

THE PILOT.

GREENCASTLE:

Tuesday Morning, May 17, 1864.



THE VERY LATEST.

The latest news confirms all that we have had before, respecting the great victories achieved by the Army of the Potomac and Butler's army, and by Sherman in the West.—We have never, since the war commenced, had such a continuous stream of glorious news.—There are no 'ifs and buts' about the news—it is all one thing—Victory! Victory!

From the very latest we have heard, we learn that Lee's army is in retreat, and that Grant and Meade are south of the Po. River in pursuit. Re-enforcements are marching to the Army of the Potomac, while it does not seem possible for the rebels to obtain any, seeing that all their railroads are cut. Sheridan, with his cavalry in the vicinity of the railroad junction in Lee's rear, destroyed a vast amount of provisions—one million and a half of rations, and a great many cars. From thence he proceeded towards Richmond, and succeeded in entering the outer lines of the fortifications, marching for a considerable distance between the first and second lines. At Bottom's Bridge he encountered J. E. B. Stuart, and had a brilliant engagement, repulsing the Rebels.—It is stated by Richmond papers, that Stuart was killed here. Sheridan crossed the Chickahominy, and by way of Orange Court House, succeeded in rejoining the Army of the Potomac.

General Butler captured a rebel courier, stating that reinforcements would join Beauregard in two hours. Butler sent out a column of Federal troops and drove their reinforcements back. Smith and Gillmore are pounding away at Fort Darling, and have taken the outer works. The rebels are now confined to three redoubts. Our gun-boats are on the James River assisting. There is every reason to believe that Fort Darling will be ours.

In the meantime, let us thank God that He has thus far crowned our arms with success—and that "our republic lives"—and that rebellion is now reaching its utter downfall.

THE NEWS.

May 11.—Gen. Butler, ever active and vigilant, has made a most successful expedition. He has cut the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad and whipped Hill. His own despatch is, however, the best history of his doings.

Headquarters. Near Bermuda Hundred Landing, May, 9 1864.—To E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War:—Our operations may be summed up in a few words. With seventeen hundred cavalry we have advanced up the Peninsula, forded the Chickahominy, and have safely brought them to our present position. These were colored cavalry, and are now holding position as our advance towards Richmond. Gen. Kuntz with three thousand cavalry, from Suffolk, on the same day with our movement up the James River, forded the Blackwater and burned the railroad bridge at Stony Creek, below Petersburg, cutting in two Beauregard's force at that point.

We have landed here and intrenched ourselves, have destroyed many miles of railroad, and have got a position, which, with proper supplies, we can hold against the whole of Lee's army. I have ordered up the supplies. Beauregard, with a large portion of his command, was left south of the cutting of the railroad by General Kuntz. That portion which reached Petersburg, under Hill, I have whipped to-day, killing and wounding many and taking many prisoners, after a severe and well contested fight. General Grant will not be troubled with further reinforcements to Lee from Beauregard's force.

(Signed) BEN. F. BUTLER,  
Major-General Commanding.

Turning from Butler to the Army of the Potomac, we find that Lee after his fierce assaults on Meade's columns on Thursday and Friday, the 5th and 6th inst., was compelled to fall back which he did to Spottsylvania Court House. Gen. Truman Seymour, just from Florida, who had taken command of a Brigade in Sedgwick's Corps—was on the extreme right, was taken prisoner by the enemy on Friday, in attempting to rally his brigade which had been fallen upon with terrible fury by A. P. Hill. A part of Shaler's brigade, which was next to Seymour's, was also forced back, and the General himself taken prisoner. But Sedgwick soon reformed the lines and drove the enemy beyond his breast-works. A night attack was made upon Warren's, 3rd Corps. Next day, Saturday, there was some skirmishing—our main army making a flank movement on Spottsylvania Court House; the vicinity of which place they reached on Sunday morning. A great battle took place on Monday, in which Lee was badly worsted.

It was here that the gallant General Sedgwick was struck by a ball from a sharp-shooter and killed. He was much beloved by the Union army.

WASHINGTON, May 11.—The Secretary of War yesterday sent a despatch to Major-General Dix at New York, stating that a despatch had been received from General Sherman at midnight, giving the intelligence that a battle was going on between portions of Sherman's and Johnston's forces, in which our forces were, so far successful. Our forces were fighting for the possession of Rocky Face Ridge, a strong and important position. The despatch also states that General McPherson had taken Snake Creek Gap and was within seven miles of Resaca. General Thomas had forced the Rebels from Tunnel Hill and had taken a position at Buzzard's Roost, a very strong position just north of Dalton.

Resaca is on the railroad, fifteen miles North of Dalton, which will place McPherson's in the rear of Johnston's. General Schofield is closing on his flank from Cleveland, while General Thomas is advancing on the front. There is, therefore, no doubt that a great battle is either now going on or has already been fought, and the success of the preliminary movements would seem to indicate a victory on our side. The rumor which came by way of Louisville under date of 9th inst., therefore, have been incorrect, as Sherman's despatch to the Secretary is of a later date, and makes no mention of that important matter. Still, there is no doubt such will be the case, and a few days—perhaps hours—will give us the gratifying intelligence that the Rebel army in Georgia has been totally defeated or else driven Southward into the heart of Rebellion.

A despatch which went over the wires on the night of Wednesday, (the 11th,) says:

WASHINGTON, May 11, 11:30 P. M.—To Major-General Dix:—Despatches from Gen. Grant, dated 8 o'clock this morning, have just reached this Department.

He says:—We have now ended the sixth day of very heavy fighting. The result, to this time, is much in our favor.

Our losses have been heavy as well as those of the enemy. I think the loss of the enemy must be greater.

We have taken over five thousand prisoners by battle, whilst he has taken from us but few except stragglers.

"I propose to fight it out on this line if it takes all summer."

The government is sparing no pains to support him.

(Signed) E. M. STANTON.

BEFORE SPOTTSYLVANIA COURT HOUSE, May 11.—Daylight.—Maj. Gen. E. Johnson, of Ewell's Corps, has just been captured by Hancock's Corps, and brought within our lines.

Brig.-Gen. Stewart, commanding a brigade in Johnson's division, has also been captured. Hancock has also succeeded in capturing from 15 to 20 of the enemy's guns, which he turned upon them the moment of their capture.

During the night, Gen. Hancock left his lines on the left and cutting a road to the extreme left, through the woods, made his appearance on the enemy's right flank and rear at daylight, capturing the officers and guns already named, together with some 2,000 prisoners.

Gen. Seth Williams was introduced to Gen. Johnson. The meeting between these latter named officers was very cordial. During the time Johnson remained at headquarters, he constantly eyed Gen. Grant, surveying the little giant from head to foot.

12 M.—The guns captured are arriving at headquarters. Most of them are Napoleons, marked U. S. The others are 10-pounder Parrotts.

The following is the despatch received from General Meade at early morning from General Hancock:—

"I have captured from 30 to 40 guns. I have finished up Johnson, and am now going into Early."

Burnside is working away on the enemy's rear, and reports that he is taking large numbers of prisoners.

Sheridan, with the cavalry, has captured three railroad trains, two laden with forage and rations and one with Union prisoners.

The enemy got the range of Meade's headquarters at 9 A. M., and three or four shells fell a few paces from the gallant Pennsylvanian and his co-patriot Grant. Hancock and his Pennsylvania soldiers have again covered themselves with glory, and their deeds of valor should be remembered by all Pennsylvanians.

Heavy firing is still continuing along the line of Burnside's Corps. Gen. Grant and Meade have been along the lines the entire night and day, and have been seen at all points by the soldiers.

Yesterday there was nothing but slight skirmishing along the line. We are undoubtedly following up the enemy, who are fighting as they retreat.

WASHINGTON, May 12.—Hon. Washburne has just arrived from Grant's army, where he has been during the late engagements. He confirms the encouraging news which dispelled the doubts and fears felt this afternoon. The Rebels are on short rations, living on what they get from day to day by the cars on railroad, which way at any hour they cut. Heretofore in

other campaigns they subsisted on what they captured, but they have not got a single wagon from Grant, although they made a desperate struggle on Monday night to get at a supply train. Butler is hard at them. He has been fighting for the turnpike road to Richmond.

Our cavalry are operating near Weldon and have burned the long bridge at Weldon and two others. They made three charges, the third being successful. Fighting was going on all day on the right, our troops being under Smith. Turnpike road between Richmond and Petersburg was the 'bone of contention.' Warren is not killed as reported, but is all right—it was a Col. Warren.

WASHINGTON, May 12.—Yesterday morning the fighting was renewed, and continued with vivid success until about 11 o'clock; our lines being somewhat advanced at that hour, a flag of truce is reported to have been sent in by Gen. Lee, who asked for a cessation of hostilities for forty-eight hours, that he might bury his dead. Gen. Grant replied that he had not time to bury his own dead; and would advance immediately. Some parts of our line were therefore pushed forward. It is stated that the woods were shelled, but no response was made from where the enemy's centre had been a few hours before. The prisoners captured on Tuesday and yesterday, number over 4,000, and the Rebel wounded and dead were found covering almost every foot of the ground wherever our troops surged forward, and the Rebels gave way. The slaughter among our troops was terrific, but not near so great as that of the enemy.

FORTRESS MONROE, May 12, 1864.—There are four monitors and several gun-boats within four miles of Fort Darling, ready to co-operate with our land forces, and a part of them are abreast of the monitors. Our forces occupy a strong position, and are strong enough to hold it, and as soon as Petersburg is taken, to advance on Fort Darling with the land and water force. With the will and determination existing in our ranks, there is no doubt of success. It is supposed that General Kuntz is now to the South of Petersburg, aiming at the destruction of the railroads leading south from Richmond.

Some correspondents have probably announced his defeat, and many of his troops captured, &c. It is not believed here as Beauregard has no Cavalry.

New York, May 12.—4 o'clock, A. M.—This morning's Tribune contains the following:—

Head-quarters of the Army of the Potomac, May 11.—The most desperate of all battles was fought yesterday, commencing at 1:30 and closing at 8 o'clock, P. M.

In dogged stubbornness Waterloo and Solferino pale before the battle of the Po. Our line stretched six miles to the northeast of the Po, the Rebels occupying the southwest bank and village of Spottsylvania.

Our artillery, which got in range, poured shot and shell into them as they charged forward upon our infantry.

The lines of the enemy used but little artillery.

The prisoners taken say they were deficient in ammunition, and could not.

Gen. Grant and Meade were in the saddle constantly.

It was arranged that the Ninth Corps should charge the enemy's right flank, but just before dark it was discovered that Lee had advanced around our right flank and was moving down in dense columns for the east, and make a struggle to break through our lines and dash upon our supply trains, then known to be packed on the plank road to Fredericksburg.

This changed General Burnside's purpose, and he held his ground and threatened the enemy's right, while the Sixth Corps charged the centre, and at seven o'clock drove him from his first line of rifle-pits, capturing five guns and between two and three thousand prisoners.

Our men were quietly faced about, all the trains moved to the rear, new positions taken and the expected approach of the enemy patiently awaited.

No demonstrations were made however.

It was thought that the enemy had suffered so severely that he could not take the advantage he had gained.

In so horrible a strife it must not be supposed that we escaped severe punishment.

Our losses in yesterday's fight were much greater than in any of the battles of the previous week.

A very large number are but slightly wounded. The roads, fields and woods are literally swarming with these suffering heroes. Many are also overcome with fatigue and sun-stroke.

The rebel prisoners assert that Lee ordered all his wounded men able to hold a musket to take their places in the ranks again for yesterday's battle.

Our entire loss, thus far, in killed, wounded and missing, must reach forty thousand.

The enemy's loss in killed is much greater than ours. He has two thousand of our prisoners. We have five thousand. Our scouts report the roads alive with stragglers.

As your reporter neared Fredericksburg, about 10 A. M. to-day, cannonading had been resumed, and our army was unquestionably engaging the enemy again.

We crossed the Po on Tuesday but withdrew. We charged across it again last night.

Thus far we have not lost a gun since the second day at the Wilderness, nor a single wagon since the campaign opened.

General Tappott was captured last night. General Crittenden went to the front this morning.

Up to Monday night the reserve artillery had not been brought into fire.

NEAR SPOTTSYLVANIA COURT HOUSE, May 12—11 o'clock, A. M.—A Rebel battle flag has just been brought in to head-quarters. It belonged to the Forty-second Virginia, Col. Withers; Johnson's Division, and contains the names of the different battles in which the regiment took part.

The flag is a red square one with a blue cross containing stars. The flag was captured by the ninety-third New York, Colonel Crocker. Thirteen of the captured guns have been brought to Gen. Grant's headquarters. The others are placed in different positions in the rear. They are all excellent pieces, in good condition, and very similar in appearance to our own.

Barlow's Division of the Second Corps performed a brilliant feat this morning at daylight. They advanced during the night, and before the break of day made their appearance directly in front of the Rebel intrenchments. They charged, and before the enemy had time to fire a gun they were surrounded and surrendered at once.

Our men had to climb over their breast-works, and used the butt ends of their muskets in bringing the Rebels to subjection. I learn that Captain Fritz, Jr., of Philadelphia is wounded, but is still in command of the Sixth Corps.

Twelve M.—There has been for the past half hour a brief lull in the battle, but the indications are that it will shortly be renewed with vigor and will continue all day. Everything seems favorable, and both officers and men are in good spirits.

Our losses in the past eight days fighting have been very heavy, but it is impossible to form any correct estimate of the same. The accounts vary from 18,000 to 25,000; but owing to the nature of the contest, which is mostly in the woods, thousands may be lying dead or wounded on the ground, of which no record can at present be made.

As I write heavy firing is heard on our left, and it is thought that the Rebels are trying to turn our left flank. We advance, but hard work is before us, and it is thought that on tomorrow night the game will be up with the Rebels.

BALTIMORE, May 13.—Despatches from General Butler, says the Petersburg Express, announces that Lee is in Richmond wounded.

A despatch from General Grant confirms the victory of Hancock yesterday—33 cannon and 4,000 prisoners captured.

He says, the Rebels fight obstinately, and appear to have found one last ditch.

Sheridan has taken and is holding the railroad junction in Lee's rear, and that Sigel destroyed 25 miles of railroad between Staunton and Charlottesville.

Heavy skirmishing continues in the vicinity of Fort Darling.

PHILADELPHIA, May 14.—The Bulletin has a special despatch from Washington, stating that Grant's whole army is south of the River Po, in pursuit of Lee.

The following despatch has been received from the Secretary of War:

To Major-General Cadwalder: The despatches from General Grant, dated Friday evening, at 6 P. M., have reached this department.

The advance of Hancock yesterday, developed the fact that the enemy has fallen back four miles, where they remain in position.—There was no engagement on Friday.

We have no account of general officers being killed in the battles of Thursday. Col. Carrol was severely wounded.

A despatch from Sherman, just received, dated May 14th, says: The flank movement on Resaca had forced Johnson to evacuate Dalton.

GEN. SIGEL HEARD FROM.

WASHINGTON, May 13.—P. M.—An officer who arrived here to-day reports that at three o'clock yesterday afternoon a despatch arrived at headquarters from the front, from General Sigel's command, dated at Butler's Mountain, between Charlottesville and Lynchburg, on Wednesday, at ten o'clock, A. M., and announcing that our cavalry had torn up the railroad between Charlottesville and Lynchburg for a distance of twenty-six miles below the former place, and also that the track of the Gordonsville road, between Charlottesville and Kenning, had been destroyed.

All the bridges between the above points on both roads were destroyed.

When returning our forces encountered a body of rebel cavalry, who came from the direction of Garter Mountain. A skirmish ended in a repulse of the rebels, who fled in the direction they had come. This was the only rebel force met with during the raid.

FROM THE SOUTHWEST.

CAIRO, May 11.—The despatch boat General Lyon from below reports that, on the 5th in-

stant, the transports City Belle, Emma and Warner, in passing a battery twelve miles below Alexandria, were fired upon and destroyed.

The gunboat Signal was also destroyed by the battery, and the gunboat Covington was set on fire to prevent her falling into the hands of the Rebels.

This battery is composed of guns captured from Gen. Banks.

General Banks remains at Alexandria, and is strong enough to resist any attack made upon him.

During the fight above Alexandria, when the gunboat Juliet was destroyed, the Captain, Admiral Porter's boat, suffered severely.—Both engineers were killed and many of the crew wounded.

MEMPHIS, May 10.—Advices from Vicksburg state that an expedition had left there for Yazoo City.

The Rebel Generals Lee, Ross and Adams were at Yazoo City with a large force, and an engagement was daily expected.

The Rebel General Forrest has passed southward. General Sturgis was unable to come up with him.

PASSING EVENTS, &C.

Thanks.—JOSEPH SNIVELY, Esq., will please accept our thanks for a lot of fine Rhubarb.

Fair.—We learn from the Mercersburg Journal that the ladies intend holding a fair in that place.

55th Pennsylvania.—This Regiment was with Butler in his fight with Hill, but in the list of casualties we have not seen the names of any of our Greencastle boys.

Sale of Horses.—Horses are selling well this season. Mr. TICA BARKDOL, of Montgomery township, sold a fine saddle horse a few days ago, for the sum of \$240. Mr. BRAWER, a neighbor of the former, sold one at the same time for \$250.

Telegrams.—The telegraph operator at this place has been very accommodating in giving the people the latest news. His bulletin board has been watched anxiously, during the present great struggle.

Sanitary Fair.—A public meeting was held in the Presbyterian Lecture Room on last Saturday to adopt some measures by which an organized effort may be made to send contributions from the people of Antrim, to the great "Central Fair" to be held in Philadelphia next month. An Executive Committee, consisting of fourteen persons, was appointed to carry out the object of the meeting.

Petty Theft.—Besides the stealing of bacon, there seems to be going on at this time, an illicit trade in poultry, at least these feathered bipeds are a way of walking off at night without the knowledge of their rightful owners. If some of these chicken thieves were punished as the law provides, it would break up the business, but although some of them are known they are allowed to continue in their "slantindicular" ways.

Keys Lost.—We understand that a great many persons have lately lost keys and locks which they allowed to lie about loose during the day time.—From the extent which this matter has assumed it is believed that there are some scoundrels who are making a practice of stealing keys for the purpose of having a full set, so that, when all things are ready, they will be able to enter houses and stables at pleasure. We may look out for burglaries. Let all who have lost keys get new locks or so alter their old ones that they may not be easily opened.

Town Matters.—A great many complaints are made about the condition of the streets, &c.—It may be well to remind some good people of their own failings. We would like to know when the lots are cleaned up and gardens made, why so many throw the rubbish out in the alleys? We would like to know why some don't even try to keep their side-walks clean, nor often sweep before their own doors? Why is the water course made the receptacle of decayed vegetable matter, old shoes, beef bones, and whatever else people want to get rid of. In the next place we would like to know the necessary repairs that can be made without a good solid tax is imposed?

Maryland Items.—We learn from the Hagerstown Herald and Torch, that the President and Directors of the Western Maryland Railroad will shortly place a corps of engineers on the route, to locate the road permanently.

One hundred and (180) thirty shares of Hagerstown Savings Bank stock sold weak before last, at \$2-25 per share.

A bright mulatto, confined in the Hagerstown jail, accused of horse stealing, escaped from "durance vile," about ten days ago.

The Hagerstown Stage company, recently incorporated, has bought up horses and stages, and their lines now make regular trips between Frederick and Hancock, Md.

Lieut. SMALL, son of Judge SMALL, is now at home. He was for several months confined in Libby prison.

The Classis.—The Mercersburg Classis assembled in this place last Friday evening, according to previous announcement. About forty members, clerical and lay, were present during the meeting. After divine services, Classis was organized by the election of Rev. Dr. Fisher, of Chambersburg, as President; Rev. Mr. Deatrich, of Charlottesville, as stated Clerk. It continued its sessions during four days, having adjourned on Tuesday evening, to meet next Spring in Shippensburg, Pa.

The transactions of this body were of an interesting character, and throughout the greatest harmony prevailed. The Parochial reports of the several Pastors exhibited an encouraging state of affairs with regard to religion and morals in all the fairs with regard to religion and morals in all the congregations, which was only temporarily interrupted last summer by the invasion of the rebel forces under Gen. Lee. The three hundred anniversary of the formation and adoption of the Heidelberg Catechism was duly celebrated in each