IMPORTANT FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

Evacuation of Hampton by the Union Troops—Demand for the Abandonment of Newport News—Preparations for Defence—A Battle Expected,

&c., &c., &c.

FORTRESS MONROE, July 28, 1861.

The Odd Fellows' Hall, jail, and four other buildings in Hampton, were yesterday burned by our troops, in apprehension of an immediate attack by the rebels. Our troops were entirely withdrawn last night.

Max Weber now occupies Colonel Duryee's former quarters. Part of Hampton bridge has been destroyed, to prevent communication with this side of the creek. The place is not yet occupied by the rebels.

Captain Bryan, of the Georgia Hussars, and four others, came in yesterday with a flag of truce, relative to the baggage of Captain Jenkins and artist Shurtliff, who were wounded and made prisoners by them some time ago. It turns out that they were met by a party of amateur soldiers on the other side. The flag was received by Captain Butler and Lieutenant Riegel outside the intrenchments.

A proposal to exchange them for two rebel soldiers was rejected, but arrangements were made to forward the baggage of the wounded men.

The flag of truce was doubtless a feint for reconnoitring Hampton and the vicinity.

A flag of truce came into Newport News this morning with a proposition giving our troops twenty-four hours to leave. In case the place is not evacuated they will force us out they say.

The gunboat Dale (twenty guns) at once went up from Old Point. The Albatross and Penguin are also stationed there, while the Minnesota and seven gunboats at Old Point are ready to assist, should Newport News be attacked. Colonel Phelps says he can hold the place against twice the force he has, which now consists of four effective regiments. The intrenchments are of a formidable character, and the rebels will meet with a warm reception.

Both flags of truce, of course, represent that there is a very large rebel force between Yorktown and Old Point.

The rebels have to-day been practising from a battery at Willoughby Point, some five miles below Sewall's Point, and just below the Rip Raps.

Heavy firing is now going on at Pig Point.

OUR FORTRESS MONROE CORRESPONDENCE.

FORTRESS MONROE, Va., July 26, 1861.

Movements of Troops to Washington—The Regiments Which Leave—Promotion of Col. E. D. Baker as Brigadier General—Brigade Items—Sailing of the Schooner Enchantress, Recaptured from the Privateer Jeff. Davis—Naval Items—Weather, &c.—Opening of Express Matter to Soldiers—Taking of Liquor Therefrom, &c.

At a late hour last night orders were unexpectedly received from headquarters at Washington to send on immediately four regiments to that city. Immediate action was taken by Major General Butler, and each regiment specified in the order was before daylight in the hands of its Colonel, and the camps were aroused and the troops soon at work, striking their tents and preparing for a move.

At two o'clock Colonel Baker's First California regiment were marching through the main sallyport into the fortress. The three battalions, headed by a very good band, marched in regular order around the main avenue about the fort, and passed out by the sallyport to the water battery, cheering General Butler, who reviewed them as they filed by. The regiment presented a very creditable appearance, the men being of good size, athletic and seemingly capable of the greatest endurance. The officers are made up of a fine body of gentlemen, with military experience and talent to considerable extent.

The regiment marched by the water battery, and then down to the wharf, where they embarked upon the steamer Louisiana, with all their tents, baggage and camp utensils. The remainder of the brigade, which is under command of Brigadier General Edwin D. Baker, who has recently been promoted to that position, consists of the First regiment of New York Volunteers, Colonel Carr; the Third New York Volunteers, Lieutenant Colonel Alvord commanding, and the Fifth regiment of New York Volunteers (Zouaves), Colonel Duryee. They will all leave to-night for Washington in the steamboats Louisiana, Georgia, Adelaide and Express, via Baltimore. They take with them their camp equipage, &c., in perfect order. Colonel Carr's regiment have to-day been supplied by the State with the regulation frock coat and pants, and have doffed the dirty, faded and ragged uniform which the clothing contractors furnished them before leaving home. They present now a splendid appearance, and only need new hats and caps to vie with the regulars, either in drill or soldierly appearance. Although they have made but little noise, and attracted but a small degree of attention, they have improved wonderfully in drill, and are now equal to any regiment of volunteers that I have seen. With new uniforms, and other incentives to progress, they will rank very soon second to no volunteer, or even regular regiment in the country's service.

The Third regiment, Colonel Alvord (late Colonel Townsend's), is also in good condition for the field. The men are well drilled, and proficient in the manual of arms. Give them a good opportunity and they will make a mark for themselves.

Of Colonel Duryee's Zouaves I need only say that they preserve their well earned reputation, and will do good service when the time comes.

It is rumored that Colonel Taylor's regiment (the First Scott Life Guard) also leave to-night, but I can trace it to no reliable source. It is a splendid regiment, officered by men of experience, who have seen service and been under fire under the victorious banners of the veteran soldier whose name they have taken.

I hope they will remain, and I doubt not that the report of their leaving is incorrect.

Lieutenant Francis G. Young, of the First California regiment, has been appointed Brigade Quartermaster, under General Baker. He has all the necessary qualifications for the position, and will make a valuable officer in that important department. Whether any more troops will be taken from here is unknown, but it is expected not.

The gunboat Albatross recaptured last Sunday the schooner Enchantress, of Newburyport, Massachusetts, off Hatteras Inlet, while on her way to Charleston, South Carolina, in charge of a prize crew of five men from the rebel privateer Jefferson Davis. The schooner was taken by the privateer on the 6th of July, on the edge of the Gulf, and was on her way to a rebel port when retaken.

She sailed to-day for New York, in charge of Master's Mate Windell, of the Albatross. Her cargo of provisions is valuable. She was bound to St. Jago de Cuba when the pirates took her. The prize brig Herald sails to-morrow for Philadelphia, in charge of E. S. Hardy, prize captain, from the St. Lawrence frigate, who captured her.

The weather is again growing intensely hot, but the health of the troops remains very good.

Commodore Stringham leaves to-night for Washington. I open my letter to state that Colonel Taylor's Fourth New York Volunteers will leave to-night for Washington, and the Second New York Volunteers, Colonel Carr, will remain, the order for the movement of the latter having been countermanded.

The departure of so many troops near Hampton will undoubtedly cause the evacuation of that town, and its consequent destruction. It is under the fire of our large guns at the fort, and if the enemy attempt to occupy it, it will certainly be shelled.

Our picket fired upon a body of twelve horsemen this afternoon, who were charging down the road, killed one, wounded several others, and took a horse. The enemy fled.

A large body of the enemy, consisting of cavalry and one piece of artillery, came within half a mile of our lines to-day, evidently making a reconnoissance. We made no pursuit, for the lack of cavalry.

The enemy are perfectly aware of the departure of troops from this point to-day, the information coming from spies in our camps. We expect an attack on Newport News and on Hampton, and that at an early day. You may expect stirring news from this point at any moment. We are prepared for any movement which the enemy may make.

There has been an order issued by Gen. Butler to open and remove all liquor found in the packages sent to the soldiers in this place. This is a very good arrangement, and will put a stop to many scenes of insubordination that have been of daily occurrence in our camps. It may seem to be a very hard and arbitrary regulation to the parties who are in the habit of sending little packages to their friends in the army; but their kindness is altogether misplaced when they send liquor to their friends here. It is only an injury to the men and to the great cause for which they are in arms. Nothing is so essential for success as the most thorough discipline, and this cannot be obtained if a number of men in every company are in daily receipt of liquor. There is nothing else that is interfered with but the liquor, and the soldiers are far better without it, and liquor that is needed as a medicine is allowed and can always be obtained of the surgeons when it is necessary for the men to have it. The men seem to think it just as fair to open packages consigned to the officers as to the privates, and I think that their complaints in this direction are well grounded, for I think that an officer should be willing at all times to make any sacrifice, if it be a sacrifice to do without liquor, by which he can set a good example to his men; and if this is not done it will have a demoralizing effect upon the men. There has been an unlimited supply of liquor introduced into the camp here, and it was having a very bad effect. I hope that the measures taken for stopping the supply will be effectual, and that the officers here will see the necessity of cooperating with Gen. Butler and setting the example of strict temperance to those under their command. To those who have sent liquor to their friends and relatives here I would say that what has been sent since this order has been enforced (July 24) has been taken proper care of, and will, I presume, be returned to them, as they desire it. At first this order may seem arbitrary, but all who know the value of order and discipline in our army will see the necessity for this order being strictly enforced, not only for the moral effect it will have, but as a sanitary measure.

FORTRESS MONROE, Va., July 27, 1861.

Departure of General Baker's Brigade—Evacuation of Hampton by Our Troops—Exodus of Negroes—Extraordinary Scenes—Appearance of the Road by Night—Burning of Buildings in Hampton—The Old Jail Destroyed—A Flag of Truce from the Enemy—Newport News Affairs, &c.

As I telegraphed you last night, Brigadier General Baker's brigade, consisting of the Third, Fourth and Fifth regiments of New York Volunteers, and the First California regiment, in pursuance of orders received at one o'clock yesterday morning, from Washington, left last evening and this morning for that city. Two companies of the Third New York were left behind, besides some stragglers, and the sick from the other regiments, embraced in the order referred to above, leave to-night for the same destination.

The departure of this large force seems to have become known to the enemy long before it was generally known to the officers of the respective regiments themselves.

Before daylight even yesterday morning one of our officers, who was on duty outside of our lines, gained his first intelligence of the movement from a negro whom he met. How the proposed movements of troops come to the ears of the rebels so early is one of the mysteries by which we are constantly surrounded at this post. That there are spies right among us no one at all acquainted with matters and things here will question.

All our movements and even thoughts, as it would seem, are known to the enemy as soon as to us. Until this state of affairs is remedied we can effect nothing here unless with a large body of troops.

The departure of the main body of our troops in the vicinity of Hampton was the cause of some of the most extraordinary scenes that it has been my fortune to witness. It became very evident to all that the absence of a reserve force, to prevent a flank and rear movement on the part of the enemy, would make it necessary, or at least a wise measure of precaution, to cause an evacuation of the camp in the village of Hampton, at an early hour, or run the risk of having two or three regiments cut to pieces in detail by the enemy, without a chance of escaping that result, if the enemy appeared in the rear and front, as they might do, and, by destroying the bridge at Hampton, entirely cut off the retreat of the garrison of the village, as well as from succor from the fort. Consequently, at an early hour last night, orders were given to Colonel Weber, of the Twentieth New York regiment, and to the Naval Brigade, to immediately send over their baggage, camp equipage, &c., to the fort, preparatory to a complete evacuation of the place, that night or early this morning. An additional order was also given to the effect that all negroes and Union men, with such effects as they chose to carry with them, be removed from the village last night if possible. When this order was conveyed to those interested a scene ensued which baffles all description. The fear of an immediate attack from the rebels, and the bringing into servitude again of all the negroes, lent wings to the contrabands, who thickly cluster in the village of Hampton, and the hasty preparations for instant flight, and the exodus that followed, were the most laughable and at the same time pitiable sight I ever witnessed. All awakened from their sleep, they seized such articles as they valued the most, and set out in the midnight hours, over a long and lonely road leading to the fort, for that haven in which they looked for comfort and safety that would not be again disturbed. First came the men, some of them bearing in their arms the little piccaninies, who cried and sobbed from fear; others toting household furniture upon their heads, hurrying along lest their masters should finally snatch them from their newly found freedom, and again send them to the fields under the overseer's whip. Then came women, also bearing their clothes, furniture, bedding, and, in short, everything that made up their household effects. Children of all ages, sizes, color and appearance clung to the skirts of the venerable old negro women, who rushed hastily along the road, dragging the children after them, and sharply rebuking their cries and expressions of fear.

So during the entire night, amid the greatest excitement, and in many cases agony of fear, the road was thronged with transportation wagons, hurrying along, loaded with baggage, camp equipage, camp utensils, furniture and other articles, which jostled the crowd of contrabands hastening along the same route. Artillery, baggage wagons, soldiers, negroes, all manner of vehicles, sped along pell mell during the entire night, and all made confusion worse confounded.

The day broke, and still the road was traversed by contrabands, each one bearing a load on his or her head, or wheeling a creaking barrow, or perhaps drawing a cart loaded down with furniture. The Naval Brigade held their positions at the redoubt, under arms all night, and ready, with two or three pieces of artillery, which had been left, to sweep the avenues of approach with shot and shell, if the enemy should make an attack. At about ten o'clock I rode over to Hampton, to witness what was expected to be the destruction by fire of the entire village, and bridge leading to it. At that time I met, I was about to say, hundreds of slaves, men, women and children, the women invariably turbaned with a flaming bandana handkerchief, and the children barefooted, and without covering to the head. Not a single article of furniture found in this latitude but might have been seen on the heads of these unfortunate creatures, and what was too heavy to carry was placed in the canoes, flatboats and wherries, that dotted the bay, pulled by swarthy sons of Africa. Never was such an exodus seen before in this country.

Arriving at Hampton, after passing squads of soldiers at the bridges and along the roads, we found the village almost deserted, a few soldiers, negroes, some wagons, and one or two officers' horses were all that could be seen in its desolate streets. Turning up the main road, towards Yorktown, where the old county court house stands, we found the scene of the conflagration, which we first discovered from the fort. A small wooden structure, of great age, lately occupied as an Odd Fellows' Hall, was in ruins, and the conflagration had so far destroyed the next building, occupied by the jailor, as to induce them to give up all hopes of saving it, and to turn their attention to the jail, which was then burning. All three of the buildings were totally destroyed, in spite of the efforts of a detachment of Zouaves from the Tenth regiment, who worked the two fire engines sent up from the fort. At the time I left Hampton the enemy, who were near our earthworks, had sent a flag of truce in to General Butler, by a Captain Rand of the rebel force. I have not learned the object of his mission. Up to the time I close my letter General Butler had not determined to receive the flag. I shall give you the result to-morrow.

The sloop-of-war Dale arrived to-day from a cruise. All well on board.

THE MISSION OF COLONEL TAYLOR TO WASHINGTON.

The following is the correspondence referred to as document A by Jeff Davis, in his message to the rebel Congress:—

JEFF. DAVIS TO PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

RICHMOND, July 6, 1861.

To ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States:—

SIR—Having learned that the schooner Savannah, a private armed vessel in the service and sailing under a commission issued by authority of the Confederate States of America, had been captured by one of the vessels forming the blockading squadron off Charleston harbor, I directed a proposition to be made to the officer commanding that squadron for an exchange of the officers and crew of the Savannah for prisoners of war held by this government, "according to number and rank." To this proposition, made on the 19th ult., Captain Mercer, the officer in command of the blockading squadron, made answer on the same day that "the prisoners (referred to) are not on board of any of the vessels under my command."

It now appears, by statements made without contradiction in newspapers published in New York, that the prisoners above mentioned were conveyed to that city, and have been treated not as prisoners of war, but as criminals; that they have been put in irons, confined in jail, brought before the courts of justice on charges of piracy and treason, and it is even rumored that they have been actually convicted of the offences charged, for no other reason than that they bore arms in defence of the rights of this government and under the authority of its commission.

I could not, without grave discourtesy, have made the newspaper statements above referred to the subject of this communication, if the threat of treating as pirates the citizens of this confederacy, armed for its service on the high seas, had not been contained in your proclamation of the — April last; that proclamation, however, seems to afford a sufficient justification for considering these published statements as not devoid of probability.

It is the desire of this government so to conduct the war now existing as to mitigate its horrors, as far as may be possible; and with this intent, its treatment of the prisoners captured by its forces has been marked by the greatest humanity and leniency consistent with public obligation; some have been permitted to return home on parole, others to remain at large under similar conditions within this confederacy, and all have been furnished with rations for their subsistence, such as are allowed to our own troops. It is only since the news has been received of the treatment of the prisoners taken on the Savannah that I have been compelled to withdraw these indulgences and to hold the prisoners taken by us in strict confinement.

A just regard to humanity and to the honor of this government now requires me to state explicitly; that, painful as will be the necessity, this government will deal out to the prisoners held by it the same treatment and the same fate as shall be experienced by those captured on the Savannah; and if driven to the terrible necessity of retaliation by your execution of any of the officers or crew of the Savannah, that retaliation will be extended so far as shall be requisite to secure the abandonment of a practice unknown to the warfare of civilized man, and so barbarous as to disgrace the nation which shall be guilty of inaugurating it.

With this view, and because it may not have reached you, I now renew the proposition made to the commander of the blockading squadron, to exchange for the prisoners taken on the Savannah an equal number of those now held by us, according to rank. I am, sir, yours, &c.,

JEFFERSON DAVIS,

President and Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the Confederate States.

COL. TAYLOR TO JEFFERSON DAVIS.

RICHMOND, July 10, 1861.

To His Excellency JEFFERSON DAVIS, President of the Confederate States.—

SIR—In obedience to your instructions, I left the city of Richmond on the morning of the 7th July at six o'clock A. M., as bearer of despatches to his Excellency Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States. At Manassas I received from General Beauregard a letter to General McDowell, commanding the United States forces at Arlington. From Manassas I proceeded to Fairfax Court House, where I was furnished by General Bonham an escort of fourteen cavalry, under the command of Lieut. Breckinridge, of the Virginia cavalry. Proceeding on the direct road to Alexandria to its junction with the road to Arlington, I met a detachment of cavalry under the command of Colonel Porter, United States Army, about three miles from the Junction, from which place I sent back my escort. Captain Whipple, United States Army, accompanied me to Arlington, where I arrived about four o'clock P. M. on Monday, the 8th. General McDowell not being at Arlington, my arrival was telegraphed him to Washington city. About nine o'clock P. M. Colonel Van Rensselaer, senior aid-de-camp to General Scott, was sent to convey me to General Scott's headquarters, where I found General McDowell, to whom I delivered General Beauregard's letter. After reading Gen. B.'s letter he passed it to Gen. Scott, who, being informed in this letter that I desired to deliver your communication in person, received it of me. After reading your communication to Mr. Lincoln, General Scott informed me that a reply would be returned by Mr. Lincoln as soon as possible—and at the same time instructed me to return to Arlington with General McDowell, thence to proceed in the morning back to our lines, which I did, under an escort of twenty United States cavalry, commanded by Lieutenant Putnam. In my intercourse with General Scott and the other officers of the United States Army I have to say that I was received with marked consideration and attention, and with that courtesy and kindness which should ever characterize the diplomatic relations of great nations, in war as well as in peace. Understanding that the object of my mission was the delivery of your letter to Mr. Lincoln, I have the honor to state that it was done, and subscribe myself your obedient servant, THOS. H. TAYLOR,

Captain cavalry, C. S. A., and Lieutenant Colonel Second Kentucky regiment.

THE BATTLE AT BULL RUN.

COLONEL RICHARDSON'S OFFICIAL REPORT TO GENERAL TYLER.

CAMP OF THE FOURTH BRIGADE OF TYLER'S DIVISION AND GENERAL McDOWELL'S CORPS, NEAR ARLINGTON, July 25, 1861.

GENERAL—I have the honor to submit the following report as to the operations of my brigade in front of the enemy at Bull run, on Sunday, July 21. On the night of the 20th of July I was summoned to attend a meeting of commanders of brigades, at the headquarters of the commanding officer in the field, General McDowell; and, in common with the other commanders of brigades, I was instructed what was expected of my particular command on the following day—that is, I was to defend the position which I then occupied in front of the enemy, called the Blackburn ford, and about one mile in his front, where we had been for the last three days. I was also ordered to consider myself under the command of Colonel D. S. Miles, United States Army, who was to command his own brigade at Centreville as well as my own and that of Colonel Davies, midway between the two, these three brigades constituting what was then called the reserve. Attached to my brigade was the field battery of Major Hunt, United States Army, and also the rifled battery of ten pounders, under Lieutenant Green, United States Army. I was to open fire on the enemy for the purpose of making a diversion, not before, but soon after hearing the report of General Tyler's cannonade on my right, to carry out which purpose I made the following disposition of the brigade:—The two batteries I placed upon the ridge of the hill, in view of the enemy; the Third Michigan infantry on the left of the road, in line of battle. Still further, six hundred yards to the left, on a commanding hill, I had placed the day before two companies of the First Massachusetts regiment, for the purpose of occupying a log barn and a frame barn, which companies pushed pickets still further to our left for the security of that point, which I considered a good position for artillery. In a ravine, halfway between the two positions, I placed also a company of the First Massachusetts regiment, which pushed pickets down the ravine to its front; and on the extreme right of all I placed the balance of the Massachusetts regiment, in line of battle, with two companies of that regiment pushed four hundred yards to the right and front, which two companies again threw pickets in advance. The New York and Second Michigan regiments I placed in the road, five hundred yards in rear of the line, as a reserve. Soon after making these arrangements, which I did on hearing the report of artillery on our right, Colonel Davies' brigade made its appearance, with him at its head, and, inquiring of me the date of my commission, found that he ranked me by two days, and he assumed the command. That officer wished a good position for artillery to open, and I immediately proposed the position on our left, near the log house, from which a good view of a large stone house, called by the people of the country the enemy's headquarters, might be obtained. Colonel Davies brought up with him the rifled twenty-pounder battery of Lieut. Benjamin, and ordered it to open fire immediately. He directed also Hunt's battery to his assistance, and I ordered Green's battery to open its fire at the same time. The enemy appeared to have withdrawn his guns from that position, as he returned no fire, or he might have been reserving his fire for the last attack. An hour's cannonading, however, brought in view a column of the enemy's infantry, which I observed with my glass, of at least twenty-five hundred men, and soon after two other bodies of men, of at least a regiment each, who now occupied the lines on the other side of the run, which lines now appeared full to overflowing. Supposing now that they intended to make a push across our front in column, or would endeavor to turn our left, about eleven A. M. I began to fortify my position by throwing up an earthen parapet for three guns, with embrasures across the road, and commenced an abattis of timber, by felling trees, pointing outwards, between this battery and the log house to the left. About this time the enemy on the opposite side appeared to be falling back in confusion from our right attack, which continued for some time, and then the tide changed, and they seemed to be returning in large masses. At the interval between these two extremes I was ordered by Col. D. S. Miles to throw forward my skirmishers and feel the enemy, and accordingly two companies of the Third Michigan regiment were sent forward and down the ravine, to cover our front and advance. These were supported by Capt. Brutchschneider's light infantry battalion, which also advanced down the ravine, accompanied by Lieut. Prime, corps of United States Engineers, who went for the purpose of ascertaining the enemy's position—he volunteering his services for that particular purpose. Col. Davies also threw forward a company of skirmishers on his right. The enemy's skirmishers were in force in the woods in front, and covered themselves with trees and rifle pits, which had been thrown up before. Our two advance companies were driven back, the enemy pursued, and were in turn driven back by the spherical case shot of Green's battery, and I ordered back the light infantry, and also the two companies, to their former position. The company in front of Col. Davies' command retired about the same time. By five P. M. I had the battery and the abattis nearly completed, making my defences as secure as the short time and few implements used would allow. No enemy appeared in force in my front with a disposition to assault, but about this time a heavy column of infantry appeared to the left of Col. Davies, in a ravine, moving up to the attack. This brigade opened a heavy fire upon them, and gallantly drove them back, as he informed me afterwards. During this firing, which was shortly after five o'clock, I received orders from Colonel Miles, through one of his staff, to retreat upon Centreville, and endeavor to hold that position. I immediately collected together my brigade, and put it in motion on the road towards Centreville, and was at the head of the Second Michigan regiment in rear of the brigade, when a staff officer proposed to me to throw my regiment in line, face towards the enemy, between the house occupied the night before by Hunt's battery and the Union and Centreville road, upon which road the enemy was supposed to be advancing. I had gained a position near the desired point, when I was met by Col. Davies, who informed me that he had beaten the enemy handsomely in front. I told him I had been ordered back to Centreville by Colonel Miles; that the rest of my brigade had gone on, and that I had been directed to go to that point with my regiment, for the purpose of facing the enemy there, which I had done, and Colonel Davies went, as I supposed, to his brigade. Soon after this I was met by a staff officer of General McDowell's, who told me to put my brigade in position on the left of the road from Centreville to Blackburn's ford, and stretching towards the Union and Centreville road, facing the enemy. Other troops had also fallen back to this point—distant about a mile from Centreville—and at about six o'clock P. M. Captain Alexander, of the Corps of Engineers, directed me, by the order of General McDowell, to take the general arrangement of the troops at that point in my own hands, he suggesting as a good line of defence between a piece of woods on the right and one on the left, the line facing equally towards the enemy, who were supposed to be coming either on the Union or the Blackburn road. I immediately formed that line as I best could of the regiments nearest the position, placing the men in the ravines, and the artillery, as much as possible, on the hills, in the rear of the infantry. Before Captain Alexander gave me this last direction I learned that Colonel Miles had altered the position of some regiments which I had placed before, especially the Third Michigan regiment, which I had ordered to form close column by division, to remain as a reserve, and await further orders from me. The officer in command of the regiment at that time, Lieutenant Colonel Stevens (Colonel McConnel being unwell, but on the ground), immediately executed that order, and put his regiment in close column. I went to some other part of the field, and on returning found this regiment deployed in line of battle, and in another position. I immediately inquired of Colonel Stevens the reason of their position being altered. He told me that Colonel Miles had directed this movement. I asked him why? Colonel Stevens replied, "I do not know, but he had no confidence in Colonel Miles." I inquired the reason why? Colonel Stevens answered, "Because Colonel Miles is drunk." That closed the conversation. I sent Colonel Stevens back with his regiment, to form close column by division, as at first. I then reported to Captain Alexander that I had been interfered with in my disposition of the troops during the day, and I could not carry out General McDowell's orders as long as I was interfered with by a drunken man. Captain Alexander then answered that General McDowell now vested the whole disposition of the troops with me, and that I must use my own judgment. I went to place another battalion in line, and I was met by Colonel Miles, who ordered me to form that regiment in another direction. I replied that "I should obey no more orders that he might see fit to give me." Colonel Miles then said, "Colonel Richardson, I shall put you in arrest." I told him "I never should obey his arrest, and that he never could put me in that position." Colonel Miles answered that he did not understand this. I said nothing, and went on with further disposition of the troops, which was done according to the next diagram. As soon as the line of battle was well formed the enemy's cavalry made its appearance on the Centreville and Manassas road, and I ordered Lieutenant Benjamin to open his rifled cannon upon them, which he did, and the cavalry disappeared after a few shots. It was now nearly dark, and the troops encamped in their present position. About ten o'clock P. M. Gen. McDowell informed me that a retreat was resolved upon; that the troops must be started on the road to Fairfax as soon as possible, and ordered me to move last and cover the retreat of the army with my brigade. I told the General I would do so, and would stand by him as long as any man would. I left with my brigade at two o'clock A. M., after all the other regiments and batteries had retired. On reaching Fairfax found it abandoned by our troops, and I covered the rear, bringing up my brigade in good order, the New York regiment in front, then the Massachusetts regiment and the two Michigan regiments in rear of the whole. Arrived at Arlington at two o'clock P. M. on Monday after the action. I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant

J. B. RICHARDSON,

Colonel Commanding Fourth Brigade.

Gen. TYLER, Commanding First Division.

LETTER FROM ONE OF GENERAL McDOWELL'S AIDS.

[From the Cincinnati Gazette, July 27.]

From a letter of one of General McDowell's aids, to his wife, we have been permitted to make some extracts, which are very creditable to the two Ohio regiments. The letter reveals something which we have not seen stated elsewhere. When the reserve advanced to support the advance, which at that time had driven the enemy some distance, it fired on our own men and threw them into disorder. The writer says:—

The army was to move at two o'clock P. M., in two columns—one approaching the enemy direct and the other on his flank. We all moved off in time, and the two columns reached their destined positions, as had been planned, and the engagement commenced in two places. The column in direct advance attacked them a long distance off, while the other column came round and commenced the attack on the side of the enemy. This flanking column drove the enemy from its place across the country for two miles, when our two columns made a junction. Then we made a general attack, and drove the enemy off into the corner of open flats surrounded by woods. At this time our reserve came up, and opened their fire on our own men, which threw them into disorder; and just when we had completely whipped them from every position they had taken, our men were thrown into a panic by our troops firing on them, taking them for the enemy, for there was no way of telling friends from foes in the general engagement. And then came a sight—may I be spared from seeing such another! Two thousand men started, panic stricken, running through some five thousand who were on the way to assist them. The panic spread through the five thousand, and it was not in the power of human exertion to restrain them to form them into any kind of shape. Appeals of all kinds and threats were alike unheeded, and the only men unmoved were our regulars. They moved on in compact form, and fought the advancing enemy on one side, holding them in check, and on the other were our two Ohio regiments, supporting Captain Ayers' battery, which kept the panic stricken men from being cut to pieces while trying to reorganize them into some shape on a plain opposite to where we had been so hotly engaged. I looked also on that plain and there was our small band of regulars and the Ohio brigade, under Schenck, with Ayers' battery, holding the enemy in check, and giving us time to draw off our disorganized mass of men, and then commenced a retreat. Our General is now subject to all the blame and disgrace a defeated General is made liable to. He is conscious of having done all that was in his power, and that, too, of the best officers in the army to assist him. In no one point did he allow any changes when he could by any means prevent. Two things he could not provide for: one was General Johnston's army reinforcing Beauregard; and the other the undisciplined troops that were so easily demoralized and thrown into a panic. There is a vast difference between disciplined and undisciplined troops in a battle field. Our regulars and some of the volunteers, such as Burnsides' brigade of Providence, Schenck's Ohio brigade, the Connecticut brigade, some of the Boston and New York City Volunteer regiments did well, and all of these men were in the first of the engagement except the Ohio and Connecticut troops. The great mass of the troops were green men that had just come into the service, for the very morning we had our engagement some of the three months' men marched from the field for home. This had a bad effect on our men.

We presume that this account will deepen the impression on every one's mind that our men were required to do impossibilities. Their number was entirely inadequate for the undertaking. They beat the enemy wherever they met them, but they would have continued to fall back on successive lines of masked batteries and intrenchments, until our troops would have been overcome by fatigue and slaughter. The attack was brave and successful at the beginning, but it was an attack that never ought to have been made. Attacking formidable intrenchments with half the force may be heroic, but neither that nor waiting for their completion is strategy.

STATEMENT OF A SERGEANT OF THE FIRE ZOUAVES.

Sergeant Kerrigan, of Company C, Fire Zouaves (Eleventh regiment New York Volunteers), called on us yesterday to correct a statement which appeared in some of the Sunday papers, to the effect that he was obliged to lead his company in the charge and to command them throughout the battle. The Sergeant wishes to contradict this unjust statement, as Captain Murphy led his company until he fell from exhaustion on the field, and was carried off. He is of opinion that too much praise cannot be awarded that officer for the brave and unflinching manner in which he acted during his time in the action. First Lieutenant Fitzgerald, of the same company, also fell at the commencement of the action. After the charge of the Black Horse Cavalry he was carried off the field. Second Lieutenant Smith, of the same corps, in the action was struck in the forehead and knocked insensible. He was also borne off the field by his comrades, after which the company fell in as best they could with the other companies of the regiment.

THE SEVENTEENTH REGIMENT, N. Y. V., AT FORT ELLSWORTH, VA.

THEIR SERVICES IN CHECKING THE RETREATING TROOPS FROM BULL RUN, ETC.

The regiment was ordered by telegraph, on Sunday the 14th inst., to leave camp at Washington and take position at Fort Ellsworth, thus making this regiment the base of the advancing column, and the second post of honor. In five hours from the receipt of the order the regiment, with its entire equipage, was on the wharf for embarkation, striking tents, packing, marching five miles, &c. Two companies—E, Captain Stone, and F, Captain Davis—were placed in the fort, with Major Johnson in command and eight companies in a grove on an adjoining hill. Lieutenant Colonel Morris and Captain Bartram, of the regiment, rode out to the field on Sunday morning, and stayed until the rout, and were the first in to bring the news, that proper preparations might be made to defend the retreating forces. The men were awakened quietly, without beat of drum, and were in the fort in thirty minutes. At break of day Colonel Lansing threw two companies across the road, and one on guard around a large field into which he turned the fugitives, hoping to stop the rout and make it an orderly retreat which he could cover. In a very short time the field was crowded and the wagons extended back for three miles. Seeing the attempt would be fruitless he withdrew the guard and let them go on to Alexandria. Company B, Captain Bartram, and Company K, Captain Jenkins, were doing patrol duty in Alexandria under Lieutenant Vickers (of Company B), Provost Marshal. They, under his orders, housed and assorted the fugitives as they came in. One company was on picket duty, running out four miles, and all remained at their posts during the day and night in a merciless rain, while the fugitives fled past them. The officers and men are determined to hold the fort, and showed by their coolness, in a general alarm on Monday night, that they mean what they say—"every man at his post and still as death."

Colonel Lansing, immediately on taking the command, ordered the felling of all trees within range of his guns, and has cleared acres. The labor of making perfect preparations has been severe, but has been cheerfully borne, and if this regiment has to bear the brunt of the fight, all who know it confidently expect it will fight and not run. Though not with the advance it has rendered efficient service, and is in splendid order, ready for the field in the next advance.

THE VARIAN BATTERY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

ARLINGTON HOUSE, July 27, 1861.

Although not particularly anxious to have the performance of duty on the part of any man heralded and lauded as exceedingly meritorious, I have nevertheless to ask of you the favor of correcting an error, of which your valuable journal, in common with many others, has been guilty. Not the Twenty-seventh Pennsylvania regiment, Colonel Einstein, but my own company, at my command, has recovered the six cannons abandoned by the New York Militia regiment, No. eight, on the battle field on the 21st inst. We recovered in all six cannons, thirty-six horses, and one wagon of ammunition, and five more wagons of munitions we could have recovered, had we succeeded in catching horses quick enough. My company consists of none but men who have served in the artillery before, and the likelihood is, that we will keep that battery and have it completed. Justice to my men and to my Lieutenant (Dickman) demands the correction of the published mistake. Respectfully,

CHARLES BOOKWOOD,

Captain Company H, Twenty-ninth regiment New York Volunteers.

THE KILLED, WOUNDED, PRISONERS AND MISSING.

[From the Washington Chronicle, July 28.]

The returns are yet very imperfect. A number of three months regiments, whose time has expired, had returned home before correct returns were made out, while others are yet incomplete. The number killed is about 317; wounded, 532; missing, 776; prisoners, 13, together with four civilians known to be prisoners. The number of officers killed and wounded is comparatively large. The following details are as nearly correct as they can be made from the reports received:—

Regiment.	*Colonel.*	*Pri'rs.*	*Killed.*	*W'd.*	*Miss.*
79th N. Y. Highland's.	Cameron..	1	26	43	108
5th Massachusetts...	Lawrence.	—	25	26	5
28th, Scott L. Guard..	Ward.....	—	13	31	84
2d Ohio.....	Wilson....	4	17	15	142
1st Michigan.....	Wilcox....	1	8	32	64
1st Minnesota.....	Gorman...	—	48	95	200
2d New York.....	Tompkins.	4	17	15	148
11th New York, F. Z.	Farnham..	—	20	57	5
14th New York.....	Wood.....	—	38	26	—
69th New York.....	Corcoran..	—	32	54	1
71st New York.....	Martin...	—	3	22	—
1st Rhode Island.....	Burnside..	—	15	27	18
2d Rhode Island.....	Slocum...	—	8	2	—
2d R. Island battery..	Slocum...	—	7	1	—
1st Maine.....	Jackson...	—	—	1	—
2d Maine.....	Jamison...	—	—	6	—
3d Maine.....	Howard...	—	—	7	—
4th Maine.....	Berry....	—	—	3	—
1st Massachusetts....	Cowdin...	—	—	7	—
2d New Hampshire...	Marston...	—	5	3	—
2d Wisconsin.....	——.....	—	23	1	—
2d Vermont.....	Whiting ..	—	—	8	—
U. S. Marines.....	——.....	—	1	5	—
11th Massachusetts...	Clark.....	—	1	3	—
1st Ohio.....	McCook...	—	1	—	—
2d Ohio.....	Wilson....	—	1	2	—
1st New Jersey.....	Johnson ..	—	1	—	—
2d New Jersey.....	Baker.....	—	1	—	—
3d New Jersey.....	Napton...	—	1	—	—
1st Connecticut.....	Burnham .	—	—	6	—
2d Connecticut.....	Terry.....	—	—	5	—
27th New York.....	Slocum...	—	1	22	—
13th New York.....	Quimby ..	—	—	4	—
8th New York.....	Lyons....	3	4	3	—
Total.....		13	317	532	775

Among the officers killed are Colonel Cameron, of the Seventy-ninth New York, and Slocum, Second Rhode Island.

Colonels Corcoran, Sixty-ninth New York, and Wilcox, First Michigan, are wounded and prisoners.

REBEL ACCOUNTS OF THE BATTLE.

[Special Despatch to the Petersburg Express.]

RICHMOND, July 21—10 P. M.

Hourly since the engagement of Thursday at Bull run, General Beauregard has been expecting an attack on his forces stationed near and beyond Manassas. It was thought that it would be renewed on Friday, but the immense number of killed and wounded sustained by the federal army the day previous, necessitated the solicitation of an armistice on their part to bury the dead. All day yesterday the enemy were in sight, their movements being plainly perceptible by the aid of a strong glass, and it was quite evident that they contemplated a renewal of the attack at an early hour. This morning, about four o'clock, at early dawn, the fight commenced near Manassas, and continued with varying fortunes between portions of the contending forces until midday, when it became general, engaging both sides to their fullest capacity. It continued to rage with undiminished vigor until seven o'clock, when the Yankee forces retreated back to Alexandria, leaving the Confederate army in possession of the field. Sherman's celebrated battery of light artillery, which became famous in the Mexican war, played a distinguished part, but was finally compelled to succumb before the well directed