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.

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April 23 1862—1y

THE GREAT VICTORY.

Full Details of the Second Day's Fight.—How the Battle was Fought and how the Battle was Won.—The Rebels Driven Back at Every Point with Great Slaughter.—Twelve Hundred of their Dead left on the Field.—Distinguished Gallantry of Gen. Sickles.—The Bayonet Charge of the Second Excelsior.—Incidents of the Battle Field.

BATTLE FIELD, Monday, June 2.—The rebel army still occupied the camps of Casey's and Couch's Divisions on Sunday morning, with a strong picket force guarding the road facing Sneal's house and the wheat field where our earth works were thrown up, extending from our extreme left to the railroad, near Fair Oak Station. The distance from the point where our earthworks were located to the edge of the wood could not have been more than four hundred yards. This position the rebels held until day dawned on Sunday morning.

To our right, on the other side of the railroad, the divisions of Gens. Richardson and Sedgwick were found in a semi-circle, with their left resting on Gen. Hooker's right, at the railroad, and their left flanking the enemy. These divisions were composed of parts of the brigades of Gen. Burns, Gen. French, Gen. T. F. Meagher, with four batteries of artillery.

Gen. Hooker's division were encamped in the wood fronting Sneal's house, on the Williamsburg road, occupying the centre, and a little in advance of our right and left wings.—On our left the remaining portions of Couch's and Casey's Divisions rested, with the reserves of fresh troops extending to our extreme left, near the middle road, under Gen. Keyes.

Gen. Heintzleman was on the ground at the front as soon as day dawned, accompanied by two aids. Gen. Hooker met him, and the two Generals sat down at the foot of a tree behind our breastworks arranging a plan for the day's proceedings.

Gens. Jameson, Keyes and Sickles arrived at the front soon after, and the fight of Saturday was talked over as one of no particular advantage to the enemy, as they had concentrated their main force upon this portion of our front lines, and the effect was more disastrous to them. Their loss in killed in Saturday's fight exceeded ours two to one, and of them number wounded it is impossible to form an estimate. Several of their men brought in as prisoners gave their loss in killed and wounded upward of three thousand. They made a desperate attack, it is true, and gained considerable ground, besides a large number of guns, camps, equippage, &c., as trophies, which they immediately sent to Richmond to dazzle the eyes of its pent up inhabitants, who doubtless secretly wish to see the city fall into the hands of McClellan.

Preparations for the Battle on Sunday.

Gen. Heintzelman, at 6 a. m., ordered a reconnoisance to be made by a small force on the left of the wood and to the right, toward the railroad. A lieutenant with two cavalrymen crossed over the wheatfield behind Sneal's house, and was about to penetrate the wood near the Williamsburg road, when the enemy's pickets appeared at his front. He immediately turned back and reported to Gen. Heintzleman the close proximity of the enemy.

In the meantime, the other parties sent out came in, and reported the enemy in great force in front of our right and left flanks.

Gen. Heintzelman then ordered out Gen. Hooker's division, part of which had been left to guard the camp, and a certain position on our extreme left. The regiments of Gen. Hooker brought on the field were the five regiments comprising the Excelsior brigade, under command of Gen. D. E. Sickles and the Fifth and Sixth New Jersey regiments; Gen. Heintzleman having resolved to attack the enemy and drive them from the wood.

THE BATTLE.

It was about a quarter of seven when Gen Heintzleman ordered Gen. Hooker to attack the rebels in his front, and drive them from the woods. The Excelsior brigade marched out from the camp in the woods to the Williamsburg road, the New Jersey Fifth and Sixth following. The Excelsior Brigade filed in the wheatfield in front of our earthworks, to the right of the road, while the two regiments of New Jersey troops took a position to the left. As the Second Regiment, Excelsior Brigade, was forming in position to the front of the wood, the rebels opended a rapid and heavy fire upon it, killing two or three privates, and wounding about six. Among those wounded at the first fire of the rebels was Lieut. Lawria (formerly an aid to Gen. Sickles) and Capt. Nolan.

The fire of the enemy immediately became simultaneous along the entire line.

The New Jersey troops fought splendidly, loading and firing without flinching from their position. General Sickles' regiments did great execution, advancing at every fire upon the rebels masked by the wood. However, it was plainly to be seen the enemy had every advantage, and it was resolved to clear the woods at the point of the bayonet.

Gen. Sickles rode along the front of his men in the midst of an iron hail which the rebels poured in, and gave orders for the Second Regiment, Col. G. B. Hall, to charge bayonets. No sooner was the order given than the men fixed beyonets. Col. Hall gallantly led the charge—one of the most brilliant ever made in any battle. Not a man shirked or straggled from the ranks.

The rebels presented a strong front to the gleaming bayonets of our men, not a hundred yards distant.

As the Second advanced on the double quick, cheering and shouting, the rebels held back their fire until our men were hardly one hundred feet from their line, when they fired a murderous volley into the ranks of the Second. It proved too low, and few were killed or wounded.

Immediately after the rebels fired this volley, they broke ranks and fled through the wood. A few of their bravest remained to resist our passage, but they were soon mowed down by the steel front of the gallant Second Excelsior.

Maj. Herbert, of the Eighth Alabama Regiment, was taken prisoner at this time. His horse had been shot under him, and as he fell he received a shot in his side. He sprang to his feet, however, almost instantly and seeing several of our men in front of him mistook them for some of his own regiment.

"Rally once more, boys!" he cried, but they corrected his mistake by presenting their bayonets and demanding him to surrender, which he did with all the grace and finish that an original secessionist, as he afterwards informed me he was, could do under the circumstances. The rebels made two or three attempts to flank us on the left, after retreating from their centre; but they were beat back with great loss, our troops pursuing them for nearly two miles.

Richardson's Brigade, before the enemy's centre gave way, had a hard fight, the ground was hotly contested by the rebels. The Fourth and Fifth Excelsior Regiments were sent to support one of Richardson's Batteries, but before the battery got in fair working order, the enemy began to show signs of a retreat. The rebel officers could be distinctly heard urging the men to fight, but they would run away.—The Irish Brigade fought splendidly, and routed the rebels at the point of the bayonet.

None of our forces on the left flank participated in the fight. The rebels were defeated and driven back by Hooker's and Richardson's Divisions.

Advance parties scoured the woods on both sides of the Richmond road, and succeeded in capturing nearly two hundred of the rebels, among them three Lieutenants.

At 11 o'clock the fighting on both sides ceased. The rebels had fallen back to beyond our original lines, leaving guards stationed to watch our advance and bring their wounded off the field.

The enemy were driven from every position they occupied by our troops. The main column rested a mile in advance of their position, at the commencement of the fight.

At about 12 o'clock Gen. McClellan rode up to the front, accompanied by his staff and body guard, and met Gen. Heintzleman seated at the foot of a tree. Little Mac., democratically seated himself at the side of Heintzleman on the ground, when his staff grouped themselves, resting on stumps of trees and logs. There was the Prince de Joinville, Count de Paris, and the Duc de Chartres, forming a select group of three, conversing quite animatedly in French, and the other members of McClellan's staff joining in with a little English.

"They fight on Sunday always," said the Duc de Chartres, alluding to the rebels.

Gen. McClellan had been seated probably a half an hour, conversing with Gen. Heintzleman, when Gen. Hooker rode up from the extreme advanced line gained that morning, and as he was dismounting from his horse Gen. McClellan rose from his seat, and advancing, shook him warmly by the hand, and congratulated him and his noble division in terms of the highest praise. A long conversation took place between them. It was plainly seen no further advance was to be made that day, as no troops were ordered up to the front.

At a little after one o'clock Gen. McClellan mounted his horse and rode along the lines of his troops, back and forth, until all the soldiers had a good opportunity of seeing him. Napoleon never was received by his enthusiactic troops with greater manifestation of delight than was McClellan by his army, showing that he possessed the confidence as well as the hearts of his men. They feel that they must ever be victorious under his guidance.

Prisoners continued to be brought in very fast; we had captured nearly five hundred. They were immediately handed over to Provost Marshal Young, of Gen. Hooker's Division, who sent them properly guarded to Heintzleman's headquarters, at Savage's station. Many of them were dressed in new clothes, captured in Casey's camp—a large supply having been sent up to Casey's Division a few days before the battle, but had not been distributed to the men. The result was that the enemy, who had been wearing faded, worn out home spun, doffed their forms in our genteel uniforms. This was the cause of many serious mistakes, our men unfortunately mistaking them for our own.

Incidents of the Field.

Gen. Sickles had several narrow escapes; he was always to be found in the thickest of the fight. Had those gifted Senators who refused to confirm his nomination, but witnessed the enthusiasm of his troops when serving under him, and his military qualifications for the office, they would do penace until re-elected.

The rebels during the fight had their sharp shooters posted in trees to pick off our officers—a fact discovered in the early part of the action. One of these sharp-shooters had been wounded, and lay down at the foot of a tree as General Sickles was riding in the wood, he took deliberate aim and fired, but fortunately missed his mark. Some of our men rushed at the wounded rebel, and were about dispatching him with their bayonets, when Gen. Sickles ordered them not to harm him, but take him prisoner.

As I stood watching the regiments of Hooker's division march in the battle field, I recognized, marching at the head of his company, Capt. Johnson, belonging to the Third Regiment Excelsior. Capt. Johnson was in the battle of Williamsburg, where he acted with the most heroic courage, and was wounded badly in the left arm by a minnie ball; so dangerously was he wounded, that the surgeons at one time thought an amputation of his arm would become necessary to save his life. The wound, however, took a favorable turn, and he is now in a fair way of recovering. At the head of his company marched this gallant officer, his bandaged arm resting in a sling. As he passed by me smiling, an Aid from Gen. Keyes, who, with his staff, was on the opposite side of the road, up to me and inquired the name of the wounded officer. I gave it to him; he exclaimed, "He is a brave man." If his country rewards her heroes, Capt. Johnson's name will stand among the foremost

There were many incidents illustrating fully the mettle of our men engaged in this struggle. Many a private displayed deeds of bravery worthy of record. The officers bore themselves well, and shared the dangers in advance of their men.

The Rebel Commanders.

The rebel Generals, commanding in this engagement, were Gens. Longstreet, Roger A. Pryor, Hill Bronk, Howell Cobb, Rains, Huger and five others whose names I could not learn.

A Stage and Four Horses Captured.

A small party of our men reconnoitering, met an omnibus drawn by four fine bay horses, on the New Bridge road, going at a speedy gait toward Richmond, and containing two officers. Driving the horses were two contrabands. Lieut. Lee cried out for them to stop, but no attention was paid to the summons, and he ordered the men to fire. One of the officers jumped out and made good his escape in the woods. The other was shot as he had his head out of the window urging the contrabands to go faster. The driver now held up, and Lieut. Lee mounted the box, first placing the negroes inside, in charge of Private Boyd, One Hundreth New York. The Lieut. brought the stage safely within our lines. As it made its appearance, emerging from the wood on the Williamsburg road, where but a few hours ago the enemy were disputing our advance, it created the most intense excitement and curiosity among our men. Many supposed it was sent down by Gen. McClellan, from Richmond, with the news of his occupation of the city. The stage is comparatively new. In size and shape it is about the same as our Broadway stages, perhaps a trifle lighter. From the fact of its being built by "John Stevenson, New York," (painted on a panel on the inside,) I seriously doubt if John S. has received payment for it. Over the windows, on the outside, "Columbia Hotel" is painted.

The Battle Field.

In company with Gen. Sickles, Col. Graham, Col. Hall and Lieut. Graham, I rode out upon the battle-field on Sunday afternoon at one o'clock. The scene witnessed here, baffles all description. Caissons, with horses shott dead in their traces, ambulances, wagons, &c., &c., filled the road in front of Casey's camp. There were about two hundred of our wounded still lying where they fell on Saturday. Some of them spoke kindly of the rebels, saying they treated them well. dead rebels were, as well as our own men, lying in every part of the field and wood. I counted fifty-seven dead rebels in front of a small piece of woods not forty feet square. One wounded rebel was lying on the ground unable to move; he was shot in both legs. On each side of him lay some dead rebels. As we passed by he begged us for God's sake to take the dead men away from him. The stench was intolerable.

Number of Guns lost.

We lost 19 guns in the fight on Saturday. None of them has been recovered. The rebels ran a train down near Fair Oak Station and carried away our comissary stores, guns, etc., etc., to Richmond.

The rebels destroyed what they could not coveniently carry away, including the new tents of Casey and Couch's Division.

The two contrabands captured with the stage had left Richmond on Sunday morning, with a party of gentleman who had chartered the stage to take them out to see the fight. They have furnished the authorities much information relative to the number and movements of the rebel force, which is highly important. It is not improbable that General McLellan with his Generals, will dine at Richmond on next Sunday.

The Seizure of Specie in New Orleans.

The following is a detailed account of the seizure, by order of General Butler, of $800,000 in specie, at the office of the Consul of the Netherlands in New Orleans:

It having come to the knowledge of Gen. Butler that a large amount of specie was secreted at the office of the Consul of the Netherlands, he ordered Captain Shipley, of the Thirteenth Massachusetts regiment with a proper guard to take possession of the office.

Captain Shipley found a Mr. Conturie at the office, who confessed to having the keys of the vault in his possession but refused to deliver them up. Lieutenant Kinsman, of General Butler's staff, was then sent back with Captain Shipley and on demanding the keys Mr. Conturie claimed to be a Frenchman, and sent a note to the French Consul, demanding his protection. He afterwards stated that he was Consul to the Netherlands and protested against the invasion of his consulate. Lieut. Kinsman told him that he must have the vault keys, and ordered his guard to search Mr. Conturie's person, on doing which they found the keys in his trowser pocket. On opening the vault, Lieutenant Kinsman discovered nearly a cord of kegs filled with specie. A guard was placed over them for the night, and on Sunday they were removed to the Custom House. There were one hundred and sixty kegs, each evidently containing five thousand dollars—in the aggregate eight hundred thousand dollars. Each keg was sealed and stamped, "Citizen's Bank, N. O. The money was of date of 1861, and each piece had the O which indicated its having been minted at New Orleans. There is the best reason to believe that it is part of the identical specie stolen by the rebels from the mint at the commencement of the war.

Mr. Conturie was confined in his office by the guard until evening, and was then released. His first act after his liberation was to haul down the Consulate flag. He then prepared a statement of the transaction for his Government, and forwarded to General Butler the following letter.

NEW ORLEANS, Saturday, May 10—9 o'clock, P. M.

To Major-General B. F. Butler, United States Army, Commanding Department of the Gulf, at New Orleans.

SIR: Herewith enclosed I have the honor to transmit to you a statement of facts, which transpired in my Consular office during the afternoon of this day, duplicates of which statement I am about to transmit to the Minister of my Government accredited at Washington, and also to the Minister of Foreign Affairs at the Hague.

I desire to know whether the acts recited in said statement were performed with your sanction or by your orders. Your answer, or a faithful copy, thereof, shall accompany my message to my Minister and Government I have the honor to be, respectfully, your obedient servant,

AM. CONTURIE, Consul of Netherlands.

The consuls of all foreign powers represented in New Orleans, also protested against the action of General Butler, who made the following response:

Headquarters, Department of the Gulf, New Orleans, May 12, 1862.

MESSRS:—I have the protest which you have thought proper to make in regard to the action of my officers towards the consul of the Netherlands, which action I approve and sustain. I am grieved that without investigation of the facts, you, Messrs, should have thought it your duty to take action in the matter. The fact will appear to be, and easily to be demonstrated at the proper time, that the flag of the Netherlands was made to cover and conceal property of an incorporated company in Louisiana, secreted under it from the laws of the United States. That the supposed fact that the Consul had under the flag only the property of Hope & Co., citizens of the Netherlands, is untrue. He had other property which could not by law be his property or the property of Hope & Co.; of this I have abundant proof in my own hands. No person shall exceed me in the respect I shall pay to the flags of all nations, and to the Consulate authority, even while I do not recognize many claims made under them; but I wish it most distinctly understood that, in order to be respected, the Consul, his office and the use of his flag must each and all be respected by himself. I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

BENJ. F. BUTLER,
Major General Commanding.

Owing to General Butler's having been informed that a large amount of specie belonging to the Confederate Government was secreted at the offices of the French and Spanish Consuls, a guard was placed over those offices the same day of the seizure at the Consulate of the Netherlands; but on the positive assurance of the representatives of the above governments that the information was entirely incorrect, the guard was withdrawn. In regard to the seizure of property at the banking house of Samuel Smith & Co's., the facts are as follows—Gen. Butler was informed that $50,000 in specie had been removed from the mint to the above house, and being satisfied that the money must be either the property of the United States Government or the Confederacy, he took possession of the bank and arrested the members of the firm. The specie could not be found, and the bankers affirmed positively that they had only $14,000 in the bank, and that of the character of private deposits. The General gave Messrs. Smith & Co., their choice between producing the specie and going to Fort Jackson, and the next morning the bankers showed the place where the money was hidden. It was concealed in the air chamber between the vault and the brick wall.—Fifty four thousand dollars were stowed away there very nicely; but it had all to come out and go to the Custom House, with the other property.

Pursuit of the Rebels from Corinth--- 5000 to 10000 Captured.

CHICAGO, June 4.—Specials from Cario say that immediately on the occupation of Gwinth, forces from Pope's division were sent out in pursuit to push the rebels as they fled westward. Gen. Granger commanded two regiments of cavalry, and soon came in the rear of the enemy, six miles southwest of Corinth, and arranged them in the fight, in which he lost fifty men. He was afterwards largely reinforced, when the rebels surrendered. It is said that 5,000 to 10,000 have been captured. A portion of these have reached Pittsburgh Landing, en rout for northern military prisons.

At last accounts General Pope was nine miles southwest of Corinth, at which point his whole corps had reached.

WASHINGTON, June 4th.—The following dispatch was received this afternoon at the War Department:

Halleck's Headquarters, June 4.

To Hon. Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War:

Gen. Pope, with 40000 men, is thirty miles south of Corinth, pushing the enemy hard. He already reports 10,000 prisoners and 15,000 stand of arms captured.

Thousands of the enemy are throwing away their arms. A farmer says that when Beauregard heard that Col. Elliott had cut the railroad in his line of retreat, he became frantic and told his men to save themselves the best they could.

We have captured nine locomotives and a number of cars. One is already repaired, and is running to-day. Several more will be in running order in two or three days.

The result is all I could possibly desire.

(Signed) W. H. HALLECK,
Major General Commanding.