

OPELOUSAS:

SATURDAY, : : : : : MAY 14, 1864.

After a forced suspension of two months, we to-day resume our regular issue. Since our last number, great and glorious events have transpired in our poor Louisiana, and the invaders of our soil have paid dearly their pretensions of subjugating our State.

We give elsewhere the details of the success of our arms in the Northern portion of Louisiana. Believing that we are now delivered forever of the presence of Yankees, we will endeavor to give our readers the most reliable news we can get, in an attendant better time.

Henceforward, the subscription to the Courier will be \$20 cash in advance or \$25 at the end of the year. Need we say, en passant, that the paper costs us about \$15 to each subscriber? May 14, 1864.

We had every reason to hope that we would be enabled to get details of the battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill, but we have been deceived once more. It is therefore impossible for us to give our readers what we have not.

The two battles are two Confederate victories. They occurred on the 22d and 23d of April inst.

Our troops fought like veterans and whipped the Yankees most deservedly. The federal loss is estimated at 2000 in killed and 3000 wounded; 2500 prisoners, 21 pieces of artillery, 300 wagons and a large quantity of small arms. Besides the above guns, wagons and small arms which we have in our possession, the Yankees have destroyed a large number of wagons, stores, &c.

Our loss is also very severe, considering the many able officers who have been killed: 1000 killed and wounded, and a few hundred prisoners.

The Yankees are now at Alexandria, where they are invested and dare not venture out. For the last 18 or 20 days there have been several heavy skirmishes around Alexandria, in which we have invariably repulsed them into their quarters and taken some prisoners. It is currently reported that the Federal army is, and has been ever since the battles, on half rations. Their communication with New Orleans is intercepted by our batteries, which have already destroyed two gunboats and five transports, several of the latter loaded with troops and provisions from New Orleans.

It is very probable that ere this army reaches the city it will have lost over 15,000 men.

ANOTHER GOOD CAPTURE.

We are credibly informed that on Friday of last week, two federal gun boats were captured in Calcasieu river, by 300 men under the command of Colonel Griffin, of the Sabine Pass station. There were on board 160 men who were made prisoners. Each boat had eight guns on board, making a very valuable prize.

At the time of the surrender of the boats, a man tried to escape by jumping overboard of one of them; but a well directed bullet put an end to his career. It was Duican Smith, a man not very favorably known here and at Lafayette. What was he doing there?

JAYHAWKERS.—Since about two months, over one hundred of these malefactors have been shot or otherwise disposed of by military corps and by Home Guards, in this Parish, besides a large number in Calcasieu and Avoyelles. The results are that quiet is partly restored in quarters heretofore threatened by these marauders, and we hope, will continue so as long as good and honest Home Guards will do their duty. Upon this subject, well founded rumors infer that certain of these organizations are so composed that they are much to be dreaded even by honest and poor planters. Not knowing the secrets of their duties and actions, we refrain from making any further comments, but simply would call the attention of those who are interested in the subject.

HEAD QUARTERS,

2d INFANTRY DIVISION ARMY WESTERN LA. IN THE FIELD NEAR MANSFIELD, April 12, 1864.

Soldiers of the 2d Division: Thanks to your valor and your untiring energies, the host that had invaded the country and was moving up spreading desolation in his way, has been repelled and is now in full retreat.

On the 8th of April, you made upon his line a charge worthy of an army of veterans, and which shows that numerical strength must give way to a well settled determination of amounting to a victory, backed by the consciousness of a cause, and a gallant charge turned the tide of the day, and resulted in the defeat of the 14th and 15th army corps, numbering 19,000 men, commanded by General Banks in person, and in the capture of their whole train and artillery. On the next day, you pursued the enemy's retreating column, and towards evening, engaged five troops belonging to the 16th army corps, and drove them from every position in which they attempted to oppose you.

Although a victory achieved with such an overwhelming force should be well with exultation every Southern heart, yet the duty of publishing it in General orders falls heavily upon mine. He, to whose energy and skill the victory is due, he, who moved our line with the gallantry which was inherent in his chivalrous nature, and led it with an energy which insured the success of the onslaught, Brigadier General A. Mouton, is no more.—Pushing to the foremost rank, he fell while facing the foe and urging our troops to victory, and his precious blood which has already been spilled for the defence of the country on another battle field, gushing out at once from five ghastly wounds, left him lifeless too soon to enjoy the fruits of victory and share in our joy. He now rests beneath the soil for which he fought and among the relics of the brave he led so well.

The painful record of the many dead and wounded does not, alas, close with his honored name. The heroic Colonel Taylor, Armand and Beard, and Lieut. Colonel Walker, and Noble and Major Childfield were killed.

Many other gallant officers and soldiers of all ranks have been strewn on the battle field, whose names would fill a long list of war; but soldiers and companions in arms, though we mourn for the fallen brave and for the wounded who can no longer assist us in the defence of the

country, yet their fate is not without compensation. These will now enjoy the blessings of quiet home with the consoling thought of having done their duty towards God, their country and themselves, and while the memory of the dead will be cherished by us and our children, they will wear in Heaven the crown which is due to their devotion to our most sacred and Holy cause. POLIGNAC.

Gen. Commanding the 2d Infantry Division.

HEAD QUARTERS,

DEPARTMENT WESTERN LOUISIANA. Mansfield, April 12, 1864.

GENERAL ORDER No. A chief has fallen, a warrior of warrior has gone to his home. On the 12th instant fell Thomas Green. After braving death a thousand times the destroyer found him where he was ever wont to be, in the front rank of battle. His spirit has gone to the happy home of heroes where the kindred spirit of Alfred Mouton awaited it. Throughout broad Texas, throughout desolated Louisiana, mourning will sadden every heart. Great is the loss to family and friend; much greater is the loss to this army and to me, for many weary march these two have served with me, amidst the storm of battle, by the lonely camp fire at the solitary outpost, my heart has learnt to love them. Their families shall be as mine, and their friends my friends.

To have been their beloved friend, and trusted commander, is the highest earthly honor, I can ever attain.

Soldiers, the fall of these heroes shall not be in vain. Inspired by such examples this army will achieve great things. Moistened by the blood of Mansfield, Pleasant Hill and Blair's Landing, the tree of natural independence will grow apace and soon overshadow the land so that all may repose in peace under its grateful shade. The memory of our glorious dead is a rich legacy to future generations, and their names will be remembered as the chosen heroes and martyrs of the chivalric Southern race. The colors of the cavalry corps of this army will be draped for thirty days, in memory of the late heroic commander.

R. TAYLOR,

Major Gen. Commanding.

List of Casualties in Co. G, 18th La. Regt. and Yellow Jacket Battalion, consolidated. Capt. H. B. Stevens, Com'd'g, in the action of the 8th of April, 1864, near Mansfield, La.

Killed—Privates W. H. Brower, L. Derouen, Thomas Doyle.

Wounded—Sergt. D. Broussard, Corporals J. Singleton and W. Hanchley, privates J. Broussard, E. Bergeron, A. Guidroz, E. Kenilson, A. Landry, T. Macnary.

PRESIDENT DAVIS.

The English papers reproduce the following personal sketch of Jefferson Davis, from Col. Fremantle's "Three months in the South."

Mr. Jefferson Davis struck me as looking older than I expected. He is only fifty-six, but his face is emaciated, and much wrinkled. He is nearly six feet high, but is extremely thin, and stoops a little. His features are good, especially his eyes, which is very bright, and full of life and humor. I was afterwards told he had lost the sight of his left eye from a recent illness. He wore a linen coat and gray trousers, and he looked what he evidently is, a well-bred gentleman. Nothing can exceed the charm of his manner, which is simple, easy, and most fascinating. He conversed with me for a long time, and appeared to be much interested in the progress of the war.

He recognized the South, and he said that, when the inevitable smash came—and that separation was an accomplished fact—the State of Maine would probably try to join Canada, as most of the intelligent people in that State have a horror of being "under the thumb of Massachusetts."

He added that Maine was inhabited by a hard, thrifty, seafaring population, with different ideas to the people in the other New England States. When I spoke to him of the wretched scenes I had witnessed in his own State, (Mississippi) and of the miserable, almost desperate situation in which I had found so many unfortunate women, who had been left behind by their male relations, and when I alluded in admiration to the quiet, calm, uncomplaining manner in which they bore their sufferings, and their grief, he said, with much feeling, that he always considered silent despair the most painful description of misery to witness, in the same way that he thought mute insanity was the most awful form of madness. He spoke to me of Grenfell, who, he said, seemed to be serving the Confederacy in a disinterested and loyal manner. He had heard much of his gallantry and good services, and he was very sorry when I told him of Grenfell's quarrel with the civil power. He confirmed the truth of my remark, that a Confederate general is either considered an Admiral Crichton by the soldiers, or else abused as everything bad; and, he added, the misfortune was, that it is absolutely necessary, in order to insure success, that a general must obtain and preserve this popularity and influence with his men, who were, however, generally very willing to accord their confidence to any officer deserving it.

With regard to the black flag and no quarter agitation, he said people would talk a great deal, and even go into action determined to give no quarter; "but," he added, "I have yet to hear of Confederate soldiers putting men to death who have thrown down their arms and held up their hands." He told me that Earl Russell confessed that the impartial carrying out of the neutrality laws had pressed hard upon the South, and Mr. Davis asserted that the pressure might have been equalized and yet retained its impartiality if Great Britain, instead of closing her ports, had opened them to the prizes of both parties; but I said that perhaps this might be overdoing it a little on the other side. When I took my leave, about 9 o'clock, the President asked me to call upon him again. I don't think it possible for any one to have an interview with him without going away most favorably impressed by his agreeable, unassuming manners, and by the charm of his conversation.

[Col. Fremantle's "Three months in the South."]

A DECISION AGAINST THE CONFISCATION ACT.—The following important points have been decided by the Kentucky Court of Appeals in the case of Morris vs. Dempleton, which came before the court under the act of Congress providing for the confiscation of the property of certain classes of persons in rebellion—Judge Bullitt delivering the opinion:

The right, given by the constitution, to make war upon rebels, gives the power to perform acts of war, and no other power whatever. The seizure and confiscation of enemy's property on land are not acts of war. (Brown vs. United States; 8 Cranch.)

The act under consideration is unconstitutional, because it attempts to authorize the confiscation of the property of citizens, as a punishment for treason and other crimes, without due process of law by proceedings in rem in any district in which the property may be; without present or indictment by a grand jury, or upon such evidence as the owner, or upon such evidence as his guilt as would be sufficient ground for any fact in admiralty or revenue cases. (Confiscation Act, article 3, sec. 2, sub-sec. 3, and sec. 2, sub-sec. 4, article 3, sec. 2, sub-sec. 4, of said act.)

Communicated.

GRAND CORTEAU, March 6, 1864.

Heaven's anger still frowns upon us. Another victim from among the innocent and pure fell beneath its unsparring stroke, in the person of MARCELLEUS G. DOYLE, son of the late John Doyle, who passed this morning at 4 o'clock, to a better life. Scarcely eight years old, he was perhaps the most remarkable child ever known. If uncommon maturity of judgment, a manly politeness of manners, and a wonderful depth of religious feelings made him an object of admiration to all who knew him, the candor and innocence which glowed in his brow, won him irresistibly the affection of all his acquaintances. There was nothing of the child in him except his age, size and infantile countenance. In full possession of his faculties to the last, he sighed for death with a longing heart, as for the kind Angel, who should set his spirit free, and place him in the bosom of his God. Seeing his afflicted mother weeping by his side, he endeavored to console her with arguments so calm, so earnest and so full of faith, as to astonish and move to tears all who were present. He breathed forth his pure soul whilst the sweetest of Catholic prayers was still trembling on his lips: Holy Mary, Mother of God—my sweet mother—pray for me now, and...

Though the disconsolate mother will long and keenly feel the irreplaceable loss of a son so amiable and with disposition so noble, she should remember that a child so pure and holy was a plant too delicate for the heavy yoke of tears. Lent, from the 1st of April, Providence is a charm for a while with its heavenly perfume, it could not but soon again be reclaimed to bloom for ever in its fragrant clime. Such were the feelings of all those that looked upon him—

"On whose cheek and o'er whose brow, So soft, so calm, so eloquent, Angelic smiles in death yet glow, To tell of days in goodness spent, A mind at peace with all below, A heart divinely innocent."

The Angel of Death, in his late visitations to our village, selected his victims among the youngest portion of our population. BENJAMIN JOSUA MILLARD, son of the late Doctor H. J. Millard, only in his thirteenth year, was dear to all who knew him for his gentleness and innocence. He was gifted with talents which, had he lived would have done honor to his name and to his country; while his virtuous dispositions revealed one of rare natures which Heaven envies us. His piety and resignation during fifteen days' illness, and the piety with which he prepared for death, showed how much he had improved by the lessons of a pious mother who had centered in him her fondest hopes. He died on the 3d instant, and his remains were accompanied to the grave by his numerous schoolmates and other friends, who could hardly grieve at a death so precious in the sight of God: for "Being made perfect in a short space, he fulfilled a long time. Wisd. 4. Grand Corteau, March, 1864.

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HEAD QUARTERS TRANS-MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT, SHREVEPORT, LA., February 4, 1864. [Extract.]

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 29. VII. The following schedule of prices for articles and labor herein named, adopted by Commissioners appointed pursuant to law for the State of Louisiana, is announced for the information of all concerned.

This schedule of prices established every two months or oftener, will be published for the information of parties making improvements; and no officer or agent will pay or approve for payment any local appraisement materially in excess thereof, but will always refer the same to the Board for its revision and a final valuation.

Commissary Stores.

Table with 5 columns: Articles, Quality, Description, Quantity, Price. Lists various food items like Flour, Corn, Beans, etc. with their respective prices.

Quartermasters' Stores.

Table with 5 columns: Articles, Quality, Description, Quantity, Price. Lists various supplies like Saddles, Horses, Mules, etc. with their respective prices.

\*To which is to be added the same increase of price for the localities as made in the value of corn. In measuring corn in cribs or pens, four cubic feet should be allowed for each barrel of slipshucked corn. The prices of corn apply to the valleys of Red river and the Ouachita and their tributaries.

When articles are impressed in any parish not produced or raised in that parish, the authorized transportation or other necessary expenses are to be added. The following scale of prices for the service, &c., hereinafter specified, will be paid by officers of the army and Government Agents:

For hauling the Tax in kind to depots established by the Government Agents, four cents per hundred pounds per mile, when the distance exceeds eight miles from the place of production, the owners to furnish rations for drivers and forage for teams.

For other hauling, ten dollars per day for six mule and four yoke ox teams, eight dollars per day for four mule and three yoke ox teams, and six dollars per day for two mule and two yoke ox teams. The Government to furnish rations for drivers and forage for teams. The distance fixed for each day's travel, to be eight miles for mule, and fourteen miles for ox teams; or six cents per hundred pounds per mile, for distances over fifty miles, the owners to furnish rations and forage.

For the hire of Grist and Saw Mills, one dollar per day for each horse-power, the Government to furnish everything, and repair all damages beyond the usual wear and tear.

For the rental of stores or other tenements, twelve per cent. per annum on the State Tax assessment, and pro rata for portions of buildings, to take effect on the first of January, 1864.

For the hire of Negro men, thirty dollars per month, the Government to furnish rations, shelter and medical attendance. Any time lost by sickness, to be deducted from the amount due the owners.

It is respectfully recommended to the ladies to form parish and neighborhood associations for the purpose of furnishing woolen and cotton cloth and socks for our soldiers in the field, who are much in need of all these articles, and for which the Schedule prices will be paid. Address at Natchitoches and Alexandria, La.

RICHARD NUGENT, JOS. H. BYNSON, Commissioners.

Lieut. Gen. E. KIRBY SMITH, Feb. 27—47—4t.

SALE OF STATE BONDS.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, SHREVEPORT, February 23d, 1864. [Extract.] SPECIAL ORDERS No. 42.

IN accordance with the provisions of an Act of the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana, entitled: An Act "To authorize the sale of Bonds for the relief of the Treasury, and final liquidation of the principal and interest thereof," approved February 8, 1864.

Sealed proposals will be received at my office, in the city of Shreveport, until the first of September next, for the sale or exchange of State Bonds, having not less than twenty nor more than fifty years to run from their dates, and to be issued in amounts of not less than two hundred nor more than one thousand dollars each, at the discretion of the Governor, with six per cent. per annum, payable semi-annually at the office of the State Treasurer.

These Bonds will be sold for the benefit of the State, or exchanged for any of the Confederate or State Treasury notes.

The General Assembly in authorizing the sale or exchange of these Bonds, has provided for the payment of the current interest semi-annually, and the redemption of the bonds at maturity, by the creation of an ample sinking fund.

On the first Monday of every month the sealed bids received, will be opened and the Bonds awarded to the highest bidder, at the discretion of the Governor.

H. W. ALLEN, Governor of the State of Louisiana.

March 5, 1864.—48—3m.

E. Claude House.