment. Not one subscribed to the oath. Two who had done so under Geary, were permitted to depart to their homes. The others were started off in a drove toward Berlin.

Soon after 12 o'clock three masked guns of the enemy opened on two squadrons of the Eighth Pennsylvania Cavalry, under command of Major Keenan, which had been thrown out on a picket in the direction of Union, three miles away. Gen. Pleasanton, who was at the right of the village, immediately hastened to the front, taking with him two pieces of the Horse Battery, of which there are only four in the service. The enemy continued firing, and advancing their artillery from one position to another until the gun suddenly opened very near to the village. "Can't we reach that," remarked one of his officers to Gen. Pleasanton. "Reach it! I now think it proper to explain to you how and where I did get it. Gen. Scott kept the original draft of the letter which he communicated to the President of the United States through the Secretary of State. That original draft he showed to me. When he handed it to me I asked permission to take a copy. I did take a copy through my clerk. After having made this copy I said to Gen. Scott, "this is one of the most extraordinary documents I ever saw. It is a monument of your sagacity and is creditable to your patriotism and intellect in all respects, and as you have never given me anything in your life, I would be much obliged if you would make me a present of this as an autograph"---and so he did, and here it is---[holding it up between his finger and thumb]---you perceive it is just as simple as possible; I intend to have it photographed by that remarkably skillful man, Mr. Brady. When that is done you will have an opportunity to get a copy of it. In the meantime I shall preserve it carefully in my family as a memento of kindness, a token of friendship.

### Vigor in the Naval Service.

Orders have been received at the Brooklyn Navy Yard to dispatch to sea, at once, three men of war, of which the Vanderbilt, as already reported, is one. The others are the U. S. steamer Dacotah, one of the vessels of the regular navy, and the ship Ino, a craft pretty heavily armed. Yesterday a crew of sailors and a guard of marines were sent on board the Vanderbilt. The Dacotah was rapidly finished and hauled out to the buoy, ready to depart. The Ino is already off the battery, has her powder on board and will soon sail, probably to-day. Other vessels, chiefly steam corvettes and gunboats, are preparing speedily elsewhere. A troop of marines was sent to Portsmouth on Saturday for a man-of-war ready there.

The destination of these vessels is supposed to be the ocean haunts of the Alabama, and for that reason we do not print particulars of them. The Dacotah and Vanderbilt will leave to-day, if possible. In a few days other ships at this station will be reported ready, so that it is quite likely the Alabama will soon be captured. It is also believed that five or six fast and well-armed gunboats have been, or are to be, detached from the South Atlantic and West India squadrons, to look after the "bold privateer."---*N. Y. Tribune.*

### The Harper's Ferry Investigation.

A Washington dispatch of Tuesday to the New York *Times* says:

The military commission yesterday closed the investigation of the Harper's Ferry surrender, and has presented a very full report, which it is expected Secretary Stanton will not long withhold from the country. This report, if our information be correct, seriously inculpates Maj. Gen. John E. Wool for the condition of Harper's Ferry, at the time of its investment by the enemy, and emphatically pronounces the opinion, sustained by evidence of the highest order, that Harper's Ferry both could and should have been relieved by a little more activity on the part of General McClellan.

### Gen. Negley and the Rebels.

Gen. Negley has a warm and busy time at Nashville with his ten thousand, surrounded as he is by guerrillas, and with no provisions but what he obtains by foraging. From a letter which appears in the Philadelphia *Press*, we take a few paragraphs:

THE NUMBER OF TROOPS IN THE CITY---HOW THEY SUBSIST.

There are about ten thousand troops in this city, and, as our supplies ran out about five weeks ago, foraging is absolutely necessary; and no matter how strict the commanding General and regimental officers may be, a large party seldom goes out without some pilfering episodes transpiring on the return. A few days ago a party stopped at the plantation of Mrs. Neil Brown, and, among other things which they "purloined," was a pet goat. Mrs. Neil Brown immediately repaired to headquarters, acquainted Gen. Negley with the fact, and demanded protection papers, after delivering a speech containing an undue amount of acerbity. After she had finished, the General remarked:

"Madame, I desire that you should fully understand me; that, while I deprecate the fact that some of the troops under my command occasionally behave in an unsoldierly manner, it is not that I possess the least particle of sympathy with those who suffer, but that it compromises the discipline of my troops, *and makes thieves of those who were gentlemen at home.*"

"But," said Mrs. Brown, "have you no respect for private property---will you not give me papers, to guard against being *robbed?*"

Mrs. Brown, you will probably think I am rather blunt. But I can assure you that no protection papers will be presented to those who have been guilty of aiding in the destruction of our country, and you know, yourself, that no one has contributed more towards it than your husband."

Mrs. Brown, a few minutes after, told one of her friends that General Negley was a perfect hyena.

A SHORT REPORT OF GEN. NEGLEY.

A few days ago General Harding, who has lately arrived from Mackinaw, called upon Negley for protection papers, saying that his beautiful farm and houses were almost destroyed, and that he desired protection from further injury, believing that he had paid the penalty for his folly. "You are mistaken, Mr. Harding," rejoined the General; "*the penalty for treason is death!*"

A SCENE WITH GEN. DUMONT.

One of these "Union" men once went to General Dumont to effect the release of a guerrilla whom the General had himself captured. Says the solicitor, "General, I've known the prisoner a long time, and, although he 'differs with you and I in *politics*,' he is certainly a reliable gentleman. You know, General, I am a Union man, and, if I did not know the prisoner personally, I would not compromise myself by endeavoring to effect his release." Yes," says the old General, gruffly, "---I is paved with such Union men as you are! You expect the rebels back here after the battle at Corinth, and you expect your friend to be on hand in case you get in jail. I'm sick of such *Union* men, and if I had a gun big enough I'd blow them all to the lower regions!"

### How John Van Buren Obtained Gen. Scott's Letter.

The newspapers have been wondering how John Van Buren obtained Gen. Scott's letter. John explained it himself at a meeting in New York, on Monday night, in the following manner:

In reference to Gen. Scott's letter, Mr. Van Buren said he would now state how he came into the possession of that letter. He should not have done so now, were it not for a singular circumstance. He had taken occasion in a speech at Brooklyn, a couple of weeks ago, to say that it was a secret, and that a lady was willing to keep it. One or two days after that (he continued) the lady of the President of the United States came to town, and although I had not had the pleasure of seeing her, I thought it a mere ordinary mark of respect to call upon the wife of the Chief Magistrate. The fact was stated in the New York *Herald*, whence almost all intelligence of the State before I was told by people soon finds its way. [Laughter and applause.] I had not got a hundred miles into the interior of the State before I was told by people they knew exactly where I had got a copy of this letter. Said I, "if so, my lady must have let out the secret." "Oh, no; he know all about it; you got it from Mrs. Lincoln." [Laughter.]

"But," said Mrs. Brown, "have you no respect for private property---will you not give me papers, to guard against being *robbed?*"

Mrs. Brown, you will probably think I am rather blunt. But I can assure you that no protection papers will be presented to those who have been guilty of aiding in the destruction of our country, and you know, yourself, that no one has contributed more towards it than your husband."

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