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Volume XX.

PITTSBURGH, FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 30, 1862.

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DAILY POST.

Gen. Banks' Army.

DETAILS OF THE RETREAT.

The Battles at Front Royal and Winchester.

SKILLFUL MANEUVERING OF OUR TROOPS.

BRUTALITY OF THE REBELS.

NARROW ESCAPE OF BANKS.

Full Account from the only correct source on the field.

From the World's Special Correspondent.

HAGERSTOWN, Md., May 25.

After the inglorious illness to which we were doomed by the withdrawal of so large a portion of this division to join other and more important corps of service, a rapid succession of events has transpired to chronicle which is an unwelcome and melancholy task, not, however, destitute of compensation in many signal instances of bravery and patriotic devotion.

Friday's Fight.

The first scene in this succession of unwelcome events was the slaughter and destruction of the noble army and brave officers of the Maryland First. They had been sent from Strasburg to Front Royal, a small village twelve miles distant, just beyond the Massanutten range, which commences its course just at this point, and upon the eastern bank of the Shenandoah, over which the large bridge of the Manassas Gap Railroad, which had now again for the third time been destroyed by the rebels.

Yesterday they were known to be in danger, and so much had our apprehension for them increased before night that the commanding officers were ordered to remain at their posts to await instructions, and at midnight word came to the different brigades that the "news from Front Royal" was very unfavorable, and orders were prepared to march immediately.

Colonel Kenley, the lamented officer of the Maryland First, received notice of the approach of the enemy only by the surprise and capture of some of his pickets. No intimation of their coming had been received, and he was, therefore, impossible to have supported him in season to have prevented the sad havoc which succeeded.

But he defended himself through the entire day with an ability and energy which speak loud praise for him to the hearts of all his loyal countrymen. With scarcely a thousand men in his command he was compelled to sustain himself against the three full brigades of General Ewell, who had abandoned his camp, fifty miles above in the valley, for the purpose of making this descent upon a regiment of loyal Marylanders.

The peculiar malignity which Southern hearts toward those whom they fancy should be of Southern sympathies in the border States was, I think, the peculiar cause of the unscrupulous disregard of the ordinary humanities of war which was exhibited during the attack. The peculiarities of the Southern mind to excite all the worst passions of a human being in them, I can scarcely credit, and the statements made to me by trustworthy men, and confirmed by many others of those who experienced the misdeeds, seem, in regard to the abandonment of all mercy and pity for a vanquished foe.

During the whole forenoon, and until 3 o'clock p. m., the Maryland First, in the most determined struggle between units of men, were moving on gradually and cautiously and Colonel Kenley's command, which he endeavored to manage as carefully as possible, saving them from injury, and retreating the advance until reinforcements should arrive, he had taken the appearance of a few of the enemy's cavalry, and fled in a miniature Bull Run.

The infantry were kept somewhat in the rear, until the General and his body guard had advanced to ascertain the position of the enemy, and he commanded by Major Vought, arrived from Strasburg, and reported immediately to Col. Kenley who ordered him at once to charge the enemy. The cavalry obeyed the order, charging upon them with great force, though greatly inferior in numbers.

But the power of the enemy's superior force soon beat them back, and the cavalry were again ordered to retreat from the charge, severely repulsed. The superiority of their numbers could not be, with the excellent bravery which was shown by the Iron-Heart Guard.

Two o'clock, Wm. H. Mape, commander of the pioneer corps, arrived and reported to Col. Kenley, who gave orders immediately that they should be stationed, and they continued to fight with the utmost gallantry, doing noble service, and holding in check successfully no less than six times their number.

Seeing the danger of their position the commander of the brigade gave the order to retreat, which they did in excellent order, and the bridge of the South branch of the Shenandoah.

Mape was then ordered to burn the bridge, which was accordingly fired by placing upon it piles of fence rails, but was not destroyed, for the rebels came on so closely and hotly that they were driven away, and did not succeed in the attempt.

They soon arrived at and crossed the bridge on the north branch of the Shenandoah, which they succeeded in firing and destroying, but not, however, in detaining the rebels, who cavalry and infantry, plunged in and forced it, and were soon upon the other side.

Soon we received the unwelcome news that the army had surrounded them, flanking them with their superior numbers both by railroad and by river.

Orders were, undisturbed, dashed upon them with vigor as to effect their escape, and they were driven from the coils the rebels, but not, however, being again surrounded, and so they beat on every side, behind superior numbers and fresh troops, and they were completely surrounded, together with their noble Colonel and other field officers.

The severity of the fighting beggars all attempts at description. Not a private soldier, not a single private, not a single man, but he fought with a desperation and determination that would have done credit to the most heroic warriors of any age.

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No man upon the field of battle ever managed his soldiers with more coolness, judgment and bravery than did Col. Kenley. His cry to his men was not "go!" but "come with me," and they did so, every man a lion.

When ordered to surrender, he shot the rebel and summoned to give up his sword broke the blade in halves, washed, wound, and placed in an ambulance, and afterwards I tell you it not on the testimony of one man, but on the testimony of many, was killed by a pistol shot fired at him as he lay wounded in the vehicle.

I have had some personal acquaintance with the lamented Colonel Kenley, and have admired those qualities which made him so excellent and honorable a soldier. He was a man of noble and noble disposition, thoughtful, kind, considerate, and actuated by nothing so much as by a faithful sense of duty.

He was a Baltimorean, and a lawyer of fine ability and esteemed by a large number of friends. His loss is deeply felt in the city, and his worth acknowledged by all.

The forces engaged upon our side comprised eight companies of the Maryland First, two companies of the Pennsylvania Guards, two companies of the Iron-Heart Guard, two pieces of artillery, Captain Knip's battery and Capt. Mape's Pioneer Corps of fifty-six men.

One gun, which was carried of the field and brought to within a few miles of Winchester, was abandoned to the rebels, and captured by the enemy before the following morning.

Saturday's Fighting.

One o'clock on Saturday morning I was awakened to make preparations for immediate retreat in the rear of the principal facts given above. The remnant saved from the battle at Front Royal had retreated upon the road which connects that place with Front Royal, and the enemy were known to be in close pursuit.

Their movement, too, seemed evidently intended to cut off our connection with Winchester, and we saw, naturally, before us the prospect of an enemy (Ewell) in our front, while Jackson, whom we had known to be behind us near Harrisonburg, seemed more than probably intending to push upon us in our rear, placing us between two fires, each double in strength, and a little command which remained to General Banks after the withdrawal of so large a portion of it to reinforce other less exposed divisions of the army.

We soon learned that the force of Ewell was on the road upon which we were retreating, and in front of us. But we moved on, and had proceeded three miles beyond Strasburg, had crossed Cedar Creek bridge, and ascended the hill beyond. A consternation seemed to have seized upon us, indicated by the return of soldiers, teamsters, and servants, frightened themselves and giving warning to others to look out for the shells which would immediately be bursting over our heads. There was for a moment a rush of men, mounted and dismounted, back upon the road, and the fields, as if they had already seen large numbers of the enemy.

Shouts were raised, and everything seemed to indicate immediate flight. The soldiers received the intelligence with a shout and with animated faces. Orders to halt, right face, and march, were immediately repeated all the way down to the other end. In a moment all were ordered to take off their knapsacks, and when we reached the stack, by the roadside, and guards were appointed over them. All were ordered forward at once, and the men, though ordered to march, moved almost at the speed of double-quick.

Presently Gen. Williams, who had not yet left Strasburg, arrived, and, taking with him his staff to the head of the column, and the soldiers raised a hearty cheer as he advanced to the front. Gen. Banks soon followed, and was greeted with similar manifestations of pleasure and confidence in the commander. We followed closely, and the road was filled with men, some broken down, others with the muskets cut suddenly away, and all deserted by their drivers, who had taken the appearance of a few of the enemy's cavalry, and fled in a miniature Bull Run.

The infantry were kept somewhat in the rear, until the General and his body guard had advanced to ascertain the position of the enemy, and he commanded by Major Vought, arrived from Strasburg, and reported immediately to Col. Kenley who ordered him at once to charge the enemy. The cavalry obeyed the order, charging upon them with great force, though greatly inferior in numbers.

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stamped, and horses galloping, loose joints, and the cavalry and infantry, and the baggage had started toward Winchester, to make a reconnaissance toward Woodstock, to see if anything could be learned of the anticipated attack in the rear, and they were over by the cavalry of the enemy and unable to return. More particulars in regard to this I will forward shortly.

Company A, however, of the Vermont Cavalry, were all lost, captured, or killed, except Captain Platt, his lieutenant, and half a dozen men, who made good their escape from the tolls of the enemy most creditably. Major Collins is among the captured, and Major Sawyer, whose horse fell under him, and injured his foot, made good his escape with no further injury.

The loss in the cavalry is impossible to estimate, as the route of our retreat, after wandering through the woods and forests they arrived in Winchester by midnight, and the remnant of them were on hand at 7 o'clock.

Sunday's Fighting.

After a long and anxious day's march, preceded by a half night's sleep, disturbed by uncertain rumors of the disaster of Colonel Kenley, I retired to rest in the town of Winchester, and dropped off into quiet slumbers, from which, by break of the following morning, the voices of cannon and the rattle of musketry, coming in through my open window, brought me suddenly to the consciousness that another day must be broken of my peaceful quietude, and I rose to find that the enemy had listened to the sounds and saw the smoke which rose from the hills, but three miles distant.

The people with whom I remained were gazing thither as upon an interesting spectacle, rejoicing that Jackson was again coming to free them from the Northern yoke.

During my breakfast I heard the tramping of horses upon the road, and the heavy rolling of the wheels of a wagon, and I listened to the sounds and saw the smoke which rose from the hills, but three miles distant.

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of the First Maine Cavalry, and two companies, A and C, of the Vermont. Lieutenant-Colonel Dougherty of Maine Cavalry, was there, and Major Collins, of Vermont Cavalry, also, inferior in command to the Lieutenant Colonel and to Gen. Hatch.

Many Union people came along with us, and among them, children and helpless babes, some on foot and some in wagons, were joining the procession through town on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Both towns, Williamsport and Hagerstown, are thronged with soldiers and refugees.

HAGERSTOWN, Md., May 25.

With fuller information I resume the story of our late disasters, and proceed to narrate, in fuller details and with more interest, the melancholy events of Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

The sudden desertion of the enemy's forces, though really surprise, was not so much altogether unexpected.

Ewell had been in the Shenandoah, at Elk Run, Jackson was known to be in the valley, upon a road communicating directly with our own position, and it was also near by, having but lately attacked the advance guard of General Fremont.

Situated as these forces were in relation to our position, it seemed more than likely to be soon to be assailed by them, weakly as they were, and we were accordingly on our guard, and we were accordingly on our guard, and we were accordingly on our guard.

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