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THE VICTORY IN LOUISIANA.

The Battle at Sabine Cross Roads.

GALLANTRY OF GENERAL BANKS

THE STRUGGLE AT PLEASANT HILL.

VALOR OF THE TROOPS.

THREE DAYS' DESPERATE FIGHTING.

When General A. J. Smith Came Into Action and What He Accomplished.

The Grand Charge and Overthrow of the Enemy.

GUNS LOST AND RETAKEN.

East and West Fight Shoulder to Shoulder with New York and Pennsylvania.

THE CAMPAIGN A UNION SUCCESS

INCIDENTS OF THE BATTLES.

NAMES OF THE KILLED AND WOUNDED.

IMPORTANT RESULTS.

&c., &c., &c.

The steamship Mississippi, Captain Kennedy, arrived yesterday morning from New Orleans, whence she left on the 16th instant. She brings the details of the great victory obtained by General Banks over the rebels in Louisiana.

The steamship Evening Star, Captain Bell, which started the next morning, arrived yesterday afternoon.

Mr. William Young's Despatches.

CAMP'S CORNER, LA., April 8, 1864.

I have already sent forward some particulars relating to the cavalry skirmish on the road from Natchitoches to this point yesterday. There are other points to be mentioned possessing interest to the friends of the Fourteenth New York cavalry and to the public generally.

INCIDENTS OF THE FIGHT.

At one time, after Rawle's battery had played mischievously on the rebels, they attempted a bold charge upon it; but grape and canister were poured into their ranks with such death-dealing fury that, panic stricken, the enemy retired in the greatest confusion.

Major Bassford's Fourteenth New York cavalry made a series of most brilliant charges upon the enemy with drawn sabres during the seven miles of skirmishing yesterday on the road from Natchitoches to this point.

FOR WHAT NATCHITOCHES IS FAMOUS.

Natchitoches (pronounced Nackitosh) is famed as the place where one of the HERALD correspondents was imprisoned last fall, together with several of our officers' some of whom return here in the performance of their duty in the Thirteenth army corps. It is also famed as the residence of several quite prominent Union citizens, and for the jail where Union men have been imprisoned for their persistent and avowed hostility to secession. It gave a majority of seventy four votes against secession when the farce of voting Louisiana out of the Union was enacted.

OFFICERS ENTITLED TO HONORABLE MENTION.

Captain Ennis and Lieutenant Cashen, of the Fourteenth New York cavalry, were in the advance, with Major Bassford, of that regiment, and Major Tracy, of the Corning light cavalry, one of General A. L. Lee's staff officers, when the series of brilliant charges were made. Adjutant Lum, of the Fourteenth New York, and Lieutenant Weaver, of Colonel Lucas' staff, also deserve honorable mention for maintaining the same position in the advance.

GRAND ECORE, LA., April 11, 1864.

Early on the morning of Wednesday, April 6, General Banks' column having rested for two days at Natchitoches, marched on the Shreveport road, General Lee, with his cavalry, leading the column. At night the head of the infantry column rested at Bayou du Paul, seventeen miles from Natchitoches, and the cavalry camped at Crump's Hill, twenty-one miles from Natchitoches. During the day the cavalry skirmished with the enemy, who fell back slowly before our advance firing continually.

LOCATION OF THE BATTLE GROUNDS—MAP SHOWING THE WHOLE REGION OF THE CAMPAIGN.

FIRST DAY'S FIRST.

At daylight on the morning of the 7th the army was in motion. The cavalry found the enemy in considerable force, but drove him before them with some loss until two miles beyond Pleasant Hill, where the rebels were drawn up in line and strongly posted in the edge of a wood with open fields in front. The force consisted of some twenty-five hundred cavalry, under the rebel General Green, and occupied the crest of a hill on the farm of Dr. Wilson.

General A. L. Lee ordered Colonel Robinson, commanding the Third brigade of Union cavalry, to advance and feel the enemy severely. The Eighty-seventh Illinois mounted infantry was accordingly sent forward on foot, and soon became heavily engaged with the enemy. Being then hard pressed, Colonel Robinson ordered forward the First Louisiana cavalry to support the Eighty-seventh, and the action now became general. The Sixth Missouri howitzer battery was put into position and opened on the enemy with shot and shell; but despite the storm of bullets hurled against them the rebels pushed steadily forward at all points, and our left flank was in great danger of being turned.

General Lee, at this stage of the action, arrived on the ground, and at once ordered Colonel Lucas, commanding First cavalry brigade, up to the support of Colonel Robinson. Colonel Lucas deployed his line and moved forward in fine style, the men going into action with a shout. The contest now raged with renewed fury, and the pluck displayed on both sides was remarkable. Our troops slowly gained ground despite the stubborn resistance they met at every step, and drove the enemy into the timber. The rebels attempted a charge, but were repulsed with great gallantry by our troops.

COLONEL ROBINSON'S CAVALRY—HIS GALLANTRY.

It was now discovered that our ammunition was giving out and that the enemy was massing on the right of our line, which he soon after attacked with great vigor, compelling our force to slowly retire some hundred yards. The action now became lively, and the loss of the day was seriously apprehended; but Colonel Robinson, sabre in hand, cheered on the men, and the gallant fellows, many of them without a shot in their guns, rushed forward and drove the enemy into the woods and off the field. The day was won, but with severe loss in both officers and men. Captain Moss, of the First Louisiana cavalry, and Lieutenants Graham and Meader, of the Eighty seventh Illinois mounted infantry, together with several privates, were wounded, and six or seven privates were killed.

Colonel Lucas, with his First cavalry brigade, closely followed by Colonel Robinson, with his Third cavalry brigade, pursued the enemy several miles, as far as Carroll's Sawmill, where he found them drawn up on a wooded hill, with four guns in position. Heavy infantry and artillery firing continued until nightfall, when, in the dusk of the evening, a heavy rebel force charged on the Eighty-seventh, coming up to within ten feet of their line and firing rapidly. The gallant Eighty-seventh held their position, and when the enemy were close upon them delivered a volley and charged upon their assailants, driving them back in confusion. This ended the fighting for the day.

SECOND DAY'S BATTLES.

On the morning of the 8th, at an early hour, the cavalry, supported by Colonel Emerson's brigade of infantry, from Landrum's division of the Thirteenth corps, moved forward, and almost immediately discovered masses of the enemy in front. Colonel Lucas deployed his cavalry brigade on the left of the road, and Colonel Emerson's brigade was deployed on the right. Rawle's battery (G), Fifth United States artillery, was put into position in the road, and opened on the rebels, who were posted in a thick pine woods, with open fields in front. The day was beautiful, and the sun shone warm and bright from an unclouded sky as our lines moved forward to the music of the booming cannon and the brisk rattle of musketry. Fighting continued throughout the forenoon, during which time the enemy had been pushed back through dense piney woods a distance of six miles.

From almost every hilltop the rebels hurled their shot at our advancing columns, but doing little harm. In one of these many skirmishes Lieutenant Colonel Webb, commanding the Seventy-seventh Illinois Volunteers, was shot through the head and almost instantly killed. Lieutenant Jones, Sixteenth Indiana mounted infantry, was also killed, and Captain Merklein, Fourteenth New York cavalry, slightly, and Captain Breese, commanding Sixth Missouri cavalry, severely wounded.

SABINE CROSS ROADS—THE ENEMY IN POSITION.

At midday the enemy was found in position in strong force at Sabine Cross Roads, and heavy skirmishing began, which was kept up until two o'clock, when the calm that usually precedes the storm occurred. About this time General Ransom came up with another brigade of Landrum's division. General Banks in the meantime had arrived on the field, and at once sent couriers for General Franklin, who was some miles in the rear, to hasten forward with all possible despatch. Generals Stone, Lee and Ransom rode to the front and carefully reconnoitered the enemy. He was in his favorite position, on high ground in a thick wood, with open fields in the form of a semicircle running around his front.

At half past two o'clock all was quiet, and except an occasional shot from pickets here and there along the line there was no indication of the dreadful scene soon to be enacted. To look up at the clear blue sky and down at the green earth smiling in the sunlight one would have thought it impossible that before the sun in the heavens went down the turf beneath our feet would be made slippery with human gore and strewn with the dead and the dying. The day was fine. The infantry lay stretched on the ground, the troopers lounge dlazily in their saddles, and the cannoneers sat upon their guns, enjoying the warm sunshine, while groups of officers gathered around their leaders and discussed the campaign, passing many a careless joke.

THE ENEMY IN MOTION—THEY GAIN GROUND.

At three o'clock masses of the enemy were reported to be moving towards our right, and skirmishing became lively. At half-past three o'clock the enemy were restless along the whole front, and seemed meditating mischief. Anxiety now began to be felt for the arrival of General Franklin, and the right of our line was reinforced by taking troops from the left and centre. One brigade of Landrum's division held the left, another the right and centre. Rawles' United States battery, with the First Indiana and the Chicago Mercantile battery, was posted on the right and centre, and Nims' celebrated battery on the left, supported by the Twenty-third Wisconsin infantry. The cavalry brigade of Colonel Lucas was ordered to act upon the right flank, the cavalry brigade of Colonel Dudley was ordered to act upon the left flank of our line, and the cavalry brigade of Colonel Robinson to remain opposite the centre, in rear, on the road, and to guard wagon trains.

At four o'clock, or a little before, the enemy was reported to be advancing, and Colonel Wilson, of General Banks' staff; Colonel Brisbin, of General Lee's staff, Major Cowan and other staff officers, were sent to ascertain the truth of the report. These officers soon returned, and reported the whole rebel line to be in motion and rapidly advancing. Our troops in silence awaited the attack; and soon it came, the right being brought into action first. High and dreadful swelled the conflict. The enemy, pressing forward at all points, met a terrible resistance. Volley after volley was poured into their ranks, sweeping down hundreds, only to give place to new hundreds, who pressed forward to supply the places of the fallen.

Our troops stood firm; but the rebels, who outnumbered us more than two to one, began after an hour's hard fighting slowly to gain ground, and our thinned and bleeding ranks were pressed back by overwhelming numbers into the woods. The rebels now began to show a heavy force on our left, which was the real point of attack, their movement towards our right having been a ruse to induce us to weaken our left by sending troops to the right, in which they had succeeded.

It was plain to all that no human bravery or skill could long withstand the odds against which our troops were fighting, and that unless Franklin speedily arrived we would be forced to retire. General Franklin, with his staff, did come up, but his division, under command of General Emory, was yet in the rear. Our thinned and wearied ranks stood up nobly against the masses and murderous fire of the rebels, and cheer after cheer went up, mingled with the almost incessant roll of musketry and roar of cannon.

GALLANTRY OF THE MEN—THE WOUNDING OF GEN. RANSOM.

The forces of the brave General Ransom had been cut up dreadfully, and he himself borne wounded and bleeding from the field; but still they held their position, fighting gallantly. General Cameron's division of the Thirteenth army corps arrived, and hastened to the support of Colonel Landrum's division; but, like bees from a hive, the rebels swarmed upon it, and it was fast melting away under the storm of bullets that was continually rained upon it. Blucher at Waterloo was not more anxiously looked for than was Emory (of Franklin's corps) upon that field. But he came not. We had now engaged less than eight thousand men fighting a force of over twenty thousand in their chosen position.

Emory was reported to be within two miles with his division and rapidly coming up. The officers encouraged their men to hold the field until his arrival, and bravely indeed did they struggle against the masses that constantly pressed them upon both flanks and in front; but, borne down by numbers, their shattered ranks were pushed over the field and into the woods beyond. The enemy had now driven back our left, and were within sixty yards of Nims' battery, which was firing double charges of grape and canister, sweeping down the rebels in piles at every discharge. General Lee, seeing that Nims' battery, if it were not speedily removed, would be captured, by direction of General Stone ordered Colonel Brisbin to have it taken from the field. The order came too late. Not horses enough were left alive to haul the pieces from the field. The cannoneers lay thick about the guns and dead and wounded rebels in windrows before them. Two of the guns were dragged off by hand, and Lieutenant Snow was shot down while spiking a third. Four of the guns of this battery could not be got off and fell into the hands of the enemy.

THE LOSS OF THE GUNS—ARRIVAL OF EMORY'S DIVISION.

In the meantime our right was fiercely engaged and our centre was being pressed back, and finally the right also gave way. Six guns of the Mercantile battery, two guns of Rawles' G battery, Fifth United States artillery, two mountain howitzers of the Sixth Missouri howitzer battery, four guns of the First Indiana battery and six guns of Nims' battery were left on the field.

Our forces now retired upon Emory's division of the Nineteenth army corps, which was rapidly coming up, with bands playing the most patriotic national airs. It immediately went into line of battle in the woods, on the crest of a hill, and received the enemy handsomely, driving him back with great slaughter. Here the conflict ended for the day, it being now quite dark. General Emory, his division and his brigade commanders, Generals Dwight and McMillen and Colonel Benedict, especially distinguished themselves in the closing action, and to that division of the Nineteenth army corps belongs the glory of saving the day.

DEATH OF THE BRAVE—GALLANTRY OF GEN. BANKS.

General Franklin was in the thickest of the battle, and was loudly cheered as he rode, cap in hand, over the field.

General Ransom, while endeavoring to get the guns of the First Indiana battery off the field, received a ball in the knee, and was carried to the rear. He stood by those guns, sabre in hand, until shot down and borne from the field. He will recover, and after a few months be able to return to duty.

Colonel Webb, early in the day, while leading a line of skirmishers in the woods, was shot through the head by a rebel sharpshooter and died almost instantly.

Colonel Robinson, of the Third cavalry brigade, while defending the train and leading his troops against the enemy, was severely wounded in the thigh. He did not leave the saddle until three hours after.

Colonel Brisbin, of General Lee's staff, was leading a line of rallied men against the enemy when a shell from the rebel batteries blew off his horse's head, and the animal falling on his leg held him to the earth. For a time he was in danger of being captured, but was finally extricated and made his escape on a rebel horse which was passing along riderless.

Generals Lee and Cameron displayed great gallantry throughout the action, riding wherever the shot fell thickest, and by their example cheering the men to deeds of heroism.

Among the bravest of the brave was General Banks, who rode through the storm of lead as coolly as if at a holiday review, encouraging the men to stand up to the work of death. The men are full of admiration for their gallant General, and anxious to fight under one who so nobly shares with them the danger as well as the glory.

Many instances of personal bravery might be recorded unsurpassed by any anything in the annals of history; but there is not time to enumerate them now. One sergeant of artillery, however, deserves especial mention. This brave fellow would not leave his gun, though the horses were shot down, the enemy close upon him and the piece hopelessly lost. Still he stood by his gun till pierced through the temples by a ball, and he fell dead across the limber.

General Emory and a portion of his staff were at one time cut off from his command and surrounded by the enemy; but a way was opened for their escape.

Our troops fought well, and only yielded the field when cut to pieces and overpowered by numbers. The generals and their staff officers deserve much credit. General Banks' staff was in the thickest of the fray, and Colonels Clark and Wilson, sabre in hand, rallied the men and cheered them on.

General Cameron's Third division, of the Thirteenth army corps, lost fifty killed, one hundred and fifty wounded and two hundred missing. Colonel Landrum's Fourth division of the same corps lose twenty-five killed, seventy-five wounded and one thousand missing. The Forty sixth Indiana regiment lost one hundred and thirty of its three hundred men.

Four brigade commanders were killed and wounded in the battle of Sabine Cross Roads.

The Nineteenth Kentucky repelled five distinct charges before the enemy was enabled to break through its lines.

A color bearer in General Cameron's division found himself surrounded by the enemy, who quite peremptorily ordered him to halt. He did not halt, but rushed forward impetuously amid the shower of bullets and saved his colors.

THE HERALD CORRESPONDENT

did not retire till the fire was uncomfortably hot and the proximity of the enemy a little too near for safety. By the capture of General Lee's cavalry train the HERALD and its correspondent lost several blankets and other campaigning conveniences, private baggage and papers, and a negro servant named Willis, supposed to have been killed. This is the second servant of the same correspondent who has been captured or killed by the rebels.

Nims' battery, when the time was approaching that it could hold out but little longer, loaded each piece with a case of grape and canister, spherical case shell, and a sack of bullets containing about three hundred. This hurled death and destruction into the ranks of the enemy, who wavered and fell back at every discharge of these fated guns. The battery lost twenty one officers and privates, sixty four horses and eighteen mules.

Captain Crosby, of General Banks' staff, had his hand injured by the jam between the trains and a hurrying cavalryman.

BOHEMIAN LOSSES.

The capture of Gen. Lee's headquarters train was attended with much inconvenience to the General and his staff, as well as to the correspondents who moved with him. Major Cowan's mess lost an elegant rosewood mess chest, and other less valuable mess chests were in the wagons. Not a solitary article of clothing was left except what the officers had on, and clean shirts and paper collars were in greater demand than the supply could furnish. Quartermaster Hoge lost all his funds and vouchers, and officers who had deposited their greenbacks in his safe for security had the satisfaction of aiding in the contribution of six or seven thousand dollars to helping along the lily pad rebel soldiers. All the Adjutant General's official papers fell into the hands of the enemy, who must possess pretty accurate knowledge respecting the cavalry division.

Rebel soldiers who have been taken prisoners report that one of their number got two thousand dollars in greenbacks, and that the blankets and hard tack were very acceptable. Mr. Bonwill, the artist of *Leslie's Illustrated*, lost, among his private papers, numerous sketches that had been accumulating for a long period, and which he prized very highly. The HERALD correspondent lost a silver bugle, recently taken from a captured rebel bugler, which he intended to send to Mr. Bennett as a trophy. The *Tribune* correspondent, Mr. Wells, lost his good clothes and other extras. Colonel Brisbin, of General Lee's staff, lost some five hundred dollars worth of clothing and money, together with the sash worn by the rebel General Barksdale, which was captured at Gettysburg, and a valuable sword, also captured near Gettysburg.

THE DEAD BURIED.

It is ascertained that our dead who were left on the field between Pleasant Hill and Sabine Cross Roads were buried by the enemy, and that the wounded were conveyed to Mansfield the night after the battle, where they were carefully attended.

Colonel Emerson, commanding a brigade of Landrum's division, was wounded.

Lieutenant Colonel Kreb, Eighty seventh Illinois mounted infantry, when the confusion in our retiring lines was the greatest, reported to General Lee for duty with three men, whom he had rallied.

Rufus Pullitt, color bearer of the Sixteenth Indiana mounted infantry, was killed.

Lieutenant Stone, Commissary of the First cavalry brigade, is missing and supposed to be a prisoner.

All the cavalry headquarters train was captured or destroyed by the rebels except two ambulances, and all the wagons of Colonel Dudley's Fourth brigade train except one.

George G. Kendrick, color bearer One Hundred and Seventy-third New York, was wounded under his colors.

General Lee was hit with a spent ball, from which he suffered no inconvenience.

Four ammunition wagons belonging to the cavalry command were captured. The train would all have been saved had not a heavily loaded wagon broken down and obstructed the road.

Lieutenant Higby, of the Signal corps, acting aid-de-camp to General Ransom, had his horse shot under him.

Captain Dicker, General Ransom's Assistant Adjutant General, was killed.

Captain Wasson, Inspector General of Lucas' cavalry brigade, had his stirrup and boot struck by the same ball that killed Lieutenant Colonel Webber, of the Seventy seventh Illinois.

Lieutenant Miller, aid to Colonel Lucas, was wounded in the arm and taken prisoner. Captain Payman, chief signal officer of General Franklin's command, was severely wounded while riding by the side of the General.

Captain A. H. Chapman, Judge Advocate on General Franklin's staff, had both feet shot off.

Lieutenant David Lyon, of General Franklin's staff, was wounded slightly.

Dr. Wood, of the Sixth Missouri cavalry, lost one thousand dollars in money, and Captain Wasson, Inspector General in Lucas' cavalry brigade, lost two hundred dollars, by the capture of the trains.

A squadron of the Corning Light cavalry, under Capt. Davis, had a warm position on the right, and lost heavily there. The men displayed most creditable bravery and pluck.

Our defeat on the 8th inst. is attributable to the cavalry division proceeding too far in advance of the main column; the panic and loss of guns to the large cavalry train, which completely blocked the only road by which the army could fall back.

The troops engaged were the First, Third and Fourth cavalry divisions, supported by Ransom's detachment of the Thirteenth army corps.

Estimated loss, one thousand five hundred, killed, wounded, missing and prisoners.

THIRD DAY'S BATTLE.

JUNCTION WITH SMITH.

After the close of the battle of Friday, a council of war was called by General Banks, and it was decided to withdraw the army to Pleasant Hill, that place affording a better position to give battle to the enemy, who, it was expected, would renew the attack early in the morning. It was also known that General A. J. Smith's command had reached Pleasant Hill, and General Banks was anxious to unite the forces of Smith with his own.

The withdrawal of the force commenced at ten o'clock, and before daylight the rear of the army was well on the road. The enemy in the night had pressed his pickets down on our front, but he failed to discover the movement of our troops, the withdrawal being conducted with the greatest silence and expedition. It was not until morning that he was made aware that our army had left his immediate front, when he followed after with his main force, sending forward his cavalry in hot haste to find our whereabouts. But they failed to come up with our forces until they had reached Pleasant Hill. General Emory's division brought up the rear, and arrived at Pleasant Hill about seven o'clock in the morning.

RECONNOISSANCE AND SKIRMISH—PLEASANT HILL BATTLE FIELD.

Colonel Gooding, commanding the Fifth brigade of the cavalry division, as soon as General Emory had arrived at Pleasant Hill, was sent out on the Shreveport road to find the enemy.

He had not proceeded up the road more than a mile when he met the advance of the rebels coming down. Finding the enemy approaching in strong force, Colonel Gooding skirmished with him until General Emory had completed the formation of his line of battle, when the cavalry retired in good order, the enemy keeping up a hot fire on them as they fell back, killing and wounding some forty men belonging to the Second New York veteran cavalry, Eighteenth New York cavalry, and Third Rhode Island cavalry. Two officers were wounded, Captain G. W. Fletcher and Lieutenant Hall, the latter of whom has since died.

The battle field was a large common just on the outside of the town of Pleasant Hill, on the Shreveport road. The ground was open and rolling, and ascended both from the side of the town and from the side on which the enemy was expected, a belt of timber extending almost entirely around the field.

General Emory's division was drawn up in line of battle on the side of the hill, his right resting across the Shreveport road. General McMillen's brigade formed the extreme right of the line, and his right rested near the woods, which extended along the whole base of the hill, and through which it was expected the enemy would advance. General Dwight's brigade was formed on the left of General McMillen's, on the right of the road, the left resting on the road. Colonel Benedict's brigade formed on the left of General Dwight, the right resting on the road a little in the rear of General Dwight, forming an echelon to his brigade. Two pieces of Taylor's battery were placed in the rear of Dwight's left on the road, and the remaining four pieces were got into position on an eminence on the left of the road and in rear of Benedict's left. Hibbard's Vermont battery was in the rear of the division.

GENERAL A. J. SMITH'S FORCES AND POSITION.

General A. J. Smith's division of the Sixteenth army corps, under command of General Mower, were massed in two lines of battle, with artillery, in rear of Emory's division. The right of the first line rested on the road, and was composed of two brigades, the first brigade on the right, commanded by Colonel Lisch; the second brigade, on the left, commanded by Colonel Shaw. The Third Indiana battery (Crawford's) was posted in the first line of battle, and on the right of the Eighty-ninth Indiana. The Ninth Indiana battery (Brown's) was in position on the right of the first brigade. The Missouri battery occupied ground on the right of the Eighty-ninth Indiana.

Other batteries were on the field, but neither the positions they occupied nor the names of their commanders were learned. All, however, did good service. General Smith's second line of battle was fifty yards in rear of the first, and was composed of two brigades, one on the right of the line, and that on the left commanded by Colonel Hill.

General Mower commanded the second brigade, and was temporarily in command of the whole force, while General Smith commanded the corps as a separate command.

READY FOR ACTION—THE BATTLE.

This disposition being made, our army waited the approach of the enemy, but as the day wore away many began to believe that no attack would be made.

It was now five o'clock, and but two hours of daylight remained in which to fight the battle. The skirmishing which had continued all day at this hour became lively, and at ten minutes past five General Emory sent word to General Franklin that the skirmishers were being driven in and the enemy marching down upon him in three lines of battle.

At twenty minutes past five the enemy appeared on the plain at the edge of the woods, and the battle commenced, our batteries opening upon him with case shell as he marched at a double quick across the field to the attack.

Our left, Colonel Benedict's brigade, came into action first, and soon after our right and centre were engaged. The battle now raged fiercely, the air was full of lead and iron, and the roar of musketry and artillery incessant. The carnage on both sides was fearful, the men fighting almost hand to hand, and with great desperation.

Nothing could exceed the determined bravery of our troops; but it was evident Emory's division was fighting the whole army. Pressed at all points by overwhelming numbers, our line fell back up the hill to the Sixteenth corps, which was concealed just behind the crest.

Taylor's battery for a time fell into the hands of the enemy.

SMITH OPENS FIRE—THE CHARGE—VICTORY.

General Smith made all preparations to receive the advancing foe, and as the human tide came rolling up the hill he looked quietly on until the enemy were almost up to the muzzle of his guns, when a sheet of flame flashed along his lines, and, with the crash of ten thousand thunders, musket balls mingled with grape and canister swept the plain like a besom of destruction. Hundreds fell dead and dying before that awful fire.

Scarcely had the seething lead left the guns when the word "charge" was given, and seven thousand brave men precipitated themselves upon the shattered ranks of the enemy. Emory's division, which had only yielded to superior numbers and remained unbroken, now rushed forward and joined the Sixteenth corps, driving the rebels rapidly down the hill to the woods, where they broke and fled in the greatest confusion and dismay.

Colonel Benedict, while gallantly leading his brigade in the charge, fell dead, pierced by five balls.

The battle was fought and the victory won. Our troops followed up the rebels until night put an end to the pursuit.

In the last charge we recaptured Taylor's battery, which had been lost in the earlier part of the action, and retook two guns of Nims' battery, which had been lost in the battle of the preceding day.

The ten pound Parrott gun which the rebels captured last fall at Carrion Crow was also retaken.

Five hundred prisoners, all the dead and wounded, three battle standards and a large number of small arms, fell into our hands.

Our victorious army slept upon the battle field, which was one of the bloodiest of the war.

FALLING BACK TO GRAND ECORE.

Early the next morning our line of march was taken up to Grand Ecore, to obtain rest and rations, the army being too much fatigued by the three days' fighting and our rapid marching to undertake to attempt pursuit of the enemy.

This battle was one of the best appointed and delivered of the war. It reflects much credit upon the head of the Army of the Gulf, and is equally honorable to all who were engaged in it.

General Banks was present from the beginning to the close of the engagement, and rode over the field through showers of bullets, personally directing the movements of the troops. General Banks' staff ably assisted him, freely sharing the danger with their chief, and behaving throughout the action with the greatest gallantry.

General Franklin and staff were in the hottest of the fire. Of the soldiers who so bravely fought the battle and achieved a splendid victory it need only be said, that the men of Maine, Missouri, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New York, Kentucky, Illinois and Indiana sustained their reputation, standing shoulder to shoulder with the loyal Louisiana troops; and well may their States be proud to claim them as sons of their soil. The heroes of Vicksburg and Port Hudson may now add the name of Pleasant Hill to the list of their glorious victories.

The cavalry division, except a part of Colonel Lucas' brigade, was not in the action of Saturday, the main body having been sent to convoy the wagon trains to Grand Ecore.

No part of the Thirteenth army corps was in the battle.

In the battle of Friday the rebel General Mouton was killed by the unerring rifles of the Nineteenth Kentucky. He received four balls in his body.

The rebel General Kirby Smith is reported to have commanded the troops in the battle at Pleasant Hill.

OUR LOSSES DURING THE CAMPAIGN.

The entire losses of the campaign thus far may be summed up as follows:—

Twenty pieces of artillery.

Fifteen hundred men in Gen. Ransom's corps.

Six hundred men in Gen. Emory's division.

Five hundred men in Gen. Smith's Sixteenth army corps.

Four hundred men in cavalry division.

One hundred and thirty cavalry division and brigade wagons.

Twelve hundred horses and mules, including the great number that died on the march across the Teche from disease.

OUR GAINS.

Our gains thus far are the capture of Fort De Russy, Alexandria, Grand Ecore and Natchitoches, the opening of Red river, the capture by the gunboats of three thousand bales of prize cotton, one half of which goes to the government, and the bringing of other considerable quantities of cotton to our markets. Besides this we have captured, at Fort De Russy, Henderson's Hill, Pleasant Hill, Mansfield and elsewhere, two thousand three hundred prisoners, including three lieutenant colonels, six majors and thirty line officers at Pleasant Hill, twenty-five pieces of artillery, any quantity of small arms there and at other points, four hundred bushels of meal, thirty barrels of beef, and a depot commissariat at Pleasant Hill.

Besides, under the administration of Provost Marshal Neafie, of the One Hundred and Fifty-sixth New York Volunteers, Alexandria has returned to its allegiance; eight hundred citizens have taken the oath of fealty to the government of the United States, and eight hundred have enlisted there into the military service of our government.

The material for at least two full colored regiments has thus far been garnered in, and the rebels have been deprived of the service of five thousand able bodied negroes, male and female, who have abandoned their happy homes and cast their fortunes with the Yankees.

Forage nearly enough to supply the immediate needs of the army, and beef cattle and horses have fallen into the hands of our advancing army.

When Shreveport is taken and occupied, and the rebel State government is driven therefrom to seek another temporary resting place, the chief object of the present campaign will be accomplished.

COLONEL GOODING

of the Fifth cavalry brigade, which went to the front to "entertain" the enemy on Saturday morning until General Emory's line could be formed, was shot at by a rebel rifleman who sent a ball into the Colonel's hat, perforating the crown and lifting it from his head. An orderly dismounted and handed the Colonel his hat, who was saluted by three rousing cheers from the men of his command who observed his coolness and gallantry.

Captain Becker, of the Second New York veterans, was shot through the neck Saturday morning, but vaulted into his saddle after his wound was dressed, and remained with his command during the entire day.

The rebels made seven distinct charges on General Dwight's line, which held the extreme right; the One Hundred and Fourteenth, One Hundred and Sixteenth and One Hundred and Fifty-third New York Volunteers maintained their ground manfully, and repulsed the enemy most gloriously.

The Eighty-ninth Indiana regiment recaptured two batteries.

The Thirty-fifth Iowa repelled three charges.

The Colonel of the Thirty-third Missouri was wounded.

REBEL CASUALTIES.

The rebel General Scurry, commanding McCullough's old Texas brigade, was slightly wounded; Major Mulier, Seventeenth Texas rebel infantry, was killed.

Lieutenant Colonel Gregg, one of the captured rebels, reports that Kirby Smith commanded the rebel forces in person, numbering twenty thousand the first day and twenty-five thousand the second.

FUTURE MOVEMENTS.

General Banks having fallen back to Grand Ecore, thirty-five miles from Pleasant Hill, fifty-five miles from Mansfield, and ninety-five miles from Shreveport, will advance again as soon as he is reinforced and adequate supplies are received. The loss of artillery is a trivial matter as nearly the whole fighting, owing to the nature of the heavily wooded country, must be done by infantry.

Colonel Dwight's brigade, of General Emory's division, [illegible]

[illegible] ble. The extent of its co-operation depends on the depth of water in Red river.

Other battles must soon follow, and glorious victories will be won over the trans-Mississippi rebels.

The enemy appears to have moved his whole forces near here to crush out the Union army. According to the reports of prisoners, Kirby Smith, Dick Taylor, Green, Magruder and Price are all in the field against General Banks and his commanders.

The rebel loss in the battles of Sabine Cross Roads and Pleasant Hill was three to our one. The lack of water between Pleasant Hill and Mansfield rendered it prudent to fall back to Grand Ecore, where new supplies will be issued sufficient for a long and uninterrupted forward march.

GRAND ECORE, LA., April 14, 1864.

A detachment of the third cavalry brigade, under command of Lieut. Col. Kieb, of the Eighty-seventh Illinois mounted infantry, made a reconnoissance yesterday to the Double bridge, twenty miles on the road towards Pleasant Hill. Eight miles out a small party of the enemy, fifteen or twenty in number, were seen, who fled precipitately. From the bridge, scouting parties were sent out, who touched their pickets, but discovered no indications of the enemy in force. One of these scouting parties, led by Lieutenant E. V. Hitch, Assistant Adjutant General of the brigade, was fired at by the rebel pickets. Lieutenant Hitch received a slight wound in arm, and leaves for New Orleans to-day.

Our troops are in excellent spirits and anxious for another advance. They can whip the enemy in any stand up fight, unless a much superior force is encountered, of which there is no fear whatever.

The repulse of our advance guard at Sabine Cross Roads is freely discussed, as well as the victories which afterwards followed. When Emory's division came up the enemy was pressed hard, and his losses must have been terrible, as that division, though fighting almost alone, punished the rebels severely and forced them back with immense slaughter. Our losses in the early part of the action that day must have been equalled by the enemy's loss at its close, though the capture of our artillery and trains was a point gained over us.

In the succeeding day's fight at Pleasant Hill the enemy must have lost three to our one. The battle field, which we occupied that night, was strewn with their dead and wounded, who also dotted the roads by which our victorious army pursued them until night rendered longer pursuit impossible.

In the continued prosecution of the campaign there are difficulties to encounter which General Banks and his army hope to overcome. The Red river, navigable usually over the falls above Alexandria, is lower now than ever before at this season of the year, and it is *possible that the safety of the gunboats and Monitors above Alexandria will render the abandonment of military occupation impracticable.* Light draught transports can pass the falls for some weeks yet, and the army cannot be cut off from its supplies. Still the supplies will not come forward so rapidly as if the waters of the Red river were of the ordinary depth at this time of the year. Should the river fail to be navigable, and an advance, therefore, be rendered impracticable, the certainty of holding and occupying Alexandria and Natchitoches remains, and so far the forward movement is a success.

Between Pleasant Hill and Mansfield, a distance of twenty miles, there is a deficiency of water, without which an army cannot be subsisted or marched. It is, therefore, quite desirable that the movement from one to the other of these points shall be rapid.

Rebel citizens and rebel prisoners have all agreed in the statement that the enemy were determined to dispute this road, and that they expected to fight against us there because it was remote from the river, and where we could not receive the co operation of the gunboats.

The latest advices from General Steele were that he was within either sixty miles, or one day's march, of Shreveport, with fifteen thousand men.

Admiral Porter, with two Monitors and his flagship, went up the river from Grand Ecore a week since, it is presumed to operate against the rebel seat of government in Louisiana.

THE VERY LATEST.

GRAND ECORE, April 15, 1864.

ATTACK UPON THE TRANSPORTS—DEATH OF GENERAL GREEN.

About twenty-five miles above here, on the left bank of the Red river, the rebels opened on the transports Clara Bell and Rob Roy, and fired twelve shots into them. A force of a thousand mounted infantry, said to be part of the rebel General Green's command, came down in front of the battery and poured volleys of musketry into the steamers, which were getting the worst of it, when a small gunboat opportunely came up, shelled and silenced the battery and compelled the rebels to fall back. *Gen. A. J. Smith's Sixteenth corps subsequently arrived* near the scene of action, having crossed over from Grand Ecore, marched up the right bank of the river and again crossed over to push and punish the enemy. They captured two guns and seventeen wounded prisoners, who assert positively that the rebel General Green was killed by a shell from the Rob Roy. This is another signal victory.

The rebels left one hundred and sixty-four of their dead on the field, slaughtered by the terrific fire of our gunboats and transports in their precipitate retreat. Their slightly wounded were taken off.

By the death of General Green the enemy have lost one of their most valuable officers.

NEW ORLEANS, April 16, 1864.

ARRIVAL OF TRANSPORTS.

Two transports have arrived from Grand Ecore with wounded officers and soldiers. Dr. John S. McGrew, Medical Director of General Ransom's detachment of the Thirteenth army corps, came down in charge of the wounded on one of the transports. He deserves the greatest commendation for the unremitting attention which he demanded should be bestowed on those heroes of Sabine Cross Roads and Pleasant Hill. In his estimation the best that was on board the transport was none too good for the humblest soldier under his care.

Major Isaac Moses, formerly Assistant Adjutant General of General Heintzelman's staff, reported to Gen. Banks at Grand Ecore with despatches from New Orleans, and has been placed on detached duty. He proceeds to Brownsville, Texas, shortly.

Transports are fired into by guerillas occasionally. Major Gifford, an army paymaster, was hit by a stray ballet and wounded in the arm a few nights ago.

THE CASUALTIES.

Brig. Gen. Ransom, Nineteenth army corps, wounded.
Col. Frank Emerson, First brigade, Fourth division, Third corps, wounded.
Lieut. Colonel Florry, commanding First brigade, Third division, Thirteenth corps, killed.
Colonel Robinson, commanding cavalry, Third brigade, wounded.

SECOND NEW YORK VETERAN CAVALRY.

Captain Gilbert W. Becker, Co. I, neck, slightly.
Lieutenant Thomas Hill, Co. H, throat, since dead.
Wm. Wilson, Co. I, thigh.
Wm Harvey, Co. M, breast.
Alexander Finlayson, Co. K, shoulder.
John Teese, Co. E, hand.
John Stone, Co. M, arm.
Sergeant Charles F. Morton, Co. M, lungs and shoulder.
Michael Miles, Co. F.
Sergeant C. F. Morton, Co. M.
G. W. Hindman, Co. D.
Robert Hack, Co. F.
Lieutenant Hall, killed.

FOURTEENTH NEW YORK CAVALRY.

Captain Julius P. Merkleff, Co. C, arm and breast.
Peter Wise, Co. A, arm.
Johnson Cochran, Co. C, arm.
Wm. Bullock, Co. A, leg.
James Fitzgerald, Co. A, leg.
Charles Dixon, Co. B, thigh.