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REBEL ATROCITIES.

The leaders of the rebellion, defeated at every point, have resolved in their desperation to exhaust inhumanity in their death-struggle. Never before in the history of civilized warfare, has such a record of brutality been made as has recently marked the career of the insurgents; and now they openly acknowledge it before the world, and plead in extenuation of it their purpose to compel the government to accept their theory of the war; their views of the status of soldiers, and their system for the exchange of prisoners. They now hold some 13,000 Union prisoners—many of them private citizens, arrested and imprisoned without even the pretence that they were spies, or on any other ground subject to capture and confinement by the rules of war. Yet they are crowded into loathsome prisons; subjected to the most barbarous treatment at the hands of low officials; fed, as a rule, on most unwholesome food and often insufficient in quantity; and denied almost every article essential to their comfort. Our military prisoners often fare worse, if possible, and the testimony from all sources is concurrent, that they are dying by hundreds from actual starvation, and from disease engendered by the habitual atrocities practiced in every conceivable shape upon them by the subordinate rebel officers.

Our government has exhausted its efforts to effect a just and equitable exchange of prisoners, but without success. It has generously offered to postpone the questions in dispute as to negro troops; officers of negro troops, and the alleged return to service, without authority, of the rebels captured at Vicksburg; and exchange man for man and officer for officer until one side or the other should be without prisoners; but this proposition has been declined by the rebel authorities. The last offer made by our government was to exchange 10,000 men, which would leave but few in rebel hands; but they rejected it, and they stand before the world to-day as holding thousands of prisoners of war—recognized by all civilized Nations as entitled to humane treatment—for no other reason, than to coerce our government into a partial recognition of the Southern Confederacy in order to rescue our brave soldiers from the horrors of rebel brutality. When the government proposed to send rations to our suffering heroes, the rebel officers quibble first upon one point and then upon another, and finally reject the needed provisions entirely; and when the benevolence of private individuals and christian and sanitary associations demands access to their deadly prisons, they dare not openly reject the proffered humanity, but they deny all agents admission to our prisoners, and manage by arbitrary official regulations to defeat measurably if not wholly the relief intended.

ARMY MOVEMENTS. The Army of the Potomac has again crossed the Rapidan, and now confronts Lee at Orange Court House. Unless Lee declines the proffered battle by retreating toward Richmond, another sanguinary struggle must take place very shortly between the two armies so often arrayed in deadly conflict. The rebel General has the advantage of interior lines; of a defensive position, and of a friendly population around him, while Meade has his only positive advantage in superior numbers. A very few days—it may be but a few hours—will determine.

Gen. Grant has delivered his expected blow upon Bragg with complete success, and the rebel army is now routed, demoralized and fleeing southward. Unlike most decisive battles, it has cost but little comparatively in men to the Union army, while it has shattered Bragg terribly, with the loss of his wounded, many prisoners, half his guns, and left him practically without an army. But for the necessity of affording prompt succor to Burnside, Grant would be in the heart of Georgia in a very short time, and he may push on with even part of his army with safety, while he rescues Burnside with the remainder.

Gen. Grant will, however, be extremely cautious about dividing his forces. Bragg has just paid the severest penalty by sending off Longstreet to assail Burnside. Thus weakened Grant, has well nigh destroyed him, and the victor will not imitate the follies of the vanquished. Longstreet and Bragg are now hopelessly isolated; and Bragg must defend Georgia alone, if it be defended at all. Longstreet is fully 140 miles from Bragg, with their communications interrupted, and Bragg still powerless to make a stand against the advance of Grant. We take it for granted, therefore, that Longstreet will strike for Virginia again to join Lee. He is on the Tennessee and Virginia Railroad, some 400 miles from Lee, and with but limited means of transportation on a road exhausted in material and motive power; but he has no other line of escape. What the issue has been of this investment of Knoxville we are not as yet

violation of their parole at Vicksburg, and their lives are thus forfeited.

—There is one chapter of rebel atrocity in this war that remains to be written, and we hazard little in saying that when it shall be truthfully portrayed, all other atrocities of the war will pale before it. We refer to their treatment of our negro troops. The rebel leaders have steadily refused to recognize negro troops or their officers as entitled to the treatment of prisoners of war. Various acts of assembly of the insurgent States; an act of the rebel Congress, and several proclamations of Jeff Davis, alike condemn them to the ignominious death of the felon; and it is feared that in many instances they have fulfilled their threatened vengeance. Notwithstanding their various laws and proclamations, they have not dared to fulfill them so far as to execute officers of negro troops; for they well know that such inhuman butchery could not escape our notice, and when once known, they are well convinced that retaliation would come in the name of Justice and take eye for eye and tooth for tooth with terrible certainty. But our government has no information, and can get none, of the negro soldiers captured by the rebels. Every effort has been made, officially and otherwise, to ascertain the fate of our negro troops captured, but as yet no evidence of their existence can be found. There have been some hundreds captured. At Milliken's Bend, where two negro regiments, by matchless heroism, saved Gen. Grant's lines of communication, a few were captured—principally wounded men; at Banks' unsuccessful assault on Port Hudson, where they won immortal honor by their bravery, many of their wounded and some not wounded fell into the enemy's hands; in Gen. Strong's fatal assault upon Battery Gregg, near Charleston, many of his wounded negro troops were taken, and in various skirmishes and battles in Louisiana and on the Gulf, negro soldiers have been made prisoners by the rebels; and since their capture our government has never heard of them!

Earnest and persistent inquiries have been made by our officers at every point; but all efforts have failed to elicit any information respecting them. The government is well convinced that they have been either brutally murdered, or what is equally revolting, sold into slavery. The fearful reckoning to come upon the rebels from this cause has doubtless made them resort to every possible pretext to prevent the exchange of prisoners; for the issue touching negro troops must be met as soon as a general exchange is effected, and they dread to face the government and the world on their own record of inhumanity. But they cannot long delay this terrible retribution. Our government is bound by every consideration of duty; by its plighted faith to its soldiers, regardless of color, to vindicate their rights and avenge their wrongs; and there is no alternative but to demand and take life for life until exact justice is measured out to the remorseless murderers, and humanity is taught them through their fears, since it cannot reach them through their conceptions of justice. To this fearful necessity our government is driven by the persistent atrocities of the leaders of this causeless, wicked war; and when the day of avenging justice comes, we may hope for some measure of humanity thenceforth on the part of the foes of the Republic.

It is folly to believe, as we are continually told, that the rebellion is almost crushed. It is revolting in the pride of its strength to-day, and pressing our armies back from all its borders.—Spirit.

Just so! For particulars inquire of one Braxton Bragg, now playing hide and seek—particularly hide—somewhere in the Tennessee mountains, minus some sixty odd guns and the major portion of his warriors of crime. If Bragg fails to respond, some information on the subject might be had of one Uncle Sam Grant, who has been cultivating the "olive branch" on the sterile slopes of Look-out Mountain and Missionary Ridge. Will the Spirit be truthful just once, and deal justly with our gallant armies, by informing its readers that more than half the territory, population and resources of the rebels have been wrested from them by our brave volunteers, and restored to the Union? We shall see.

CONGRESS will meet on Monday next, and as the friends of the Administration have a clear majority over all phases of muddling, mixed and positive opposition, the organization cannot be delayed. Hon. Schuyler Colfax, of Indiana, will probably be chosen Speaker, and Hon. Edward M. Pherson, of this district, is prominent for Clerk. The President's message will be delivered as soon as the House is organized. It is looked for with great anxiety and will be read with unusual care. The conceded candor and integrity of the President—appreciated alike by political friend and foe—invest his official papers with the highest degree of interest; and if, as is intimated, he will fore-shadow the probable policy to be adopted toward the States just rescued from Treason, his message will be the most important State paper ever issued in the history of the Republic.

We give in to-day's paper the oration delivered by Hon. Edward Everett at the dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg. When we say that it has greatly disappointed the Nation; that it is not worthy the great fame of its author, we but reflect the generally accepted judgment of the country. Scores of newspaper correspondents, unknown to fame, would give a more brilliant narrative of the sanguinary struggle of Gettysburg, and his occasional flashes of exquisite polish do not redeem the effort. Still, it is a most valuable production, alike for its classical eloquence and its historical record of the most decisive battle of the war; and as such will be widely read and take its justly high rank in the thrilling history of this causeless rebellion.

ONE of the most hopeful signs of the times may be observed in the uniformly patriotic and loyal tone of the American Pulpit on last Thanksgiving day. We have noticed reports of the sermons preached on that day in all our leading cities, and there was not one that did not breathe the purest, the loftiest christian fidelity to the government; and none that did not, with more or less positiveness, point to the colossal evil of Slavery as the cause of our National humiliation and sorrow. Thus has Christian Progress, tuned by the lessons of remorseless war, pointed at last to the National crime that has so long, in gory insolence, confronted Humanity and Heaven. Unusually must disloyal hearts have worshipped on Thursday last.

Gov. CURTIN has appointed Hon. Lawrence L. McGuffin, of Lawrence county, President Judge of the Lawrence, Butler and Beaver district, in place of Hon. Daniel Agnew, elected to the Supreme Court.

advised. We have no direct intelligence from Gen. Burnside since the 23d ult., when he expressed himself as perfectly secure against successful attack. It is barely possible that Longstreet could drive him out of Knoxville; but it is more probable that Longstreet would look to his own safety as soon as advised of Bragg's route and retreat into Georgia.

Urgent as is Grant's march into the heart of Georgia, we look for him to exhaust himself first of all to open communications with Burnside and render his position perfectly secure. This may involve a pitched battle with Longstreet, or it may be effected by compelling him to retreat into Virginia. Perilous as is the position of Gen. Burnside, we do not apprehend that he will be overcome. We hope to hear definitely before going to press.

The capture of Atlanta, Georgia, is doubtless the great aim of Gen. Grant; and but for the threatened danger to Burnside and East Tennessee he could now reach that point without serious resistance. He may be thus delayed for a little time; but he will move southward speedily and strike a most important point of the rebellion. Atlanta is the great manufacturing city of the South. Early in the war the rebels brought machinery and mechanics over from Europe and established there immense manufacturing of all kinds of munitions of war. Their main supplies of powder, caps, guns, &c., have been created there for two years past; and they could not be stricken in a more vital point than at Atlanta. In addition to this, the possession of that city cuts another great line of communication from Richmond to the Gulf, and threatens both Mobile and Charleston.

—Thus hopefully does the winter campaign open in the south-west. A most substantial victory and the highest promise of future success, is the first chapter in Grant's grand movement.

MAJ. WHITE, Senator from the Indiana district, was brought to City Point on the 25th ult. for exchange; but a despatch from Richmond was there received remanding him back to Libby Prison. If he were a Copperhead Senator, his exit from the rebel prison to take his seat in the Senate would not be long delayed.

GEN. JOHN MORGAN, the rebel guerilla chief, with six of his subordinate officers, escaped from the Cincinnati Penitentiary on Saturday last. The most culpable negligence or downright treason only can explain his escape, and the responsible party or parties should be punished with an un-sparing hand.

GEN. JOHN MORGAN has landed safely in Canada with Vallandigham. Par noble fratrum!

NATIONAL SECURITIES.

We have frequently in these columns urged upon the people of Franklin, the propriety of investing their surplus funds in the securities of the National Government; and we are glad to know that nearly if not quite a quarter of a million of these bonds are now held by the citizens of this county. The safety of this Republic is in the hands of the people. They make up its armies; sustain its credit; direct its rulers, and bring peace, security and prosperity to their own homes by their unflinching determination that treason shall not destroy the fair fabric of our Free Institutions.

Nobly have the people responded to the financial wants of the government, even in the darkest hours of gloom; and now that the ultimate restoration of the Union and the maintenance of our credit, is no longer a doubtful question, they will from their unexampled wealth, invest largely in our National securities. On this subject the North American justly says: "Though money has been temporarily scarce, capital continues abundant; and the recent tumble in the stock market has brought capitalists to a realizing sense of the unprofitable character of many of the securities dealt in. It is greatly to the credit of the government that its loans, of all the securities daily dealt in on the market, have maintained their integrity of price better than almost anything else. Its Five-Twenty year six per cent. loan, the interest on which is promptly paid in gold, has been subscribed to, all through the pressure in the money market, at an average of more than two millions per day. And what is not the least gratifying fact in connection with the daily large subscriptions to this popular loan, scarcely any of it is returned to the market for sale. It is taken for investment, and is held with unflinching confidence in its reliability. And why should it not be? It is seen that the government now, after two years of the most gigantic war that the world has ever known, experiences no difficulty in commanding the necessary means to prosecute it, or in paying regularly the interest in gold as it falls due. If this can be done when the war is waged, who can anticipate any difficulty in readily accomplishing it when the war shall be ended? What better investment then, for capital, than the "Five-Twenty" government loan? But if any doubt, let him refer to the statistics furnished by the census tables of the various nations of the world. The facts which they present will prove the most satisfactory mode of disposing of the numerous gloomy apprehensions which are being continually conjured up by those who are disposed to exaggerate the extent of the calamity occasioned by our rebellion. A reference to the state of the most prosperous nations of the old world clearly disproves such a position, and shows that the highest conditions of national advancement have not been materially affected by the extended wars in which those nations have been immemorably engaged, and that a heavy national indebtedness has not proved an unmitigated evil.

For instance, Great Britain, France and the Netherlands will undoubtedly be conceded to represent the highest prosperity that has been attained by any of the European nations. And yet no nations have been called upon to endure fiercer or more prolonged wars, domestic and foreign, than they. The effect has been, unquestionably, to incur an enormous national indebtedness; but neither their war nor their indebtedness have had the effect to destroy their general prosperity, check the progress of their general prosperity. The result would have been different, probably, if these nations had been falling into decay, instead of being, as they really were, in a state of development; and in this respect their case resembles our own, with enormous advantages in our favor. These nations, while undergoing the trials of war, were opposed by the evils of an immense exodus of their people, caused by the density of their population, the impossibility to provide occu-

While Gen. Meredith and Commissioner Old are diplomatising and writing sharp letters to each other about the exchange of prisoners, Gen. Grant cuts the Gordian knot by routing Bragg and capturing thousands of his army. He is the most efficient Commissioner of exchange the government can employ. Jeff will agree to trade shortly, and it will not be long until he estimates a white prisoner as equal in value to a negro. A progressive fellow that Grant!

GEN. GRANT captured Pemberton's army at Vicksburg and paroled the men. The rebels manifested their appreciation of the solemnity of a parole by putting the soldiers again into service without exchange, and they contributed largely to the defeat of Rosecrans at Chickamauga. Gen. Grant has rectified the matter by re-capturing the most of them again, and now he will most likely parole them again—when "this cruel war is over!"

HON. WM. M. FRANCIS, of Lawrence county, has been sent to Chattanooga by Governor Curtin to look after the sick and wounded Pennsylvanians in Grant's army, and Surgeon General King is now on his way to the same point. Agents of the State will also be sent to Morris Island, Key West, and North Carolina, to look after the welfare of Pennsylvania troops on the Southern coast.

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patation for them, the low price of labor, and the scarcity of territory. Compared with our own country, they possessed slight room for future development; they were settled in every part, and no vast territory lay invitingly open to encourage enterprise and settlement. Their great problem has ever been what to do with their surplus population, which, in its turn, has sought new fields for adventure and self-support in countries like our own, where an illimitable territory waits to be developed, and where incalculable resources invite industry and energy. The encouragement to be derived from these facts and comparisons of circumstances is very great, and to the mind of any dispassionate reasoner is conclusive that the course of this great country is onward and upward, and that its credit will live unimpaired to the end."

THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS

Mr. Whiting, the Solicitor of the War Department, in a recent letter explains the difficulties in the way of the exchange of prisoners. He says: "There are several serious difficulties in the way of continuing an exchange of prisoners. "One is the bad faith of the enemy in putting into active service many thousands of paroled prisoners, captured at Vicksburg and elsewhere, without releasing any of our soldiers held by them. But another difficulty of still graver importance is the peremptory refusal by the enemy to exchange colored soldiers and their white officers upon any terms whatever. It is well known that they have threatened to sell colored captured soldiers into slavery, and to hang their white officers. "The Government demands that all officers and men should be fairly exchanged, otherwise no more prisoners of war will be given up. The faith of the Government is pledged to these officers and troops that they shall be protected, and it cannot, and will not, abandon to the savage cruelties of slave-masters a single officer or soldier who has been called on to defend the flag of his country and thus exposed to the hazards of war. "It has been suggested that exchanges might go on until all except the colored troops and their white officers have been given up. But, if this were allowed, the rebels would not only be relieved of the burden of maintaining our troops, but they would get back their own men, retaining their power over the very persons whom we are solemnly bound to rescue, and upon whom they could then without fear of retaliation, carry into execution the inhuman cruelties they have so basely threatened. "The President has ordered that the stern law of retaliation shall without hesitation be enforced, to avenge the death of the first Union soldier, of whatever color, whom the enemy shall in cold blood destroy, or sell into slavery. All other questions between us may be postponed for future settlement, but the fair exchange of colored soldiers and of their white officers will be insisted on by the Government before another rebel soldier or officer will be exchanged. "The sufferings of our men in Richmond are the subject of deep regret and sympathy here, and there has been no want of effort to afford all possible relief."

Their persistent efforts compelled the enemy to mass heavily on his right, in order to hold the position of so much importance to him.

About three o'clock Gen. Grant started two columns, against the weakened centre, and in an hour's desperate fighting, succeeded in breaking the centre, and gaining possession of the ridge in which the enemy was posted.

The main force was driven northward toward Sherman, who opened on them; and they were forced to break and seek safety in a disordered flight down the western slope of the ridge and across the western slope of the Chickamauga.

The following have been received at headquarters: "CHATTANOOGA, Nov. 25.—7:15 p. m. "To Maj. Gen. Halleck.—Although the battle lasted from early dawn till dark this evening, I believe I am not premature in announcing a complete victory over Bragg. "Lookout Mountain Top, all the ridges in Chattanooga Valley, and Missionary Ridge entire, have been carried, and are now held by us. U. S. Grant, Maj. Gen."

"CHATTANOOGA, Nov. 25.—Midnight. "To Maj. Gen. Halleck, General-in-Chief.—The operations of to-day have been most successful than yesterday, having carried Missionary Ridge, from near Rosecrans to the Railroad Tunnel, with a comparatively small loss on our side, capturing about forty pieces of artillery, a large quantity of small arms, camp and garrison equipage, beside the arms in the hands of prisoners. "We captured two thousand prisoners, of whom two hundred were officers of all grades, from colonels down. "We will pursue the enemy in the morning. "The conduct of the officers and troops was everything that could be expected. "Missionary Ridge was carried simultaneously at six different points. "Geo. H. Thomas, Maj. Gen."

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26.—The reports from Chattanooga received at the War Department represent that three thousand prisoners were captured from the rebels yesterday, with fifty-two cannon, five thousand stand of small arms, and ten flags. "The rebel forces are utterly routed to-day, and in full retreat towards Dalton, Georgia, and firing the bridges after them to retard pursuit, and burning their depots and stores, and abandoning or destroying everything that would embarrass their flight. Our forces were pursuing them this morning. "CHATTANOOGA, Nov. 26.—Gen. Bragg's retreat from his position of last night is represented as a perfect rout. "Gen. Sheridan reached Chickamauga station at 4 o'clock this morning; he captured five hundred prisoners, four guns, and a number of pontoons. "The enemy attempted to burn the bridge behind him, and partially succeeded. The enemy also burned the depot and stores at Chickamauga. "Gen. Sherman crossed the Chickamauga this morning. Gen. Hooker was reported at Ringold at 5 o'clock this evening. "The desertions and captures from the rebel army are rapidly thinning it. "The number of cannon captured thus far is reported at fifty-two, including the celebrated Loomis battery which was lost by us at Chickamauga. Gen. Sherman's loss is much less than was estimated, and will probably not exceed five hundred. "Nearly six thousand prisoners have been reported as captured. "The son of Gen. Breckinridge, and Major Wilson, his chief of staff, were brought in among the prisoners. Gen. Breckinridge himself narrowly escaped. "A strong column is in pursuit of the enemy, and it is not impossible that another disastrous defeat will be inflicted on him. "L. T. H."

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27.—The following dispatch has been received at the headquarters of the army. "CHATTANOOGA, Nov. 27.—To Maj. Gen. Halleck, General-in-Chief: I am just in from the front. The route of the enemy is most complete. Abandoned wagons, caissons, and occasional pieces of artillery, are everywhere to be found. I think Bragg's loss will fully reach 60 pieces of artillery. A large number of prisoners have fallen into our hands. The pursuit will continue to Red Clay in the morning, for which place I shall start in a few hours. U. S. Grant, Maj. Gen."

CHATTANOOGA, Nov. 26.—This glorious army is already again on the march, in pursuit of the flying and panic-stricken enemy, though we are hardly yet in the faint gray of dawn. Yesterday's work was even more complete than that of the day before. Everywhere our admirable troops went ahead, often at the double quick. They captured boxes of the enemy in hundreds, if not in thousands. "The aggregate number of prisoners we took yesterday, it is believed, is much greater than our captures of men on the day before. "The enemy's army is certainly destroyed. Whenever we reach portions of it in arms, they instantly throw down the arms and scatter like frightened sheep, leaving all stragglers, beside their large number of disoriented who desire to be taken and their wounded, in our hands. "They also, in the same manner, abandoned artillery, ammunition and transportation wagons, caissons, knapsacks and everything that can possibly impede their flight. In this way sufficient more of their artillery fell into our hands to swell the number of pieces taken. "Up to 6 o'clock, before our troops stopped to rest for the night, their progress was everywhere lighted by the fires of their stores of all descriptions, to which they applied the torch to prevent them from falling into our hands. They also burned all the bridges they had time to fire before we were upon them, in the hope of thus delaying the impetuosity of the pursuit. "What is left of Bragg's boasted army is now but a panic-stricken mob, rushing like a herd of frightened buffaloes and apparently incapable of making any further resistance. BRAGG ATTEMPTED TO MAKE A STAND AT CHICKAMAUGA. "New York, Nov. 27.—A special dispatch from Washington to the Tribune says Gen. Bragg attempted to make a stand at Chickamauga Station, but was again forced back. The number of prisoners taken is at least 7,000. "No later information has been received from Burnside. "The letter of the Hon. John Minor Botts, published in a Richmond paper, has at length made its appearance North. It is a startling protest against the iniquity and tyranny of the rebellion. Mr. Botts defends his course of neutrality; declares his earnest feelings for the old Government, and is proud to avow that he invited Gen. Meade to dine with him, just as he also invited officers of the rebel army. He compares his imprisonment for eight weeks in a loathsome negro jail with the better treatment received by Vallandigham, who had put himself in violent opposition to the North, instead of remaining quiet and neutral.

GLORIOUS NEWS!!!

General Grant's Great Victory!

BRAGG'S ARMY TOTALLY ROUTED!

CAPTURE OF 10,000 PRISONERS!

Rebel Losses Very Heavy!

UNION LOSS COMPARATIVELY SMALL!

SERIES OF IMPETUOUS ASSAULTS!

THE ENEMY'S POSITION CARRIED BY STORM!

An Eventful Week's History!

60 GUNS CAPTURED!

SHERMAN'S DESPERATE STRUGGLE!

THE VICTORY COMPLETE!