Richmond Dispatch.

BY J. A. COWARDIN & CO.

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TUESDAY MORNING.....MAY 24 1864

DAILY DISPATCH.

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We are indebted to the courtesy of Mr. H A Hamilton, of the Southern Express office, for the latest Southern papers in advance of the mails, which enable us to give a fair idea of the movements of Gen. Johnston, in Georgia.

THE WAR NEWS.

Yesterday was the most quiet day that we have experienced since the opening of the spring campaign. Not even a rumor disturbed the current of the public mind, nor did the telegraph bring us any important news from the various locations of the contending armies. On application at the several headquarters last night we simply learned that a dispatch had been received from Gen. Beauregard representing that all was quiet on the Southside. The Yankees are hemmed in behind their fortifications on the narrow strip of land near Bermuda Hundred, and doubtless deem it the part of prudence to remain there for the present. The report is repeated that they are leaving that sense of operations, and crossing James river for the purpose of reinforcing Grant; but of this there is no confirmation. It is true, however, that the whole campaign on the Southside has been a disastrous one to the enemy, whose plans have been foiled in every direction by the superior generalship of Beauregard. It would not, therefore, be surprising if they were to abandon that line of operations, and seek to aid the grand army of the Potomac in its approach to Richmond, the robbing of Butler's laurels being a small matter in comparison with the success of Grant, who is just now the deity of the Yankee nation. Still there may be more bloody work on the Southside, and the present may be the calm that precedes the storm.

The heavy firing heard down the river about two o'clock yesterday morning proceeded from the enemy's gunboats shelling the woods below Chaffin's Bluff. The Yankees have a decided passion for this sort of artillery practice, on which they waste their ammunition to no purpose.

FROM NORTHERN VIRGINIA.

The quiet that has prevailed for some days past on Gen. Lee's lines still continues, and beyond a small skirmish yesterday morning in the neighborhood of Hanover Junction, in which some of Gen. Ewell's command are reported to have been engaged, there is no recent incident worth mentioning in that quarter. By changing his line of operations Gen. Lee has lost nothing, the movement having been necessitated by Grant's change of base, his object being to keep the enemy still in front. An officer who left the army yesterday represents that our troops are in fine condition, in the best of spirits, and anxious for another collision with the Yankees. They are perfectly confident of their ability to whip them whenever they are ready for a trial of strength. Our army correspondent reports that there is no immediate prospect of another battle.

CONFEDERATE STATES CONGRESS.

The *Senate* met at 12 o'clock yesterday.—Prayer by the Rev. Dr. Minnegerode, of the Episcopal Church.

The memorial of the Superintendent of the Press Association, asking that reporters in the field be allowed to purchase rations and forage, was referred to the Military Committee.

Mr. Sparrow, of La., offered a resolution instructing the Judiciary Committee to report a bill for the suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus* after the expiration of the present law, which being modified into a resolution of inquiry, was laid over until to-day.

Mr. Semmes, of La., introduced a bill to regulate the pay of the General assigned to duty at the seat of Government. Referred to the Military Committee.

A bill amending the 1st section of the act imposing restrictions on the foreign commerce of the Confederate States, so as to strike out the word "uniform," was reported from the Committee of Commerce and passed.

From the same committee a bill was reported, amending the same act so as to protect the interests of the States in vessels owned wholly or in part by them. Passed.

Leave of absence was granted Mr. Johnson, of Ga, for the residue of the session, on account of illness in his family.

A communication was received from the Secretary of the Treasury, recommending the passage of a law authorizing the payment of railroad transportation, and of debts contracted for clothing and subsistence for the army in Certificates of Indebtedness, payable in gold two years after peace, with interest payable semi annually in coin during the war, the rates to be paid to be fixed according to the values of 1860, or to the values of the articles in gold at the present time.

Referred to the Finance Committee.

House joint resolution relative to the removal of the restrictions on members of Congress visiting the sick and wounded in hospitals was referred to the Military Committee.

On motion, the Senate went into secret session.

House of Representatives.—The Speaker laid before the House a communication from the Secretary of the Treasury concerning the postponement of the sale of six per cent. bonds, and recommending legislation to meet the expenses of the Government in the meantime. A portion of the communication, relating to an amendment of the impressment law, was referred to the Special Committee on that subject.

Mr. J. T. Leach, of N. C., offered a series of joint resolutions in favor of peace by negotiation.

Mr. McMullen, of Va., moved that they be laid upon the table, but withdrew it. The motion was renewed by Mr. Heiskell, of Tenn., and carried—ayes 47, noes 26.

The Speaker laid before the House a communication from C. F. Collier, of Petersburg, announcing his withdrawal from the contest for a seat from the 4th Congressional district of Virginia. Read and laid on the table.

Various bills and resolutions were introduced and referred.

Mr. Wilberforce, of S. C., offered a joint resolution of thanks to the 21st, 25th, and 26th regiments of South Carolina volunteers. Referred.

Mr. Atkins, of Tenn., offered a resolution instructing the Military Committee to report a bill so amending the act to organize forces to serve during the war as to repeal that portion which exempts the owner of a farm employing fifteen able bodied working hands.

A motion to refer the resolution prevailed—ayes 48, nays 23.

Mr. Leach's "peace" resolutions were again brought before the House by the request of Mr Conrad, for the privilege of changing his vote on the motion to lay upon the table. Leave was granted, and the same privilege was accorded to others, and after several personal explanations the resolutions were finally tabled by a vote of ayes 62, noes 22.

The following are the resolutions:

Whereas, the unconstitutional enactment of laws by the Congress of the United States from time to time upon subjects of vital importance to the harmony and independence of the States, the happiness and prosperity of the people, the preservation and perpetuation of the Union, against the demands of justice, the appeals and admonitions of her best and wisest statesmen, made it our painful duty to fall back upon the rights for which the colonies maintained the war of the revolution, and declare and inalienable: Therefore,

Resolved by the Congress of the Confederate States, That the delegation from each State, acting in its sovereign and independent character, for the purpose of adding moral to our physical force, and placing ourselves properly before the civilized world, do most earnestly appeal to the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint commissioners whose duty it shall be to propose an armistice of ninety days to the proper authorities of the Federal Government, preliminary to negotiations for peace upon State sovereignty and independence, and that said commissioners shall report in writing to the President the answer received from the Federal Government upon the subject.

Resolved, That should the peace-making power of the Federal Government accede to the proposition for an armistice of ninety days, the President be requested to convene the Congress of the Confederate States for the purpose of appointing commissioners, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; and that he also be requested to notify the Executives of the several States of the fact, and ask their co-operation by appointing commissioners, either by the Legislature or Convention, to co-operate with the commissioners appointed by the President to negotiate with commissioners appointed by the Federal Government upon such terms of peace as will be consistent with the honor, dignity, and independence of the States, and compatible with the safety of our social and political rights

Resolved, That in maintaining the rights guaranteed to us by the blood and treasure of our Revolutionary fathers, and dearest at all times to free men, we desire to be let alone—we ask no man's property—we fight not for conquest, but for our rights: the independence of the States, our equality, our civil and religious liberties.

Resolved, That such terms of peace as are agreed to by the Commissioners ought to be endorsed by the President and Senate, and submitted to the people for their ratification or rejection.

Those who voted against laying the resolutions upon the table were: Messrs. Aikin, Bell, Cruikshank, Echols, Foote, Faller, A. H. Garland, R. H. Garland, Gilmer, Lamkin, J. M. Leach, J. T. Leach, Lyon, Logan, Marshall, Ramsey, W. E. Smith, W. N. H. Smith, W. R. Smith, Triplett, and Turner.—Some of these gentlemen explained that by voting against the proposition to lay upon the table they by no means endorsed the sentiment of the resolutions, but thought it due to the dignity of the State which the mover represented that they should be referred to a committee.

Mr Hilton, of Florida, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill to increase the compensation of non commissioned officers and privates in the army of the Confederate States. It proposes to permanently increase the pay of all non-commissioned officers, musicians, and privates, seven dollars per month, in lieu of the temporary bounty provided by the 3d section of the act to organize forces to serve during the war; and to repeal the said third section as to all non commissioned officers, privates, and musicians who are now living, but provides that it shall remain in force as to the representatives of such as have died since the passage of said act.

The bill being taken up, Mr Murray, of Tenn, moved to amend by striking out all after the words "seven dollars per month." Agreed to—ayes 74, noes 5.

The bill passed—ayes 78, noes 3.

Mr. Marshall, of Kentucky, moved a reconsideration, with a view to amending the bill so as to provide for the payment of the bounty to soldiers in Treasury notes instead of hundred dollar bonds. The motion was laid upon the table.

Mr. Hilton offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Ways and Means to report a bill to provide by taxation for the increased pay of soldiers. Agreed to.

Mr. Lyon, of Alabama, from the Committee on Ways and Means, reported bills to amend the tax laws. Ordered to be printed, and made the special order for Wednesday.

Mr. Colyer, of Tenn., submitted a minority report, which was also ordered to be printed.

Mr. Miles, of S. C., introduced a resolution of thanks to the cadets of the Virginia Military Institute, and their officers, for gallant conduct in the battle of the 15th inst., near Newmarket, in the Valley of the Shenandoah. Passed unanimously.

The House then adjourned.

FROM GENERAL LEE'S ARMY.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA,
Near Spotsylvania C H, May 20th, 1864.

Grant has shown no signs of advance for the past two days. He is doubtless biding his time till the reinforcements, of which Meade speaks so confidently, shall have arrived. Meantime, for the *seventeenth day*, the brave cohorts of the South have with unbroken front, in line of battle and on the march, opposed the enemy and beaten them back. One other event occurred yesterday, which, *en passant*, I will relate. About three o'clock on yesterday afternoon, Gen. Ewell moved forward with a sufficient force in order to feel the enemy's position on their extreme right, our left. General E. struck their columns near the main road leading from Fredericksburg to Spotsylvania Court House, some eight miles from the former and three miles from the latter place, about half past four o'clock in the afternoon. From this time until nine o'clock at night, the battle raged and roared most furiously. The enemy having repulsed our attack attempted in turn to press us, when they were hurled back most successfully. At one time our line of skirmishers reached the enemy's wagon train, which was passing along the high road, but were forced to give back without doing them any harm save shooting and capturing a few mules.—About nine o'clock the fighting ceased, and our boys fell back to their entrenched position. During the engagement we lost some two hundred and fifty men killed, wounded, and missing. Gen Ewell's horse was shot from under him, giving him a hard fall, but he is all right again, and is to-day in the saddle.

It is conjectured that the enemy must have lost fully five hundred in killed and wounded. At least their prisoners, of whom we captured eighty or ninety, estimate the force which we encountered and which was found to be strongly entrenched, consisted of Hancock's and Burnside's corps. On the whole, we neither gained nor lost by this little affair. The troops engaged in the expedition were somewhat fatigued when they reached camp, but a day's rest will put them all right again.

The weather to day is very warm, and the roads are drying quite fast. It seems to me almost useless to repeat that the troops are in the best possible spirits, notwithstanding the fatigue, heat and exposure to which they have been subjected for the last three weeks; and yet, lest if I fail to speak of the morale of the army, wrong inferences may be drawn, I will say that the spirits of all, officers and men, are most buoyant, and that I have yet to meet with the first soldier who lacks confidence either in Gen. Lee or our final success.

The atmosphere is fully impregnated with the stench arising from portions of the battle-field over which I have passed, and which is in close proximity to our lines. Grant, in every instance, has left his dead unburied, and his wounded uncared for, whilst nearly all of our slain have been buried and our wounded well treated.

Grant seems to be still moving around towards our right. As I predicted in a previous letter, he will do nothing just yet but will wait until his armies are recruited, his commissariat supplied, and his medical chests renewed; then doubtless with all haste another Hecatomb of victims "butchered to make a Lincoln holiday."

Our losses in the fights since the campaign begun will, I am told, foot up about twelve thousand killed and wounded, of which three thousand will be able to return to duty in thirty days. X.

ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA,
Near Hanover Junction, May 22, 1864.

About dusk on Saturday evening a line of battle, consisting of Scales's and Law's N C, and Davis's Miss, brigades, moved forward from the entrenchments in front of Spotsylvania C H, and, aided by a brisk artillery fire from our own guns, assaulted and carried the enemy's breastworks, then held by a single line of skirmishers from the Sixth army corps, capturing a few prisoners, but losing rather heavily in killed and wounded, inasmuch as the enemy were posted behind strong entrenchments and our line of advance lay through a tangled undergrowth.

This reconnoissance, for such it was, revealed the fact that the enemy's whole army was certainly in motion. Gen Lee had supposed as much earlier in the day, and during the morning Ewell's corps left the front, moving in the direction of Chesterfield Station. So soon as this reconnoissance was made, everything started rearwards—a general skedaddling among ambulances and wagons. Just after dark the whole army "was in motion." Wright's Ga brigade occupied the post of honor, as rear guard. All that night the same were moving rearwards. The troops, however, had a short respite of rest, but were again on the march before daybreak.

All day to-day the troops have been pushing rapidly forward through the heat and dust with a will and spirit that speak their own commendation. So exhausted and tired had the men become that whenever the halt for rest was sounded, which is done once in every hour, for ten minutes, on a march, they would fall down and sleep as soon as the rest was proclaimed. The rest, however, over, and "Attention" called, they would spring up and trudge along, as if quite refreshed by their short naps. Of course there was some straggling, from the forced character of our marches, but not a great many.

Rumors say Grant has cut loose from Fredericksburg, and will make Tappahannock and Port Royal his depots for supplies.

I cannot think that we are in immediate danger of a collision, for the reason that Grant's men must be considerably exhausted and he himself will require a few days at least to recruit and get his men in fighting plight. I will make no speculations as to the future, or what Grant will do. My own opinion, however, is, that he is a desperately bold man, and will give the Army of Northern Virginia full work during the coming campaign.—That our final success is certain, I have an abiding faith. X.

Newspaper Accounts From Georgia.

A correspondent of the Atlanta *Confederacy* gives the following further particulars of the engagement at Resaca on Friday morning:

It became necessary for Gen Johnston to move his army from Dalton from the fact that the enemy concentrated his entire force on, and passed Gen Johnston's left, making a demonstration on Resaca.

At 1 o'clock P M Tuesday he made an attack on the place, Gen Johnston's left resting upon the banks of the Oostenaula, near Resaca, commanded by Gen Cheatham. After a slight skirmish our men fell back, apparently in confusion, but in order to more effectually draw the enemy after them. The enemy ran up their artillery to within about six hundred yards of our guns, when we opened on them with such fury that, instead of outshelling our batteries, we made them stampede.

We were not expecting the enemy so near us so suddenly. All our commissary stores were lying in heaps at the depot, our sick were being put on the train, our wagons map covering over the place, and a vast multitude of negroes scattered promiscuously over the whole region, so that it looked as though a shell could not pass without being destructive to lives. But we repulsed them so soon that but little damage was done to us.

We are told by a gentleman who left Resaca after the affair that our loss was fifteen killed and about the same amount wounded, and that the enemy's loss was 400 killed.

Gen Johnston's army is in fine health and spirits, and are sanguine of success. They now have the enemy out in the open field, away from his fortifications, where it is as fair on one side as the other.

One of the special reporters of the Atlanta *Appeal* returned from Resaca on Sunday evening. He gives the following news concerning matters transpiring there:

The enemy are massing a large force in Sugar Valley, on the west side of the Western and Atlantic road, and their advance is within sight of Resaca.

The main body of our forces have been moved to corresponding positions, and the two armies now confront each other in such proximity that a general engagement is imminent, and may be looked for at any moment.

The wires are so crowded with Government dispatches that but little can be sent by telegraph.

Sunday afternoon, at 3 o'clock, Stevenson's division, of Hood's corps, felt of the Yankees, and brought on a sharp fire of musketry and shells, which was kept up until night closed on the scene.

A shell passed through the telegraph office at Resaca a little after 4 o'clock, causing quite a commotion among the operators. The working of the line, however, was interrupted only for a few minutes.

Among the prisoners brought in by our forces Saturday was a correspondent of the Cincinnati *Times*, who was taken near Resaca. He says he found himself suddenly in the midst of the Confederates, and he thought it better to surrender than to have a ball put through his body. He had no idea when he came into that place that he was getting so near the rebels. He says that the Yankees had become well apprised of one thing, which was that they are not fighting Bragg now.

The position of the Yankees is on the west side of the Oostenaula river and west of Snake creek, which runs into it. What force they have there is not known.

Our troops are most eager for the fray, whooping and yelling all the time, and sanguine of the result. They say, to a man, that they are "going to whip the fight."

[From the Savannah News.]

If private letters from the front be correct, remarks the Macon *Telegraph*, a most interesting and desperate game of strategy has been going on in the past few days, which probably found its solution yesterday, or will find it within a few hours.—The movement of Hooker's corps by way of Villanow, through Snake Creek Gap, if at first intended by the enemy as an isolated raid in Johnston's rear to take possession of Resaca and destroy the Oostenaula bridge no longer maintains that form.

Immense columns of the enemy, with their trains of artillery and wagons, were on the 14th plunging down the valley west of the Chattanooga Ridge, and entering by Snake Creek Gap the plateau west of Resaca and the line of the railroad, and joining Hooker's corps, already there. This gap has been left open to the enemy for a number of days. It is seventeen miles southwest of Dalton, and the next gap above it, in the same ridge, is Dug Gap, which we hold, and where the enemy has made repeated assaults in vain. Dug Gap is about four miles southwest of Dalton.

It will thus be seen that the enemy has transferred the bulk of his force from our right and front and pushed them seventeen miles to our rear through Snake Gap. Meanwhile, Gen Johnston has skillfully brought up a powerful supporting force to the defence of Resaca and made a corresponding change in his line, which now runs nearly north and south, the right resting on Rocky Face and the left upon his supports at Resaca.

Here, then, in the rather narrow compass of Sugar Valley, with Snake Creek Gap the only available outlet of escape if defeated, in his rear are gathered the host of the enemy in a grand desperate neck-or-nothing effort to flank Johnston and cut his communications.

It will be recollected that Dug Gap is in our hands, twelve miles above Snake Creek Gap, and this is the avenue, if Johnston has chosen to avail himself of it, through which to make a flank movement in rear of the Snake Creek Gap and shut off the enemy's retreat. Johnston has but to swing his right around, push it through Dug Gap, and the deed is done. The enemy are apparently bottled up for preservation, unless he succeeds in driving Johnston's left, getting possession of Resaca and the railroad, and opening a free passage generally.

Such is said to have been the situation on the 14th, and it is pretty clear that Sherman has pursued a policy which must eventuate in a great Federal success or a terrible failure.

[From the Augusta Constitutionalist, May 18th.]

By the flanking movements of Sherman the two hostile armies in our front are gradually shifting into a new situation. By private dispatches we were yesterday morning informed of the change of the telegraph office from Resaca to Calhoun. Our own correspondent writes from Calhoun, under date of Sunday, that "all the trains, hospitals, and supplies are being moved to Cassville. The enemy are still attempting to flank, and it would be difficult even to conjecture where the next heavy encounter may take place."

The impression is universal that Gen Johnston has his adversary exactly in the position for him. Sherman evidently believes that Johnston is running, and the latter knows precisely what the enemy and himself are about.

If excuse or explanation were requisite to solve the mysterious motives of our reticent Commander-in-Chief, in shifting with the enemy, it could be made patent to the simplest understanding that he desires the very developments that are now being made on the part of the Yankee General. Every advance by the left flank exposes the more the flank and rear of the enemy; every advance carries him so much further from his depot of supplies, which, if the road has been destroyed, would materially inconvenience the campaign of the invading party. It is an accepted principle in military science that a river is much safer in one's front than in his rear. When the enemy has crossed the Oostenaula he will be in imminent danger of destruction, for we believe Johnston will hurl his army *en masse* upon him.

We have conversed with many intelligent soldiers among the wounded who came down last evening. When they left the field Sunday night, the Oostenaula river was our line. Our army was on this side of the river, and that of the enemy on the other. It was said that one corps of the enemy, perhaps, had crossed at the ford west of Calhoun. The Resaca bridge was burned Sunday morning. In the fighting on Sunday our whole army was not engaged. Indeed the greater portion of it has not yet been under fire, having been held in reserve for some purpose known only to the God of battles and Joseph E. Johnston.

Our men fought all day Sunday behind the works they had thrown up Friday night and had strengthened the night previous. At four o'clock in the afternoon of Sunday there was a general charge on our part, in which the divisions of Cheatham, Stewart, and Stevenson participated. The enemy came up in line, were scattered by heavy volleys from our entrenchments, and as they fled our men were ordered to charge, and, leaping over the works, they drove the Yankees a quarter of a mile, when they ran up on the reserve line of the enemy, and were compelled to fall back to their original line. In this charge most of the men were wounded who came down yesterday.

The loss of the enemy since the fight opened on Friday last is calculated at five to one. They were charging against our entrenched lines from the beginning, and the slaughter of Yankees is said to have been terrible. They were literally mowed down as they came up, and were repulsed every time a charge was attempted.

We conversed with an intelligent officer who assures us that the spirit of the men is unparalleled in the history of the Army of Tennessee. He declares that if Gen Johnston will let the men loose they will whip the Yankees on ground of their own choosing.

The Yankees have already been punished severely, and the fearful losses of the last few days will be calculated to diminish a little of the pluck which seems to have characterized their repeated charges upon our entrenchments.

There was no lessening of consternation in the neighborhood of Calhoun yesterday morning when the train left.

P S.—Later.—There was a heavy attack made upon our lines on Sunday night about 10 o'clock, which was repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy.

ADDITIONAL FROM THE NORTH.

The New York papers of the 17th give some further news of interest than the summary we published yesterday. We give some extracts:

Governor Bradford, of Maryland has issued his proclamation calling for three regiments for one hundred days' service. They are to rendezvous at Baltimore, for service within the State, and are in no case to be required to do duty outside the State without their consent.

The Yankees are endeavoring to repair their losses by calling out the militia for one hundred days, to take the place of the men who were in the fortifications at Washington and on the sea coast defences. Yet they pretend that our losses are greater than their own, and that we cannot procure any reinforcements.

LOUISVILLE, May 14—The following dispatch was received here at midnight:

FRANKFORT, May 13.—*To the Editors of the Louisville Journal*: Kentuckians, to the rescue! I want ten thousand six months' troops at once!—Do not hesitate! Come, I will lead you! Let us help to finish this war and save our Government!

THOMAS E BRAMLETTE,
Governor of Kentucky.

G D Townsend, A A G of the United States, declares "all Federal prisoners of war and all civilians on parole prior to May 7, 1864, the date of the order, exchanged." He says the Confederates are still indebted to them 33,596, for which no equivalents have been received by the Federal Government.

On the 14th, 1,000, and on the 15th, 800 wounded were received in Baltimore.

Andrew Smithson was arrested in Baltimore on the 14th, charged with denouncing the Federal Government, and swearing that Gen Lee had whipped the Yankees and would do so again.

Lord Lyons denies having had any correspondence with the Confederate Government.

The New York *Times's* Washington correspondent of the 15th, says:

Over 12,000 of our wounded have been brought up from the battle field and distributed among the hospitals in this city and Alexandria. A large number still remain at Belle Plain and Fredericksburg, awaiting removal. Thousands still lie on the battle field.

A dispatch in the *Herald*, dated Washington, May 15, says the railroad from Alexandria to Rappahannock Station remains undisturbed by guerrillas, and is in perfect order. Trains, however, run out no further than Union Mills at present.

Stanton says Sigel was last heard from at Wood stock; and says the rumor that he had broken the railroads between Lynchburg and Charlottesville is not true.

[By this time they have found out it was Sigel and his Dutch that have been broken.]

The Cincinnati *Times* says prominent among the combinations for the reduction of Richmond is the movement of Gen Crooks from the Kanawha Valley, with a considerable force.

Gen Robinson had his thigh badly fractured, and it was thought would have to be amputated so high up as to endanger his life.

The *Herald* publishes a sketch of General J E B Stuart.

A correspondent of the New York *Times*, writing from Fredericksburg, May 13th, says:

The rebels hold out bravely. They have fallen back not more than four miles after a week's resolute fighting.

The *Times* says the "work goes bravely on—the rebel Longstreet has died of his wounds, and Gen Lee has been dangerously wounded and sent to Richmond, and his army is in full retreat towards the rebel capital."

The *Times*, in an editorial about "West Pointers," says Banks's overthrow in Louisiana "has made it plain to everybody that Major Gen Banks is practically no General at all."

Major Derby, surgeon-in-chief with Gen Banks, reports the Federal loss at Pleasant Hill at 670 killed, 1,340 wounded, and 1,565 missing and wounded.

A dispatch in the *Times* from Natchez, Miss, says the "rebel battery which fired upon the steamer Von Phul, made its appearance at Fort de Russy and sunk the steamer Emma."

A telegram from Cincinnati, of the 14th, says:

The rebels have retreated in some distance to Resaca and Rome. The Yanks claim to have captured 5,000 prisoners and 10 or 12 pieces of heavy artillery.

BUTLER'S ARMY—A YANKEE STORY.

A correspondent of the New York *Times*, of the 14th inst, writing from Bermuda Hundreds, under date of the 10th, says:

In the course of the morning Gen Butler received a flag of truce from the enemy, signed by Gen Bushrod Johnson, containing three propositions, viz: 1 Asking permission to come within our lines to remove their wounded and bury their dead. 2. Asking an exchange of their wounded. 3 Asking a general exchange of prisoners on both sides. To the first of these propositions Gen Butler replied that the work was already done; to the second he announced himself as perfectly willing to assent, and to the third he replied that no exchange of healthy and well prisoners could be effected until the Confederate authorities should acknowledge colored soldiers to be prisoners of war.

I suspect, after all, that the smart rebels cared less for burying their dead and an exchange of the wounded than for the well—the latter class being peremptorily needed just now in their army. Circumstances, at least, lead to this inference, for the blackened and swollen remains of several of their men, who fell in Saturday's fight and were buried by us on Monday, were frightful evidence that their care in this respect must be of sudden growth. I do not know the numbers of rebel prisoners that have been sent to the rear of our lines, but I think they must have been quite large. They are the best looking men of their class that I have ever seen. They tell me that the niggard ration of three ounces of bacon per day, with its accompaniment of meal, is as much as they require to put them in fighting trim. The officers fare no better than their men, receiving precisely the same ration in quality and not being allowed to purchase luxuries, even if they possess the means. "Ah!" said one, as he eat heartily of the private stores of one of our officers, "you Yankees don't know what privation means."

GRANT'S LOSSES.

The "*Tribune*" correspondent says that in the first six days of the series of battles Gen Grant has been fighting, he lost 49,000 men, nearly all of whom are killed and wounded, but few prisoners being taken. Yet the Seven Days' battles, which were called disastrous, left McClellan within half the distance of Richmond, as compared with Grant's position at last accounts. This fact would seem to prove that the Peninsula route must have some advantages as compared with the overland route, President Lincoln's "plan" to the contrary.

THE WAR IN ARKANSAS.

The Arkansas correspondent of the New York "*Times*," under date of May 6th, makes the following candid admission:

It is not too much to say that Steele's movements so far have been a complete failure—a disastrous one, barely saved from being a perfect rout. As I was in Little Rock on the 1st inst, (Sunday,) when the army was expected to return that evening, as I knew personally of the panic that existed there, and had conversed with officers right from the front, it is not presumptuous to claim some knowledge of the real status of affairs in Arkansas.

THE SIEGE OF CHARLESTON.—The enemy threw 22 shells into Charleston Wednesday, and more or less every day. The *Mercury* says:

At an early hour yesterday morning the monitors approached Fort Sumter and opened a rapid fire upon the post. The Sullivan's Island batteries, however, replied with so much promptness, precision, and effect, that, after a contest of about one hour, the monitor fleet withdrew.

From a late Yankee paper we get the following interesting notice of recent changes amongst the Yankee commanders on the Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina coasts:

"Several important changes have taken place in the Department of the South. Gen Gillmore has been relieved from duty at Hilton Head, and is succeeded by Brig Gen John P Hatch. Brig Gen William Birney, of the colored troops, takes Gen Hatch's place in Florida. Gen Terry is succeeded in the command of the Northern District by General Schemelfinig. Other changes of less note have also occurred."

A CONFEDERATE WEDDING IN PARIS.—The Mobile papers announce the marriage of Dr Thomas T Pratt, C S A, of Mobile, to Miss Eliza Theresa Sims, daughter of Dr J Marion Sims, formerly of Montgomery, Ala, on the 17th March last. The nuptials took place in Paris, and it was a Confederate wedding in all its surroundings. The rooms were decorated with Confederate colors, and numerous Confederate naval officers, in their gray uniforms, were present. Mr Slidell was present, both as a guest and as an official representative of the Confederacy, to meet the requirements of the French law, touching the legality of the marriage in that country. The marriage took place at 12 o'clock noon, on the 17th, and at 5 P M of the same day the bridegroom left Paris and his bride to meet the English steamer for America.

PRICES IN COLUMBIA, S. C.—The Carolinian says: Peas, eggs, and provisions of all kinds are cheap in comparison to what they have been. Flour has fallen nearly one-half within the last week.

Queen Victoria, of England, was forty-five in March.

THE ALBEMARLE IN THE SOUND—*Terrible Naval Engagement.*—The Goldsboro' *State Journal* has the following graphic account of the recent naval engagement in Albemarle Sound, kindly furnished by a friend:

One of the severest naval fights of the war came off below here yesterday, in the Albemarle Sound. Our iron clad, Albemarle, accompanied by one small gunboat which our forces captured at this place, started upon an expedition for Newbern.—Doubtless you are now looking for her in the rear of that place. When they entered the Sound and got about twenty miles from the mouth of the Roanoke they were attacked by twelve large steamers, (Yankees,) four of them man of war. They sunk our little gunboat the first fire and took the crew prisoners, numbering about 25 men. But the iron-clad stood the test. The enemy fought her at very close quarters; poured broadside after broadside upon her with about eighty guns at a time, but she would give them her two guns in return. They even run their vessels upon the bow and stern of of our boat, but she would shake them off and rally to her work again. They tried to blow her up with torpedoes but failed to hurt her.

The fight lasted three hours, till dark, when our glorious little ram, with her brave crew, steamed back to this place, the enemy not daring to follow. The Albemarle sunk three of their largest steamers, besides damaging three or four more. She was hurt but very little. Her smoke stack was riddled so that her commander, Captain Cooke, could not get draft enough to raise steam, and this compelled him to return. In doing so he had to burn all his bacon, lard, and oil, to raise steam.—The Albemarle was struck sixty-two times, one shot of which hurt her, breaking both bars of a portion of her armor, or rather breaking one bar and driving in the second, which splintered the wood on the inside and wounded four of the crew slightly—so slightly that they continued their duties.

One of the Albemarle's guns had some three feet knocked off the muzzle at the first fire, but she fired forty-six rounds in her broken condition. Captain Cooke said the Confederacy might congratulate itself on the safe return of the Albemarle to Plymouth. The Yankees tried to throw a keg of powder down her smoke stack to blow her up, but failed. They tried to drop an anchor on her propeller to stop her. It was at this point that our men shot the whole stern off the Yankee man-of-war engaged in the work, and it was a grand sight to see her go down, though in but twenty feet water. This vessel had five two hundred pound rifle guns on her, five 11-inch Dahlgren guns, and two other large guns in her bow and stern. We also sunk the Miami, another large vessel carrying ten guns, and Captain Cooke thinks the third vessel was the Sutaw.

These are the facts of the fight of the Albemarle. When she starts again she will be O K. She will shortly have a new smoke stack and another gun to replace the broken one, and then you may look out for her again. She lies this morning opposite our camp, her snout down the river. She will go down to the mouth of the Roanoke to-day.

A TRIP OF THE IRON CLAD RALEIGH.—The iron clad Raleigh ran out of Wilmington, N. C., the other night, but did not succeed in bagging any of the blockaders. The Wilmington *Journal* has the following account of the adventure:

Last evening the iron-clad Raleigh, Lieutenant Pembroke Jones commanding, bearing the broad pennant of flag officer Lynch, steamed out of New Inlet in quest of the enemy. Not long after leaving the bar the Raleigh met a blockader cruising about, and gave her a 7 inch shot crashing through her sides. The Federal vessel being unused to such an encounter immediately left, making signals to the fleet. The iron-clad continued her cruise until after midnight, when an unsuspecting blockader, taking her for a blockade runner, fired a shot and ran down to pick up a prize; but instead of receiving the surrender of an unarmed Anglo rebel, Jonathan was complimented by a ball that was more surprising than agreeable. Thinking, in his wonder, that he had been fired on by one of the squadron through mistake, the blockader displayed the usual signal of a bright blue light, when the Raleigh being very near, sent a rifle shell whistling through her bulwarks. The Yankee "doused his glim" with unexampled alacrity. Very soon the red and blue signals of the enemy were seen dashing in different directions, giving the alarm to each other.

Nothing more was seen or heard during the night and we who awaited the result on the ramparts of Fort Fisher were relieved when the dawn commenced to roll the curtain from the scene. Daylight first disclosed the small steamers Yadkin and Raquator about two miles from shore awaiting the orders of the Raleigh, which they accompanied over the bar. Soon the horizon was clear and we discovered the iron clad eight miles to sea, in quiet possession of the blockading anchorage. Soon after the blockaders that had run off to sea appeared in the horizon, and the little black dots developed themselves into gunboats.

First came two well into view, and one approaching within range of the Raleigh was greeted by a shot; a long taw engagement now commenced, in which the second blockader joined but the enemy were soon sufficiently amused and ran off, giving the Flag Officer a wide berth. Six sail now appeared, but only one had the temerity to exchange shots with the iron clad, and she soon decamped beyond range. About six o'clock eight blockaders came in sight, but notwithstanding the Raleigh steamed defiantly around their anchorage, eight miles from the guns of Fort Fisher, not one dared to take up the gauntlet. At 7 o'clock the Flag Officer, wishing to save the tide on the bar, signalled for his steamers and turned the Raleigh's prow to shore. The little trio formed in line some five miles out and steamed slowly in, the Confederate flag waving saucily above their decks. The fort greeted the Raleigh with a salute as she passed in.

What damage the iron clad did to the two vessels she struck is not known. She was not struck.

HEAVY MEN.—Lieut Martin Bates, a native of Kentucky, is a giant in size. He is seven feet and one inch tall, and weighs three hundred and ninety pounds. His feet measure thirteen inches in length. A giant of his size cannot be found every day. Lieut Bates is in good health, and attends to camp duties as other good soldiers do. He belongs to the 17th battalion Confederate cavalry.—Henry Stacy, a citizen of Hawkins county, Tennessee, died on the 18th April, 1864. He was about 46 years of age, six feet six inches high, and weighed over six hundred pounds. For many years previous to his death he had not left his home. His health was generally good; he was very talkative and fond of company. A great many persons visited him from curiosity. In his young days he excelled all his school mates in running, jumping, &c. He leaves a wife and two children.

The North Carolina Legislature meets to day at Raleigh.

☞ AN APPEAL to the People of the Confederate States—The Directors of the Young Men's Christian Association of Richmond respectfully, but earnestly, submit to the benevolent and the patriotic throughout the Confederate States as follows in behalf of the soldiers' families in this city. Since the commencement of the war Richmond has been a refuge for those who have been driven from their homes by our ruthless enemies. Thousands of helpless women and children, not from the devastated counties of Virginia alone, but from nearly every State of the Confederacy, have sought an asylum in our midst. Our citizens have been appealed to in numberless instances to relieve the sick and wounded soldiers, to furnish shoes and clothing for soldiers in the field and hospital, and to afford food and shelter for their suffering families, and nobly have they, in the great majority of instances, responded to every appeal.

The supplies of provisions in the city at this time are so reduced, and the difficulties of obtaining others by ordinary means so numerous and great, that the funds contributed for the relief of the poor can accomplish but little in purchasing the necessaries of life.

In a written report from the Clothing Bureau it appears that there are more than three thousand females in this city who are seeking employment from the Government in vain, and that those who obtain work are not fully employed. The wages received for their work will not enable these poor women to procure a sufficiency of the plainest food for themselves and children. Without assistance, then, from the city and country generally, many instances of actual starvation must have occurred. Our City Council has made most liberal appropriations for the purchase of supplies, both for gratuitous distribution and for sale at cost; but the agents employed for the purpose have not been able to procure the quantity of provisions required.

Under these circumstances we feel that it is our duty to appeal to our fellow citizens throughout the Confederate States to forward, without delay, contributions of money and supplies to the Army Committee of this association. Since the commencement of the war this Committee has labored zealously and faithfully for the temporal and spiritual welfare of our soldiers and their families, and for the success of our glorious cause. Let these soldiers not be discouraged now, upon the eve of our severest, and, as we trust, our last and most glorious campaign, for want of the generous sympathy and support of their friends at home.

Shipments made to Roger Martin, Superintendent, or Wm P Munford, Chairman of the Army Committee, will be promptly attended to. And in accordance with a special agreement made with the Superintendent of the Southern Express Company, all express charges will be paid by them at Richmond.

Contributions of money should also be sent to these gentlemen.

WM WILLIS, Jr, Pres.
J D E SLEIGHT, Secretary. may 11—tu

OFFICE SOUTHERN TELEGRAPH COMPANIES,
Richmond, March 24, 1864.

THE stockholders of the Washington and New Orleans, Richmond, Charlottesville and Staunton, Lynchburg and Abingdon, and East Tennessee Telegraph Companies, are hereby notified that five per cent tax levied by the law passed 11th February, 1864, on the value of all shares held in these companies or other securities, will be paid by the undersigned, or by the agents of the companies, if the stock held in any of these companies is not paid to us.

R CRAVEN,
Assistant Treasurer Southern Telegraph Companies.
mh 24—dw1w

LOCAL MATTERS.

False Representation.—A few days since there was deposited to the care of the freight