

Presbyterian Banner.

PITTSBURGH, MAY 17, 1862.

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The War.

The last week's news of the progress of our arms is adapted to gladden the heart of every patriot, and every friend of peace--we say friend of peace, because the triumph of the National arms secures peace.

The capture of New Orleans still remains a wonder. The power of the enemy there was so immense. He might well think himself impregnable there. The river was blocked by two strong forts, a chain drawn across it, close below the forts, twelve gunboats, two of them being iron-clad, just above the forts, thus subjecting our fleet to the fire of one hundred and seventy guns.

Below the forts we had twenty-one mortar boats, with one mortar each, under Capt. Porter. These opened fire on the 18th, and continued the bombardment for six days. This process being slow, Flag Officer Farragut determined to run the gauntlet. He had six steam sloops of war, and sixteen gunboats. With five of the former and nine of the latter, on the morning of the 24th at 8 o'clock, sail was made, the chain boom having been quietly cut a night previous.

The fleet, on approaching the city, had to engage two more heavy batteries. Above the city it destroyed two batteries. Gen. Butler, with five thousand men, followed the fleet in a few days, and occupied the capital of the South-West. The particulars of the surrender of the forts, and some incidents of the battles appear in our news columns. The mortar fleet lost one of its boats, which was sunk, and one man killed and six wounded.

The sloops and gunboats lost the Varuna sunk, and 68 men killed and 123 wounded. Fortresses MONROE AND NORFOLK have been the scene of great events, during the week. President Lincoln, Secretary Stanton, and Secretary Chase, were all there, and the President protracting his visit. On Wednesday the Galena, with two gunboats, went up the James River to assist in flanking the rebel army and in approaching Richmond. On Thursday, the Monitor, with five wooden steamers, proceeded near to Sewall's Point, on a reconnoissance, and shelled the batteries for a time. The Merrimack then came out from Norfolk so far as to show herself; when the Monitor gave her an invitation to come nearer. She, however, prudently kept out of harm's way, and the Monitor, perhaps as wisely, declined to take a position where she would have to fight at a disadvantage; and the more especially did she show wisdom in declining a conflict, when she knew that matters were being arranged to secure her destruction without a conflict.

On Saturday morning, Gen. Wool, with five thousand men, crossed the water to Willoughby's Point, and marched thence to Norfolk, which he found abandoned by the rebel army, and which was surrendered to him by the Mayor, without the firing of a gun. The enemy had removed his military stores, and burned the navy yard and the shipping. By this burning he did a great injury to private interests in the city, and but little harm to the United States.

On Sabbath morning the enemy set fire to his famous Merrimack, being now no longer able to use her or hold her. She was fired at 2 o'clock A. M., and in about three hours the flames reached her magazine, and she was blown up. Craney Island, at the entrance of Elizabeth River, was also abandoned by the enemy. This was a very strong place. The forts on the island were in four or five separate sections, constructed with the best engineering skill and of the most admirable workmanship. There were supplies of ammunition on the sheds near each of the forty heavy guns mounted in different parts of the works.

On the main point of the island, commanding the approaches to the river channel, the works were casemated. Many of the casemates were finished, in each of which were nine or ten-inch guns, principally Dahlgrens. Victories such as these cause us joy. Most of the strongholds of the rebels are now reduced, and nearly all too with but very little shedding of blood. A few battles must necessarily be fought, but our Generals have so managed affairs, as to compel evacuations of all the most formidable positions of the enemy.

The possession of Norfolk, Craney Island, &c., and the destruction of the Merrimack, relieves a large number of our armed vessels, and some thousands of our troops from duty at and near Fortress Monroe. All these can now be employed further South. The force which can now be spared from the blockade of Norfolk, embracing as it does the Monitor and the Galena added to the forces of Gen. Hunter and Com. Du-

point, could soon reduce Charleston, and all the Atlantic Coast. "ON TO RICHMOND" was long the cry; and nearly to Richmond our army has gone. Last week we recorded the retreat from Yorktown, and the pursuit of the rebels to Williamsburg, where there was a hard battle on Monday, the 5th inst. Our killed and wounded were more than a thousand. Here was the second line of the enemy's fortifications, and he made a vigorous defence, knowing that but a part of our army was there, and thinking to give us a serious check. Gen. McClellan had sent 20,000 men, under Gen. Franklin, up York river, to West Point, to intercept the retreat of the enemy. But, though thus weakened, he assailed the rebels lines and carried the day. The enemy then retreated across the Chickahominy, and burnt the bridges.

On Wednesday the enemy attacked Gen. Franklin, near West Point. Our troops were again victorious, with small loss. The Chickahominy runs nearly parallel with the James, into which it empties. The rebel army is thus on a tongue of land spreading out to some ten or twelve miles wide, opposite to Richmond; on the left is the James River, which is now held by our gunboats. On their right is the Chickahominy and the U. S. Army, pressing onward to intercept their retreat. Possibly at the moment of our writing, they are out off, and Richmond taken.

We note one feature in Gen. McClellan's movements, which is singular in war, but which meets our approbation. It is, that on Sabbath he allowed rest to his wearied soldiers, though so near a formidable foe. A report states that no movement of troops was ordered on the 11th. He was then within twenty miles of Richmond, with the rebel army on his left, the river intervening.

The rebels are exhibiting their destructive propensities, and the low state of civilization which they occupy. They have not carried out their declared purpose of destroying cities, houses, and goods, so as to leave the country a total waste behind them. Newbern, and Beaufort, and New Orleans, and Norfolk still exist. Migrations of war, which cannot be carried away, may justly be destroyed. But these people, though sparing their cities, are burning, to the utmost of their ability, as they retreat, cotton, tobacco, sugar, and other things which belong to private persons, and to peaceful life. The destruction at New Orleans amounted to millions of dollars. All this is more wantonness. It tends in no appreciable degree to weaken the power of the United States. Of transportation we have an abundance, and of the means of subsistence for our armies and people there is no want.

When the Russians fled before the French, they did well to leave nothing behind them. They thus deprived the enemy of the means of support. They weakened and finally destroyed him. But the Confederates cannot, by wasting and burning as they retire, weaken, or in any way injure their pursuers. It is an injury only to their own private citizens. It is unwise, unchristianized, unwise destruction.

They have shown their want of civilization also in their treatment of the wounded who have fallen into their hands, and of the bodies of the dead, as is now fully ascertained by a Committee of Congress. In the employment of Indians also, and in poisoning food, and in other means of taking life uselessly, they show a great degree of barbarism. In their retreat from Yorktown, they left, by springs and wells, and slightly covered in the roads, loaded sleds, and torpedoes, so constructed and placed that the unwary might disturb them and produce explosions. By this means a number of our men were killed. Such things decide nothing as to a victory; and they exasperate enmity. They are relics of barbarism.

General News.

New Orleans. Gen. Butler has entered the city of New Orleans, and issued a proclamation securing order in the city and protection to all peaceful citizens.

Lessons for the Little Ones. This is the title of a small volume by Mrs. Mary J. Hibbard, published by our Board, in Philadelphia. It consists of a number of questions upon plain and important texts of Scripture, to which answers are given. It is well adapted to the very young, and will be found an important help in families and infant schools.

Washington. The city has been filled with rejoicings at the tidings of the success of our armies. Congress sometimes talks about adjourning. Late in May is spoken of, or early in June. No day is fixed. The House has passed, by a vote of yeas 85, and nays 50, the following bill, making freedom national, and slavery local, viz: "Be it enacted, &c., That slavery, or involuntary servitude, in all cases whatever, other than in the punishment of crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall henceforth cease and be prohibited forever in all the territories of the United States, now existing, or hereafter to be formed and acquired in any way. On Friday, in the Senate, not much of importance took place, except the final passage of the bill for the emancipation of the colored children of the District of Columbia; and the repeal of the "Black Code," by 28 yeas to 7 nays.

Connecticut. Gov. Buckingham, in his message to the Legislature, says the State has now in the public service 107,888 men, and has expended \$1,616,566 for war purposes. In regard to Slavery, he says: "In the execution of the high responsibilities committed to our charge, we need not be careful to take counsel of our enemies, or be guided by their opinions. If plighted faith restrains us from interfering with slavery, we are under no obligation to strengthen and uphold that institution. Slavery has forced us into a civil war, and in-

pression made to those who have lost their all. "The crew were taken off by the different vessels of the fleet as fast as they could be, and are now distributed through the squadron. "The wounded have been sent to the Penobscot. I would particularly commend to the notice of the Government, the conduct of the crew, and powder boy of the after rig, whose coolness and intrepidity attracted the attention of all hands. A list reward for such services will be an appointment to the Naval School. The marines, although new recruits, most maintained the reputation of their corps. "Their gallant fire cleared the Morgan's rifled gun, and prevented a repetition of her murderous fire. Four of the marines were wounded--one I fear, mortally. So soon as the crew were saved I reported to you in person, and within an hour left in the morning for the fleet. I returned to the Varuna, with your dispatches for General Butler, returning with him yesterday afternoon. "Very respectfully, your obedient servant, Commander United States Navy, "To Flag Officer D. G. Farragut, commanding Western Gulf Blockading Squadron."

Battle on the Mississippi, and the Taking of New Orleans.

Flag-Officer Farragut writes from New Orleans, April 25th: "The passing of the forts, Jackson and St. Philip's, was one of the most awful sights I ever saw--The smoke was so dense, that it was only now and then a report could be caught; but the flash of the cannon and the fire-ships or rafts, one of which was pushed down upon us. The Hartford was assailed by the iron Monitor, and in my efforts to avoid it, ran the ship. The Monitor was pushed along side, and in a moment the ship was on fire along the port side, half-way up the main and mizzen masts, but thanks to the good organization of the fire department, by Lieut. Thornton, the flames were extinguished, and at the same time we backed off and got clear of the raft, but all the while the Monitor was firing shells into the forts and into us, and ever now and then a rebel steamer would get under our fire, and receive our salutation of a broadside. At length the three monitors disappeared. The off, and we saw, to our surprise, that we were above the forts, and here and there a rebel gunboat on fire as we came up with them, trying to make their escape. One of them was seen to be riddled, so that they ran them on shore, and all who could made their escape to the shore. I am told, I do not know how truly, that Gen. Lovell had gone down to the shore, and was surrounded with thirteen gunboats, a large ram of eighteen guns, and the Monitor. The Monitor and the Monitor were not at all loaded, and were on the shore, and when they were within thirty or forty yards of the ram, the latter poured her broadside into her, and she was riddled, and she was deserted and riddled, and after a while she drifted down the stream full of water. She was the last of the eleven we destroyed, but the largest one was the Monitor, Jackson, but they say here that she went down before she was ready, and that she will have to surrender with her crew, which I hope will be to-day or to-morrow."

Under date of 29th, he writes: "In the afternoon, having been informed that there were two forts eight miles above the city, at a place called Carrollton, I determined to take a look at them and see how they were. I accordingly ran up, but, to our surprise, we found the gun batteries all on fire, and upon examination, found the guns all spiked. It was a most formidable work for Forts Jackson and St. Philip, and down a long line of defenses, extending back from the river to Lake Pontchartrain, both above and below the city, on which were twenty-nine and thirty guns, one of which was a 24-inch mortar. And on the 29th, he addressed Secretary Welles: "Sir: I am happy to announce to you that our flag waves over both Forts Jackson and St. Philip, and at New Orleans, over the Custom-house, and the State House, and the State Capitol, by Gen. Butler, of all the forts along the coast. Berwick's Bay and Fort Pike have been abandoned; in fact, there is a general stampede. I shall endeavor to get the forts, four in number, up the troops as fast as possible. We have destroyed all the forts above the city, four in number, which are understood to be all the impediments between this and Memphis."

Captain Bailey, who brought the dispatches to Washington, writes: "WASHINGTON, May 5.---To Hon. G. Welles, Secretary of the Navy. I have the honor to announce that in the providence of God, which smiles upon a just cause, the squadron under Flag-officer Farragut has been victorious a glorious victory and triumph, in the capture of the forts of Jackson, Forts Jackson, St. Philip, Livingston and Pike, the batteries below and above New Orleans, as well as the total destruction of the enemy's gunboats, steam floating batteries, fire rafts and obstructions, booms and chains. The enemy, with their own hands, destroyed from eight to ten miles above the city, four in number, and lost 26 killed and 123 wounded. The enemy lost from 1,000 to 1,200 besides several hundred prisoners. The way is clear, and the rebel defences destroyed. I have the honor to inform you that the Monitor, with five wooden steamers, proceeded near to Sewall's Point, on a reconnoissance, and shelled the batteries for a time. The Merrimack then came out from Norfolk so far as to show herself; when the Monitor gave her an invitation to come nearer. She, however, prudently kept out of harm's way, and the Monitor, perhaps as wisely, declined to take a position where she would have to fight at a disadvantage; and the more especially did she show wisdom in declining a conflict, when she knew that matters were being arranged to secure her destruction without a conflict."

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THE CAPTULATION OF THE FORTS. UNITED STATES STEAMER HARRIET LANE, MISSISSIPPI RIVER, APRIL 30, 1862. "Sir: I enclose herewith the capitulation of Forts Jackson and St. Philip, which surrendered to the mortar fleet, on the 26th day of April, 1862. The mortar fleet consisted of the Monitor and Brigadier-General J. R. Duncan, commanding the coast defenses, and Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Higgins, commanding Forts Jackson and St. Philip, of the other party, it is mutually agreed: 1. That Brigadier-General Duncan and Lieutenant-Colonel Higgins shall surrender to the mortar fleet, Forts Jackson and St. Philip, the several pieces of the mortar fleet, and the contents thereof belonging, together with all public property that may be under their charge. 2. That Brigadier-General Duncan and Lieutenant-Colonel Higgins, together with the crews under their command, shall be permitted to retain their side-arms, and that all private property shall be respected. Furthermore, that they shall give their parole of honor, and serve in the army of the United States until they are regularly exchanged. 3. It is further agreed by commander David D. Porter, commanding the mortar fleet, and the crews of the mortar fleet, that they shall give their parole of honor, and serve in the army of the United States until they are regularly exchanged. 4. It is further agreed by commander David D. Porter, commanding the mortar fleet, and the crews of the mortar fleet, that they shall give their parole of honor, and serve in the army of the United States until they are regularly exchanged. 5. It is further agreed by commander David D. Porter, commanding the mortar fleet, and the crews of the mortar fleet, that they shall give their parole of honor, and serve in the army of the United States until they are regularly exchanged. 6. It is further agreed by commander David D. 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