

FROM GENERAL McCLELLAN'S ARMY.  
OCCUPATION OF SUFFOLK, VA.  
REBEL BARBARITIES.  
THE SITUATION IN VIRGINIA.

# The Daily Tri-Weekly

VOL. XXII.—No. 6,587. NEW-YORK, THURSDAY, MAY 15, 1862. PRICE TWO CENTS.

FROM THE MOUNTAIN DEPARTMENT.  
THE BATTLE AT WILLIAMSBURG.

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nothing better than a dogged wish in some that the war was over; while the majority hate us with the hate of hell, and will yet do bloody work if they have the opportunity. They retreated from Yorktown because they could not have held it for three days against the tremendous preparations brought to bear upon them; they hope, by drawing us into their interior, to subject us to the fevers and heats of summer, and finally overpowered us at Richmond. I suppose the defenses of Yorktown to be a mere suggestion of what awaits us at the Rebel capital, and that every man, woman, and child that can pull a trigger will do it there.

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His regiment was forced back before the Captain could be removed. When it recovered its ground, the Captain was found to be dead. The bullet-proof vest was gone, and there were bayonet wounds through the officer's breast. That case is made out certainly.

Second. Orderly Sergeant Pease, Company E, of the same regiment, slightly wounded, was taken prisoner, in company with two boys. On the night of the evacuation of Williamsburg, all three were taken to the tail of a loaded wagon, and started for Richmond. The lady, in the first mile of the retreat, came up with Lieut. Nelson, Company F, 1st Regiment, Sickles Brigade, badly wounded, and a prisoner. He became unable to walk. The brutes who had him in charge bayoneted him twice, and left him upon the road side. Our troops found him there next day, just alive, but not able to speak. One of the boys, paroled on account of his youth, says that he saw the wounded officer bayoneted to get rid of him.

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found the stillness of the Sabbath unbroken, as the soldiers, in little squads, walked quietly here and there, and the sullen men and women at street corners or behind the blinds of their homes, looked curiously and malignantly at the victors, but were too much cowed down to make any hostile demonstration. Suddenly the stillness was broken by the roar of cannon not far off, and then a few minutes after by an explosion whose concussion shook earth and sea. The Merrimack was instantly the name on every lip, and a more fearful gloom quickly settled on the brow of every Rebel citizen of Norfolk. The fire which the Rebels had kindled in the ship had reached first the loaded guns and exploded them, and then the magazine of the world-noted tycoon of Hampton Roads, and she was no more. Some deserters from her crew arrived, and confirmed the glad intelligence of the destruction of this Philistine Goliath, who had committed suicide in despair of a successful encounter with our champion, the David of our Israel, the little Monitor. The news was received with very mingled feelings by our troops; they rejoiced that the Merrimack was destroyed; they regretted that she was not captured or vanquished by her plucky antagonist, the little Monitor. No other vessel will ever be built on the same model, for she drew too much water, and was too unwieldy for sea or river service, and was at best but a floating battery for harbor defense. Mayor Lamb of Norfolk assured me last evening that she was not injured in her contact with the Monitor, but that her gun having been bent by the Cambridge gun, was yet further disabled by a shot from the Monitor, which caused her to leak badly, and necessitated her return to Norfolk.

Continuing my walk through the principal thoroughfares, my course was soon arrested by several women who rushed from a house followed by the children of the family, and begged me as an officer to interfere, as the soldiers were committing outrages on the women and children. I was very strict had been the prohibition of any molestation of the inhabitants, and found two soldiers of my regiment quietly sitting down in the entry, looking as peaceable as they really were. "What have you been doing?" I inquired. "We asked for something to eat," was the answer. "Did you offer to pay for it?" "O, yes." "Did you break into the house?" "We entered the open door after knocking."

This statement the women confirmed. This was the only fighting, marked only for disadvantages to ourselves and generalship so bad as to seem only by a gallant action in defence of order to call back, and without the supports many times craved for, and as many times denied—a day of success "at all points," a day really marked for its splendid triumphs. The country is supposed to expect "success at all points," and it seems to be the business of the telegraph to gratify it. This much without reference to a hundred and more incidents and scenes that never happened, and which occurred in the reading of which furnish a full and complete illustration of the imaginative turn of the human mind in the tragic surroundings of a great army.

At the present situation: Johnston and Magruder, with about 35,000 men, commenced leaving Fort Magruder on Monday evening, the 9th, in less than one hour after the reports had reached Gen. Hancock, and without that he made his gallant charge—reports which which Gen. McClellan, at the instance of Gen. Smith, ordered up immediately on arriving and perceiving the advantage of Gen. Hancock's position. The warning on the left of Gen. Smith's whole division, where he had valiantly attempted to place it, and other reports of the Rebels' movements, have not been received, but the policy of Gen. Smith early in the day, and all day, prevailed, Johnston, Magruder, and the rest of them would have been taken, or they would have saved themselves by a more precipitate and disastrous retreat than that which they made that night. That the army rested two days instead of pushing the demoralized fragments of the army, under Gen. Stoneman, may perhaps seem a little strange. But the men could not go ahead without ration, nor the animals without food. These had to be waited for. If Gen. McClellan is not completely successful, he can charge very much to the Quartermaster and Commissary Departments.

Having just returned from the advance position occupied by our army on the Peninsula, an intelligent description of the present "situation" may not prove unacceptable to the readers of THE TRIBUNE and the public generally. I am strongly prompted at the outset to expose the one-sided, exaggerated, not to say positively false accounts which, for a variety of motives, have been spread before the public, concerning the operations of the army, which, as they have returned in the papers, have astonished and amused both officer and soldier, quite as much as their exposure would the public. The task of making heroes of men least entitled to the distinction, while real heroes have but scanty justice done them, or are overlooked altogether, generally belongs to that class of writers whose tenure as followers of the army rests on some frail and questionable speciality. This sort of thing is however less a matter of surprise than announcements—made by men high in official position, which, for example, represent a day's hard fighting, marked only for disadvantages to ourselves and generalship so bad as to seem only by a gallant action in defence of order to call back, and without the supports many times craved for, and as many times denied—a day of success "at all points," a day really marked for its splendid triumphs. The country is supposed to expect "success at all points," and it seems to be the business of the telegraph to gratify it. This much without reference to a hundred and more incidents and scenes that never happened, and which occurred in the reading of which furnish a full and complete illustration of the imaginative turn of the human mind in the tragic surroundings of a great army.

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