THE NEW YORK HERALD.

WHOLE NO. 9311. NEW YORK, SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 1862. PRICE THREE CENTS.

THE RETURN OF TENNESSEE.

INTERESTING ADVICES FROM NASHVILLE.

The Union Sentiment of the People.

The Capital of Tennessee Wheeling Into Line.

INCIDENTS,

&c., &c., &c.

Our Nashville Correspondence.

NASHVILLE, March 3, 1861.

What the Rebels Succeeded in Removing from Nashville—The Reason for Peacefully Evacuating Bowling Green Still a Mystery—The Advance of General Mitchell—How General Hardee, at Bowling Green, Liked the Balls from Loomis' Battery—The Feeling in Nashville—A Union Man Retains his Flag During all the Troubles and Hoists it When the Union Troops take Possession—The Old Man's Letter to His Daughter—The Vandalism of the Rebels—List of the Union Soldiers Taken Prisoners by the Rebels at Fort Donelson—Kindness of the Ladies of Nashville to the Wounded—The Election, &c.

The occupation of the capital of Tennessee by Union troops was a military consequence of the surrender of Fort Donelson and the evacuation of Bowling Green. Twenty-four pieces of heavy artillery, twenty-four and thirty-two pounders, and at least two millions of dollars worth of army stores of various kinds, disappeared within a few days previous to the arrival of one of the military divisions. Two bridges across the Cumberland, erected at an aggregate cost of nearly half a million of dollars, have been destroyed by the rebels. The division arrived on the bank opposite the city on Tuesday, February 25. The city at once surrendered to our troops. Notwithstanding the destruction of property by the rebels, a large amount of commissary stores fell into our hands.

What induced the evacuation of Bowling Green without even an attempt to test the strength of its immense fortifications and the bravery of the troops collected for its defence, is a mystery. History may ascertain; but there is nothing in cotemporaneous events that are now known that affords any satisfactory explanation. At the council of war which determined its evacuation Beauregard, Hardee, Floyd, Pillow, Buckner and Hindman were present. Beauregard's opinion, that the place could not be held, is said to have had more weight than any other. The evacuation was determined and immediately commenced, Beauregard leaving for Columbus, Floyd and Pillow for Fort Donelson, with orders to fight to the last. The other generals remained to superintend the removal of troops, artillery, ordnance and commissary stores to Nashville. The theory of future operations was that Donelson could be held against the federals. To make the defence more certain, Floyd and Pillow, with their brigades and a number of the best regiments in other divisions, were moved at once to Donelson. This was eight days before the surrender of Donelson. The rebels proceeded rapidly with the work of evacuation. So confident were they of the impossibility of the enemy crossing the Big Barren and making an attack upon them, that the ordinary precautions to prevent surprise seem to have been neglected.

In the meantime General Mitchell had received orders to advance his division towards Bowling Green, by the way of Dripping Spring. The next morning his division was across Green river, and the next day at Dripping Spring. Here a halt was made for orders from General Buell. Late in the afternoon of the 14th the division reached Big Barren. During the night, in the midst of a terrible storm of rain, sleet and snow, the whole force, Colonel Turchin's brigade being in advance, was moved across the river, nearly in front of Bowling Green. The rebels had six trains of cars upon the track loaded with army stores and troops. General Hardee was in a bank conversing with the cashier. Directly the roar of a Parrott gun from Loomis' battery and the screech and explosion of rifle shell woke him from his comfortable security. "My God!" said he, "did you hear that?" "Yes, what was it?" said the cashier. "It was a cannon from the federals." He immediately ran without his hat to the depot where his men were loaded upon the three rear trains. As he reached the depot a second shot struck the smoke stack of the forward locomotive. The third—fired at a distance of one and three-fourths mile—destroyed the tender. Hardee and his troops fled in the utmost confusion, and Bowling Green, with its granite fortifications, was ours.

General Buell's forces arrived here about noon of Monday. The white flag was flying in all directions, and an offer of capitulation was made by the civil authorities to both General Buell and Lieutenant Bryant. The rebels having destroyed the bridges, the steamers, five of which were taken possession of by our troops, were prepared to be used as ferry boats. On Tuesday General Buell was engaged in arranging the details of the surrender of the city and its occupation by our forces, in such manner as would best secure safety and security to public and private property, and assure the citizens of perfect safety to their persons, and of the pacific and just intentions of our government.

Soon after the regimental colors of one of the regiments were hoisted on the State Capitol an incident occurred which is worthy of note. An aged gentleman, a native of Salem, Massachusetts, and for twenty-eight years a citizen of Nashville, came through the crowd to the colonel and produced an American flag, thirty-eight by nineteen feet in size. Amid all the persecutions and frenzy of the secession excitement he remained an open, fearless Union man, and retained possession of his flag. He asked, with tears in his eyes, the privilege of presenting it to the regiment, which was the first that landed. He was permitted to hoist the flag with his own hands. A few days afterwards I met him accidentally at the Post Office. He had a letter, which he had written to his daughter, to Colonel Markland, the postal director, and permitted me to copy it, remarking that it was not intended for publication, but expressed his feelings and those of many others. The following is a copy of so much of the letter as is of interest to the public:—

NASHVILLE, Feb. 27, 1862.

DEAR MARTHA:—

Thank God, the flag of the Union now floats over our proud, deluded capital. On Tuesday, the 25th, a wing of the army, in seventeen transports, escorted by one gunboat, came up to town without firing one gun. The Ohio Sixth regiment first landed, and hoisted their beautiful flag on our State House. A few minutes after I carried my flag—"Old Glory," as we have been used to call it—to the Capitol, and presented it to the Ohio Sixth. I hoisted it with my own hands on the Capitol over this proud city, amid the heaven-stirring cheers of thousands; over this proud city, where, for the last eight months, I have been treated with scorn and shunned as one inflicted with a leprosy spot. My dear child, my loved, my absent one, how shall I tell you all my gladness during that fearful period? My soul filled with scorn while insult upon insult was poured upon me. God of my fathers, it was the desert passage of my life—no pillar of cloud by day, no fire by night to guide me. I groped along in anguish, in sorrow, but not in despair. No, no; I always hoped, although against hope, that this hour would come. Again and again have I told these deluded men in the hour of madness—"Gentlemen, I will yet hoist my flag over you proud, fallen Capitol; then, gentlemen, I am ready to lie down with my fathers of the heroic age. That hour has come. With my own hand, in the presence of thousands, I hoisted that flag where it now floats, and the staff which has trembled with the fluttering of treason's banner. My child, my loved one, and you, my brothers and sisters, I am satisfied. I am now willing to go home to God, for I know He is about to give my people rest.

For the last ten days I have scarcely slept at all. The Texan Rangers had been told I had the flag, and intended to hoist it, and swore to burn it in my house if I did not give up; but a lot of Union friends and —— saved my house and flag. The latter I had made into a comfort early in the insurrection, and have kept it on or under my bed ever since a child of mine knowing where to find it. * * *

It is difficult to ascertain precisely what is the feeling of the public in this city. The relation of the federal authorities towards the citizens—a rule maintained and recognized by force of arms—however mildly and discreetly exercised, does not conduce towards perfect freedom in the expression of opinion. A large majority of the citizens of Nashville had been led, by the various steps familiar to the public, up to the height of secession. Money and men had been furnished the rebellion with great liberality. Many of her citizens, including some of the most prominent, had fallen in the battle field. Business had been prostrated, property was rapidly depreciating, securities were becoming worthless. All the miseries and curses of war were fastened upon them, and in the madness of their rebellion they charged their condition upon the government against which they had raised their hands. Thus conditioned, they could not be expected to receive with very heartly welcome the Union soldiery. The policy which General Buell has pursued is not only the wisest, but the only course which will re-establish the government in the affections of the people. By his order the rights of private property have been most scrupulously observed and respected; markets and stores which were closed by the rebel officers have been reopened. Arguments and street harangues from officers and men with citizens have been prohibited. Still there is an unmistakeable rebellion seated deeply in the majority. It will wear off, by a proper administration of authority, in time.

General Buell's first step, almost, was to instruct Colonel A. H. Markland, the efficient Postal Director of General Grant's division to take possession of the Post Office and open regular mail communication with the loyal States. We now have a daily mail by the way of Louisville, the railroad having been repaired as far as Bowling Green, and a daily mail by the Cumberland. The newspapers which had suspended on the downfall of Donelson are beginning to resume publication. One of them, the Nashville *Banner* of this morning, has the following short article, which is indicative of the feeling of the public:—

THE INVADERS.

As far as we know, the officers and men of the federal army have, thus far, deported themselves towards our citizens in the most unexceptionable manner. We feel bound to say this much in justice to them, as well as to reassure those of our friends out of the city who have expected something different and are still apprehensive on that score. It is no part of the etiquette of war for men to behave boorishly either to a victorious or fallen enemy; and we trust, therefore, that both parties, recognizing a "military necessity," will seek to cultivate such a character of intercourse as becomes gentlemen, under any and all circumstances.

The office of Provost Marshal—the principal duty of the incumbent of which is to protect our citizens against insult or outrage from the soldiery—has been filled by the appointment of a gentleman—Col. Stanley Matthews—perfectly unexceptionable. In politics he is of the conservative democratic school, and is intimately acquainted with the South and her institutions, having married a Tennessee lady. We feel fully warranted in assuring all that he will discharge his duty faithfully and impartially.

The Post Office continues in charge of Col. J. H. Markland, a native Kentuckian, fully identified by education, association and interest with the South. He is also a conservative democrat. Col. M. seems only anxious to extend all the mail facilities in his power to the people in the most agreeable and polite manner possible.

There is a general detestation of General Sidney Johnston in all classes. His destruction of property shows him to be either entirely incompetent for the position he holds or a worthless vandal. Under the pretence of military necessity he destroyed the railroad bridge across the Cumberland at this point, which cost $250,000, and the suspension bridge just above it, which cost $140,000, when he knew that General Grant had at Dover twenty-two large steam transports, with which the river could be bridged at any time. In the latter bridge Zollicoffer's estate owned $20,000—all the property of the estate except a homestead. His more recent exploits are the destruction of all the bridges on the Tennessee and Alabama Railroad. Candid Southerners say that the outrages of the confederate soldiery, the vandalism of their officers, contrasted with the perfect good behavior of our troops and the unexceptionable deportment of the Union officers, will make Tennessee Union, if such a thing be possible. With regard to the military operations of General Buell's army it is proper to say but little. It is large enough and sufficiently disciplined and armed for its mission. A body of Union troops made a reconnoissance in force yesterday within four miles of Murfreesboro. The rebels have evacuated that place and fallen back towards Chattanooga, a few miles from the Alabama State line. Before leaving Murfreesboro' they discharged a number of prisoners that they had captured in Kentucky, some of whom have returned to this place. Below is a list of prisoners taken during the battle at Donelson, and sent from this place to Murfreesboro. They are supposed to be still with the retreating army:—

John Rupert, Company A, Thirtieth Illinois.
Wm. Stockwell, Company D, Thirtieth Illinois.
Sam. Fisher, Company K, Thirtieth Illinois.
Major Post, Eighth Illinois.
Gilbert Kenyon, Company K, Eleventh Illinois.
—— Ransom, brother of Col. Ransom, Eleventh Illinois.
Capt. Summerville, Thirty-first Illinois.
Frank Grover, Eleventh Illinois.
John S. Davids, Eleventh Illinois.
Alex. Marsey, Eleventh Illinois.
Henry Hand, Eleventh Illinois.
Wm. Lewis, Eleventh Illinois.
John Harris, Eleventh Illinois.
John Bostwick, Eleventh Illinois.
Edw. Armstrong, Eleventh Illinois.
Jas. Baker, Eleventh Illinois.
John W. Mars, Eleventh Illinois.
Dan. Wright, Eleventh Illinois.
Stewart Parkins, Thirty-first Illinois.
Jas. Simpson, Thirty-first Illinois.
Joel R. Adams, Thirty-first Illinois.
Conroy House, Thirty-first Illinois.
Cyrus Libby, Eleventh Illinois.
Robt. Hervin, Company H, Eleventh Illinois.
Dan. McMaher, Company H, Eleventh Illinois.
H. P. Meadows, Company K, Eleventh Illinois.
Jos. Survey, Company K, Eleventh Illinois.
Dennis Fitzpatrick, Company K, Eleventh Illinois.
Wm. Calderwold, Company K, Eleventh Illinois.
Wm. Rowder, Company K, Eleventh Illinois.
Jason Clingman, Company A, Eleventh Illinois.
Eph. Vamborgef, Company A, Eleventh Illinois.
Franklin Lambert.
John Prentiss, Company I, Ninth Illinois.
M. Curran, Company I, Ninth Illinois.
Geo. Holcomb, Company I, Ninth Illinois.
Isaac Wenderbilt, Company K, Ninth Illinois.
Thorton Summers, Company A, Ninth Illinois.
Henry Rantepe, Company A, Ninth Illinois.
Isaac Ingraham, Company A, Ninth Illinois.
John Wise, Company A, Ninth Illinois.
Frank Graves, Company D, Ninth Illinois.
Jenn Davis, Company D, Ninth Illinois.
John Walsh, Company N, Twenty-ninth Illinois.
—— Wightwho, Company G, Eleventh Illinois.
Fred. Fopp, Company G, Eleventh Illinois.

There are in the hospitals in this place seventy of our wounded, who were taken prisoners and brought here before the surrender. They have received medical attendance from the rebel staff which remained, and from resident physicians. But it has been insufficient, and the want has been supplied by our own surgeons. It is understood that during the day adequate provisions will be made for them. The wounded heroes of the bloody field of Donelson should not suffer from want of surgeons. I saw in one ward five wounded soldiers, each of whom was suffering from erysipelas. They earnestly inquired for a surgeon, stating that their wounds had not been dressed for twenty-eight hours. The Sanitary Commission has been represented by two gentlemen, one of whom occupied his time in writing for the Chicago *Tribune* its special correspondence, and both of whom, so far as I can ascertain, accomplished nothing for the wounded. I may be mistaken. So may the wounded at the Female College Hospital.

The ladies of the city have shown our wounded every kindness and attention in their power. They visit them daily, bringing luxuries and comforts in abundance. Among them I have noticed the ladies of the late President Polk and the Hon. John Bell.

In Nashville and Davidson counties some 600 votes were cast at the election on Saturday last, and this ticket elected:—

For Circuit Court Judge—N. Baxter.
For Circuit Court Clerk—D. C. Love.
For Sheriff—John K. Edmondson.
For County Trustee—W. J. Taylor.
For Revenue Collector—E. F. Everett.
For County Court Clerk—P. L. Nichol.

Newspaper Accounts.

NASHVILLE AND THE SOUTHERN PRESS.

[From the Nashville Banner, March 1.]

We learn that the Southern press and citizens are commenting offensively upon Nashville in connection with recent events, and we see that the Memphis *Avalanche* reflects severely upon the conduct of Mayor Cheatham. All these strictures are unjust. If anybody is to be blamed for what took place in this city it is the generals in command and the State government. The panic was created by men who occupied the highest positions, and the city was virtually surrendered by the generals, who declined, however, remaining long enough to go through the necessary formalities. Mayor Cheatham was efficient, energetic and untiring in his devotion to the best interests of the city, subject to the direction of the military authorities as long as they remained to direct.

RAILROAD COMMUNICATION BETWEEN LOUISVILLE AND NASHVILLE.

Communication by railroad and river will be regularly opened at once between the two places. The repair of bridges between this city and Bowling Green on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad is being prosecuted with great rapidity, and will be completed in a day or two. We hear it stated also that it is the intention of the federal government to rebuild at once the railroad bridge across the Cumberland at this place.

POSTAL FACILITIES REOPENED.

The Post Office in this city has been taken possession of by the United States authorities again, and the first mails for the North and East left last night. Another mail goes out to Louisville by rail at an early hour this morning. Colonel A. H. Markland, of Washington city, has been sent here from the Post Office Department, and will remain in charge till a regular Postmaster is appointed. No new postage stamps have arrived yet, and postage must therefore be paid in specie. The old issue of stamps from the United States Post Office will not be received at the office here. Stamps of the new issue can be obtained at the office to-day or to-morrow.

TENNESSEE LEGISLATURE STILL FLYING.

[From the Memphis Avalanche, Feb. 26.]

The Legislature met yesterday, with only twenty or thirty members in the lower house and nine in the senate. We learn that it is not improbable that the Legislature will finally adjourn from Memphis to McMinnville, at which point, it is believed, there will be less difficulty in obtaining a quorum.

SKIRMISHING.

[From the Nashville Banner, March 1.]

We hear of various reports of skirmishing between the federal and Confederate pickets south of this city; but we are unable to get particulars sufficiently authentic to print.

THE OVERFLOW OF THE WATERS IN TENNESSEE.

[From the Republican Banner.]

The waters are subsiding slowly; but an immense territory is still overflowed, not only on the Cumberland, but on all the smaller streams throughout the State. The damage done is immense—beyond computation.

Sketch of Nashville, Edgefield, &c.—Map of the Locality.

In connection with the opening of communication with the capital of Tennessee, we present our readers with a correct map of the city and suburbs. To explain the map we also give a

SKETCH OF NASHVILLE.

Nashville is the county seat of Davidson county and the capital of the State. It has long vied with Memphis for the honor of being the commercial metropolis of the State, but the little pestiferous Bluff City has been victorious in the contest. The northern streets of the city are about seventy-five feet above the level of the Cumberland river, which, in the central part of the town, is confined by high bluffs on the southern side, while a low and narrow valley on the northern side is sometimes covered by it. The hills on the northern side, in the town of Edgefield, are the banks of the river at present high water. The river is now rapidly falling. The river at Nashville was crossed by a splendid suspension bridge and a draw-bridge made by the railroad company. The suspension bridge has been destroyed by pulling the pins out on the southern side and precipitating the whole into the river, seventy feet below. The railroad bridge has been burned. The public square of Nashville is at the southern terminus of the suspension bridge. The Capitol, depots, main streets, springs, fords, wharves, &c., are shown on the map, to which a more ready and intelligible reference can be made than to this letter press description. Nashville had a population in 1860 of 23,000 inhabitants. It is bountifully watered with limestone, sulphur and chalybeate water. A fine chalybeate spring is near the southern terminus of the suspension bridge. The bluffs on the opposite shore are about the same level as the hills on the northern bank of the river. As the streets running north and south recede from the river, they rise above the level named, crossing the range shown as running east from Capitol Hill, and again descending beyond it. In time of high water, as at present, the back water of the river overflows the valley south of the town, penetrating as far as the penitentiary and Stemple's tannery.

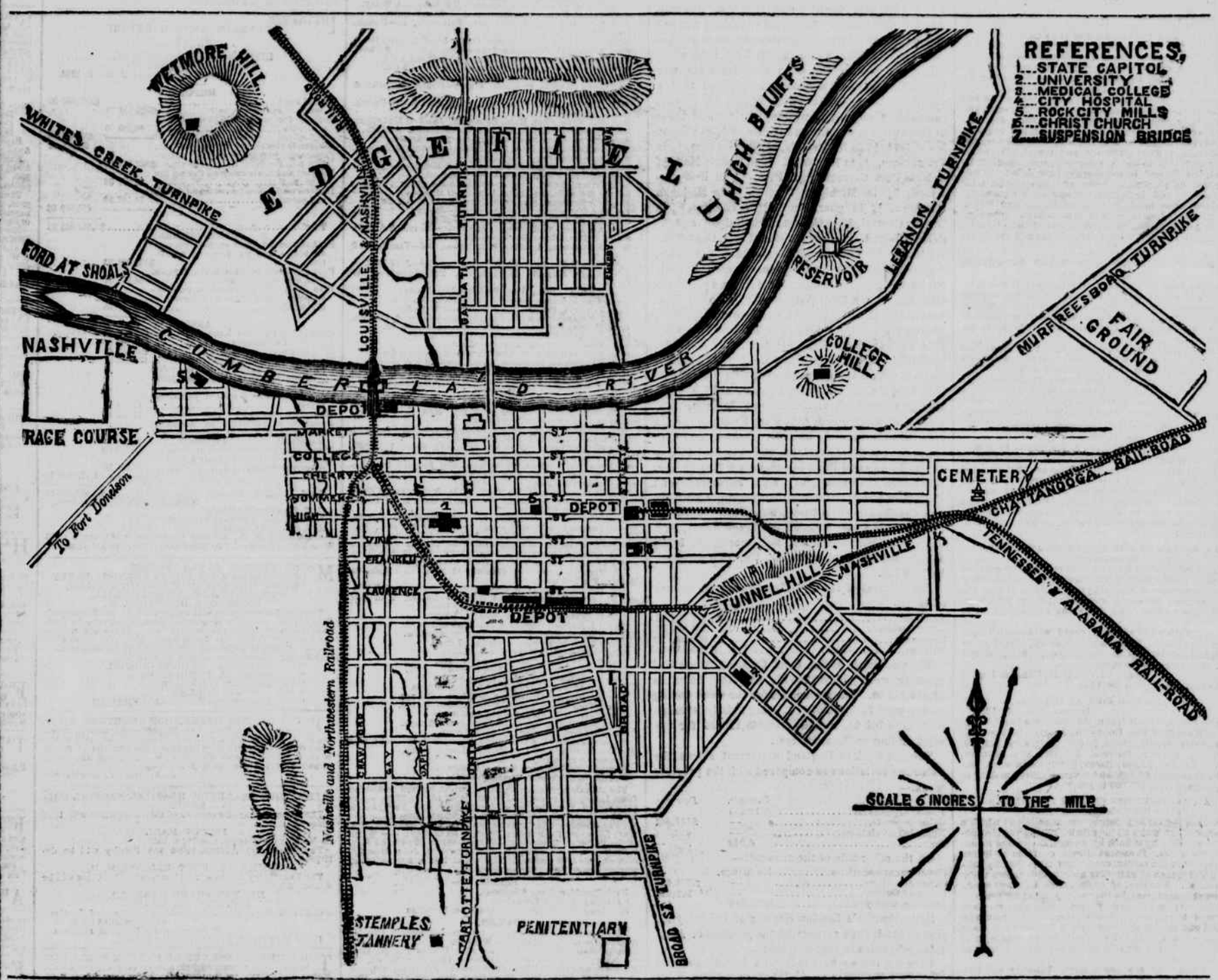
The geographical location of Nashville is as follows:—It is situated on the left or southern bank of the Cumberland river, about two hundred miles from its mouth. It is two hundred and thirty miles east northeast of Memphis, two hundred and six miles south of Lexington, in Kentucky, and nearly seven hundred miles from Washington. It stands in latitude 36 9, longitude 86 49, at an elevation of four hundred and sixty feet above the level of the sea. The buildings of the city are architectural, well built and valuable. The city is lighted with gas, and supplied with water from the river. The railroad and water communication is very good, and the city is the centre of a good trading community. We have recently given a long description of the peculiarities of the city, and do not think it needful to repeat the facts on this occasion.

SKETCH OF EDGEFIELD.

Edgefield is a very pleasant village of Davidson county, Tennessee, and is situated on the right or northern bank of the Cumberland river, opposite Nashville. It contains a handsome church, two schools and a manufactory of lard oil and candles. The village was commenced in 1849, and was connected with the capital of the State by a wire suspension bridge, recently destroyed by the rebels. In 1853 it had a population of about eight hundred persons, but as the city rose in importance and population so did also the property of its village sister increase.

THE CAPITAL OF TENNESSEE.

Map of Nashville and Edgefield---The Railroads and Public Buildings.



HIGHLY IMPORTANT FROM NEW MEXICO.

DESPERATE FIGHT NEAR FORT CRAIG.

GREAT LOSS ON BOTH SIDES.

Sketches of the Battle Ground and the Union and Rebel Commanders,

&c., &c., &c.

DENVER CITY, March 7,
Via JULESBURG, March 8, 1862.

The following news was received to-day by military express:—

A desperate and terrible battle, lasting all day, took place at Valverde, ten miles south of Fort Craig, on the 21st of February.

The fight was probably resumed again on the 22d.

The loss is great on both sides.]

Both parties claim the victory.

A regiment of New Mexicans, commanded by Colonel Panton, ran away.

Captain McRae, who had charge of our artillery, and every one of his command, were killed at their posts, and their cannon was taken by the rebels.

Kit Carson was within fifteen miles of Fort Craig.

Firing was heard from his direction, but with what result was not ascertained at the time the messenger left.

The Locality of the Battle Ground—Sketch of the Commander of the Department and of Captain McRae—The March of the Rebels to the Attack—Sketch of the Rebel General, &c., &c.

The telegraph from Denver City brings us intelligence of a battle in New Mexico. The news being imperfect, the result is still unknown. What we do know, however, gives us decisive information of a brave resistance having been offered by the regulars in charge of the artillery; for the report states that "Captain McRae and *every one* of his command were killed at their post, and *then, and not till then*, their cannon was taken by the rebels." This piece of bravery is set forth the more strongly as it contrasts greatly with the conduct of the New Mexico Volunteers, a whole regiment of whom are reported to have ran away. As yet it appears doubtful which side these volunteers were on—whether rebel or Union troops.

The battle appears to have taken place near a small village named Valverde, which is situated on the left bank of the Rio del Norte, or Rio Grande, near the border of New Mexico and Arizona. Fort Craig is ten miles north of this point, on the same river. Colonel Kit Carson has had his headquarters at Albuquerque for some time, but has since moved southward towards Fort Craig, and was reported within fifteen miles of that post at last advices. As he takes with him a moderately good force, it is to be hoped that his arrival at the scene of action may have caused some great change in our favor. Other reinforcements have doubtless reached them ere this.

In the recent change of military departments, a new department was made of this Territory. The General Order No. 97 thus describes it:—

MILITARY GEOGRAPHICAL DEPARTMENT NO. 9.

Department of New Mexico, to embrace the Territory of New Mexico, with the headquarters at Santa Fe, to be commanded by Colonel E. R. S. Canby, Nineteenth United States infantry. This command would make the Colonel an Acting Brigadier General, he having chief charge of both the regular and volunteer forces of the department. We therefore subjoin a sketch of that officer.

SKETCH OF COLONEL CANBY.

Colonel Edward Richard Sprigg Canby was born in the State of Kentucky, and entered the Military Academy in the year 1836. He is between forty and forty-five years of age. He graduated on the 30th day of June, 1839, standing No. 30 in his class, in which we find the names of Gen. Halleck, Gen. Stevens, Gen. Paine, Gen. Ord, Captain Ricketts and other noted officers. He was promoted on the 1st of July, 1839, to the rank of Second Lieutenant of the Second United States infantry, and on the 18th of June, 1846, was further promoted to the First Lieutenancy. During that year he held the regimental Adjutancy, and on the 3d of March, 1847, was appointed an Assistant Adjutant General, with the brevet rank of Captain on the staff. He was brevetted Major in August, 1849, for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battles of Contreras and Cherubusco, in Mexico, and was also distinguished in the battle of Cerro Gordo. This brevet rank dated from August 20, 1847. In March, 1851, he was further brevetted a Lieutenant Colonel for gallant conduct at the Belingate—the brevet dating from September 13, 1847. He held these ranks while in the Adjutant General's Department. In June, 1851, he was promoted to the full rank of Captain of the Second United States infantry, and relinquished his rank in the line. On the 3d of March he was appointed Major of the Tenth Infantry, which position he held in the "Army Register" of January, 1861. On the 14th of May, 1861, he was further promoted to the Colonelcy of the newly formed Nineteenth regiment of United States infantry, and on the 9th of November was appointed to the charge of the Department of New Mexico.

The bravery of Capt. McRae is worthy of a place in the memories of his countrymen, he fighting and dying to protect his guns, which were not given up until the last man had fallen dead beside his piece. We append a brief sketch of this gallant officer, and did our space permit we would attempt to immortalize every man in his command. They all fought, fell and died in a noble cause—peace be, therefore, to their ashes.

SKETCH OF CAPTAIN M'RAE.

Captain Alexander McRae was a comparatively young man, having but recently turned his thirtieth year. He was a native of North Carolina, and entered the Military Academy as a cadet in the year 1847. On the 1st of July, 1851, he graduated, and was brevetted a Second Lieutenant of the Mounted Rifles. In January, 1857, he was promoted to a First Lieutenancy, and on the 10th of June, 1861, was further promoted to a Captaincy in the Third United States cavalry, ranking seventh on the list of the officers of the regiment, and forty seventh in the lineal rank of the captains of cavalry, according to the last published list. A brilliant career, had he lived, would have been before the brave and gallant captain, who has thus suddenly been snatched away from the service of his country.

Rebel Accounts from New Mexico.

THE MARCH OF THE TROOPS UNDER GEN. SIBLEY.

[Correspondence of the Houston Telegraph.]

FORT THORN, NEW MEXICO, Jan. 17, 1862.

Last night the medical staff of the First regiment, Sibley's brigade, was much horrified on receiving the intelligence of the Indians having destroyed two loads of medicines, instruments, &c., sent by Dr. Covy, from Mesilla, for the expedition. There was an escort of ten men. They were attacked by 120 Indians, and had to make their escape by retreating back to the next camp, sixteen miles, after dark. I learn that there were between fifty and seventy-five guns also on the wagons. After the Indians had taken everything they wanted, they burned and destroyed wagons and all. This morning the Messrs retired two miles from camp to the fort, and held a meeting. Major McMahon, W. M., initiated six, five new petitions for initiation, and three for affiliation. They have had several meetings, but this is the first I have attended.

JANUARY 18, 1862.

I was called off last night before closing my letter, by the arrival of Colonel Scurry and Major Jackson, who were just from El Paso, and bring the intelligence of the first division of the second regiment being at Dona Ana, and will be up here to-morrow night, and the second division in a few days. The advance of the third regiment, when last heard of, was at Eagle Springs, and by this time at Fort Quitman, on the Rio Grande.

The mountains here are full of Indians, and we dread them worse than we do the Lincolnites by odds. The other night they got several more of our horses, mules and oxen. To-day they have been trying to burn us up by firing the grass within three miles of us, which consumed all the grass to the river opposite the camp. We have been thwarted in our forward movements for want of transportation wagons, many of our teams having failed on the route, besides having lost several teams stolen by the Indians.

Colonel Scurry to-day has taken command of the regiment, and to-morrow will send out several spy companies to reconnoitre, and the probability is that we will strike across to Santa Fe and miss Fort Craig, and let the Second regiment close upon it, and we will cut off the retreat of the enemy. Major Raguet will command one of the scouting parties. Weather fine and pleasant. The health of the regiment is good. Yours, &c., J. F. M.

Sibley, in a proclamation to the people of New Mexico, gives the following statement:—

The existing war is one most wickedly waged by the United States upon the Confederate States for the subjugation and oppression of the latter by force of arms. It has already failed. Victory has crowned the arms of the Confederate States wherever an encounter worthy of being called a battle has been joined. Witness the battles of Bull run, of Manassas, of Lexington, of Leesburg, of Columbus, and the capture in the Mesilla Valley of the whole force of the enemy, by scarce half their number.

SKETCH OF GENERAL SIBLEY.

Henry H. Sibley, a native of Louisiana, was formerly in the United States service. He entered West Point as a cadet in 1833, and was appointed a second lieutenant of the Second United States dragoons on the 1st of July, 1838. When he graduated he stood very low in his class, in the list of which appears the names of a number of rebels, including Hardee, &c. He was promoted first lieutenant in March, 1840, and acted as adjutant from 1841 to 1847. In February, 1847, he was appointed, and breveted major in July, 1848, which rank he held when he left the army to join the rebels. His military experience is therefore not very great, and his blatant proclamation does not speak too highly for his literary talent.

An attack was made by the rebels at Fort Craig on the 5th of January, but they were compelled to retire before a superior force. They then fell back upon El Paso, but it is believed that it was a feint to draw the troops out of the fort, as Colonel Canby is reported as being in pursuit of them. On the 7th of February the Texans, under Sibley, were reported as being short of supplies, they being then at Fort Thomas. The object of the attack may have been to obtain the supplies at the fort; but of this we can only at present make a surmise. If Kit Carson should have arrived in time, or the reinforcements have reached the headquarters before the battle, the whole complexion of affairs may be changed by this time, as the battle is reported to have taken place over a fortnight since.

IMPORTANT FROM THE UPPER POTOMAC.

Capture of Leesburg by the Union Forces Under Colonel Geary.

Precipitate Flight of the Rebel Troops.

MANY PRISONERS AND SUPPLIES TAKEN.

Heavy Firing Heard in the Direction of Winchester,

&c., &c., &c.

LEESBURG, Va., March 8, 1862.

Colonel Geary has taken Leesburg, and driven General Hill, with his whole command, from the town and surrounding forts. The Stars and Stripes now wave over all. General Hill's army fell back towards Middleburg.

Last night Colonel Geary left Lovettsville with his whole command, and marched through Wheatland and Waterford, taking prisoners at both places, and putting the scattered forces of the rebels to flight.

Shortly after sunrise he took possession of Fort Johnston, which was rechristened by the officers Fort Geary. He then entered the town, with flags flying and bayonets fixed.

The rebel troops, who had thought this one of their greatest strongholds, could be discerned through a glass retreating.

The command took many prisoners and stores, and are in possession of the bank, Post Office and public buildings. Forts Beauregard and Evans were also taken.

This brilliant achievement, by a well timed blow and skilful manœuvre, is of vast importance. The command is well and in good spirits.

A detachment of the First Michigan cavalry did much service under Col. Geary in this movement.

SANDY HOOK, March 8, 1862.

Colonel Geary, with the force under his command, occupied Leesburg to-day, and the abandoned works of the enemy in the vicinity of that town.

No further particulars have yet been received here, but it is believed the enemy declined in this instance, as in most others, to give battle.

Colonel Broadhead, of the First Michigan cavalry, is acting as chief of cavalry in this division of the army.

At this moment artillery firing is heard in the direction of Winchester.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CAPTURE OF LEESBURG.

POOLESVILLE, March 8, 1862.

To BRIGADIER GENERAL S. F. WILLIAMS:—

Leesburg was entirely evacuated yesterday morning by the rebels.

The reports are that Colonel Geary's advance is there.

N. J. T. DANA, Brigadier General.

CHARLESTOWN, Va., March 8, 1862.

To day a Mr. Carter, a member of Hayler's cavalry, together with three valuable horses, a carriage and other articles, were captured and turned over to the Division Quartermaster. A considerable amount of Confederate scrip was also seized.

Private Whitney, of the Michigan cavalry, who was accidentally wounded on Friday night, died to-day.

During a visit to the residence of Colonel Lewis Washington, near Hallstown, your correspondent was informed that, subsequent to the departure of the proprietor in August last, the rebels paid it a visit and appropriated a large collection of portraits of General Washington and his family, being, probably, the only collection of the kind extant.

It is to be regretted that previous to the order of General Banks some wanton depredations were committed on private property in this vicinity, but it is probable that the perpetrators will be detected and severely punished.

IMPORTANT FROM MISSOURI.

The Rebels in Force at New Madrid—Skirmishing Between the Union and Rebel Forces, &c., &c.

ST. LOUIS, March 7, 1862.

A special despatch to the St. Louis *Democrat* says that a gentleman who left General Pope's command yesterday states that the rebels at New Madrid have between five and ten thousand men, and four gunboats anchored off the town, and that it has been completely invested by our forces. Some skirmishing has ensued, and several of our men were killed by shells thrown from the rebel gunboats when we came within range. Our officers are confident of easy and complete victory, if the gunboats of the rebels are driven away.

It is reported that the enemy is fortifying Savannah, on the Tennessee river.

Some of the rebel anchors left at Columbus have been appropriated to complete the equipment of our gunboats.

Reports from Charleston, Mo., say that our forces are constantly skirmishing with Jeff. Thompson's, and that three or four of the latter's men are captured daily.