THE NEW YORK HERALD.

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M'CLELLAN'S ARMY.

Important Movements on James River.

The Flotilla Under the Command of Captain Wilkes.

Some Energy Now Expected in That Quarter.

The President Looking After the Interests of the Army and the Union.

THE WHITE HOUSE SLANDER.

LETTER FROM GENERAL M'CLELLAN.

Sharp Rebuke of Congressional Intermeddlers,

&c., &c., &c.

Letter from General McClellan Relative to White House.

WASHINGTON, July 9, 1862.

The correspondence between the War Department and General McClellan was to-day transmitted to the House, in response to a resolution of inquiry.

General McClellan says, in the course of his explanations, "those who have originated the false statements concerning the White House, yard and spring, are in fact, as stated in my despatch of the 7th inst., enemies of this army and the cause in which it is fighting. They have imposed upon the Surgeon General, and caused him to make official representations which, on examination, prove to be unfounded in fact, and which are disrespectful to his superior officer. *They have unnecessarily occupied the attention of the Secretary of War, and have interrupted the Commander and the Medical Director of this army in the midst of the most arduous duties.*"

Our Fortress Monroe Correspondence.

FORTRESS MONROE, July 7, 1862.

Attack on the Steamer Juniata.

The steamer Juniata, while on her way up to Harrison's Landing yesterday, and when within about four miles of that place, was fired into by the rebels, and one man injured—none killed. The firing was from six rebel field pieces on the opposite side of the river, and a little below the Union army. The steamer was aground at the time. Our gunboats went down and drove out the rebels.

A reconnoitering party was sent out yesterday, and found the rebel pickets within one mile of ours, which leads to the opinion here that another battle is close at hand.

Breastworks are being thrown up at Hampton, about two and a half miles from Fortress Monroe, by our forces encamped at that place. The work is progressing vigorously.

The thermometer stands at ninety this evening.

FORTRESS MONROE, July 8, 1862.

Arrival [of President Lincoln, General Burnside, Flag Officer Wilkes, &c., &c.

Gen. Burnside has arrived here, is looking well and appears in fine spirits.

President Lincoln arrived here at an early hour this morning, had a short interview with Gen. Burnside, and then proceeded up the James river.

Flag Officer Wilkes arrived here this morning, and many rumors are afloat here as to the object of his visit.

The Tenth New York regiment, which has been reported as badly cut to pieces, had only nine killed, forty-four wounded and thirty missing. There are many who, in various ways got separated from their regiments, are now daily returning, thus greatly diminishing the numbers who have been reported as lost.

There have been two or three arrests here this morning, among the sutlers and civilians, who had received orders to leave, and had disregarded them.

The fortifications at Yorktown are being put in perfect order.

The President arrived on the steamer Ariel, accompanied by several officers, including (it is believed) among the latter General Halleck.

The mail boat from Harrison's Landing does not often arrive here until after the boat for Baltimore has sailed, thus delaying for a day the transmission by mail of letters, &c.

FORTRESS MONROE, July 8, 1862.

The Firing Upon the James River Steamers—Interview Between the President and the Commanding General of the Army of the Potomac—Flag Officer Wilkes and His New Command—The Rebel Treatment of the Flag of Truce at White House, &c.

The thermometer, in the sun yesterday, stood at about 130 degrees. Comment is unnecessary.

The game of firing upon our James river steamers promises to be increased if our Flag Officer does not bestir himself and keep the flotilla in constant motion, and punish them at any attempt to annoy us.

The President arrived here at an early hour this morning, and after a brief conversation with Gen. Burnside he proceeded up the James river, to confer with General McClellan. The President designs seeing for himself the position of affairs, and how Little Mac desires to act.

Flag Officer Wilkes is here this morning, and rumor says that he is to relieve Flag Officer Goldsborough. This would be the signal for active work in the North Atlantic Blockading squadron. It contains the officers and men who are able, willing and anxious to do something besides lying at anchor all the time, while other squadrons are daily adding laurels to their already heavy crowns. Had we a Dupont or a Farragut here, we should have plenty of naval news to record; but now but little is done, and that by subordinate officers. Give us a go-ahead flag officer, and then times will alter in these waters.

By a letter received here this morning from Lieutenant A. F. Osbon, the Adjutant of the Tenth New York Volunteers, I learn that this splendid regiment, whose movements on the battle field on Friday a week ago were, and are still, the theme of admiration in that wing of the army, lost that day nine killed, forty-four wounded and thirty missing. The gallant Fifth, of New York, lost larger in numbers, but had the disadvantage of position. The two regiments are probably the two best in their division. The greatest enthusiasm prevails through the entire army, and McClellan is more than ever beloved and respected.

By order of the proper authorities, all civilians are to leave this point to-day. Quite a number who were sent off the other day have returned, and now find comfortable lodgings in the guardhouse. At the time Lieut. Davoll and his assistant were taking the names of all who were to leave under this rule the greatest excitement prevailed. The sutlers are in a complaining mood, but dare not talk so defiantly as heretofore.

I learn this afternoon that Flag Officer Wilkes is to take entire command of the James river flotilla, and that Flag Officer Goldsborough will return to Norfolk and to the Minnesota. The Flag Officer is troubled with the gout and needs quiet, which is so necessary to one of his temperament, and his fierce struggle with the scarecrow of Hampton Roads about used him up.

Flag Officer Wilkes is a man of energy and of consummate skill, and will make a mark in these waters. His coming will be hailed by the officers of the flotilla as a God-send, and things will go ahead now, you may be assured.

The funeral of Lieut. Brooks, who died yesterday from wounds received in a late engagement, took place to-day under a proper military escort. His remains were placed upon the Baltimore steamer, and will be sent to his parents. He was a gallant member of Gen McClellan's staff, and died bravely performing his duty.

Most of the sick and wounded from the Army of the Potomac have arrived, and been sent to hospitals in different parts of the country. There are quite a number yet to come, however. Lists of nearly all have been forwarded; the balance it was impossible to obtain.

On Sunday last a flag of truce was sent up the Pamunkey river, in charge of Dr. Bradlee, of the hospital here' to get the wounded left at the White House.

Dr. Bradlee landed at Cumberland Landing, and penetrated the country several miles before he came across the enemy. He delivered his letters, and one hundred and five wounded men were surrendered to the Doctor, and he returned with them to the landing. Just as he arrived there a troop of cavalry came down and took them all again, including Dr. Bradlee. He was finally allowed to return to the steamer John Tucker; but the rebels said the wounded could not be given up, but should be sent to Richmond, whereupon the Doctor returned in the John Tucker, picking up a few wounded at Bigler Landing, below Cumberland, whom he brought down. He also brought down some mules, wagons and other straggling property of the government. More of the flag of truce hereafter.

I append a list of wounded men who were saved by Dr. Bradlee, and brought from below Cumberland Landing, Pamunkey river, on the John Tucker, July 8, 1862:—

Henry F. Jackson, Co. F, Fifth Pennsylvania cavalry.
John C. Merry, Co. F, Fifth Pennsylvania cavalry.
Thomas Hibbard, Co. D, Fifth Pennsylvania calvalry.
Chas. Halbert, Co. F, Fifth Pennsylvania cavalry.
John Arnold, Co. K, Eleventh Pennsylvania cavalry,
David Campbell, Co. C, Fifth Pennsylvania cavalry.
Michael Mohlen, Co. I, Eleventh Pennsylvania cavalry.
Dan'l Gordon, Co. B, Fifty-sixth New York Volunteers.
Jas. W. Crumley, Co. C, Seventy-fourth New York Vols.
Aaron Benedict, Co. H, Fourth Pennsylvania cavalry.
Robt. M. Bliss, Co. H, Fourth Pennsylvania cavalry.

Our James River Correspondence.

HARRISON'S LANDING, July 5, 1862.

How Our Military Operations Appear to Southern Officers—Rebel Testimony to the Superb Generalship of McClellan—Stanton a Great Favorite at the South—How Beauregard Moved His Troops from Corinth to Richmond—A Furious Attack to be Immediately Made on McClellan at Harrison's Landing—Rebel Ideas of the Summer Campaign, &c., &c.

From the two rebel officers (prisoners) mentioned in my last letter, I also learned the following facts, which throw additional light upon the movements of the rebels before our late retreat, and upon their probable plans for the summer campaign. Before I proceed, let me recall the attention of the reader to what I said in regard to the personal character of these two officers, and to their candor and truthfulness. They alone, of all the prisoners with whom I conversed, admitted to its full extent the terrible injury which we had inflicted on their army, in the bloody contest from the 27th of June to the 2d of July. They alone bore unqualified testimony to the superb strategy of McClellan, which they compared to that of Napoleon; to the perfect understanding and happy accord which exist between him and his generals, and the prompt and effective manner in which they execute his orders, and to the steady discipline and unflinching courage of our troops, opposed, as they knew them to be, by three times their number, and by constant reinforcements of fresh enemies. They express the utmost astonishment, not at the retreat itself (that they knew must take place whenever they moved their overwhelming numbers upon our little army, with whose exact numerical strength they were well acquainted), but at the superb and successful manner in which it was conducted; at the unconquerable spirit of our troops, and at the bold and undaunted front which we presented to them every succeeding morning during the memorable seven days. No one but a Napoleon, they said, could have conceived and executed such a retreat, in the face of an army like theirs, and no troops but veterans could have held them in check as ours did. And I may here remark, myself, that this retreat, considered as a successful strategic movement, will always be regarded in history as one of the best fruits of the months of toil and labor which General McClellan bestowed upon the army during the progress of its formation at Washington. Compare this retreat with that from Bull run. There were a thousand times the causes of panic and stampede on the Chickahominy that there were at Bull run. And why was there neither panic nor stampede here? Because the troops were disciplined, and had confidence in their commander. But to return to the information which I derived from these officers.

They state that nothing gave the Confederate government so much encouragement ever since the commencement of the peninsula campaign, and during its whole continuance, as the extraordinary conduct of Mr. Stanton, in interfering with McClellan's plans, and in refusing him reinforcements. By means of their agents at Washington and elsewhere they were kept perfectly informed of the jealousy with which Stanton regarded McClellan. They were amazed at the folly which divided and cut up the grand Army of the Potomac into four detached bodies. But when McClellan was sent to commence the peninsula campaign with a force so utterly inadequate to its vast extent, and when they saw, week after week, as his army was thinned out by battle and disease, how niggardly he was reinforced, the military leaders of the rebels resolved, by concentrating their troops from all other points from which a single regiment could be spared, not only to defend Richmond successfully, but also to utterly annihilate that part of the Army of the Potomac sent to the peninsula. By means of deserters and spies they were correctly informed, week by week, of the waning strength of McClellan's army, as in its progress its ranks became thinned by battle and disease; and they saw, with mingled feelings of amazement and joy, that no reinforcements of any amount were sent to fill up these gaps in the ranks.

About the 1st of May General Beauregard visited Richmond, and a military council was held, attended by all the generals of high rank. It was at this council that plans were adopted for the transfer of troops from Corinth to Richmond, and for Jackson's diversion towards Harper's Ferry. Immediately on Beauregard's return to Corinth his troops began to move towards Richmond, on the various lines of railroad, and by the time it became publicly known that Corinth was evacuated fifty thousand of his best troops had quietly reached Richmond. The rest of those who arrived continued to come in subsequently. The admirably managed railroad system of the South enabled them to summon and bring to Richmond any particular corps of troops in a very short time; and some of the regiments now at that city have not participated in any of the engagements of the famous seven days, having arrived since our grand movement towards the James river commenced.

I infer from what these officers say that it is the intention of General Lee to make a furious onset upon McClellan's army at Harrison's Point, at a very early day, in hopes of defeating it and driving the Union troops completely out of the peninsula. Hence the necessity of sending to McClellan, if the government intend him to remain there, instant and strong reinforcements.

In regard to the operations of the summer campaign, these officers are of opinion that we will find it impracticable to do anything further until cooler weather; that during the heats of summer we cannot operate even against Richmond. They are confident, too, that the results, so far of the peninsula campaign, will lead to the immediate recognition of the Southern confederacy by England and France. In regard to movements on their part, they state that the result of affairs at Charleston and Richmond will so inspirit the Southern people that there will be no difficulty in having in the field by October armies amounting to 500,000 troops, for whom, they say, there is abundance of the best kind of arms. The operations against Richmond have made known to them both its strong and its weak points, and they will take care to take advantage of the former and to strengthen the latter. That city they regard as impregnable. They consider the result of the peninsula campaign so far to have demonstrated positively that the South cannot be invaded successfully for any distance in the interior, owing to the difficulties of keeping open communications and transporting supplies.

The Battle Near Gaines' Farm, June 27, 1862.

GENERAL TAYLOR'S OFFICIAL REPORT.

HEADQUARTERS, FIRST BRIGADE, N. J. VOLUNTEERS, CAMP ON JAMES RIVER, July 4, 1862.

H. C. RODGERS, Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant General:—

My command, by order, left our intrenched camp on the right bank of the Chickahominy on Friday afternoon, the 27th of June, and crossed the said stream by the Woodbury Bridge.

The battle begun the day previous had been renewed at Gaines' Farm, where we arrived about four o'clock P. M. I immediately formed my brigade in two lines, the Third and Fourth regiments in front, and the First and Second regiments in the second line.

My line was scarcely formed when the Third regiment, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Brown, was ordered to advance forward into the woods, where a fierce combat was raging.

Col. Brown immediately formed his regiment in line of battle, led it into the woods, and began a rapid fire upon the enemy. As this was the first of my regiments engaged, I will complete my report of it by saying that they continued the fight in the woods until the close of the action. They were all this time under a galling fire, often a cross fire, but maintained their ground until near sunset, when the whole line fell back. They had at this time expended (a large majority of the men) their last cartridge, sixty rounds to the man. It is but justice to say that this regiment bore itself most heroically throughout the entire action. Their conduct was all that could be desired. With their comrades falling around, they stood up like a wall of iron, losing over one-third of their number, and gave not an inch of ground until their ammunition was expended and the retrograde movement became general. They were under this fire one hour and a half.

The First regiment entered the woods about half an hour after the Third, and remained until the close of the action. Colonel Torbert being unwell, the regiment was led by Lieutenant Colonel McAllister and well sustained by his presence and courage. I shall, however, say that Colonel Torbert, though suffering from low fever, followed us to the field and was present.

I take great pleasure in saying—for both these regiments fought under my own eye—that the First regiment showed the same indomitable courage as the Third regiment, exposing themselves to the leaden hail of an often unseen foe, advancing with the Third regiment, and stood steadily under a most galling fire until the close of the action. Their loss was, enlisted men, killed, twenty; wounded, eighty; missing, fifty-seven. The loss of commissioned officers was one killed, four wounded and one missing—making a total of one hundred and sixty-three.

I have now to speak of the Second and Fourth regiments, the first of which, under Colonel Tucker, numbered only four companies, the other six being on duty in the field works at Camp Lincoln, and left behind under Lieutenant Colonel Buck. While absent to the front, these four companies, by order of General Porter, and without my knowledge, were sent into the woods, suffering a most galling fire. Their loss was, enlisted men, killed, twelve; wounded, fifteen; missing, forty; making a total of ninety-seven enlisted men. I also regret to record the death of Colonel I. M. Tucker, and probably Major Ryerson, both of whom were left upon the field; also Captain Danforth, mortally wounded, and Lieutenants Blewitt, Root and Bogert, severely wounded, and Lieutenant Callan missing. They, however, sustained themselves most gallantly, and proved their courage against superior number. The fate of the Fourth regiment, Colonel Simpson, one of my most efficient regiments, as regards officers and men, was most painful.

At the moment when victory seemed wavering in the balance, an aid of General McClellan took them from my command and ordered them into the woods. All the account I can give of them is that but one officer (wounded) and eighty-two men have rejoined my command; all the rest, if living, are believed to be prisoners of war.

I learn from those who have come in that up to the time that the regiment was surrounded they had received from and returned the enemy a most galling fire. I annex a report of the casualties of the day, showing the total loss of my brigade.

In conclusion I would say that, so far as I am at present informed, my officers, commissioned and non-commissioned, nobly performed their duties; and it might, therefore, be invidious to particularize. Still, in justice to the gallant dead, who have devoted their lives to their country, I must record the names of Captain Brewster, of the First, and Captain Buckley, of the Third; also Second Lieutenant Howell, of the Third, all officers of distinguished merit.

These officers fought under my eye. As regards the conduct of the Second and Fourth regiments' officers, I am told that it was all that could be desired. But these regiments having been taken from me, I did not see them during the action.

It is eminently due to my staff officers to say that they carried out my orders intelligently and promptly, and did not hesitate, and were often exposed to the hottest fire of the day.

I will forward a more detailed report in a few days. I have the honor to be, very respectfully, &c.,

GEO. W. TAYLOR, Brigadier General.

Gen. Stoneman's March.

THE IMPORTANCE OF GEN. STONEMAN'S MOVEMENTS DURING THE RECENT CONTESTS ON THE PENINSULA.

The following extract from a letter from an officer in Gen. McClellan's army will be found interesting:—

WHITE HOUSE, July 1, 1862.

Early on Thursday morning, June 26, Colonel H. S. Lansing, in command of the Seventeenth New York Volunteers, and of the Eighteenth Massachusetts, Col. Barnes, of Porter's division, left camp to reconnoitre the supposed advance of Stonewall Jackson, taking post at Old Church and Hanover Corners. These two regiments formed the entire force of infantry under Gen. Stoneman, who had, in addition, the Sixth Pennsylvania cavalry, a part of the Fifth and Sixth regular cavalry, and Gibson's light battery. This position was held until noon of Friday, and while the battle was raging in their rear. At noon, receiving orders to fall back upon White House, the entire command, making a detour of sixteen miles in four hours, took up position at Tunstall's station, and remained there until Saturday noon, and until after the enemy had taken Despatch station, and were within half a mile, when the force fell back to White House, covering the embarkation and destruction of the remaining stores. Col. Darnes, of the Eighteenth Massachusetts, left on the transport Vanderbilt. Colonel Lansing divided his command on board the gunboats Cochura, Captain Patterson; Marblehead, Captain Shankland, and Sebago, Captain Henry, remaining at White House until Sunday afternoon. One boat being aground, skirmishers were thrown on shore on Saturday night to prevent a surprise. On Sunday morning, the enemy's sharpshooters becoming troublesome from their hiding places on the bank above, Lieutenant Colonel Bartram, of the Seventeenth, landed with twenty men, and drove them back on their main body, retiring under the fire from the Marblehead, which did considerable execution. The enemy were in force, infantry, cavalry and artillery, but found nothing, as what had not been destroyed on Saturday was destroyed on Sunday morning by parties from the Marblehead. Dropping down to Cumberland, and thence to West Point, the property was all shipped and towed off before the gunboats left—the latter covering the fleet to Yorktown. At Fortress Monroe Col. Lansing transferred his command to transports, and, starting immediately up James river, landed at Harrison's bar on Wednesday, simultaneously with the arrival of the army from before Richmond. Gen. Stoneman, although ill, remained at the White House until nine P. M. of Saturday. From there, making a forced march, he arrived at Yorktown the next afternoon (Sunday) all safe.

This necessary service was successfully performed by this command, and, while it deprived those comprising it of the opportunity of sharing the dangers and glories of their comrades in arms, yet it rendered their movement of changing front complete.

The Losses in the Sixty-first New York Volunteers.

Colonel Barlow, of the Sixty-first regiment New York State Volunteers, in a private letter, reports the losses in that regiment as follows:—Killed, wounded and missing, 119. Among the officers, Captains Deming, Moore, Spencer and Angel, Adjutant Gregory and Lieutenant Cadwell were wounded and taken prisoners. The first three were shot in the leg, and have undergone amputation. Angel was shot in the head (not seriously). Cadwell's wound was not serious. Adjutant Gregory has a flesh wound in arm (not serious). Captains Kettle, O'Broady and Mount and Lieutenant Keach are unhurt and well.

Loss Among the Regulars.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

BERKELY LANDING, Va., SYKES' DIVISION, July 5, 1862.

Do the Tenth United States infantry the justice to publish the following list of killed and wounded officers. Through the stupidity or ignorance of the reporters, we are not even mentioned as being engaged; and having lost one-third of our command, we feel slighted. The casualties in the Tenth and Seventeenth infantry, which form one battalion, were as follows:—

Captain Dodd, 17th infantry, killed.
Lieut. Montgomery, 17th infantry, wounded and missing.
Lieut. Whistemore, missing.
Lieut. Lauman, 10th infantry, wounded, slightly.
Lieut. Kellogg, 10th infantry, slightly.

Lieut. Foster, of General Sykes' staff, is not killed, nor wounded.

Major Clitz, of the 12th infantry, has been heard from, wounded and a prisoner.

The Seventeenth United States Infantry.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

76 SOUTH STREET, July 6, 1862.

As you have unintentionally omitted mentioning the Seventeenth regulars in your accounts of the sanguinary battles on the peninsula, it is but proper to state that the battalion under Major Andrews lost nearly half of the officers and men. The colonel of this regiment is that famous warrior the veteran Heintzelman; but as he is in the field as a brigadier general the organization, drilling and perfecting the men for active duty devolves upon Lieutenant Colonel Greene, an accomplished officer, who is indefatigable in his efforts to render the Seventeenth second to none in the service. MILES.

Casualties in the Massachusetts Twentieth and Twenty-second Regiments.

An official list of the casualties in the Twentieth and Twenty-second Massachusetts regiments in the late battles is published. The Twentieth lost 3 killed, 42 wounded and brought away, 16 wounded and left on the field, 55 missing—total, 116. The Twenty-second regiment lost—23 killed, 66 wounded, missing, 254—total 343.

The Plans of the Rebels.

WASHINGTON, July 9, 1862.

A late copy of the Richmond *Examiner* says that "the rebels could certainly cut off McClellan's retreat; but it would be far better to prevent him from receiving further supplies and starve him into a capitulation." It remarks:—"Fill up our armies and prepare for a contest as long as our enemy may choose to urge it, and let it be as energetic as we can make it."

The Trouble Among the Grain Men.

An adjourned meeting of the receivers and forwarders of grain was held yesterday afternoon in the Produce Exchange, Mr. E. K. Alburtis in the chair. The committee appointed at the previous meeting signified that they were not ready to report. Mr. BARKER stood up and said that he, with several members, had been to Tammany Hall, and had made a genuine Irish speech. There was a false impression prevailing all around. He told the meeting last night that they could work for whom they pleased, just as he could employ whom he pleased. All the difficulty could be settled if the parties would give in a little. He felt ashamed about the action taken yesterday in passing the resolution. He understood that the stevedores were at the bottom of the whole trouble. They were paid fifty cents for one hundred bushels for loading the ships, out of which the elevators receive 37½ cents. This was too much for the work performed. It was wrong for the merchants to step between the laborers and floating elevator companies. They had no right to do this.

Mr. MONTGOMERY asked Mr. Barber about his views on the elevator; but the Chairman declared the desultory conversation out of order, and a motion to adjourn *sine die* was carried, thereby leaving the matter in its present state.

The police authorities in the First ward say that they have not seen the slightest disposition on the part of the shovellers to break the peace. The elevators were at work yesterday, but were worked by new gangs.

POLITICAL CONVENTIONS.

Meeting of the New York Democratic State Committee.

ALBANY, July 9, 1862.

A meeting of the Democratic State Committee was held at the Delavan House to day, Dean Richmond in the chair, and Peter Cagger Secretary.

In accordance with an invitation from the committee, a large number of prominent democrats and Union men from all sections of the State were present.

An advisory meeting was held at one o'clock to give an opportunity to these gentlemen to express their views as to the duty and policy of the democratic organization at this time.

Speeches were made by Governor Seymour, Mayor Wood, James Brooks, Calvert Comstock, Senator Pruyn, S. G. Hadley, Elijah F. Purdy and others, earnestly in favor of an immediate sufficient reinforcement of the Army of the Potomac, in favor of an unconditional support of the government, while maintaining the right of all patriotic citizens to oppose the errors, corruptions and weakness in the administration of that government, and in opposition to foreign intervention.

After the expression of these views the meeting took a recess until three o'clock.

In the afternoon the conference meeting was largely attended, the prominent local organizations of the democratic and Union parties being well represented.

Addresses were made by S. E. Church, S. T. Fairchild, and the leading representative men in the Tammany and Mozart organizations, all of whom expressed a desire and determination to sink all local differences, and present a harmonious, unbroken front at the State Convention.

After the meeting, which was confined strictly to the interchange of views, the Democratic State Committee held a private session at the Delavan House.

A communication from the Legislative caucus of the party was received and read. It was referred to a subcommittee, consisting of Dean Richmond, Elijah F. Purdy and J. Hardenburgh.

The following reply was addressed to the Legislative caucus by the committee:—

ALBANY, July 9, 1862.

GENTLEMEN—Your communication to the Democratic State Committee, enclosing a political address, in which the actions and motives of the democratic party have been signally misrepresented, has been submitted to them at their meeting in this city to-day, and we are instructed by them to reply: That the patriotism of the democratic party and its loyalty to the constitution need no defence at this day. The history of the country for eighty-six years, during which democratic principles and councils have predominated in its policy and prosperity and peace at home, and respect and influence abroad have attended its rule, are a sufficient vindication of its character.

The unanimity and energy with which the democratic masses of the loyal States have sustained the government since its administration has fallen into adverse hands proves that this devotion to country rises above all considerations of partisan interest or prejudice. The attitude of the party, so long fearlessly asserted, is still firmly maintained by it, and now when the destinies of the nation and the existence of free institutions are in peril it again stands forth ready to seek the aid of every citizen who will rally to the cause of his country and of constitutional liberty.

This committee, disavowing any purpose to dictate a platform of party principles, or to anticipate the conclusions of the State Convention, which will be called to pass upon the matters, are conscious that they reflect the sentiments of the whole party when they say the democracy of New York stand ready to unite with all patriotic citizens, without reference to former party combinations, who agree in sustaining the government in the prosecution of the existing war against the rebellion by all the means within the power of a loyal people for the purpose of restoring the Union as it was and maintaining the constitution as it is. And we are instructed further to say that it is the purpose of the committee, in calling the next State Convention, to invite the co-operation of all citizens upon the simple, but distinct, platform of the constitution, the Union and the enforcement of the laws. But while these principles lead democrats to act with patriotic citizens for this great purpose, they repel all idea of political association with that class of fanatics who are raising unnecessary and factious issues, the only effect of which is to divide the people of the loyal States, exasperate still more the different sections of the Union, and make its restoration impossible.

We have the honor to be, &c.,

DEAN RICHMOND,
ELIJAH F. PURDY,
J. HARDENBURGH,
Sub Committee.

To Hon. Lyman Tremaine, J. S. T. Stranahan, M. H. Grinnell, Thos. H. Flagler, Committee.

The following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

The Democratic State Central Committee being convened at this time merely for the transaction of its ordinary business, and not assuming to lay down any platform or to adopt any resolutions in the name and behalf of the democratic party in advance of the State Convention, yet desire on two points that present themselves to the public mind at this time as of the gravest importance to express their sentiments in the following resolutions:—

Resolved, That we view with admiration the heroic courage shown by our army before Richmond, and are filled with heartfelt gratitude from the self devotion and desperate valor which rung victory from the jaws of defeat. We call upon the government to put fourth instant and energetic efforts to give that army long needed reinforcements, and we appeal to our fellow citizens to fill up the ranks which are nobly struggling to uphold the constitution and the laws.

Resolved, That we pledge ourselves to resist to the utmost intervention in this war by other governments in any form or under any pretext, and that the American people are strong enough to put down the rebellion at the South, and are wise enough to crush out malignant fanaticism at the North; and that they will not tolerate any interference in their affairs by any foreign Power.

DEAN RICHMOND, Chairman.

PETER CAGGER, Secretary.

The time and place of holding the State Convention will be fixed hereafter.

Adjourned.

Vermont Union State Convention.

MONTPELIER, July 9, 1862.

A State Convention of those who are in favor of sustaining the constitution and the Union, and of supporting the national administration in the present crisis of the country, was held here to-day, for the purpose of nominating candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Treasurer. Stoddard B. Colby, of Montpelier, was elected President. The following nominations were unanimously made:—For Governor, Hon. Frederick Holbrook, of Brattleboro', the present incumbent; for Lieutenant Governor, Hon. Paul Dillingham, of Waterbury; for Treasurer, J. G. Page, Esq., of Rutland. Resolutions were adopted favoring the confiscation of the property and slaves of rebels, urging the speedy and effectual suppression of the rebellion, approving the general policy of the national administration and pledging Vermont to furnish men and money to the last extent of her ability; tendering hearty thanks to the brave and patriotic soldiers in the field, and thanking Governor Holbrook for the prompt manner in which he tendered to the President Vermont's quota of 300,000 additional soldiers. Another resolution, accepting certain special acts of President Lincoln as pledges that the government has cut itself free from all complicity with slavery, was, after an animated debate, adopted, with a few dissenting voices.

The Blockade on the Florida Coast.

OUR MAYPORT CORRESPONDENCE.

MAYPORT, MOUTH OF ST. JOHNS RIVER, Fla., June 28, 1862.

The blockade of this place, as well as protecting one hundred and fifty miles of navigable river from the incursions of the secesh regulators, is maintained by the United States steamer Isaac Smith, Lieutenant Commanding Nicholson, United States Navy; the gunboats Patroon, Acting Master Corser commanding, and the Uncas, Acting Master Crane commanding—in all about twenty guns, of heavy sixty-eights, long thirty-twos and fifty-pound Parrott rifles. Commander Nicholson is the senior and commanding officer of this station, and strictly does he discharge his duty. He has already taken several prizes, and by his vigilance has prevented much aid and comfort from reaching the enemy. Occasional demonstrations have been made on the river by the secesh regulators; but a few shots from the eight-inch sixty-eight-pounders and Parrotts of the United States Navy forced them back into the swamps, beyond Parrott distance.

Jacksonville, the principal city on the river, is nearly deserted. The United States troops have not as yet re-occupied it; but there is a distinct understanding that if a single shot is fired on the gunboats, passing up or down the river, the city will be laid in ruins. The sawmills along the river, for a hundred miles, with few exceptions, were destroyed some time since by the regulators, they being owned by Northern capitalists. Millions of dollars were thus devoured by the flames.

Contrabands in any number come to the gunboats for protection. They are sent to Fernandina, to be taken care of at Fort Clinch.

Rebel Prisoners Bound to Fort Warren.

BOSTON, July 9, 1862.

One hundred rebel prisoners, from before Richmond, including forty officers, arrived here to-day, and were sent to Fort Warren.

GENERAL BURNSIDE'S CORPS.

THE FORWARD MOVEMENT.

SKIRMISH AT SWIFT CREEK BRIDGE.

RECONNOISSANCE TO TRANTER'S CREEK.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

THE FOURTH IN NEWBERN,

&c., &c., &c.

Our Newbern Correspondence.

NEWBERN, N. C., June 29, 1862.

Skirmish at Swift Creek Bridge—The Expeditionary Vessels Aground—The Rebel Defences—Their Strength and Construction—Captain Jocknick's Reconnoissance, &c.

Preparatory to the forward movement which is now evidently near at hand, expeditions in greater or less force have been scouring the country in our vicinity during the last couple of months. The more recent of these was one under the command and direction of Col. Howard, of the Marine artillery, which has succeeded in effectually ridding the peninsula lying between the Neuse and Pamlico rivers of the presence and depredations of the rebel bands.

The expedition started from here on Wednesday evening last in the steamers Union, Allison and Highland Light, accompanied by the gunboat Picket. It consisted of a detachment of the Marine artillery, with eight guns, under Adjutant Peters, Captains Martin and Ayres, and Lieutenants Hedden, Bloomer, Moore and Gerard; the Seventeenth Massachusetts, under command of Lieutenant Colonel John F. Fellows, and a detachment of Colonel Mix's Third New York cavalry, under Captain Gerard. At the outset the expedition met with a series of misfortunes, which brought to our mind most forcibly the vicissitudes which our fleet underwent at Hatteras and the memorable "Swash." The steamers had proceeded but three or four miles up the Neuse when they grounded on a bar, which, for its snags and sawyers, is equalled only in the Mississippi. The Allison, owing to the incompetency of the negro pilots on board, was run almost ashore, and is now fast embedded among the stumps. The same may be said of the Highland Light, and it is feared that both vessels will have to await a flood or freshet in the river to extricate themselves from their present position. The Union, which is of very light draught, was more fortunate in keeping the channel, but came to anchor over night, and in the morning endeavored, but in vain, to assist the others. Word was sent to General Foster of the disaster, who immediately came off with the steamers Pilot Boy and Alice Price. The latter got aground, and her troops were transferred to the Pilot Boy, which, with the Union, proceeded on to the point of attack on Swift creek, and there landed a portion of the expeditionary forces. So complete was the surprise that two of the enemy's pickets were made prisoners, the rest escaping to the woods, leaving several of their horses (they were cavalry) behind them. The Union and Pilot Boy then returned to the other steamers and labored to remove them, but with success only in the case of the Alice Price. The Union, in her endeavors to haul off the Allison, got aground herself. Here the chapter of accidents closed for the day. The balance of the troops, artillery and horses were transferred to the Alice Price, which then proceeded up the river, and landed them at Swift creek at daylight on the following Friday morning. Here a junction of all the forces was effected, and after breakfast the line of march was taken up. The companies of the Seventeenth Massachusetts regiment were thrown out alternately as skirmishers, accompanied by a platoon of cavalry. As the advance was made with great caution, it was necessarily a slow one. The main body was put under command of Colonel Fellows, while Colonel Howard, with a detachment of his marines and several guns, made a detour from the road at a distance of a few miles from the landing place and took possession of the lower bridge. Colonel Fellows proceeded on, in accordance with his orders, to occupy Swift creek village, the bridge leading to which was reported to be defended by a battery or breastwork of shingles, armed with six guns. Little worthy of note occurred until our troops came to the vicinity of this bridge. The road, before crossing into the village, skirts by the side of the creek for a short distance. Here our pickets encountered those of the rebels, who immediately fled, whereupon the artillery was advanced and shelled the woods across the stream. Becoming satisfied that the canister and grape had sufficiently prevented all possibility of an attack, or rather ambuscade, by the rebels in that direction, the guns were advanced to the bridge and fire opened upon the breastwork of shingles, glimpses of which could be caught through the somewhat dense foliage. The rebels returned a few shots only, when Major Frankie, of the Seventeenth Massachusetts, organized his advance for a charge. A round of shrapnel was fired, and at the command to charge the cavalry of Captain Gerard, which was divided into two platoons, under the commands respectively of Lieutenants Dern and Lawrence, with a howitzer between, and supported by the Seventeenth Massachusetts, who came with fixed bayonets, dashed across the bridge and into the breastwork by a narrow aperture in the centre. With their usual pluck the rebels had turned to retreat when they heard the word "charge" given, and when the cavalry crossed were almost out of sight up and down the roads. A body of some thirty cavalry was hotly pursued by Lieutenant Dern; but they managed to escape. He succeeded, however, in capturing two rebels, foot soldiers, who had taken to the woods. Lieutenant Lawrence, with the other platoon, dashed in the other direction, but failed to catch or overtake any of the fugitives. Several horses, which the rebel cavalry had left in their flight into the woods, were captured, together with a number of shotguns, rifles, saddles, &c. One of the animals was a pretty little colt, marked on the side with a cross, which is said to be the symbol of the guerilla bands, but which your correspondent is inclined to think was the owner's autograph. The shingle battery, on examination, proved to be a most laughable affair. It mounted no guns, as reported, and where our shot had struck was knocked into "pi!"

Our forces occupied the village over night, and on the next day returned here by way of Latham's ferry, the road to which was opened and secured by Captain Gerard and his cavalry, with a detachment of the Seventeenth Massachusetts regiment and a howitzer manned by the marines.

There is nothing particularly new from Washington. A reconnoissance was made a few days since by Captain Jocknick, the result of which you will find set forth in the following report:—

WASHINGTON, N. C., June 28, 1862.

SIR—Having within the last few days received a number of reports from various sources in regard to certain fly trap contrivances, made by the rebels on the Greenville road, for the purpose of catching my mounted patrols whenever they should venture beyond their usual limit of four miles, I made yesterday a reconnoissance with my company to Tranter's creek, a distance of eight miles, where they were said to have a large force on each side of the stream. I advanced cautiously, with my advance guard dismounted and acting as skirmishers, but could discover no signs of the presence of an enemy until we struck the bridge, where our late engagement took place. Here, within reach of our rifles, and partially concealed behind the trees, we could just discover in the bend of the road on the other side of the stream two mounted pickets, whom my men were exceedingly anxious to relieve from all further troubles in this world; but, as I did not wish to make a noise until the object of my reconnoissance was accomplished, their lives were spared. I found the bridge partially destroyed, the mill where they made their last stand entirely deserted, and no traces whatever of the presence of a large force. In the direct road to Greenville, and a mile from this point, is another bridge, which Lieutenant Ailis crossed at the time of his engagement; but, although I made a careful reconnoissance of that locality, no rebel pickets could be seen. About twelve feet of the centre of this bridge had been sawed off and a breastwork of logs and lumber constructed on the other side, but, as I said before, no indications of the presence of rebel troops could be found.

I mention these little particulars merely to show that our late battle at Tranter's creek has had a salutary effect on the enemy, and that we shall probably not be molested here for some time to come. Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. F. JOCKNICK,
Captain Commanding Co. I, Third New York cavalry.

First Lieutenant R. M. Hatt, Adjutant Third New York cavalry, Newbern, N. C.

NEWBERN, N. C., July 1, 1862.

The Troops to be More Actively Employed—The Soldiers Anxious for a Change—Return of Lieutenant H. Clifford, of the Signal Corps—The Negro Schools—More Rebel Prisoners—The Provost Marshal—The Stranger Civilian Nuisance, &c.

Our day of inactivity is past, at least for the present. Everything indicates a forward movement. The bustle that always attends the motion of an army has been but too apparent for the past few days. Orders have been issued, preparations made, and before this letter reaches you in the North we may have accomplished something equally important with Roanoke and Newbern. Acting in concert with the grand army of General McClellan, there is no knowing where we will stop, or what our *corps d'armee* will add to those vict