Richmond Dispatch.

BY GOWARDEN & HARRIS-BLY.

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MONDAY MORNING.....FEB. 3, 1862.

DAILY DISPATCH.

VOL. XXI.—NO 29. RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, MONDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 3, 1862. PRICE TWO CENTS.

FROM NORFOLK.

[OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

The Great Burnside Armada—Its Backbone Broken—The Excitement of the North—Confederate Reconnoissance—Northern Finances—Letters from Correspondents, &c.

NORFOLK, Jan. 31, 1862.

At last we have received some news of the Burnside expedition from a Northern source, and find that it exceeds, in its chapters of disasters, the most exaggerated rumors that have been floating through our streets. The sum total of it is, that the backbone of the armada is broken, and so much damage has been done it by the long storm that reinforcements become necessary before putting the plan of the expedition into execution. Burnside has burnt his fingers in this little project; but he is still valiant, and calls as loudly for more men as King Richard did for "a horse." He has become terribly severe, and will undoubtedly, in a sheer fit of desperation, throw himself upon the North Carolina coast, in the hope of recovering the prestige lost with so many of his ships. The very full telegraphic dispatch sent you yesterday give the main portion of the Northern news, and I need not recapitulate. The most striking points are that Gen. Burnside expected to find plenty and willing pilots to conduct him through the inlet, and found none; that mention of loss of life has been so studiously avoided, that so many vessels are still missing, not reported lost, and that many of the gun-boats refused to move from Fortress Monroe—whereupon Burnside attempts to shift the responsibility of the disaster upon contractors. Those items will furnish material for considerable thought and speculation.

Some days ago, when the rumor reached the Yankees, from this city, that the Louisiana was lost, it was very generally discredited, and published in their papers as a "shamed rebel falsehood," in order to keep up the public credit as long as possible. Still there were many misgivings, and many fears that all was not right; and some went so far as to hint at disasters which the Government (alias Ball's Bluff) was trying to conceal. On Thursday, however, the startling news burst upon the people, and, of course, was differently received. In New York the excitement was intense. Stocks fell at once; the Bulls and Bears went to gambling furiously; brokers regarded the information as news of the sinking of a vast amount of money; shipowners saw in it new chances for speculation, and a ready sale for more old hulks; contractors saw new bargains in supplies.—But the mass of the people saw the failure of one of their dearest hopes and immense destruction of public property, and its consequent loss of life. See how differently the world looks at disaster!

We now have information from both sides. Burnside arrived at Hatteras on the 15th; some of his vessels ran ashore and were lost; others were missing; a few he got inside, where he now is endeavoring to get the remainder over the bar. Several times his fleet has been seriously annoyed by our little gunboats, although the sea was too high for them to operate with success. On Monday and Tuesday of last week two of our steamers went down Pamlico sound on a reconnoitering expedition. At about 11 o'clock, A. M., as they were nearing Hatteras, three or four Yankee steamers hove in sight. Our vessels pushed on, when the number of the enemy soon increased to twenty-one, and all joined in chasing our two gun-boats. After keeping up the chase for several hours, our vessels *being* faster than theirs, all dropped astern except four, and at dusk they were still in sight some miles behind. Our gunboats rejoined the fleet. Since, two or three gun-boats have been down at different times and met with the same experience. It was thought that as soon as the sea became calm there would be a fight.

But it is useless for me to speak further of this affair, as the full extracts from Northern papers, which will be sent you, gives the information at greater length than I would be able to do in my short corner of the paper. I hope, however, to go down to the sound tomorrow, and shall, possibly, glean some items of interest for those who choose to follow me in the journey.

Another important item is regarding financial affairs in Yankeedom, which grow no better as rapidly as can be imagined. A vast public debt is accumulating, with no prospect as yet of money to meet it. The probability of a paper currency has caused an increase of price in every quarter, preparatory to its certain depreciation, and thinking men are becoming seriously alarmed. There is strong opposition to the bill I spoke of in my last, to raise money by direct taxation for a series of years, and it is believed that the bill cannot pass the House, owing to the fierce denunciation of it by the Western members. If it fails, what, in the name of wonder, can be done next? What new expedient can be devised?

Since I last wrote, many letters of encouragement have been sent me by unknown persons, some of them so kindly that I beg leave to notice them, promising not to encumber your columns often with private affairs. I would inform "T. M." that I think it impossible to get the back numbers he requires; inquire at the *Dispatch* office. "Tar Forest Nymphs" wish to know if I would object to give them certain information of a personal nature? None in the world, my dear Dryades; but, then, if I tell you here, there is that sly step-dame—the public—who will hear every word. What else can I say except to express gratification at your note? "J." sends me an elegant smoking-cap—so fine indeed that it makes me quite ashamed of my poor little, dingy pipe, with its wooden bowl. I wish I knew "J.'s" address, that I might express my thanks. From "Lillian Clifford" I have a little book of pins and needles. They will prove very useful to me, for my buttons are the most obstinate in existence; they will persist in coming off at the most unwarranted time. "O.," I publish it at your desire. Here it is:

WAITING

All day long beside the window,
Gazing through the mist and rain,
Up and down the street she watches—
Watches closely—but in vain;
And with half a sigh she murmurs,
"Will he never come again?"

All day long beside the window,
In both hope and fear she sate,
And the hopes and fears commingled,
Make her whole frame palpitate—
Fill her beating heart with wonder,
Why it is he comes so late.

And the light grows dim and dimmer,
Night advances on the day,
One by one the street-lamps glimmer
Through the darkness, far away—
Then she says, "I wait no longer,"
And she slowly turns away.

Once again beside the window—
Only dark and rain she sees—
Then she turns from weary waiting,
Softly strikes the ivory keys,
Pouring out her wealth of sadness
In bewailing threnodies.

Dismal hours of expectation!
By the gaslight's steady glare
Stands she at the parlor mirror,
Smiling when he stands behind her,
If he, too, will call her fair,
But he comes not. In her chamber,
Sobs Oppressed by foolish fears,
She throws her face upon the pillow
And relieves her grief in tears.
Sadly weeping, until sleep,
Like some good angel, soft appears.

Night, with all its dreams, is over,
And the morning comes again,
Bringing news of a fierce battle,
Fought upon Manassas plain;
And she reads, with deepest anguish,
His dear name among the slain.

BOHEMIAN.

Things in Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York—Condition of the Cities and of the People—Historical Reminiscences—Services of Norfolk Citizens.

[SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE DISPATCH.]

NORFOLK, Jan. 31, 1862.

I have very late and reliable intelligence from the Northern cities, and from Washington and Baltimore. The New York of 1862 is far different from the swarming, hive-like, noisy, driving, dashing, thriving Empire City of 1860. You may perambulate about town now without the danger of being knocked down and run over in the hurry of affairs. Business is dull; the people complain bitterly of the continuance of the war. Real estate has fallen in some parts of the city below zero; hundreds of stores are closed; fires occur frequently; the people are dissatisfied and restless, and the low rumbling of a storm that will shake the mammoth city to its deep foundations are already heard.

Philadelphia is a slow-looking place, compared to its business-like and cheerful appearance in days of prosperity. Baltimore looks more like going ahead, but, judging from the suppressed murmurs that are heard, there may soon be an eruption of the volcanic fires that are struggling for vent. Washington is a muddy place. An armed soldiery is the great feature, while the beautiful public structures of stone form a striking contrast to the mollest looking private buildings.—There, the contractors, office-seekers, and all the crowd of scramblers after money, are as busy as ever; but Washington too, presents the sad effects of the war waged by misguided nation and unscrupulous demagogues.

If the historic chapters relative to the present stupendous revolution, which are to be read by coming generations, shall present a truthful record of events that marked the commencement of the struggle for liberty in Virginia, some exploits in this section of our noble old State will be recorded as possessing vast importance. There are some names, too, still unwritten upon the scroll of fame, that will descend with those of the heroes of those days, far down the track of time.

There was a time here when men hesitated, waited, reasoned, while the plot was thickening for our subjugation and enslavement. That brief period unimproved, and the tramp of hostile forces would have been heard in our streets; our peaceful homes and altars would now be invaded, and the seaport of Virginia, unless its buildings had again fed the flames as in '76, would have been in the hands and at the mercy of the vandal hordes of the North.

One of the enemy's powerful war ships was so close at hand that the boatswain's whistle could be distinctly heard on shore. Her great guns pointed towards our peaceful dwellings; but her officers knew not of the determined spirit of resistance that fired the hearts of some who were ready and eager to step forth to the hazardous task of duty, just when the deep-toned mutterings from the black storm-cloud of revolt were first heard in the distance.

In the report from the office of Detail and Equipment to the Convention, by Captain Barron, there are allusions to important measures taken here relative to the magazine, &c., and the report may have been necessarily brief. A few additional particulars will not be inappropriate here.

It was decided by one or two bold and daring spirits to remove the vast quantity of powder stored in the Government magazine upon the shore, a mile below the city. And so well devised was the plan, so cautiously was it executed, so eagerly and so rapidly, and yet so quietly, was the work done, that thousands of the citizens knew nothing of the important matter until the labor was accomplished. Shall we particularize with regard to those who so bravely and so carefully toiled in behalf of their country's honor on that night, when the explosion of a single package would have been death and ruin, and revealed the plot by a wide-spread destruction?

At the beginning of active hostilities here many of the volunteer officers and men of the revenue, as well as the navy officers, most gallantly did their duty; and much might be said, too, of that valuable class of men in a seaport, the pilots.

Our esteemed fellow-citizen, Capt. Rich'd Evans and Capt. Osmond Peters, on the opposite side of the river, nobly stood up to their duty in spite of infirmities and regardless of exposure; indeed there seemed to be on hand just the men wanted for the occasion.

On the 20th of April, the day before the great Navy-Yard fire, Lieut. Jas. F. Milligan, a removed officer, took command of the Empire. Two days after she was steaming off to Richmond, with the first guns forwarded from the Navy-Yard, and a few days later she again passed up James river, loaded with powder, shot, shell, &c. Returning the last time, she had to run the blockade, which she did safely, notwithstanding she had two barges in tow. The zeal and the efficient and able services of Lieutenant, now Captain Milligan, then and since, have been deservedly appreciated and acknowledged in proper quarters. No one has labored more willingly and untiringly. As signal officer, his services have been specially useful, and his system of signals is believed to be equal to any that has been adopted.

The steamer Raney quickly followed the Empire to Richmond, and indeed was the first steamer that got off with a full cargo of powder for that city. She was in command of Captain William Face, a Virginia pilot, who was very prompt and energetic in the performance of the important duties assigned him, when men of nerve and action were in demand for special services.

Capt. R. K. Hudgins and his worthy son, Lieut. W. E. Hudgins, also of the revenue service, should be mentioned among the best men in the stirring scenes enacted during the period alluded to. Other brave men were active in urging forward those measures which were so requisite for safety, and in securing the defences of our city and other parts of the State.

On the 10th of April, some of our citizens, under the very guns of the Cumberland, seized three light-boats, towed them in the darkness of the night near by the formidable looking war ship Cumberland, and sunk them in the channel of the river where they now lie, concealed from the watchful foe that looks with a covetous eye up the well guarded shores of the Elizabeth.

At another time, I may allude to the active part taken by others, resident here and elsewhere and connected with the army, the navy, and in private life. Now, time and space are insufficient.

[Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.]

Things in Charleston.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Jan. 29.

We are having here the early vegetables—green peas, and other eatables of the kind. They are now to be found in considerable abundance in the market, while the budding trees and the green clover in suburbs indicate that balmy spring is about to revisit us. With more than ordinary pleasure, we look forward to the return of warm weather, as it will doubtless send sickness and death among our "Northern friends," who are awaiting at Port Royal, hoping to pay us a visit.

I went to-day to see a large shoe factory recently established by Mr. Reynolds. All his shoes have wooden soles, and answer admirably, especially for the soldiers on the coast, as salt-water soon destroys leather soles.

The ladies of this city have formed a Christian Association, through which they are doing a blessed work in caring for the bodies and souls of our poor soldiers. In no city in this country are our noble women more untiring in their efforts for the army than in this city. As their husbands, fathers, and brothers were the first to move in secession, they seem to feel that they should be second to none in labors of love for the men who are making good the position of our young Republic.

Much solicitude is being felt for Savannah since the information received this morning of its being threatened by the Lincoln gunboats.

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DEATH OF MAJOR FOGG.—The Nashville *Republican and Banner*, of the 20th ult., says:

The citizens of Nashville were shocked last Sunday morning, on receiving the unexpected tidings of the death of Major Fogg, wounded in the late engagement at Mill Springs. It had been generally understood that his wound was not serious, though painful, and that he was doing well. He had been removed from the battle-field over the Mountains near Beatty's in a litter, where he breathed his last, in the presence of Mrs. Major Stewart, Rev. Mr. Maxwell, and a few other kind neighbors assembled to render them all ministrations possible to relieve the sufferer. Major Fogg was a lawyer of ability, and a gallant soldier in the service of his country.

THE BATTLES OF 1861.

OFFICIAL REPORTS.

THE BATTLE OF MANASSAS, JULY 21, 1861.

REPORT OF GEN. BEAUREGARD.

HDQ'RS 1ST CORPS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, MANASSAS, August 26, 1861.

General: * * * * The War Department having been informed by me, by telegraph on the 17th of July, of the movement of Gen. McDowell—Gen. Johnston was immediately ordered to form a junction of his Army Corps with mine, should the movement, in his judgment, be deemed advisable. Gen. Holmes was also directed to push forward with two regiments, a battery, and one company of cavalry.

In view of these propositions, approaching reinforcements modifying my plan of operations, so far as to determine on attacking the enemy at Centreville as soon as I should hear of the near approach of the two reinforcing columns, I sent one of my Aids, Col. Chisholm, of South Carolina, to meet and communicate my plans to Gen. Johnston, and my wish that one portion of his force should march by the way of Aldie, and take the enemy on his right flank and in reverse at Centreville. Difficulties, however, of an insuperable character in connection with means of transportation, and the marching condition of his troops, made this impracticable, and it was determined our forces should be united within the lines of Bull Run, and thence advance to the attack of the enemy.

Gen. Johnston arrived here about noon on the 20th July, and being my senior in rank, he necessarily assumed command of all the force of the Confederate States, then concentrating at this point. Made acquainted with my plan of operations and dispositions to meet the enemy, he gave them his entire approval, and generously directed their execution under my command.

In consequence of the untoward detention, however, of some five thousand (5,000) of General Johnston's Army Corps, resulting from the inadequate and imperfect means of transportation for so many troops, at the disposition of the Manassas Gap Railroad, it became necessary, on the morning of the 21st, before daylight, to modify the plan accepted to suit the contingency of an immediate attack on our lines by the main force of the enemy, then plainly at hand.

The enemy's forces, reported by their best informed journals to be 55,000 strong, I had learned from reliable sources, on the night of the 20th, were being concentrated in and around Centreville, and along the Warrenton turnpike road, to Bull Run, near which our respective pickets were in immediate proximity. This fact, with the conviction that, after his signal discomfiture on the 18th of July, before Blackburn's Ford—the centre of my lines—he would not renew the attack in that quarter, induced me at once to look for an attempt on my left flank, resting on the Stone Bridge, which was but weakly guarded by men, as well as but slightly provided with artificial defensive appliances and artillery.

In view of these palpable military conditions, by half-past four *A. M.*, on the 21st July, I had prepared and dispatched orders, directing the whole of the Confederate forces within the lines of Bull Run, including the brigade and regiments of Gen. Johnston, which had arrived at that time, to be held in readiness to march at a moment's notice.

At that hour the following was the disposition of our forces:

Ewell's brigade, constituted as on the 18th of July, remained in position at Union Mills Ford, its left extending along Bull Run, in the direction of McLean's Ford, and supported by Holmes's brigade, 2d Tennessee and 1st Arkansas regiments, a short distance to the rear; that is, at and near Camp Wigfall.

D. R. Jones's brigade—from Ewell's left, in front of McLean's Ford, and along the stream to Longstreet's position. It was unchanged in organization, and was supported by Early's brigade, also unchanged, placed behind a thicket of young pines, a short distance in the rear of McLean's Ford.

Longstreet's brigade held its former ground at Blackburn's Ford, from Jones's left to Bonham's right, at Mitchell's Ford, and was supported by Jackson's brigade, consisting of Colonels James L. Pres on's 4th, Harper's 5th, Allen's 23, the 27th, Lieut. Col. Echols's, and the 33d, Cumming's Virginia regiments, 2,611 strong, which were posted behind the skirting of pines, to the rear of Blackburn's and Mitchell's Ford, and in rear of this support, was also Barksdale's 13th regiment Mississippi volunteers, which had lately arrived from Lynchburg.

Along the edge of a pine thicket, in rear of and equi-distant from McLean's and Blackburn's Fords, ready to support either position, I had also placed all of Bee's and Bartow's brigades that had arrived—namely, two companies of the 11th Mississippi, Lieut. Col. Liddell; the 2d Mississippi, Col. Falkner, and the Alabama, with the 7th and 8th Georgia regiments, (Colonels Gartrell and Lieut. Col. Gardner,) in all 2,732 bayonets.

Bonham's brigade, as before, held Mitchell's Ford, its right near Longstreet's left, its left extending in the direction of Cocke's right. It was organized as at the end of the 18th of July, with Jackson's brigade, as before said, as a support.

Cocke's brigade, increased by seven companies of the 8th, Hunton's, three companies of the 49th, Smith's Virginia regiments, two companies of cavalry, and a battery under Rogers of four 6-pounders, occupied the line in front and rear of Bull Run, extending from the direction of Bonham's left, and guarding Island, Ball's and Lewis's Fords, to the right of Evans's demi-brigade, near the Stone Bridge, also under Gen. Cocke's command.

The latter held the Stone Bridge, and its left covered a farm ford about one mile above the bridge.

Stuart's cavalry, some 300 men of the army of the Shenandoah, guarded the level ground extending in rear from Bonham's left to Cocke's right.

Two companies of Radford's Cavalry were held in reserve a short distance in rear of Mitchell's Ford, his left extending in the direction of Stuart's right.

Col. Pendleton's reserve battery of eight pieces was temporarily placed in rear of Bonham's extreme left.

Major Wilson's reserve battery of five guns was in position on McLean's farm, in a piece of woods in rear of Ewe's right.

Hampton's Legion of six companies of infantry, six hundred strong, having arrived that morning by the cars from Richmond, was subsequently, as soon as it arrived, ordered forward to a position in immediate vicinity of the Lewis House, as a support for any troops engaged in that quarter.

The effective force of all arms of the army of the Potomac on that eventful morning, including the garrison of Camp Pickens, did not exceed 21,833, and 29 guns.

The army of the Shenandoah, ready for action on the field, may be set at 6,000 men and 20 guns.*

The brigade of Gen. Holmes mustered about 1,265 bayonets, 6 guns, and a company of cavalry about 90 strong.

Informed at 5:30 A. M., by Col. Evans, that the enemy had deployed some 1,200 men with several pieces of artillery, in his immediate front, I at once ordered him, as also Gen. Cocke, if attacked, to maintain their position to the last extremity.

In my opinion, the most effective method of relieving that flank was by a rapid, determined attack, with my right wing and centre on the enemy's flank and rear at Centreville, with due precautions against the advance of his reserves from the direction of Washington. By such a movement, I confidently expected to achieve a complete victory for my country by 12 M.

These new dispositions were submitted to Gen. Johnston, who fully approved them, and the orders for their immediate execution were at once issued.

Brigadier-General Ewell was directed to begin the movement, to be followed and supported successively by Generals D. R. Jones, Longstreet, and Bonham respectively, supported by their several appointed reserves.

The cavalry, under Stuart and Radford, were to be held in hand, subject to future orders and ready for employment as might be required by the exigencies of the battle.

About 8.30 A. M., General Johnston and myself transferred our headquarters to a central position about half a mile in rear of Mitchell's Ford, whence we might watch the course of events.

Previously, as early as 5:30, the Federalists in front of Evans's position—Stone Bridge—had opened with a large 30-pounder Parrott rifle gun, and thirty minutes later, with a moderate, apparently tentative fire from a battery of side pieces, directed first in front at Evans's, and then in the direction of Cocke's position, but without drawing a return fire and discovery of our positions, chiefly because in that quarter we had nothing but eight 6-pounder pieces, which could not reach the distant enemy.

As the Federalists had advanced with an extended line of skirmishers in front of Evans, that officer promptly threw forward the two flank companies of the 4th South Carolina regiment, and one company of Wheat's Louisiana battalion, deployed as skirmishers, to cover his small front. An occasional scattering fire resulted, and thus the two armies in that quarter for more than an hour, while the main body of the enemy was marching its dubious way through the "Big Forest" to take our forces in flank and rear.

By 8.30 A. M., Colonel Evans, having become satisfied of the counterfeit character of the movement on his front, and persuaded of an attempt to turn his left flank, decided to change his position to meet the enemy, and for this purpose immediately put in motion to his left and rear six companies of Sloan's 4th South Carolina regiment, Wheat's Louisiana battalion's, five companies, and two six-pounders of Latham's battery, leaving four companies of Sloan's regiment, under cover as the sole, immediate defence of the Stone Bridge, but giving information to General Cocke of his change of position and the reasons that impelled it.

Following a road leading by the Old Pittsylvania (Carter) mansion, Colonel Evans formed in line of battle some four hundred yards in rear—as he advanced—of that house, his guns to the front and in position, properly supported, to its immediate right. Finding, however, that the enemy did not appear on that road, which was a branch of one leading by Sudley's Springs Ford to Brentsville and Dumfries, he turned abruptly to the left, and, marching across the fields for three-quarters of a mile, about 9 30 A. M. took a position in line of battle; his left, Sloan's companies, resting on the main Brentsville road in a shallow ravine, the Louisiana battalion to the right, in advance some two hundred yards, a rectangular copse of wood separating them—one piece of his artillery, planted on an eminence some seven hundred yards to the rear of Wheat's battalion, and the other on a ridge near and in rear of Sloan's position, commanding a reach of the road just in front of the line of battle. In this order he awaited the coming of the masses of the enemy, now drawing near.

In the meantime, about 7 o'clock A. M., Jackson's brigade, with Imboden's and five pieces of Walton's battery, had been sent to take up a position along Bull Run to guard the interval between Cocke's right and Bonham's left, with orders to support either in case of need—the character and topographical features of the ground having been shown to General Jackson by Captain D. B. Harris, of the Engineers, of this Army Corps.

So much of Bee's and Bartow's brigades, now united, as had arrived—some 2,500 muskets—had also been sent forward to the support of the position of the Stone Bridge.

The enemy beginning his detour from the turnpike, at a point nearly half-way between Stone Bridge and Centreville, had pursued a tortuous, narrow trace of a rarely used road, through a dense wood, the greater part of his way, until near the Sudley Road. A division under Colonel Hunter, of the Federal regular army, of two strong brigades, was in the advance, followed immediately by another division under Colonel Heintzelman, of three brigades and seven companies of regular cavalry and twenty-four pieces of artillery—eighteen of which were rifle guns. This column, as it crossed Bull Run, numbered over 16,000 men of all arms by their own accounts.

Burnside's brigade, which here, as at Fairfax C. H., led the advance, at about 9.45 A. M. debouched from a wood in sight of Evans's position, some 500 yards distant from Wheat's battalion.

He immediately threw forward his skirmishers in force, and they became engaged with Wheat's command and the 6-pounder gun under Lieutenant Leftwich.

The Federalists at once advanced, as they report officially, the 2d Rhode Island regiment volunteers, with its vaunted battery of six 13-pounder rifle guns. Sloan's companies were then brought into action, having been pushed forward through the woods. The enemy, soon galled and staggered by the fire, and pressed by the determined valor with which Wheat handled his battery until he was desperately wounded, hastened up three other regiments of the brigade and two Dahlgren howitzers, making in all quite 3,500 bayonets and eight pieces of artillery, opposed to less than 800 men and two 6-pounder guns.

Despite this odds, this intrepid command of but eleven weak companies maintained its front to the enemy for quite an hour, and until Gen. Bee came to their aid with his command. The heroic Bee, with a soldier's eye and recognition of the situation, had previously disposed his command with skill—Imboden's battery having been admirably placed between the two brigades under shelter behind the undulations of a hill about 150 yards north of the now famous Henry House, and very near where he subsequently fell mortally wounded, to the great misfortune of his country, but after deeds of deliberate and ever-memorable courage.

Meanwhile, the enemy had pushed forward a battalion of eight companies of regular infantry and one of their best batteries of six pieces, (four rifled,) supported by four companies of marines, to increase the desperate odds against which Evans and his men had maintained their stand with an almost matchless tenacity.

Gen. Bee, now finding Evans sorely pressed under the crushing weight of the masses of the enemy, at the call of Col Evans threw forward his whole force to his aid across a small stream—Young's Branch and Valley—and engaged the Federalists with impetuosity; Imboden's battery at the time playing from his well-chosen position with brilliant effect with spherical case, the enemy having first opened on him from a rifle battery, probably Griffin's, with elongated cylindrical shells, which flew a few feet over the heads of our men, and exploded in the crest of the hill immediately in rear.

As Bee advanced under a severe fire, he placed the 7th and 8th Georgia regiments, under the chivalrous Bartow, at about 11 A. M., in a wood of second-growth pines to the right and front of, and nearly perpendicular to, Evans's line of battle, the 4th Alabama to the left of them, along a fence connecting the position of the Georgia regiments with the rectangular copse in which Sloan's South Carolina companies were engaged, and into which he also threw the 2d Mississippi. A fierce and destructive conflict now ensued—the fire was withering on both sides, while the enemy swept our short, thin lines with their numerous artillery, which, according to their official reports, at this time consisted of at least ten rifle guns and four howitzers. For an hour did these stout-hearted men of the blended command of Bee, Evans, and Bartow, breast an uninterrupted battle-storm, animated, surely, by something more than the ordinary courage of even the bravest men under fire, or they have been, indeed, the inspiration of the cause, and consciousness of the great stake at issue, which thus nerved and animated one and all to stand unawed and unshrinking in such extremity.

Two Federal brigades of Heintzleman's division, were now brought into action, led by Ricketts's superb light battery of six ten-pounder rifle guns, which, posted on an eminence to the right of the Sudley Road, opened fire on Imboden's battery—about this time increased by two rifle pieces of the Washington Artillery, under Lieut. Richardson, and already the mark of two batteries, which divided their fire with Imboden, and two guns, under Lieuts. Davidson and Leftwich, of Latham's battery, posted as before mentioned.

At this time, confronting the enemy, we had still but Evans's eleven companies and two guns—Bee's and Bartow's four regiments, the two companies 11th Mississippi, under Lieut. Col. Liddell, and the six pieces under Imboden and Richardson. The enemy had two divisions of four strong brigades, including seventeen companies of regular infantry, cavalry and artillery, four companies of marines, and twenty pieces of artillery.* Against this odds, scarcely credible, our advance position was still for a while maintained, and the enemy's ranks constantly broken and shattered under the scorching fire of our men; but fresh regiments of the Federalists came upon the field, Sherman's and Keye's brigades of Tyler's division, as is stated in their reports, numbering over 6,000 bayonets, which had found a passage across the Run about 800 yards above the Stone Bridge, threatened our right.

Heavy losses had now been sustained on our side, both in numbers and in the personal worth of the slain. The 8th Georgia regiment had suffered heavily, being exposed as it took and maintained its position, to a fire from the enemy, already posted within a hundred yards of their front and right, sheltered by fences and other cover. It was at this time that Lieut.-Col. Gardner was severely wounded, as also several other valuable officers; the Adjutant of the regiment, Lieut. Branch, was killed, and the horse of the regretted Bartow was shot under him. The 4th Alabama also suffered severely from the deadly fire of the thousands of muskets which they so dauntlessly affronted under the immediate leadership of Bee himself. Its brave Colonel, E. J. Jones, was dangerously wounded, and many valiant officers fell, slain or borne to earth.

Now, however, with the surging mass of our forces [illegible] fresh infantry [illegible] of artillery [illegible] the Federal [illegible] the spirit of resistance, which [illegible] to wrench victory from the [illegible] the [illegible] with [illegible]

musket range—our lines gave back, but under orders from Gen. Bee.

The enemy, maintaining their fire, pressed their swelling masses onward as our shattered battalions retired; the slaughter for the moment was deplorable, and has filled many a Southern home with life-long sorrow.

Under this inexorable stress, the retreat continued until arrested by the energy and resolution of Gen. Bee, supported by Bartow and Evans, just in rear of the Robinson House, and Hampton's Legion which had been already advanced, and was in possession near it.

Imboden's battery, which had been handled with marked skill, but whose men were almost exhausted, and the two pieces of Walton's battery under Lieut Richardson, being threatened by the enemy's infantry on the left and front, were also obliged to fall back. Imboden, leaving a disabled piece on the ground, retired until he met Jackson's brigade, while Richardson joined the main body of his battery near the Lewis House.

As our infantry retired from the extreme front, the two 6-pounders of Latham's battery, before mentioned, fell back with excellent judgment to suitable positions in the rear, when an effective fire was maintained upon the still advancing lines of the Federalists, with damaging effect, until their ammunition was nearly exhausted, when they, too, were withdrawn in the near presence of the enemy, and rejoined their captain.

From the point previously indicated, where Gen. Johnston and myself had established our headquarters, we heard the continuous roll of musketry, and the sustained din of the artillery, which announced the serious outburst of the battle on our left flank, and we anxiously, but confidently, awaited similar sounds of conflict from our front at Centreville, resulting from the prescribed attack in that quarter by our right wing.

At 10½ A. M., however, this expectation was dissipated, from Brigadier-General Ewell informing me, to my profound disappointment, that my orders for his advance had miscarried, but that in consequence of a communication from Gen. D. R. Jones, he had just thrown his brigade across the stream at Union Mills. But, in my judgment, it was now too late for the effective execution of the contemplated movement, which must have required quite three hours for the troops to get into position for the attack; therefore, it became immediately necessary to depend on new combinations and other dispositions suited to the now pressing exigency. The movement of the right and centre, already begun by Jones and Longstreet, was at once countermanded with the sanction of General Johnston, and we arranged to meet the enemy on the field upon which he had chosen to give us battle. Under these circumstances our reserves, not already in movement, were immediately ordered up to support our left flank—namely, Holmes's two regiments and battery of artillery, under Captain Lindsey Walker, of six guns, and Early's brigade. Two regiments from Bonham's brigade, with Kemper's four six pounders, were also called for, and, with the sanction of General Johnston, Generals Ewell, Jones, (D. R.,) Longstreet, and Bonham, were directed to make a demonstration to their several fronts to retain and engross the enemy's reserves and forces on their lines, and at and around Centreville. Previously, our respective Chiefs of Staff—Major Knott and Colonel Jordan—had been left at my headquarters to hasten up, and give directions to any troops that might arrive at Manassas.

These orders having been duly dispatched by staff officers, at 11.30 A. M. General Johnston and myself set out for the immediate field of action, which we reached in rear of the Robinson and widow Henry's houses, at about 12 meridian, and just as the commands of Bee, Bartow, and Evans, had taken shelter in a wooded ravine behind the former, stoutly held at the time by Hampton with his legion, which had made a stand there after having previously been as far forward as the turnpike, where Lieutenant Colonel Johnson, an officer of brilliant promise, was killed, and other severe losses were sustained.

Before our arrival upon the scene, General Jackson had moved forward with his brigade of five Virginia regiments from his position in reserve, and had judiciously taken post below the brim of the plateau, nearly east of the Henry House, and to the left of the ravine and woods occupied by the mingled remnants of Bee's, Bartow's, and Evans's commands, with Imboden's battery, and two of Stanard's pieces placed so as to play upon the on-coming enemy, supported in the immediate rear by Colonel J. L. Preston and Lieut.-Colonel Echolls's regiments, on the right by Harper's and on the left by Allen's and Cumming's regiment.

As soon as General Johnston and myself reached the field, we were occupied with the reorganization of the heroic troops, whose previous stand, with scarce a parallel, has nothing more valiant in all the pages of history, and whose losses fitly tell why, at length, their lines had lost their cohesion. It was now that Gen Johnston impressively and gallantly charged to the front with the colors of the Fourth Alabama regiment by his side, all the field officers of the regiment having been previously disabled. Shortly afterwards I placed S. R. Gist, Adjutant and Inspector-General of South Carolina, a volunteer Aid-de-Camp of General Bee, in command of this regiment, and who led it again to the front as became its previous behavior, and remained with it for the rest of the day.

As soon as we had thus rallied and disposed our forces, I urged Gen Johnston to leave the immediate conduct of the field to me, while he, repairing to Portico—the Lewis House—should urge reinforcements forward. At first he was unwilling, but reminded that one of us must do so, and that properly it was his place, he reluctantly, but fortunately, complied; fortunately, because from that position, by his energy and sagacity, his keen perception and anticipation of my needs, he so directed the reserves as to ensure the success of the day.

As Gen. Johnston departed for Portico, Col. Bartow reported to me with the remains of the 7th Georgia volunteers, (Gartrell's,) which I ordered him to post on the left of Jackson's line, in the edge of the belt of pines bordering the southeastern rim of the plateau, on which the battle was now to rage so long and so fiercely.

Col. Wm. Smith's battalion of the 49th Virginia volunteers, having also come up by my orders, I placed it on the left of Gartrell's as my extreme left at the time. Retaining then to the right, I placed Hampton's Legion, which had suffered greatly, on that flank somewhat to the rear of Harper's regiment, and also the seven companies of the 8th (Hunton's) Virginia regiment, which, detached from Cocke's brigade by my orders and those of Gen. Johnston, had opportunely reached the ground. These, with Harper's regiment, constituted a reserve, to protect our right flank from an advance of the enemy from the quarter of the Stone Bridge, and served as a support for the line of battle, which was formed on the right by Bee's and Evans's commands, in the centre by four regiments of Jackson's brigade, with Imboden's four six-pounders, Walton's five guns, (two rifled,) two guns (one piece rifled) of Stanard's and two six-pounders of Rogers's batteries, the latter under Lieut. Heaton; and on the left by Gartrell's reduced ranks and Col. Smith's battalion, subsequently reinforced Falkner's Second Mississippi regiment, and by another regiment of the army of Shenandoah, just arrived upon the field, the Sixth (Fisher's) North Carolina. Confronting the enemy at this time, my forces numbered, at most, not more than 6,500 infantry and artillerists, with but thirteen pieces of artillery, and two companies (Carter's and Hoge's) of Stuart's cavalry.

The enemy's force, now bearing hotly and confidently down on our position, regiment after regiment of the best equipped men that ever took the field—according to their own official history of the day—was formed of Colonels Hunter's and Heintzelman's divisions, Colonels Sherman's and Keye's brigades of Tyler's division, and of the formidable batteries of Ricketts, Griffin, and Arnold regulars, and Second Rhode Island, and two Dahlgren howitzers—a force of over 20,000 infantry, seven companies of regular cavalry, and twenty-four pieces of improved artillery. At the same time, perilous, heavy reserves of infantry and artillery hung in the distance around the Stone Bridge, Mitchell's, Blackburn's, and Union Mills Fords, visible ready to fall upon us at any moment; and I was also assured of the existence of other heavy corps at and around Centreville and elsewhere, within convenient supporting distance.

Fully conscious of this portentous disparity of force, as I posted the lines for the encounter I sought to infuse into the hearts of my officers and men the confidence and determined spirit of resistance to this wicked invasion of the homes of a free people which I felt. I informed them that reinforcements would rapidly come to their support, and that we must at all hazards hold our posts until reinforced. I reminded them that we fought for our homes, our firesides, and for the independence of our country. I urged them to the resolution of victory or death on that field. These sentiments were loudly, cordially cheered, wherever I rode, and I know all therefore of the [illegible] spirit of resistance, which [illegible] to wrench victory from the [illegible] the [illegible] with [illegible]

had come to impose and render perpetual; and the day's issue has assured me that such emotions must also have animated all under my command.

In the meantime, the enemy had seized upon the plateau on which Robinson's and the Henry houses are situated—the position first occupied in the morning by Gen. Bee, before advancing to the support of Evans.—Ricketts's battery of six rifle guns—the pride of the Federalists, the object of their unstinted expenditure in outfit—and the equally powerful regular light battery of Griffin, were brought forward and placed in immediate action, after having, conjointly with the batteries already mentioned, played from former positions with destructive effect upon our forward battalions.

The topographical features of the plateau, now become the stage of the contending armies, must be described in outline.

A glance at the map will show that it is enclosed on three sides by small water courses, which empty into Bull Run within a few yards of each other, half a mile to the south of the Stone Bridge. Rising to an elevation of quite one hundred feet above the level of Bull Run at the bridge, it falls off on three sides to the level of the enclosing streams in gentle slopes, but which are furrowed by ravines of irregular direction and length, and studded with clumps and patches of young pines and oaks. The general direction of the crest of the plateau is oblique to the course of Bull Run in that quarter, and to the Brentsville and turnpike roads, which intersect each other at right angles. Immediately surrounding the two houses, before mentioned, are small open fields of irregular outline, not exceeding 150 acres in extent. The houses occupied at the time, the one by the widow Henry and the other by Judge Robinson, are small wooden buildings, the latter densely embowered in trees and environed by a double row of fences on two sides. Around the eastern and southern brow of the plateau, an almost unbroken fringe of second-growth pines gave excellent shelter for our marksmen, who availed themselves of it with the most satisfactory skill. To the west, adjoining the fields a broad belt of oaks extends directly across the road on both sides of the Sudley Road, in which, during the battle, regiments of both armies met and contended for the mastery.

From the open ground of this plateau the view embraces a wide expanse of woods, and gently undulating, open country of broad grass and grain fields in all directions, including the scene of Evans's and Bee's recent encounter with the enemy, some 1,200 yards to the northward.

In reply to the play of the enemy's batteries, our own artillery had not been idle or unskillful. The ground occupied by our guns, on a level with that held by the batteries of the enemy, was an open space of limited extent, bounded by a low undulation, just at the eastern