# THE NEW YORK HERALD.

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## NORTH CAROLINA.

### The Surrender of Plymouth to the Rebels.

### General Wessells and 2,500 Men Taken Prisoners.

### COMPOSITION OF HIS COMMAND.

### The Details of the Previous Contest.

### OUR LOSS 150 KILLED.

### The Negroes Brutally Murdered in Cold Blood.

### THE REBEL LOSS 1,500 KILLED.

### Description of the Rebel Ram Albemarle,

&c., &c., &c.

**Mr. William H. Stiner's Despatch.**

FORTRESS MONROE, April 24, 1864.

PLYMOUTH SURRENDERED

is the startling and painful announcement I am compelled to make to you in my despatch to-day, which event took everybody by surprise, as it was thought that General Wessells could hold out for a few days at least, until reinforcements, which were already on the way, could reach him. But the rebel ram which had destroyed the Southfield kept our transports from ascending the Roanoke river, and consequently the beleaguered garrison at Plymouth was compelled to fight as long as human endurance could stand it, and either be annihilated or surrender at discretion. This news reached me this morning by the arrival of the steamer Currituck from Roanoke Island, and through a most reliable source.

THE FIRST ATTACK

was made on the fortifications of Plymouth on the 17th inst., but repulsed, as also another made on Fort Gray. The momentary repulse kept the enemy at bay, and lasted for nearly twenty-four hours. On Tuesday morning the rebel ram made her appearance, to co-operate with the land forces, and succeeded not only in sinking the Southfield, but in killing Captain Flusser. They drove our naval vessels from the river, and consequently this support failed General Wessells in the most trying hour of his campaign.

THE SECOND ATTACK

was made by the enemy on all of our forts surrounding the town almost simultaneously, and in every assault he was driven back with terrific slaughter. But the rebels seemed determined, and renewed attacks were made and checked, each one still attended with the most dreadful carnage. From this time until half-past ten o'clock on Wednesday morning the fighting was almost uninterrupted. On Tuesday orders were issued for

THE EVACUATION OF FORT WESSELLS,

better known as the Eighty-fifth regiment redoubt, situated a short distance from Mill creek. Captain Chapin, the commandant of the fort, had been killed, and, although the stock of ammunition on hand was growing "small by degrees and beautifully less," still the heroic little band kept up an incessant firing on the enemy, every shot telling with fearful effect. Upon the receptiop of the order the survivors of the garrison awaited the coming of night, and under its protecting shade silently withdrew to the town, having first, however, disabled the guns of the fort.

THE UNION FORCES CONCENTRATED,

on the evacuation of Fort Wessells, in Forts Williams, Comfort and a redoubt facing the Roanoke river, below Mill creek, and kept up the fight incessantly. The forces of General Wessells, thus being massed and able to handle their artillery more effectively, kept up a regular, steady and galling fire on the rebels. The enemy used thirty-pounder Parrott guns and other artillery of about similar calibre.

FORT WILLIAMS STORMED.

At nine o'clock on the 20th inst. a most impetuous assault was made by the rebels on Fort Williams. Our brave boys nobly stood by their guns and repulsed every attempt of the enemy to enter the fortification. In splendid order did the rebel column advance to the assault. General Wessells allowed him time to come within easy range of his guns, and then gave the order to fire. Every discharge mowed down the rebel troops by platoons. Still the gaps were instantly filled up and the attack renewed. In this manner the enemy received several severe shocks, and, after a last and still more impetuous charge, which likewise resulted disastrously to him, he withdrew, evidently to repair damage and make ready for another attack.

GENERAL WESSELLS CAPITULATED

at half-past ten on the morning of the 20th inst. (Wednesday), an hour and a half after the repulse at Fort Williams. At the hour above mentioned the Union flag was hauled down on Forts Williams and Comfort as well as on the Mill creek redoubt. The rebels had been heavily reinforced during Tuesday night, and the overwhelming forces hurled against our weak and already shattered column was too much to endure, and, being out of ammunition and cut off from a further supply, General Wessells could do no less than surrender, or have all his command annihilated. The garrison of Fort Gray no doubt fought nobly to the last, but, being cut off from the main command, without hope of deliverance, had to succumb also. We have no advices from this post; but common sense teaches us that the fort could not hold out very long.

THE REBEL COLUMN

consisted of no less than five brigades of troops, each brigade numbering about three thousand men. These were under the chief command of Major General Hoke, assisted by Generals Ransom and Barton. The majority of these troops were from the far South, as the North Carolinians are not trusted very far while fighting on their own soil.

OUR LOSSES

are estimated at about one hundred in killed and wounded. Captain Chapin was killed at Fort Wessells, and Captain Horace J. Hodges, Depot Quartermaster, while in the act of communicating with the gunboat Miami, in a canoe which he carried in a wagon from Plymouth to Conoeby creek, in order to elude the rebel iron-clad, was upset and drowned. The loss of this officer will be severely felt and regretted by all who knew him. I have been unable to learn the names of others who lost their lives in the severe battles before Plymouth.

TWO CITIZENS escaped

from Plymouth after the rebels had taken possession of the town. Their names are Wm. Atkinson and —— Mitchel, loyal men, who carried on business there. They packed their trunks in a wagon, and, after getting clear of the town, they took to the swamp, and during the night they managed to obtain a rowboat, moved up in that to the mouth of the river, where they were picked up by one of the Union gunboats patrolling the Sound. Before leaving Plymouth these gentlemen met Captain Bowers, of a Georgia regiment, a sort of milk and water officer, who was very fierce on Union people. They conversed with him for some time, when a cry was raised that a Yankee Monitor and several transports with troops were coming, whereupon the rebel captain skedaddled, and in the confusion Atkinson and Mitchel made their escape from the town.

THE REBEL LOSSES

are, beyond the slightest doubt, immensely heavy. When it is considered that every fort around Plymouth was stormed from three to seven times, and each assault repulsed with great slaughter, besides pouring broadside after broadside into the rebel ranks from the Miami and Southfield, the casualties among the rebel troops must have been enormous. A rebel surgeon was heard to say that "the damned Yankees had killed and wounded one-third of their whole force, and he hoped that no mercy would be shown the cursed Yankees." The gunboat Whitehead went on a reconnoissance on Wednesday a short distance above Plymouth, and the officers and crew observed about three hundred rebel troops engaged in burying the dead. From a steeple on the town church, overlooking a large tract of land, it was found that the field of Ass Johnson (about sixty acres) was completely filled with dead and dying rebels. The entire rebel force could not have been short of from fifteen to twenty thousand men, of whom one-third are unfit for future service.

THE FORT PILLOW MASSACRE RE-ENACTED.

My informant also acquainted me with the fact that all the negroes found after the surrender were stripped of their clothing and brutally murdered in cold blood. It must be understood that General Wessells had no colored troops at Plymouth, save a few recruits for North Carolina regiments, and the poor, unfortunate blacks thus butchered were merely laborers for the government. The negroes were formed into line, in a nude state, and fired at by the brutal soldiery, purporting to represent Southern chivalry. Nature revolts at these facts; and the plan apparently adopted by the rebels for the future disposition of negroes is emancipation from, and not for, life.

THE SITUATION OF PLYMOUTH

is on the Roanoke river, which forms an angle above its mouth, from the Albemarle Sound, of ninety degrees, as will be seen from the following

MAP OF PLYMOUTH AND VICINITY.

The forts were built outside of the town, and at the first advance of the rebels on Sunday, the Southfield and Miami, having obtained the range, did good execution, directed by signals.

THE REBEL RAM ALBEMARLE,

which is the name of this rebel monster, is quite a formidable craft, built on the plan of the Merrimac. Captain James Spottiswoode Coke, late a lieutenant in the United States Navy, commands her, and has a crew of sixty men. Her dimensions are as follows:—Length, 152 feet; breadth of beam, 40 feet; depth of hold, 12 feet. She is built of sixteen-inch timber, and is said to have a plating of six-inch iron. Others, however, assert that her coat of mail is T rail, laid and fastened crosswise. Her engine is a low pressure, English built, with two screws. She is pierced for six guns, viz: one porthole at the stern and stem, and four on the starboard and port sides. Her armament consists of only two twenty-pounder Whitworth guns, revolving on a swivel, which can be fired out of three portholes. The accompanying cut is a *facsimile* of the rebel ram, drawn by a gentleman who saw her while engaged in the act of sinking the Southfield.

THE ENEMY

is supposed to be moving on Little Washington; and, although we are well prepared there for an attack, hot and bloody work will soon ensue. The motive of the rebels, as stated by some of their officers, for making the onslaught on Plymouth and other posts in North Carolina is to drive the Union forces out of the State, and transfer the theatre of war from Virginia to North Carolina; also to check the movement among the disaffected towards resisting the Jeff. Davis tyranny. This, therefore, may be said to be the earnest commencement of a vigorous spring campaign.

**Mr. George H. Hart's Despatches.**

HEADQUARTERS, DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA, NEWBERN, April 20, 1864.

OPENING OF HOSTILITIES—UNION PICKETS DRIVEN IN.

Since my last despatch I have been enabled to obtain full particulars of the condition of affairs at Plymouth. On Sunday, at half-past three o'clock in the afternoon, the pickets were driven in—not without much skirmishing, and resulting in Lieutenant Russell, of the Twelfth New York cavalry, being severely wounded and one private killed. The United States steamer Ceres, Acting Master Foster commanding, was at once despatched up the Roanoke river to communicate with the Whitehead, Acting Ensign Barrett commanding, who was stationed below Hyner's Ferry, watching for the rebel ram, known for some time past to have been built, and for this purpose.

In anticipation of a visit from this ram, obstructions had been placed in the river, opposite Hyner's Ferry.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE CERES.

As the Ceres passed Fort Gray, a strong fortification two and a half miles above Plymouth, the enemy opened on her from a battery of six guns, the Ceres at once responding with her small Parrott rifles.

The casualties on board the Ceres in this affair were two men killed and six or seven wounded, including officers, none of whom were seriously hurt.

By this affair the position of the enemy was disclosed to Captain Brown, the commandant of Fort Gray, who thereupon opened fire from a hundred-pounder Parrott and two smooth bore of less calibre. The firing of both parties became brisk, the rebel practice being excellent, and one of their shots carried away the flagstaff of the fort, but which was almost instantly re-elevated to the top of a tree.

This artillery duel lasted until eight or nine o'clock in the night, the casualties in the fort being up to that time slight, while their fire must have done good execution on the enemy.

The garrison at the fort were in excellent spirits, and consisted of a company of the Second Massachusetts heavy artillery, under the command of Captain Fiske, and a detachment of the Eighty-fifth New York, the whole under the command of Captain Brown, of the Eighty-fifth. On Monday morning, about daybreak, the enemy, under cover of their guns, attempted the assault of the fort, but were repulsed with heavy loss.

THE BOMBSHELL BROUGHT INTO ACTION.

About this time the army gunboat Bombshell, under the command of Acting Ensign Stokes, of the navy, moved up to communicate with the fort. When within range of their guns the enemy opened on her, and succeeded in striking her some eight or ten times, wounding one man and damaging her hull to such an extent that, on reaching the dock of the town, she sunk, with her colors flying from her mast. During the night of Sunday General Wessells despatched the transports Massasoit and DeWitt Clinton, with the women and children, whom he had caused to leave the town, to be forwarded to Roanoke Island. This was done as a precautionary measure, in anticipation of the rebels making a demand to that purport, and to prevent giving them the time to make an advantageous disposition of their forces, and the General took prompt action towards making a desperate resistance.

FURTHER BLOOD—FIRING FROM THE FORTS AND GUNBOATS.

All through the day, Monday, our men skirmished briskly with the rebels, who had taken possession of the woods in front of the town, and extending around on both sides. The enemy during this time were also engaged in felling trees and erecting lines of fortifications in plain view of our troops. At intervals Forts Williams, Wessells and Gray opened fire and shelled the woods, and further up the river a water battery—Battery Worth—kept up an incessant fire, directed principally against a battery erected by the rebels, and bearing especially on Fort Wessells. In the evening, at about six o'clock, the enemy made a grand and vigorous assault along our whole line. At this juncture the gunboats Miami and Southfield, which, under the direction of Captain Flusser, had been connected together by chains and spars to work as one boat, were cut apart and took their positions respectively behind the Custom House and a picket station on the river, and commenced to shell the rebels.

Simultaneously all the forts and gunboats opened on the rebels, and were by them briskly responded to by upwards of twenty guns; but the intensity of our fire was such that the enemy's batteries were silenced for the night. During this engagement the gunboats did excellent execution and rapid firing. The Southfield threw upwards of two hundred shell, and the Miami above thirty, and, although the enemy's range was generally good, received no damage.

THE RAM PASSES THE OBSTRUCTIONS.

During the night the gunboat Whitehead came down and reported that the rebel ram had succeeded in passing the obstructions placed across the river to prevent its progress, and was lying close to the rebel battery above Fort Gray. Lieutenant Commander Flusser, of the Miami, and in charge of the squadron, immediately ordered the Southfield to be secured to his boat as before. But his orders had only been partially executed before it was announced that the ram was coming down the river, firing, but not returned by our batteries at Gray and Worth. Captain Flusser then ordered the two boats, partially united, to be advanced at full speed against the rebel ram, now but a few yards distant. But owing to time not being afforded to Captain Flusser for the execution of his plans, the boats were not in a condition to cope with the ram and its vastly superior advantages. Hence the conflict was but brief, and after the concussion the Southfield was so much disabled as to sink almost immediately. The Miami subsequently fired some seven or eight solid shot, which had not the slightest effect, but glanced off the impenetrable sides of the ram.

CAPTAIN FLUSSER'S DEATH.

It is now my painful task to be compelled to record the death of the gallant and able Captain Flusser. His loss is universally deplored, and it will be difficult to replace him. Captain French, of the Southfield, then assumed command, and the Miami alone, unable to offer resistance, steamed down the river.

A list of casualties, comprising all that are at present known, I append, but it is feared, in addition, that several of the Southfield—names unknown—are drowned.

Had the plan of Captain Flusser been consummated, it is believed that the ram would have been destroyed or captured.

It was his intention to connect two boats firmly together, by means of chains and spars, and seek the encounter by advancing against the ram, aiming to strike her between both vessels and force her against the shore. At the same time a torpedo was to be so arranged as to cast it into her smoke stack, but, owing to circumstances beyond his control, the arrangements were not executed.

THE CASUALTIES.

Lieutenant Commander Charles W. Flusser, of the Miami, killed. His remains are now *en route* for Norfolk.

Acting Ensign Thomas G. Hargis, slightly wounded in foot.

Acting Third Assistant Engineer D. Harrington, both arms and face wounded slightly.

Isaac Anderson, seaman, severely though not dangerously wounded, and some one or two others, all slightly, and probably produced by the ten-second shell that caused the death of Captain Flusser.

NEWBERN, April 20, 1864.

DESCRIPTION OF THE REBEL RAM.

The terrible ram which has been, and is expected to be further, the cause of so much distraction in this district is described as follows:—

In shape she resembles the destroyed ram Merrimac, and, like her, carries an instrument of destruction at her prow, which renders her so peculiarly dangerous in conflicts with wooden vessels.

She is built of heavy iron plate, brought partly from Wilmington and partly from Atlanta, Georgia, and is of rather clumsy movement. She possesses one aperture at her fore part for the use of a heavy gun; but her main purpose is to destroy by concussion. She is accompanied by a formidable water battery, securely protected by cotton bales, behind which artillery and small arms can be securely used. The name of this satellite is the "Cotton Plant." The building of this ram has long been watched by Major General Peck, who has had almost daily information regarding her for many months passed. By means of spies sent to Wilmington, and who travelled to where she was building on the same train that conveyed 250,000 pounds of plate iron, by means of deserters and prisoners—amounting in the aggregate to upwards of five hundred—he has had positive knowledge of her progress in building. He has likewise offered to direct an expedition and destroy her; but his offer was refused by superior authority.

The wood work of this same ram, whilst in progress of building, was fired and supposed to have been destroyed by General Foster, in an expedition undertaken for that purpose; yet still it exists, and to our fearful cost. It is understood that the rebels have likewise two others, one at Kinston and one at Goldsboro. At the latter point they are known to have organized a complete naval brigade.

From this, in connection with the heavy force now menacing—supposed to number some sixteen or seventeen thousand men and some thirty-six pieces of artillery—it is evident that the rebels design to compel the Union evacuation of North Carolina.

NEWBERN, April 21, 1864.

General Wessells, commanding the town of Plymouth, and his whole command of upwards of two thousand officers and men, surrendered yesterday at one o'clock P. M. The command consisted of the following:—

Eighty-fifth New York infantry regiment.
One Hundred and first Pennsylvania infantry regiment.
One Hundred and Third Pennsylvania infantry regiment.
Sixteenth Connecticut infantry regiment.
Two companies of the Massachusetts heavy artillery.
Two companies of the Second North Carolina Volunteers.
Two companies of the Twelfth New York cavalry.

The enemy gained likewise upwards of thirty pieces of artillery, of all calibres, including one two hundred and one one hundred pounder Parrotts, about three hundred horses and a large amount of commissary stores.

**General Peck's Official Announcement of the Surrender.**

GENERAL ORDERS—NO. 66.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY AND DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA, NEWBERN, N. C., April 21, 1864.

With feelings of the deepest sorrow the Commanding General announces the fall of Plymouth, N. C., and the capture of its gallant commander, Brigadier General R. W. Wessells and his command. This result, however, was not obtained until after the most gallant and determined resistance had been made. Five times the enemy stormed the lines of the general, and as many times were they handsomely repulsed with great slaughter, and but for the powerful assistance of the rebel iron-clad ram, and the floating sharpshooter battery, the Cotton Plant, Plymouth would still have been in our hands.

For their noble defence the gallant General Wessells and his brave band have and deserve the warmest thanks of the whole country, while all will sympathize with them in their misfortune.

To the officers and men of the navy the Commanding General tenders his thanks for their hearty co-operation with the army, and the bravery, determination and courage that marked their part of the unequal contest.

With sorrow he records the death of the noble sailor and gallant patriot, Lieutenant Commander C. W. Flusser, United States Navy, who, in the heat of battle, fell dead on the deck of his ship, with the lanyard of his gun in his hand.

The Commanding General believes that these misfortunes will tend not to discourage, but to nerve the Army of North Carolina to equal deeds of bravery and gallantry hereafter.

Until further orders the headquarters of the sub-district of the Albemarle will be at Roanoke Island. The command devolves upon Colonel D. W. Wardrop, of the Ninety-ninth New York infantry.

By command of Major General JOHN G. PECK.
J. A. JUDSON, Assistant Adjutant General.

**The Press Despatches.**

NEWBERN, N. C., April 22, 1864.

The battle, which had been going on night and day at Plymouth from Sunday, the 17th, to the 20th inst., resulted in the capture of the city by the enemy on Wednesday noon, including General Wessells and his forces—one thousand five hundred men. The enemy obtained possession of the town at eight o'clock in the morning.

Gen. Wessells and his troops retired into Fort Williams, and held out until noon, repulsing the enemy in seven desperate assaults. The enemy's loss is said to be one thousand seven hundred, while our loss was slight.

Gen. Wessells, who gained such distinction in the seven days' fight before Richmond, has made in this siege a most heroic resistance with his little band of veterans. Several weeks since he called for five thousand men, stating in the most solemn manner that it would be impossible to hold the city with a less number. Gen. Peck, who has given Gen. Wessells all the assistance in his power, in the same solemn manner, time and again, called for reinforcements.

It is reported that the enemy have left Plymouth, and are now moving on Washington, and also on this city. The rebel ram at Kinston, on the Neuse, has, it is ascertained, moved towards Newbern, and is expected to make the attack in a day or two. More gunboats and reinforcements are immediately required here and at Washington.

Two companies belonging to the Second North Carolina (Union) Volunteers were among the captured at Plymouth, the most of whom were taken out and shot by the enemy after our forces had surrendered. All the negroes found in uniform were also shot.

The funeral of Commander Flusser takes place here to-morrow.

The rebel ram at Plymouth which came down the Roanoke is expected to act in concert with the other rams in the attack on Washington and Newbern. She carries three small guns and one sixty-four-pounder. With the aid of a few gunboats these rams could be readily run down, as their seagoing qualities are bad.

Under the cover of night the ram at Plymouth sunk two of our gunboats, but it is not expected she would attack any respectable number of gunboats in the day time.

Much discussion is going on here over the removal by the Secretary of War of Lieutenant Colonel C. H. Foster, commanding the Second North Carolina Union Volunteers. The Newbern *Times* speaks of his success in recruiting loyal whites, pays a high tribute to his services, expresses the popular sympathy for him, and says his removal was brought about by private intrigue outside of military circles. The *Times* exonerates General Butler from all blame, and claims that he coincides with the views expressed. The charge that Colonel Foster's appointment was improperly obtained is shown to be erroneous from official documents in his possession.

FORTRESS MONROE, April 24, 1864.

Captain Weatherbee, of the Twenty-third Massachusetts regiment, has just arrived from Roanoke Island. He makes the following report:—

General Wessells surrendered to the enemy on Wednesday, the 20th inst., when the rebels took possession of Plymouth, N. C., after four days' hard fighting.

Our loss is one hundred and fifty killed and twenty-five hundred captured.

The rebel loss is fifteen hundred killed.

**Reported Murder of the Colored Union Troops at Plymouth, N. C.**

BALTIMORE, April 25, 1864.

There are reports on the street here this morning, purporting to have been brought by a colored sutler, that the colored Union troops at Plymouth, N. C., were murdered after the surrender of the place to the rebels.

There are no means of verifying this statement, and the rumor is probably without foundation.

**Funeral of Captain Flusser.**

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AND DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA, ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, NEWBERN, N. C., April 22, 1864.

SIR—To-morrow, at twelve o'clock M., the funeral of Lieutenant Commander C. W. Flusser, United States Navy, will take place from the Naval Hospital. The funeral services will be held at the church on Pollock street.

As a tribute to the memory of this noble man, it is expected that every officer of the army whose duties will permit will be present on the occasion.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. A. JUDSON,
Captain and Acting Adjutant Gen'l, United States Vols.
To Mr. EVISON, care of Captain Bradley.

## REBEL NEWS FROM NORTH CAROLINA.

### How the Opponents of Vance are Punished in Lee's Army—Quarrel Between Jeff. Davis and Governor Vance, &c.

NEWBERN, April 22, 1864.

Governor Vance, who is a candidate for re-election, has been to Lee's army on an electioneering tour.

A correspondent of the Iredell *Express* from Lee's army says—"We have resolved to suspend any of our men who vote for Holden by the thumbs," over which the Raleigh *Progress* is very indignant, and predicts the defeat of Vance by the people if he encourages it.

On the 22d inst. Vance addressed the citizens of Fayetteville, N. C.

James M. Leach, a peace man, has been elected to the rebel Congress from the Seventh Congressional district of this State, by a large majority.

Governor Vance and Jeff. Davis are having a personal quarrel over the blockade running steamer Advance, which belongs to the State of North Carolina, and makes regular trips between Wilmington and Nassau. Davis insists that these North Carolina steamers shall carry part of their cargoes at government prices, and sell them at the same rate. Vance informs Davis that as these steamers belong to the State of North Carolina, and enter a North Carolina port, and bring clothing and supplies to her troops he (Mr Davis) can have no voice in the matter. Vance says these steamers have not only enabled him to clothe, arm and equip the troops of this State, as well as those of the confederacy, but have also enabled him to discharge the indebtedness of North Carolina, besides adding a surplus of several millions to the State Treasury.

**Terrific Boiler Explosion at Philadelphia.**

PHILADELPHIA, April 25, 1864.

By the explosion this morning of a boiler at Cornelius & Baker's establishment, on the corner of Eighth and Cherry streets, three men were killed and several wounded.

A portion of the boiler was thrown fourteen hundred feet, and fell upon the roof of a small building above Eleventh street, killing John Porter, who was loading a wagon in front.

Another piece was thrown into Market street, killing a horse and injuring Lewis Robinson, of Carlisle.

A chimney, five stories high, was thrown down by the explosion.

## IMPORTANT MILITARY NEWS.

**The Ninth Army Corps to Move.**

CIRCULAR—NO. 3.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE NINTH ARMY CORPS, ANNAPOLIS, Md., April 19, 1864.

This army being on the eve of a movement, no applications for leaves of absence or furloughs for any length of time will be granted, excepting only in the cases where there is evidence that the reasons are of the most urgent character. No notice will be taken of any others.

By command of Major General BURNSIDE.
LEWIS RICHMOND, Assistant Adjutant General.

**Review of the Ninth Army Corps by the President.**

WASHINGTON, April 25, 1864.

The infantry of the Ninth army corps passed in review before the President this afternoon. Mr. Lincoln, attended by General Burnside and a number of distinguished officers, civilians and ladies, occupied the eastern portico of Willard's Hotel, and received a marching salute from the troops as they passed. The windows of the hotel and the adjacent houses were crowded with ladies, and the streets were thronged with lookers on upon the grand spectacle of an army passing in review through the streets of Washington. It was a brilliant and soul stirring affair. As the battle torn banners of the various veteran regiments were advanced in the march they were greeted with loud huzzas from the assembled thousands. The troops marched well, and notwithstanding their bivouac in a drenching rain storm last night they looked well, their bronzed features confirming the history of their battles inscribed upon their regimental colors. It was a grand sight, and will be long remembered.

**The President's Order Assigning General Blair to the Command of the Seventeenth Corps.**

WASHINGTON, April 25, 1864.

On Saturday the President assigned Major General Blair to the command of the Seventeenth (McPherson's) army corps, now in the Department of the Mississippi. The following order has been issued on the subject:—

GENERAL ORDERS—NO. 178.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON, April 23, 1864.

I. Major General F. P. Blair, Jr., is assigned to the command of the Seventeenth army corps.

II. Captain J. W. Alexander, of the Third regiment United States cavalry, is assigned as assistant adjutant general of the Seventeenth army corps, with the rank of lieutenant colonel, under the tenth section of the act approved July 17, 1862. By order of the

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.
E. D. TOWNSEND, Assistant Adjutant General.

General Blair left the city on Sunday evening to join his command.

**A Fresh Army for Frontier Defence—One Hundred Thousand Militia of the Northwest Called Out for Garrison Duty, &c.**

WASHINGTON, April 25, 1864.

On Saturday Governors Lewis, of Wisconsin; Yates, of Illinois; Stone, of Iowa; Morton, of Indiana; Brough, of Ohio, and Blair, of Michigan, jointly tendered the President of the United States one hundred thousand troops, to serve one hundred days, to be clothed, armed and equipped by the United States government, the men to be raised within the limits of the several Northwestern States named.

The proposition was accepted by the President, and the Secretary of War was subsequently instructed to receive these troops.

Four or five of the above named Governors issued their State proclamations in this city, and sent them forward on Saturday.

The first proposition made by the Northwestern Governors was that the President issue his proclamation for one hundred thousand six months' men, but owing to difficulties that could not be immediately overcome, they agreed to make the proposition mentioned.

It is believed by the gentlemen who have tendered this new auxiliary force that they will be able to raise it in twenty five days. This new army will garrison all the posts and forts on the frontier and in real active operations, thus enabling the veterans now doing part garrison duty to join our armies in the field.

The number of militia accepted by government for one hundred days' service is much larger than has been hitherto stated. The tenders of such troops up to this time amount to nearly half a million of men. The whole people and the Governors of the loyal States appear to be wide awake, and to have accepted the advice of the HERALD to come forward now and crush the rebellion and finish the war at a single blow. A bill will be introduced into the Senate to-morrow appropriating $20,000,000 to pay for the services of the militia called out in the Western States for temporary service.

**The Indiana Militia.**

CINCINNATI, April 25, 1864.

It is reported that Governor Morton will take command in person of the Indiana militia.

**The Ohio Militia.**

CINCINNATI, April 25, 1864.

A general order, No. 11, issued from the Adjutant General's office, dated Columbus, the 25th, declares that every member of the National Guard must report in person, or by substitute, when called into active service, or be rested as a deserter.

**Military Movements in Massachusetts.**

BOSTON, April 25, 1864.

All the companies of heavy artillery in the State have been ordered to Washington. A sufficient number of Massachusetts militia will take their places in the forts.

**Departure of the First New Hampshire Cavalry.**

BOSTON, April 25, 1864.

Six hundred men of the First New Hampshire cavalry left here to-day for Washington. They go without arms or horses.

**New Jersey Called On for an Artillery Regiment.**

TRENTON, April 25, 1864.

Governor Parker has received instructions from the War Department to raise one regiment of twelve batteries of heavy artillery by the 10th of May.

**Movements of Generals.**

CINCINNATI, April 25, 1864.

Generals Gordon Granger, Kiernan and Sickles are in this city.

**The Court Martial of Captain Dunning.**

TRENTON, N. J., April 25, 1864.

A court martial, by order of the Secretary of War, assembled here this morning to try the charges against Captain Wm. R. Dunning, Assistant Quartermaster General, for alleged improper inspection of horses. The following officers compose the court:—Colonels Titus, Twenty-second New York Volunteers; J. L. Chamberlin, Twentieth Maine Volunteers, and S. S. Beach, Fifth Michigan Volunteers; Lieutenant Colonels H. H. Barnham, Sixty-seventh Pennsylvania Volunteers; J. I. Thompson, One Hundred and Seventh Pennsylvania Volunteers; G. Mallory, Thirteenth Pennsylvania Volunteers. Judge Advocate, George G. Hastings.

**City Intelligence.**

INCENDIARY FIRE AT ELM PARK—ARREST OF A BOY ON SUSPICION OF SETTING THE STABLES ON FIRE.—On Friday afternoon, April 22, a fire occurred in the Club stables in Elm park, Broadway and Ninety-second street, owned by Mr. Cobrad. The buildings were worth about $1,200. They were totally destroyed, and no insurance. A boy, about fifteen years of age, named Thomas Lee, was suspected by Captain Bogart of setting fire to said premises. Accordingly the boy was arrested, and Fire Marshal Baker was called to investigate it. The evidence showed that the accused had obtained two matches from boys at play in the vicinity, and then went towards the stables, and in a short time the stables were discovered on fire. The accused, when questioned by officer Eluard, stated that he was down town at work, and was not around by the stables at all. These facts, together with other circumstances, tending to show the boy's guilt, Justice Kelly yesterday held him to bail in $500 to answer the charge. Mr. Thomas Molloney, of Ninety-seventh street and Broadway, gave the required security, and the boy was liberated from custody.

THE FOURTEENTH STREET IRON FOUNDRY FIRE—LIST OF INSURANCES.—The total amount of insurance, it seems, is $62,000, in the following insurance companies:—Globe, $5,000; Merchants', $2,500; Manhattan, $10,000; Brevoort, $2,500; East River, $5,000; Jersey City, $5,000; Williamsburg City, $5,000; Adriatic, $5,000; St. Nicholas, $5,000; Hope, $5,000; Peter Cooper, $5,000; Greenwich, $2,500; Bowery, $2,500; Atlantic, $2,500.

## INTERESTING FROM VIRGINIA.

### Movements and Strength of the Rebels under General Lee—Alarm in Richmond, &c.

WASHINGTON, April 25, 1864.

Information from the rebel lines as late as Friday morning last are to the effect that Lee was not, as has been reported, moving towards the Shenandoah valley, but was at that time in his old position on the Rapidan. Such movements of his cavalry as were going on seemed to be in the nature of reconnoissances to ascertain Grant's purposes, and the fact of Grant having sent out unusually large picket forces seems to have mystified the enemy on various occasions. Lee's army was preparing for a sudden move, but was seemingly disposed to wait for Grant to open and develop his game.

The movement of our gunboats up the Rappahannock had raised an alarm in Richmond that Burnside was effecting a landing there, and a new alarm had been raised among the rebels of a movement by the Union troops up the south side of the James river. The rebels are divided between the fear that Lee may be invested in Richmond should he fall back there, and the fear that he may be outflanked by Grant should he remain in his present position.

Two weeks ago Lee's forces amounted to forty thousand men, and it is believed now that with the reinforcements he has been able to bring up that they do not amount to over eighty-five thousand.

**Our Williamsburg Correspondence.**

WILLIAMSBURG, Va., April 23, 1864.

REBEL PREPARATIONS ON THE PENINSULA—CONTRABANDS.

The contrabands are again commencing a hegira from the swamps of the Chickahominy to within the Union lines at Williamsburg. For some time there had been but few arrivals of this description at our outposts, and the appearance of this advance guard of colored refugees is an almost infallible indication of movements on the part of the enemy. From all the reports so far received, the rebels are evidently massing troops in all the strong positions to resist an expected advance up the peninsula. The Richmond authorities are evidently completely puzzled as to the designs of General Grant, and information is being constantly received of the marching and countermarching of troops.

GENERAL FITZHUGH LEE

has made his appearance in the neighborhood of Charles City Court House, with a cavalry force variously estimated at from three thousand five hundred to six thousand. The greater part of this force is composed of reenlisted veterans, who have lately returned from recruiting furlough. Many of them have served under Ashby and Jackson. Colonel Robbins also commands a force in this immediate neighborhood.

CHARLES CITY COURT HOUSE

is garrisoned by Pickett's old infantry division, under command of General Elzey, and a regiment of heavy artillery. A force, composed principally of heavy artillery, is stationed at Bromley's Station, on the York river, where they are reported to be engaged in throwing up earthworks. Troops are also concentrating on all the intermediate points between the York and James rivers.

The contrabands state that great excitement prevails among the scattered inhabitants of this region, a Yankee advance being momentarily expected.

**The Recent Expedition Up the Rappahannock.**

OFFICIAL REPORT OF COMMANDER FOX—WHAT THE EXPEDITION ACCOMPLISHED, ETC.

The Navy Department has received a communication, dated April 22, from Commander Fox, commanding the Potomac flotilla, in relation to a recent expedition up the Rappahannock. He says:—

Having learned from various sources that the rebel government had established a ferry at Circus Point, a few miles below Rappahannock, on the Rappahannock river, and was busily engaged in collecting boats at some point on the river for the purpose of attacking blockading vessels, I proceeded thither with a portion of the flotilla on the 15th inst., where I remained until evening, and visited all the ferries from Circus Point to Windmill Point, with the following result:—Two ferries broken up, seven large lighters, each capable of carrying a hundred men; three pontoon boats, twenty-two large skiffs and canoes, two hundred white oak beams and knees, large enough for the construction of a sloop-of-war, &c.; twenty-two large boats, one of which is capable of carrying small arms; a large amount of bacon and wheat, and a large lot of smaller articles, which were brought off at Bohler's Point. On the south side of Rappahannock Landing our men were opposed by a force of rebel cavalry, said to be five hundred, which was kept at bay by the fire of the Eureka, in Hariott's creek. Eight of our seamen chased six of the rebel cavalry. The rebels made an attack on the Eureka on the afternoon of the 21st instant, and were splendidly thrashed.

Commodore Parker says that he has it from reliable authority that the rebels have placed torpedoes in the Rappahannock and all the branches of the Chesapeake. He speaks in high terms of the Eureka.

**The Fair.**

The Fourteenth street and Union square buildings yesterday presented somewhat of a disagreeable contrast with the brilliant appearance which existed for the past three weeks. Nearly all the stands were vacant. On Wednesday evening next all the articles remaining on hand, with the exception of the machinery department, are to be auctioned off. At eleven o'clock to-day the machinery department auction will take place, when a large amount is expected to be realized. The entire receipts of the Fair cannot yet be ascertained, and probably will not be for a day or two.

**The Metropolitan Police Bill Signed by Governor Seymour.**

ALBANY, April 25, 1864.

Governor Seymour has signed the Metropolitan Police bill.

The Governor has also signed Benedict's School bill and the New York City and County Tax Levies bills.

**Shakspere Celebration at Halifax.**

HALIFAX, N. S., April 25, 1864.

The Shakspere celebration to-day was a decided success. The city was gaily decorated with flags and the procession was very fine. The day was clear and bright.

**The Late General Totten.**

GENERAL ORDERS—NO. 179.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON, April 23, 1864.

Another, and among the last, of the heroes of our "Second War of Independence," is gone. Brevet Major General Joseph Gilbert Totten, Chief of Engineers of the United States Army, departed this life on the 22d instant, in this city, in his seventy sixth year.

General Totten was born August 23, 1788, in New Haven, Connecticut, and graduated at the Military Academy in 1805, from which he was promoted to the Corps of Engineers, and, with a brief interval, from 1806 to 1808, continued in that arm of service, passing honorably through every grade until he became, in 1838, Chief Engineer of the Army. The Senate, before his death, unanimously confirmed his nomination by the President to be "Major General by brevet, for long, faithful and eminent services."

General Totten's military career, of more than half a century, has been one of continued usefulness and distinguished services. In 1812 he was called to the field to assume the arduous and responsible position of Chief Engineer of the army on the Niagara frontier, where he took a conspicuous part in the attack on Queenstown Heights, and the following year in the capture of Fort George, Upper Canada, and repulse of the British flotilla on Lake Ontario. In 1813-14 he became Chief Engineer of the forces successfully commanded by Generals Wilkinson, Izard and Macomb; was in the attack on La Cole Mill, Lower Canada, and the battle of Plattsburg. In this brief war General Totten won the respect and admiration of his brother officers, and the marked approbation of the government, which conferred upon him two brevets for his meritorious and distinguished services. On the return of peace his high professional abilities were called into activity on the Board of Engineers which projected our extended line of lake defences and seacoast fortifications. These works, most of which were planned by himself, are the enduring monuments to his memory. In the war with Mexico General Scott summoned his early companion in arms to