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The Situation.

General Hooker has maneuvered the enemy into the position he desired he should occupy, out his communications, occupied his stronghold in the rear of Fredericksburg, and has him between the two wings of his army as in a vice. Lee can now elect whether to fight, starve or surrender. The Government (probably at General Hooker's suggestion) has rigidly interdicted the transmission of news by telegraph. This, although very trying upon the patience of the country, is doubtless wise and proper, so long as his masterly plans are not fully carried out.

Our special correspondent in Philadelphia has sent us an admirable narrative of the operations up to Sunday evening, made up from the voluminous correspondence of the N. Y. *Times* and other sources. The *Tribune* remarks:

We have assurances from three points that Gen. Stoneman has been successful in cutting the enemy's communications by rail with Richmond, and we see no reason to doubt the fact. If it will go far to dispel all uncertainty as to the success of the whole grand movement of Gen. Hooker. For it must be remembered that Lee depended on his supplies from Richmond on that line, and can receive them on no other. If it were possible to transport them on the Gordonsville road—if there were any means of doing it in any way—it can be of no avail, because Hooker holds that road at Chancellorville. But Gen. Lee has neither wagons nor horses enough to feed his army, nor can it be supposed that he had any considerable amount of supplies on hand near Fredericksburg. The commissariat of his army has been hard pressed to keep his men fed from Richmond. Nothing can have accumulated in camp. Among the rumors in Washington is one that a dispatch from Gen. Lee had been intercepted, in which he stated that he was surrounded and without supplies.

It follows, therefore, that Gen. Lee must fight or starve. Gen. Hooker, knowing the railway is cut, might wait at Chancellorville till famine forced Lee out of his trenchers in the hope to defeat the national forces and so recover his communications. Lee, however, did not wait till he was forced, but, like the brave commander he has shown himself to be, marched at once to Chancellorville, and flung himself against Hooker's lines. It is hardly to be doubted that his whole army was holding the Rappahannock line when Hooker crossed it, and had not, as yesterday, seemed possible, fallen back to the North Anna. In these circumstances, delay is all in Hooker's favor. He has been deemed an impetuous leader. Mark the consummate judgment and with which he halted after concentrating his forces south of the river, and awaited the attack which he knew his outgeneraled enemy was compelled to make. He need not hasten to assume the offensive. Let Lee dash against those veteran lines till he has worn out his own forces with the persistence and desperation of his effort. While on his side victory is necessary to the preservation—even to the existence of his army, Gen. Hooker has only part of his own. Not to be defeated is for him a victory.

Neither, therefore, in the news which we have received by mail, nor in the silence which the Government preserves, nor in the relative positions of the two forces, do we find reason for other than confident expectation of decisive success. It may be presumed there has been heavy work, the result of which we do not know; but we regard it as very probable that the general engagement may have been postponed, or that if a serious battle has taken place, the news is only withheld because Gen. Hooker did not choose, in the circumstances explained above, to convert a response of the enemy into an immediate rout. In common with the nation, whose pulses leap with expectation, we regret that it is deemed wise to suppress whatever truth is known, but we venture to expect authentic intelligence at an early hour from other sources than the telegraphic wires.

The more we know of the facts of this great movement the more confident we feel of a glorious and decisive result. The editor of the *Times*, we think, is fully justified in using the following strong language:

"The rebel army is now, therefore, between two columns, separated but by an interval of five miles, the one a hundred thousand strong, the other twenty thousand. It will be strange if, between the upper and the nether millstone, the accursed thing is not ground to atoms."

So accustomed had we become to bitter disappointment while the Army of the Potomac was under the command of Gen. McClellan, that we have learned to hope cautiously, and suppress any shout until we are completely "out of the woods."

Meade's Corps in the Battle.

The correspondent of the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, writing from Hooker's headquarters at Chancellorville, on Saturday, gives us the following account of the part taken by Meade's Corps in the engagement on that day:

"At the time of closing our letter of this morning, everything at the front was unusually quiet. Soon after eleven o'clock firing commenced, occasioned by the rebels again making a demonstration on our forces lying near the road, running near the woods south from Chancellorville, evidently with the intention of breaking through them.

It is of little consequence, however, the reason for this demonstration, for it failed of success. The gallant corps, under the able advance, but driving them clear into and beyond the woods, in which they had been massed, and through which they advanced, the troops under Meade, penetrating the thickest so far as to place the superb abattis, which had been one of their strongest defence, some distance in his rear, and driving the rebels back into their hastily-constructed rifle pits; all this work occupying scarcely half an hour.

Toward twelve o'clock we heard heavy cannonading up the plank road to the right, and, proceeding to the spot from which the report came, we found the Eleventh Corps well down in the woods, and drawn up in line of battle. On a plain on their right was stationed Turnbull's and Randolph's Batteries, while back of them, and in another patch of woods, was stationed Birney's Division, Third Corps, Sickles'; Berry's Division, of same corps, still farther to the right, and still supporting Stoeum, while Whipple's Division, of same corps, were back on the left, supporting Meade.

REBEL TRAIN SHELLED.

The battery making the noise which attracted our attention in this direction was that of Turnbull's, who was busily employed in endeavoring to impede a rebel transportation train, which was discovered on a hill some two miles away, the train evidently trying to make "good time" in reaching some point near Gordonsville.

So admirably were these guns shotted, every shell striking in the midst of them, and so seriously impeding their movements as to compel them to not only give up the attempt of passing in that direction, but to actually set fire to and thus destroy their train and what it was loaded with.

MORE FIGHTING—GEN. BIRNEY'S COMMAND.

While this was going on, Gen. Birney, with his able staff, was scouring the woods to the left of the batteries, in order to discover the best way to send forward his infantry. Not long were they in obtaining the desired information, for presently was seen the brigade, under command of Gen. Hayman, making, at a double quick step, into the woods.

Then forming a line of battle and sending out the Twentieth Indiana as skirmishers, in this order they advanced through the thicket, until coming upon the enemy's pickets; these they charged upon and drove them back with but little resistance.

At this time was seen coming out of the woods a detachment of Colonel Berdan's sharp-shooters, headed by Captain Markle, of General Birney's staff, having in charge some thirty "rebs" belonging to the Twenty-third Georgia regiment, and two General Staff-Officers, all attached to General A. P. Hill's Division, which had been captured by these same sharp-shooters (Captain Markle directing them) some half an hour before; the capturing of them necessitating an incursion clean into the rebel lines.

Upon reaching a point some distance into the woods, a rebel battery was discovered, which had heretofore been silent. The position held by them was one of value to us, and harrassing while they held it. General Birney determined to drive them from it, and if possible, capture their pieces. In order so to do, he ordered up his remaining brigades, under Generals Graham and Ward. He placed them in position, supporting and acting in conjunction with Hayman.

The prompt manner in which this order was obeyed, and the unflinching bravery displayed by this entire command, when executing this important order, enabled them to secure the position desired. The rebels, however, succeeded in saving their battery.

The hearty cheers given when this exploit was concluded, were indeed cheering and inspiriting in the extreme.

During this time Whipple's Division, which had been during the past two days supporting General Meade, came up, and at once entered the woods and took up a position where they could with dispatch go to the support of those in the advance, while some three or four batteries were sent forward to do service. While this work was going on heavy musketry firing has been heard on the right, where the Twelfth Corps and Berry's Division are stationed, and on the left occasionally skirmishing firing has been in progress. Gen. Howard with his Eleventh Corps remaining quiet, keeping from going to the support of their friends a large force of the rebels.

The movement spoken of as being made on the right, where the Twelfth Corps is stationed, was but an effort on the part of the enemy to turn our right flank. In this, however, they were unsuccessful, for the reason that we are there in strong position, and have as fine a corps, the Twelfth, aided by as able a division, under Berry, as we have in our army, holding the same. By reviewing the above hastily written statement, it will be seen that at almost every part of our lines the rebels have made an effort to break through them, each time failing, so to do, and each time losing from a half to a mile of ground.

A review, too, of this letter, will show to all that in Gen. Hooker we have a commander capable of surmounting every difficulty, and capable of managing as well a mammoth army as he did a division.

At the present writing, six o'clock, a lull in the "tempest of war" is apparent, and we doubt much if any more fighting will be done until the morn.

The Pennsylvanians in the Second Fredericksburg Battle.

The New York *Herald* correspondent thus describes the assault on the key position of the rebels in the late battle at Fredericksburg:

Directly west, out of the town of Fredericksburg, runs a road that finally reaches Chancellorville. Just in the outskirts of the town, at much less than a mile from the main street, this road ascends a hill that, while it is sufficiently steep to render the ascent toilsome, is not so steep as to render any less effective the fire of artillery and musketry. This is Marye's Hill, (the name is pronounced Maree,) and at the summit of this hill is Marye's House. Near the hill a road leaves the Chancellorville road, runs towards the south across the front and right of the hill at its base. The latter road has a substantial stone wall on each side of it, and these roads, with a little assistance from the spade, had been converted into excellent breastworks.

About the centre of the first wall was a little house which made the position the stronger, and this was only the base of the hill. No artillery fire could touch those walls, for it was a sunken road, and, though the walls were four feet high in the road, in the fields their tops were level with the surface. Thus, as seen by our batteries, there were actually no walls there. Behind the second line of pits rises the hill, and around its whole crest runs a well constructed earthwork, in which there was one large howitzer. Both flanks of this hill were completely swept by the fire of works of the same character on either side.

THE APPROACHES.

To the left (our left) of this position was an open ploughed field, on the farther side of which were the stone walls. To the right was an open green plain, and here there were no pits at the foot of the hill, so the way was clear to the crest, though of course every inch of it was under fire. Worst of all, perhaps, was the central approach, which was the road. Though at its exit from the town, this road is covered by a few houses, it is fairly under fire all the way, and at the ascent of the hill it is a mere gulch, broken and stony and an awful place for men to be pushed in under a plunging fire of grape and canister, in addition to the musketry fire.

WHO STORMED THE HILL.

The right column was formed of the Sixty-first Pennsylvania regiment, Colonel Spear, and the Forty-third New York, Col. Baker. It was supported, as we have said, by two regiments in line, the First Long Island, Col. Nelson Cross, and the Eighty-second Pennsylvania, Major Basset. These two regiments were part of Shaler's brigade, and Shaler went with them.

The left column of attack was formed of the Seventh Massachusetts, Col. Johns, and the Thirty-sixth New York, Lieut. Colonel Welsh. This column was supported by two regiments in line of battle, and a cordon of skirmishers in the open field to the left. These skirmishers were the Forty-third New York. The regiments in line were the Sixth Maine and the Fifth Wisconsin. These two columns and their supports numbered in all about 3,000 men. They moved out of the town to the assault at about eleven a. m.

As soon as they came well into the enemy's field of fire the terrible fusilade began. Col. Spear, at the head of his regiment, was one of the first hit, and his fall affected his men so that they wavered and fell into confusion and disorder, and communicated it to the 43d behind them, and much of the ground already gained was lost. For this column so far it was a fair repulse. But at this critical juncture Col. Shaler, with magnificent gallantry, rallied the column, brought it up to the work and took it on up the hill.

Meantime in the left column matters were somewhat the same. The Colonel of the 7th Massachusetts was hit, and his regiment falteredalso, but was rallied handsomely by Col. Walsh, of the 36th New York, and with those glorious fellows it went on once more. The supports in the open plain drew the enemy's fire heavily; but they went on steadily from fire heavily; but they went on steadily from the first and went into work with the rest. Indeed, Col. Burnham, of the 6th Maine, claims that the colors of his regiment were first planted on the hill.

Many of the enemy's men were slain in their places in the pits where they stood till the last moment, and resisted even as our men came bayoneted over the walls.

Col. Spear, of the 61st Pa.; Major Basset, of the 82d Pa; Major Faxon, of the 36th N. Y.; Major Haycock, of the 6th Maine, with Captains Ballings, Young and Gray, of that regiment were killed in that assault. Colonel Johns, of the 7th Massachusetts, was wounded here.

By this success the place was ours; the enemy's line gave way precipitately; our men entered at several points at once, and we captured eight guns and from eight hundred to a thousand prisoners.

Part of the force that occupied Marye's Hill was Barstow's brigade, esteemed an excellent one in the rebel service, composed of the 13th, 17th, 18th and 21st Mississippi regiments.

Troops were brought from the different localities in which they had remained under cover, and formed at once. There were to be two columns of attack, supported as the nature of the ground required, the right column by two regiments in column; the left column by a line of battle and skirmishers; in the open field to the left (our left) of the position.

Our loss will probably reach a thousand in killed and wounded.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Gen. Hooker's Success Confirmed--Rumored Attack on our Troops at Fredericksburg--The Battle at Chancellorville--Secession Rumors in Washington--The Raid in West Virginia.

Mail Dispatches to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON, May 4th—10 p. m.

News received since this afternoon's letter only tends in the main to confirm the general impression that thus far success has crowned the operations of the army. The rumor has been in active circulation in the street that the rebels, under Gen. Early, had to-day attacked the small body of our troops in possession of Fredericksburg, and after a brisk contest had recaptured their intrenchments. Careful investigation, however, lead to the belief that thus far the statement is entirely unwarranted by any authentic news that has reached the capital.

The details of Saturday's fight at Chancellorville confirm the opinion already expressed, that on the whole it was a decided reverse. The story is that we lost from two to four thousand prisoners and twenty-six guns. Six of the latter were retaken the following morning.

In storming the entrenchments at Fredericksburg on Sunday our troops are said to have taken about 1,300 prisoners.

The evening boat from Aquia Creek has not yet arrived, and the secessionists are arguing that it is delayed for the purpose of concealing bad news. It is safe, however, not to credit it.

THE RAID IN WESTERN VIRGINIA.

The rebel raid in Western Virginia is not yet abandoned. Gen. Jones, who ravaged Morgantown last week and so seriously damaged the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, has made a junction with Imboden and Jackson at Beverly, and the guerrillas of that section are concentrating reinforcements and supplying them with fresh horses. Unless a force is sent speedily to Grafton, to concert with our troops now at Clarksburg, these three leaders will make a descent upon Parkersburg, and if not there checked by the Ohio militia, upon Wheeling. Both these points are now but feebly protected.

RUMORS AND FACTS.

It was reported yesterday, and is again afloat as a street rumor to-day, that General Hooker has demanded of General Lee an unconditional surrender, and that he is in a situation to enforce the demand. It is also said that General Stoneman *has accomplished all that he was sent to do*; in other words, that the line of communication between the rebel army and Richmond is in our possession. We have private advices that satisfy us these reports are well founded.

Indeed, as to the cutting off of the communications between Lee's army and Richmond by General Stoneman, there can no longer be a doubt, for the dispatches from Richmond to the rebel newspapers in the West, sent several days ago, and which we have had copied since in our own Western dispatches, state that on Friday the Fredericksburg train returned to Richmond, having only gone out as far as Gaines's station, where it stopped in consequence of Stoneman's forces having them in possession of the line.

Gen. Stoneman's first work, when he reached the railroad, would be, of course, to render it useless to the rebels, and he could destroy as much of it in a few hours as would require weeks to restore.

Absurd Speculations.

The New York *Herald's* Baltimore correspondent has been indulging in some absurd speculations regarding Gen. Lee's reserved forces—of the strength of the rebel works on the Mattapony—of "three Mobile corps of 70,000 men which he has been holding in hand until such time as Gen. Hooker should begin his march towards Richmond," all of which is extremely absurd. The writer then says:

"One important fact, however, came to light yesterday. It is that a large portion of the rebel army have suddenly appeared in the immediate rear of Gen. Hooker's army, thus cutting him off from Washington. If this contingency has not been provided for it certainly affords matter for very grave reflection."

As Hooker has got into the rear of Lee, and not Lee into the rear of Hooker, it is true enough that the rebel army is between Hooker and Washington, but it happens to be the very place where Hooker wishes it to be. That correspondent draws his inspiration from rebel sources.

Grierson's Expedition--His Operations--Reported Arrival at Baton Rouge.

A special dispatch, dated Memphis, April 2, via Cairo, April 4, to the Cincinnati *Gazette*, says:

The Jackson *Appeal*, of the 28th, admits that Grierson's raid is the most important of the war. Besides taking up the railroad he destroyed two bridges, each one hundred and fifty feet long, seven culverts, one cattle gap; he burned twenty locomotives; burned the depot and commissary buildings at Newton and down the telegraph poles and destroyed the wire for five miles, and captured two trains, on one of which he found a railroad agent and an ordnance officer, whom he paroled. He also paroled thirty-six soldiers in hospitals. It is reported that he got safely through to Baton Rouge.

The grapevine telegraph reports that Pemberton was suspicioned of selling out Vicksburg to Grant for $5,000,000, and the rebels had killed and cut him in pieces!

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