

IMPORTANT FROM THE MISSISSIPPI.

Fort Wright Evacuated by the Rebels.

Retreat of the Enemy to Fort Randolph.

The Rebel Gunboats Gone Down the River.

Arrival of the Union Fleet at Vicksburg.

Departure of the Squadron for Memphis.

Fort Wright, or Fort Pillow, has been evacuated by the rebels.

The enemy has retreated to Fort Randolph, twelve miles below on the Mississippi river.

On Monday a flag of truce came from the Union flotilla to Fort Wright, when the fact was first ascertained that the works had been deserted.

No person was found in the fort, and none of the enemy's gunboats were in sight.

The rebels came up with a white flag; but no explanations were given for their course.

Capt. Davis has not yet occupied the fort.

As arrival from the fleet on Monday states that a flag of truce from the rebel fleet and Point for the purpose of exchanging released prisoners, in accordance with an arrangement made some weeks since.

After waiting some hours the flag returned without being met by the rebels. Late in the afternoon one of their boats came up and effected an exchange. It is believed among the officers of the army that the rebels have evacuated Fort Wright and fallen back on Fort Randolph, as no rebel gunboats could be seen around the Point.

A reconnaissance in force, sent down by Com. Davis to ascertain the position of the enemy, had not returned when the boat left.

The steamer De Soto, from the flotilla, has arrived, but brings no additional news. A flag of truce came up yesterday from the rebel fleet, and returned, but came up a second time. The object of this mission was not ascertained. The opinion still prevails that Fort Wright is evacuated.

Deserters who came aboard the Benton on Tuesday reported that Commodore Farragut's fleet left Vicksburg on Saturday last, their destination being Memphis.

The captains of the steamers plying between here and the flotilla report that there are over a thousand refugees below New Madrid, and that the banks of the river are lined with them, begging to be taken aboard and carried North.

From indications made apparent yesterday, it is clearly evident that the enemy have evacuated Fort Wright and fallen back on Fort Randolph, a strong fortification on the Second Chickasaw Bluff, twelve miles below their former position.

Officers of the flotilla who went down the river yesterday with a flag of truce returned with the intelligence that neither troops nor gunboats were visible; that Fort Wright and as far below as the eye could reach were deserted. Towards evening the rebel craft came up with a flag of truce and exchanged prisoners. No explanation was offered as to why our flag was not answered in the morning.

Taking all the circumstances into consideration, there is not the least doubt that the rebels have left Fort Wright, and in their new position can maintain a more thorough defence, and be less exposed to the fire of our mortars.

Advices received here, under the date of Cairo, May 21, from the flotilla, announce the probable evacuation of Fort Pillow.

The steamer Kennett, which went down with a flag of truce, with a number of prisoners to be exchanged, returned to the flotilla without seeing any signs of life at the fort or as far as could be seen below. The general impression is that the enemy has fallen back on Fort Randolph, twelve miles below.

Two hours after the Kennett returned a rebel steamer, with a flag of truce, came up from below, took of the prisoners from the Kennett, and steamed down the river.

Memphis papers of the 17th inst. announce the federal fleet, under Commodore Farragut, opposite Vicksburg.

Commodore Foote's Reply to the Invitation to Visit New York.

The committee appointed at the meeting of the New Englanders, held at the Fifth Avenue Hotel on May 16, have received the following answer to the invitation given through them to Commodore Foote. It is hoped that the circumstances mentioned will not long prevent his making the desired visit.

CLEVELAND, May 19, 1862.

GENTLEMEN—Your communication of the 16th instant, inviting me to do the duty of a citizen of New England resident in the city of New York to express in some suitable manner acceptable to myself their estimate of my services as a man and of my achievements in the public service, has been received.

Charged with great and responsible duties, and involved in difficulties at times assumed responsibility, especially without the aid of the great power of all events, I was as I humbly and confidently hope to him; and in his strength my efforts, notwithstanding my feeble powers, have been comparatively successful.

Forced away temporarily from my command, by the necessities of the war, and considered by the surgeons not only as incapable of duty, but as being in a state of insubordination, I am enabled, by the kindness of the Secretary of the Navy, to be here with my brothers in a second part of the city, where all that kind attention and good nursing can accomplish for the earliest possible restoration of my health will be done, so far as to enable me to rejoin our brave officers and men, in battling for the continued success of our arms in sustaining the supremacy of the Union.

I trust, therefore, that you, and those whom you represent, will see that I cannot consistently, as I am unable physically, visit New York, at the present time; and I take the liberty to express to you, in a correspondence between myself and the citizens of Cleveland, making it a part of the communication, which I have the honor to do, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

HENRY B. WOODRUFF, (Chairman), Charles Goodrich, H. H. B. Woodruff, T. W. Woodruff, James G. Woodruff.

Government Stores Captured by Guerrillas.

A train of seventeen wagons, laden with government stores, which left here on Monday, was overtaken to-day, when about twenty miles out on the Springfield road, by a band of rebel guerrillas, who burned the wagons and their contents and carried off all the mules, eighty-six in number.

NEWS FROM THE PENINSULA.

Progress of the Advance Towards the Rebel Capital.

Heavy Firing in the Direction of James River.

Probable Battle Between the Gunboats and Rebel Batteries.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, May 21—P. M.

The encampment of the advance of the army, under General Stoneman, is still at Gain's Mills, eight miles and a half from Richmond, and one and a half from the Chickahominy creek. The pickets of the rebels occupy the bank on one side and those of the Union on the other.

General Stoneman, in company with Professor Lowe, made a balloon reconnaissance this morning from Gain's Mills, and reached an altitude of five hundred feet. From their position an admirable view was had of Richmond and the surrounding country with a glass.

The camps of the enemy within the limits of the corporation were seen, also the arrival and departure of the railway trains on the road between New Bridge and Richmond. Very few troops were visible; but to the left of the city, on the line of the main canal, road leading to Bottom's Bridge, a large number of troops were seen.

The smoke from numerous camp fires was seen coming from the woods in front, showing that they were occupied by a large force of the enemy.

Heavy firing was heard yesterday afternoon and this morning to the left of Richmond, which was probably caused by our gunboats endeavoring to force their way up the James river.

The weather is warm and pleasant during the day, with heavy dews at night. The health of the troops continues remarkably good. Two rations of whiskey and quinine are now daily issued.

REBEL ACCOUNTS FROM RICHMOND.

The River Advance on Richmond. (From the Petersburg Express, May 14.)

Edmund Ruffin, Esq., of Prince George, has just sent us the following notice of the movements of the federal flotilla on James river.

Five steamers are now (3 A. M.) slowly passing up the river by Berkeley wharf. Four are under way, and one is very low in the water, supposed to be the Monitor. The atmosphere is hazy, so that we cannot distinguish their flags, though they are all under way.

The small boats of the steamers, five in number, are now standing the channel over Harrison's Bar.

Harrison's Bar is six miles below City Point, and at high tide vessels drawing fifteen feet can pass over.

It having been ascertained that the fleet could easily get over the vessels came directly up, leading for City Point.

Our pickets at the Point, perceiving the intentions and nearness of the gunboats, fired the depots and warehouses at the Point, and left on an engine for this city. Several hundred hogsheads of tobacco and many other valuables were consumed.

An engine was sent down about three P. M. for the purpose of reconnoitering, and it was discovered that the Hessians had landed, but in what force could not be ascertained. They also had out their pickets in the direction of Petersburg a distance of two miles.

We do not believe that these Yankee devils contemplate anything more than a general reconnaissance, but should they see enough to justify a favorable report, the inland cities of Petersburg and Richmond will prepare themselves for another visit at an early day.

Alarm in Richmond. (From the Richmond Dispatch, May 15.)

The proximity of the gunboats of the enemy to this city places it in very great danger. A few hours will test the strength and efficiency of the obstructions placed in our river to prevent their passage. It would be unprofitable and useless to discuss the sagacity displayed in the selection of the point, or the obstruction, and the ingenuity of the obstruction itself, but it may be doubted whether either would stand against a fair contest. Should the gunboats be resisted, however, that is all we could expect; no matter what the style of the barrier, nobody can complain.

Our news columns give all the intelligence we have from the point assailed. It may be that the barrier will be passed. If so, we shall have the hated foe in a brief time. The question arises, should only a few gunboats present themselves, not backed by an army that has fought through our own forces, will the city be surrendered to them? We feel assured that the people will respond with unanimity "No!" The sentiment, as far as we have heard it, is most decided on this point. Though there are some gentlemen with reference to the river defence, the public are not willing to incur the disgrace of submitting to a demand can be backed by such force and resources as at least to make a surrender an act not to be committed by the city.

Under any view of such a fate as the occupation of this city of untarnished fame and generous renown, by the federal invaders, it will be a painful, a mortifying occurrence; but whenever that event does occur, let us at least hope that it will carry with it no dishonor for the community.

Departing of Richmond. (From the Charleston Mercury, May 15.)

The fate of the capital, though still a mystery to us, is probably fixed before these words can meet the eyes of our readers. The telegraph yesterday brought no tidings from Richmond, and we have nothing later than the brief despatch, dated Tuesday night, announcing that the enemy's gunboats had ascended the James river as far as City Point. The subsequent silence may have been accidental, but it looks ominous. We fear we shall have the same story of New Orleans over again, and that we have lost, through inability, delay, and delay, what the Grand Army of the Republic could never have won. But we will hope for the best.

City Point, the head of deep water navigation on the James river, is nearly thirty miles below Richmond. For the first fortnight the work of obstructing the channel at a point some miles higher up has been vigorously going on. Upon the efficacy of the obstructions rests the safety of the city; and before this, we presume, that efficacy has been put to the test.

The fall of Richmond would, indeed, be a heavy blow. It is difficult to estimate the vast quantities of stores and public works which must be destroyed or abandoned in the event of such a disaster. The capture of the seat of government would surely shake the confidence of Europe in our ability to achieve our independence. We see it stated that the official notice given to a friendly spirit to gentlemen of high position by Count Metcher, during his late visit, was near to surrender the capital.

But, happily, the wealth and the strength of this confederacy do not reside in its cities. We have ceased to hope for encouragement or aid from the Powers of Europe; and the rebels to-day, relying only upon themselves, will yet show to the world that their spirit cannot be broken by reverses, and that they are no degenerate sons of their fathers—the rebels of our first Revolution.

Raising of a New Regiment. Concord, N. H., May 22, 1862.

In compliance with an order telegraphed from the Secretary of War, Governor Berry will immediately raise another volunteer regiment of infantry for active service. The regiment will be commanded by Col. Joseph A. Gilmore, unless whose superintendence the regiment will be recruited.

Another Volunteer Regiment for the War. HULLSBURG, Vt., May 22, 1862.

Governor Holbrook, in conformance with orders from the War Department, has called for another regiment of volunteers from this State. It will be recruited immediately.

More Troops from Massachusetts. HARTFORD, May 22, 1862.

In response to a communication from the War Department, the State of Massachusetts will promptly contribute her quota of the additional troops required to put down the rebellion.

NEWS FROM GEN. FREMONT'S CORPS.

Gallant Action and Defeat of the Rebels, &c.

FRANKLIN, Va., May 21, 1862.

A despatch this morning from Lawburg, Greenbrier county, states that Colonel Crook, with a strong force of infantry and cavalry and artillery, made a successful dash at the Central Railroad at the Jackson river depot, driving a large rebel force before him, burning the railroad bridge ten miles from the depot, capturing the noted guerrilla, Captain Shriggs, and several men, passing through Covington without resistance, sending rebel despatches in the telegraph office, to the effect that the rebel military movement in Greenbrier and Pocahontas counties had failed, and that Union sentiment prevailed.

Several prominent secessionists were arrested, and the whole movement has greatly strengthened the Union cause in these counties.

General Cox telegraphs that the engagement, when he retook Princeton, Mercer county, was warm, and continued at intervals during the day.

We lost about thirty killed and seventy wounded. Prisoners report the enemy's loss double or treble that number. Our officers and men behaved admirably.

The Capture of Pensacola. (Telegram to the Montgomery Advertiser, May 11.)

GALESDALE, May 10, 1862.

I left Pensacola at three P. M. this day. There was not a federal war vessel in the bay. A small unarmored schooner lay under the Navy Yard and Fort Pickens. No federal soldier or sailor had landed in Pensacola. Two officers from the schooner and one from the Harriet Lane came into the city, and had a conversation with the Mayor. These are all that have landed. On invitation from Commodore Porter, the Mayor went on board the Harriet Lane. In reply to a question by one who went with the Mayor whether troops would be stationed in Pensacola, he replied that he had no troops to spare, and if we had any about Pensacola he would advise sending them to Mobile, as they would probably be wanted very shortly. Porter was of Mobile last night, when, according to the communication at Pensacola, he came to see what was the matter.

(Telegram to the Mobile Register, May 11.)

Pensacola, May 10, 1862.

At twelve o'clock last night the Pensacola Navy Yard and forts were set on fire and destroyed. Fort Pickens, when the enemy discovered what was going on, opened a curtain bombardment, which was kept up until the configuration, but without doing damage to any one at Pensacola. All the public property, excepting the Custom House, was being moved, was burned; but all movable Confederate property has been saved.

The railroad leading out of the city towards Montgomery was torn up this morning. A federal vessel, with a crew of three, came up to the city, and was surrounded. Mayor Boye refused to comply with the demand, but stated that all the military forces had left the city, and that he would not be responsible for the officer replied that they would occupy the city tomorrow, but that the inhabitants need not be alarmed.

(From the Mobile Advertiser, May 11.)

The secessionists of Pensacola, who are being driven out of their special correspondence, have been quietly going on for a week or two. The greater portion of the population of the city of Pensacola, as well as of the surrounding country, are being driven out of the city. The secessionists have left their homes and sought the interior with their families and such of their movable property as they could take with them. The secessionists are scattered along the route of the Pensacola and Montgomery roads, at Evergreen, Sparta, Greenville, Montgomery and other places. The secessionists are generally quartered at the depot, and are generally in the track of the road will be torn up to the point where it is intersected by the Mobile and Great Northern road, and sufficiently remote to be beyond any possible danger of the enemy reaching it.

The military, guns and other public property have been carried to the interior, and the harbor will fall heir to a barren acquisition, save that the harbor will be of some value to them as a naval rendezvous, and the stores as a hospital station for their army when Yellow Jack prevails in the blockade.

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IMPORTANT FROM KEY WEST.

Arrival of the Gunboat Mercedes and Armed Ferryboat Somerset.

Capture of the Two Anglo-Rebel Steamers Bermuda and Circassian.

Value of Their Cargoes Exceeding a Million and a Half of Dollars.

Our Key West Correspondence.

KEY WEST, May 8, 1862.

The arrival of the Mercedes at Key West, a few days since, has afforded us intelligence of her capture by the English Confederate steamer Bermuda, of the northward of the Bahama Banks. The Bermuda had a full cargo of arms and munitions of war. Her manifest, which occupied some four pages of foolscap paper, I saw a copy of, and the quantity on board a vessel of her tonnage is really surprising. Besides pistols and cutlasses in any quantity, there were a number of six and a half and seven and a half inch rifled guns, together with several complete field batteries. There again there were nearly fifty thousand pounds of powder in barrels, besides cases upon cases of cartridges, fixed ammunition and shells.

Among the papers found on board the Bermuda was a complete code of eight signals and sailing directions for entering the harbor of Charleston, both by way of Matfle and the main ship channel; also orders from parties in the South for goods to be purchased for them by the Captain of the Bermuda, which goods are now, no doubt, on board the vessel.

It is most fortunate that the cargo of the Bermuda has been prevented from reaching Dixie. It would have been invaluable to Rebeldom in their present dilapidated condition, and is worth to us at least one million of dollars. Too much credit cannot be awarded to Commander Stellwagen and the officers and crew of the Mercedes for having effected this capture.

The Bermuda, by her register, is owned by Fraser, Trenholm & Co., of Liverpool, a branch of the House of Fraser & Co., of Glasgow, S. C. Her commander is a Charlestonian. The majority of the officers and crew of the Bermuda are here on board of the Mercedes. What disposition is to be made of them I do not yet learn. One of her crew has given information that shortly before her capture a session flag, together with a large number of papers, was thrown overboard by the captain. This fact may have weight in the evidence before the Prize Commissioner. All the other particulars regarding her capture will no doubt be given to the Herald by its Philadelphia correspondent, as it is to that port that the Bermuda has been sent, in charge of Lieutenant Abbott, of the Mercedes. The Mercedes is now coaling, and will leave in a few days for her cruising grounds.

CAPTURE OF THE STEAMER CIRCASSIAN.

While your correspondent was on board the Mercedes a steamer was reported a night to the eastward. With the aid of a powerful telescope she was made out to be a large black-ribbed steamer, in tow of one of our armed ferry boats. Various were the conjectures as to what she might be; but all felt confident she was a prize and that the vessel towing her was the Somerset. As soon as she had anchored Lieutenant Commanding English, of the Somerset, which vessel the one towing proved to be, came on board the Mercedes to make his report to Commander Stellwagen, the senior naval officer in port. The English steamer proved to be the Circassian, from Bordeaux, via St. Thomas, and purporting to be bound to Havana. She was captured on Sunday afternoon, the 4th inst., about twenty miles to the eastward of Havana, and the following circumstances attend her capture.

The Circassian was seen by the Somerset, which was then in tow of one of our armed ferry boats, and was seen to be a large black-ribbed steamer, in tow of one of our armed ferry boats. Various were the conjectures as to what she might be; but all felt confident she was a prize and that the vessel towing her was the Somerset. As soon as she had anchored Lieutenant Commanding English, of the Somerset, which vessel the one towing proved to be, came on board the Mercedes to make his report to Commander Stellwagen, the senior naval officer in port. The English steamer proved to be the Circassian, from Bordeaux, via St. Thomas, and purporting to be bound to Havana. She was captured on Sunday afternoon, the 4th inst., about twenty miles to the eastward of Havana, and the following circumstances attend her capture.

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