

The war news this week is getting interesting. Gen. Banks' operations on Red River are causing considerable sharp fighting, resulting one day in a defeat and loss to our forces of a large number of men and guns, and soon after a rally, and a complete rout of the enemy.

The news from North Carolina is also unfavorable to us. An iron clad ram is reported as having cleared Roanoke River of our gun boats, sinking two and driving off a third. The ram has possession of the river below Plymouth, and our forces at that place are cut off from all communication.

We have visited some of the towns in the county within a week, for the purpose of collecting a little of the muck due on subscription, and of soliciting others to become our patrons; and experienced much pleasure in finding such readiness on the part of those we called upon, to assist us in all the ways in their power.

In Cambridge we found one man Mr. N. McFarland, who had just sowed 20 bushels of oats, and in Wolcott, we found a man, Mr. Edson Pinney, who was just going into the woods to sugar off his last batch of sugar for the season.

The roads on the river are quite good except between Johnson and Cambridge Centre.

FIRE IN EDEN.—On Saturday night last, at about half past ten o'clock, John Morgan's barn was discovered to be on fire, and was soon reduced to ashes. With the barn was also burned 18 head of cattle, 5 sheep, 5 lambs, 9 tons of hay, and most of Mr. Morgan's farming tools.

The 8th Regiment boys intend to enjoy themselves while at home. They have a ball at Waterville on the 5th of May, at the residence of Capt. McFarland, and on the 10th, at Wolcott, at the Hotel of K. Day, a discharged member of the same regiment.

The concert by Rix's select singing class last week, was a success, according to the opinion of those who attended. Mr. Rix has shown that he can train a class so as to enable them to perform with a good degree of skill very excellent music.

Dr. E. P. Fairman, of Wolcott, started yesterday morning for Newberne, N. C., as assistant surgeon to the Ninth Regiment.

WALTER W. BARNES.

Eben Barnes, of this town has handed us the following in relation to his brother, and at his request we publish it; not doubting that it will be read with interest by all who have friends in the army.

U. S. MARINE HOSPITAL, New Orleans, March 27th, 1864. Mr. E. Barnes.—I am very sorry to be obliged to inform you that your brother Walter W. Barnes, died in this hospital upon the 23d of this month.

Mr. Barnes came to this hospital the 11th of this month. He was very weak, just recovering from a severe sickness. We had no doubt however that he was recovering, and that a few days of rest, good food, and proper medicine would bring up his strength again.

Mr. Barnes was a member of Capt. Groun's company, and went with the regiment as drummer, two years ago last fall. Funeral services will be held at the church in this place next Sunday at 1 o'clock P. M. Members of the company to which Mr. Barnes belonged are invited to be present.

He was well and decently buried in a graveyard about a mile from the hospital. Funeral services are held, and a salute of honor fired over all who die here in their country's service.

Yours &c., MARY FOSTER, Nurse of Marine Hospital.

LANSINGBURGH, N. Y., April 21, 1864.

MR. EDITOR.—I promised some time since, a description of this place, for your spirited paper, which I will try now to fulfill.

Its name is made up of the surname of its first Dutch settlers, "Lansing," with the addition of burgh. Its population is about 6000; composed of Dutch, Yankees, Irish and "gentlemen of color."

It is situated on the east side of the beautiful Hudson River, directly opposite the "four mouths" of the Mohawk, and within the sound of the Cohoes Falls. On the east of the village is a high ridge extending up and down the river for miles.

West of us is the thriving village of Cohoes, a little Lowell; and north-west, the quiet little village of Waterford. The plan of Lansingburgh is that of squares, the streets all crossing each other at right angles, and all straight as a line can be drawn.

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The plan of Lansingburgh is that of squares, the streets all crossing each other at right angles, and all straight as a line can be drawn; and hence is conceded to be the prettiest village in these parts.

It cannot boast of a very great deal of elegance in its buildings, though it has many very substantial and comfortable houses, and is destined to be still further improved by becoming the up-town or fashionable residences of well-to-do Troyans.

Lansingburgh has six churches, but can hardly be called a church-going people, for like most places in this christian(?) land, not more than one in six attend church, while six to one attend to visiting and the saloon on the Lord's day!

We have three schools, known as the Female Seminary, Academy and Public School, besides an unknown quantity of private schools. This is the New York system, and is attended with not one-half the efficiency it would be if arranged on the graded system.

Two papers are published here: the Gazette, and Chronicle; the first is weekly, and the other semi-weekly and lately started. Two banks keep money matters in operation.

Since the fire, two years ago in Troy, the Orphan Asylum has been located here; (the asylum was not burnt by Gov. Seymour, and "his friends" though) but the children have lately been removed to the new and splendid asylum in Troy.

Brush making is the chief business of the place, and is said to be the greatest manufacturing place for brushes in the world. Since the war the demand has greatly increased, and is even still very great and urgent.

A very extensive beer brewery has lately been removed from here to New York, to serve, probably, as a screw, lever, cog or brace in the great political machine run here by liquor and slavery, in the interest of traitors and rebels.

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T. M. M.

THE GREAT BATTLE IN LOUISIANA.

We find in the Chicago Tribune the annexed detailed account of the first great battle fought by the Red River expedition, in which our forces suffered so severely:

"GRAND ENCORE, LA., April 11.

We left Natchitoches on the morning of April 6th, and marched until nearly dark, when we encamped in a pine forest. On the morning of the 7th we started again, and reached the town of Pleasant Hill about 5 o'clock.

At two o'clock on the morning of the 8th, the 1st brigade of our division—composed of the 19th Kentucky, 77th Illinois, 23d Wisconsin, and the 67th Indiana, numbering about 1500 men—was started in advance, and about daylight commenced skirmishing with the enemy.

The next morning the 9th, Gen. A. J. Smith came up with his command, and we were ordered to accompany our wagons, which comprised all that we had left, and they were ordered to come here as quick as possible.

The town we are now in is four miles from Natchitoches, on the Red River. The fight took place four miles from the town of Mansfield, De Soto Parish, Louisiana.

By this time our whole division was in action, and a brigade of the 3d division. We crossed the field, took a position near the edge of the opposite woods, and had just got in battery when we heard a terrible yell, and saw a line of rebels, unbroken, charging on our exhausted men, who had been skirmishing all day, and had only a few rounds of ammunition left.

Here Gen. Ransom was shot in the knee, and was obliged to leave the field. Lieut. Throop was felled by the windage of a shell, which grazed his abdomen. Gen. Banks was here, trying to rally the cavalry, which was in great disorder.

By this time the rebels were on both our flanks and firing across in every direction. We got our pieces into the road, and began to retreat, when a scene of great confusion ensued.

When the rebels got within two rods of us, we received orders to cut the traces and escape if possible. Mr. Dyer, our gunner, went to his limber, took out a file and hammer and when the rebels had already reached the gun behind ours, he commenced spiking his gun, and was captured at his post.

I now began to think of my own safety, and ran down the road a short distance; then struck into the woods until I was exhausted, when I caught a mule. I mounted him, but was immediately dismounted by the fractious animal.

While our division was fighting, the 19th army corps went into camp about eight miles to our rear, and were afterwards, but too late, brought up to our succor.

Of our whole division, numbering 3000 men, but 1000 are left to tell the fearful odds against which they contended. Two regiments of our division were consolidated, and had in all 140 men and seven oficers—the highest in rank remaining is a Captain.

Not one of our boys showed any cowardice, but stood by their guns until the last, and when I left them, rebels on both sides of the woods were calling on us, with frightful oaths, to halt; but I was determined to escape if possible, and succeeded by the favor of a gracious Providence, for surely only a charmed life could have withstood the shower of bullets with

which we were surrounded at all times. The 19th corps checked the rebels and held them for about twenty-five minutes, when they were forced to retire—which they did slowly, and as night came on, the bloody conflict ended.

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On the 7th Gen. A. J. Smith, who immediately relieved Gen. Franklin, whipped the rebels badly and recaptured 12 guns, and took 800 prisoners. This is the latest news that I have from the front."

THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

The Army of the Potomac has now had a long period of rest from battle. It is over nine months since it fought a general engagement, and that was on the soil of Pennsylvania. These nine months it has mainly passed in camp, though in October last, and the two months following, it did some heavy marching and countermarching, and parts of it had encounters with bodies of rebels.

Events indicate that the Army of the Potomac will soon again measure swords with its old adversary. It is now being prepared, and is preparing itself, for the great contest—prepared by improvement of its organization, additions to its numbers, etc. At its last battle it was commanded by a soldier without experience as leader of an army; and who took the command in an emergency and under circumstances such as would test the highest genius.

If Lieut. Gen. Grant is preparing his gallant army for battle, so is Gen. Lee preparing his forces. We believe that Lee commands a larger and better army to-day than he ever did before.

There is no reason to believe it either demoralized, dispirited or weak. There is every reason to believe its condition the reverse of this, in each particular. Demoralization is the immediate result of a route in the field, and dispiritedness is the result of despair of success.

But though we have seen this from the beginning, it is unfortunate that the rebels have not seen it, and there is less ground than ever to believe that they see it now. As to the strength of Lee's army, it has during the past winter, according to authentic estimates, been something less than sixty thousand.

Of our whole division, numbering 3000 men, but 1000 are left to tell the fearful odds against which they contended. Two regiments of our division were consolidated, and had in all 140 men and seven oficers—the highest in rank remaining is a Captain.

Not one of our boys showed any cowardice, but stood by their guns until the last, and when I left them, rebels on both sides of the woods were calling on us, with frightful oaths, to halt; but I was determined to escape if possible, and succeeded by the favor of a gracious Providence, for surely only a charmed life could have withstood the shower of bullets with

ston, to push his way down into the heart of Georgia.

Adding thus the fresh conscripts and the outlying detachments in Virginia and North Carolina to the already huge army of Lee—increasing this by the force of Longstreet, and still further by the army of Beauregard, and we shall get some conception of the magnitude of the force that Lee has, or will have, in hand for the pending campaign.

There is a tremendous pressure by a powerful party in the South for an advance movement on the part of Gen. Lee. It is no argument to these people to point them to the failures of each of their two previous advances on Northern soil—to their failures at Antietam and Gettysburgh. It were as well to try to dissuade the people of the North from advancing upon Richmond and into Virginia by pointing them to the failure of all previous attempts to reach the rebel capital.

As the day draws nigh when the old heroic Army of the Potomac under Grant shall again try conclusions with the veteran army of the rebels under Lee, the interest and affection and prayers of the country begin once again to go out for our army. It has the love of admiration of the whole land. It has a grand history. It has a sublime devotion. It has officers tried and true. It has a chief who has acquired the "habis of victory," and who, during the last year, inscribed on his banner the immortal legends—Vicksburgh and Chattanooga.—N. Y. Times.

Leap year, and the young ladies are doing their part nobly. On Saturday last an invitation was given to the Charleston girls to attend a party in the sugar-bush. The gentlemen were all attacked and challenged to accompany them. At the appointed hour they drove their own teams to the door, assisted the gentlemen to their seats and took the reins into their own hands.

LIKELY CATTLE.—That was a likely yoke of three year old steers lately sold by James Houghton, Esq., of Stamford, to a dealer in Connecticut who paid him for them \$300, they tipping the scales to the tune of 3300 lbs. One of them weighed 1800 lbs., and is claimed as the heaviest animal of his age in Bennington County, if, indeed, not in Vermont.—Bennington Banner.

The governors of Illinois, Ohio, Iowa, Wisconsin and Indiana have offered to raise for the government 85,000 men for special service for 100 days, and Gov. Morton of Indiana has issued a proclamation calling for 20,000 volunteers.

Fortress Monroe, April 24. Capt. Weatherbee of the 23d Mass. Regiment has just arrived from Roanoke Island. He makes the following report: Gen. Wessell surrendered to the rebels on Wednesday the 20th inst., when the rebels took possession of Plymouth, after four days' fighting.

Our loss is 150 killed and 2500 captured. The rebel loss is 1500 killed.

HYDE PARK SABBATH SCHOOL. General question by Miss Randall.—"Who called a congregation rebels?" Bible class question by Mrs. Sparrow.—"Who slew three score and ten of his brethren, and afterwards was made king of Israel?" Young ladies' class No. 1, question by Julia Keeler.—"What was Israel's song?" "To the Lord our strength." Girl's class No. 2, question by Miss Hall.—"To whom did Abas give the silver and gold that was found in the house of the Lord?" Ans. to general question of last week—John 13:35; Bible class question—Isa. 4:5; Young ladies' class No. 1.—Gen. 24: 63.