

Presbyterian Banner.

PITTSBURGH, JULY 15, 1863

The War.

In noticing the battle of Gettysburg, last week, we said: "The success, so far, claims our hearty thanks. Possibly it may turn out to be not so great as we wished, nor even equal to our hopes." There are still no detailed official reports. It is ascertained, however, that Gen. Meade, his officers and men, acquitted themselves bravely. They did not capture 30,000 prisoners as the sensation writers affirmed, nor 118 cannon. No guns were captured on either side. Nor was the enemy routed. He retired at night, but deliberately and in good order. Still, our victory was a vastly important achievement. It saved Pennsylvania, and Baltimore, and Washington. It drove the rebels back to the Potomac. It gave time to concentrate our forces from greater distances, and to organize and drill the militia who had been suddenly called. We still look for a victory which shall be decisive. We have the men in vast abundance, to win it; and we have in Gen. Meade a commander who, as we hope, will prove as able in offensive operations near the Potomac, as he did in defensive ones at Gettysburg.

On leaving Gettysburg on the night of the 3d, Gen. Lee went directly to Hagerstown and commenced fortifying a position between that place and Williamsport, extending toward Sharpsburg, and holding the crossings of the Potomac. The high water prevented a rapid crossing, but it is manifest that he did not wish to pass the river, or he would have been safely over before this time. Our troops did not press him. There is reason to fear that he has large reinforcements near him, on the Virginia side of the river. If so he may yet make a desperate and bloody fight. He came North with about 75,000 to 80,000 men. Of these he has lost, at Gettysburg and elsewhere, about 30,000. This would leave him, say, 50,000 effective men, and the choice of position and the fortifications he has had time to make, would enable him to repel 100,000 assailants. But our Generals have far more than that number. Hence if Lee has not large reinforcements, his reduction must be very speedy.

THE ON TO RICHMOND movement is suspended. Generals Dix and Keyes have withdrawn their forces from the Panmunk, and a portion of them have been forwarded to Maryland. Gen. Foster has sent a large division of his army from Newburn, under Gen. Naglee, to the aid of Gen. Meade; and has, with the residue, been making very important incursions into the interior.

The battle of Gettysburg. The name of Gettysburg will henceforth occupy a prominent place in American history. The battle fought there on the 1st, 2d, and 3d, days of July, 1863, will take rank among the great combats of national armies, and will prove as we earnestly hope, to have been the turning point in our war against the rebellion. The temerity of Gen. Lee in advancing into an enemy's country densely populated, and leaving on his flank and rear an army his superior in numbers and his equal in bravery and discipline; an army which could also be reinforced speedily by tens of thousands, and which could be soon aided by duplicated numbers of militia—the temerity was wonderful, even if he did expect to be followed by a reinforcement of 40,000.

The battle of Gettysburg commenced on Wednesday evening, the 1st. It was brought on by Gen. Reynolds, who commanded the advance of the Federal army. He, on approaching the town, learned that the enemy was in the outskirts, and pressed onward. He found the foe in greater strength than he expected. He fell slain in the engagement, and his corps retired a short distance, and occupied Cemetery Hill. This is a commanding eminence at which Gen. Lee aimed, and its occupancy by our forces contributed largely to the favorable result of the contest.

On Thursday morning Gen. Meade came up with the main army, and arranged his order of battle, having this hill for his front centre, with the wings retiring in a triangular or crescent form, his lines being so constructed and his reserves so placed, that in fifteen minutes' time he could reinforce any point which the enemy might choose to attack. Being thus favorably posted, he resolved to act on the defensive.

And he did not long to wait. Time was of immense importance to Gen. Lee. He hence made a furious assault about four o'clock in the afternoon. The fighting continued till night without any decisive result, but rather favorable to Gen. Meade. On Friday morning the battle was renewed, and raged furiously till ten o'clock. There was then a lull of three hours. At one o'clock it was renewed, the enemy having concentrated one hundred and twenty guns on our centre, from which he poured shot and shell upon our lines with terrific fury for an hour and forty minutes, and then brought on his infantry. The battle raged till night, when the enemy being repelled at every point, retired; and during the night he commenced a retreat.

This sorely maintained but successful contest occupied three days. Six hours fighting on Wednesday, four hours on Thursday, and including the artillery firing on Friday, thirteen hours that day, making a total of twenty-three hours, during which the battle raged with extreme fury. The army of the Potomac deserves well of the country. It has fought in a great variety of circumstances, and never faltered. Well led or ill led, it will fight. And on a fair field, against any thing like equal numbers, and under an adequate commander, it always conquers. The name of Gen. Meade will be en-

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