

BATTLE OF WINCHESTER.

Bravery of Union Troops.

OUR LOSS HEAVY.

The Final Attack.

General Milroy, finding that the enemy were already on three sides of him, ordered the troops and artillery from the south east of the town within the line of earthworks encircling the main works, where the fight between our own and the rebel army was continued until nightfall.

At night the following was the position of our forces:—The First brigade, under General Elliot, occupied the main fort; the Second, under Colonel Ely, the town and the space between there and the main fort; and the Third, under Colonel Reynolds, were posted in the Star fort.

Shortly after dark the enemy came charging across the gully between the Star fort and the main fort, yelling like a flock of wild geese, but they were met by a volley of rifle fire from the main fort, and a few minutes fighting was repulsed.

At one o'clock the rebel army, composed of the brigade commanders, and the works and retreat to Harper's Ferry.

The Evacuation of Winchester.

After the council had concluded to retreat, at about three o'clock on Monday morning, the troops were quickly put on the march, taking nothing with them except what they had upon their persons.

They marched out of the town on the Martinsburg road and marched on to the right of the road, until they were met by a strong force of infantry and artillery, which had been posted in the woods on the right of the road, and as the firing commenced the main body of our infantry charged down into the dense woods, in the direction where they expected the enemy to be, but instead of meeting a weak body of rebels, as they expected, they met a full division.

When our troops reached the enemy's position they were met by a terrible shower of bullets, and were forced to fall back.

Our Loss.

Our loss has indeed been terrible. Not a thing was saved except that which was worn or carried upon the backs of the troops.

Three entire batteries of field artillery and one battery of siege guns, and the artillery of the command, in fact, about two hundred and eighty men, and a half to three million bushels of wheat, together with vast quantities of provisions, arms, and military stores, all in the hands of the rebels.

The population of the town was about ten thousand souls, and the number of our soldiers, either civil or military, was about two thousand and forty thousand.

There used to be a way of finding out where an enemy was posted and what strength he had, but that is an art which very few commanders of Union troops in this part of the country seem to have studied.

The Cumberland Valley, whose Southern half is now being plundered by the Confederates, is one of the richest and best cultivated spots in America.

Its length from the Susquehanna to the Potomac is eighty miles, and its average width about twenty. Its political divisions are the two counties of Cumberland and Franklin in Pennsylvania, and the county of Washington in Maryland.

These two counties produce annually from one and a half to three million bushels of wheat, together with vast quantities of corn, oats, hay, potatoes, and all manner of agricultural products.

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Col. Thos. A. Scott.

Since the excitement at the beginning of the week, Colonel Thomas A. Scott, of the Pennsylvania Railroad, has been indefatigable in attending to the defence of the State, and he has spent nearly all his time here.

The following allusion to Col. Scott and the railroad seems to be just:

"When the war broke out the services of the Pennsylvania Railroad, with her immense resources, were placed under the exclusive control of the Government."

His energetic officer, Thomas A. Scott, the Vice President of the road, came in person to the State and National Capitals to render his aid, and he continued in that service until others were initiated by him to perform the duties.

When we see the capital of the State again in danger, who do we meet again at the head of the column? It is he, the Vice President, giving his sole attention to the preservation of our lives and our property. This is not the work of a soldier, but it is the work of a statesman.

The works and retreat to Harper's Ferry.

The Evacuation of Winchester.

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