THE WAR NEWS.

CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.

he was directed to cross the Antietam with his corps and push forward into the engagement. The order was obeyed with promptitude, General Sumner himself, by his personal presence, keeping his columns well closed up, and after his lines were formed urging them forward to the front. The corps came upon the field in three lines—Sedgwick's division on the right, French's on the left, and Richardson's considerably in the rear. The corps went into action on the left of General Hooker's.

GENERAL SEDGWICK'S DIVISION.

General Sumner, on arriving on the field, found General Hooker wounded and his command being pressed back by superior numbers. As the corps advanced in three division lines, so the first division (General Sedgwick's) went into the battle in three brigade lines, General Gorman's brigade constituting the first, General Dana's the second and General Howard's the third. They formed in rear of the position occupied by Hooker on the evening previous, and then marched up to the front until the three lines, one behind the other, and about a hundred paces apart, were brought under the enemy's fire. When these troops had been placed in position it was perceived that the enemy had been fast extending his line of battle to his right—our left—and a gap existed, where he was coming in heavy force to flank General Hooker's left, while we had no troops there to oppose him. When General Sedgwick became acquainted with the position of matters in his immediate front, he ordered the Thirty-fourth New York regiment to march by the left flank to meet this flanking force of the enemy. While thus marching to the left, the regiment was exposed to a double fire, receiving a fire both on the flank and front.

A GRAND REBEL ASSAULT.

This unexpected greeting, before it had formed into position, had a very disastrous effect. The regiment immediately broke, and the consequence was that the first line retired in confusion to the rear, carrying the second line away with it. This mass of fugitive soldiers falling on the third line had almost the effect of breaking it also, and scattering the whole division in confusion over the field. A portion of Baxter's Zouaves in the third line did break; but the remainder of the regiment and of the brigade held its ground and met the onslaught of the enemy. The officers did all that mortal men could do to reorganize the terrified troops and put them forward into their original position; but the force of the enemy was tremendous. Captain Howe and Lieutenant Whittier, of General Sedgwick's staff, were prominent among those who attempted to rally them. They succeeded in rallying a portion of the Thirty-fourth and re-establishing it in action; but it had already lost many of its choicest officers. This remnant of the Thirty-fourth was rallied round its colors and conducted to the front, on the left of Howard's brigade.

GENERAL SEDGWICK WAS WOUNDED

while gallantly urging the men in his division to fearlessly face the foe, no matter though the rebels came with such superior numbers. At the time he was shot he was far in the advance, right in the thickest of the battle, close by his forward line. He was wounded in two places, one ball striking his wrist and the other his neck. Reluctant to leave the field, he remained two hours after he was wounded, when he was taken off, and the gallant General Howard, who lost one arm in the service at the battle of Fair Oaks, assumed command of the division. Major Sedgwick, Assistant Adjutant, and nephew of the General, was seriously, and it is believed mortally, wounded.

GENERAL SUMNER

was one of the prominent personages on the field. Though he is a veteran commander, the weight of years seems to rest lightly on him, the vicissitudes of a campaign do not inconvenience him, and he comes upon the field apparently with all the vigor of more youthful generals. General Sumner, accompanied by his staff officers, was in the hottest of the fire, conducted himself in a most commendable manner, and succeeded in rallying many men who had become disorganized. General Sumner will fight while a drop of blood is left in him.

GENERAL DANA WAS SLIGHTLY WOUNDED

at the head of his brigade, when the fearful front and enfilading fire of the enemy caused our lines to waver. The wound, however, is not dangerous. It is a flesh wound in the leg by a musket ball, and the General hopes to resume command of his brigade again before the present campaign is ended.

THE COMMAND WAS ORDERED TO RETIRE

to the piece of woods in front of which it had been fighting. In obedience to this order of General Sumner, General Sedgwick's division fell back and reorganized in the woods, about three hundred yards to the rear, where the line of battle was formed again. The division, however, performed little efficient service after that.

ARTILLERY FIRING.

While it was reforming in the edge of the woods, Captain Kirby's battery came up, and Gen. Sedgwick, after he was wounded, placed it in position. The battery opened a sharp fire with spherical case, effectually driving back a force of the enemy which was seen advancing. Kirby's battery was supported by the One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Pennsylvania Volunteers, so that the enemy did not attempt to take it. Simpson's and Hooper's batteries, which were in position on the brow of an adjacent hill, opened on a brigade of rebels that was fast bearing down towards Gen. Sumner's right. The nature of the country gave full sweep to the artillery, and the rebels retired before its raking fire. Those troops were subsequently relieved by Gen. Franklin's corps.

THE LOSS WAS HEAVY.

It is a principle in war that when troops falter, before even a fearful fire, the loss is more severe than it would be if they stood by their planted colors, and bravely fought the foe, however great his numbers, until support arrived. Colonel Wistar, who lost the use of his right arm at Ball's Bluff, was wounded in the other yesterday, and will probably find amputation necessary. In the Fifteenth Massachusetts regiment nine officers were killed and wounded out of seventeen on duty. Company E of that regiment went into the battle with forty-three men, out of which number five were killed and twenty-three were wounded.

THE COLORS

are always carefully guarded by their bearers, and when one color bearer is shot down and the colors fall, another man immediately grasps them, lifts them to the breeze and carries them either till he is stricken to the earth himself or bears them off in triumph from the field. An interesting instance of that kind occurred in the battle yesterday. The color sergeant of the Fifteenth Massachusetts regiment was shot dead. He fell with the colors in his hand. The flag was instantly caught by his comrade, who, sad to say, had scarcely raised them in the line when a bullet killed the comrade also, and again the colors fell. A third time they were raised to the battle breeze, and were carried from the field when the regiment retired. One interesting incident was observed on the rebel side. Our troops had broken the enemy's line, stricken down the rebel flag, and were steadily advancing over the disputed ground. The rebel color bearer had fallen, mortally wounded. As he fell he caught the colors which were falling from his hands and grasped them tightly with his fast failing strength. Another rebel took the colors from the wounded man and bore them off. Numerous instances of similar devotion and bravery were found on either side.

GENERAL FRENCH'S DIVISION

which has just been organized as a part of General Sumner's corps, is composed of General Kimball's veteran troops, a brigade of raw recruits under Colonel Morris, and Max Weber's splendid command. When the heavy firing had been heard in front, Sedgwick's and French's divisions marched in parallel columns across Antietam creek—Richardson's division not crossing for nearly an hour afterwards. French formed his division in three lines on the left of Sedgwick's: General Max Weber's fine brigade formed the first line; the new troops, under Col. Morris, the middle line, and Gen. Kimball's command the last. Thus the new soldiers were placed between two brigades of splendidly disciplined soldiers. The right of this division line rested on a fine plantation, with its group of houses in the hollow. Each line was over half a mile in length and about fifty yards from the other. The lines of the two divisions moved forward almost simultaneously, until they encountered the vast force of the enemy, which immediately opened with infantry and artillery. None of our artillery in front of this division had got into position, and the infantry performed the important service which followed alone. Our troops moved forward from the ravine or hollow, up the rising ground, for the purpose of carrying the crest of the hill upon which the enemy was posted. They moved forward rapidly at first; but the fire was so fearful in front of General Sedgwick that the left of his line, it will be remembered, retired, leaving a wide gap on the right of General French's. He pushed forward a regiment from General Kimball's brigade, in the third line, to prevent the left flank of the division being turned, and, at the more rapid pressing front towards the right, General French met the enemy, who was advancing through the gap, and successfully engaged him for a time. Whilst this was being done Richardson's division, to which I shall refer anon, came upon the field and went into the action. The Irish brigade was sent forward as a first supporting line. It rushed forward with impetuosity, and with great zeal gained the crest. Colonel Burk's brigade was then ordered up, and assisted in driving the enemy away. Changing front to the right, a portion of Richardson's division was thus enabled to assist Kimball's brigade in the adjoining division in charging upon the enemy and capturing a large number of prisoners. In the meantime General McClellan had sent forward part of General Franklin's corps to the support of Sumner's left, which was pressed by the enemy, with directions to hold the position at every sacrifice until still further support should arrive. In the contemplated flanking movement, however, the enemy was signally defeated. Our troops moved straight forward up the hill, the artillery opening from the house in the hollow at first, then in the cornfield to the left, and then from the crest of the hill. The rebels were driven from the summit down by the left flank; but they only went off in that direction to try the virtue of an attempt at a flanking movement on the left. Our left was at that time exposed. General Kimball's brigade changed front to meet them. Before his fire they halted, and, finding the attempt at flanking to be fruitless, returned again to the centre of the line, and made a final dash at the point in front of the plantation with its group of houses.

GENERAL MAX WEBER WOUNDED.

In this encounter General Max Weber, a splendid officer, was wounded in the arm, which will be amputated. He was gallantly leading his men at the time. The general conducted himself with conspicuous bravery until he was wounded. His fine brigade took a number of prisoners. Colonel Oakford, of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Pennsylvania, was among the prominent officers killed. General French's division has lost perhaps fifteen hundred men.

GENERAL RICHARDSON'S DIVISION

had by this time gotten fairly into action, as will have been seen by the above account, and bore the brunt of the attempt of the enemy to cut our line. The division went into action on the left of General French, but subsequently changed its position. The division was deployed in line of battle by brigades, in the same manner that the other divisions had been deployed. The Irish brigade, under General Meagher, took the lead to the right, General Caldwell's brigade followed, and General French's old brigade, under Colonel Burk, came last. When the division arrived upon the ground the enemy were engaging French in the ploughed field in the hollow, and with flags floating presented double front in column. In obedience to orders of General Richardson, who personally superintended every movement of his division until he was wounded,

THE IRISH BRIGADE

was directed by General Meagher to charge up the hill upon the enemy. The Sixty-ninth New York and Twenty-ninth were instructed to charge the column of the enemy upon the right, and the Eighty-eighth and Sixty-third New York to charge upon the left. The Sixty-ninth and Twenty-ninth obeyed this order in most gallant style, until Lieutenant Colonel Kelly, of the Sixty-ninth, was shot in the face, which caused a slight hesitation in the regiment. Instead of charging, however, the regiment then took up position on the ascending ground, and directed a continuous fire upon the enemy. In the same manner the Eighty-eighth and Sixty-third, on the left, advanced in unbroken line, until within fifty paces of the enemy, and, owing to some misconception of orders, halted, and there received and delivered volley after volley, and continued firing until the enemy had been driven from the ground.

THE OTHER BRIGADES

in the division participated in the attack, and the result was that the enemy's formidable column was driven from his position, and we occupied the crests of the chain of hills. It was beautiful to see the Stars and Stripes planted on the hilltops, in defiance of the treasonable flag of the rebels, which had been driven off by the deadly fire of our men. The Irish brigade, as well as the other troops in the division, behaved in handsome style. The Fifth New Hampshire regiment captured some rebel colors. The Irish brigade lost many valuable officers, the names of whom will appear in the list of killed and wounded. Gen. Meagher was not wounded, as was at first reported among his men. His horse was shot, and in the fall slightly bruised the General, which gave rise to the statement that he was wounded.

GENERAL RICHARDSON WAS WOUNDED

while directing the fire of one of his batteries. He was dismounted, and in an exposed, perhaps an imprudent position, when he was hit in the shoulder by a piece of shrapnel. The wound was painful, but not dangerous. It was sufficient, however, to deprive the General of the pleasure of commanding his men during the remainder of the action. He was carried off and placed in the house with General Hooker. General Hancock, commanding a brigade in Smith's division, was ordered by General McClellan to take command of General Richardson's division until the close of the battle.

A SPLENDID ARTILLERY ATTACK.

About five o'clock in the afternoon the rebels undertook for the third time to establish a battery in a cornfield opposite a part of General Sumner's line. The battery opened with shot and shell. The rebels came out with one section in the field and directed the attention of our artillerists to the two guns, while they placed four pieces at a more favorable point, on open ground, and blazed away at us. Then all our batteries in that vicinity, arranged in semi-circular order, on the brow of a commanding hill, brought a concentrated fire of twenty-six pieces upon them. In a very few moments the rebels were compelled either to lose their guns or retire. They immediately chose the latter course, leaving us "master of the situation."

THE CONTENTION AND CARNAGE IN A CORN FIELD.

During the progress of the battle near the centre of our line there was a certain corn field which was the scene of great contention as well as carnage. At first, when the battle was begun, the rebels held it, but they were driven away, and the field was occupied by our men. Receiving reinforcements, the enemy advanced again to the original position, and the odds against them made it prudent for our soldiers to relinquish for a time the spot their bravery had fairly won. It was only for a time, however, for at a subsequent period in the battle, when our line was stronger, our troops dashed forward again, drove the rebels out a second time, and proudly held the corn field again; but only for a time again. Once more the enemy came forward in gallant style, a desperate struggle followed, and our troops were once more compelled to retire. By this time the field was well trampled down and the rebels revelled among the broken stalks. But finally, only for a time. When General Franklin's division, which had been in the reserve, came forward in the afternoon, a portion of the troops in General Smith's division when placed in front went forward in their freshness, drove the enemy away for the third time, and after all the contention and carnage, strewn as it is with the killed on either side, we hold the cornfield now.

GENERAL FRANKLIN'S CORPS.

This corps had marched up from Crampton's Pass, and arrived on the ground while the battle was progressing. Smith's division was pushed to the front, on the right of Gen. Sumner, after Sedgwick's division had been repulsed by the enemy. General Hancock's brigade occupied the right, Colonel Irwin's brigade in the centre, and General Brooks' brigade on the left. This division was severely engaged for some time, with the rebel troops which had driven back our line in that portion of the field. The several brigades went into the battle bravely, fought with great determination to recover all our lost ground, and partially succeeded, so as to leave us in full possession of the field where the line at that point had been formed in the morning. I am told, although I have not seen him, and therefore cannot speak with authority upon the matter, that General Brooks was slightly wounded in the action. The deadliest fire of the enemy fell upon the centre, where Colonel Irwin's brigade was posted. The whole division suffered considerable; but the loss in that brigade was heaviest. General Franklin's corps slept on the battle field, General Smith in front, prepared to renew the contest with undiminished valor when the morning should have dawned. The morning came, however, but no opportunity for battle was presented.

GENERAL FITZ JOHN PORTER'S CORPS.

This corps was also on the field, but, like that of General Franklin, had but a slight participation in the action. It was anticipated, however, that an important part might have to be performed by that splendid corps, which embraces some of the best troops in the service, including the regular United States soldiers. Had Burnside not been able, unaided, to perform the part assigned him, Porter's corps would have been called upon to complete what Burnside's soldiers had begun. However, two regiments of the regulars, the Second and Fourteenth infantry, were deployed as skirmishers on the extreme left of General Sumner's line. Some batteries of artillery posted in the rear were shelling the enemy's position, and these regulars kept up a constant popping all the afternoon. They did not become closely engaged with any large body of the enemy, but steadily maintained the place assigned them, and were ready at any moment to take a more active part in this the great battle of the campaign. The skirmishers killed quite a number of the enemy, and the two regiments which were deployed as skirmishers lost a few men. The regulars and the remainder of Foster's corps are fresh for another battle; but as it is reported this afternoon that the enemy are in precipitate retreat, it is doubtful whether another great engagement will take place immediately.

GENERAL BURNSIDE'S CORPS.

The army corps of the brave and popular General Burnside performed the important part in the great battle of Antietam. His corps had taken the main road to Sharpsburg on the left—the village lying on the rebel side, about the centre of our line—and had to encounter the most determined opposition in successfully executing that part of McClellan's plan to which it had been assigned. I had but a distant view of that portion of the battle field, and regret to state that at this moment it will be impossible for me to give more than a general outline of the operation of his corps. Burnside had Antietam creek between him and the enemy, while the enemy, posted in strong force and favorable positions, held the heights beyond. It was important to the consummation of Gen. McClellan's plan that he should cross the creek with his corps and dislodge the enemy. The stream was spanned by a fine stone bridge, which joined the turnpike. This bridge had not been destroyed, but it was well defended by rebel infantry and artillery. An attempt was made to storm the bridge and take it, but our troops were repulsed with heavy loss. But the creek must be crossed, the bridge must be carried, the enemy must be dislodged, and the battle, at every other point successful on our side, must be successful also at this, and ere the sunlight shall have faded a glorious victory crown the Union arms. General Burnside understood it. He made another attempt, with a similar disastrous result. But the position must be carried—the battle of Antietam must be won. At what more appropriate point was the conclusion of the contest to be waged than on the very borders of the creek, and at the bridge across it, from which the battle—which will be one of the greatest known in history—derives its euphonious name? General Burnside resolved upon a third attempt, and he commanded the assault in person. A tremendous force was hurled against this important point, the bridge was stormed and carried, the blood of the killed and wounded soldiers mingled with the waters of the creek, our victorious troops crossed the bridge in force, formed in line on the other side, advanced against the enemy, dislodged him from his position on the heights, and was driving him steadily before them.

THE CLOSE OF THE BATTLE.

Late in the afternoon, when I rode again towards the left of the line, the battle scene, illuminated by the blaze of artillery and infantry fire, looked splendid still. Our batteries were posted on the crests of the rising ground, over which the enemy had been driven a few hours before. The view was really magnificent. It reminded me of the beautiful battle field of Malvern hill.

For some time there had been a partial cessation of fire on either side. There were, however, occasional discharges of artillery. But about four o'clock the batteries which crowned the crests in the centre of the line, and those still further to the left, where Burnside was contending for the bridge, belched forth with fearful fury again, and some of the scenes of the morning hours were repeated. The shells from both the enemy's batteries and ours were bursting above us, the fragments flying with an ominous whistle in all directions, or ploughing up the ground and scattering the dust over regiments in reserve and officers riding on the field. Some of the enemy's artillery, posted beyond the crest on rising ground and on the edge of a piece of woods, threw shot and shell thick and fast over into our lines. A cleared space spread out between the belligerent batteries, on which it was momentarily expected the opposing lines of infantry would be seriously engaged again. The skirmishers in front on different parts of the field were popping at a hostile head wherever it appeared. It was a scene which is seldom witnessed in a lifetime, the troops in full view along the line of battle, the batteries blazing away from the elevated land, and the forces in the fields within the circle of our lines expecting every moment to be ordered to the front again and put into the battle.

Half an hour later a sharp fire of musketry broke out about the centre of the line. Then everybody appeared more immediately interested in the conclusion of the battle. Men who were lying on their arms sprang to their feet, seized their muskets, and in a moment were prepared to meet the enemy if he should suddenly dash out in our front. A dense column of smoke now arose from a house which had been set on fire by shells from the batteries, the curling column ascending like a pillar of cloud, until its summit was hidden in the clouds that were settling down from above. Soon the flames burst out, and a sweeping column of flame, like a pillar of fire, arose close by the one of smoke. The fire from our artillery increased rather than diminished towards the right of our centre, and, indeed, the whole line was briskly engaged, the artillery and the skirmishers; but the main forces on either side were not hotly and closely contending against each other, as they had been in the morning. The signal flags at different stations, waving with great rapidity, telling generals at remote points how the battle was going, and the Stars and Stripes and regimental standards carried by our troops in line and moving across the fields, floating in the breeze, with the rebel stars and bars and the rebel regimental battle flags, which I could distinctly distinguish with the naked eye waving in the distance, all contributed considerably to increase the beauty and brilliancy of the exciting scene. At this moment I was with a general officer on the brow of an adjacent hill, under fire from the enemy's artillery. A shell exploded some distance in front of us, and a fragment coming right in range struck the ground and ricocheted over our heads, how close I will not say; but close enough to instantly convince a number of persons on the hill that that spot would thenceforward be and was even then decidedly dangerous. It was now perceived that the rebels were endeavoring, under a sharp artillery fire, to push a heavy cloud of their skirmishers forward on the left, followed by their lines deployed and columns en masse, as they had advanced before. But our batteries in front kept them back, and as an additional precaution Captain Owen's battery was ordered into position on a hill in order to rake at longer range any rebel force that might advance in front of that position. This opportunity did not offer, however, and the battery was not brought into action on that occasion. By this time another house was blazing a little to the right of the other, and both columns of flame and smoke between the belligerents kept constantly ascending to the sky. Burnside was fast driving the enemy, and he was being assisted in every possible manner by the artillery on the hills to the right of his position. At length his vigorous attack and steady advance was at last successful, the Union arms had been successful along the lines from right to left, and the battle of Antietam was won.

GENERAL M'CLELLAN AT THE BATTLE.

The gallant commander of the Union army in the field was the controlling spirit of the whole affair. He was at times at his headquarters, established for the day upon the commanding hill I have referred to, and at others in this portion of the field or that, to the right or left, as the exigencies of the hour demanded. When the intrepid General Hooker was wounded, during the morning, Gen. McClellan rode over to the right of the line, and inspired the troops with confidence, by his presence. He was everywhere attended by his aids, who rendered him efficient service. They were constantly proceeding to different commanders in the field, to receive more detailed reports of how the contest was progressing, or to carry instructions from the General commanding, requesting changes in the then existing position of the troops. When he rode off to the right, attended by members of his staff and a cavalry escort, the enemy opened a battery in full range of the General and his party. Several of the shells struck among them, the horses pranced and danced about, and a lively scene ensued. Two horses among his body guard were killed; some of the infantry soldiers in line near by were wounded by the explosion of the shells, but fortunately neither the General nor any of the gentlemen on his staff were injured. At another time, shortly after, when one of our regiments wavered where the fire from the enemy was severest, it is said that General McClellan plunged over the intervening fence and rallied them himself. Had our lines given way at that critical moment, and the enemy rushed in, the consequences might have been decidedly disastrous. As it is, however, a brilliant victory, though not a decisive battle, has been most bravely won. General McClellan, by his reticence when he was assailed by enemies among us, displayed a quality of greatness which has been admired by all. When he met the enemies of the republic on a fair field of battle, with something like adequate forces, his splendid military genius and consummate skill enabled our army to utterly defeat the rebels and achieve a glorious victory.

THE BATTLE FIELD THIS MORNING

presents a horrid spectacle. Ambulances are going to and fro in all directions bringing in the wounded, which still lie upon the field in thousands. All the houses, barns and sheds in the vicinity are used as hospitals, and even now are entirely inadequate to contain them. Detachments from the various regiments that had been engaged in the contest can be seen in various portions of the field burying their slaughtered comrades. Crowds of curious citizens from all the surrounding country where the sound of the cannon went, have come on horseback and in carriages to feast their curious and wondering eyes on the heartrending scene. This morning the contending armies remain in the same position they had assumed last night when the battle ended. Our pickets are advanced so as to have embraced hundreds of the rebel dead and wounded within our lines. It is wonderful to see the havoc of human life that was consummated yesterday. In several instances I have seen the rebel dead lying in line of battle where they fell, and scattered in all directions besides, showing that the slaughter was tremendous. Our loss was heavy, although it is difficult to make an approximately accurate estimate even yet. That of the enemy, however, if the appearance of the field during the progress of the battle, and on this morning, can be the evidence, must have been very much greater than our own. Both parties have been engaged all the morning in burying their dead and attending to their wounded.

A TRUCE AND A MISUNDERSTANDING.

It was stated that General Lee, commanding the rebel forces, had sent in a flag of truce to General McClellan this morning, asking permission to bury his dead and take in his wounded. But such is not the case. No flag of truce was sent by either side during all the morning. On the contrary, sharpshooters were stationed on the outposts, and when parties from either side came too near the outer line in search of killed or wounded, the sharpshooters would crack away at them. It was dangerous business to engage in—gathering in the killed and wounded. I saw several poor fellows just beyond the positions of the pickets lying wounded on the field and piteously pleading for assistance, which it was dangerous to render. This afternoon, however, there was some conversation between officers of the opposing armies relative to an armistice, which I will explain in detail. It appears that some tender hearted Colonel, thinking that provision must immediately be made for the succor of the wounded who were lying on the field just beyond the picket lines, authorized one of his lieutenants to display a flag of truce for the purpose of suggesting that the sharpshooters desist from firing on men who were simply engaged in picking up the wounded. The lieutenant appeared on the crest of a hill in front, displaying his flag of truce. About the same time another officer, in an adjacent portion of the field, also displayed a flag of truce. They were soon perceived and acknowledged by the enemy. The Union officers went down to the confederate lines and had a conference with the rebel officers who met them. It appears that our officers, having been sent without any recognized authority, had no distinct proposition to make, but simply suggested the suspension of hostilities until the dead were buried and the wounded cared for. Now, there were vastly larger numbers of the rebels killed and wounded within our picket lines than within the picket lines of the enemy. The rebel officer, not understanding the precise conditions of the indicated armistice, sent word to his superior officer, who came upon the ground in person to inquire into the matter. He proved to be General Roger A. Pryor, of Virginia, commander of a brigade, but now, as he said, in temporary command of a division. The bearers of the flags of truce could not make themselves any more intelligible to General Pryor than to the other officer. At length word was sent to the headquarters of General Hancock, who, after General Richardson was wounded yesterday, was assigned to the command of this division, which, as it appears, confronts the one on the rebel side commanded by General Pryor, that a flag of truce appeared in front. He sent one of his aids to receive it, and bring to him whatever proposition the rebel commander might wish to make. When the aid conversed with Pryor, it came out for the first time to our knowledge that the flag of truce had emanated from our side. In the meantime, however, Gen. Thomas Francis Meagher was sent by Gen. Hancock to represent the Union army in the matter. The Union and rebel generals—who, by the way, are old acquaintances—met on the neutral ground and had quite an interesting conversation. General Pryor was dressed in the homeliest manner, with blue pants, gray shirt, and a loose homespun coat, without the least insignia to indicate his rank as a general. General Meagher, on the contrary, was attired in appropriate uniform, of such texture and finish as his aristocratic tastes would naturally lead him to display. There was quite a contrast in the matter of costume between the generals. When the interchange of civilities was ended, and the purposes of the meeting of the generals were mentioned, a conversation ensued which disclosed the fact that the truce had been displayed on our side without the least authority from any proper source, and was by General Meagher, on our behalf, distinctly and indignantly repudiated. Gen. Hancock sent word to the effect that it was sent without his sanction or his knowledge, and that the guilty parties would be found and punished. Then it was suggested by General Pryor that if we wished to enter into any such arrangement in the proper manner he had no doubt the commanding general of the Confederate forces would accede to any reasonable proposition we might make. This was a rather cool statement for General Pryor to make, when so many more of the confederate killed and wounded than of our own were within our picket lines. Of course, he was immediately informed that we had no proposition whatever to make; but General Meagher in turn remarked that if the Confederate commander, moved by the feelings of humanity which might prompt him in the matter, should desire and request a brief suspension of hostilities for the purpose of enabling him to bring in the wounded, he had no doubt no objection would be interposed on our side. But Pryor said he had no proposition to make. General Meagher as promptly replied that he had none. And so it was agreed between them that the whole affair was a proceeding caused by the carelessness of subordinate officers and was entirely annulled. The interview was friendly, and was conducted in a pleasant and dignified manner throughout. Some of the rebel officers who accompanied General Pryor were Irishmen. They entered into conversation with General Meagher. It was interesting to see men of the same nationality, and of a foreign country, arrayed on the opposing lines in this civil contest.

"It's a pity that we're fighting each other," said Gen. Meagher, "instead of whipping the world." The Irish officer laughed, and made an appropriate humorous reply, to the effect that the Irish fought the best on either side. When the interview was ended the parties retired within their respective lines.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF THE BATTLE.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 20, 1862.

A despatch, just received by mail, from the Antietam battle field, dated Wednesday, eight o'clock P. M., gives an account of that day's battle, most of the particulars of which have already been published. The following additional points, however, are given:—

As General McClellan rode along the line he was most vociferously cheered, which attracted the attention of the rebels, when they commenced throwing shells, some of which fell in the ranks of the 128th Pennsylvania regiment, and they began to fall back; but Gen. McClellan himself rallied them, and they soon regained their former steadiness.

No prisoners were taken from us by the rebels. Our forces took one Georgia regiment entire. The total number of rebel prisoners captured is at least twelve hundred.

One piece of woods, after being desperately fought for four hours, was at last gained by our troops. It contains at least fifteen hundred dead of both sides, and presents a most terrible spectacle.

Our wounded are being cared for in the best way possible, but there is nothing like enough doctors here.

Captain Myers, of the Fourteenth New York regiment, was wounded.

The Fourteenth Connecticut regiment lost largely. Five color bearers were shot while it was engaged. Capt. Willard was killed. The regiment held their position for half an hour under a heavy cross fire, and finally fell back to a better position.

The Thirty-fourth New York regiment were flanked by two rebel regiments, but they succeeded in cutting their way out, although losing many men in doing so.

Colonel Hinks, of the Seventy-ninth Massachusetts regiment, who had just returned to his command, after getting well of the wounds he received at Nelson's Farm, was again badly wounded while at the head of his regiment.

Major Bloomsberger, of the Fifth Maryland Regiment, was wounded in the thigh. Capt. Bamberger was wounded in the breast. Lieut. Matley was killed. This regiment lost heavily.

Col. Childs, of the Fourth Pennsylvania Cavalry, acting as brigadier general, was killed while rallying his men.

General Thomas Francis Meagher was wounded slightly. His brigade is stated to have lost heavily.

Colonel Kelly, of the Sixty-ninth New York regiment, was wounded in the face.

Captain Duffy, Lieutenant Williams and Lieutenant Kelly, of the Sixty-ninth regiment, were killed. Lieut. Nagle was wounded. This regiment did nobly, losing half its force.

Captain Watson, of the First Delaware regiment, was killed. Captain Richards was killed. Captain Yardley was badly wounded. Captain Woodell was badly wounded. Lieutenant Gemmall was badly wounded. Lieutenant Shafer was wounded in the face. Lieutenant Colonel Hopkinson was wounded.

General Max Weber was wounded while leading his men into the fight.

Lieut. Wilson, of the One Hundred and Eighth New York regiment, sprained his back in getting over a fence, in his hurry to chase the enemy.

Major Force, of Rochester, of the One Hundred and Eighth New York, was killed.

Major Tarbox, of the One Hundred and Eighth New York, was killed.

Lieutenant Draper, aid to General Richardson, received a ball in each leg.

Lieutenant Mackey, of Gederal Meagher's staff, was wounded.

The Eleventh Pennsylvania Reserves were badly cut up.

Captain Kissler was wounded.

Lieutenant Resinger, of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Pennsylvania regiment, was wounded in the leg.

Lieutenant Jones was wounded in the thigh.

General Dana was wounded.

Lieutenant James M. Welsh, of the Pennsylvania Bucktail regiment, was mortally wounded.

Major Cross, of the Second Pennsylvania reserves, was killed.

A STATEMENT FROM THE BATTLE FIELD.

The following despatch has been received from the District Attorney of Philadelphia, now at Harrisburg:—

HARRISBURG, Sept. 20, 1862.

The accounts of the battle of Sharpsburg do not give any satisfactory results to the public. I was on the battle field and saw it all. It was a decisive victory and a splendid triumph. General McClellan's modesty has prevented him from letting the American people know what the army has really accomplished.

WILLIAM B. MANN.

THE TRUTH OF HISTORY.

THE SURRENDER OF HARPER'S FERRY.

Our Frederick Correspondence.

THE FACTS OF THE CASE—COLONEL MILES NOT A TRAITOR—THE TOPOGRAPHY OF HARPER'S FERRY—ITS DEFENCES—GENERAL WHITE'S EVACUATION OF MARYINSBURG AND FALLING BACK TO HARPER'S FERRY—GENERAL WHITE WAIVES HIS PRIVILEGE OF RIGHT TO TAKE COMMAND—HOW MARYLAND HEIGHTS WERE TAKEN BY THE REBELS—THE OPERATIONS OF SATURDAY, SUNDAY AND MONDAY—TERMS OF CAPITULATION, ETC.

FREDERICK, Md., Sept. 18, 1862.

The surrender of Harper's Ferry, at a time when our army on the Maryland side of the Potomac was steadily defeating the rebel forces and driving them back to the river, has, of course, caused much mortification and surprise, not only to the public generally, but also to those who were engaged in its defence who did not fully appreciate the situation. Not only the private soldiers but many officers, have consequently not only believed but publicly stated, that this disaster occurred in consequence of the weakness or treachery of Colonel D. S. Miles, commanding the post, who has gone to his final account from wounds received while in the discharge of his duties, and cannot, therefore, vindicate his fair fame from such foul aspersions, and the task is thus far left to those of his companions in arms who, from their rank and position, have the means of knowing all the facts, and can speak understandingly of the matter.

From an officer of high rank, who was present and participated in the three days' defence, which unfortunately terminated in the surrender of the place, I have been able to obtain these facts, which fully vindicate Colonel Miles from any charge of treachery or precipitancy in that surrender.

To understand the situation it is necessary to know that Harper's Ferry and Bolivar Heights are commanded by the Maryland Heights on the north, the London Heights on the east, and an elevated plateau of land near the Shenandoah on the southeast, and high lands directly south, and to maintain the position it was absolutely necessary that these should all be occupied and fortified. At the time of the attack there were no fortifications upon these, with the exception of the Maryland Heights, and upon these heights the earthworks were not at the summit, but about half way down the side.

There was for the defence of the place a garrison of about nine thousand men, which was the total force under the command of Colonel Miles, and inadequate to its successful defence against an attack from a large body of men, well supplied with artillery.

In addition to these forces, on the evening of September 12, General Julius White, who had previously been ordered by General Wool to hold Martinsburg with a small force as long as practicable, and, when the position became untenable, to evacuate, had, in accordance with his instructions, evacuated that place and retreated to Harper's Ferry, which was the only course left open for him, the rebels being in such force and position as to prevent his moving westward. His forces consisted of the Twelfth Illinois cavalry, Sixty-fifth regiment Illinois and One Hundred and Twenty-fifth regiment New York infantry, and Phillips' battery (four guns), of the Second Illinois artillery.

On the 13th inst. Gen. White addressed a note to Col. Miles, reporting his arrival, and informing him that although, as his superior in rank, he of course could supersede him in the command of the post, he should decline to deprive him of his command, more especially as he believed the interests of the service would not be promoted thereby. He, however, tendered the services of himself and officers to aid in any manner in their power in defence of the place.

This magnanimous course was fully appreciated by Col. Miles, who, in a general order, acknowledged the same in a very feeling and complimentary manner, and assigned General White to the second command, which he held throughout the three days' defence, and was actively employed in his duties during the whole time.

On Saturday the enemy attacked the works on the Maryland Heights in strong force. These works were erected to repel an attack from the opposite side of the river, and were not calculated, as will readily be seen from their position, to sustain an attack from the Maryland side. The enemy actually did obtain possession of the crest of the heights in the rear of the earthworks; but they were held at bay by the garrison until the ammunition for their long range guns gave out. The possession of these heights was a question of numbers. Had the whole force at Harper's Ferry been sent across to defend them, the enemy would then, of course, have thrown his whole strength against the works upon the other side and captured them. It was, therefore, decided to abandon the Maryland Heights, which was accordingly done, in good order.

The public are now familiar with the proceedings on Sunday, when the enemy's batteries occupied the Maryland and London Heights, and an infantry attack was also made on the Charlestown turnpike. Gen. White commanded our forces in that affair, and the enemy were repulsed and driven back. Thus a respite was obtained for a few hours more to afford a chance for the arrival of the reinforcements which were hourly expected to relieve the place, but which did not actually reach that vicinity until thirty eight hours after the surrender. When night closed upon the scene the ammunition for the long range guns was running very short, and it was evident that unless succor soon came it would be too late.

Monday morning showed that the enemy had not been idle during the night. They had arranged their batteries so as to entirely surround our positions. From seven batteries, comprising forty-six guns, they opened fire upon our positions. Shot and shell flew about in all directions, and all but one of their batteries was out of range of any but our heavy artillery. Their infantry, in great numbers, was massed in the woods, out of range, but ready at any time to repel any attempt to take their batteries by a charge. The alteration in the positions of the enemy's batteries necessitated a corresponding change in the location of our long range guns to enable them to be used with effect. This change was made under the fire of the enemy's batteries under the personal direction and supervision of Gen. White. Of these there were only nine to reply to the rebel batteries. Of smaller guns and of ammunition therefor there were plenty; but these could not be used effectively.

The fight was continued until all the ammunition for the long range guns was expended and the garrison was practically powerless to reply to the enemy's fire. At this time Gen. White reported to Col. Miles what he had done and the facts. Col. Miles then held a consultation with his principal officers as to what had best be done under the circumstances. They were unanimously of the opinion that it was useless to attempt to defend the place longer, there being no signs of the expected reinforcements, and their positions all completely surrounded by the enemy's batteries. Accordingly Colonel Miles decided to surrender, and requested Gen. White to act as commissioner on his behalf to negotiate the terms upon which it should be made.

Some of the more distant of the rebel batteries did not seem to observe the white flag which had been displayed, but continued firing for about half an hour afterwards, and it was during this time that Col. Miles received the wound which caused his death.

On behalf of the rebels General A. P. Hill met General White, and terms of capitulation were agreed upon. These stipulated that the garrison, with all the munitions of war, public property, &c., should be surrendered to General A. P. Hill, on behalf of the Confederate States army; the officers and men to be paroled, and the officers to retain their side arms and personal property. It was also agreed that the terms of surrender should not include those soldiers of the Confederate States who, having been regularly enlisted, had deserted and taken service in the United States army.

General White proposed that this clause should not apply to those whose service in the rebel army had been compulsory; but this was not allowed, whereupon he protested, in the name of the United States, against any construction other than that proposed by him.

It was also verbally agreed between the commissioners, at General White's instance, that the private soldiers should be permitted to retain their knapsacks, blankets, &c., giving up only their arms and cartridge boxes. It was also verbally agreed that all Union refugees and Union citizens at Harper's Ferry should not be molested, and refugees who desired to do so should be allowed to return to their homes. These agreements were on the part of the rebels respected and carried out.

THE CASUALTIES.

Additional Names of the Killed and Wounded at the Battles of South Mountain, Harper's Ferry and of the Valley of Antietam.

SECOND REGIMENT UNITED STATES SHARP SHOOTERS.

Captain Chase, Co. A, wounded in leg; Lieutenant Whitman, Co. B, leg amputated, since dead; Lieutenant Goest, Co. B, back; Lieutenant Leahy, Co. C, knee; Sergeant Major Shoup, shoulder.

Company A—Sergeant Jones, neck; privates Corwin, leg; Charlton, knee; Dickey, hand; Liv