

The Franklin Repository.

BY MCCLURE & STONER.

Franklin Repository.

PHILADELPHIA.

Movements of Gen. Lee.—He is still in Virginia in force—Probable Offensive Movement Against Virginia—Judge Woodward Sought to Silence Maj. Gen. Butler.—The Contest in the State.

Editorial Correspondence of The Repository.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 19, 1863.

The mysterious movements of Gen. Lee put all conjecture at fault; but I adhere to the conviction expressed in last week's Repository, that he will make an offensive movement before military operations are suspended by winter. It is now clear, notwithstanding the many concurrent reports to the contrary during the last week, that his army remains intact; that he has not divided it to reinforce either Beauregard or Bragg; and it needs little discernment now to understand that his retrograde movement, before Gen. Pleasonton, beyond the Rapidan, was but a feint to draw Meade as far away from Washington as possible with the purpose to give him battle. This strategy will prove a failure,

for the reason that Meade evidently does not

mean to offer battle beyond the Rappahannock, where his long and greatly exposed lines would materially reduce his fighting force.

The movement of Gen. Pleasonton will doubtless prove a mere reconnaissance in force to feel the position and power of the rebels; and when its mission shall have been fulfilled, the Army of the Potomac will be

found again on the defensive. It would be

a gross error for Meade to move against Richmond, for he would be met by equal if not

superior numbers in actual conflict. His

lines of communication would require an immense army to protect them, while Lee would

be shortening his lines, concentrating his forces, and would always have the advantage

of position in defending against an aggressive

campaign. We hope and believe, therefore,

that the Army of the Potomac will not be

moved against Richmond at present.

It is worthy of notice that all offensive

campaigns by the Army of the Potomac and the rebel Army of Virginia have been disastrous.

M'Dowell's gave us the first Bull Run;

M'Clellan's gave us the bloody failures of

the Peninsula; Burnside's gave us the

Fredericksburg slaughter; Hooker's gave us

discomfiture at Chancellorsville. On the

other hand, Gen. Lee's first aggressive move-

ment cost him the defeat of South Mountain

and Antietam, and his last gave him the

crowning disaster of the war at Gettysburg.

Are not these lessons worthy of study? We

have no imperative necessities to hurl our

army into doubtful enterprises. Richmond

is not necessary to the success of the Union

arms now. Charleston, East Tennessee, Mobile

and Texas are more inviting fields, and

promise the most substantial fruits to the

government with little peril to the Old Flag.

Let them be gathered into the folds of the

Union, as they can be now with little loss of

brave men, and Richmond will in due time

fall into our hands without a struggle.

Gen. Meade failing to move against Lee,

Gen. Lee must move against Meade this full

or retire from Virginia; and I do not look

for him to surrender Virginia until the last

hope of the now tottering rebellion is about

to die out. Foreign interference; the suc-

cess of the Democratic anti-war party, or a

successful movement against Baltimore and

Washington, are the last cards of the so-

called Confederacy. One or more of them

they must play successfully this autumn,

or the bloody drama of treason will cease to

shade the annals of common crime, save on

the crimsoned pages of our thrilling history.

Intervention has been paralyzed by the wa-

vering fortunes of the rebellion; Democratic

victories have faded from the hopes of the

most sanguine semi-traitors, as State after

State, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, has

declared in unqualified tones for the preser-

vation of the Republic, without cowardly

compromise to blush the noble living and

defame the memory of the heroic dead; and

the desperate, well nigh hopeless alternative

of striking a blow Northward only remains

for Lee. That he will do it, I do not doubt,

unless the dominions of treason are more ter-

rribly shattered than has been generally sup-

posed; and he will do it with the energy of

despair. It will be the last violent death-

struggle of this colossal, this suicidal perfidy.

Unless matchless imbecility shall govern our

army, we can be more than prepared to meet

this dying throes of the arch-fiend of murde-

rous desolation; and the decisive victory of

the war, with Peace and Union as its fruits,

must be won by the re-baptism of the noble

Army of the Potomac in its richest blood.

Maj. Gen. Butler is in the city now and

was apprised at the Continental last night.

He looks well, and his whole heart is in the

cause of his country. He spoke very briefly,

but with terrible pointedness against the foes

of the government and the army at home.

He will speak at different points in Pennsyl-

vania, and I feel reasonably confident that

Chambersburg will be one of his appoint-

ments.

I saw Judge Woodward on Thursday on

the train in charge of J. Glancy Jones and

others of like disloyalty. He had taken the

trouble to attend a Democratic meeting at

Lancaster on that day, to inform the people

that he would make no speeches in this con-

test. He might have done the same thing

nearer home, as Billy McMillen had a grand

mass meeting on that day, but the Judge

probably preferred to escape Billy's shadow,

with a force greatly outnumbering ours,

and he therefore went to Lancaster to prove

the wisdom of silence. Could he not have

said a word for his imperiled country? Could

he not at least have mingled his joy with the

loyal men of the North, because of the wave

of brilliant triumphs of the Union armies?

Ales! these victories come as mournful

sounds to Judge Woodward, for they tell the

death knell of his party at the coming election.

It is not a humiliating truth that a

great party in Pennsylvania, claiming the

votes of thousands of faithful people, could

be confident of success only over hopeless

disasters to our brave armies in the field.

Strange as it is, it is no less strange and hu-

miliating than true.

The State looks well. A few sections remain where earnest work is yet to be done; but it will be well and timely performed, and the State is safe. Gov. Curtin will be re-elected by a decided majority. A. K. M.

THE TENTH LEGION.

Gov. Curtin in Lehigh Valley—Immense Union Meetings—Leading Democrats Supporting him—The Humor of Lee Evacuating Virginia.

Editorial Correspondence of The Repository.

ALLENTOwn, Pa., Sept. 21, 1863.

Gov. Curtin reached Lehigh Valley on Saturday morning and was greeted with a degree of enthusiasm that struck terror in the hitherto confident Democratic ranks of this section. Lehigh gave over 1,900 Democratic majority last year, and Carbon gave over 700. This fall Lehigh will not give above 1,000 at the outside, and Carbon is warmly contested on the local tickets, and will not give 200 either way. I was surprised to see men actively participating in the Union meetings here who have been life-long Democrats. Judges Cool, Amen and Bowman, all of whom have been chosen Associate Judges of Carbon county by the Democrats, are now for the first time openly acting against the Democratic party; and Gen. Lilly and Hon. M. M. Dimmick, formerly Democratic C. C. from the Tenth Legion, have all repudiated Woodward and prefer maintaining the government to a party triumph. There are of course others, whose names are less familiar, who are earnestly co-operating with them, and they must make serious inroads into the Democratic calculations at the next election. In Lehigh there are a number also who now for the first time abandon the Democratic party to serve their country. At the immense Union gathering in this place last night, I noticed none more active or earnest than Hon. Jere. Shindel, late Democratic Senator from this district. He says that he sustained the Democratic party until it arrayed itself against the life of the Republic, and he can no longer follow its teachings.

Gov. Curtin addressed the largest meeting on Saturday at Catasauqua ever held in the Lehigh Valley by either party, and in the evening he spoke to a concourse of thousands in this place. Such earnestness in the cause I have never witnessed in any political contest, and daily the Union ranks are strengthened by patriotic men from the Democratic party. Rest assured that the Lehigh region will astound friend and foe, on the second Tuesday of October, by its immense vote for Gov. Curtin.

Yesterday the telegraph brought the startling rumor that the rebels are about to abandon Virginia entirely. I do not regard it as probable, but it is possible. If so, Lee is not strong enough to make an offensive movement Northward, and he cannot remain idle during the winter in Virginia. He could not subdue his troops with his communications cut as they are, and his army would be wasted by want and gloom before spring. He must move therefore, and if it be Southward, thus surrendering his capital and the entire border to the Union, the condition of things in the dominions of treason must be much worse than we have generally regarded them. If he has evacuated Virginia, whatever may be his immediate purpose, it transfers the war henceforth to the cotton States. He may move against Rosecrans, and may even gain a temporary triumph by compelling him to retire from East Tennessee; but it would bring no substantial advantage to his doomed cause. Virginia once surrendered is surrendered forever, and East Tennessee would soon be regained to the Old Flag, and the cotton States would then be the refuge of the bogus government, and the theatre of all future desolation in this war.

I would like to write something of the Lehigh Valley—of its beauty, fertility and almost boundless mineral wealth; but for the present I must defer it. A. K. M.

THE SOUTHERN COAST.

Changes in the Departments of North Carolina and Virginia—Conscripts Captured—The "Spirit and Times" add Negro Enlistments, &c.

Correspondence of the Franklin Repository.

NEWBERN, N. C., Sept. 7, 1863.

Since I last wrote, several changes of importance have taken place in this Department and its sub-districts. Major General Foster, commanding the Departments of Virginia and North Carolina, having of necessity transferred his headquarters to Fortress Monroe, Brig. Gen. Heckman assumed temporary command here until the arrival of Brig. Gen. Palmer. The latter has in turn been relieved by Maj. Gen. John F. Peck, who formerly commanded at Suffolk, Va. His gallant and successful resistance during the siege of that place by the Rebel Generals Longstreet and Hill, with a force greatly outnumbering ours,

will be remembered by your readers. Assisted by Gen. Palmer, who now commands the forces and defences of Newbern, and Gen. Heckman, in command of the district of Beaufort, Gen. Peck has now assumed the command of the loyal portion of the old North State. I mean all that portion upon which loyalty was inflicted by the untiring energy and stout fighting of Gens. Burnside and Foster, and their brave troops, in the spring of 1862. Under the influence of forty or fifty thousand Union soldiers, a reasonable amount of Yankee energy, and more stout fighting, the loyalty of the rest of the State might be speedily developed—but until these influences are brought to bear, very little can be expected.

The citizens who have escaped the yoke of the Davis government. They are encircled on all sides by the armies of the Confederacy, and though their grumblings and mutterings are at present tolerated, yet should they attempt an armed resistance to the demands of the Rebel Government, without the protection of United States soldiers, the State would be laid waste in a fortnight. I am reliably informed that 95,000 men have been taken from North Carolina since the opening of the war. Somewhat of a draft, that, for a small State. I earnestly hope, that when Gen. Gillmore's gentle persuasion has brought the people of Charleston to a proper appreciation of the error of their ways, the forces now engaged there may be brought to the relief of the sufferers here. It is absolutely necessary that Wilmington at least should be taken, for since the closing of Charleston harbor to the blockade-runners that port has become of inestimable importance to the Rebel cause.

Though the forces in this Department can be considered only as an army of occupation, we are by no means idle. Scarcely a week passes that our gentlemen in blue, do not capture numbers of gentlemen in grey, who from hard service and unwholesome food in the army of their master, look worse than the "gentlemen in black." A tolerably good plan to "keep out of the draft," was lately resorted to by a number of native North Carolinians, residing outside our lines.—Having received notice that they had been duly drafted into the Rebel service, and that they must report without delay, they notified the officer commanding our pickets of the fact, and intimated that they might be made prisoners of war without much difficulty. A small force was immediately sent out, and the conscripts soon became the willing captives of Uncle Sam. They are now guarded in a manner which will make it rather difficult for J. D. to get them in his clutches. I may here remark that the treatment of the Rebel prisoners confined here, affords a striking contrast to that which our poor boys receive in Libby. While the unruly members of our own army are shut up in a dirty looking jail, the rebels are guarded in a fine looking dwelling house, have free access to a pleasant yard, which is enclosed by a very low fence, are provided with rations of the same quality and quantity that our men receive, and are permitted to converse freely with any passer-by who feels disposed to waste his time in talking to them. The ladies (?) of the city supply them with all the delicacies of the season. No one, I am sure, would object to this kindness being shown them—if they appreciated it, and would go and do likewise by the Union men who are suffering and dying in Southern prisons.

Only "words that burn" would be all adequate to give you an idea of the weather here during the past two months. Protracted physical exertion is next to impossible. Even sleep is no longer balmy, and has lost its restorative power. The hospitals here and at Morehead city are filling up with feverish patients, and in the contraband camps they are especially favored with a few cases of small-pox. To make matters worse, mosquitoes in countless numbers give us rest. These pests draw blood through all sorts of clothing, and are certain to discover and profit by the most minute hole in a boot. You may imagine that the blessings which they call forth are generally of the inverted kind.

Several companies of the 23d Massachusetts, accompanied by a small cavalry force, went out on a scouting expedition on Tuesday last. They have returned, but I have not yet learned the result of their march. Imagine it to have been unimportant.

General Foster, and several members of his staff, arrived here yesterday from Fortress Monroe, and left in the afternoon for Roanoke. His movements bode no good to the enemy.

The 1st U. S. and 2nd N. C. (colored) regiment, passed through here last week, en route for Morehead City, where they embarked on the steamers John Rice and Maple Leaf, and left for some unknown point.</