pointment of several persons. All these deviations from the constitution have been ordered by him, certainly not because he aimed at assuming a dictatorship, but because he thought himself under the pressure of an imperious necessity; he deemed it the only way of saving the federal government. The constitution of the United States has, therefore, been exposed to more than one inroad during the last few months. These infringements of the law have not given any offence in the North, because the great object of the North was to put down the South. No bill of indemnity has been obtained, because none has been demanded. Is that any proof that the constitution remains entire? Alas! no. On the contrary, it is a proof that under the circumstances in which the country is now placed the constitution has ceased to be in harmony with the state of people's minds, and that public passion holds it of small account. One might thus be led to infer that its career will not be long; for to be durable a constitution must have retained its virgin purity, and be surrounded with the jealous and watchful respect of public opinion. The United States seem, therefore, irresistibly compelled to modify their political organization; while people in Europe, where centralization has been carried to an abusive extreme, are rigidly bent on decentralization, North America appears destined to make rapid advances towards centralization. He would be a bold prophet who should attempt *to foretell what forms and rules of government will prevail in North America ten years hence, but there would be no great risk in saying that they will not be the forms and rules of 1788 or of 1816.* Still less would he be exposed to be contradicted by the event who should prognosticate that North America will none the less be a Power of the first order, and probably possessed of greater military resources than at any previous epoch.

McCLELLAN'S OPERATIONS.

Another Battle and Another Victory.

The Rebel General Lee Defeated by the Union Troops Under Franklin Near West Point.

OUR SPECIAL REPORT OF THE AFFAIR.

SOME OF THE KILLED AND WOUNDED.

McClellan's Despatch to the War Department.

THE BATTLE OF WILLIAMSBURG.

More Interesting Details of the Fight.

M'CLELLAN ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE.

Wonderful Strength of the Rebel Works.

ADDITIONAL LIST OF THE KILLED AND WOUNDED.

THE GALENA ASHORE, &c., &c., &c.

It is announced, by steamer from Yorktown at Fortress Monroe, that General McClellan had advanced twelve miles beyond Williamsburg, and has had several skirmishes with the enemy, routing them with heavy loss.

The embarkation of troops for West Point was progressing with great rapidity, and a heavy battle had taken place on Wednesday afternoon, between the troops under General Franklin and the rebels under General Lee, who were endeavoring to make their way to Richmond. It is said to have been the severest battle on the peninsula, and *the rebels were totally defeated and flanked, being driven back towards the forces under General Johnston, on the Chickahominy.* The whole number of Unionists killed and wounded was three hundred. The enemy were driven back by our gunboats with great slaughter—they had not less than thirty thousand men, while our whole force was not over twenty thousand landed.

DESPATCH FROM WILLIAMSBURG.

WILLIAMSBURG, May 8,
via WASHINGTON, May 9, 1862.

The details of the engagement of Monday are so voluminous and incorrect that it will be necessary to await the report of General McClellan, which is now being prepared.

The official report of the killed and wounded being too lengthy to send over the military telegraph it has been forwarded by mail.

Deserters from the enemy are hourly coming in.

General Jameson has been appointed Military Governor and Provost Marshal of the town.

The expedition up York river has been most successful, and we now occupy West Point. Heavy firing has been heard in that direction, but the particulars are not known.

Yesterday the advance guard of our cavalry had a skirmish with the rear guard of the enemy, about seven miles from here.

The main body of the enemy have retreated across the James river. The general impression with military men is that the rebels have made their last stand in Virginia.

For a distance of some ten miles beyond Williamsburg the road is lined with broken army wagons in the retreat of the enemy.

Brigadier General James H. Van Alen has been appointed Military Governor and Commandant of Yorktown and Gloucester, with Captain Cyrus Haldeman for Adjutant General. General Van Alen has appointed Captain Severe, of the Forty-fourth New York regiment, to be Provost Marshal.

GENERAL M'CLELLAN TO THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

WILLIAMSBURG, Va., May 9—12 M.

TO THE WAR DEPARTMENT:—

I heard a few minutes ago that the Galena was aground off Hog Island—I judge not badly, for the reason that Captain Rogers does not throw over his coal. I have sent him all the assistance he asks.

My troops are in motion and in magnificent spirits. They have all the air and feelings of veterans. It will do your heart good to see them.

I have effected a junction with General Franklin.

Instructions have been given so that the navy will receive prompt support, whenever and wherever required.

GEO. B. McCLELLAN,
Major General Commanding.

THE BATTLE OF WEST POINT.

Splendid Victory of General Franklin's Division.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE NEW YORK HERALD.

BRICK HOUSE POINT,
NEAR WEST POINT, VA., May 7, 1862.

With my eyes full of burnt powder and my ears filled with the ringing of musketry and the screeching of rebel shells, I sit down to endeavor to give you an account of a fight that has raged here since ten o'clock this morning, and which is still continuing, although I just now heard the cry that the rebels were retreating.

The first of this division of the grand Army of the Potomac arrived here yesterday afternoon, under command of General Franklin, and by dark most of the troops were landed on a beautiful plain, which is surrounded on three sides by dense woods and on the fourth by the river, on the south side of the Pamunkey river, and about half a mile southward from West Point. The reason why we landed here is obvious. Had we landed on the other side of the river—West Point—where it was at first intended we should land, we should then have had a considerable stream of water between us and the rebels, and would have had considerable trouble to reach them, as all the bridges have been destroyed. Our gunboats have taken undisputed possession of the point, the rebels having disappeared at the appearance of our forces, and the American flag of our Union now floats from one of the most eminent buildings in the village. I have yet to see a white man among the original inhabitants of this place. Immediately on the landing of our forces from the transports pickets were thrown out to the edges of the surrounding wood, and our tents were pitched on the banks of the river, and up to that time not one of the chivalric sons of the sunny South had made his appearance, and our men became anxious to know why they had been brought to a country where there was no foe. About dusk a part of the division of General Franklin, under the command of General Dana, arrived in transports from Yorktown and remained in the centre of the river, while some of our light draught gunboats took a trip up the rivers Pamunkey and Mataponey to capture a portion of the rebel mosquito fleet, which were brought into use for carrying our men from the transports to the shore, as the river here is too shallow for vessels drawing over six feet of water.

During the night some of the rebel pickets made a sortie on one of our advanced videttes and shot him through the heart. The news soon spread through the camp, and by daylight this morning the plain, which takes in about a thousand acres of ground, running southwest from the York river, presented a scene such as I have never before witnessed. Long lines of men extended from left to right across the centre of the field, and squads of skirmishers stood marking, in dim outline, their forms against the heavy woods and underbrush, which presents an unbroken front to us on every side except that bounded by the river. Here the men stood for some time, ready to march at a moment's notice; but no foe appeared, and the men were permitted to return to their camps for the purpose of getting their breakfast and, perhaps, some sleep. A strong picket, composed of the New York Thirty-second, Ninety-fifth and Ninety-sixth Pennsylvania troops, were left at the edges of the woods to keep a sharp lookout for the enemy, who were now believed to be in close proximity to our lines.

About this time one of our gunboats discovered a regiment or two of the enemy on the west side of the river, who dispersed in great confusion after having received some half dozen of our heavy shells in their midst. This was communicated to General Slocum, who immediately made strenuous efforts to get the brigade of General Dana on shore, that we might be able to give the enemy a warm reception should he make his appearance. General Dana was indefatigable in his labors to get the troops off the transports, and through his exertions most of the men and horses were off the boats by nine o'clock, and preparations were being made to breakfast the men of this brigade, when the order was given for the Sixteenth, Thirty-first and Thirty-second New York, and the Ninety-fifth and Ninety-sixth Pennsylvania regiments to advance into the woods and drive off some of the rebel scouts who were firing occasional shots at our pickets, and were supposed to be strongly supported by a force concealed in the woods. This supposition proved correct, for no sooner had our men made an advance into the woods than they were received with a volley of musketry from the rebels who were hidden in the dense undergrowth. Our men pressed on, and gave them a volley, after which the enemy retreated further into the woods, with the Thirty-second New York close at their heels; but they were too swift-footed for our boys—being more protected—and they soon left the Thirty-second struggling in the mud.

While this scene had been going on on the right centre, another was transpiring on the centre where the Ninety-fifth Pennsylvania regiment had entered the woods. In a few moments after they entered they found themselves in a dense swamp, and in their struggles to get across became separated from each other. One of the companies managed to get to the other side, and was climbing the bank on the opposite side when they descried a party of soldiers lying in ambush. "Who comes there?" cried the party in ambush. "Friends," was the answer. "What are you?" was the next interrogation. "A company of the Ninety-fifth Pennsylvanians." No sooner was this answer returned than the party, whom the captain had mistaken for some of his own regiment, opened a terrible fire upon our men, who returned the fire and then returned to our reserves. In this affair Captain Beatease, of Company B, was shot through the shoulder, but not dangerously wounded, and one or two privates, whose names I am as yet unable to learn, were killed and carried off the field by their friends, who, before they quit the ground, revenged the fall of their brave comrades by giving the enemy a few well directed volleys.

But now the action became more general throughout the lines, and from every quarter of the woods came the sharp crack of musketry. I tried for a time to be ubiquitous, but after travelling from one point to another some fifty times, for the purpose of seeing how matters were going, I took my stand on the right, and calmly awaited the coming events. The sharp reports came nearer and nearer, and at length a ball lodged in a tree at my side. I was about to move from my dangerous quarters when my attention was attracted to that portion of the woods where the Thirty-first and Thirty-second New York State Militia had entered. Four men were carrying the body of a man, which, upon inquiry, I understood to be that of Capt. Young, of Company G, of the Thirty-second regiment, who was shot in the throat, and died instantly. The fight had now been going on for three hours here without intermission, and a number of men were killed and wounded. At this juncture our men were withdrawn from the wood, where they were evidently getting the worst of it, and the Second United States artillery, under Capt. Arnold, was ordered into position on the right, and Capt. Porter's First Massachusetts battery took up a position upon the left, and in a few minutes the shell were flying through the air at the rate of about ten a minute. This soon compelled the rebels to make a move more on our left, where the shells flew less thick than upon the ground they were then occupying. But there evidently is no rest for the wicked; for no sooner had the rebels moved their forces upon our left, than our gunboats, which up to that time had been unable to have a hand in the affair, opened their batteries upon the foe with so much effect that, when I commenced to write, they had completely driven the enemy out of sight and hearing. I am inclined to think that this move upon our left was an expensive one to the rebels, who, ere this reaches the readers of the HERALD, will have learned that near our gunboats is not one of the safest places that can be found. As soon as the guns of Captain Porter commenced to fire among them, accompanied by those from the river, the rebels undertook to move one of their batteries which they had got into position. The New Jersey regiment received orders to charge upon this battery, and at it they went, with cheers that made the very forests ring; but the rebels were again too fleet-footed. Before the Jersey boys got through the woods, the enemy had made tall travelling, and got out of sight in the woods.

Everybody has done well, and the troops have acted nobly. They have been under arms all day thus far, and standing in the broiling sun without anything whatever to eat, except that which they may have had in their haversacks. I have yet to hear a word of complaint from any quarter. The idea of having an opportunity to have a fight with the rebels seems to have absorbed all their other faculties.

More troops are constantly arriving, and just now Capt. Saunders' company of Massachusetts sharpshooters pass by me on their road to the front. These are the men who are able to teach the rebels that two parties can lay concealed in the woods.

The artillery has now ceased firing, and I hear nothing except the occasional discharge of a musket; it seems to be far off towards Williamsburg. I think we have got into their rear, and, if we have, we intend halting them for a few hours until General McClellan can come up to carry them back to their deserted quarters at Yorktown.

At the close of the action in the afternoon the Fifth Maine regiment won encomiums from all the staff for their bravery in heading an advance into the woods upon the left.

The gunboats are still throwing shell into the woods, to keep the enemy from erecting batteries. We expect to have an attack or make an advance to-night. We have no fear of the result. The rebel army now in front of us, I have just learned, is under the command of General Robert Lee.

General Franklin has just sent a despatch to General McClellan announcing the battle of to-day. You have, no doubt, received it by telegraph long ere this reaches you.

I am compelled to bring my letter to a close while the firing is yet going on.

The Killed and Wounded.

First Lieutenant Frederick Poss, Co. F, 31st N. Y., killed.
William Linser, Co. F, 31st N. Y., (private), killed.
Lieutenant Babcock, Co. D, 31st N.Y., mortally wounded.
Minor Wiggins (private), severely wounded.
Abraham Davis (private), 32d N. Y., ball through waist.
E. Chasser (private), Co. G, 32d N. Y., wounded.
Wm. Umphries (private), Co. H, 32d N. Y., flesh wound.
Edwin Comp (private), Co. I, 32d N. Y., flesh wound.
Joseph Hepstine (private), Co. F, 31st N. Y., flesh wound.

KNOWN TO BE DEAD.

Captain Young Co. D, Thirty-second New York.
Captain S. H. Brown, Co. C, Thirty-second New York.
Lieutenant Wallace, Co. C, Thirty-second New York.
Lieutenant Press, Co. F, Thirty-first New York.
Private Christian Hewer, Co. E, Thirty-first New York.
Private William Linsener, Co. F, Thirty-first New York.
Private Philip Strells, Co. F, Thirty-first New York.
Private Henry Urimclaserman, Co. F, Thirty-first N. York.
Private John J. M. McClernan, Ninety-fifth Pennsylvania.
Private C. Lobuy, Company L, Sixteenth New York.

WOUNDED.

Captain J. H. Boltis, Ninety-fifth Pennsylvania.
Private Patrick Kelly, Thirty-second New York.
Private Thos. Alterdys, Thirty-second New York.
Private E. B. Milligan, Ninety-fifth Pennsylvania.
Private J. A. Slocum, Thirty-second New York.
Private Pat. Kildernay, Thirty-second New York.
Private M. O'Donnell, Thirty-second New York.
Private Oliver Wells, Sixteenth New York.
Private J. M. Smart, Thirty-second New York.
Private Richard Macnelly, Thirty-second New York.
Private John Stevens, First New York artillery.
Private A. F. Sawyer, Thirty-second New York.
Private C. Hagan, Thirty-second New York.
Private C. W. Smith, Thirty-second New York.
Private W. Robinson.
Sergeant P. S. Devitt, Thirty-first New York.
Private George Cupping, Thirty-first New York.
Private James A. Day, Fifth Maine.
Private —— Etheridge, Thirty-second New York.
Private Jacob Walen, Thirty-first New York.
Private Lancert Parker, Fifth Maine.
Private Freman Waymoth, Sixteenth New York.
Private F. Detra, Thirty-first New York.
Private A. Carlton, Thirty-second New York.
Private W. C. Sweeney, Thirty-second New York.
Private C. Gumrin, Thirty-second New York.
Private H. M. Helms, Sixteenth New York.
Private L. Parrin, Sixteenth New York.
Private C. Thockeray, Ninety-fifth Pennsylvania.
Private L. Alpheus Mase, Fifth Maine.
Private Henry Bennett, Thirty-second New York.
Private —— Hill, Thirty-second New York.
Captain N. Martin Curtis, Sixteenth New York
Private Thomas Chilton, Sixteenth New York.
Private J. Mott Smith, Thirty-second New York.
Private Thos. S. Munslmon, Thirty-second New York.
Private William Steal, Thirty-second New York.
Private G. Willson, Ninety-fifth Pennsylvania.
Private John Willson, Ninety-fifth Pennsylvania.
Lieutenant J. Twaddel, Thirty-second New York.
Private Joseph Taulh, Thirty-first New York.
Private Charles Allen, Thirty-second New York.
Private Minor Hicken, Thirty-second New York.
Private Olmon Davis, Thirty-second New York.
Private Charles Chatteman, Thirty-second New York.
Private H. Choper, Thirty-second New York.
Private W. Humpherles, Thirty-second New York.
Sergeant E. Camp, Thirty second New York.
Private John Hepstine, Thirty-first New York.
Private Wm. Luisener, Thirty-first New York.

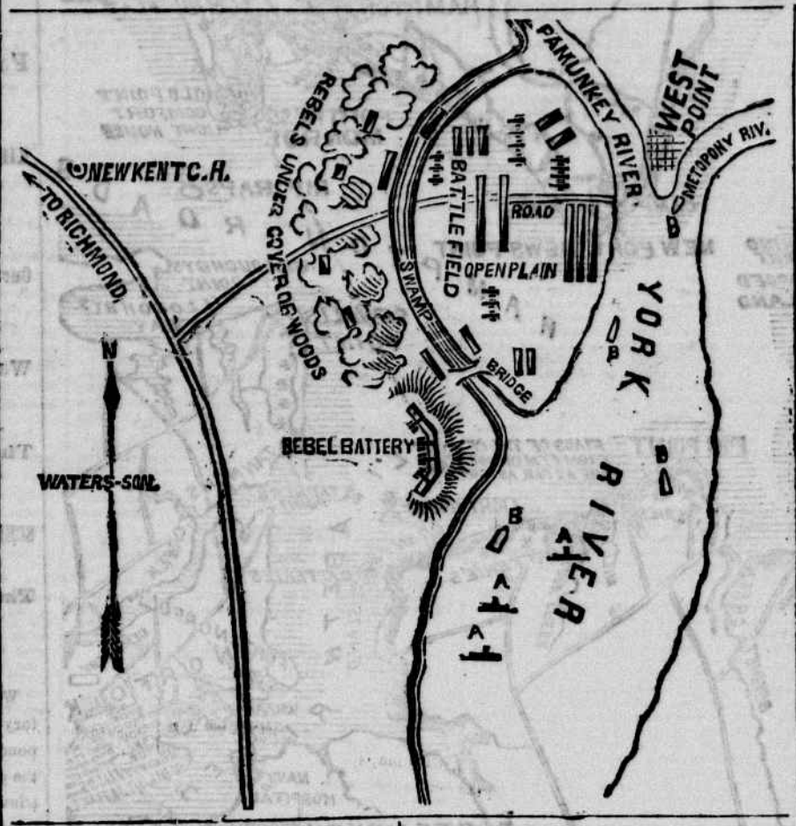
The wounded are being cared for in the most hospitable and humane manner, and no pains will be spared to render them as comfortable as possible. The dead will be sent home as far as practicable. We are hearing of men who are dying of their wounds.

I send you a correct map of the ground on which the fighting is now going on.

Richmond is thirty miles distant from this place.

SPLENDID AFFAIR AT WEST POINT.

The Battle Field at Brick House Point, near West Point, Wednesday, May 7, 1862.



THE BATTLE OF WILLIAMSBURG.

Additional Details of this Decisive Victory—McClellan on the Field—Incidents—The Killed and Wounded, &c.

WILLIAMSBURG, Va., May 6, 1862.

Movements have followed each other in such rapid succession for the last two days, and everything is in such a state of confusion, that it is almost an impossibility to give any true and intelligible account of the affairs in detail. There are a thousand reports and rumors in circulation, few of which when traced are found correct, and I will only give what I know to be true.

We have met the enemy, driven them from their strong position, killing and wounding a large number of them, and now occupy Williamsburg; and our forces are in hot pursuit of the retreating enemy. When I last wrote we were in face of their fortifications, awaiting the return of daylight to give them battle. During the night (Sunday) it commenced raining, and continued without intermission during the following day and night. Notwithstanding our army had lain upon their arms all night in the rain, without shelter, and many of them without food, it was determined to attack the enemy in the morning.

POSITION OF THE ENEMY.

It was ascertained that the enemy were in force behind their works, and intended to defend them. Their line of defences consisted of a series of forts of immense strength and laid out with great skill. The principal work was in the centre (Fort Page), and was the only one that had any heavy mounted guns. This was protected by eight smaller forts, four on each side, while rifle pits and redoubts were in every direction.

THE PLAN OF ATTACK.

Our attack was made at the same time on both wings and on the centre. Gen. Hancock's brigade, consisting of the Fifth Wisconsin Volunteers, Col. Cobb; Forty-ninth Pennsylvania, Col. Erwin; Forty-third New York, Col. Vinton, and Sixth Maine, Col. Burnham, were stationed on the right.

Gen. Brooks, with his Vermont troops, commanded the centre, while the left was commanded by General Hooker. The attack was first commenced on the extreme left by General Hooker, with his first brigade, General Grover, consisting of the First Massachusetts regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Mills; Sixteenth Massachusetts, Colonel Blaisdell, Twenty-sixth Massachusetts, Colonel Small, and Second New Hampshire, Colonel Marston; but the firing soon became general along the whole line. The enemy fought with great bravery, and with a force equal to any that we had engaged. They threw a great force against the left, and succeeded in capturing a battery of five guns from Lieutenant Brannhall, of the New York artillery; but they were retaken by our men. The heaviest loss that we sustained during the day was at this point.

The New Jersey Eighth, Colonel Starr, are said to have suffered the most severely. The loss of the enemy on the left was very heavy, the ground being covered with their dead and wounded, besides very many which they carried off the field.

THE LOSS OF THE ENEMY.

The loss of the enemy is estimated by officers and citizens of Williamsburg at from two to three thousand, while our loss in killed and wounded will probably not exceed ten or twelve hundred. Our troops fought with great bravery, charging repeatedly with the bayonet, and driving the enemy in confusion at every charge. While these events were transpiring upon the left, Gen. Hancock, with his splendid brigade, was making havoc with the enemy upon the right. They were deployed under the immediate supervision of General Keyes, upon a road which led to the extreme right of the enemy, where they came in sight of the outer works.

Two of these were taken without opposition. As the brigade filed to the left of the first of these forts they came to an open field, when General Hancock brought them into line of battle in an incredibly short space of time, and in the most splendid style. Before them, at the distance of nearly a mile, was the second work, designed to protect the left of Fort Page.

This, upon investigation, was also found deserted, and soon the Stars and Stripes were waving from its ramparts.

THE FIRING UPON FORT PAGE.

In front of this deserted fort General Hancock formed his troops, while Captains Kennedy and Wheeler opened their batteries upon Fort Page. The firing was very spirited for some minutes, when the batteries were ordered to advance and take a position about half way between the deserted fort and Fort Page, a distance of only five hundred or six hundred yards from the enemy, where they poured in a terrible fire on the fort.

Our own position was a very precarious one, being an open field with an open space in our rear, extending back a distance of two miles, and surrounded on all sides by woods. General Hancock at once saw that it would afford a splendid opportunity for the enemy to get in his rear, and sent back for reinforcements. Through some mismanagement, our generals had failed to have up a sufficient force within supporting distance, and before they could be brought upon the field the quick sight of the rebel general had seen our weakness and sent a force of four thousand infantry and a regiment of cavalry to attack us in the rear.

CHARGE OF GEN. HANCOCK'S BRIGADE.

As soon as they appeared in sight Gen. Hancock ordered the artillery to retreat, and prepared to give them a proper reception.

Waiting till the enemy had approached within two hundred yards, he placed himself at the head of his column, and, taking off his cap, turned to his men and said to them, as only General Hancock can say it, "Gentlemen, charge!" and with a yell they rushed upon the enemy, scattering them in every direction.

This was probably the most brilliant charge made during the day. A great number of the enemy were left dead and wounded upon the field, while our loss was very small.

Our regiments all did nobly, but none of them more so than the Fifth Wisconsin and Forty-third New York. Colonel Cobb and Major Larabee, of the Fifth Wisconsin, and Colonels Fenton and Pearson, of the Forty-third New York, are deserving of especial praise. The charge made by General Hancock saved us the day yesterday in all probability. By the time our reinforcements had arrived General Hancock had driven the enemy from the field.

They held the position they occupied during the night, expecting to storm the works this morning; but the rebels, considering prudence the better part of valor, fled during the night, saving them the trouble.

NOBLE CONDUCT OF THE UNION TROOPS.

The most severe fire of the enemy was directed upon our left, and our greatest losses are in the brigades engaged there. The division of Gen. Hooker and the brigade under Gen. Palmer are reported badly cut up. The only officers killed or wounded, that I have heard of, are Capt. Williams and Lieut. Barnard, of Gen. Kearney's Staff, killed, and Colonels Terry and Beach, of the Fifth Michigan, wounded. Col. Beach has lost a leg.

At daylight this morning it was discovered that the enemy had left during the night, and taken all their guns and baggage, and our forces are now in pursuit of them. As we approached Williamsburg we were met by a deputation of citizens, requesting protection, which was granted.

OCCUPYING THE ENEMY'S STRONGHOLD.

Our forces entered Williamsburg about one o'clock. The town is deserted by most of the male population, but many of them left their families behind. It is a beautiful town, of about fifteen hundred inhabitants, and, I should judge, a delightful residence before the war. The streets are now badly cut up and filled with broken wagons and rubbish, thrown away by the retreating rebels. I can learn of only one family in town who have remained loyal through all the difficulty, and that is the family of Mr. B. They have uniformly stood out and remained faithful to the old flag; but, in consequence, have suffered every indignity which rebel ingenuity could inflict upon them.

The rest of the people appear to have become heartily sick of the rebel army, as they have appropriated their property and houses without mercy, and paid for it, when at all, with worthless paper.

WHAT THE REBELS SUFFERED.

The rebels left six hundred of their wounded here for us to take care of, and they are now being brought in and cared for by our troops. Every one of them that I have talked with tell the same old story of having been forced into the army, and that they were glad that they were out of their power. The rebel General Early was wounded in two places at the charge made by General Hancock, and Colonel Mott, of the Nineteenth Mississippi, and Colonel Ward, of the Fourth Alabama regiment, were killed; also the Colonel of the Ninth Alabama regiment.

A squadron of cavalry have just come in, bringing about eighty rebel prisoners, and they also report the capture of several heavy guns and an immense number of small arms, which the rebels have thrown away in their flight; also a large quantity of commissary stores. The rebels are retreating to the Chickahominy, ten or twelve miles from here, where they have extensive fortifications. As soon as we can get forward our stores and ammunition we shall again attack them. Our men and horses have made a long march and fought a hard battle in the rain and mud and are completely used up. As soon as they have sufficiently recruited they will be pushed on.

THE SCENE AT GENERAL M'CLELLAN'S HEADQUARTERS.

Headquarters had been established in Whittaker's house, a high, square, white and un-Virginia like edifice on the Yorktown road, about three miles east of Williamsburg. Behind this house was the large barn in which the hospital was located, and where all the wounded of Keyes' corps were cared for. Before the house, which stood a hundred and fifty yards back from the road, was a wide lawn, where the interest of the whole field was at times concentrated, for there gathered commanders of every grade, and thither came, as to a focus, every ray of intelligence from the various localities at which the battle raged. It was an animated though a motley scene. Aids-de-camp, in comfortable ponchos, to which the continual rain only gave a bright, glass-bottle-like look, came and went; weary orderlies, unfamiliar with the luxury of India rubber, and soaked of course, dashed up as if with the last breath of their jaded horses, and then dashed away again as if the new order had filled even the horse with a new life; there the ubiquitous General Keyes, our gallant old "Peep o'Day," who is always everywhere, saw everybody; there sombre Sumner came, and looked and saw no one; and there General Smith, with his easy indifference, filled his pipe "just once" again.

But this lawn should be historic, for there, at five P. M. on that great and rainy Monday, Major General Geo. B. McClellan rode on to the field of his first battle, and thence gave his first order. Shortly before the General's arrival a regiment of infantry had been drawn up on the side of the lawn towards Williamsburg, and two regiments of cavalry on the other side. Thus the scene was closed on either side with fit accessories.

GENERAL M'CLELLAN ON THE BATTLE FIELD.

In the very middle of the rage of musketry, shouts that grew into continuous cheers were heard away down the road towards Yorktown. What could it mean? There could be no fight there. But conjecture had no chance, for in the next minute a group of desperate riders swept up the road and into the lawn, and there at the head was the unmistakable figure of the Commander-in-Chief. As he swept by the cavalry they took up the shout, and on it went, across to the infantry, and on still to the other infantry in the wood, and Virginia was electrified with enthusiasm. There was not a heart at headquarters or near it that did not feel the lighter for that shout. Somehow it seemed to clear the air. To speak very plainly, nobody had felt very certain how the day was to go until then. We knew that we had been at it for nearly nine hours, but no one could say that we had done more than repulse the enemy, and that seemed but very little.

HIS ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION BY THE TROOPS.

When your enemy has been in full retreat before you, and you follow so fast that he has to stop and fight for life, your success ought certainly to be more than the negative one—of not being beaten; but ours, till then, simply came to that. So there was a large welcome in every heart for that stout little figure and blue soldier's overcoat, and a welcome moreover for all beside whose presence spoke of him—for Sweitzer, and Colburn, and Hodson; for portly Colonel Astor; for that pleasant German-French Prince the Count of Paris; for the girlish figure of the Duc de Chartres, and for the tall form and blue eyes of the Prince de Joinville.

Affairs took shape almost immediately, as if there were something magnetic in the mere presence of the leader—in the master's eye. He came, and listened, and spoke—that was all—and the mass of blind, purposeless movement unravelled itself, and there was a plan and a battle. Quietly he sat in the midst of the crowd of officers that gathered around, and in a few minutes, when each had spoken, the best right hand on this continent was raised and pointed off to the North in the direction that Hancock had taken, and away went Keyes, away went Smith, away went Negley. Soon a column of infantry filed off up the edge of the wood, a steady stream of seven thousand closed by your correspondent's "own," the dear old Massachusetts Tenth.

CONFIDENCE OF THE TROOPS IN THEIR YOUNG COMMANDER.

It was pitch dark when the column got to its place, and all had had enough of it for that day, and all laid wearily down "to sleep, perchance to dream;" but all felt that fight when we would, we were now in the hands of one who would give us the best chance, and that a whole day of struggle and exposure was not likely again to be wasted in mere combat without aim.

After his order had been given for the movement to the right, General McClellan rode over other parts of the field on the centre and left, took a look at the hospital arrangements, and near dark made his headquarters in the east room of the Whittaker House. What transpired there of course this deponent knoweth not; but the result of his simple arrival is best of all, and that is before the world in the victory of Williamsburg and the first battle of Major General George B. McClellan.

Another Account of the Battle.

ADDITIONAL LIST OF THE KILLED AND WOUNDED.

BEFORE WILLIAMSBURG, April 5, 1862.

Early Sunday morning the troops commenced preparing for the march before the receipt of orders, so that when the order was given numbers of the regiments were all ready to march. All day Sunday the grand army poured through Yorktown on its forward movement. The advance reached a point about three miles east of Williamsburg, and encamped for the night. Others encamped all along the road wherever a good field presented. About three o'clock this morning a heavy rain set in, which has continued throughout the day. The soil of the peninsula is a sort of quicksand, which the least moisture works up into a slush mud of the worst condition and to any depth, and when the march was taken up at daylight the roads were trodden into deep mud by the first regiment passing, so as to render them almost impassable. Hooker's division had gone to the left and attacked the enemy, who were behind their intrenchments, about half an hour after daylight. The enemy, in large force, were engaged successively by the First, Second and Third brigades, and a fierce fight carried on during the day, with little apparent gain on either side. During the fight the enemy made a sortie, and, before it could be sufficiently supported, captured five guns of Bramhall's New York battery. When we left the field, at three P. M., this division was being largely reinforced, and will be able at least to hold their ground until our heavy guns can be brought up to reduce the rebel works. Owing to the confusion and difficulties in passing the roads it is impossible to obtain a list of the killed and wounded, which is reported to be very large; but the fight being in the woods to a great extent, no doubt a large number of stragglers will come in.

General Heintzelman was on the ground and in the thickest of the fight all day. General Hooker had two horses shot under him, but was himself uninjured.

The following is a partial list of the killed and wounded. The total in the division will probably amount to one hundred and fifty killed and wounded:—

Colonel Johnson, 8th New Jersey, musket ball in the abdomen.

Colonel Small, 26th Pennsylvania, slight wound in the calf of the leg.

Geo. S. Campbell, Co. C, 1st Massachusetts, slight contusion on breast.

Chas. McCausland, Co. K, 1st Massachusetts, shell contusions, arm and face.

Herman Riter, 1st U. S. Artillery, shot wound in calf of leg.

Corporal David L. Mercer, Co. C, 1st Massachusetts, musket ball through both thighs without striking bone.

E. D. Noyes, Co. H, 2d New Hampshire, flesh wound in left leg.

John G. Darling, Co. A, 2d New Hampshire, bad shell contusion left thigh.

John Bates, 1st U. S. artillery, skull fractured.

John A. Eagan, Co. F, 1st Massachusetts, contusion.

F. W. Spiller, Co. H, 11th Massachusetts, shell on arm.

P. J. Sawyer, Co. H, 2d New Hampshire, ball in right hand.

R. Howard, Co. E., 11th Massachusetts, shell on hand.

George C. Davis, Co. A, 2d New Hampshire, left arm amputated.

Herman Smith, Co. F, 2d New Hampshire, left arm amputated.

N. D. Wallace, Co. B, 2d New Hampshire.

Jacob Sloan, Co. H, 1st U. S. artillery.

N. Taylor, Co. D, 1st Massachusetts, shell, arm amputated.

First Lieutenant Chandler Eakin, 5th U. S. battery, musket ball through left shoulder.

Alva Hamilton, Co. H, 2d New Hampshire, flesh wound in leg, slightly.

Harvey Hill, Co. H, 2d New Hampshire, ball through left hand.

Wesley Robinson, Co. F, 6th New Jersey, foot shattered by fragment of shell—amputated.

Charles Clevenon Osborne, New York battery, right fore finger shot off.

Corporal George Stevens, Co. F, 1st Massachusetts, musket ball in abdomen.

Orrin Brock, Co. E, 2d New Hampshire, end of right fore finger shot off.

Egan Hiltz, Battery D, New York, right hand shot off.

Second Lieutenant Pike, Battery H, 1st U. S. artillery, left leg shot off below the knee.

Albert Eversham, Co. D, 26th Pennsylvania, killed.

Charles Smith, Co. A, 7th New Jersey, seriously wounded in the abdomen.

William S. Hoyt, Co. G, 1st Massachusetts, scalp wound.

——, Adjutant 5th New Jersey, killed.

A large dwelling in the rear has been occupied as a temporary hospital, and placed under the charge of Dr. Minzer, of the Twenty-sixth regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers.

The Excelsior brigade was in the fight, and suffered considerably, but was not able to ascertain names sufficiently reliable for publication.

The Part Taken by General Kearney's Division.

HEADQUARTERS KEARNEY'S DIVISION,
WILLIAMSBURG, VA., Thursday, May 8, 1862.

My last letter brought up the progress of events in this part of the Army of the Potomac up to daylight on Tuesday morning. The battle of Monday had shown the enemy to be posted in his works at Williamsburg, and behind them in strong force. Before night had closed in we had driven the enemy from four of his forts, but the darkness and rain that ensued had prevented us from ascertaining whether he had abandoned his position entirely or not. The desperation with which he had fought, the heavy losses we had sustained and the great strength and admirable position of his works before Williamsburg led to the belief that he might probably give us another brush on Tuesday. The whole army, therefore (except those divisions which had been sent up the York river on steamers), was moved to the front during Monday night. It will be borne in mind that it rained incessantly the whole of Monday and Monday night, and the state of the roads (already execrable), and the soil generally, in consequence of this dreadful rain, may be imagined. Thus it happened that, although with incredible labor, all the guns and caissons (except those in Richardson's division) had been brought to the front, and all the troops had also come forward (except Richardson's division), yet very little provisions and no baggage whatever had been drawn over the roads, twelve miles in extent, that stretch between two miles east of Yorktown and the battle ground. The consequence was that our men had nothing to eat except what was in their haversacks, and no coffee except what they made in their tin cups, over fires built by the roadside. Never, however, were there a more cheerful set of men. Indeed their cheerfulness amounted to enthusiasm. I was on horseback all day Monday and part of Tuesday, and was on many occasions surprised at the exuberance of spirits which the men displayed. The long columns of infantry pushed steadily on in the rain and through the mud, the latter often up to their knees, and always over their shoe tops, singing merrily, and asking each other jocosely, "Who wouldn't be a soldier?"

On Tuesday morning, as I stated in the close of my last letter, the rebel army could be seen stretched in order of battle across the country, between their forts and Williamsburg. It was not known whether or not the enemy had abandoned their forts. There was no sign of an enemy on the ramparts, but that might be a stratagem on their part to lure our forces on. The first object, therefore, was to ascertain whether or not the forts were abandoned. In order to [illegible] Gen. Kearney ordered a party of skirmishers to [illegible] from just before the woods, to the right and left of the enemy's largest fort on the right.

PREPARING FOR THE FIGHT.

The field of battle was one of the most magnificent that can be imagined. On emerging from the woods, facing nearly due west, the spires of the town of Williamsburg could just be seen in the distance. The whole space between the town and the woods was a most beautiful plain, with a few hollows and ravines. About midway between the town and the woods, and running in a nearly north and south line, were the forts of the enemy, eight in number. The rebel troops were drawn up between the town and the forts, and the battle ground of the preceding day lay between the woods and the forts.

THRILLING INCIDENT.

General Kearney's order was communicated by General Jameson to the troops to whom it was directed. He explained to them what was wanted, and directed them to scatter and not to approach in mass. But for some cause the troops wavered. Seeing this, General Jameson rode out in front of his own brigade, which had hitherto been held in reserve, consisting of the Sixty-third Pennsylvania regiment, Colonel Hays; the One hundred and fifth Pennsylvania regiment, Colonel McKnight; the Fifty-seventh Pennsylvania, Colonel Campbell, and the Eighty-seventh New York, Colonel Dodge, and, addressing the One hundred and fifth Pennsylvania regiment, asked if there was a lieutenant and twelve men who would volunteer to advance to the enemy's fort? Instantly one hundred men sprang forward. General Jameson sent back all but twelve men and Lieutenant J. L. Gilbert, of Company I. These thirteen brave fellows, on receiving their directions, ran rapidly towards the large fort, followed closely by General Jamison in person. Passing around to the right, they entered the west sallyport, and were followed by General Jameson. The first man to enter the enemy's works was the lieutenant just named. At very nearly the same time the Sixty-second New York (Anderson Zouaves) rushed up and took the fort next on the left, and planted thereon the Stars and Stripes. This gallant act was performed by Abram T. Perine, Color Sergeant of Company C.

THE REBELS FALLING BACK.

During this time the rebel line had been gradually receding towards Williamsburg. By the time we were in possession of their works they had retreated to the town, and could be seen moving along the road to the northwest. Our troops pressed forward in pursuit, some light artillery and cavalry and General Jamison's brigade, being in the advance. General Jamison himself and Captain McKeever Assistant Adjutant General to General Heintzelman, were the first to enter Williamsburg. The enemy were retreating rapidly, abandoning in the road ammunition and caissons. The rear guard had not cleared Williamsburg on the west when our advanced guard entered it on the east. General Jamison would have pushed on with his brigade, but he was strictly ordered not to do so. His orders were to throw out skirmishers and pickets beyond the town, and to take exclusive command of the place, as commander of the post, which he did.

OCCUPATION OF WILLIAMSBURG—DESCRIPTION OF THE PLACE.

Guards were immediately placed before all the houses. It soon became apparent that the inhabitants of the town as a general thing had remained. I have visited a great many houses, and find the people to be, with a single exception, bitter secessionists. Many of them are people of great wealth, and their dwellings are furnished with great taste and elegance. Many of the latter are old, but very handsome structures. The town itself is quite large, being one of the oldest in America, and having an important historic character. It contains a number of churches—the Episcopal church having been built long before the Revolutionary war. In its graveyard are the tombs and monuments of many of the old dignitaries of Virginia, the inscriptions on the monuments, together with the coats of arms and armorial emblems of the deceased, being nearly effaced by time. William and Mary College, which stands at the west end of the principal street, was founded in 1693, by William and Mary, King and Queen of England. The "Reverend Father in God, Henry, Bishop of London," was the first Chancellor. The first college building, burned in 1705, was rebuilt in 1723. The original deed of transfer to the faculty was drawn by John Randolph. It is written upon fourteen beautifully illuminated sheets of parchment and is now in the library of the college. It is dated