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BY MCCLURE & STONER.

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HARRISBURG.

Correspondence of The Franklin Repository.

HARRISBURG, May 21, 1864.

Gov. Curtin returned from Washington on Wednesday last, after having spent ten days in ceaseless efforts to promote the comfort and minister to the necessities of our Pennsylvania wounded on the battle-field. He brings back cheering news of the spirit and confidence of the gallant Army of the Potomac, and has abiding faith in the early and decisive triumph of Gen. Grant over Lee, and the capture of the rebel capital. He was on the battle-field with Surgeon Gen. King, giving his personal attention to the removal of our wounded, and he reports them as now well cared for and as comfortable as it is possible to make them. The Christian and Sanitary Commissions have contributed beyond calculation, to ameliorate the condition of our suffering heroes. But for the personal efforts of Gov. Curtin and his prudent foresight in preparing for our sufferers in advance, and for the immense supplies of the Commissions named, hundreds of our noble heroes must have died from sheer neglect, as it was not in the power of the government to meet the sudden and heavy demand made upon our surgeons and hospitals. It is indeed a grateful reflection to the loyal people of the Nation to know that our wounded are suffering no needless pain or privation. All honor to our faithful Executive and to the ministers of mercy who go forth from the Christian and Sanitary Commissions, to solace those who are suffering that we might enjoy the blessings of free government.

Gov. Curtin has moved into the new Executive Mansion on the river bank. It is a beautiful and well finished house, and is a great improvement upon the old Mansion. The Harrisburg people contributed twenty thousand dollars toward the purchase of the new house, so that the change has not cost the State anything. The legislature was strongly inclined to move the capitol to Philadelphia, and the city authorities headed off the movement by procuring a new Executive Mansion, and an appropriation for the extension of the capitol buildings. But for the efforts of the people of this city, the removal bill would undoubtedly have passed. It is perhaps well that the matter was so arranged, for Harrisburg sadly needed a reminder that there was a limit to the forbearance of legislators and visitors in the matter of extortion.

The Union Convention of Dauphin county met last week and instructed the conferees chosen to elect Delegates to the Baltimore Convention favorable to the nomination of Gen. Cameron for Vice President. Both Curtin and Cameron have been suggested as candidates for Vice President, but Gov. Curtin has peremptorily refused to sanction the use of his name, and the *Telegraph* had a leader recently, bearing the air of authority, declining Gen. Cameron. Pennsylvania will therefore be spared the humiliating spectacle of factious squabbles at Baltimore. The occasion is too grave for personal aspirations to disturb the harmony of our councils and impair the availability of our National ticket. Some statesmen, known to us such as the people, like Gov. Johnston, of Tennessee, will doubtless be placed upon the ticket with Lincoln. Johnston was the first man to declare boldly for coercion in the United States Senate. When treason was running riot around him—when the leading perfidious traitors like Davis, Toombs, Mason, Sidel and others were holding their seats in the Senate solely for the purpose of paralyzing the government, so as to give them an easy triumph in their fiendish work, Gov. Johnston was the first man to throttle them and declare—"So help me God, I would meet treason with coercion—I would destroy the organized power of rebellion and hold its territory as dependencies until its people should become loyal!" And he has been faithful through all the mutations of the war. With such a man on the ticket, he would add strength even to Lincoln in many sections of the country.

The bill re-organizing the militia has been signed by the Governor and is now a law. It provides for a prompt enrollment of all the militia of the State, and for effective military organizations in every county. It is to be hoped that the people will respond to it with a zeal commensurate with the importance of the crisis. The Congressional Conference for the 15th district met at Bridgeport, opposite this place last week, and elected Hon. Thomas E. Cochran, of York, and Levi Kaufman, of Cumberland, delegates to the Baltimore Convention. A fierce opposition to the election of Mr. Cochran was made by some politicians of this place, but it was unavailing, as he was quite too strong in the confidence of the Union men of York county to be overthrown by trickery.

HORACE.

BELOW is a list of Pennsylvania Generals who have been killed in battle since the commencement of the war:

Gen. Reno, killed, South Mountain; Gen. Reynolds, killed, Gettysburg; Gen. Patterson, killed by the accidental discharge of his pistol; Gen. Bohlen, killed, Second Bull Run; Gen. Jackson, killed, Fredericksburg; Gen. Vincent, killed, Fredericksburg; Gen. Hays, killed, Wilderness.

The following Pennsylvania Generals have died from natural causes:

Gen. Smith, Gen. Keim, and Gen. Welch.

HENRY WARD BEECHER has written a letter to a distinguished Indiana politician, in which he says:

"In the present exigency, in view of Mr. Lincoln's past administration, the evidence has shown, the moral purity of the man, the great and just confidence which the people put in him, the danger which there would be, if he were set aside, of having it regarded as a popular rebuke of his policy, and the confidence that I feel that, through long learning—he has learned to govern, I am full and strong in my conviction that he should be our next President."

LATEST ARMY NEWS!

Fighting on Saturday and Sunday!

GRANT STEADILY ADVANCES!

Desperate Charge of the Rebels to Capture Trains!

THEY ARE REPULSED WITH GREAT LOSS!

REBEL GEN. STUART KILLED—JENKINS WOUNDED!

GEN. GRANT ADVANCES ON FRIDAY!

General Lee Falls Back Without a Battle!

Grant's Army Reinforced and Supplied!

Sherman on the Move Again!

GENERAL BUTLER FALLS BACK TO HIS ORIGINAL LINES!

GEN. AVERILL MAKES A SPLENDID RAID!

GEN. SIGEL DEFEATED AND SUPERCEDED BY GEN. HUNTER!

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

Fight of Saturday and Sunday—Narrow Escape of Gen. Meade from Capture.

WASHINGTON, May 16.

Despatches from the Army of the Potomac, received to-night, say it was intended to follow up the enemy early on Saturday morning, to their new position, and attack them vigorously, but the heavy rain for several days interfered much with the movement of the army, the roads being in the worst possible condition, and driving the artillery and the baggage train over some portions of them. Parts of the 5th and 6th Corps formed in position on the north of Spottsylvania Court House. The 2d Corps occupied the right of the new line on the Fredericksburg and Spottsylvania plank road, with Burnside on its left, the 5th Corps on the old stage road, and the 6th reaching half a mile further east. About 8 A. M. the regulars of the 6th Corps, about three hundred in number, were ordered across the Ny River to dislodge a regiment of Rebels who were in an entrenchment behind a house on their front, which they did in gallant style, killing and wounding some, and capturing about a dozen and driving the remainder to the woods.

Our guns in the centre opened and shelled the woods in front, but without eliciting any reply from the enemy, although they could be seen through a gashtroughing up intrincments. Their new position is deemed a strong one, but as soon as the army can get into position and bring the guns to bear on it, they will make them answer or evacuate.

The Rebels made a sudden and unexpected attack on Saturday afternoon on that position from which they had been dislodged in the morning, across the Ny River on our left, and succeeded in gaining possession of that point. Portions of the 1st and 2d Brigades of the 1st Division, 6th Corps, were placed there to hold it, but were attacked by three or four times their number and were compelled to fall back to this side of the stream, losing about a dozen wounded and nearly half their number captured. Gen. Meade had been visiting the line at that point just at the time of the occurrence, being at the house of Mr. Anderson, who has a very handsome residence there, and the Rebels had nearly reached the house before he was apprised of their approach. He, however, got away in safety, and troops were at once sent to meet and drive back the enemy.

A heavy artillery fire was opened on them from which they suffered much, as the shell were seen to explode in their midst. Our infantry finally drove them back across the river, and captured a number of prisoners. A Rebel major and other officers were taken during the day.

Late in the evening our guns on the right opened fire on a section of a battery in their front, which centered the infantry supporting, when the 1st Brigade of the 1st Division, 2d Corps, charged and captured two guns, with limbers, &c., and a squad of Rebels. Our loss was very light.

Operations of Tuesday—Strength of Our Army Increasing—Care of the Wounded—News from Sheridan's Deserved Promotion—Gen. Barlow's Achievement.

Special Dispatch to the N. Y. Tribune.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, May 17, 1864.

Little was done all day to-day beyond reconnoitering the enemy's position, resting our men, and getting up supplies and ammunition from the rear. Toward evening important changes were made in positions, and the general advance made on the supposition that our foes were pushing their retreat toward the Anna River.

A strong force was visible from headquarters with the naked eye, upon the crest of a high hill beyond Spottsylvania Court House but there was an evident endeavor on his part to exhibit his force, which of course could receive no other interpretation than that it was a strong rear guard established, thus conspicuous to her further retreat. An occasional shell commotion, but failing in every case to provoke a reply. But we grew in recuperated strength and numbers, with every hour's delay; while it is well known at headquarters that Lee must be weakened in loss of rations, exhaustion of his men and animals.

There is some expectation that an engagement may be brought on this P. M., but your correspondent is inclined to think the next considerable battle will be fought upon the banks of the Anna River, whither it is apparent both armies are now tending.

Our wounded are nearly or quite all sent to Fredericksburg and Washington. About 300 of these left at the Wilderness were also brought in yesterday. They had been robbed of everything by guerrillas and Mosby's men. The reports from the hospitals are exceeding-

ly encouraging. There are less fevers supervening, and as yet no hospital gangrene apparent and the general health of the men wonderfully good, in view of the fearful jolting they have endured in the long and tedious transportation. But for these helpless heroes, Gen. Grant would ere this formed a junction with Gen. Butler, and the gasping Rebellion more completely within our control.

To-night the glorious old Army of the Potomac rests undisturbed by the shot of a single skirmisher. The day has been unusually quiet and monotonous, but the very monotony is ominous of momentous events. To-night, while down the vigilant line bands are discoursing evening music, movements are transpiring in the rear, which speak of preparations for tomorrow a battle, which will, if possible, be more desperate and sanguinary than any of the recent conflicts.

Two days' rest has recuperated both men and animals, full supplies of commissary stores and ammunition have been received, and the confidence of the men in the ability of their commanders remains unimpaired. When it is announced that Hancock has been assigned an important part in the bloody drama of tomorrow, the people may count with a great degree of certainty the issue of the battle.

Important changes of position are to be made to-night, and the success of tomorrow's attack will depend upon a timely occupation of the lines already determined upon.

From Thursday morning until Saturday night at 11 o'clock the several corps were posted from right to left as follows: 5th, 6th, 2d and 9th.—Our extreme right rested across the road running north-east from Todd's tavern to Spottsylvania Court-House, while the left of Burnside's corps rested on the Spottsylvania and Fredericksburg pike, within a mile of the formertown.

Operations on Wednesday—Skirmishing Prospects of a Battle—Lee Obstinate.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, May 18, 11 P. M.

Since forwarding my first dispatch this morning, the desultory skirmishing, which commenced at daybreak, has grown into a very considerable battle. The enemy discovering our change of position last night, and taking advantage of the same, were found to have massed all their strength on our right, designing, no doubt, one more desperate assault to break our lines and get through to our supply trains.

This movement of the foe, of course, occasioned a re-occupation of our old positions of yesterday morning, and it was here upon our extreme right, and with the 2d and 6th Corps, that the struggle has been kept up with more or less severity up to noon to-day. Our troops were advanced to within very close range of their earthworks, when a murderous artillery fire was opened upon us, occasioning considerable loss; but our own guns were soon got into position, and, under cover of their fire, we charged and took their first line of rifle pits, capturing a considerable number of prisoners and several of their guns.

At the moment of this present writing there is a cessation of firing along the lines, and the indications are that there will be no more fighting before evening or to-morrow. It is estimated that the rebel loss is considerably greater than ours, notwithstanding the momentary advantage of their artillery range upon us.

The Vermont Heavy Artillery, just arrived, participated in this fight, and is highly commended. It is stated that the decisive battle is not unlikely to be fought right here, and that within a few days at furthest.

LATER.

WASHINGTON, May 19, Midnight.

A special Inquiry messenger has just arrived from the army with the following account of the battle of Wednesday:

HEADQUARTERS NINTH CORPS, BEVERLY SPOTTSYLVANIA COURT HOUSE, May 18—7 P. M.

To-day came very near witnessing a general engagement. The programme was for a general demonstration at daylight, and, if found practicable, without too great sacrifice, to cut the enemy's lines.

At five A. M. the First Brigade of Crittenden's Division, Gen. J. M. Ledlie, commanding, was advanced, and soon encountered an almost impenetrable abatis protecting a line of rifle pits, with its front protected by a cross fire from a battery on each flank.

The brigade stood up to the work manfully, and if orders had been given would have charged the rebel works. As, however, the demonstration seemed more for the purpose of ascertaining the exact situation and strength of the enemy, the orders were not given. The troops of Crittenden's Division were under fire some seven hours, and the general result upon the front of Ledlie's Brigade was its advance full a quarter of a mile.

The 2nd and 3d Divisions of the 9th Corps, Gen. Fulk and Potter upon the left and right of Crittenden, were advanced, and found the enemy in strong position.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, May 17, 1864.

The close of another day finds the Union and rebel armies in about the same relative positions which they have occupied for several days past. We had hopes this morning that it might be otherwise.

A heavy force had been concentrated during the night upon the right, and our line was considerably extended in that direction. It was hoped by an early assault, that the enemy's left might be broken, and his left flank turned, and success was more reasonably to be expected as the attack was to be made from a portion of the line supposed to have been abandoned by us on our movement toward the left.

Everything having been put in readiness during the night, the result was made at early dawn as intended. The 6th Corps, Gen. Wright, on the extreme right, the 2d Corps next, and further on to the left a portion of Gen. Burnside's Corps.

Early as the assault was commenced, the enemy was found to be perfectly wide awake, and fully prepared. Their advance line was readily pushed back, and our troops re-took the rifle pits captured in the assault of the 12th inst., without difficulty, but on advancing against the next line of entrenchments they soon found that they were to encounter earnest resistance.

The enemy opened fire upon us from a number of batteries, pouring into our ranks a destructive storm of canister. Their breastworks, extremely strong, and elaborate in themselves, were defended in front by a great depth of abatis, through which our men would have to tear their way, exposed all the time to a deadly fire from the rebels in their pits.

Such an attempt would have cost thousands of lives within a very few minutes, and the impracticability being perceived, our troops were at once withdrawn. There was but little musketry, and our chief loss was sustained from the fire of the enemies artillery.

The behavior of our troops, generally, was all that could be desired. Although this assault was not successful there is no discouragement whatever. Gen. Meade is observed to be peculiarly cheerful, and the feeling is quite general throughout the army.

It is confidently expected that Gen. Grant

and Meade have plans matured, and are making preparations for carrying them out, by which we can scarcely fail to be triumphant in a few days. It is no cause for impatience that we do not rush madly forward and waste our strength in storming powerful fortifications. There are other and cheaper ways of accomplishing it.

News from Grant to S. A. M. of Friday—The Enemy Attacked—Ture's Right Flank—They are Repulsed, and Give it Up—We Take 300 Prisoners—Our Loss 60 Killed and Missing, and 600 Wounded—Reinforcements for Meade.

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, Friday, May 20—9:30 P. M.

This afternoon we have dispatches dated at 5 1/2 this morning, from Gen. Grant.

Last evening an effort was made by Ewell's corps to turn our right. They were promptly repulsed by Birney's and Tyler's divisions, and some of Warren's troops that were on the entire right. About 300 prisoners fell into our hands, beside many killed and wounded. Our loss footed up a little over 900 wounded and 150 killed and missing.

Gen. Grant says that probably our killed and missing are overated.

Over 25,000 veteran reinforcements have been forwarded to Gen. Grant. The condition of the army and his contemplated operations are entirely satisfactory. The army is abundantly supplied.

Under instructions from this Department to Col. Schriver, commanding at Fredericksburg and its vicinity, nine persons are in custody who are suspected to have been engaged with Mayor Slaughter.

The Mayor had made his escape before intelligence of the outrage reached Fredericksburg. Dispatches from Gen. Sherman, dated at Kingston, 10 o'clock last night, state that during the day he had pushed a column beyond that place in pursuit of Johnston, as far as Cassville, and there was skirmishing in the latter part of the day with Hardee's corps. The cars were expected to reach Kingston to-day. A hard fight for Atlanta is looked for.

No reports have been received from Gen. Butler to-day.

Maj. Gen. Hunter has been placed in command of the Department of West Virginia, including the Shenandoah Valley.

Latest dates from Maj. Gen. Canby were at Vicksburg.

The Red River was reported to be blockaded by the shore batteries of the enemy at different points. But measures had been taken by him, which were believed to be adequate, for clearing the river of all such obstructions and to enable him to reach Alexandria, where he will take command of the army.

E. M. STANTON, Sec'y of War.

From Washington—Large Reinforcements Received by Grant—The Coming Draft.

WASHINGTON, May 18.

Maj. Gen. Canby, Philadelphia, 18th.—We have no report of operations since my last dispatch. The latest information from Gen. Grant was that the roads had been greatly improved. Large reinforcements had been received, and he designed to move against the enemy without delay. It is the design of the Government to keep up the National forces until the rebellion is overthrown; and in order to provide against any inopportune reduction when the service of the hundred-days' men go out, a draft to fill their places, and all other reductions, will be ordered to take place on the 1st of July, by which time the new enrollments will be completed. No order is yet issued.

E. M. STANTON, Sec'y of War.

Dispatch from Secretary Stanton.

WASHINGTON, May 21.

To Maj. Gen. Dix:—Dispatches from Gen. Sherman state that our forces found in Rome a good deal of provisions and seven iron-works and machine tools. We have secured the good bridges and an excellent ford across the Etowah. The cars are now arriving Kingston with stores, and two days would be given to replenish and fit up.

A dispatch just received from Gen. Banks, dated at Alexandria, the 8th of May, states that the dam will be completed tomorrow, May 9th, and the gunboats relieved. He would then move immediately for the Mississippi.

Gen. Canby was at the mouth of the Red river, on the 14th of May, collecting forces to assist Banks if necessary.

Dispatches from Gen. Butler, dated at 10 o'clock last night, report that he had been fighting all day, the enemy endeavoring to close in on our lines. We shall hold on. We have captured the rebel Gen. Walker, of the Texas troops.

E. M. STANTON, Sec'y of War.

Secretary Stanton to Gen. Dix—Grant's Flank Movement so far Successful—Advice from Gen. Canby and Sherman—Nothing from Butler.

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, May 22, 1864—10 P. M.

To Maj. Gen. Dix: On Friday evening Gen. Grant commenced a movement for the purpose of compelling Lee to abandon his position at Spottsylvania (the details of which for obvious reasons should not be made public). It has thus far progressed successfully. Longstreet's corps started south at 1 o'clock Friday night, an hour and a half after Hancock moved. Ewell's corps followed Longstreet last night. The indications are that the Rebel army has fallen back beyond the North Anna.

Hoke's brigade has joined Lee.

The movement of Gen. Grant has thus far been accomplished without any serious interruption. We now occupy Guinea's Station, Milford Station, and south of the Mattapony, on that line.

A dispatch received this morning from Gen. Canby dated May 14, at the mouth of the Red River, says:

"We have returned to-day from Rebelsources that the gunboats, except two, succeeded in getting over the falls at Alexandria, on the day mentioned in Gen. Banks's dispatch."

No dispatches have been received to-day from Gen. Butler.

Dispatches from Kingston, Georgia, state that Gen. Sherman's forces are resting and replenishing their supplies.

E. M. STANTON, Sec'y of war.

Loss of Able General Officers.

The loss of able General Officers in each army is oftentimes one of the most serious that can sustain. Through we have only very limited information regarding the Rebel losses in the late battles, we can yet compare the losses of the two armies in this respect, as follows:

THE NATIONAL ARMY.

Killed—Maj. Gen. Sedgwick, of Connecticut; Brig. Gens. Wadsworth and Rice, of New York; Stevenson, of Massachusetts; Hays, of Pennsylvania; total 5.

Wounded—Brig. Gen. Torbert, of New Jersey; Robinson of the Regular Army; Getty of the same; Webb, of New York; Baxter, of Pennsylvania; W. H. Morris, of New York—total 6.

Captured—Brig. Gens. Shaler, and Seymour—2. Total number disabled—13.

Gen. Bartlett and Owens were also very slightly wounded, but as they are still at the

head of their brigades in the field, they cannot be considered *hors de combat*.

THE REBEL ARMY.

Killed—Maj. Gen. J. E. B. Stuart, of Virginia; Brig. Gens. Jenkins, of South Carolina; J. M. Jones, of Virginia; L. A. Stafford, of Louisiana—4.

Wounded—Lieut. Gen. Longstreet, of Virginia; Maj. Gen. Heth, of Virginia; Maj. Gen. Pickett, of Virginia; Brig. Gens. Pegram, of Virginia; Walker, of Virginia; Hays of Louisiana; Benning, of Georgia—7.

Captured—Maj. Gen. Johnson, Brig. Gen. George H. Stuart, of Maryland—2. Total number of Rebel General officers disabled—14.

FROM GEN. BUTLER.

DEMONSTRATION ON FORT DARLING.

Beauregard Reinforced by Longstreet's Corps.

The Enemy Repulsed at Every Point.

OUR LOSS HEAVY.

BERMUDA HUNDRED, May 18.

All is quiet with our army to-day. The object of the demonstration on Fort Darling was merely to draw off and entertain as many of Lee's troops as possible, and also to attract the attention of all the rebel forces in and about Richmond, to enable Gen. Kautz to destroy the communications south of Richmond.

On Monday, 16th, the rebels came out of their entrenchments and earthworks in front of Fort Darling, at daybreak, having been heavily reinforced by Longstreet's Corps, and made three advances, all of which were promptly repulsed by our men.

The enemy lost in these charges from one thousand to fifteen hundred men, while our loss was very slight.

Gen. Butler having learned that Beauregard was heavily reinforced by Longstreet's Corps, and also ascertained by the rebel papers and rebel couriers that the bridge over the Appomattox river and several miles of the Danville Railroad were destroyed, and that the dams, locks and embankments of the canal leading into Richmond were also destroyed.

He decided to fall back from before Fort Darling, and gave orders accordingly, and by Monday evening our armies had generally arrived behind our new lines of entrenchments, having retired in perfect order, except General Heckman's brigade, which was badly disorganized and Gen. Heckman captured. This brigade formed the extreme right wing. Three of our siege guns fell into the hands of the rebels, the horses being killed. The guns were spiked.

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At present it is impossible to estimate our loss, as stragglers are constantly coming in. We have lost many prisoners, but their loss in killed and wounded exceeds ours, as our men were protected by entrenchments. Several of Longstreet's men were captured, who said his whole force was co-operating with Beauregard.

FROM SOUTH-WEST VIRGINIA!

Good News from Gen. Averill!

REBELS DEFEATED NEAR WYTHEVILLE!

CINCINNATI, May 19.

Dispatches have been received here dated Gauley Bridge, West Virginia, May 13, giving an account of a brilliant victory of Gen. Averill, (on the right of our main body of Crook's army,) over the Rebels. On the 10th instant General Averill reached a point within four miles of Wytheville, where he encountered the enemy—four thousand strong—under Gen. Salyers.

He fought them four hours, driving them and wounded many and capturing some prisoners. Under cover of darkness the enemy retreated. Our loss was one hundred and twenty killed and wounded—none missing. Near Blacksburg Gen. Averill's command commenced destroying the railroad, which was most effectually done to a point four miles east of Christiansburg.

At the latter place a small force of the enemy hastily retreated, leaving two three-inch guns, which we captured.

E. M. STANTON, Sec'y of War.

HANCOCK'S SPLENDID CHARGE.

The special correspondence of the *Times*, writing on Friday, gives the following vivid account of Hancock's charge upon the enemy's works:

"I have just returned from the scene of Gen. Hancock's brilliant victory of Thursday morning. At the point at which his assault was made, the rebel breastworks formed an angle or salient, and his men advanced silently and without firing a shot, entered the works at the salient and swept up the inside of the right, making the splendid haul of prisoners already known to you. Unfortunately, the supporting line cheered when nearing the works, otherwise we would the prisoners say, have captured both Ewell and Lee.

The assault was made between four and five o'clock, in the gray of the morning. Barlow's division, which had the advance, Milks' brigade leading, went up in column by battalion double on the centre, Birney's division in two lines of battle, and the divisions of Gibbon and Mott, in the second line, supporting. The storming column rushed over the enemy's breastworks, which were exceedingly strong, with a ditch in front, and drove the enemy back for a mile. Here the enemy rallied, and Hancock at 6 A. M. returned and formed his line of battle in the enemy's works. As this was the key of the whole position our right was gradually re-fused, and the main body of the army massed on the left. The 6th Corps (Wright) which had been on the right of the 2nd withdrew behind their skirmish line and united with Hancock's right; and afterward two divisions of Warren's were brought over. The history of the day after 6 o'clock in the morning is all summed up in five successive and fierce assaults which Lee made to retake the lost position. At first Ewell's Corps alone confronted Hancock, but during the day Hill and Longstreet were drawn over from the rebel left, and the whole army of Lee flung itself in five desperate efforts to recapture the breastworks. But it was all in vain, as every assault met a bloody repulse.

"So terrific was the death-grapple, however, that at different times of the day the rebel colors were planted on the one side of the works and on the other, the men fighting across the parapet. Nothing during the war has equalled the savage desperation of this struggle, which continued for fourteen hours, and the scene of the conflict, from which I have just come, presents a spectacle of horror that curdles the blood of the boldest. The angle of the works at which Hancock entered, and for the possession of which the savage fight of the day was made, is a perfect Golgotha. In this angle of death the dead and wounded rebels lie, this

morning, literally in piles—men in the agonies of death groaning beneath the dead bodies of their comrades. On an area of a few acres in rear of their position lie not less than a thousand rebel corpses, many literally torn to shreds by hundreds of balls, and several with bayonet thrusts through and through their bodies, pierced on the very margins of the parapet, which they were determined to retake or perish in the attempt. The one exclamation of every man who looks on the spectacle is, "God forbid that I should ever gaze upon such a sight again!"

Hancock's movement is regarded here as the most brilliantly conceived and executed tactical operation of the war, and has added to the splendid fame he won in the three days' fight in the Wilderness. After the turning movement of the morning the 6th Corps and two divisions of the 2nd should be included in the history of the day. They share the honors of the glorious, but bloody field of Spottsylvania. Our loss of yesterday must reach ten thousand."

CONDITION OF RETURNED PRISONERS.

The Committee on the Conduct of the War, has made a report to Congress, on the condition of the Federal prisoners, returned from Richmond, who have arrived at Annapolis. From an examination made at the request of the Secretary of War, it is proved beyond all doubt, in the estimation of the Committee, that the Rebel authorities have determined to subject our soldiers and officers who fall into their hands to physical and mental suffering impossible to describe, many presenting now the appearance of living skeletons, literally little more than skin and bones, some maimed for life, and some frozen by lying without tent or covering on the bare ground at Belle Isle. The general practice is shown to be the robbery of the prisoners, as soon as they were taken, of all money, valuables and good clothing. The food allowed was totally insufficient to preserve the health of a child. It consisted usually of two pieces of bread made of corn and cob meal, badly cooked, with about two ounces of meat, unfit to eat and occasionally