

Franklin Repository

Wednesday, May 25, 1864.

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All Ordinary Marriage notices exceeding five lines, and all Commencements, resolutions and other notices of limited or individual interest, are charged ten cents per line.

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THE MILITARY SITUATION.

The two great armies of Grant and Lee have confronted each other during the last week without a general engagement. The previous ten days of constant and deadly conflict had exhausted both, and Gen. Grant's steady advance rendered it imperatively necessary for him to rest upon his dearly won field, and open a new base at Fredericksburg and perfect his new line by Aquia creek. His twenty thousand wounded also demanded his care, and the excessive rains sadly retarded his operations in getting forward supplies and sending his wounded heroes to Washington. The lull in the terrible storm of battle however was not devoted wholly to opening new lines and procuring supplies. Fully twenty-five thousand fresh veteran troops have been forwarded to him, so that he is stronger today than when he first crossed the Rapidan. Nor has Lee been idle. We of course are not advised of his plans and efforts to prepare for the conflict soon to be renewed; but it is manifest that treason has stalked everything on the struggle in Virginia, and its last resources will be employed with the desperation of death to resist the capture of Richmond. We doubt not that he has been reinforced; but to what extent we cannot even conjecture. It is more than probable that part of General Beauregard's forces have reached him, as Gen. Butler has failed to hold him in check; and Breckenridge pretty certainly passed from his triumph over Sigel on the direct route to Lee.

The reports we have are conflicting as to the condition of the rebel army. Their direct line with Richmond has been severed by Gen. Sheridan, and the circuitous route by Lynchburg and Gordonsville could scarcely supply Lee; but many prisoners represent that he has ample provisions and munitions. The desperate effort of Ewell to break Grant's right on Thursday, manifestly with the view of capturing our stores, would indicate that their necessities were great indeed.

We are not at the time of this writing fully advised of the movement of Gen. Grant on Friday evening last. Secretary Stanton announces that Grant made an advance on that evening with the view of compelling Lee to abandon his strongly entrenched lines around Spottsylvania, and at an early hour the next morning Longstreet is represented as having moved toward Richmond, followed by Hill. The opinion is expressed by Mr. Stanton that Lee is retiring his entire army to the line of the North Anna River, some twelve miles south of his last battleground. It seems manifest that the rebels have surrendered the line of the Potomac in the last advance of Gen. Grant; but it is not so clear whether the movement was one of military necessity or strategy. Probably it was the former; but most likely it was the latter. When it is considered that Lee, having failed in his exhausting effort to arrest the advance of Grant, can defend better nearer Richmond than on the Rapidan, as he thus shortens his lines and brings his forces about Richmond within supporting distance of each other and within call for concentration, and at the same time extends the lines of Grant, we are inclined to the opinion that Lee has, from choice, resolved upon selecting the most advantageous position on the road to Richmond to fight the decisive battle for Virginia and the rebel capital. The manifest purpose of Grant to give battle from week to week until he is successful or practically annihilated, has doubtless made Lee choose to decline a series of engagements on the old battlegrounds, as he clearly foresaw that in the end Grant's numbers, skill and matchless perseverance must win in anything like an equal contest.

We do not therefore, as at present advised, regard Lee's retreat beyond Spottsylvania without again giving battle, as at all conclusive as to his inability to accept the proffered struggle. He has surrendered one line merely to take up another and perhaps a stronger one; but he does it confessedly after falling in his first grand plan of his defensive campaign, and he retreats from his antagonist because for the first time he has been unable to arrest the onward march of the Army of the Potomac in Virginia. That he must have crossed the Po with a fear-

fully decimated and dispirited army, can not be doubted; and desperate as may be the resistance it will offer when Grant again hurls his columns upon the army of treason, his heart and hope will sink when the first tide of success crowns the Union arms. We look for one desperate struggle, fearful in carnage, but of not half the duration of the battles of the Wilderness and of the Po; and we feel strong in the conviction that decisive victory must be ours.

The auxiliary columns of Gen. Grant have not been eminently successful, and his plans may be materially disconcerted thereby; but his onward march will be but delayed—not arrested. Gen. Butler was charged with a most important duty, and his first trial was to be made in field operations. He moved up the James River to City Point, landed on the South side, and aimed to sever the two railroad lines south of Richmond, and prevent reinforcements from joining Lee. He reached the Petersburg road, and telegraphed that he could hold his position against all of Lee's army, and notified Grant to give himself no trouble about the rebel troops south of Richmond. Had Grant so telegraphed the government he would have verified it; but Gen. Butler has failed to hold his position. He has been compelled to raise the siege of Fort Darling, and to surrender both the railroad lines to the rebels again, as he sought the safety of his command by falling back to his first line; and we are officially informed that Hoke's rebel brigade has joined Lee. Butler's campaign has therefore failed to be of advantage to Grant while it has employed at least one corps that could have been of most essential service to Grant had it been with him. Gen. Sigel has also failed, and it would seem, failed signally in his movement. It was evidently his purpose to make a demonstration toward Staunton and the Lynchburg railroad, and thus compel a large rebel force to guard that line; but Breckenridge encountered him at New Market and defeated him with a loss of some twelve hundred men and five guns. He has been relieved, and Gen. Hunter is now in command. From all the information we can gather, Sigel's army was miserably handled, and was discomfited when it should have been victorious. Gen. Sheridan's movement was a most complete success. He entirely destroyed the direct railroad line from Lee's rear to Richmond; and had Butler been able to sever the two lines south of Richmond, and Sigel to cut the Lynchburg line, Lee would have been compelled to surrender Virginia without a series of sanguinary battles, as he would have been entirely without lines of communication. As it is, Virginia must now be won by hard, persistent fighting, and for that Gen. Grant seems fully prepared. Another week, or month at most, must determine the issue of this grandest campaign in the history of warfare; and to the God of Justice and the heroic Army of the Potomac we confide the cause of our imperiled Nationality.

The campaign of Gen. Sherman is progressing most gloriously. He now holds Dalton and Rome, and will shortly move upon Atlanta, the most important strategic point in the Cotton States. He had severe fighting for Dalton, but finally compelled Johnston to abandon the place and retreat South.

Gen. Banks has been singularly unfortunate in his Western Louisiana campaign. He suffered a disastrous defeat, and narrowly saved his army from total destruction, while his loss in men and material must be very heavy. The last advices indicate that the fleet will get safely back to the Mississippi, and if so, the army will be thoroughly re-organized by General Canby, who has superseded Banks. He is an experienced soldier, is familiar with the country, and we feel confident that he will at least not repeat the disasters which have crowded upon his predecessor. No territory is surrendered to the rebels by Banks' defeat; but two good armies—those of Banks and Steele,—have been sadly crippled, and the most they can hope to do for several months is to defend the lines from which they started.

Such is a brief review of the military situation; and while it presents minor disasters, it cheers the hearts of loyal men by the substantial success of the main columns of Grant and Sherman, which are struggling with the vital power of treason. If they shall continue to crown their efforts with victory, as we confidently believe they will, we can soon greet a restored Union, purified in the sore furnace of affliction, and redeemed for all time as an offering to Justice, Humanity and Freedom!

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prompt and generous assistance. We doubt not that the government is doing everything in its power to alleviate their sufferings; but even when its utmost powers are exercised, much still remains to be done by a loyal, humane, and prosperous people. To this fund every man, woman and child should contribute according to their means, and we earnestly urge upon all our people to move in the matter without delay.

Money contributions made to the Christian or Sanitary Commissions are of course the most desirable, as those organizations can procure all the luxuries and necessities which mitigate the sufferings of our wounded at the very lowest rates; and such contributions should be forwarded at once, without waiting for a local Fair or the great Fair to be held in Philadelphia. Our wounded need assistance now, and one week of delay is sad ingratitude to those who are writing under ghastly wounds because they periled their lives to secure us the blessings of free government.

Other contributions should, as far as practicable, be forwarded at once—especially fruits, lints, bandages &c. Every family in Franklin should add its mite, or of its abundance, to this sacred cause. If families have not money to spare, they can send a few quarts of dried fruits, or a package of worn out muslins or linens—all of which are just the articles most needed now. Let no one withhold because his or her contribution would be too small to be of moment. The ocean is made up of drops, and a million of small contributions will solace thousands of our suffering warriors. Let all such contributions, whether large or small, be made at once. Money can be left at this office, or at the Bank of Chambersburg, or it can be forwarded directly to Joseph Patterson, Esq., Western Bank, Philadelphia, for the Christian Commission, or to Caleb Cope, Esq., Philadelphia, for the Sanitary. We presume that any merchant in the county would receive contributions from his neighbors, and forward them as directed. Goods can be sent to Oaks & Linn, Chambersburg, who will forward them promptly to either Commission.

We do not mean by these suggestions to discourage the Fairs about to be held in Mercersburg and Chambersburg in aid of our wounded. On the contrary, we would be glad to see a Fair held in every village in the county for this noble cause; but the fact that such Fairs are to be held should not delay supplies. Many articles will be contributed to the Fairs which must be sold to make them available, and thus large contributions may be procured which otherwise would be lost. Every farmer who can spare a barrel of flour, a bushel of corn or potatoes, a good calf, or any other product of his farm, should patronize the Fairs; and we trust that the Agricultural contributions of Franklin county to the Philadelphia Fair will be worthy of the loyalty, intelligence and thrift of our people. Let each one give as he has been blessed, remembering that the promise to the "cheerful giver" is from Him who faileth not!

A most malignant forgery was palmed upon the New York World and Journal of Commerce, in their editions of Wednesday morning. The bogus document purported to be a proclamation signed by President Lincoln and Secretary Seward, intimating that the campaign in Virginia had virtually ended, and that the country was in the greatest straits; appointing the 27th day of May, as a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer, and calling for four hundred thousand men, which if not furnished by the 15th of June, they were to be raised by an immediate and peremptory draft. The Government immediately suspended the publication of the two papers named, and closed the offices of the Independent and Inland Telegraph companies. The author of the bogus proclamation has since been discovered to be Joseph Howard, a Reporter for the Brooklyn Eagle, and he has been arrested and sent to Fort Lafayette. He admitted his guilt, and alleges that he was led to it by losses in stock-gambling, but the fact that it was published on steamer day clearly indicates that he had rebel accomplices who hoped to send the proclamation to Europe uncontradicted, and secure the recognition of the Confederacy. It is due to the Nation struggling for its life in a most deadly war with treason, that Mr. Howard should be promptly tried, and if guilty he should pay the extreme penalty of the law. Any man who either recklessly or deliberately adds to the manifold perils of our government, should die.

The Methodist General Conference which has been in session in Philadelphia during the last two weeks has spoken out most fearlessly in condemnation of the great iniquity of our nation. The special committee on slavery was by an almost unanimous vote instructed "to alter the Discipline of the Church so as to prevent slaveholders from membership in the Church, and bring to trial the sinners of that kind who may now be in the Church." The Committee on Credentials was also "instructed to alter the Discipline so as to exclude all persons attainted of treason to the government of the United States from membership in the Church." The Methodist Church, by these acts of its highest authority, is placed upon a stronger basis of patriotism and moral power than any other religious organization in this country. Being also one of the most numerous and influential in its connections and membership, the effect of its course upon public questions will be very widely felt. The army, the government, the nation itself must be greatly strengthened by the declared sympathy of this important religious body. It claims to the world that a true Methodist must of necessity be a loyal man.

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"OUR DAILY FAIR."—During the approaching fair in Philadelphia, a daily paper will be issued for the Sanitary Commission, and will be contributed to by many accomplished writers. Geo. W. Childs, Esq., is Chairman of the Publishing and Editorial Committee, and will be assisted by Charles Godfrey Leland, Geo. H. Boker, Prof. Coppee, Rev. W. H. Furness, and a long list of names not unknown to fame. There will be twelve numbers of the paper issued, and the charge for it will be one dollar for the series. It will be beautifully printed and in a suitable form for binding. Remittances can be made to Geo. W. Childs, 628 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

The public debt of the United States on the 14th of May, as has been ascertained from an official source, stood as follows: Debt bearing interest in coin, \$812,836,162; the interest thereon being \$49,472,714; debt bearing interest in currency, \$404,191,935; interest, \$22,109,429; debt bearing no interest, \$569,220,314. Total debt, \$1,726,248,411; interest, \$71,582,144.

The N. Y. Tribune gives a table exhibiting the curious fact that out of the one hundred and twelve members of which the Rebel House of Representatives consists, when full, fifty-two or nearly half, are credited districts now controlled by the Union arms. They have members representing Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Tennessee, in all of which States they have no longer a foot-hold.

Creve Point is distant from Richmond east of south about fifteen miles; Fort Darling due south ten miles; Petersburg in the same direction, twenty miles; Bermuda Hundred, southeast, fifteen miles; Spottsylvania is west of north from the Rebel capital about forty miles. These are air line distances, which would be increased by roads about fifteen per cent.

HON. MARK DICKSON, of Todd, Wm. Hoke, Esq., of McConnellsburg, and Isaac Taylor, Esq., of Dublin, have been appointed Conferees by Fulton to meet those from Bedford and Somerset, at a time and place hereafter to be announced, to elect one Delegate to the Baltimore Convention.

The popular subscriptions to the forty-four loan amounted last week to six millions of dollars. This brings the aggregate sum taken to over fifty millions. Three-quarters of the loan yet remain to be negotiated.

The following additional Bishops have just been elected by the General Methodist Episcopal Conference—D. W. Clark, of New York; E. Thompson, of Ohio; and Calvin Kingsley, of Erie.

The New York World and Journal of Commerce have again resumed business, the orders for their military occupation having been revoked.

PERSONAL.

Nathaniel Hawthorne, the distinguished author, died in Boston on Wednesday.

The death of Gen. Jas. E. Stuart, or as he was termed for short, Jeb. Stuart, the well-known rebel cavalry leader, is confirmed. He was killed in an encounter with Sheridan.

Gen. Winfield Scott is reported to be busy with an autobiography of his life and times. The portion written has been set up, the proof sheets already numbering over three hundred octavo pages.

We are deeply pained to learn that Capt. Isaac S. Waterbury, of Harrisburg, died upon the field in Gen. Butler's division of the Army of the Potomac, on the 8th instant, from *coup de soleil*, or sunstroke.

The Col. Woodward who was killed in the recent battles was not a son or any connection of the Hon. G. W. Woodward. The latter has a son, a Colonel, in the army, and with Gen. Grant, but intelligence has been received that he is safe.

Lieut. General Pemberton, the renegade Northerner who went South, married into a plantation, sided with rebels, and surrendered Vicksburg, has sought active service, and been assigned to the artillery defenses of Richmond, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He had previously resigned his commission as Lieutenant General.

It is now stated that Gen. Owen, of Pennsylvania, who has twice been reported killed in this campaign, was alive on Monday. He has had two horses shot from under him—the last one three days ago, which fell so heavily upon him as to render him insensible. He had to be carried to the hospital, where he was lying on Wednesday morning last; but he was soon expected to be in the saddle again.

Gen. Sedgwick was killed while occupied in making out a plan of the fighting ground for his command. His staff were around him at the time, when a sharpshooter fired three shots at him. One of his aids remarked that they were making a target of him, when he replied that there was no danger of his being hit at that distance. A moment after the fatal bullet struck him in the face, killing him instantly.

It is related of Grant that after the battle of Shiloh, and his complete victory at that point, Gen. Buell, a thorough soldier, began criticizing in a friendly way the impolicy of his having fought a battle with the Tennessee river behind his men. "Where, if beaten, could you have retreated, General," asked Buell. "I didn't mean to be beaten," was Grant's sententious reply. "But suppose you had been defeated, despite your overexertions?" "Well, there were all the transports to carry the remains of the command across the river." "But, General," urged Buell, "your whole transports could not contain over ten thousand men, and it would be impossible for them to make more than one trip in the face of the enemy." "Well, if I had been beaten," said Gen. Grant, pausing to light another cigar as he spoke, "transportation for ten thousand men would be abundant for all that would be left of us." This anecdote is eminently characteristic, the data for the proper appreciation of it being that Grant had about fifty thousand men over the river.

The Washington Republican gets off the following: "The rebel capital is in a carpet bag, in Jeff. Davis's hand, and Jeff. Davis is usually, during active operations, in a special car on a railroad. Wherever Jeff. and the carpet-bag are, there is the rebel capital."

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LATEST NEWS!

BY MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH, EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE FRANKLIN REPOSITORY.

By the Atlantic and Ohio Telegraph Line.—Office at Shryock's Book Store and R. R. Depot.

Red River Fleet Safe—General Sherman Moves Again—His Army Re-enforced—The Army of the Potomac Stronger than Ever—Wounded at Care of 8,000 Prisoners and Many Implements of War in our Possession—30,000 Miles Mustered into Service.

Washington, May 23. Dispatches from Gen. Canby, dated, mouth of Red River, midnight, May 15th, state that Admiral Porter has just arrived, and the remainder of the gunboats will probably reach Semmesport, or Atchafalaya to-morrow. A dispatch from Admiral Porter, dated on board the Flag-ship Black Hawk, at the mouth of Red River, May 16th, states that a portion of the squadron above the falls, at Alexandria, have been released from their unpleasant position, owing to the indefatigable exertions of Lieut. Col. Bailey, Acting Engineer of the 19th Army Corps, who proposed and built a tree dam, of 600 feet in length, across the river, at the lower falls, enabling all the vessels to pass in safety to the back waters of the Mississippi, reaching Alexandria, and allowed them to pass over all shoals and obstructions, planted by the enemy, to a point of safety. Lieut. Col. Bailey will be immediately nominated for promotion, for distinguished and meritorious service.

An official report from Cairo May 22d, states that our army and gunboats are still at the mouth of Red River, and Semmesport. Maj. Gen. Sherman, by dispatch at 8 1/2 last night, reports he will be ready by morning to resume operations. Returned veterans, and regiments, he says have more than replaced all losses and detachments.

We have no official reports since my last telegrams from Gen. Grant or Gen. Butler. Official reports of this Department, show that within eight (8) days after the great battle at Spottsylvania C. H., many thousand veteran troops have been forwarded to Gen. Grant. The whole army is amply supplied with full rations of subsistence.

Upwards of 20,000 sick and wounded, transported from fields of battle to Washington Hospitals, and placed under surgical care. Over 2,000 prisoners have been transported from field to prison depots, and a large amount of artillery and other implements of active campaign brought away.

Several thousand fresh cavalry horses have been forwarded to the army, and the grand Army of the Potomac is now fully as strong in numbers, and better equipped, supplied, and furnished, than when the campaign opened.

Several thousand re-enforcements also forwarded to other armies in the field, and ample supplies to all.

During same time over 30,000 volunteers for one hundred days, have been mustered into service, clothed, armed, equipped and transported to respective positions. This statement is due to Chief of Army, Staff and Bureau, and their respective corps, to whom the credit belongs. E. M. STANTON, Secy of War.

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