THE NEW-YORK HERALD.

WHOLE NO. 10,316. NEW YORK, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1864. PRICE FOUR CENTS.

SHENANDOAH.

UR CAVALRY AGAIN IN MOTION.

THE BATTLE OF ROOD'S HILL.

arly's Entire Army Engaged for Six Hours.

s Troops Display No Enthusiasm.

ershaw's Rebel Division Gone South.

ncentration of Scattered Detachments to Make Up the Deficiency.

arly's Strength and Position Discovered.

UR FORCES RETIRE.

ndsome Behavior of the Divisions of Powell, Devin and Custer.

ll and Interesting Details of the Whole Affair,

&c., &c., &c.

Mr. Theodore C. Wilson's Despatch.

HEADQUARTERS, CAVALRY CORPS, ARMY OF THE SHENANDOAH, Nov. 23—P. M.

CONTINUED ACTIVITY OF OUR CAVALRY.

Neither the weather nor the enemy can deter our cavy from accomplishing their purposes. The cold, bit-, frosty nights and snowy days check them not in the st from giving the enemy a call, although the effort st endurance of the most severe character, and a eerless march of over sixty five miles.

ORDERS TO MOVE.

At seven o'clock on the morning of the 21st the three valry divisions of General Sheridan's army mov d. nerals Powell and Devin, the latter commanding the rst cavalry division in General Merritt's absence, were the time encamped on the Winchester and Front Royal e, this side of Nineveh. General Custer held a posi- n on the Middle road, and the line from the infantry to e North Mountain.

In accordance with orders, Generals Custer and Powell ved simultaneously across the country for Newtown. ere they met and continued their march up the valley the valley pike, General Custer taking the advance. the same time that Custer and Powell were moving stated, Gen. Devin moved to Nineveh, and thence to ent Royal, crossing both branches of the Shenandoah, d continuing up the Luray valley. Both horses and n carried their own rations, and the whole command s in the lightest possible marching order.

THE FIRST BIVOUAC.

The column moving in the Shenandoah valley reached oodstock at half-past five o'clock on the evening of the st. Here it bivouacked for the night. The day had en rainy, and as night came on a piercing cold wind t in, causing the men to suffer to a more than ordinary gree. Only three of the enemy's scouts were found town, and these scampered off on the approach of our vance. During the night the town and immediately rrounding neighborhood presented a very brilliant ap- arance. The blazing fires in town and out of it, and e red and white lights in front of the respective com- anding officers' headquarters, gave the whole scene the ppearance of an illumination, which of course in a asure it was.

THE MARCH RENEWED.

Soon after daylight on the morning of the 22d the ad- nce was continued. The day was neither fair nor other- ise. The fickle weather was at times all frowns and en again all smiles. The wind was as piercing as it had en the night before. Many, both officers and men, had walk in order to keep their hands and feet from be- oming benumbed. Right and left the high towering ountains looked like huge piles of silver, as the sun ruck the fleecy white snow upon them, reflecting in rilliant rays. This day General Powell's division was in e advance, Custer following.

THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF THE ENEMY.

We found the enemy's mounted videttes on Narrow assage creek, just north of Edenburg. The enemy's icket line was a portion of Wickham's brigade, of Ros r's division, and was found on the line of Stony creek his picket line attempted to show some resistance to ur advance, but was quickly driven in by a deployed tachment of the Twenty-first New York, Major Otis ommanding.

EDENBURG OCCUPIED.

On entering the town we could ascertain nothing de- nite of the enemy's whereabouts or strength. The re- orts given by the citizens were conflicting in their haracter, and generally proved to be unfounded.

THE FIRST LINE OF THE ENEMY.

Soon after we came upon a force of two rebel regi- ents, the Third and Fourth Virginia, drawn up in line n a rise of ground just beyond Hawkinsville. This is a mall place, situated between Edenburg and Mount Jack- on. Gen. Tibbetts's brigade was at once ordered forward, whereupon three regiments of the brigade—the Twenty- irst New York, Eighth Ohio, Col. Moore commanding, nd the Fourteenth Pennsylvania, Major Gibson in com- mand—charged and drove the rebels from their position

A PURSUIT.

The chase after the retreating rebels was a wild and xciting one. Gen. Torbert, who commanded the whole movement, as chief of cavalry, having expressed a desire or a prisoner, Lieut. Merrill, of Gen. Powell's staff, ogether with one of our best scouts, were sent for a re- reating rebel and captured him. Merrill had to strike he prisoner three times with his sabre before the unfor- unate rebel would surrender. We could easily have illed him, but that was not the object we had in view. wanted to take him alive. Soon after more of the addling rebels were overtaken and brought in as risoners.

INFORMATION FROM PRISONERS.

From these prisoners and from other sources we learned hat Kershaw's division had on Friday last left Early's rmy, moving southward, and that Early had been rein- orced to the extent of the number of men taken away y Kershaw from various rebel commands, now concen- rated, but heretofore scattered in different parts of the onfederacy. This information is, however, deemed eliable. The fruits of our reconnoissance tends to con- irm it.

THE ROUTE TO MOUNT JACKSON.

In passing up the valley to Mount Jackson the north ork of the Shenandoah river was upon our left. At everal points the pike road ran along close to the river ank. Just on the other side of the river a few dare devils f the enemy's cavalry kept in plain sight of the assing column, but just out of range of our arbines. Two of these fellows were particularly daring. They retained their positions while the column was pass- ng, and reviewed it at leisure. It was no use going after hem, for they could take to the mountain not far from hich they were, and there our pursuit must end.

ARRIVAL AT MOUNT JACKSON—EARLY'S WHOLE FORCE NEAR AT HAND.

On arriving at Mount Jackson we learned that a heavy orce of the enemy was upon our right, and the whole of arly's army was not far in advance, being this side of New Market. Our object being to ascertain if this was really so, we continued to go forward. Other than skirmishing, nothing more important transpired until we had gotten directly in front of Rood's Hill.

ROOD'S HILL.

In order that the reader can more readily comprehend what I am about to relate in regard to the battle then and there fought, it is necessary to describe the hill and surrounding neighborhood. The hill, from the side of our approach, is a high ridge of open land. On the right is the north fork of the Shenandoah river, on the left Peaked Ridge, a mountain. In front of the hill is an open plain. The plain is an extensive one. On this side of the plain the Shenandoah river crosses the pike. There is a ford at the pike crossing. Just on this side of the river is a range of high hills. Standing upon the hills on this side it is easy to observe any and all movements made, not only upon the open plain, but also upon the untimbered Rood's Hill opposite. Rood's Hill is considered the next strongest position to Fisher's Hill in the valley. The object in keeping a rebel force at this point is to prevent our going through the country along the line of Gap creek, and thence to Luray, and also on to Milford and Front Royal.

RECONNOITRING THE POSITION.

On arriving at the high hills in front of the plain, we halted to reconnoitre the enemy's position on the opposite side. The rebels at first displayed only cavalry drawn up in line with a strong skirmish line in front, the whole principally to the right of the pike.

DISPOSITION OF OUR FORCES.

General Powell coming up, General Tibbetts was ordered to cross the river and go across the plain. He did so, and while doing this the enemy developed a line much stronger than his own. Tibbetts moved within six hundred yards of the enemy's first line without opening fire. All these movements and all the subsequent ones were viewed by the enemy and by all of our generals. General Early's flag was in plain sight on Rood's Hill, while General Torbert's flag could as plainly be seen in its place on the hills on this side of the plain. Noticing that the enemy was developing a heavy line of infantry, General Powell advanced to the support of General Tibbetts with Colonel Capehart's brigade, while the two brigades were forming on the plain preparatory to a charge. Colonel Pennington's brigade of General Custer's division was sent to occupy a position on a high hill to the right of the pike on this side of the river. A section of Captain Ransom's Battery C, Third United States artillery, got into position, and opened fire just as the calvary corps band commenced playing, and several distinguished officers congregated close by to view the impending engagement. Some twenty minutes were taken by General Powell in forming his division to make the charge.

THE ENEMY DEVELOPS HIS LINES.

By the time he was ready the enemy had developed two lines of infantry, with a strong skirmish line in front, and sent his cavalry across the Shenandoah river, and moved, under cover of a thick woods, to flank our right.

POWELL'S CHARGE.

The proper time arriving, and all being ready, Powell's entire division charged. As it did so the enemy opened fire from two sections of artillery and his infantry and cavalry, and, besides, commenced advancing. Our men were so close that several of the enemy's shells burst in our formed lines, but, strange to relate, did not do any remarkable injury.

THE ENEMY MOVES—THE ACTION GENERAL.

As the enemy continued to advance down the hill we had a plain view of at least fifteen thousand infantry and a division or more of cavalry. The enemy made several attempts to charge our men and turn the right flank of the troops on the plain, but in each attempt was met and checked with promptitude.

All of a sudden a heavy fire was opened from the woods by the rebel cavalry on that side. General Custer at once comprehended what was up, and ordered Colonel Pennington to hold the position at all hazards, which he did. At this time General Chapman's brigade was held in reserve to support the artillery and protected the ambulance and headquarter trains. On the right of Powell's line, in the course of the general charge, one brigade had to move over a ploughed field. Here it was that Major Gibson, of the Fourteenth Pennsylvania, while gallantly leading that regiment, received what may possibly prove to be serious injury, in consequence of his horse slipping and falling with him while in the act of leaping a ditch.

The heaviest part of the fighting was on our right, where at one time the enemy on the west side of the Shenandoah got in a cross fire on those on the plain. Quite rapid and heavy firing on both sides now commenced, and was continued for a long time afterwards.

EARLY'S ARMY DISPLAYS NO ENTHUSIASM.

Our men repulsed every charge of the enemy's cavalry on our right, on both sides of the river. In fact, not only Early's cavalry, but also his whole army, acted cowardly on this occasion. The idea of a general using his whole army to drive off two small divisions of cavalry! Had Early remained perfectly quiet, and let us run right into the midst of his infantry, he could have gained an immense advantage; but then, again, had we gotten into the midst of his infantry there is no telling but that we might have stampeded his whole army; and I guess so thought Early, for a though he knew our force, he took very good care that we should not get on speaking terms with him.

EARLY'S POSITION AND STRENGTH DISCOVERED—OUR FORCES RETIRE.

Having now gained our point, and developed the enemy's strength in full, we commenced slowly to retire on the left—the right of our line scattering and skirmishing heavily, and then advancing in three lines. At one time our position was anything but a safe one; in fact, had the enemy's cavalry not been driven back by the daring of our men, we would certainly have lost over three hundred prisoners.

Caphart's brigade recrossed the river first in excellent order. Tibbetts' brigade followed. The men of his brigade skirmished to the very last minute, and kept the enemy from approaching them too rapidly for the safety of the command.

THE ENEMY MAKES A DASH.

All our command having recrossed the river, the enemy's cavalry made a dash to the left, and soon afterwards made their appearance well upon our right flank.

Gen. Custer now undertook to check the enemy here, which he did most emphatically. He was so successful that the rebel cavalry feared to get more than a very short distance from their advancing and supporting infantry lines.

A RUNNING FIGHT.

After this quite spirited fighting ensued, extending from the Shenandoah river where it crosses the pike back almost to Edinburg. At times General Rosser's flag and General Custer's colors were within a stone's throw of each other.

THE ORDER OF THE RETURN MARCH.

In going back General Custer took the right and General Powell the left of the pike, while General Torbert went on ahead with two brigades to select a position from which to charge the enemy's cavalry, should the same follow up. The position referred to was taken, but the enemy, very judiciously for him, did not continue the pursuit.

ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE A REBEL FLAG.

In the course of the retrograde one of the enemy's flags kept close on our rear. Seing this, General Custer made a special charge to try and capture it. The regiment charged, but could not overtake the flag; but General Custer kept on ahead, at the head of three men, after the flag. He did not succeed in getting it, but he came very near doing so. It was said to be the flag of the Fourth Virginia, used as a battle flag by General Rosser.

BIVOUAC AT WOODSTOCK.

The fighting and firing ended about dark. We retired to and bivouacked for the night at Woodstock.

CASUALTIES AMONG OFFICERS.

In the course of the day's operations Assistant Adjutant General Seibert, of General Custer's staff, was struck on the shoulder by a spent ball, and had his horse killed under him. Among the wounded are Major Birdseye, of the Second New York; Major Boyce, of the Fifth New York also wounded. Several other officers are wounded, whose names I now cannot ascertain. Our whole loss will not amount to over sixty. Captain Keefe, of General Sheridan's staff, had his horse killed.

THE SUCCESS OF THE RECONNOISSANCE.

The whole of the forces engaged did admirably, and their escape without the loss of a gun or wagon, and only the loss of a few killed and wounded, is remarkable, especially so after having run into and engaged Early's whole army in a position of his own selection, and which he had long been preparing to defend against superior numbers.

The whole column, after laying bivouacked for the night at Woodstock, left the last named place on the morning of the 23d. We took more prisoners from the enemy than the enemy took from us. We killed a rebel colonel. I could not learn his name.

GENERAL DEVIN'S OPERATIONS.

General Devin's column, which moved up and attacked the enemy in the Luray valley, was equally successful. Of his operations and a complete list of casualties I will have to speak hereafter.

DURATION OF THE ENGAGEMENT.

The engagement lasted six hours. Four hours of the time there was hard fighting. General Powell personally complimented Lieutenant Colonel Adams for the gallant bearing of the First New York while under heavy fire.

Review of the Sixth Corps.

MR. CHARLES H. HANNAM'S DESPATCH.

HEADQUARTERS, SIXTH ARMY CORPS, Nov. 22, 1864.

REVIEW OF THE SIXTH CORPS.

The Sixth corps, Major General Wright commanding, was reviewed yesterday by General Sheridan. The level and open country in the vicinity of Kearnstown is admirably suited for the purpose of a review, and was consequently selected. Unfortunately a heavy rain had fallen at intervals for forty-eight hours previously, and during the time the troops were passing in review the fall of rain continued. Of the achievements of the Sixth corps during the last six months it is not necessary to speak; for its actions have won for it the respect of the North and the fear of the South; and, after six months of unprecedentedly hard fighting and marching, it was yesterday a subject of universal admiration.

Among the officers present yesterday were Generals Emory, Dwight, Getty, Seymour, Wheaton and Grant. General Crook was unavoidably absent, but the members of his staff were all present.

The troops were formed in line, with open ranks, about two o'clock, when Major General Sheridan, followed by the corps and division commanders and their respective staffs, rode slowly along the line of the bronzed and hardy veterans of the Sixth corps. A band struck up "Hail to the Chief," and wild cheers from thousands of hardy men rent the air. The troops were next wheeled into column by regiments, and General Sheridan, with head uncovered, took a commanding position. The corps then passed in review. Many ladies were on the ground, having been furnished with ambulances to convey them from Winchester. The ambulance and wagon trains were next inspected, and found to be in splendid condition, bearing but few traces of the vast amount of work done by them during the past summer. On the conclusion of the review General Wright tendered the hospitalities of his quarters to the gentlemen who had honored the occasion with their presence. In two wall tents a substantial cold collation had been laid out, and wine was not forgotten. General Sheridan was loudly called for to make a speech, but was not to be found. He had disappeared and gone quietly back to his headquarters. Other generals were then called on for speeches; but the fact is that in this army we have evidently no speech making generals, though that we have some fighting ones the country knows already.

General Sheridan Elected a Member of the Sanitary Commission.

The following letter from General Sheridan has been received by the Sanitary Commission:—

HEADQUARTERS, MIDDLE MILITARY DIVISION, IN THE FIELD, Nov. 13, 1864.

J. FOSTER JENKINS, General Secretary United States Sanitary Commission:—

DEAR SIR—Yours of October 31, advising me of my having been elected an associate member of the United States Sanitary Commission, is received. I have the honor to thank you for the compliment paid me, and in behalf of the sick and wounded of this army to acknowledge the many benefits derived from your charitable association. I am, sir, yours, truly,

P. H. SHERIDAN, Major General.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24, 1864.

EARLY'S TROOPS TRANSFERRED TO PETERSBURG.

A private letter, received here from a prominent officer at City Point, states that two divisions of Early's command have arrived at Petersburg.

COL. PAGE ASSIGNED TO GEN. SHERIDAN'S STAFF.

Lieutenant Colonel Page, Chief Quartermaster of the cavalry in the Shenandoah, has been assigned to the vacancy on General Sheridan's staff occasioned by the death of Lieutenant Colonel Tolles.

CAPTAIN BENEDICT ORDERED TO ARKANSAS.

Captain Benedict, Assistant Adjutant General, has been relieved from duty in the Adjutant General's office, and ordered to report to Major General Steele, at Little Rock, Arkansas.

DISAPPEARANCE OF CAPTAIN JEFFRAY.

Captain Jeffray, of the Veteran Reserve corps, mysteriously disappeared last Saturday night, since which time no clue has been obtained as to his fate. It is believed that he was murdered and his remains concealed, he having a large amount of money in his possession at the time. The Captain came out in a New York independent cavalry company, and was for some time attached to General McClellan's escort.

MILITARY PREPARATIONS FOR A SEVERE WINTER.

The indications of an unusually severe winter have induced the Quartermaster's Department to collect here a vast amount of supplies, particularly of forage, and also to arrange for keeping open the Potomac. Ice boats are to be kept running when necessary, and, as the river seldom freezes over below Aqu'a creek, it is believed that navigation will remain unobstructed.

CAMP STONEMAN.

The wisdom of the removal of the dismounted cavalrymen and recruits from Camp Stoneman to the other side of the Potomac daily becomes more apparent, and has suggested to the authorities the propriety of similarly disposing of other camps. Desertions, which were of daily occurrence in the former rendezvous, have been checked entirely, and the men placed under a degree of discipline impossible to attain within the immediate vicinity of the city. Many of the troops have been remounted, and by their vigorous scouting through Fairfax and the adjoining counties have effectually rid that section of guerillas.

REOCCUPATION OF VIENNA.

Vienna, in Fairfax county, has been reoccupied by our forces, affording protection to a large number of inhabitants, who are now returning to their homes after a long exile among strangers in the loyal States.

DESERTION FROM THE UNION ARMY.

About fifty deserters from our armies arrived at City Point from the valley. They were captured by Sheridan in his late campaign. The larger number of them were substitutes, who, having deserted and joined the rebel army, were sent to the Shenandoah valley, as there was less danger of their being identified if captured. A court, with General Colles, at the head has been ordered to City Point to try them.

TREASURY CLERKS ASKING FOR MORE PAY.

Yesterday the clerks of the Treasury Department, having conferred for some time past upon the subject of an increase of salaries, waited upon Secretary Fessenden, representing their inability to remain on their present income. Many are resigning from day to day in consequence of the inadequacy of their salaries, and the Secretary, although unable to attend to the matter in consequence of the absorption of his time in the preparation of his report to Congress, has intimated that at an early date their wishes may be complied with.

DISTRIBUTION OF POULTRY AND PASTRY.

Six tons of poultry and over seven tons of pastry were distributed among the hospitals and artillery companies about Washington yesterday for Thanksgiving.

MORTUARY STATISTICS.

The statistics of deaths in hospitals here show a mortality of over fifteen thousand, nearly all of whom have been buried by the government. Among these New York is most represented, she having lost three thousand two hundred and fifty-three. The greatest number of deaths were from typhoid fever. Five hundred were from amputations, and only two from sabre cuts. Nearly a thousand have been exhumed and removed by the friends of the deceased.

CELEBRATION OF THANKSGIVING DAY.

Thanksgiving was generally observed here to-day. The departments and nearly all places of business were closed, and appropriate exercises held in all the churches.

THE CAPITOL DOME.

The framework and old roof have been removed from the interior of the Capitol dome, and a large corps of artists employed in appropriately frescoing the ceiling, in order to have it completed upon the opening of Congress.

AWARD OF THE CANVASS MAIL BAG CONTRACT.

The contract for supplying canvass mail bags to the Post Office Department, for the transmission of mail matter until the 30th of June next, was awarded yesterday to Mr. C. H. Tyler, of New York city.

Vandalism at the White House.

[From the Washington Republican.]

We have been requested to give notice to the persons who have such a penchant for mementoes of the Presidential mansion that they are tempted to cut the linings of the sofas and solid pieces from the curtains of the East room, that Marshal Lamon has detailed officers to attend to the matter, under orders to arrest all such as may be detected in larcenies of this kind, without respect of persons. Some of the sofas have been stripped of their damask coverings, and the drapery of the windows mutilated in a shameful manner, and the Marshal is determined to put a stop to this vandalism.

RICHMOND.

Mr. L. A. Hendrick's Despatch.

HEADQUARTERS, FIFTH ARMY CORPS, SIX MILE HOUSE, Nov. 23, 1864.

WINTER.

Winter, judging from the present temperature, has given us a premature visit. Last night was intensely cold, and this morning the mud—the product of the late protracted rain—was frozen stiff, and ice in places thick and solid enough to hold a horse.

THANKSGIVING IN THE FIFTH CORPS.

Full preparations have been made for spending Thanksgiving Day to-morrow as much in accordance with usages existing before the war as the present exigencies of the war and our situation will allow. It is already known that an immense consignment of turkeys and chickens has been sent to the army by remembering friends at home. This consignment, weighing fifty nine thousand pounds, has arrived, and is to-day being distributed among the different corps. In addition to this wholesale feast of fowls, there will be religious services during the day, while the evening will be dedicated to merriment and "commissary," where it can be had, and toasts and speeches and songs.

ASSIGNMENT OF GENERAL GWYNN.

General Gwynn has been assigned to the command of the Third brigade in General Ayres' division. He is the first of the newly breveted brigadiers in the corps who has yet been assigned a command in accordance with his promoted rank.

GENERAL CHAMBERLAIN,

who, it will be remembered, was very severely wounded in the Wilderness, returned yesterday in completely restored health, and now commands his old brigade. His gallantry at the time of his being wounded—for he was then colonel commanding brigade—led to his promotion.

Major Roibling, chief of corps staff, has been granted leave of absence to attend the funeral of his mother. His personal popularity and gallantry elicit for him heartfelt sympathy in his bereavement.

The Press Washington Despatch.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24, 1864.

The rumors of movements in front of Richmond, which have been in circulation for several days past, are unfounded.

About twenty deserters came into our lines on Tuesday night. They stated that they had just heard of Lincoln's re-election, and, having lost all hope of a speedy peace, determined to fight no longer; and, though their officers endeavored to keep the result of the Presidential election from them as long as possible, they finally learned the fact from some of our papers. The circulation of our news papers within the enemy's lines has often been of the greatest service to us in this war. The strictest orders against exchanges of papers prevail in the Army of the Potomac, while in General Butler's department there seems to be no restriction on this subject.

About one hundred deserters were sent away from City Point yesterday on the Washington boat.

INTERESTING FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

Another Valuable Prize Captured—Disappearance of the Yellow Fever from Newbern, &c.

MR. WILLIAM H. STINER'S DESPATCH.

FORTRESS MONROE, Nov. 23, 1864.

CAPTURE OF A VALUABLE BLOCKADE RUNNER.

I am indebted to Rear Admiral David D. Porter, commanding the North Atlantic blockading squadron, for the following copy of a despatch he has just (half-past two P. M.) sent to the Secretary of the Navy:—

NORTH ATLANTIC SQUADRON, U. S. FLAGSHIP MALVERN, HAMPTON ROADS, Nov. 23, 1864.

Steamer Josco arrived disabled; captured in Gulf Stream schooner Sybil, of Nassau, New Providence, with three hundred and seven bales of cotton. No papers. Claims to be from Matamoros.

DAVID D. PORTER, Rear Admiral.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

THE UNITED STATES GUNBOAT RHODE ISLAND.

Captain Stephen D. Trenchard arrived in this harbor a few minutes ago, and, on sighting the flagship, Captain Trenchard fired a salute of thirteen guns in honor of Admiral Porter, which was returned with seven guns from the flagship Malvern. The Rhode Island will hereafter be attached to the squadron.

POULTRY FOR THE SAILORS.

The United States gunboat Kensington arrived here yesterday, bringing as freight some seventeen tons of poultry, which Admiral Porter is having distributed among the fleet as rapidly as possible. Jack is delighted at the prospect of having a good dinner on the National Thanksgiving Day, and many a silent "God bless" the munificent donors, will be offered up by our brave tars while they are engaged in doing justice to their sumptuous meal to-morrow, which a generous public has so lavishly bestowed upon them.

THANKSGIVING DAY IN NORFOLK

will be duly celebrated. All the churches are to be open for divine service, and the military parade in the morning. The following order has been issued by Brigadier General George F. Shepley, commanding the District of Eastern Virginia:—

General Orders—No. 37.

HEADQUARTERS, DISTRICT OF EASTERN VIRGINIA, NORFOLK, VA., Nov. 21, 1864.

Thursday, the 24th inst., having been set apart by the President of the United States as a day of Thanksgiving and Prayer, all public business, drills and fatigue, except such as may be indispensable, will be suspended during that day.

The troops of this command will be paraded at nine o'clock A. M., inspected and this order read to them.

Divine service will be held in camps where there are chaplains, at such hours as the several commanders may appoint. The churches will be opened at the customary hour. It is expected that officers and soldiers, and all loyal citizens, will attend public worship. By order of

Brigadier General G. F. SHEPLEY.

WICKHAM HOFFMAN, Assistant Adjutant General.

FROM NORTH CAROLINA.

The United States transport Jersey arrived here this noon from Newbern, with the mails and passengers. Among the latter was Major Stewart, Paymaster of the United States Army, who has been to North Carolina to pay troops. The yellow fever has entirely abated, and business has again been resumed. Brigadier General J. N. Palmer is at his station, commanding the District of North Carolina, with headquarters at Newbern. In mentioning this place, it is no more than proper for me to make a note of the self-sacrificing spirit displayed by a number of medical gentlemen, who, regardless of danger offered their services to go to Newbern during the prevalence of the fearful epidemic—yellow fever. Several of them succumbed and died. Among the most energetic doctors who have come under my immediate attention, are Doctors Hillery and Moneypenny, who volunteered to go to Newbern. Both were taken down sick but recovered, and returned here on Sunday last. In recognition of their services and heroism, the Secretary of War should bestow on them a medal of honor.

General Grant in Philadelphia.

[From the Ledger, Nov. 23.]

Yesterday morning General Grant, accompanied by Colonel Adam Badeau, of his staff, arrived in this city in the early train from New York, and stopped at the Continental until noon, when he left for Baltimore. The General soon after his arrival walked down Chestnut street, and when opposite the State House he was recognized by a soldier. The soldier immediately became excited and shouted, "There's our General." This attracted the attention of passers by, and soon so large a crowd collected that the General found it difficult to continue his promenade. After some pushing on the part of the eager crowd, a number of policemen arrived and took the General into the Mayor's office. After an exchange of civilities between the General and the Mayor, a carriage was obtained, and, after some difficulty, the General was enabled to get inside of it. The carriage was completely surrounded, and so great was the pressure that every pane of glass of the carriage was broken. Cheer after cheer was given for the General as the carriage moved off.

ROGERS & GRANT.—The following advertisement is taken from the columns of the *Weekly Telegraph* of St. Louis, bearing date March 12, 1859:—

U. ROGERS. U. S. GRANT.

Rogers & Grant, general agents for selling, bartering real or personal property, notes, bonds and other securities; borrowing or loaning of money on real estate or other good security; collecting of rents, renting of houses, collecting of notes, bills, accounts or other demands. Office No. 36 Pine street, St. Louis, Mo.

SHERMAN.

The Latest Accounts of Sherman's March Through Georgia.

DIVIDING THE SOUTH.

Simultaneous Movements Against Macon and Augusta.

THE REBEL ACCOUNTS.

The Country being Generally Devastated.

The Rebel Congress Passing Laws under which an Army is to be Organized to Oppose Sherman.

THE LATEST NEWS FROM MACON.

Sherman Within Eighteen Miles of the City,

&c., &c., &c.

The Washington Press Despatch.

NOTHING LATER FROM SHERMAN THAN THE REBEL REPORTS TO THE 22D INST.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24, 1864.

A letter from City Point, dated yesterday, says that Richmond papers of Tuesday have accounts of Sherman's movements, although not of a very definite character. The head of his column was reported to be within eighteen miles of Macon and advancing in that direction.

Information similar to this was telegraphed from this city last night, as the latest and most important information yesterday in the possession of the government. It may be further stated that rebel telegraphic communication was open only as far as Milledgeville, beyond which place the lines seem to have been interrupted, probably by Sherman's cavalry. The letter adds that the Richmond papers contain nothing else of importance.

Our authorities have at present no means of ascertaining news of Sherman's progress except through rebel papers. This statement may prove valuable in assisting to determine the degree of credit to be attached to mere published rumors or speculations in connection with his movements, apart from what appears in the Southern prints or is obtained from authentic sources.

The Philadelphia Despatch.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 24, 1864.

It is rumored here that information has been received at Washington that General Sherman has been notified by Governor Brown that Georgia, Alabama and another State, had determined to return to the Union, and that Sherman had halted in his movements. Also that Stephens desired to meet a commissioner from the United States in Canada.

The *Evening Bulletin*, in an extra, announces that Sherman has captured Macon with many prisoners.

NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS.

The Last Word from Sherman Before Parting.

[Correspondence of the Cincinnati Commercial.]

HEADQUARTERS, GENERAL SHERMAN, KINGSTON, GA., Nov. 11, 1864.

We are off to-morrow. Corse joined us from Rome to-day.

The road will be busted from Resaca down. The last train leaves Atlanta to-night for the North.

The army is in splendid condition, and a good many more in numbers than we thought in the North.

We expect a quick trip.

Sherman's Aim to Divide the Confederacy.

[From the Buffalo Courier, Nov. 23.]

The real object of General Sherman's movement is the division of the Southern confederacy. Let an army capture and hold Augusta, and secure the passage of the Savannah river by the capture of Savannah, or let it reduce Charleston and establish communication between Beaufort and Augusta, and with Atlanta in our hands, an impassable barrier of federal steel would stretch practically all the way from Louisville to the sea, straight through the very heart of the confederacy. Thus with the great States of Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana separated from the rest of the rebel domain, with North and South Carolina virtually hemmed in by federal armies, and Virginia, or all its important part, completely surrounded, the Confederate States would in a short time exist nowhere save in history.

REBEL ACCOUNTS.

Iverson's Attack on Atlanta.

REBEL ACCOUNT OF IVERSON'S MISTAKE ON THE 8TH INST.

[From the Richmond Dispatch, Nov. 21.]

The assault upon Atlanta on the 8th seems to have been made under the mistake that the city was weakly defended. This mistake being set right by finding a vigorous resistance, the assault was given up. Our troops attacked, under General Iverson, about sunrise, and drove the enemy from a redoubt on the south side of the town, but were in turn forced back. On the east side General Lewis drove the enemy into their fortifications; but, as they showed a good line, the assault was not pressed. It turned out, after the skirmishing was over, that the enemy had about twenty thousand men, under General Slocum. The Yankees were about evacuating the city, preparatory to Sherman's great march, and some of the Yankees said they were going to Montgomery.

Sherman Moving in two Columns Against Macon and Augusta.

[From the Richmond Despatch, Nov. 21.]

From Sherman's army we have the intelligence that it is moving in two columns—as the report says, one upon Augusta, and the other upon Macon. It is not likely that he is about to separate his columns for any length of time, and his line of march will probably be as follows:—The column marching on the Georgia State road for Augusta will go as far as Madison, sixty miles, and there turning to the right, march on Milledgeville, the capital of Georgia. *The column marching on Macon will probably go to Crawford's, within fifteen miles of the town, and there turn off to Milledgeville*, and form a junction with the other body. By this movement, Macon falls, and the enemy are at liberty to move on Augusta by following the Georgia Central Railroad to Brinsonville, and then marching north, or on Savannah, by following the railroad to its terminus there. We shall soon hear of their cavalry around Macon, and very near, possibly, to Augusta. *Sherman is moving rapidly*, and is not much troubled with transportation. *He has burned several stations at the depots he has passed, and is devastating the country generally in foraging.*

The Army that is to Annihilate Sherman—How it is to be Gathered Together.

[From the Richmond Enquirer, Nov. 21.]

We would call the attention of the country to the report and remarks of the Hon. Mr. Staples, in the House of Representatives, upon the subject of exemption of State officers:—Virginia, 1,400; North Carolina, 14,000; Alabama, 1,074; Mississippi, 110; Georgia, 15,000. Total, 30,984. An army equal to that with which Sherman is invading Georgia! *An army competent to annihilate Sherman, but at typical scattered all over the country, doing nothing.* There is no greater disgrace than awaits the State executives who have thus exercised their power to the injury of the country, to the ruinous diminution of the army, and the shielding from military duty friends and partisans.

Will not the people take this matter in hand? Instead of waiting for Legislatures, *Congress ought to repeal the exemption law and conscript the men*, and let the Legislatures take their action.

The Latest News from the Army—It Reaches a Point Eighteen Miles from Macon on the 20th Inst.

[From the Richmond Whig, Nov. 22.]

We were unable to obtain any later intelligence from Georgia this forenoon, except a report, seemingly reliable, that *Sherman was only eighteen miles from Macon yesterday.*

We did not receive any exchanges to-day from points beyond Greensboro, the mail having failed to connect at that point.

The rain, which had been falling for several days continuously, has doubtless extended as far south as Georgia, and may have an important influence on Sherman's movements.

THOMAS.

Wholesale Slaughter of Georgia Union Home Guard.

[From the Chattanooga Gazette, Nov. 18.]

A company, bearing the title of the Georgia Home Guard, has been rendering good service to the Union cause in the upper counties of Georgia during the past six months. The band was composed principally of deserters from the rebel army, men who had been conscripted into the rebel ranks and subsequently escaped, and a number of citizens of Murray, Walker and Catoosa counties, Georgia, and were commanded by Colonel Ashworth, of Walker county. They had been out on a scout for several days, and had captured and picked up several squads of rebel prisoners, among whom was a colonel. On their return they did not preserve as good order and discipline as they should have done, and the homes of many of them being in that section of country considerable straggling ensued. When near Elijah, about sixty-five miles northeast of Dalton, on last Friday, they were surprised by a force of rebels under the command of Tom Polk Edmonson. This rebel force is composed in the greater part of members of the First Tennessee infantry, who got cut off from their main army at the beginning of the campaign last spring, and have remained in that country ever since. The Home Guard numbered one hundred and twenty-five men, while the rebel force consisted of over three hundred. Finding that they were surrounded and that escape was impossible, the Home Guard surrendered; and then ensued the fearful part of the tragedy. The most of these men being deserters from the rebel army, as we stated above, and all of them being well known as having acted as guides for our forces, the rebels determined to show them no mercy. Taking the prisoners off into the woods a short distance, their inhuman captors shot or hung all but twenty-one of them. After the commission of this savage and unparalleled butchery, the monsters departed for their retreat in the mountains, taking their remaining prisoners—including Col. Ashworth—with them. On the road one of these prisoners managed to escape and made his way into Dalton, where he made the above statement to the Provost Marshal. It is supposed that our authorities will be able to effect an exchange of Colonel Ashworth for the rebel colonel whom the Home Guard had captured and sent into Calhoun. A flag of truce for that purpose was to have left Calhoun last Sunday. It is to be hoped that these "beasts" may get caught and have their just deserts meted out to them. No quarter should be shown to the perpetrators of such an act of inhumanity and bloodshed.

The Rebel Colonel Russell Routed in North Alabama.

[From the Cincinnati Gazette, Nov. 22.]

NASHVILLE, Nov. 21, 1864.

I believe I telegraphed you of the exploits of the rebel Colonel Russell, in tearing up the track on Saturday, on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, between Gurney creek and Paint Rock station. He has since come to grief. Colonel W. Hall, with four hundred men of the Fourth Michigan cavalry, pursued and overtook him yesterday at Ducalt's plantation, on Paint Rock creek, attacked him and killed four men, wounding a proportionate number. He drove him two miles and scattered his force. Among the munitions captured are several horses and all Colonel Russell's equipage. Colonel Hall had only one man wounded.

IMPORTANT FROM EAST TENNESSEE.

Knoxville Threatened by Breckinridge—Heavy Skirmishing Near Cumberland Gap on Monday—Burbridge Advancing to Protect the Kentucky Border, &c.

LOUISVILLE, Nov. 23, 1864.

After Gillem's recent defeat Breckinridge advanced to Strawberry Plains and Blair's crossroads, threatening Knoxville and Cumberland Gap.

On the 21st Breckinridge advanced to Powell's bridge, six miles from Cumberland Gap, and there was heavy skirmishing all day.

Burbridge has moved out from Lexington with a strong force to protect the Kentucky border from anticipated invasion by Breckinridge's forces.

News from Cairo.

ARREST OF REBEL SOLDIERS IN MEMPHIS, ETC.

CAIRO, Nov. 23, 1864.

Three steamers from Memphis on the 22d instant bring six hundred and fifty-five bales of cotton for St. Louis, two hundred rebel prisoners captured in Arkansas, and the Ninth Missouri regiment.

Nearly all the rebels from various parts of Tennessee and Mississippi in Memphis were arrested on Monday and Tuesday last. They came to sell cotton or procure supplies, under the impression they could go back. It was thought that so many able-bodied men could not live in the confederacy without being identified with the rebel army. So the commanding general ordered the arrest of every countryman in the city, when it was found that the majority of them were rebel soldiers, and two or three of them were officers. Many had furloughs. Some of them were subsequently released, as they proved to be peaceable citizens living nineteen or twenty miles east of Memphis, and had resisted the rebel conscription.

One hundred and fifty Texan conscripts crossed the Mississippi river at Union Point, four days since, for the rebel Army of the Mississippi.

General Canby is sufficiently recovered to resume business.

News from California.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 22, 1864.

The steamer Brother Jonathan arrived last night from the north, bringing over $400,000 in gold.

The receipts at the mint in this city to-day were about the heaviest ever known to have been taken in one day.

The total amount of treasure received in San Francisco for ten days is nearly $2,500,000.

The overland mail