

Democrat and Sentinel.

THE BLESSINGS OF GOVERNMENT, LIKE THE DEWS OF HEAVEN, SHOULD BE DISTRIBUTED ALIKE, UPON THE HIGH AND THE LOW, THE RICH AND THE POOR.

NEW SERIES.

EBENSBURG, PA. WEDNESDAY, MARCH, 12, 1862.

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CROSSING OF THE GREAT RIVER

The Crossing of the Potomac

Franklin's Brilliant Initiative

General Fremont at Edwards's Ferry, Md., has formed the plan of crossing the Potomac between the capital of the United States and the Rebel Government. The river is mostly covered with floating ice, and the crossing was effected by the use of rafts and bridges. The crossing was effected on Thursday, Friday and Saturday last, with great success. The trains followed each other in quick succession, and generally brought complete regiments, with baggage and all the paraphernalia. These trains occupied every foot of the three tracks at the base of the mountain opposite Harper's Ferry, extending in length nearly a mile towards Baltimore.

The wind upon Thursday, Friday and Saturday last was exceedingly cold, sweeping around the base of the mountain and down the valley of the upper Potomac, with great force. In the face of this, the unloading of the cars was conducted, and the transfer of heavy boxes of cartridges, barrels of flour, army stores, officer's baggage, and the countless articles of military stores, engaged thousands of blue-coated volunteers, who had found no opportunity for repose for twenty-four hours, and in many cases forty-eight hours. There was not a murmur, however; and the army wagons, stationed at every neighboring spot where mules could obtain a footing on the bank above and below the railroad track, were loaded as fast as possible, and the drivers with a yell and a crack of the whip, urged the animals down the roadway which led to the pontoon bridge. Crossing this bridge disappeared up the street of Harper's Ferry, and then coming into view between the houses, and finally showing their white tops on a winding track ascending the mountain beyond the buildings.

A night hundreds of fires burst forth upon all sides of the eminence at the foot of which Sandy Hook is situated. They were lighted by teamsters and volunteers who passed and repassed before the blaze, the outlines of their forms faintly defined against the dim background. It was not remarkably pleasant thus to 'camp' out without tents, and doze by the embers which were one moment fanned into life, and the next almost extinguished by the gust of wind. On the opposite side of the river, all was dark and gloomy, the intervening stream roaring over its rocky bed—thin sheets of foam and spray cascading and falling over the rocks in the center. The houses at Sandy Hook were occupied, whenever possible by the soldiers, but they were few in number and scanty in accommodations. The headquarters of General Banks were established in a stone barn, near the Eastern side of what was once the Railroad bridge.

Of this bridge the Western span is complete. On Saturday morning, the employees of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, under the protection of the military, commenced the reconstruction of the remaining three spans. The piers have not been injured, but are as good as the day upon which they were built. Several weeks will be required before the work will be sufficiently advanced to allow trains to pass.

In the movement through Harper's Ferry, many of the United States officers met with a hospital reception from citizens whom they had previously met at Frederick. None of the regiments halted for a sufficient length of time to receive courtesies, but advanced by the road leading south west towards Winchester. The roads on Thursday were in excellent order, the few preceding days having dried the mud, and rendered the mountain soil as hard as the most impervious clay. No difficulty was experienced from the advance from the broken wagons or horses floundering in seas of mud. The march winds, by their drying influence, were of the greatest service. Reconnoissances were made by cavalry companies before the infantry reached Charlestown, but no enemy appeared and not a shot was fired.

Shortly after the occupation of Charlestown, Gen. McClellan and staff made their appearance, being greeted by the soldiers with the most vociferous cheers and the greatest enthusiasm. The party extended their trip beyond the town. Very few of the residents remained, not

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THE ACCUSERS AND THE ACCUSED

One of the remarkable peculiarities of the present war, which will stand in history as an illustration of the violence of faction, is to be found in the fact that so little regard for the preservation of the Constitution of the United States is denoted as furnishing evidence of disloyalty to the Government. There is something so astounding in the mere statement of this fact, that we might deem it incredible were it not that the proof is furnished us daily by a perusal of the newspapers devoted to the cause of universal and indiscriminate emancipation.

SHELLING A RAILROAD TRAIN

About seventy five miles from Baltimore, on the line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and on the north bank of the Potomac river is Berlin. It is a small scattered settlement of no particular importance. While passing this place on Friday morning last, a train was shelled by the rebels.

The train was on the way from Sandy Hook to Baltimore, and was about fifteen miles in rapid succession. Very few of the shells exploded, and no injury was done to the cars, although one heavy iron shell fell within fifty feet of the engine. The train was occupied only by the conductor and brakeman, having conveyed a regiment up to Sandy Hook, and being on the return.

The engineer put on steam, but having a great number of cars could not move rapidly. The affair was evidently intended as a piece of impudence, being within sight of our pickets, and almost within hearing of Sandy Hook. The gun was brought down through the narrow valley by a squad of Rebels, headed by one officer, and after the train passed beyond its reach was withdrawn, and taken back into the forest.

About two hours after this occurrence the regular passenger train from Baltimore to Harper's Ferry passed along proceeding cautiously and making no halt at Berlin. No signs of the Rebels were apparent, and there is no probability that the maneuver will be repeated. The river at this point is about one third of a mile in width, with a rapid current.

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Gen. McClellan was at Harper's Ferry when the news of this attack was forwarded. A Regiment was immediately ordered back to guard the railroad, and left in a special train. The Federal pickets are stationed at short intervals on the north bank of the Potomac. They have erected houses of boards, logs and clay, and obtain sufficient protection from the cold winds which sweep the valley. It is but so

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SOUTHERN NEWS.

AGGRESSIVE WAR NECESSARY.

From the Norfolk Day Book. Since the beginning of hostilities on the Southern States by the Lincoln despotism, the relations of the belligerents have been very much changed. Our policy was then a defensive one. Necessity chose our position in the conflict. We were without an equipped army, and the many essentials of its organization; time alone could supply the deficiencies. Discipline was necessary to perfect our soldiery. Other considerations influenced the course of our Government. None knew that the war was to be prosecuted against us in the spirit of vandalism, and that subjugation or extermination was to its issue. The interests of Europe were involved in our complications of trade. Its commerce was to be comprised, and that by a blockade acknowledged to be inefficient.

How stands affairs now? and what is the experience of nine months of warfare? We have patiently submitted to an accumulation of grievous wrongs, have seen our fire sides ravaged and lurid with the torch of an incendiary; our property stolen; and insults and injuries of a thousand fold nature endured. We have borne the privations, too, that the blockade has imposed upon us. Is there to be no reckoning made of all this? Is a just retaliation to be lost sight of in all means of resistance to the barbarous hoards thrown against us? We answer, never! The burning indignation, the insulted honor of an outraged people, will not be appeased until the