

# 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, JULY. 16, 1862.

VOL. 9--NO. 32

## Great Retreat of McClellan's Army.

The following is the close of a long, detailed account of the retreat of the army on the banks of the Chickahominy to the River, by a correspondent of the Philadelphia Press.

### THE RESULT OF THE MOVEMENT.

Though accomplished at an immense expense of life and property, it is plain that General McClellan's movement has been a grand success. He has changed the seat and source of supply. By the time he has rendered entirely useless a system of rebel earthworks built at an immense expense, and securing an impregnable position. By the latter he has reduced thirty thousand troops from the duty of guarding his railroad connection with White House, a body of men never before in the siege of Richmond, but who can be employed with great effect in the operation against the enemy. His new position is a strong one. White House flanks it on the right; the Chickahominy, aided by the gunboats, on the left. The distance between cannot be more than eight miles. He is rapidly moving up the Peninsula, being to-day at Turkey Station, and within twenty miles of the rebel capital.

The result in our immediate operations against the enemy has also been most flattering. No one can conceive of the immense slaughter we have made in their ranks in the constant battles from Friday, the 27th, to Friday, the 4th of July. Our force was to fight the enemy all day and all night. Thousands of them were killed and captured. Every one of our rifles was a Federal victory. The capture at White Oak Swamp was one of the bloodiest battles on record. Four lines of rebels were drawn up in front of our position. The second urged the first upon a sea of flame and smoke at the point of bayonet, but it was of no avail. Scarcely a man survived to tell the tale of the other line, and the third and fourth, being all the curses of their officers, crying only of the misery they wished upon the first, broke and fled, and left us masters of the field. Musket shot, and cannon, and gunboat shell poured constantly into rebellion for a week. It almost seems to me to write it, but Napoleon never caused more blood to flow than has flowed from the rebel army during this retreat.

But the saddest story is the one which tells of our own losses. Millions of property were destroyed. Forty pieces of artillery, of course, fell into the enemy's hands. These, however, would have been sacrificed easily made could they have prevented any loss of life. I regret exceedingly that my duty compels me to tell the truth with regard to this matter. Thirty thousand soldiers, and there is the highest military authority for stating it, were killed or wounded or captured by the enemy in that one short week's retreat. The constant battles brought their too rich harvest of dead and dying. Hospitals containing thousands of wounded were taken up bodily to the enemy. Sick and wounded soldiers, too tired to proceed a step farther, would crawl into out-of-the-way places, be overlooked by our rear-guard, and only wake up from their sleep to be captured by the enemy. Ten thousand sick and wounded were sent to hospitals down the James river. Our loss has been fearful; but, thank God! Gen. Sheridan's troops, who are hourly arriving in reinforcements, go a great way in filling up the void.

### MANAGEMENT.

I cannot close this letter without expressing my firm belief in the mismanagement of things among subordinates in the army of the Potomac. The Government and Country provides everything on the most ample scale, and hundreds of officers are appointed especially in the medical department, to carry out its wishes. This retreat was a great emergency, and showed the utter incompetency of that department. Scarcely an ambulance could be found to

carry a wounded man, yet there were enough some where to carry all. Not one physician in twenty was at his post, and the poor soldiers screaming with the agony of their wounds, went for days without having them dressed. Thousands of sick and wounded, who should now be safe in hospitals at the North, have fallen into the enemy's hands, through the neglect of popinjay surgeons. Many have died because their wants never were cared for. And even now, hundreds on the hospital boats are moaning and groaning with festering wounds, which have not received the slightest attention. A searching investigation and prompt punishment of those men who have violated the honor of their cloth in thus neglecting the afflicted, will do much to restore the confidence and alacrity of the troops.

### STEAMER JOHN A. WARNER, ON THE JAMES RIVER, July 5, 1862.

This morning at ten o'clock, when I left Harrison's house, Gen. McClellan's furthest advanced post was within twenty five miles of Richmond, and he was rapidly pushing them forward, driving the enemy at all points. His army had completely recovered from the fatigue caused by the retreat, and he had been strongly reinforced. Gunboats accompanied his advance, shelling the woods, and scattering the enemy, and his main forces were following at safe supporting distance. His position was one that could not be flanked by the enemy, the James river and the gunboats flanking it on the left, and the lower end of White Oak swamp on the right, and three miles in length of landing places on the river were amply sufficient to secure full supplies of everything needed by the army.

The river was full of transports, loaded with ammunition, and the genial weather—neither extreme of temperature holding sway—will prove the best reinforcement Gen. McClellan could wish.

The capture of Richmond from this position will very likely be a tedious operation, requiring great skill and an overwhelming force. The Federal army has twenty-five miles of rebel country to overcome, and it may take as long a time as it did to cross the Peninsula from White House to Mechanicsville. On May 11th we entered White House; a month passed, and we were just capturing that burned-up town on the Chickahominy; a second month, and we were just where the former left us—still before Richmond, but no nearer its capture.

### From the Philadelphia Inquirer.

#### The Pennsylvania Reserves

A Brief Sketch of their History since joining the Army Before Richmond.

Through the kindness of an officer on General McClellan's staff we have been placed in possession of a few interesting particulars in reference to the part which the Pennsylvania Reserves have taken in the battles of last week. On all hands they are spoken of, and no other division in the army fought with more heroism or suffered more severely than did the twelve regiments of Pennsylvania Reserves.

They reached the Army of the Potomac about the 12th of June, and were immediately sent forward to the right of the line, near Mechanicsville, north of the Chickahominy. Their pickets were deployed on its banks, in sight of the rebels on the opposite side. On Thursday, the 20th of June, they had their first engagement with the enemy, who assailed them in largely superior force. In this the first fight for most of them, the noble Pennsylvanians stood manfully up to their work, the battle lasting four or five hours, until night closed down upon the bloody scene.

Next day, at one o'clock in the morning, the Reserves fell back, by order, and took a position about ten o'clock, A. M., about a mile or two east of their first position, where they made a stand to meet the enemy. About four o'clock, P. M., the rebels appeared in front, and they were again engaged in a terrific fight. The battle raged fiercely in the woods,

the artillery not being able to play as efficiently as desired.

The Pennsylvanians poured storms of musket and rifle balls upon the rebels, while, at the same moment, they received furious volleys from the superior forces of the enemy.

On Sunday the whole army of the Potomac changed position, forming a new line southwest of Richmond, the left resting on the James river. In this new position, the Reserves occupied the right and advance, and during Sunday night and Monday were constantly on the alert and under arms, expecting a sudden approach of the enemy.

Monday afternoon, General McClellan made his dispositions of troops, and posted his batteries to meet the rebel advance. At half past four a fearful battle commenced; and, as the rebels showed themselves in the wood, our artillery shelled them with tremendous slaughter, while our infantry moved forward and checked them with murderous volleys of musketry. Rallying, they boldly advanced to capture our batteries. Our men met them at the cannon's mouth, and a hand-to-hand contest ensued.

By hurling forth fresh regiments in overwhelming numbers they succeeded in capturing a number of our guns. A more desperate contest, perhaps, never occurred between opposing forces than was witnessed in this fight to retain and to obtain the artillery of the Reserves. The slaughter on both sides was awful, but by far the greatest among the ranks of the rebels.

The cannon cut whole lines down, and opened great gaps through the advancing masses, but still they came on, fresh regiment after regiment, until our gallant and bleeding men were overpowered by exertion, and decimated by the deadly volleys of the enemy. Had we but received reinforcements, our guns would not have been lost. As it was, it was impossible to hold them against the superior numbers thrown upon our devoted division.

Gen. McClellan was present, and distinguished himself as a brave and heroic commander. During the battle on Monday he was severely wounded, and in the frightful conflict over the batteries he was again wounded and taken prisoner. Lieut. Beatty, of Gen. McClellan's staff, was struck by a rifle ball which passed through his thigh. Capt. McConkey, of his staff, was wounded in the arm, and several of his aids were killed and wounded, whose names we could not learn.

### GEN. McCLELLAN IN THE FIGHT.

From all with whom we have conversed, we find that McClellan proved how much he deserves the confidence of his soldiers. He has directed, personally, the movements, and during the five day's fighting has been constantly under fire. He was in the front, encouraging and cheering his troops. He has fared with them; he gives himself no rest, and shares their privations, their dangers and their hardships.

### GEN. SUMNER

Is said to have been bravest among the brave. Wounded in the arm twice, and exhausted by a want of sleep for forty-eight hours, he still kept the field, although pressed by friends and surgeons to retire. To all he replied:—"No! I will see this thing through."

### GEN. BURSS

Was severely wounded in the face and head, but remained on the field to the last.

### BAXTER'S FINE ZOUAVES.

In the language of a distinguished General who witnessed their conduct, "covered themselves all over with glory, and redeemed fully their character." They relieved a regiment in Gorman's Brigade at a very critical moment, and charged in the most splendid manner against superior forces.

### THE FIGHT ON MONDAY

is represented as being more severe than that of any preceding day. Our whole army was more or less engaged. The rebels marched out from Richmond one hundred and sixteen complete regiments,

and they attacked our lines in fine order. They have followed us up after each day's fighting, and have displayed admirable generalship. Their loss is estimated at near thirty-four thousand during the past five days.

Our artillery has made sad havoc among their ranks, but their preponderance in numbers enables them to fill up the gaps and press our army. Our own loss is variously estimated at from seven to thirteen thousand, killed, wounded, straggling and missing. Beauregard and Jackson have certainly reinforced Lee, and the rebels have now a fighting force of 150,000 men.

### The Attack on Vicksburg.

The New Canal Nearly Completed—Vicksburg under an Intense Bombardment—Progress of the Bombardment.

CHICAGO, July 7.—A special despatch from Memphis, dated the 6th, states that the ram *Lioness* has arrived with advices from the fleet above Vicksburg to the 2d instant.

The canal across the point of land opposite Vicksburg is nearly completed. Negro workmen have been collected from the various plantations in the vicinity. In all cases Government receipts were given for them. Several thousand were engaged on the work. It is supposed that when the ditch is finished the river would cut a wide channel during high water, and forever leave Vicksburg in inland village.

The bombardment is kept up at regular intervals from both fleets, Commodore Davis having arrived when the *Lioness* left. The rebel batteries were still replying occasionally. It was believed that the rebel works would be stormed on the Fourth, and there is every reason to believe that the city has already fallen.

The city is said to be not so badly damaged as was at first stated. All the non-combatants were previously removed. The rebel force is said to be sixteen thousand. A story has reached the fleet that several hundred of the rebels had been killed by the explosion of shells.

### News from Washington.

#### THE RETURN OF THE FRENCH PRINCES.

WASHINGTON, July 7.—The *Washington Intelligencer* contains the following:—

It is known to our readers that the Prince de Joinville, the Duke de Chartres, and the Comte de Paris, of whom the two last named were lately connected with the staff of Gen. McClellan, have withdrawn from the scene of the pending military operations in Virginia, and are about to embark for Europe.

As the announcement of this fact has been accompanied in certain quarters with "explanations" of the most supposititious character, it may be proper to state, as we are able to do in the most positive terms, that this return to Europe of these distinguished guests, who have until lately formed a part of General McClellan's military family, is in pursuance of a purpose formed several weeks ago, and postponed at much inconvenience, only from their anxiety to "assist" at the impending battles before Richmond. All representations which allege that they have withdrawn from the United States contrary to their original intentions, under apprehensions of a foreign intervention, or, as others have feigned, in disgust at the imputed "inefficiency" of General McClellan, are wholly without foundation. On their return to this city from the army of General McClellan, they expressed in the warmest terms their admiration of that officer's military conduct, and of the heroic bearing of his devoted troops. They found nothing to deplore in the campaign on the Peninsula except that General McClellan should have been left without the reinforcements which were seen to be necessary in view of the forces massed against him from all parts of the South.

#### ARRIVAL OF REINFORCEMENTS.

Fresh troops arrived here from Washington yesterday, and went up the James river in the evening.

Four small steamers, with four barges in tow, arrived at Fortress Monroe this morning, laden with artillerymen, horses, &c., and were, doubtless, bound up the river.

A skirmish took place the other day, near our left wing, which resulted in the defeat of the Rebels. We took one thousand Rebel prisoners and three small batteries, and our cavalry followed them up till they passed beyond White Oak.

For the last two days the rebels have shown little disposition to fight, and yesterday relinquished their ground and batteries almost without resistance.

#### NEW YORK MONEY MARKET.—NEW YORK, July 9.—NOON.

Sixteen per cent premium is bid for Gold. Sterling Exchange, 29. Money is active at 6 per cent. Stocks are also up 2 and 3 per cent.

high feather at what they regard as the recent defeat of our army before Richmond, and consequent success of the rebel arms, that they are holding frequent secret meetings, and are constantly enlisting volunteers for the service of Jeff. Davis.

### WAR NEWS.

#### THE NEW CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS.

There has been much interest in Washington to hear the response of the country to the President's new call for volunteers. The prevailing sentiment is that the enlistments will be too slow to meet the public demand for an immediate and overwhelming advance upon the rebellion, and that a draft for a half million would be the proper action at the present moment. No half way measures, but one finishing blow.

#### FUGITIVE SLAVES.

The question of the admission of fugitive slaves within the lines of the army, is submitted to our Government for decision by Gens. Butler and Phelps—Butler having opposed their admission, and Phelps favored it. As they come of all ages and sexes, Butler objects to the expense of keeping them. The Government has given no decision, and it is thought will prescribe no rule, but still leave each commander to judge the proper rule for his Department.

#### NEWS DIRECT FROM RICHMOND.

A surgeon of a Wisconsin regiment who was captured at Bull Run, and has been kept at Richmond ever since reached Washington this morning. He was taken out to the battle fields before Richmond to help care for the wounded, but watched his opportunity and escaped.—He says the rebel leaders claim a miraculous deliverance, and that every pane of glass in Richmond was illuminated in honor of their victory; but still the tone of the community was greatly saddened by reason of their frightful losses in battle.

#### ESTIMATED LOSS OF THE ENEMY.

A distinguished general officer of the army of the Potomac was in Washington this morning, on his way to visit his family north of Washington.

His opportunities for learning the extent of the damage received by the enemy in the recent seven days fighting were, from the nature of his position in the service, perhaps better than any other Union officer. He estimated the loss in killed and wounded and otherwise rendered *hors du combat*, at the immense number of 75,000 men, or, in other words, that their loss was quite half their whole army in and about Richmond.

They refuse to receive flags of truce from General McClellan, conveying inquiries relative to the fate of Union officers and soldiers believed to be wounded and prisoners in their hands, thus evincing a great disinclination to permit General McClellan to obtain any inkling, however obscure, of their real condition, since the termination of the battle.

#### ARRIVAL OF REINFORCEMENTS.

Fresh troops arrived here from Washington yesterday, and went up the James river in the evening.

Four small steamers, with four barges in tow, arrived at Fortress Monroe this morning, laden with artillerymen, horses, &c., and were, doubtless, bound up the river.

A skirmish took place the other day, near our left wing, which resulted in the defeat of the Rebels. We took one thousand Rebel prisoners and three small batteries, and our cavalry followed them up till they passed beyond White Oak.

For the last two days the rebels have shown little disposition to fight, and yesterday relinquished their ground and batteries almost without resistance.

#### NEW YORK MONEY MARKET.—NEW YORK, July 9.—NOON.

Sixteen per cent premium is bid for Gold. Sterling Exchange, 29. Money is active at 6 per cent. Stocks are also up 2 and 3 per cent.

### Foreign News.

St. JOHN'S, July 7.—The royal mail steamer *Europa* passed off Cape Race at midnight, on the 6th.

She left Liverpool on the 28th, via Southampton the 29th, and brings two day's later advices.

The news from America, brought by the *Persia* caused increased excitement in England, and in the Liverpool cotton market prices had further advanced.

The *London Times*, in an editorial on the state of affairs in America, says that the news shows that not much can be expected before fall; but it hopes that means will be devised by which the conflict may be ended.

The *London Times* at last admits that the superior numbers and resources of the North must, in the end, prevail, but hopes that some means will be devised to bring this unnatural conflict to a close.

The *London Herald* thinks it is time that some decided action was taken by France and England.

Hon. F. Bruce, the Governor of the Province of Wales, is dead.

France is about to construct reduced models of the *Merrimac* and *Monitor*, in order to test their merits.

Russia has recognized the kingdom of Italy. The Government monopoly of salt has been abolished in Russia.

The *Times* editorially says:—"The telegrams by the *Persia*, if they come substantially from the Northern Government, do credit to its veracity, inasmuch as they proclaim that any decisive advantage over the Confederates must be postponed until great additions are made to the Federal army."

The last dates are to June 18th, which may be considered the beginning of the summer heats. Although the probability is that both armies will keep the field, yet there can be little doubt that the spirit of the campaign must languish until fall, when cool weather and reinforcements on both sides will allow the struggle to be renewed.

Kentuckians and Tennesseeans might argue that since their own States have been abandoned, and fallen under the yoke of the Federals, they had no further interest in defending the cotton States to which they were bound by the ties of allegiance, but the diminishing army must have been mainly caused by the difficulty of obtaining food. The *Times* adds:—"The superior numbers and resources of the North we look upon as certain in the end to prevail. But who can see the resolution evinced by the South, the immense army it puts in the field, and the tenacity with which it disputes every position, without feeling that the war is likely to drench the territory of the Union with much more blood." It winds up by hoping some means may be devised for bringing this unnatural conflict to a close.

The *Morning Herald* contends that the restoration of the Union would be a calamity, not only for Europe and England in particular, but for the North. It declares that the Union had become a nuisance among nations. Secession is favorable to England. Self-interest would have justified interference before this, had not international morality forbid it.

Even now, if there was any hope of an earlier settlement, no one would dream of interfering. As matters stand, however, the *Herald* thinks it is time that some decided action should be taken by France and England in behalf of justice and humanity, as well as for the protection of their half ruined manufactories and hungry operatives. Such action must be taken at once, as impossible things cannot be long allowed to remain. It is most improbable that there will be any change in the aspect of American affairs that will bring us relief, and if we are to act after all, it will be saving needless misery to act at once with gentleness and courtesy, but with more immovable firmness in words.