THE DAILY PITTSBURGH GAZETTE
AND COMMERCIAL JOURNAL.

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COMMISSION, &c.

SOLAR OIL WORKS COMPANY, OF PENNSYLVANIA. Office, St. Clair Street, near the Bridge. Buy and sell CARBON OILS on commission—cash [illegible] CRUDE OILS, of all descriptions, wanted. Address J. WEAVER, Jr., Secretary and Treasurer. myl6:6m

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Consignments respectfully solicited. ja26:dly

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WILLIAM BURNS, } Gen'l Part's. | DAVID M'CANDLESS,
HAS. A. COMPTS. } Special Partner.
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JOHN I. HOUSE & CO., WHOLESALE GROCERS AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS, corner of Smithfield and Water streets, Pittsburgh, Pa. jy2

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J. KIRKPATRICK.....R. E. BROWN.....WM. KIRKPATRICK.
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AND
COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
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Corner Second, PITTSBURGH, PA.
ja6:1yd

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HENRY LAMBERT.....JOHN SHIPTON.
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WATT & WILSON, WHOLESALE GROCERS, COMMISSION MERCHANTS, and dealers in Produce and Pittsburgh manufactures, No. 155 Liberty street, Pittsburgh. ap25

ISAIAH DICKEY & CO, WHOLESALE GROCERS, COMMISSION MERCHANTS, and dealers in PRODUCE, No. 69 Water street, and 65 Front street, Pittsburgh.

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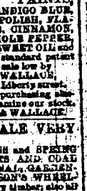
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jy16:1y

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By car load..... 40 cents per gallon.
Small lots..... 45 " " "
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THREE DAYS' FIGHTING.

A Brilliant Victory—Retreat of the Rebels.

We continue the same writer's narrative of the subsequent days' fighting, which in power of description, life-like presentation of the thrilling scenes of the battle-field, and sustained, attention-fixing interest, will be found fully equal to the account of the gigantic battle of Wednesday, already in the hands of our readers:

THE BATTLE ON THURSDAY.
FIELD BEFORE MURFREESBORO',
January 2, 1863.

In my last letter I left the contending hosts reposing on their arms after the great struggle of Wednesday, Dec. 31st. There was but little alarm after the battle, and comparatively little uneasiness; each army thinking, doubtless, that its opponent was too much exhausted to care about renewing the strife.

There were places that night, indeed, where sleep came not to steep the senses in gentle forgetfulness. The poor soldier, whom the bullets of the enemy had not yet reached, could gather a few leaves or sticks or cornstalks for a bed, clasp his faithful rifle in his arms, and with his blanket around him, if he were fortunate as to possess one, could sleep soundly, notwithstanding the bitter cold. He could build no fires, for that would reveal our position to the enemy; but so fatigued was he, that he could still slumber, although his frame shivered involuntarily in the wintry night atmosphere.

But the mangled hero lying on the field or in the hospital, knew no repose. Agony repelled oblivion; and to those who felt themselves maimed, crippled for life, the keen mental anguish must have been even more intolerable than physical pain. And there were the faithful surgeons, too, who knew no rest from their dreadful labors, and toiled on all through the long weary night.

On Thursday morning the sun rose in a sky without clouds; but along the eastern horizon was a broad zone of mist and fog, seen through which the great luminary looked red and bloody, as if in sympathy with the horrors of the battle-field.

It was just eight o'clock when the roar of cannon was heard with a terrible simultaneance unknown a few days before. A skirmish had begun between the pickets in front of Palmer's lines and those of the enemy. Our batteries immediately commenced shelling the woods from which the rebel fire proceeded. Two dozen pieces of the enemy's artillery opened in reply, and, having by this time accurately obtained the range of their own ground between the pike and railroad, upon which so many of our troops were massed, their guns were worked with greater effect than ever before.

Every form of shell, schrapnel, round shot, spherical case and chain shot, were hurled in most unpleasant profusion over the field. Our infantry, unable to take any part in this terrible duel, lay close upon the ground, the fiery missiles continually whirring and bursting over their heads, and tearing up the earth amongst them and around them. It was wonderful that so few were injured by this iron tempest; yet there was enough; a regiment all along the left and centre must have had one, or two, or six members killed or wounded. The 9th Indiana battery, Lieut. Estep commanding, was moved nearest the rebel lines and did great service in finally silencing the enemy's guns. When the firing ceased, however, several of its brave men were wounded, one third of the horses were disabled and some of the pieces were drawn off to the rear by hand. In all, we lost about a hundred men; but we had the satisfaction of hearing from rebel prisoners, who were taken that day, a statement that the fire from our batteries was exceedingly effective, and an acknowledgment that their artillery was decidedly inferior to our own. But, after all this success of ours, it is useless to deny that a general gloom and despondency was beginning to prevail in the army, among both officers and men.

The defeat of McCook had changed our line of battle upon the right. The scattered battalions of Johnson and Davis, as well as the somewhat less fatally broken regiments of Sheridan, were re-collected as well as possible, and ranged in line of battle no longer at right angles with the turnpike, and sweeping round toward the town; but almost parallel with the pike, and thrown back away in the direction of Stewart's creek. Our centre and left had also been somewhat withdrawn, to accord with this new arrangement of the right, and it seemed to many that we had everywhere been pushed back. The army was weakened by its long list of casualties, by over four thousand captured, and by more than that many stragglers who had shamefully deserted their comrades in the hour of their necessity, and skulked away from the field. The men tried to flatter themselves with tales of the arrival of reinforcements; but alas! the better informed all knew that the last available division was even now on the field, and that all the fresh men who could possibly be brought up, would, as far as numbers are concerned, amount to a mere handful. In point of fact, the reinforcements received during that day, consisted of only two brigades, Walker's, of Fry's division, and Starkweather's of Rousseau's. I knew that the latter, at least, could be depended on as against twice their number, but what, after all, was that?

The renewed efforts of the enemy early in the morning, to annoy the right wing, the impudent cavalry charge away around to our left the evening before, the heavy cannonades on the centre at eight o'clock, the continual reports that were brought in of rebel raids between Murfreesboro and Nashville, and the capture of our wagon trains in that direction, the occasional booming of cannon away off to the rear, the whizzing of bullets over the field from almost every point of the compass—all these things tended to produce a sinking of hearts amongst the soldiers, consequent upon the general impression they created that we were surrounded on all sides, by an enemy vastly superior in numbers, that our supplies were now grown very scanty, would soon cease altogether, and that starvation, rout, ruin and retreat, were actually staring us in the face.

When this fierce cannonade took place in the morning, it is useless to deny that a feeling of consternation and dismay took possession of many who are unused to fear; and the opinion had begun to gain ground that Gen. Rosecrans had given up the contest, and was drawing in his lines preparatory to falling back on Nashville.

What a New Year's morn was that! Yet there were undaunted souls there who maintained a steadfast cheerfulness even amidst the general gloom, who smiled whenever they met a well known comrade, and shouted "Happy New Year!" even amid the appalling thunders of the cannonade.

At the time the first guns were fired in the morning, I was myself in the rear where I had gone to visit one of the hospitals. It was about two miles back; and yet as the first echo of the cannon reached their ears, there were a number of pusillanimous rascals who turned their faces in an opposite direction from that whence the sound proceeded, and began to move away through the woods. I was astonished at the suddenness with which they came into sight. From behind rocks, trees, stumps, where I had not before suspected the presence of any one, they jumped up as the thunder of the artillery reached them, some with and some without guns, and walked off, deliberately abandoning their comrades who they knew were about to recommence a deadly struggle with the foes of the nation and of mankind. O it was a shameful sight! and for such recreant wretches no punishment can be too severe.

The artillery battle over, there was hardly a circumstance which, after the previous days' tremendous scenes, would be noted by any one; and this day passed like Tuesday, in a series of interminable skirmishes, with a constant, prolonged and most exhausting expectation of the instant renewal of the battle. Only once did the repeated and dropping discharges of musketry swell into a roar; and that was between one and two o'clock, when the enemy's pickets advanced upon the right, and opened up a brisk fire upon Johnson's and Davis' men. The latter, however, anxious for any opportunity to retrieve the reputation lost the day before, returned with interest the saucy saints of the rebels, and sent them back into their cedar thickets, minus a score or two of their number.

Late in the afternoon a body of rebel cavalry appeared on the summit of the slope, in the neighborhood of the brick house which was burned on Monday. It was a sight worth witnessing when Loomis turned a couple of his famous "Parrots" in that direction, and threw some shells at the mounted rascals. Had the Colonel carried them all the way in his hands and dropped them down, he could not apparently have deposited them more accurately in the exact spot he wanted them, than his long range cannon did. Their course through the air and their fall in the midst of the rebel squadrons, resembled nothing so much as the flight of a bird, trained to wing its way in a special direction, and light upon a particular spot. The stampede and dispersion of the rebels consequent upon this splendid artillery practice was witnessed with great satisfaction by a group of officers, and General Palmer highly complimented the Colonel and the battery upon the spot.

The events of the day were now over, and the army, (except the wounded) passed as uncomfortable and cheerless a night as that which preceded it.

THE BATTLE ON FRIDAY.
MURFREESBORO, January 4, 1863.

At precisely the same hour on Friday morning as on the day before, the thunder of artillery called all the troops to arms. This time it was the rebel batteries commenced the fight; but our artillerists were not slow in replying to them, and for about twenty minutes the roar of miles around resounded with a continual roar. Then the firing ceased, as if by mutual consent, and both parties hauled off to repair damages; although during the course of the affair a rebel gun was dismounted, and the battery to which it belonged, silenced.

The army felt in somewhat better spirits this morning, as it was evident from the events of the last twenty-four hours, that the rebel leaders were exceedingly diffident about renewing the battle, even with the advantage of the twenty-six guns which they captured from us on Wednesday. The news had also spread through the camp of Van Cleve's division having been sent across the river on evening before, and this convinced the men that they were not so completely surrounded as they had imagined.

There were three things, however, which still depressed their spirits—the actual scarcity of food, the prospect that communication with Nashville would be cut off entirely, and a lie which the rebels taken prisoners began to circulate, by instruction from their leaders, namely: that Bragg had received large reinforcements from Richmond. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, the tone of the army rose every hour, as the men marked the disinclination of the rebels to renew the struggle, and comprehended how completely the master mind of Rosecrans had all his forces under control. Re-awakened confidence began to beget fresh courage, and I felt sure that any engagement with the foe that day, would result in a signal triumph for our arms.

Hour after hour the enemy kept feeling around our lines, as if he were trying to discover a weak and unsupported place, upon which he might fall and break through. Much apprehension was felt lest he should again assail the right, and gain, what had so long seemed to be one of his objects, possession of the Murfreesboro' Road in our rear. Those, however, who knew the situation of Van Cleve's division upon the other side of the river, felt certain that while the rebel assault did come, it would fall upon the extreme left.

It was about four o'clock, when a fierce cannonade which had been going on for some time upon the left, was succeeded by a desperate fury of musketry; and the whole army at once comprehended that the battle was renewed in earnest.

The ground on the west side of the river is much more irregular than that upon the east. Toward the rear a moderately high bluff rises from the river. The level ground above was the scene of the rebel cavalry charge on Wednesday. Going toward the town you ascend a wooded hill, and find upon the other side a patch of low cleared ground. You cross this, and come to a part of the stream where the bank is eight or ten feet high. A narrow strip of ground upon which there are trees, but no underbrush, intervenes between the river and a rail fence. Upon the other side of the latter is a woods in its natural state; and for the distance of half a