

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, SEPT. 24, 1862.

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A DREDFUL CALAMITY.

Explosion of the Laboratory at Allegheny
—Frightful Loss of Life.—
Twenty-five Persons Killed.—The Building
Destroyed by Fire.

[From the Pittsburg Post.]

Our community was shocked yesterday morning by what most believed to be a report of the most terrible calamity which has ever befallen our city, the blowing up of the laboratory at the United States Arsenal in Lawrenceville, Pa., in which all the filling of cartridges, canister, grape, &c., is done, and consequent loss of at least seventy-five persons, principally girls employed in the Arsenal. As soon as the cause of the explosion, which was distinctly heard in some parts of the city, became known, there was a general rush for the scene of calamity. Passenger cars were crowded with every description of vehicles, and passengers and physicians flocked to the spot with the usual appliances. We went with the crowd, and that reality for once exceeded the fiction. We cannot attempt to describe the scene, but will endeavor to give our readers some idea of its horror:

THE BUILDING.
The Laboratory of the Arsenal was a building some sixty feet by forty, situated on the Greensburg turnpike, in what is called the "Park," lying on the upper part of Butler street. The building was a simple, built in the shape of an E, forming three sides of a square, one story, with a covered porch around the inside, which doors opened into the four apartments into which the house was divided. Some thirty yards from the end was another building, in which an engine, used for heating the laboratory by means of steam pipes. In this building were ten apartments, used for filling cartridges, shot, shell, &c. The building was the only one on the ground in which powder was used, as the cartridges, &c., are prepared in the large building running parallel with Butler street, and the other smaller shops. The magazines are further up the hill from the main building, which stands apart from all the others.

THE INMATES.
In this building were employed a large number of girls and boys filling cartridges, &c. Of the fourteen apartments eight were occupied for these purposes. The number employed in each was as follows:

No. 1.....26 girls	No. 12.....13 girls
No. 2.....24 "	No. 13.....30 "
No. 3.....26 "	No. 14.....24 "
No. 4.....10 "	No. 7.....25 boys

Working in all 151 girls and 25 boys.

The rule of the laboratory was to remain in the evening all the finished work of the day, so as to avoid the risk of explosion as much as possible. In the large building on Butler street, some three hundred boys and girls were employed in preparing cartridges, &c., for filling.

PAY DAY.
Yesterday was pay day at the Arsenal. Paymaster Bosworth, assisted by Mr. [Name], one of the clerks, was paying the girls employed in the laboratory. Some had been paid, and only three out of the number mentioned above had failed to receive their names: so it is more than probable that nearly all were in the building at the time of the accident, and perhaps, as there was constant going and coming between the different departments.

THE EXPLOSION.
Occurred at about two o'clock, and was distinctly heard in the city, (shaking several of the buildings,) and as far up the Allegheny river as Port Penn, at which point the smoke was seen. The cause is not precisely known. One account says it was occasioned by the explosion of a number of which, being sent off by accident, fell and caused a concussion which exploded one. Others allege that it was occasioned by friction of some powder from one or three barrels unloaded from the porch of the laboratory, by a man named Frick, who had brought it from the magazine, and who was somewhat injured by the explosion. It is well known, however, that the first explosion took place outside and communicated to No. 1, where little damage was done beyond setting fire to the clothing of one of the girls, who fled in consternation and gave the alarm, causing a stampede for the doors. Many got out, and it is alleged, some persons used their behavior to induce them to return, and succeeded in getting some to go back, before the danger to be over. Some returned in search of their acquaintances, and while they were inside a second explosion took place, nearly five minutes after the first.

This, we are informed, showed the root of the building, which fell in, burning, and was probably the occasion of so much loss of life. Almost simultaneously with this, another explosion was heard in the engine building, and it also took fire.

THE ALARM.
Soon reached the city, the fire bells were rung vigorously and the engines were on the ground as early as circumstances permitted. The Vigilant, we believe, threw the first water. The steamers worked well and the remains of the buildings, which, being of frame, burned very rapidly, were soon sufficiently cooled to permit an investigation of the ruins and the number of sufferers.

THE SCENE OF DISASTER.
Of the main building nothing remained but a heap of smoking debris. The ground about was strewn with fragments of charred wood, torn clothing, balls, caps, grape shot, exploded shells, shoes, fragments of dinner baskets belonging to the inmates, cartridge paper, sheet iron, melted lead, &c. Two hundred feet from the laboratory was picked up the body of one young girl, terribly mangled; another body was seen to fly in the air and separate into two parts; an arm was thrown over the wall; a foot was picked up near the gate; a piece of skull was found a hundred yards away, and pieces of the intestines were scattered about the grounds. Some fled out of the ruins covered with flame, or blackened and lacerated with the effects of the explosion, and either fell and expired or lingered in agony until removed. Several were conveyed to houses in the borough and to their homes in the city. Of these four or five subsequently died.

THE REMOVAL OF THE BODIES.
As soon as the flames subsided the crowd which had collected set to work to remove the bodies from the debris and in the course of an hour at least forty bodies had been removed and laid upon boards in groups for identification. Never have we seen such an appalling spectacle. Bodies, charred and swollen, were scattered here and there over the sward, some mere limbless trunks blackened and bloody—some with the limbs remaining, but distorted, and the flesh hanging from the bones in strips. Here was a pile of undistinguishable fragments—here two sisters, one dead, the other in the last agony—here a father and daughter—here two children whose names were known, but the parents could not distinguish one from the other. Nearly all the dead bodies were those of females, but only a few could be identified by their features—some were recognized by the place in which they were found and one was discovered by her false teeth—some had apparently died in great agony, from the contortions of their limbs, while the arms of some were folded as if in resignation to their fate.

THE CROWD.
Was immense and constantly increased until the grounds were thronged with curious visitors. Some were satisfied with a brief stay in that sickening atmosphere, charged with the peculiar odor of burning human flesh, but others lingering about, giving assistance where they could and talking over the horrible details.

FROM HARRISBURG.
HARRISBURG, September 17.—The battle of yesterday closed without a definite result.

No firing has been heard at Hagerstown since four o'clock yesterday.

Stragglers coming into Hagerstown, report General Longstreet killed, and that the rebels had been surrounded. They say that their ammunition and provisions have nearly run out.

The rumor which has reached here that Harper's Ferry had fallen, is not credited at headquarters.

One hundred more rebel prisoners were brought in this morning from Chambersburg, and sent to Camp Curtin. They presented a wretched appearance, and seemed pleased with their new quarters.

The Philadelphia Grey Reserves arrived at Chambersburg last evening safely, and insisted on occupying the cars as quarters for the night.

It is now raining here.

Troops are still arriving.

Charles Dumas, a soldier, from Erie county, attempted suicide this morning by stabbing himself in two places, and then cutting his throat.

Maj. Gen. Patterson is now here.

Thirty-two paroled prisoners and deserters were sent to Washington to-day, under the charge of Lieut. J. Brooks, of the 51st Penna. Regiment.

The city is full of rumors in regard to the fight at Harper's Ferry.

Information has been received of the fighting at Sharpsburg.

If all fools were white caps, we should appear like a flock of geese.

OBITUARY.

General Jesse L. Reno.

As an offset to the glorious victory achieved by a portion of our army over the rebels in their strong position on the heights commanding the Hagerstown road, on Sunday last, the telegraph brings us the meager but sad announcement of the death of Jesse L. Reno, Major General of Volunteers, Captain of the Ordnance Department, and one of the most gallant and able officers of the United States Army.

The record of Gen. Reno's military life, although extending over the brief period of sixteen years—brief in comparison to the records of such men as Gen. Scott, Wool and Sumner—is both brilliant and honorable, and his loss cannot fail to be severely felt, not only by the brave troops under his command, but by those companions of his academic career, with whom he fought and bled in the sanguinary contests of Cerro Gordo and Chapultepec.

Jesse L. Reno was born in Virginia about the year 1826, and was consequently in the very prime of life, when his name was added to the already too long list of victims of this disastrous rebellion. He entered the West Point Military Academy in 1842, and after four years' patient and most successful study, graduated the eighth in his class—Capt. Chas. S. Stewart, of the Corps of Engineers, being the first, Major General George B. McClellan the second, and Brigadier-Generals J. G. Bunt and J. G. Foster the third and fourth. The following Generals are also classmates of Gen. Reno: Imis N. Palmer, George Stoneman, Geo. H. Gordon, Truman Seymour, D. N. Couch, and S. D. Sturgis. The redoubtable rebel Stonewall Jackson, was also a fellow cadet with these. On the 1st of July, 1846, General Reno was appointed Brevet Second Lieutenant in the Ordnance Department, being the only cadet of his year appointed to that department. His appointment is credited to Pennsylvania. On the 3d of March, 1847, he received his commission as full Second Lieutenant.

In the meantime, however, war had been declared between the United States and Mexico, and Lieut. Reno was in the field, where he was soon distinguished as the possessor of soldierly qualities of a very high order. At the battle of Cerro Gordo, April 18th, 1847, his conduct was such as to merit special distinction, and he was accordingly brevetted First Lieutenant for gallant and meritorious conduct. At the storming of Chapultepec, he commanded a howitzer battery and rendered effective service; while at the battle of Chapultepec, September 13th, 1847, a repetition of the gallant and meritorious conduct for which he had been honored at Cerro Gordo was still further rewarded by the brevet rank of Captain.

In this engagement he was severely wounded, and had to retire for a while from active service. After his health and strength were sufficiently recruited, he was assigned to duty at the West Point Military Academy, where he remained from January to July, 1849, acting as Assistant Professor of Mathematics. After this he returned to the Ordnance Department and remained there performing the customary duties connected with this important department until April, 1854, from which date until July, 1854, he assisted in the United States Coast Survey, when he left that field of duty to build a military road from the Big Sandy River to St. Paul. From 1854 to 1857 he was stationed at the Frankfort (Ky.) Arsenal as Second Ordnance Officer, and afterward was Chief Ordnance Officer of the Utah Expedition, when he had the command of a battery. Returning in 1859, he was sent to the Montgomery (Ala.) Arsenal, and subsequently, by Jeff. Davis, to Leavenworth.

Such was the slowness of promotions in the Ordnance Department in time of peace, that although a Brevet Captain in 1847, Gen. Reno did not get his commission as full First Lieutenant until March, 1853, and it was not until seven years after this, viz: in July, 1860, that he received the full rank of Captain of Ordnance, a rank which he had already held by brevet for over fourteen years.

In the fall of 1860 he was recalled to Washington and commissioned a Brigadier-General of volunteers, and ordered to report to General Burnside, who was at Annapolis, fitting out his North Carolina expedition. He served with distinction at Roanoke Island, Newbern, Beaufort, and other places, and was commissioned a Major-General of volunteers, his rank in the regular service being Captain. About the 1st of August last, with Gen. Burnside's Army Corps, he hastened to

the relief of General McClellan after he had reached Harrison's Landing, and subsequently proceeded with his command to the Potomac. Participating in the sanguinary conflicts under Pope, he finished his brilliant career in driving the invaders from the soil of Maryland.

Since his appointment to the Burnside Expedition of Hagerstown Heights, Gen. Reno has been continually in the field, and although there are officers having higher and more important command than that intrusted to him, there are none braver or more loyal, and no truer soldier than the late Major-General Jesse L. Reno.

Parson Brownlow on "What the People Demand."

[From the Constitutional Union.]

In the *Press* of yesterday is to be found a long letter from that notorious humbug and pretender, Parson Brownlow, headed, "What the people demand." The first question that enters the mind on reading this epistle from the Parson is, what right has a strolling mountebank and blasphemous insulter of the Christian ministry, from a State now in arms against the Government, to speak in behalf of the patriotic, intelligent and decent men of the loyal States? Who gave this lying stigma upon the American public a right to denigrate what the people of the North desire with reverence to the conduct of the war on the part of the General Government? If the advice of this man was wise and prudent and patriotic, still it would be open to the serious objection of being given unasked, unsolicited; but as it is a rehash of the usual Abolition ideas, spiced with the blasphemy, vulgarity and indecency which constitutes the special stock in trade of this *model Christian*, it is doubly insulting and offensive at this time and in this section. The Parson should be content to pocket the thousands of dollars which he has received from the sale of a book made up of stale outbursts, pointless jokes, and irreverent anecdotes, taken from the columns of the delinquent Knoxville *Whig*, and not push the patience and forbearance of this community too far. Such a course might prevent the loyal and patriotic men of this City and elsewhere from asking why it is that the "fighting Parson" is not at home defending his State from the rebels who are there, instead of cowardly lurking in the Northern States where the rebels are not, and from this safe retreat extorting money from the people?

In truth, it is high time that a stop should be put to the impudence of this man Brownlow. We have the greatest sympathy for those true men who have been driven from their homes and exiled from their native States by the armed force of invasion. But not so with the pretenders and jobbers, mischievous-makers and schemers. They do not deserve sympathy or assistance. There is no man in this Union who has done more to produce the ill feelings which exist between the people of the North and South than this swearing Parson. Low, vulgar and brutal in his instincts, tastes and associations, he carried the same spirit into all his speeches and paper writings. No man was safe from the malice of his tongue, the venom of his pen. The pure and lofty and good, the men of real piety, the politicians of spotless character and purity and disinterestedness of motive and action, were the special victims of this *Christian minister*. In this way he begot strife and bitterness in the locality of his residence and in all sections which could be reached and poisoned by his influence. To-day, the friend and supporter of slavery—tomorrow, denouncing the most bitter curses and imprecations upon the heads of those who even dwell in the slave States; he is in turn the advocate and the accuser, the champion and the foe. No wonder, then, that when the contest came this man, who had played the traitor to all parties, should be shunned by all, and compelled to leave a State over the destinies of which his doctrines had exercised so fatal an influence.

When such a man as this talks of the "North being full of traitors," the loyal masses will know what weight to give to his assertions, and how to treat the author of them. "What the people demand" of the Government and all those in authority is to turn a deaf ear to the brutal and unchristian suggestion of this man Brownlow, and thus rebuke alike his want of courtesy to those who have given him a home when wandering homeless in a strange land, and the insult heaped upon the patriotism and loyalty of the very men who are now in arms in support of the Union and the Constitution. "He that takes the sword shall perish by the sword," is the teaching of holy writ, and if Parson Brownlow is now raving the bitter fruit of the seed he planted in Tennessee, it is

a just punishment for his folly and disregard of the first principles of that holy religion of which he professes to be an exemplar and teacher.

The Storming of Harper's Ferry.

8000 Prisoners Captured and Paroled by the Rebels.

Gen. Howell Cobb a Prisoner.

EIGHT THOUSAND PRISONERS AND FOUR BATTERIES CAPTURED.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—Harper's Ferry was surrendered to the Rebels at 10 o'clock yesterday, after Colonel Miles had been severely if not mortally wounded.

The special correspondent of the *American* at Frederick says:

I regret to have to announce the surrender of Harper's Ferry, with all the forces and stores there, to the enemy, at nine o'clock on Monday morning.

The enlisted men and some officers have been paroled and arrived here. From them I gather the following particulars:

The Rebels commenced the attack on Friday noon on our forces, on the Maryland Heights. The skirmishing continued throughout the day and evening, and was renewed on Saturday. The enemy was driven back with considerable loss. They came up several times and were repulsed. When it was discovered that they were coming up in overwhelming force, an order was given to spike the guns and throw them down the mountain. The whole force then retired in safety, the guns from Camp Hill shelling the enemy when they attempted to pursue our retreating men.

On Sunday afternoon a party of our men again ascended the Heights and brought away their field pieces which they had left there unspiked.

On Sunday, at noon, the Rebels appeared in great force on Loudon Heights. Colonel Miles shelled them from point to point. Some of their guns were dislodged but they still managed to keep up a brisk fire from some of their batteries which were run back out of sight and loaded.

The commanding was kept up all day on Sunday without doing much damage. The firing ceased at dusk on Sunday evening, and was resumed again on Monday morning at daylight, and kept up until 9 o'clock, when Col. Miles ordered a white flag to be hoisted.

There was considerable fog and smoke, and the enemy either did not see the flag or could not see it, and kept up a heavy firing for three-quarters of an hour. About ten minutes after the flag was up a shell struck Col. Miles, shattering his right leg. It was amputated before the prisoners were paroled.

There were about 2300 cavalry in the command, all of whom, except about forty, escaped about eight o'clock on Sunday night, and cut their way through to Greenastle with but little loss.

The balance of the troops, numbering from six to eight thousand, with General White's command from Martinsburg, were all surrendered.

Gen. House captured an Aid-de-Camp of Gen. Stuart on Monday afternoon, who was making his way from Harper's Ferry to Boonsboro' with a dispatch from Gen. Jackson to Gen. Lee, announcing the capitulation of the place. The Aid-supposed Gen. Lee was at Boonsboro' which was in our possession.

This was the first intimation of the surrender which our General received. At the time General Franklin was within three hours march of the Ferry, going to the relief of the beleaguered command, whether he had been sent by Gen. McClellan as soon as he received the despatch from Col. Miles on Monday morning that he was in danger.

The intelligence from the front this morning is of the most cheering character, notwithstanding the bad news from Harper's Ferry. Gen. McClellan was pushing them with a vigor most destructive to the enemy.

He pursued the enemy on Monday morning, with his Reserves and a large body of fresh troops. The enemy took the road towards the river at Harper's Ferry and Shepherdstown, and he was pursuing and shelling their retreat, causing great loss.

In several contests, on Monday, where they made a stand, our troops charged on them with such vigor that they fell back from point to point in great haste.

The bottles and advantages obtained on Monday are thought to be superior in importance to those of Sunday.

Drayton's South Carolina Brigade is entirely gone, either killed, wounded, or prisoners. The Seventeenth Michigan, one of the new regiments, done up this brigade, first with bullets, and finally with the bayonet.

Gen. Howell Cobb was wounded and taken prisoner. He will be back to Frederick sooner than he boasted he would.

General McClellan was pushing on them last evening, however, very close, and had already sent to the rear eight thousand prisoners and four batteries.

Col. Strobe, Nineteenth Virginia, and Col. James, of the Third South Carolina Battalion were killed on Sunday last, and their bodies left in our possession. The South Carolina Brigade was very severely handled.

General Hatch, commanding General Keyser's division, (who is sick,) was slightly wounded.

The Major of the Ninety-sixth Pennsylvania, whose name I do not remember, was killed, and Capt. Brady, of the 11th Pennsylvania Reserves was also killed.

Our total loss will probably not exceed 2,500, killed and wounded, with a very small proportion killed. I can learn of few field officers killed.

I send the following lists of killed and wounded officers, it being all I am able to get to-day.

The army is being rapidly on the move, and all the disabled are going to the rear.

All churches in Middletown and Frederick are to be occupied by the wounded.

Killed—Major General Reno; Capt. Brady, Co. K, 11th Penna. Reserves; Sgt. Stewart, Co. G, 11th Penna. Reserves; Capt. Caldwell, Co. B, 2d Wisconsin; Major 96th Penna.; Lieut. C. F. Springwater.

LATEST.

New York, Sept. 17.—The *Herald* states that the rebels evacuated Harper's Ferry in such haste that a part of the Federal prisoners taken were not paroled.

A special despatch to the *Times*, from Harrisburg, states that the two portions of the rebel army are united on this side of the Potomac, and a battle was going on all yesterday afternoon. Also, that General Longstreet was killed, and Gen. Hill captured.

Boston, Sept. 17.—The Royal Mail steamer *Asia*, sailed at eight o'clock this morning, with 80 passengers and \$12,000 in specie.

Commodore John Percival died at Roxbury this morning.

Negro Outrage in Washington County.

The Washington *Examiner* gives the following account of another outrage by a negro in that county:

"On the night of Thursday, the 28th ultimo, a negro named John Bowman, living on Henry Spar's farm in Allen township, attempted to commit a rape on the person of a white woman named Dolan, wife of Michael Dolan, who is a volunteer in the army, residing on Noah Spear's place, also in Allen township. The fiend at first approached the house of Mrs. Dolan whilst all but herself were absent (the other members of the family being at a neighbor's) and knocked at the door, and on being asked 'who is there?' declined to answer, and stepped away. Shortly afterward Mrs. D. left the house to go to the spring, and when she had got a short distance from the house, he went up to her, knocked a lighted candle out of her hand, caught hold of her and demanded a compliance with his infamous desires. She instantly raised an alarm, and her screams were heard by persons in Bellevue, on the opposite side of the river, who sprang from their beds, crossed the river, and, with others, started in pursuit of him. He was pursued to his residence, where he was arrested and taken before Justice Thomas Reed, of Allen township, who, after a full hearing, made out a commitment and placed him in charge of Col. John Jackson, H. J. Farmer, and Jacob Crow, who kept him during Thursday night, and started with him for Washington the next morning. After they had proceeded about five miles he managed by some means to untie the rope by which he was bound, and before any one of the guard was aware of anything being wrong, sprang from the wagon and made for the woods. Although vigorous pursuit was made, he succeeded in eluding recapture. One of the guard attempted to discharge his revolver after the flying miscreant, but it failed to go off. He has since kept out of sight and reach of the officers.

The Abolitionists at Washington are now howling after General Burnside for not bringing away several thousand of contrabands from Frederickburg. The brave General thought more of the safety and comfort of his soldiers than the negroes—that is his crime.

Never do that by force which may be effected by fair means.