



J. S. TODD, Editor & Publisher.

WEDNESDAY JAN 28 1863

Court Martial of Gen. Porter.

The trial of Gen. Fitz-John Porter, by a military court martial, is at last ended. The General was found guilty on all the charges brought against him. The President is pleased with the verdict and has ordered his name to be stricken from the list.

Amendment to the Constitution.

In another part of to-day's paper will be found the proposed amendments to our Constitution, introduced into our Legislature by Mr. Rex, of Montgomery county. It is a good move, and we hope the Democratic members will act upon the suggestion, and pass the bill through the House this winter, so that it may be made an issue to be followed up until the people have a chance to vote upon it for their own protection, against an invasion of negro fugitives from the South.

Resignation of Gen. Burnside.

Yesterday's papers make the announcement that Gen. Burnside has resigned, and that the command of the army of the Potomac has been given to Gen. Hooker. It is also understood that Generals Sumner and Franklin, have been relieved from the command of the right and left Grand Divisions.

A Revelation.

Hon. T. J. Boyer, of Clearfield county, by a little stratagem, succeeded in discovering the trick by which Simon Cameron was to secure a seat in the Senate of the United States. We have neither room for comments nor the publication of his statement this week; but we will print it in our next issue.

The N. Y. Tribune says that Mrs. Lincoln has given her approval to the emancipation proclamation, and that she strongly urges the immediate arming of the slaves. This will, no doubt, put a great damper on the rebellion, because when the South shall have learned that the Cabinet, including Mrs. Lincoln is a unit, and that the President's coach driver too, is in favor of the scheme, they will at once submit.

The Assembly of New York has at last succeeded in effecting an organization. Mr. Callicott, Union Democrat, of Brooklyn, the Republican candidate was elected. All the Republican nominees for officers of the Assembly were elected. A resolution was introduced charging Mr. Callicott with bribery, corruption, &c., when after a long debate the House adjourned without taking action.

Godey's Lady's Book for February is now before us; it displays embellishments and literature which cannot be surpassed by any work of the kind.

E. J. Mills & Co., wish us to say that they are now selling goods cheaper than they can be bought elsewhere and that in calling the attention of the public they will be glad to have persons to come and see and examine their merchandise, even they do not intend to purchase anything.

Patriotic Massachusetts, that was, two years ago, going to take the crushing out of this rebellion by contract, and complete it in thirty days, has now ten thousand deserters from her troops!

From the Army of the Potomac.

IS CAMP, NEAR BANKS' FERRY AND SCOTT'S MILLS, JAN. 29, 1863.

The contemplated—i.e., Friday last, and delayed from day to day—forward movement, actually commenced yesterday at noon, much to the surprise of a large majority of the troops here concentrated, from the fact that orders and counter-orders had, for the three past days, been in continual circulation.

The last order, however, issued on Monday night, proved to be one of a positive nature, and hence the troops of the three Grand Divisions had all their tents struck and were formed in marching order soon after ten o'clock A. M.

Soon after they were so formed we heard intense, earnest and long continued cheering coming from every part of our immense line, and making the surrounding hills and woods echo and re-echo again the welcome and soul cheering sound. Upon inquiry we discovered that the cause of this demonstration was the earnest, heartfelt response to the address from our brave and able commander, Burnside, which was then being read to them.

Soon after the reading of the order, and the subsiding of the pleasurable excitement attending its reading, the Grand Division under Major-General Hooker took up their line of march, the splendid division under General D. B. Birney, as usual, leading the way, Gen. Barry, the commander of one brigade, being absent on leave at the time, but he returned and assumed the command ere reaching this point.

This advanced division of Gen. Birney's left their old camp ground two hours in advance of the other divisions, and proceeded out what is known on the map as the Marsh road, until reaching Horn Church (called on the map Maria Church) thence taking a short cut in a southerly direction, by a by-road through the woods and swamps, arrived at their present location soon after six o'clock, where they are bivouacking for the night.

The corps under command of General Meade, comprising the Divisions of Generals Butterfield, Sykes and Humphreys, followed us, leaving at one o'clock, and are now encamped on the Marsh road, near the church before mentioned. The instructions given to Gen. Birney, under whose sole and entire control was this advance, were that he should protect the laying of the pontoon bridges, which had the day before been started for this point, and that in order to do this he should "shove" over in the pontoon boats which support the bridge his Division of infantry, while the batteries and sharpshooters were to be stationed upon this side of the river to protect this first crossing.

To obey these instructions "to cross in open boats," all the time subject to the enemy's fire from artillery and infantry, and with no opportunity to reply, would have called for an exhibition of determination, valor and bravery seldom accorded to the generality of man. But knowing as well as we do the "status" of the troops comprising this particular Division, we can safely predict that, had these same always tardy pontooners arrived in time, the crossing would have been effected, and with less danger, and consequently less loss of life than it can now be done.

That these pontooners were again "held up," is a positive fact. Who is responsible for it we are unable to decide, neither do we care to; but had they been on the ground at the time of the arrival of the division that was to protect their being laid, they could have been placed in position, and, under the "cover of the night," the majority of the troops could have been passed over.

Now, the rain that has been threatening all day has commenced, and is pouring in torrents. It is impossible to say when the pontooners will be up, or when we will attempt a crossing; for if the present storm continues the entire night,

it will put the roads in such a condition as to render the moving of heavy trains and artillery one of much difficulty. The troops, though encamped without tents with which to shield them from the storm, appear to be in quite good spirits, and although annoyed at the delay, yet are sanguine of a complete success to-morrow. Sooner it be.

Later from the Army.

When writing yesterday, it was on purpose to leave the letter which we were inditing here in the early morning train. But in consequence of the awful condition of the road, mud knee deep, together with being blocked up with troops, transportation wagons, baggage and artillery trains, we failed to make connection, although starting in amply time.

The Rebels.—Yesterday afternoon we were down along the river bank, at what is known as "Banks' Ferry," and which is here quite deep, and some two hundred yards wide. Upon looking towards the opposite bank we discovered the enemy, though in no very great force. Back from the river, a short distance, we saw some fortifications of quite an extensive character; while all along the river bank numerous rifle-pits were dug.

Upon taking a look this morning from the same stand-point, we had ample evidence that during the night they had been reinforced, in consequence of which our crossing to-morrow will be even more difficult than it would have been yesterday. We say "our crossing to-morrow," for the reason that, in consequence of the bad condition of the roads, our ammunition train, as well as our supports, cannot reach us in time to be made effective to-day.

The Pontoon Trains.—When we left the front, late this afternoon, some portions of the above had arrived at their destination, while the balance were struggling through the mud, "mud deep," and will doubtless reach the neighborhood of the river by daylight.

The Rains.—It is still with us, and the prospects are that it will continue all day, and possibly for yet another day or two, and hence no very active military operations can be carried on until the roads become in a more passable condition. On our road down to this point we passed whole divisions, together with their trains wading through the mud, and making their way the best they could to the concentrating point.

Message From the President.

The following message was sent to Congress to-day: To the Senate and House of Representatives: I have signed the joint resolution to provide for the immediate payment of the army and navy of the United States, passed by the House of Representatives on the 14th, and by the Senate on the 15th inst. The joint resolution is simple authority authorizing, however, under existing circumstances, a disbursement to the Secretary of the Treasury to make an additional issue of one hundred millions of dollars in U. S. notes, if so much money is needed, by the payment of the army and navy.

My approval is given in order that every possible facility may be afforded for the prompt discharge of all arrears of pay due our soldiers and our sailors. While giving this approval, however, I think it my duty to express my sincere regret that it has been found necessary to authorize so large an additional issue of United States notes, when this circulation and that of suspended banks together has already so redundant as to increase prices beyond real value, thereby augmenting the cost of living, to the injury of labor, and cost of supplies, to the injury of the whole country.

It seems very plain that continued issues of United States notes, without any check to the issues of suspended banks, and without adequate provision for the raising of money by loans, and for funding the issue, so as to keep them within due limits, must soon produce disastrous consequences, and this matter appears to me so important that I feel bound to avail myself of this occasion to ask the special attention of Congress to it.

That Congress has power to regulate the currency of the country can hardly admit of doubt, and that judicious measures should be taken to prevent deterioration of this currency, by reasonable taxation of bank circulation, or otherwise, if needed, seems equally clear. Independently of this general consideration, it would be unjust to the people at large to exempt banks, enjoying special privilege of circulation, from their just proportion of public burdens. In order to raise money by way of loans, and most easily and cheaply, it is clearly necessary to give every possible support to the public credit. That, and a uniform currency in which taxes, subscriptions to loans, and all other ordinary public dues may be paid, is almost, if not quite indispensable. Such a currency can be furnished by banking associations, authorized under general act of Congress, as suggested in my message at the beginning of the present session.

The security of this circulation, by pledge of United States bonds, as herein suggested, would still further facilitate loans, by increasing the present and creating a future demand for such bonds. In

view of the actual financial embarrassments of the Government, and of the greater embarrassments sure to come, if the necessary means of relief be not afforded, I feel that I should not perform my duty by a simple announcement of my approval of the joint resolution, which proposes relief only by increasing circulation, without expressing my earnest desire that measures, such in substance as I have just referred to, may receive the early sanction of Congress.

By such measures, in my opinion, will payment be most certainly secured, not only to the army and navy, but to all honest creditors of the Government, and satisfactory provisions made for future demands on the Treasury. (Signed) ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

The Victory in Arkansas.

CAIRO, Jan. 17.—The Memphis Bulletin, of Wednesday, has the following, direct from parties arrived at Memphis, from Arkansas Post, on the despatch-boat Kellogg:—

On Saturday, the main position of the enemy was attacked with the three iron-clad gun-boats, Louisville, Cincinnati and Missouri City, and three light-draughts the latter having entered the Arkansas river from a branch of the White river, which approaches the forty miles above the mouth. Arkansas Post is a place situated at a favorable location for defense, on a bend of the river, of irregular, horse shoe shape. It has, for some months, been much boasted of, by the Confederates, as a spot so fortified as to be extremely formidable. At a point one mile below the fort, where persons in the fort were unable to see what was done, troops were disembarked. Gun-boats proceeded up the river, taking positions above the fort as well as below, so as to be able to rake it with their heavy pieces. The land forces, meantime, arrived.

The rear division under SUMNER, in proceeding back to some distance, then a beyond hindered progress in the way desired, and he returned and chose a route more favorable for intended operations. Another division, meantime, took up a line of march somewhat nearer the locality of the fort, and escaped the obstruction of the bayou. Other obstructions existed, however, in the shape of rifle-pits, which it became necessary to flank by advancing to the furthest extremity from the river. This was not done without considerable skirmishing, which consumed the remainder of Saturday. There was some loss in these proceedings, and about sixty of the enemy, most of whom were wounded, got into the Federal lines by mistake, and were taken prisoners. It was nearly dark before the Federal forces had so far advanced as to have the fort in full view, ready for storming next morning.

While their operations were proceeding on land, the gun-boats had taken positions, and a little before dark a smart artillery fight took place, which the early closing in of darkness cut short. The first shell fired by the enemy struck a Lieutenant of the One-hundred-and-thirtieth Illinois, slaying his leg. The next morning the land forces found that the enemy, having lost their rifle-pits, had thrown up new entrenchments. These they proceeded to attack, and also to secure a position above the fort as well as below. The ground near the fort was divided of timber, except in a particular portion, which was used for cover, and prostrate trees and brush were so disposed as to prevent at the greatest possible amount of obstruction.

As the two sections of attacking land forces advanced, they decreased the distance between them more and more, approaching the position of surrounding the fort. A reinforcement of two thousand men arrived to the Rebels from Fort Charles, on the White river, twenty-five miles distant by land, and it was with difficulty this force made a junction with the main body of Rebels. They succeeded, however, by taking advantage of the shelter offered by a ravine. Meantime the casual firing of the artillery from gun-boats and in reply, which had been partially suspended by the necessity of supporting the land operations, grew more vigorous, and at one o'clock heavy firing commenced between the fort and gun-boats, and was sustained three hours and a half so incessantly that there were only occasional intervals at which the strained ear for a second was relieved from the thundering roar. The casemating of the fort presented a formidable appearance, which seemed to some extent to justify the boasting that had been made of its impenetrability. There was a thickness of three feet of solid timber, covered with railroad iron, the whole looking as if it could resist the utmost force of cannon shot.

To the deep dismay of the defenders of the Post of Arkansas, the balls from the monstrous guns of the boats shattered their most formidable defenses, and penetrated and demolished strongholds they had reared with so much skill. The battered rails of iron came tumbling down, and the strong ribs of timber were blown with fatal effect among the ranks they were to have saved. Dismounted guns fell into common ruin, proving the dreadful power of gun-boats with their mighty armaments. The second shot fired by the Federals at the commencement of the contest of three hours penetrated a casemate of the

fort and killed seven men. By another shot one of the enemy's casemats was exploded, causing the death of six men and nine horses. With their casemats demolished, their defenses exposed to a raking fire never surpassed for violence, and storming parties closing in upon their rear, but one course was open to the enemy.

After a loss of about two hundred men killed, wounded and missing, and somewhat heavier on the part of the attacking party, the commander of the post, Gen. Churchill, surrendered at half-past four o'clock P. M. Gen. McClernand took the whole force, about 4800, prisoners, 1200 or 1400 of whom are on the sick list. The gun-boats which had inflicted so much damage, escaped without serious injury.

Prisoners declared that if our arrival had been postponed another day, they would have given us a much stiffer fight, as large reinforcements would have joined them. In reply to questions as to the number of men and state of fortifications at Pine Bluff, Little Rock, and points on White River, the prisoners advised interrogators to go and count and observe for themselves.

The prisoners were sent up the river, starting on Monday, and will probably be here (Memphis) to-day. It is thought probable St. Charles, on White river, will be next reduced, then Pine Bluff, and finally, Little Rock. In addition to the above, I have seen a slip from the Memphis Enquirer, which says two regiments of Rebels arrived at the fort the morning after the surrender, and entered with flags flying and drums beating supposing it was still held by the Rebels. They were captured, of course, swelling the list of prisoners to something over 5000.

The Case of Fitz-John Porter.

HE IS FOUND GUILTY OF ALL THE CHARGES.—THE FINDINGS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, Jan. 21, 1863.—Last week, Judge-Advocate-General Holt had the record in the case of General Fitz-John Porter, which he had spent three days in making up before the President, who to-day signified his approval of the findings of the Court Marshal, and ordered the sentence to be carried into execution. The findings are that he is guilty on every one of the charges preferred, and the sentence is that he be dismissed from the service.

The Court was composed as follows: Major-General Hunter, presiding; Major-Gen. Hitchcock, Brigadier-Gen. Rufus King, Frontiss, Ricketts, Casey, Guardfield, Buford, and Morris, with Col. Holt, the Judge-Advocate-General, as Judge-Advocate.

The charges on which General Porter is convicted were these:— CHARGES AND SPECIFICATIONS.

Resolved against Major-General Fitz-John Porter of the Volunteers of the United States Army, by G. S. Roberts, Bessemer-Guns and United States Volunteers, and Lieutenant-General of Major-General Pope's Army.

Specification 1.—In this, that the said Major-General Fitz-John Porter, of the Volunteers of the United States Army, having received a lawful order, on or about the 27th of August, 1862, while at or near Warrenton Junction, in Virginia, from Major-General John Pope, his superior and commanding officer, in the following figures and words as follows, to wit:—

HEAD-QUARTERS ARMY OF VIRGINIA, WARRENTON STATION, Aug. 27, 1862.—3 P. M.—Major-General F. J. Porter, Warrenton Junction.—General.—The Major-General Commanding directs that you start at one o'clock to-night, and march forward with your whole corps, or such part of it as is with you, so as to be here by daylight to-morrow morning. Hooker has had a very severe action with the enemy, with a loss of about three hundred killed and wounded. The enemy has been driven back and is retreating along the railroad. We must drive him from that place and Gainesville, where McDowell is.

If McDowell has not joined you, send word to him to push forward immediately. Also, send word to Banks to hurry forward with all speed to take your place at Warrenton Junction. It is necessary, on all accounts, that you should be here by daylight. I send an officer with this despatch, who will conduct you to this place. Be sure that you send word to Banks, who is on the road to Fayetteville, probably in the direction of Balltown. Say to Banks, also, that he had best run back the railroad trains to this side of Cedar Run. If he is not with you write to him to that effect.

By command of Major-General Porter. Geo. D. Ruggles, Colonel and Chief of Staff.

P. S.—If Banks is not at Warrenton Junction, leave a regiment of infantry and two pieces of artillery as guard, till he comes up, with instructions to follow you immediately. If Banks is not at the Junction, instruct Colonel Cleary to run the trains back to this side of Cedar Run, and post a regiment and section of artillery with it.

By command of Major-General Porter. Geo. D. Ruggles, Colonel and Chief of Staff.

Did then and there disobey the said order, being at the time in the face of the enemy. This at or near Warrenton Junction, in the State of Virginia, on or about the 27th of August, 1862.

order, being at the time in the face of the enemy. This at or near Warrenton Junction, in the State of Virginia, on or about the 27th of August, 1862.

Specification 2.—In this, that the said Major-General F. J. Porter, being in front of the enemy at Manassas, Va., on or about the morning of August 24, 1862, did receive from Major-General Pope, his superior and commanding officer, a lawful order in the following figures and words, to wit:—

HEAD-QUARTERS ARMY OF VIRGINIA, CENTREVILLE, Aug. 29, 1862.—General McDowell and Porter.—You will push forward with your joint command towards Gainesville. I send General Porter written orders to that effect at four and a half ago. Heintzelmann, Sigel and Reno are moving on the Warrenton Turnpike, and must now be near Gain'sville. I desire that, as soon as communication is established between his force and your own, the whole command shall halt. It may be necessary to fall back behind Bull Run, at Centerville to-night. I presume it will be so on account of our supplies.

I have sent no orders of any kind to Ricketts, and none to you in any way with the movement of McDowell's troops, except what I sent by Aid-de-Camp last night, which would hold his position on the Warrenton turnpike until troops from here should fall on the enemy's flank and rear. I do not know Ricketts' position, as I have not been able to find out where General McDowell was, until a late hour this morning.

General McDowell will take immediate steps to communicate with General Ricketts, and instruct him to join the divisions of his corps as soon as practicable. If any considerable advantages are to be gained by departing from this order, it will not be strictly carried out, but the thing must be held in view, that the troops must occupy a position from which they can reach Bull Run by morning. The indications are that the whole force of the enemy is moving in this direction at a pace that will bring them here here tomorrow night or next day. My orders disparture will, for the present, hold 11 1/2 regiments of Corps at this place.

John Pope, Major-General Commanding, did then and there disobey the said order, on or about the 27th of August, 1862.

Specification 3.—In this, that the said Major-General Fitz-John Porter, having been in front of the enemy during the battle of Manassas, on Friday, the 29th day of August, 1862, did, on that day, receive from Major-General John Pope, his superior and commanding officer, a lawful order in the following figures and words, to wit:—

HEAD-QUARTERS ARMY OF VIRGINIA, 29, 1862.—Major-General Fitz-John Porter.—Your line of march brings you in the enemy's right flank. I desire that you push forward into action at once, and take the enemy's flank, and, if possible, keep your right in communication with General Reynolds. The enemy is massed in the woods in front of us, and can be shielded out as soon as you strike their flank. Keep heavy masses to use your batteries, keeping well back to your right all your time, so as to keep your right and rear, so as to keep our close communication with the right wing. JOHN POPE.

Which said order the said Major-General Porter did then and there disobey, and did fail to push forward his line into action, either on the enemy's flank or rear, and in all other respects failed to obey said order. This at or near Manassas, in the State of Virginia, on or about the 29th of August, 1862.

Specification 4.—In this, that the said Major-General Fitz-John Porter, being at or near Manassas Junction on the night of the 29th of August, 1862, did receive from Major-General John Pope, his superior and commanding officer, a lawful order in figures and words as follows, to wit:—

HEAD-QUARTERS ARMY OF VIRGINIA, IN THE FIELDS NEAR BELL RENO, Aug. 29, 1862.—8:50 P. M.—Major-General Fitz-John Porter.—Immediately upon receipt of this order, the precise hour of which you will acknowledge, you will take your command to the field of battle to-day, and report to me in person, on orders. You are to understand that you are to comply strictly with this order, and be present on the field within three hours after its receipt, or after daylight to-morrow morning.

John Pope, Major-General Commanding. And the said Major-General Fitz-John Porter did then and there disobey the said order, and did permit one of the battalions of his command to march to Centerville out of the way of the field of battle, and there to remain during the entire day of Saturday, the 30th day of August, 1862, at or near Manassas Station, in the State of Virginia, on the 29th and 30th days of August, 1862.

Specification 5.—In this, that the said Major-General Fitz-John Porter, being at or near Manassas Station, in the State of Virginia, on the 29th of August, 1862, and having received from his superior and commanding officer, Major-General