The Daily Dispatch.

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TUESDAY MORNING.....JULY 28, 1863.

DAILY DISPATCH.

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The Invasion of Pennsylvania

"Fools alone," says Napoleon I, "judge of the wisdom of measures by the result." It needs but little reflection, and a slight acquaintance with mankind to convince us of the truth of this maxim. The wisest measures, the most carefully digested plans, are often thwarted when on the point of success, by some unforeseen incident of the most trivial importance, some accident which never could have entered into human calculation, some mistake of some agent, which it was impossible to foresee. What then? Is the conception to be condemned as ridiculous because of the failure in the execution? So say the class of persons to whom Napoleon alludes, and so say the majority of the world, who take their opinions ready made, and never give themselves the trouble of thinking.

Of all other plans which are subject to this description of criticism, military plans are those which are most apt to be judged by the result, because, of all others, they are the most exposed to the caprice of fortune. A campaign projected with the most profound wisdom, and having for its end the most important objects, may fail, while another conceived in folly and executed against all the rules of military science may succeed. In such cases the public never fail to set down the first as an enterprise of such a nature that it could have succeeded in no possible combination of circumstances, while they always applaud the last as the perfection of wisdom. The little fortress of Bard—so insignificant that it was entirely overlooked in the plan of campaign—was near baffling Napoleon in his advance upon Milan in 1800, and shutting up his army in the narrow Valley of Aosta, to be destroyed at leisure by the Austrians. The sagacity of a peasant, by conducting the corps of the Prussian Gen. Bulow along the road that led immediately to the flank and rear of the French army, when several others presented themselves, saved the English army from utter destruction at Waterloo. If, in the first case, the unforeseen obstacle had caused the failure of the enterprise, the class of persons who judge of merit only by success would have pronounced Napoleon a rash and indiscreet General, who had undertaken an enterprise above his strength and failed, as he ought to have known that he *must* fail. In the last mentioned case he actually *is* condemned in almost these very terms, because Bulow chanced to meet with a guide possessing above the average intelligence of Flemish peasants, although his plan of campaign was fraught with the most consummate wisdom. Some spring or wheel of the very complicated machinery with which the campaign against Cornwallis, terminating in his surrender at York, was worked, might have jarred—and in order to ensure success it was necessary that every part of it should do its work faithfully—and Washington might have failed. Then, most assuredly, he and his plan would have been denounced by this class of persons.

We have been led into these reflections by the comments which we hear made every day upon the campaign of Gen. Lee in Pennsylvania. To our mind it was one of the wisest, grandest, and most imposing schemes ever conceived by the mind of man. It proposed to force the Federal army into a battle, the stake of which was Washington, Baltimore, the whole of Maryland, and the recognition of our existence as a separate nation. To succeed, the most ample means, as it was believed, were prepared. He was at the head of an army that had never been beaten, and he was opposed to an army that had never been victorious. According to all rational calculation success was certain. Yet, from one of those accidents which are so common in war—from the failure of a division that had never failed before—he did not succeed to the full extent of public expectation. Instantly all the fools, who judge by results, cried out that the scheme was impracticable; and that the attempt to carry it out indicated a hardihood and desperation that ill became the commander of the chief Confederate army.—Had he succeeded, as he would have done but for an accident past the power of human sagacity to foresee, these very men would have been the first to extol his wise foresight.

Persons of this description are unable to see any advantage that has been derived from the invasion of Pennsylvania. The immense stores, of every kind, which we captured; the relief to our own overburdended land by the transfer of the war to the country of the enemy; the terror with which the whole North was struck, as by a thunderbolt; the moral advantage obtained by proving to the enemy that his dominions were open to invasion; all these pass for nothing with these people. But they fortunately do not pass for nothing with the enemy, who sees and appreciates them all at their full value.

Adversity the Test of Fortitude.

The reverses brought upon us should be accepted as the test of our fortitude and our strength. Heretofore our greatest achievements have followed close upon our most embarrassing situations. Difficulties and perils have never yet failed to bring out the true spirit and energy of the Southern people. Nor will they fail us now. Before the summer's campaign is concluded we shall have encouraging news to elate the confident and cheer the desponding.

It is not in the nature of most men and nations to be proof against the bad effects of prosperity. They are too apt to be deluded into a sense of security and self sufficiency that, if persevered in, must prove fatal. The Southern arms had been crowned with a series of triumphs of the most brilliant character.—The army and the people had adopted the idea of invincibility. Whether this led to ill-advised movements or not on the part of our Generals we are not able to say; but it had certainly imparted to the public mind a feeling of safety that has been rather rudely disturbed by recent events.

In quick succession we have had the drawn battle of Gettysburg and the retreat of Gen. Lee to the Potomac—the surrender of Vicksburg and Port Hudson, and the capture of Morgan's expedition in Ohio. Our armies in the Southwest have been, with small exception, inactive, while the enemy has reduced the two garrisons on the Mississippi, by which some 35,000 or 40,000 men have been lost to the Confederacy. Why there was not some concentration of our forces under Johnston, Bragg, and Holmes, at some point or other, to strike a blow while the enemy was thus engaged, is a question those officers alone can answer. But there was not, and the enemy having achieved one great labor finds himself free to move where he thinks best, forcing upon our troops activity at last to elude him.

These events create anxiety in the public mind; but if the South is only true to the character it has thus far exhibited, they will arouse it to a more determined resistance. It is well, if these reverses were to come, that they have followed so soon our own triumphs. The nation had not time to relapse so deeply into apathy as to put it beyond recovery. If it slept at all, it was on the battlefield and will meet the enemy and repulse him just when he fancies that he has again crushed the rebellion. He already begins to find that it is not a perfectly easy matter to overrun the country, even where our men retreat before him. Grant has found it necessary to quit following Johnston, and himself take the back track to Vicksburg.

Adversity will bring out only in bolder relief the virtues of the people of the South—the virtues of courage, constancy, and faith in a Just Cause and a Just Providence.

Morgan in Indiana

See the report of the magnificent exploits of Morgan, as told by the Yankees themselves, in another column of this paper. We were wrong in attributing rashness to his enterprise, and we retract that opinion. It was one of the most daring and best conceived that could possibly have been imagined. He knew the danger he ran of being captured with his comparative handful of men. But he believed that the service he could render would more than counterbalance all danger and all loss. And so it has turned out. The loss he has inflicted is prodigious, beyond all estimate or conception. We do not believe that he has been or will be captured. Indeed, the Yankee papers do not say so.

Napoleon, Mexico, and Recognition.

The Yankee papers are prodigiously exercised by the movements of the Emperor Napoleon. We publish what two of them—the *Times* and *Herald*—say on the subject, this morning. The *Herald* threatens to demolish France if she dare to hold Mexico and recognize us. It threatened to demolish her if she set foot in Mexico, but it has not done so.—The chastisement is postponed, it seems, until the rebellion shall have been crushed, and the *Herald* says it is almost crushed. It has told us the same thing very often before; but we are not crushed yet. The *Herald* is a poor prophet. Yankee Doodle cannot even conquer us, far less France and England.

FROM NORTHERN VIRGINIA.

The news from the opposing armies continues somewhat obscured, and it is hard to determine the real condition of affairs from the numerous reports that reach us. We think it may be accepted as a fact, and stated without detriment to the public interest, that our army is now on the Eastern side of the mountains, and prepared to meet the enemy whenever he shall see fit to offer battle.

From all that we could gather from the Valley, from passengers who came down on the Central train last night, we are disposed to doubt the presence of the enemy at Strasburg, on the Valley turnpike. If they were there at all on Saturday, it must have been in much smaller force than at first represented, and probably nothing more than a few cavalry intending a raid on our wagon trains.

By the Fredericksburg train a report comes to the city that the enemy, in force, have again appeared in Stafford county, and that yesterday morning their drums could be distinctly heard at Fredericksburg. It is supposed to be the corps of Gen. Sedgwick moving by that route in another "on to Richmond" manœuvre. It is sufficient to say that a Confederate force is ready to confront them.

OUR ARMY CORRESPONDENCE.

WINCHESTER, VA., July 22.

The necessary restriction under which the correspondents of the press have placed themselves since our army left its position in line of battle between Hagerstown and Williamsport, lest some important movement should unwittingly be brought to the knowledge of the enemy, accounts for the meagreness of information you have received within the past ten days; otherwise much could have been communicated that would have interested the expectant public.

Since the return of the army to Virginia, the Yankee cavalry have lined the section of country on the Potomac between Williamsport, Martinsburg, and Harper's Ferry, reconnoitering, and endeavoring to penetrate the movements and designs of Gen. Lee; but the activity and vigilance of our cavalry have kept them at bay and thwarted their purpose. This proximity of "the eyes and ears" of the opposing armies, as may be supposed, has led to frequent collisions, but as yet of an unimportant character. Skirmishing is of daily occurrence; but since the fight at Shepherdstown, which was much severer than it was characterized by some of the papers, the enemy seem to have avoided another general engagement of the kind.

On Monday last the Unionists, as well as Secessionists, in and around Martinsburg were a little surprised at the reappearance in the vicinity of the splendid corps of Gen. Ewell. Information had been received by us that a force of the enemy's infantry and cavalry, several thousand strong, and which some estimated as high as ten thousand, were encamped near the town, Gen. Ewell set out in that direction to cut off and capture them. He succeeded in arriving within sight of their camp fires, at a distance, when Early, with his division, was ordered to make a detour to the left, for the purpose of flanking and getting in their rear. Unfortunately, before the movement could be consummated, the enemy got wind of it, and illustrated the science of "skedaddling" after the most approved Yankee style. The timely notice the enemy received of this movement—of which there can be no imprudence now in speaking, is due less to their own vigilance than to the Unionists, who are almost as thick in that section of the State bordering on the Potomac as they are in Massachusetts. A refugee from the neighborhood represents that they are very bitter, and many, in league with the worst enemies of their State and section, have gone to the extremity of arming themselves.

From the movements of both armies on the military chess board another desperate pitch battle, very soon, seems inevitable. The enemy are reported to have crossed at Edwards's Ferry, intending and hoping to accomplish the grand *finale* of "bringing up" at Richmond.—But, as they have failed in six efforts, we may reasonably assure ourselves they will make an abortion of the seventh. Doubtless the Commander-in-Chief has long since penetrated their designs, and made his dispositions accordingly. Our army was never in better condition. Its high *morale*, healthfulness, the cheerfulness with which they endure the privations of the march and bivouac day after day and night after night, and above all, the anxiety which each man manifests to meet the insolent foe once more on an equal and open field, is most gratifying, and affords the highest assurance that the "Army of Northern Virginia" will maintain its glorious prestige. As in Pennsylvania and Maryland recently, so once more on the soil of Virginia, made more classic and historic by their deeds, will they come cheerfully and fully up to every and all requirements of their leaders. This is not the language of common-place compliment, but what is patent to one who has the opportunity of observing it every day. The reverse at Gettysburg, though by no means a defeat, and Meade's negative victory, by which he saved his army from annihilation, and too badly crippled to accept the gauge of battle at Hagerstown afterwards, and the deliberate withdrawal of Gen. Lee across the Potomac, all attest the never flinching determination of the rank and file of our army, and the unbounded confidence reposed in them by their able leaders.

A little over 300 prisoners were started today on to Richmond. Most of them are Milroy's "weary boys," who were "picked up" during and after the storming of the fortifications here by Early's division. A considerable number yet remain in the hospital, physically unable to be removed. They have been paroled.

P. S.—During Gen. Ewell's late visit to Martinsburg a portion of his corps were occupied in completing the destruction of the Baltimore and Ohio road, &c.

MORGAN'S INDIANA RAID.

Morgan has not yet been caught, though for the last ten days he has been "entirely surrounded, and his escape impossible." The Washington *Star* thinks his raid the most destructive in every sense ever undertaken by the Confederates. He has drawn troops from other States to hurt him; he has destroyed almost everything in his track, and has introduced the "terror of war into a country never before visited by hostile troops." Writing under the mistaken impression that Morgan had been captured, the *Star* says:

The destruction or capture of John Morgan's force is an event of much more importance than is generally known. It is safe to say that his four thousand light cavalry have given our troops more work, and destroyed and taken more property, than any sixteen thousand other rebels in arms. For more than a year past these guerillas have kept occupied, principally in Kentucky, a Union force of some 20,000 men; the rapidity of their movements making it necessary to endeavor to be prepared for their sudden appearance, go where they might. Even if Shackelford fails to capture Morgan himself, in the present desperate condition of the fortunes of the rebellion, if it be possible for him to set another formidable squadron in the field, he can give us little trouble indeed for a year hence.

We therefore regard his utter defeat and the capture of nine-tenths of his entire force, which has just occurred, as being of great value to the Union cause, not only because it gives us twenty thousand of our own troops to be employed otherwise than in watching him, but also because it crushes out the remnant of active treason in Kentucky—a consummation greatly to be desired.

Our Northern files do not give any connected account of the movements of the great raider. We have a number of letters from different portions of Ohio and Indiana, describing the movements of the Confederates and the great success of their pursuers. We have added up the statements of captures in seven letters and find that out of 4,000 men and six pieces of artillery that the Yankees said Morgan entered Indiana with, there have been captured 31,000 men and 28 pieces of cannon. The guns, which were 12 pounder Parrott's when he entered, grew before they were captured to 60 pounders. We make some interesting extracts from the correspondence, chiefly of the Cincinnati papers. A letter from Portsmouth, Ohio, dated the 16th, says:

Our expedition which left Cincinnati under Gen. Judah, reached this place at 5 o'clock this evening, and disembarked amid the cheers of a delighted populace. It should be said, however, that we met the Magnolia a few miles below, and made her return with us, and from her we first learned that the rebels were at Piketon.

Immediately upon our arrival we learned that the telegraph wires had been cut at Piketon, but communication was kept up by mounted couriers, one of whom came in at 6 o'clock with the startling intelligence that Morgan was at Piketon, having driven in all the pickets and out posts of the place, and was thrashing the militia in the most satisfactory manner to himself. At this moment, 9 o'clock P. M., another courier arrives with the intelligence that Piketon is in flames, but cannot speak intelligently of Morgan's movements; but, as usual, everybody—by whom I mean our military—says that he can never get out of the State—Ohio, I presume, is meant—but in his present state I am inclined to think that he is in a condition to change it when he deems proper.

The same writer, writing from Columbus on the 20th, gives an account of the fight at Buffington:

It is now definitely ascertained that in the fight yesterday morning at Buffington, Morgan lost all his cannon, (which consisted of only three pieces,) fully seven hundred prisoners, a large number of horses, with their entire equipments, and a large quantity of his pistols, revolvers, carbines, etc. This so crippled him as to compel him to return as speedily as possible, which he did by proceeding up the river, but keeping out of the range of the gunboats.

When he reached a place opposite Belleville, which is situated on the Virginia side, and is about fifteen miles below Parkersburg, he threatened to destroy the place unless the citizens furnished boats, rafts, &c., that would enable him to cross. The citizens, with much reluctance, commenced getting out their old water traps, and severely tried John's patience by the leisurely manner in which they went about it. It was their object to delay his crossing as long as they could, hoping that our gunboats would make their appearance. Flatboats, rafts, &c., were in due course of time ready, but altogether they would not hold more than three hundred men. They were filled to their utmost capacity, and were moving for the Virginia shore, which was nearly reached, when a gunboat appeared in sight, but too late to prevent the rebels from landing. The boats were, however, destroyed, and a shelling of the rebels who had crossed was commenced and continued, with fatal effect in several cases. A second gunboat made its appearance, and was soon engaged in shelling the rebel force remaining on the Ohio side, which compelled the enemy to fall back. He then formed a line of battle, as if anticipating an attack from the forces which he supposed would be landed from the gunboats. Indeed, our men were preparing for such a course, when it became unnecessary by the appearance of Col. Wallace with a large force from Parkersburg.

It should here be stated that Generals Judah and Hobson had in the meantime been closely following the rebels, and at the time of their interception at Belleville they were only two or three miles in the rear, it being the object of our forces to capture Morgan's whole command if possible. Colonel Wallace landed his men at some distance from the town, and by a quietly executed march succeeded in reaching the enemy's rear. When this had been accomplished, Judah and Hobson were there, and their forces were united in an attack on Morgan, which proves to have been a complete surprise, the rebels not having the least idea that such a movement would be made. They were dumfounded and showed their bewilderment in their efforts to escape capture. It was but easy work for our boys to pick up the raiders, and when they had finished their work all but 1,500 were taken, and those who escaped did so by breaking through our lines. This remnant of Morgan's force immediately retraced their steps in the direction of Pomeroy, and this morning about nine o'clock, worn out and in the most pitiable condition, they passed through Harrisonville, a village ten or twelve miles in a northwesterly direction from Pomeroy, and which is on the pike leading to Jackson Court House, near which place they were when our latest information was received.—Our forces are supposed to be after them again but as yet we have heard no positive knowledge that such is the case.

There can now be but little doubt of their entire capture, for in their present condition they cannot travel fast nor much further. It might be mentioned that a force to head them off has already been sent to the proper locality.

The scene on shore at 10 o'clock, on the Ohio side, after the Buffington fight, was that of squads of rebels, in size from three to a hundred, galloping in every direction, or flying on foot down the river, up the river, over the hills, and through the roads, pursued by our men. There were also squads to be seen marching back to our camp guarded by their captors. The immense amount of plunder which had been gathered up in Ohio and Indiana was also retaken, in the wagons which had been stolen to transport it. There were thousands of dollars' worth of groceries, provisions, and dry goods of every variety. There were silks and satins, cotton, linens, vestings, broadcloth—in short, an abundance of everything to eat, drink, or wear, which these thieving cutthroat knaves had stolen in their progress, and were here obliged to relinquish. The most valuable of the recaptured plunder, however, was the horses, over a thousand of which were taken, together with a long train of buggies, carts, market-wagons, and vehicles of every description. The loss of the rebels in killed and wounded is nearly two hundred.—Our forces ashore lost thirty, and two of the gunboat men were slightly wounded. The total number of prisoners mustered into camp up to 5 o'clock Sunday evening was reported at 1,700. It will be found, however, that in every little town around there are squads which have been picked up by the militia, for instance, as the gunboat passed Syracuse on Monday, coming down, they were hailed by a squad of militia, who said they had seventy eight prisoners, and that in the next town above there were eighty five.

Another letter, dated Athens, Ohio, July 20 says:

A line of couriers has been kept up from here to the column of the enemy for several days, and yesterday we received dispatches from the battle field, forty miles distant, in one hour and forty minutes. *Morgan burned the bridge and mills at Chester, and robbed the stores of course.* In looking for spoils they knocked at the closed door of a worthy Tenton, who is a disciple of the great martyr. Rap, rap, went the heavy sabre hilt against the door; thump, thump, went the heavy brogans. The old fox was playing gone away from home; but the rebels soon smelled the game and stirred the old man out, when they opened on him thus: "Hello, old man, are you secesh or Union?" "Yaw, py tam, sure I pe Fallandigham." The answer to this was a general stamping, smashing up everything that would break or smash.

Leaving Chester, Morgan marched toward Buffington Island, attempting a crossing under cover of a heavy fog. But from the white mass burst the red flames of death, bearing consternation and dismay into the ranks of the astounded rebels. They stood fire but a few minutes, when they wheeled and retired by the same road upon which they advanced.—They formed an ambuscade at the top of the hill, and met Hobson's forces. At first we were a little surprised, but soon rallied and *charged them down the hill, capturing nearly three thousand men and five pieces of artillery.* This happened about eight o'clock in the morning. The gunboats drove them back about seven o'clock. There was no fight worth the name. Morgan appeared to be very sparing of powder. There is no ammunition found in the cartridge-boxes of the prisoners. There is a report that four hundred got to the other side of the river, and that they were caught by some Kentucky cavalry. Our scouts who were on the field say that they were coming in in droves; that one Captain and nine men brought in one hundred and fifty men. They saw a little boy who brought a rebel to on this wise: "See here, mister, are you a Secesh?" "Yes." "What did you do with your gun?" "Threw it away, for fear they would shoot me." "Come along with me; we won't shoot you." The scout says he marched him into the lines. They were so much worn and fatigued that they laid down all over the grass in the orchard where they were placed, and were asleep in ten minutes after they were brought within the lines of our guards.

One of our scouts says no one is hurt on our side. I have been up all night, hearing news and writing, and just at this writing one company of the 13th Ohio cavalry has arrived from Camp Chase. I learn from a number of the 7th Ohio that they have been twenty three days in the saddle.

A young man, who gives his name as —— Rice, son of Dr. Rice, late of Chicago, has been with them through their whole journey in Ohio. They took him prisoner from a train of cars in Indiana. He says they have rested but one night in the last six; the man have slept a few moments at a time while their horses were feeding. They plundered every store and took the products of their thefts in buggies and express wagons. He says, and our scouts who were in at the death confirm the story, that some of them had their carpet sacks full of greenbacks, jewelry, and watches. Our scouts say they saw our boys ordering them to shell out the greenbacks, which they did with evident reluctance.

The Cincinnati *Commercial* gives some reasons why the raid of Morgan was so successful:

We have never believed that Morgan, after having crossed the Ohio at Brandenburg, would succeed in getting back again into Kentucky with anything like the force he brought into Indiana and Ohio; but we must say, knowing what preparations had been made to take him, that we did not expect he would have succeeded in traveling the distance he has without being checked at some point by our forces.

General [illegible] depended solely on the militia to stop Morgan and impede his way until Hobson could overtake him, and there was great difficulty in organizing and moving these raw forces. Morgan's threats to destroy towns, burn villages, and plunder generally, if he was attacked and bushwhacked by the people, deterred many from burning bridges and felling trees in his way, and he was therefore permitted to pass along unmolested.

Gen. Hobson, following immediately in the wake of Morgan, was unable to obtain fresh horses, for Morgan gathered these up as he went along and left his jaded ones behind.

There are other reasons which might be given why Morgan has passed so far through Indiana and Ohio without being captured, which we propose to refer to at another time; but thus much we will say now: Gen. Burnside has labored day and night since Morgan crossed the Ohio, to destroy and capture his force, and all the means at his command were promptly and energetically made use of.

The news this morning is that we have captured one thousand prisoners, all his artillery, and killed one hundred and fifty of his men.

HOW PICKETT'S DIVISION WAS "CUT ALL TO PIECES"—*Its Support Ran.*—The fate of Pickett's Division is particularly interesting to the people of this State, as it is composed exclusively of of Virginians. The following paragraph from a letter written by a member of Wright's Brigade to the Augusta *Chronicle*, shows how so much valuable life came to be lost, and nothing gained, in the assault at Gettysburg:

Now the infantry is brought up for the assault, Pickett's division in advance; then Heth's, (now commanded by Gen Pettigrew, a junior Brigadier,) in echelon on the left. On the men swept. Our brigade being held in reserve, enabled us to take a position where we had a view of the whole field, and I am sure I have never seen troops start better than this storming party did. Pickett pushed firmly and steadily forward, going over the identical ground our brigade had passed the day before. Pettigrew followed in fine order. Our artillery now ceased firing, and upon inquiry I learned they had exhausted their ammunition! And at such a time! There is Pickett and Pettigrew half across the valley: the enemy have run up new guns and are pouring a deadly fire into their ranks. The enemy's infantry have opened upon them—they fall upon every side—Generals, Colonels, Captains, Lieutenants, privates, as thick as autumn leaves they strew the plain. And our guns, will they not re-open? Is there no succor for those brave spirits who are so nobly and steadily bearing their country's flag in that terrible fight? Surely our artillery will help them now—this is the crisis! My God! all is as silent as death along our whole line of artillery; one hundred and twenty pieces of cannon standing mute and dumb while the very flower of the Confederate army is grappling on unequal terms in a struggle of life and death with an enemy strongly posted in a mountain fastness, and admirably protected by well served artillery. I ask myself, "can they stand this fire much longer?" and I see Pickett still vigorously pushing on, dealing a deadly fire at every step. The enemy fall back from his front—they take shelter behind the stone wall—still Pickett advancing. On the left Pettigrew's line wavers—it pauses—all is lost—it falls back—it runs. Some of the officers attempt to rally their men, but a great many are scampering away in front of their men; helter skelter, pell-mell, here they come. But one thought seems to actuate them all, and that is to gain a safe place in the rear. Pickett left alone, still rushes forward upon the enemy—he has gained the stone wall—has gone over it—is in the enemy's wake—has silenced their guns. I can see with my glass our battle-flag waving in the enemy's batteries, where but a moment since the Yankee colors floated in the breeze.—Take care, brave Virginians, you are in a trap; the support on your right and left has fallen back. Our brigade was caught there yesterday, and there, upon their right, a heavy column of Yankee infantry is deploying around a point of woods to gain their rear—it is done—they are surrounded. They now attempt to cut their way out; but many are killed and wounded, and many more are taken prisoners.

PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

YANKEE OPINIONS OF NAPOLEON'S DESIGNS

We published yesterday from the Paris letter in the N. Y. *Times* some speculations upon the probable interference of Napoleon in the war between the Confederate and United States. The *Times*, commenting upon its correspondent's letter, says:

Taken in connection with a paper prepared by the French residents of New Orleans, and transmitted by them to the Emperor, it suggests possibilities in the future, which may very well enlist the notice of our Government and people. The French citizens residing in New Orleans have represented to the Emperor, through his Vice Consul at that port, that the action of the United States authorities there tends to bring about a collision between the blacks and the whites of that city—that in the event of such a conflict their persons and properties would be seriously endangered—and that the United States Commander in Chief of that Department has taken from them all the arms with which they could defend themselves; they, therefore, request that the Emperor will send to the Mississippi several vessels of war for such action as the emergency may require.

The letter of our intelligent and usually well informed Paris correspondent, renders it quite possible, at all events, that this application of the French residents of New Orleans may be intended to prepare the way for steps which the Emperor has already resolved to take. It is precisely such a step as preceded his interference in Mexico. It is one of those convenient proceedings which may serve as a cover for more important movements, or may be abandoned if not required to do duty in that capacity.

The commotion created by the Emperor's conversations with Messrs Roebuck and Lindsay, of the English Parliament, and the explanations to which this event has given rise, have created the conviction in Paris that the Emperor is quite prepared to take a more active part in American affairs than he has done hitherto. He regards his conquest of Mexico as complete and final, and is disposed now to make it useful. It gives him only half of what he deems essential. He wants control of the cotton and sugar lands of the United States, and this he can only get through an alliance with the Southern Confederacy and the establishment of its nominal independence. The rumors in Paris on this subject, therefore, imply that he has engaged to aid the rebels in reopening the Mississippi river,—and that this service is to be the basis of a future arrangement by which he will retain Mexico as a French colony—being aided in so doing by the South—and the South is in return to regain possession of the Mississippi and the States and territories lying West of it. This is said to have been the main object of Mr. Slidell's frequent and protracted interviews with the Emperor; and the fall of Vicksburg and Port Hudson was the event which was expected to throw Louis Napoleon and Jeff Davis into each other's arms.

It seems quite certain that very heavy reinforcements, including several vessels and a large supply of artillery, are to be sent out to Mexico during the month of September. They can hardly be needed for further military operations in that country, for the war there is over. For what other use they are likely to be intended must remain as yet matter of conjecture.

What all this amounts to, it is not easy as yet to say. But the action of the French Emperor is certainly suspicious enough to demand and reward the most vigilant attention of our Government. Some days since we expressed the opinion that the danger of foreign intervention in our affairs would become the greatest just when our prospects of crushing the rebellion should seem the brightest.—We hold to this opinion still, and these movements in France tend strongly to confirm it.—Foreign Powers have built large expectations on the prospective destruction of the United States. They will not willingly relinquish them, and now, when our armies have achieved a splendid series of victories, each of the utmost importance, and all combined indicating the speedy overthrow of the rebellion and the complete restoration of the national authority, we may expect them to take a far bolder and more active part than they have done hitherto in contriving for their own purposes, the destruction of this Republic.

It is sad to be compelled to add that this is also precisely the moment which the enemies of our Government, *here at home*, will seize for the accomplishment of their designs. Riots and civil commotion in the North, and hostile intervention from abroad, are the twin dangers we have now to face.

The *Herald* has a characteristic article on the same subject:

We are assured that the Emperor of the French has his upon the following plan to recognize the Southern Confederacy: He will order the newly constituted Government of Mexico, when it is formed, to recognize the South as an independent nation, and to make with it such treaties as may be mutually beneficial. To render this plan all the more feasible Napoleon is now endeavoring to persuade Spain into a joint action with Mexico whenever the period may arrive for the proposed recognition. These intentions may perhaps be greatly modified when the news of our late glorious victories reaches Europe. However, be that as it may, the plan above described is at present fully determined upon by Napoleon, and Gen. Forey, who, as Marshal of France, will reign over conquered Mexico, has received orders to that effect.

The new Government of Mexico, or rather the French Government over that country, would thus be hostile to the Union, and, from that very fact, all the more obnoxious to our people. Sooner or later a struggle will take place, and Napoleon will then be taught that the Monroe doctrine is not to be despised by Europe, and that Americans are determined to carry it out to the fullest extent. Spain, we believe, will feel but little inclined to act in concert with France in the recognition of the South, now that our victories have so weakened the power of the latter. It will be under stood in Spain that, as we command the seas, the Spanish possessions in the West Indies would be at our mercy were the Government of her Catholic Majesty Isabella Segundo to wantonly insult us by such a sterile show of ill will as the mock recognition would amount to. Afraid to act openly in the matter, Napoleon may resort to such a petty scheme as above described; but he will find that he has but given us the excuse for an attack upon him in Mexico, which would only end when his forces were driven from this continent.

It is evident that at the termination of the present rebellion, which is now near at hand, we shall have a large force at our command.—Our fleet will also be most formidable, and we shall find it almost imperative to seek employment for both our land and naval forces. The actions of the Emperor of the French have been so hostile to the North, he has evinced so great a desire for our dissolution, that we naturally long to make an adequate return.—Nowhere shall we find a more fitting opportunity than in Mexico; and it is there, beyond all doubt, that we shall first strike a blow at the influence of France and punish her insolent invasion of this continent. Napoleon will find, the moment we are at leisure to turn our attention to him, that on this continent the Latin races have no call, no chance whatever of success. His Majesty must have noticed, during his researches into ancient history, that both the Romans and the Greeks, whenever they had levied large forces, invariably turned them against whatever power they could fasten a grievance upon. To keep large armies unemployed seems also a matter that does not meet with his approval. Hence he might naturally suppose that we shall feel the same desire when we have settled our present troubles and find ourselves with an overwhelming force on hand. We wonder that so sagacious a man as Napoleon should so totally misunderstand the resources and great future of this Republic as to set himself in open hostility against it. We shall be much mistaken if he does not have cause to see the error he has committed ere long. It may not be amiss to add here that England should have shown more foresight, as she will understand when we turn our arms against her in Canada.

EFFECT OF OUR FIRE ON THE YANKEE IRON CLADS AT CHARLESTON.

A correspondent of the Chicago *Times*, writing from the monitor Catskill, off Charleston, on the 11th, says:

This morning 9.20 beat to quarters, steaming for Cumming's Point; at 10.5 fired our first shot; kept on firing all the morning till 12.15, when we hauled off just beyond range for dinner; as I spliced the main brace, and it was needed, for the berth-deck, where we are in action, is awful hot and full of powder smoke. The fellows in the turret have the most and hardest work, yet have plenty of fresh air. This morning we sent to one of the wooden vessels near some of the men who were tired out, most of them firemen, and a boy that belongs in the turret. A piece of shell came in the port, striking him in the foot, cutting him some. Yesterday noon we sent away Mr. Simmons, our master, he having fainted, or it was the concussion of a shot striking against the turret, while he was leaning against the side of it.

This noon, about 2 P. M., we were all mustered on deck. The Captain wished to know if any of us thought we were not able to go in again, but they all seemed willing to try it once more. We have an Admiral this time that knows his business, and is not afraid of sinking the vessels. Our decks and sides, as well as turret and pilot house, are cut up, one shot nearly went through the galley, letting down daylight, and water by the bucketfull, and another over the engine room the same way. We were struck yesterday forty-nine times, most of them pretty bad, and to-day some fifteen or twenty times more. Our smoke-stack also is badly torn, several shots having gone through it. There was one solid shot lodged on our deck yesterday. The Captain has possession of it. Thousands of pieces of them are laying around. I can't tell whether we are going in again or not. The Admiral has gone ashore to see the General and find out how he stands it. Sumter is still playing ball with them. All the batteries on Morris Island are taken but Fort Wagner. That, too, will soon be turned on Sumter, then good-bye for Charleston.

THE IRON-CLAD EXPEDITION UP JAMES RIVER

A letter in the New York *Times*, dated Fortress Monroe, July 22d, gives the following result of the recent iron-clad expedition up James river:

The naval campaign on the James river has ended in nothing. At an early day last week Admiral Lee ordered an advance of a portion of his fleet, and all they have accomplished is the reduction of Fort Powhatan, which, in the first place, should never have been allowed to progress. Fort Powhatan was reduced last year, during the peninsula campaign, by the gunboat Dacotah, and was considered a very extensive fortification. This time, however, it was still more formidable, but mounted no guns, and consequently gave us no trouble to destroy it. The fleet moved up the James river a little beyond City Point, and the idea was prevalent that a speedy attack on Fort Darling would naturally follow. But on Monday evening the fleet returned to Newport News without having even saluted Drury's Bluff. The alleged reason for this is the disabling of the monitor Lehigh, which, besides bursting her 15-inch gun, had her engine damaged, and this afternoon the tugboat James F. Freeborn, Capt. Waring, tows her to New York for repairs. The following vessels constituted the naval force under the command of Rear Admiral S. P. Lee, in the James river:

Monitor battery Lehigh, Captain Howell; monitor battery Sangamon, Captain Nicholson; gunboat Mahaska, Captain J. B. Creighton; gunboat Morse, Capt. Babcock; gunboat Commodore Barney, Lieutenant Lamson; gunboat Commodore Jones, gunboat Shockoken, gunboat Seymour, tug Allen, tug Young America, despatch-boat Mount Washington.

The practical reason for the failure in reducing Fort Darling, or compelling the rebels to surrender, was the absence of mortar boats. Fort Darling is situated on an eminence at least one hundred and fifty feet from the water line, and is therefore able to fire plunging shots on any advancing boat. However, a mortar boat, after once attaining the proper range, could make it so hot for the occupants of the fort that they could not stand such a fire any length of time. Besides mortar boats, a land force is essential to attack the rear of the fort; and in the opinion of several prominent and experienced officers this mode is about the only practicable one to get possession of this rebel Gibraltar. The reason of Admiral Lee's advance may have had a very important object, and succeeded admirably, but beyond the capture of an unoccupied fortification and a sail up the river we have not heard of any more practical results.

DON'T WANT TO FIGHT.

A Washington telegram has the following intelligence about the intense desire of the Abolition office holders here to fight the Confederates:

A very significant occurrence took place here to-day in connection with the preparations for the mustering into service of the military companies composed of clerks in the departments. In one of the Bureaus of the Treasury Department a company was called out for drill, and a rumor circulated that it was immediately to be mustered into service, and details regularly made from it for duty in the defences of Washington. Some ten or twelve of the clerks, including the most virulent and vindictive of the radical Abolitionists here, who are wont to brand as traitors all who presume to differ in opinion with them, suddenly became weak in the knees, and concluded to retire from the organization rather than be mustered into actual service. It is strange that the Secretary of the Treasury should permit men to hold offices under the Government who are unwilling to fight for it when necessary.

THE PROCLAMATION OF GOV. BROWN, OF GEORGIA.—The following is an abstract of the recent proclamation of Governor BROWN, of Georgia:

All militia officers who have not volunteered under the call for 8,000 men for home defence, by August 4th, will be subject to conscription. Constables and Justices of the Peace subject just as militia officers. The draft is ordered to take place on the 4th of August. All men between the ages of 18 and 45, whether exempt or not under the Conscript act, are liable to the draft to raise the quota of each county under the call for troops for State defence.—No draft will take place if a sufficient number volunteer to raise each county's quota. If a man has a substitute in service, or has an appointment under a Confederate officer, with but little to do, he will be subject to the draft. Operatives in factories, &c., must form companies for local defence. Ministers of religion, telegraph operatives, Justices of the Inferior Court, or county agents charged with the duty of relieving the necessities of soldiers' families, except two of the latter to each county, not subject to the draft.

AN ENTIRELY NEW VIEW.—The London correspondent of the Boston *Post*, discussing in a recent letter the probabilities of war between England and America, says:

It is all very fine to talk of war with a nation that has seven hundred war steamers, mounting over 10,000 guns, and carrying some 45,000 seamen; but unless you are prepared to see thirteen-inch shells bursting in Washington street, and see the churches, stores, and mansions in Wall street, Broadway, and Fifth Avenue levelled with the ground by vessels clad with seven inches of iron, then pause.—*Delenda est Cathargo*; it was the second Punic war, not the first, that swept Carthage as a political power from the face of the earth, and that after she considered herself invincible. You are on a volcanic mine; spring it and you will witness such a scene as never was before the eyes of any American whose father or grandfather fought at Bunker Hill, Lexington, or New Orleans. This nation (England) can go to war at just one minute's notice. She can lay Portland, Boston, New York, and Washington in ashes, and raise the blockade of every Southern port in six weeks. If you are prepared for that, get your shot ready, close your port holes, look straight into the wind's eye, and go ahead.

CAPT. SEMMES.—The Nassau *Guardian*, of the 17th, states that Captain Simmes, of the Alabama, arrived at St. Thomas on the 25th ult., landed at the back of the island, crossed with three of his officers, and went directly on board a sixteen gun ship—the Georgia—and put out to sea before daylight, while Admiral Wilkes, with the Federal cruisers, was watching his movements.

YANKEE CAVALRY.—A body of Yankee cavalry, numbering about 150, dashed up to Suffolk last Tuesday, expecting to capture a few Confederate soldiers. Finding not a rebel about, they dashed back again, footing them.

The Daily Dispatch.

LOCAL MATTERS.

Camp Thieves.—Two young men—Richard Southall and A. J. Mahone—members of the City Battalion, were brought before the Mayor yesterday, charged with stealing four oil clo