

Presbyterian Banner.

PITTSBURGH, MAY 3, 1862.

The War.

How long will the war last, is a question often asked. A part of the answer belongs to the enemy. He has the power, if he has the determination, to prolong it another year. Our people have all along, underrated him, and hence have not put forth sufficient energy to conquer him speedily. We have not men enough in the field to make a short conquest. If Gen. Curtis had 80,000 men additional, he could sweep down through Arkansas in a few weeks. If Gen. Fremont had an additional 80,000, he could clear the rebels out of South Western Virginia, and Eastern Tennessee, and all the mountain range of the Carolinas, before mid-Summer. If Gen. Burnside had 80,000 more, he could take either Richmond or Norfolk, or both, by attacking them South and East; or he could advance on Goldsborough and Fayetteville. If Gen. Hunter had also 80,000 more, Savannah and Charleston would fall speedily. Thus 120,000 additional troops would bring the war to nearly a conclusion before June shall be ended; but for want of these the prospect is pretty certain that we shall not go much beyond Virginia and Tennessee, till the sickly season, South, shall set in. This will stop effective operations till October, and make a Winter's campaign needful to pacify the Southern Atlantic and Gulf States. We speak on the supposition that the enemy is determined to do his utmost.

It may be that on the success for which we hope, in Eastern Virginia, Western Tennessee, and the Mountain range, the enemy will see our determination, acknowledge our strength, and lay down his arms. This we know is hoped for by those who manage our public affairs. But such hopes are wise only when backed by a due show of power. If we had, just now, the 120,000 men alluded to, and ten million dollars' worth of iron clad ships, (and we might have had all this,) the war would not last two months longer. As things are, it may possibly endure till next Spring. This, however, is certain: The more unity of counsel we preserve, and the more determination we exhibit, and the more vigor we put forth, the sooner will we be greeted by peace.

ON THE MISSISSIPPI, operations are nearly suspended. General Pope has left Com. Foote, with his flotilla and a small land force, to besiege Fort Wright; while he, with the main body of his army, and a number of regiments picked up by the way, has ascended the Tennessee to Pittsburgh Landing. This adds about twenty thousand men to Gen. Halleck's army. At PITTSBURGH LANDING, Gen. Halleck has his army reorganized and refreshed, and is making slow advances toward Corinth. Every day or two he sends out a strong reconnaissance, and mostly takes possession of ground in advance. He is thus practising his men, and securing a favorable position for an attack. He was, last week, within seven miles of Corinth. General Mitchell is also advancing toward Corinth, and was, early last week, within some thirty miles of that place.

The enemy has concentrated a great force at Corinth, but whether he will fight there, is doubtful. There are reports, that he is repeating the Manassas strategy—that is, keeping up a strong show in front, while preparing in his rear for a retreat. Retreat may be his wisdom; but though he may thereby save his army, he loses ground and character. It might be wise for him to retire from all the navigable waters, by which our army gets its transportation and supplies; but if he will do so, he must soon perish. GEN. FREMONT has not yet got fairly into operation. He was expected to take the field this week. GEN. BANKS advances steadily up the Valley of Virginia. He is now at Staunton, and has thus cut the railroad communication between Eastern Virginia and Western Tennessee. He will thence, likely, turn his face toward Richmond, while he leaves it to Gen. Fremont to push South-westerly. GEN. McDOWELL is still at Fredericksburg, preparing to advance. Our gunboats have cleared the Rappahannock as far as Fredericksburg; and the railroad from the Potomac, at Aquia Creek, is nearly repaired. Thus rapidly is the central route to Richmond being opened.

GEN. McCLELLAN is prosecuting the siege of Yorktown, with fair prospects. His works advance daily. How soon they may be in a position to make the attack upon the enemy, we are not told. THE GALINA, our second iron-clad steamer, has reached Fortress Monroe. Either it or the Monitor is likely to take part in the siege of Yorktown, by ascending the York or the James river.

THE CAPTURE OF NEW ORLEANS is stated on rebel authority. If taken, that is more than we expected, so soon, from the small force sent to that quarter; but it is, it must hasten the war to a conclusion. The sickness in our armies, the deaths and wounds in the battle-field, and the prolonged determination of the enemy to fight till he shall conquer or perish, are matters for deep sorrow. They show that God's anger, for his sins, is not yet appeased. And still he gives us tokens of his favor. May our ways yet be so changed as to please him. Then he will make even our enemies to be at peace with us.

REPORT ON NATIONAL DEFENSES. The Committee on National Defenses, Mr. Frank Blair, Chairman, has presented to Congress a very extended and able Report. It discusses the subject in various

bearings, analyzes the common systems of defence, and shows their utter inadequacy as against the present improved means of attack, and then specifies eight points which demand the attention of Congress. These are: 1. The creation of adequate means to exclude from our coast the hostile ships, armored vessels included. 2. The providing of suitable means to detain invading armies on shipboard, near important ports, a sufficient time to enable an army of the United States to be transported to the point of assault. 3. The construction of channels in which to convey gunboats from the Gulf of Mexico up the Mississippi and Illinois rivers, and from the Atlantic up the Hudson river, into the lakes; and from one lake into another. 4. The creation of a fortress on the river St. Lawrence, or at the foot of Lake Ontario, of a capacity and power fully equal, or superior to that at Kingston, on the opposite shore; and also fortifications on the Niagara or at the foot of Lake Erie, of equal capacity. 5. The construction, for the protection of the Pacific Ocean frontier, of a first-class military communication between the river Missouri and the bay of San Francisco. 6. A decided increase in our means of building and repairing vessels of war; of manufacturing, testing and repairing ordnance and small arms of all grades; and of making and testing projectiles of all kinds, and for every branch of the service. 7. The duplication or enlargement of the military and naval academies immediately after the extinction of the rebellion and the establishment of peace. And, 8. The Constitutional and permanent maintenance of an army and navy sufficient in number and excellence to command respect both at home and abroad—a respect based on reasonable assurance of our physical ability to promptly repress domestic insurrection and to repel foreign aggression.

It is well to take a comprehensive view of a subject so important. All that is here alluded to, and even more, is needed, in a perfect system of defence; but all cannot be accomplished at once. An iron-clad navy is one of the first things which should occupy the nation's attention. And this navy should be adapted more for defence than aggression. It is to be hoped that the time may never come when we will desire to assail the coasts of England and France. We, however, need to have some aggressive power; and against all the world we should be able to defend ourselves. The change in naval warfare enables us to begin more nearly on an equality with the leading powers of Europe; and it will be our own fault if we fall greatly behind. True economy requires a large show of strength, and the means of war can be accumulated most cheaply in time of peace. A very large amount of actually floating power, however, need not be produced. Iron ships will wear out as certainly as wooden ones. But the materials for ships, floating batteries, rams, &c., can be collected, and be kept in perfect safety. Vessels also may be built and kept unlaunched and under cover, for an age. But let us not run from one extreme to another. Let us not become a distinctively military power. The present war has shown that a Republic does not need a very large standing army. The army at its commencement was too small, but we must not hereafter keep one too large. The promptness with which hundreds of thousands of citizens will turn out, and the rapidity with which they learn the art of war, enables the nation to rely upon itself. An intelligent and virtuous people, and a government worthy of their love, will always assure national safety.

THE REBEL HERO OF THE BATTLE OF PITTSBURGH LANDING. WASHINGTON, April 23.—The following was recently received in the city: HEADQUARTERS DEP'T OF THE MISSISSIPPI, April 23, 1862. Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War.—It is my unanimous opinion here that Brig. Gen. W. T. Sherman, saved the fortune of the day on the 26th, and contributed largely to the glorious victory of the 7th of April. He was in the thickest of the fight on both days, having three horses killed under him, and being wounded twice. I respectfully request that you be made a Major General, Volunteers, to date from the 6th inst. Very respectfully, your obedient servant, H. W. HALLECK, Major General Commanding.

OFF TO STAUNTON. All the Federal troops about Cheat Mountain Summit and Huttenville, have advanced to Monterey, leaving only one company to watch some supplies and a few disabled soldiers. The boys have farewell the cold blasts and the rude bits of the Summit with little regret. The rebels did not destroy their deserted quarters at Allegheny Summit. Our boys put up there one night on their way to Staunton. The pickets occasionally fired at each other, but no shots were fired, and much superior in point of comfort to that of our own.

FROM THE MISSISSIPPI EXPEDITION. By the arrival of the steamship Conway at Hampton Roads on Saturday, the Navy Department has received some interesting details of the expedition to April 12th, including dispatches from Flag-Officer Farragut and Capt. Porter, of the Bomb Flotilla. At that time the steamships Mississippi and Pensacola were under way, and the flotilla was moving up to be in readiness to take their position. It appears from these documents that while sailing from Ship Island to Pass Christian, the Mississippi was fired upon by the rebel batteries, and made several successful voyages in the Bay. According to information obtained from one of the prisoners, the soldiers would fight a battle at Fort Jackson, and make their way up the river. The rebels broke and ran as soon as they saw our men intended to cross the river. The Mississippi killed, one mortally and twelve otherwise wounded. We took fourteen prisoners, and destroyed the work sufficiently to render it useless, and left the operation to the Confederates. Some of our men were killed, and some were wounded. The rebels were captured, and the steam train and ten thousand soldiers.

REBEL STEAMER CAPTURED. The rebel steamer Florida has been captured by the United States Navy. The steamer was abandoned by the rebels. The Connecticut brought eight ex-members of the rebel army, who escaped from the press-gang; also four ruffians from Tampa Bay. Every port, except Tampa, on the coast of Florida, had been evacuated by the rebels. The ship was captured by the USS Brooklyn and Agoué, and was taken to a point below the water line, previous to commencing the attack on the Mississippi forts.

DEATH OF GEN. G. F. SMITH. PITTSBURGH LANDING, Va. Louisville, April 26.—Major Gen. G. F. Smith, died at Savannah, Tenn., on the 24th inst., at 7 P. M., of dysentery. He was taken sick shortly after the occupation of Yorktown, and died at Savannah, Tenn., on the 24th inst. He was a native of Louisville, Cincinnati, and other points, while only sixty-eight years of age. The boats both landed at the United States Marine Hospital, below Mill Springs, and had been prepared for the reception of most of the patients. On Sunday morning, the removal of the soldiers was commenced, those who were unable to walk being carried upon stretchers from the boats to the hospital, a distance of only a few rods. Before eleven o'clock, the boats had been cleared of forty-eight sick and wounded, who were comfortably quartered in the hospital wards.

ARRIVAL OF THE SANITARY EXPEDITION. The two steamers sent to Pittsburgh Landing, Tenn., from Pittsburgh, for the purpose of rendering aid to the sick and wounded soldiers left on the battle-field, have returned. They started on their journey on the 21st inst., and were directed to leave them at the hospitals along the way nearest to their places of residence; that their friends might have access to them. The boats both landed at the United States Marine Hospital, below Mill Springs, and had been prepared for the reception of most of the patients. On Sunday morning, the removal of the soldiers was commenced, those who were unable to walk being carried upon stretchers from the boats to the hospital, a distance of only a few rods. Before eleven o'clock, the boats had been cleared of forty-eight sick and wounded, who were comfortably quartered in the hospital wards.

ALTERED NOTES ON THE CITIZENS' BANK OF PITTSBURGH. Messrs. Feld & Lare, of the National Bank Note Reporter, report dangerous altered five and ten dollar notes on the Citizens' Bank, Pittsburgh, viz., serial numbers 100,000, 100,001, 100,002, 100,003, 100,004, 100,005, 100,006, 100,007, 100,008, 100,009, 100,010, 100,011, 100,012, 100,013, 100,014, 100,015, 100,016, 100,017, 100,018, 100,019, 100,020, 100,021, 100,022, 100,023, 100,024, 100,025, 100,026, 100,027, 100,028, 100,029, 100,030, 100,031, 100,032, 100,033, 100,034, 100,035, 100,036, 100,037, 100,038, 100,039, 100,040, 100,041, 100,042, 100,043, 100,044, 100,045, 100,046, 100,047, 100,048, 100,049, 100,050, 100,051, 100,052, 100,053, 100,054, 100,055, 100,056, 100,057, 100,058, 100,059, 100,060, 100,061, 100,062, 100,063, 100,064, 100,065, 100,066, 100,067, 100,068, 100,069, 100,070, 100,071, 100,072, 100,073, 100,074, 100,075, 100,076, 100,077, 100,078, 100,079, 100,080, 100,081, 100,082, 100,083, 100,084, 100,085, 100,086, 100,087, 100,088, 100,089, 100,090, 100,091, 100,092, 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100,537, 100,538, 100,539, 100,540, 100,541, 100,542, 100,543, 100,544, 100,545, 100,546, 100,547, 100,548, 100,549, 100,550, 100,551, 100,552, 100,553, 100,554, 100,555, 100,556, 100,557, 100,558, 100,559, 100,560, 100,561, 100,562, 100,563, 100,564, 100,565, 100,566, 100,567, 100,568, 100,569, 100,570, 100,571, 100,572, 100,573, 100,574, 100,575, 100,576, 100,577, 100,578, 100,579, 100,580, 100,581, 100,582, 100,583, 100,584, 100,585, 100,586, 100,587, 100,588, 100,589, 100,590, 100,591, 100,592, 100,593, 100,594, 100,595, 100,596, 100,597, 100,598, 100,599, 100,600, 100,601, 100,602, 100,603, 100,604, 100,605, 100,606, 100,607, 100,608, 100,609, 100,610, 100,611, 100,612, 100,613, 100,614, 100,615, 100,616, 100,617, 100,618, 100,619, 100,620, 100,621, 100,622, 100,623, 100,624, 100,625, 100,626, 100,627, 100,628, 100,629, 100,630, 100,631, 100,632, 100,633, 100,634, 100,635, 100,636, 100,637, 100,638, 100,639, 100,640, 100,641, 100,642, 100,643, 100,644, 100,645, 100,646, 100,647, 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100,759, 100,760, 100,761, 100,762, 100,763, 100,764, 100,765, 100,766, 100,767, 100,768, 100,769, 100,770, 100,771, 100,772, 100,773, 100,774, 100,775, 100,776, 100,777, 100,778, 100,779, 100,780, 100,781, 100,782, 100,783, 100,784, 100,785, 100,786, 100,787, 100,788, 100,789, 100,790, 100,791, 100,792, 100,793, 100,794, 100,795, 100,796, 100,797, 100,798, 100,799, 100,800, 100,801, 100,802, 100,803, 100,804, 100,805, 100,806, 100,807, 100,808, 100,809, 100,810, 100,811, 100,812, 100,813, 100,814, 100,815, 100,816, 100,817, 100,818, 100,819, 100,820, 100,821, 100,822, 100,823, 100,824, 100,825, 100,826, 100,827, 100,828, 100,829, 100,830, 100,831, 100,832, 100,833, 100,834, 100,835, 100,836, 100,837, 100,838, 100,839, 100,840, 100,841, 100,842, 100,843, 100,844, 100,845, 100,846, 100,847, 100,848, 100,849, 100,850, 100,851, 100,852, 100,853, 100,854, 100,855, 100,856, 100,857, 100,858, 100,859, 100,860, 100,861, 100,862, 100,863, 100,864, 100,865, 100,866, 100,867, 100,868, 100,869, 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