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The Bombardment of Vicksburg.

Explosion of a Mine.

TERRIFIC SCENE.

The correspondent of the N. York World, writing from before Vicksburg on the 26th ult., gives an account of the bombardment of the day before, and the result of Grant's first experiment in mining Vicksburg. The letter says:

The way in which the fort on McPherson's front was exploded is, as we learn from some of the participants, as follows: After the diggers had cut across the middle of the fort, which was a prominent fort, and by reason of our flanking it has been so pierced as to be almost of the parallelogram or nearly an oblong shape, they then deposited in it a ton of powder, and sealed up the cavity as tightly as possible. A train of powder and slow match was only required to explode this immense mass and set free the enormous gaseous force, so soon as the disposition was made for the climacteric.

On yesterday afternoon, about 3 o'clock the troops all along the line might have been seen in order of battle, the guns keeping up their usual din and sharpshooters more than usually brisk with their fire. Several prominent officers might have been seen, glasses in hand, and their eyes turned in two directions, mainly, however, on the bump of land in the center. Presently a movement might have been seen of the earth: upward it rose, as if some slumbering Man of the Mountain were shaking off the superfluous covering; in a moment more, through a gaping crater, a shaft of white smoke rushed through, and then a cloud of dust. An instant clatter of fire-arms then commenced and raged with painful intensity for an hour, when, out of the confusion of the smoke, something might have been seen of two sets of combatants almost, as you may say, at arm's length.

All this while, before and after the explosion, there was a terrific cannonade. Previously, every gun along the line was in play, and the intervals of a few seconds not filled with the burst of shells, the crack of guns of all calibers, were closed up by the more awful crackle of the infantry along the whole line. It is true that no assault was being made along the line, but the whole circuit of muskets was firing—firing into the aimless air; nobody was to be seen, there were the bleak ridges as ever, there the silent forts; but the bullets were whizzing into their entrenchments in myriads of radial lines. We have come to learn and to realize how fatal all this shower of leaden hail may have been, if it had no ulterior purpose, though not a soul was to be seen. Its real purpose was, however, to prevent any concentration on the critical points by feigning an attack at all.— Besides the one on the center, another was selected on Blair's front which, as we learned afterwards, proved abortive, there being an insufficiency of powder, or being placed too loosely in the mine.

After the explosion—which, by the way, was noiseless, or at least not noticeable in the roar of heavy guns—our soldiers rushed for the breach, intending to occupy the whole of the work. The blast had opened up a rift right across the fort, extending from wall to wall. The rebels, as if they had knowledge of the design, or else by a marvelous coincidence, rushed simultaneously from the other end. The powder had left a couple of huge projecting lips, and between them a crater like fissure, making the distance from furrow to furrow from ten to twenty feet. Thus, ranged behind these new formed walls, our men found themselves face to face with their foes, and a dire and dreadful slaughter commenced from perhaps three hundred men on each side, within this arena of two hundred feet length.

The contest was severe, and the fresh packs of rifles kept an opening on all sides. The gunners loaded and fired away vigorously.— The rebels crowded up with great spirit.— Our men went in, a regiment at a time, with full cartridge boxes, and in 30 minutes were relieved by others. The firing for about an hour was more terrific than any battle field ever the gory field of war has witnessed.— Had every shot touched its man there would have been half a million slain; as it was, by far the greater portions of them found lodgment in the stolid clay.

The first regiment which rushed in was the scarred remnant of the forty-fifth Illinois, whose members lie on a dozen illustrious fields, led by Colonel Malthy. Its loss was necessarily severe. It was seconded by the "Bloody Seventh" Missouri, who were soon recalled.

Next went in the Twentieth Illinois, who

kept up a gallant resistance for a half hour, when the Thirty-first Illinois, under Lieut. Colonel Resse, went in. Subsequently during the evening and night, the Twenty-third Indiana, the Forty-sixth Illinois, the latter under its beloved Colonel, Melancthon Smith. The list then commenced again relieving in this same order.

The melee at first was terrible, although the losses were not proportionate at all to the noise. The men on both sides were engaged in throwing up temporary works, with a view to getting a field-piece in position. They had gotten a notched piece of timber rolled up to the top of a rough bank, when smash came a blast from a ten-pounder right in their faces sending the stick of timber right amongst them, singeing their hair, and blackening their with the discharge, killing two or three outright.

This blow struck Col. Malthy with stunning force. The rattle of musketry kept up until nightfall. Our batteries on Lightburn and Giles Smith's front, as well as from Burbridge kept firing on the rebels; but from the nearness of the combatants the missiles either did not reach the thick of the rebel opposition, or came so close as to injure our own men.— In a few hours, however, they had felt so much reconciled to their position as to commence a most dangerous and dreadful piece of warfare, casting lighted shell over into one end of the fort. Some grenades, it is said, were first thrown, and afterwards twenty-two and twenty-four. Our forces seeing the dismay and destruction, still felt secure enough to commence the same game, heaving, however, some very heavy shells to the rebel end of the work. There is only one precaution against this species of fighting, that is in such a case to dig a funnel shaped pit or pits within the inclosure, into which the shells shall roll and explode in a depression at the bottom, prepared for the purpose. This practice has been continued up to this morning.

I may here say that our possession of this end of the fort is regarded as complete as that of the enemy to the rest. It is believed, also, by General McPherson and his engineers that if not too much pressed he can in a day or two establish a battery within the work. The contest still rages, and as both sides are throwing up earthworks, it seems as if we might find at the end of a few days our point gained and our lines advanced to a most commanding position.

Our losses, I grieve to say, include several very fine officers. The total, up to noon today, in this particular division, will amount to about three hundred in killed and wounded—perhaps forty of the former. Maj. Deander Fild is killed by a ball through the forehead. Colonel Melancthon Smith, an excellent soldier and model gentleman, is dangerously, and, we fear, mortally wounded.

The substantial value of this operation, which must have been as deadly in life and limb to the enemy as to ourselves, is that it enables us to break into their chain of reciprocally supporting works at the point where they are nearest being impregnable. Two or three such gaps in their line, they are obliged to draw back; to their inner line, battery after battery being silenced, until the compass of their works is so small that from every side they are in range of some of our cannon. Locomotion about ground thus becomes impossible; without this they are unable to feed or relieve their overtasked men, and so are whipped. We can scarcely imagine that even the vindictive tenacity of Pemberton will continue resistance to this extremity when the finale is in no way changed.

This would be a long process to undertake, and involve an immense amount of work and life in view of the vast furrows of pits and the sacrifices already made; but it would grow more rapid as we proceeded, as it is also certain of its end.

Capture of Vicksburg.

An official dispatch, dated the 7th inst., from General Johnston to the Secretary of War, announces that Vicksburg capitulated on the 4th inst. The garrison was paroled and returned to our lines, the officers retaining their side arms and baggage.

Thus has culminated the heroic defence of the garrison, not in a blaze of glory, nor yet devoid of honor. It is an honorable capitulation to a combination of assaults by land and water by a force numerically large to have entirely surrounded our little garrison in open field. After having repulsed this large force time and time again, and casting wistful eyes for the succor that they had every reason to expect, and which the whole country expected would have relieved them before now, the garrison yielded to circumstances and fell only as the brave fall, clothed in the mantle of heroism.

In the absence of particulars we cannot help believing that there is more of strategy in the move than meets the eye at the first blush of the thing. The possession of Vicksburg by the enemy, with an army in the rear as large as we suppose Johnston's command to be, effectually cuts off any movement of the enemy in that direction. The possession of Milliken's Bend by our forces, twenty miles above Vicksburg on the Mississippi river, Price's forces menacing Helena and in possession of Cypress Bend, a few miles below that town, Kirby Smith in possession of Lake Providence, which place we are informed he is marching upon with a force sufficient to capture it, will so effectually give us the command of the Mississippi river above Vicksburg as to cut off Grant's supplies by a blockade of the river against transports. Opposite Vicksburg we have forces to dispute any attempt he may make to cross to the Louisiana side, whilst Dick Taylor and Magruder effectually cut off his supplies from below. His position thus becomes an isolated one, and in view of the determination lately expressed by Gen. Pemberton, not to surrender the place until the last mule and the last dog had been eaten; and believing, as we do, that the garrison had not commenced on that kind of food, we are impressed with the belief that Gen. Johnston ordered the capitulation as a

move fraught with more benefit to us than to sacrifice life to relieve the garrison. The possession of Vicksburg does not open the navigation of the river to the enemy, whilst it is blockaded above at three points; nor from below, as long as Port Hudson stands as proudly defiant as it now does. It is, however, possible that an epidemic has broken out in the city, and compelled an offer of capitulation, but if such was the case, Gen. Johnston would certainly not appear so devoid of magnanimity towards Gen. Pemberton as not to state it. No, we think it is a strategic movement, and we confidently expect to hear of important successes growing out of the capitulation of Vicksburg.—*Lynchburg Republican.*

General Lee's Order for the Government of the Army while in the enemy's Country.

GENERAL ORDERS,
No. 72.
HEADQUARTERS ARMY NORTHERN VIRGINIA,
June 21, 1863.

While in the enemy's country, the following regulations for procuring supplies will be strictly observed, and any violation of them promptly and rigorously punished.

I. No private property shall be injured or destroyed by any person belonging to or connected with the army, or taken, except by the officers hereinafter designated.

II. The Chiefs of the Commissary Quartermaster, Ordnance and Medical Departments of the Army will make requisitions upon the local authorities or inhabitants for the necessary supplies for their respective departments, designating the places and times of delivery. All persons complying with such requisitions shall be paid the market price for the articles furnished, if they so desire, and the officers making such payment shall take duplicate receipts for the same, specifying the name of the person paid, and the quantity, kind and price of the property, one of which receipts shall at once be forwarded to the Chief of the department to which such officer is attached.

III. Should the authorities or inhabitants neglect or refuse to comply with such requisitions, the supplies will be taken from the nearest inhabitants so refusing, by the order and under the direction of the respective Chiefs of the departments named.

IV. When any command is detached from the main body, the Chiefs of the several departments of such command will procure supplies for the same, and such other stores as they may be ordered to provide, in the manner and subject to the provisions herein prescribed, reporting their action to the heads of their respective departments, to whom they will forward duplicates of all vouchers given or received.

V. All persons who shall decline to receive payment for property furnished on requisition, and all from whom it will be necessary to take stores or supplies, shall be furnished by the officer, on taking the same, with a receipt specifying the kind and quality of the property received or taken, as the case may be, the name of the person from whom it was received or taken, the command for the use of which it is intended, and the marked price.— A duplicate of said receipt shall be forwarded to the Chief of the department to which the officer by whom it is executed is attached.

VI. If any person shall remove or conceal property necessary for the use of the Army, or attempt to do so, the officers hereinbefore mentioned will cause such property and all other property belonging to such person, that may be required by the Army, to be seized, and the officer seizing the same will forthwith report to the Chief of this department the kind, quantity and market price of the property so seized and the name of the owner.

By command of
GENERAL R. E. LEE,
R. H. CHILTON, A. A. General.

HEADQ'S ARMY NORTHERN VA.,
CHAMBERSBURG, PA., June 27, 1863.

GENERAL ORDERS,
No. 73.

The Commanding General has observed with marked satisfaction the conduct of the troops on the march, and confidently anticipates results commensurate with the high spirit they have manifested.

No troops could have displayed greater fortitude or better performed the arduous marches of the past ten days.

Their conduct in other respects has, with few exceptions, been in keeping with their character as soldiers, and entitles them to approbation and praise.

There have, however, been instances of forgetfulness on the part of some that they have in keeping the yet unsullied reputation of this Army, and that the duties exacted of us by civilization and Christianity, are not less obligatory in the country of the enemy than in our own.

The Commanding General considers that no greater disgrace could befall the Army, and through it, our whole people, than the perpetration of the barbarous outrages upon the unarmed and defenceless, and the wanton destruction of private property, that have marked the course of the enemy in our country.

Such proceedings not only degrade the perpetrators and all connected with them, but are subversive of the discipline and efficiency of the Army, and destructive of the ends of our present movement.

It must be remembered that we make war only upon armed men, and that we cannot take vengeance for the wrongs our people have suffered without lowering ourselves in the eyes of all whose abhorrence has been excited by the atrocities of our enemies, and offending against Him to whom vengeance becometh, without whose favor and support our efforts must all prove in vain.

The Commanding General therefore earnestly exhorts the troops to abstain, with most scrupulous care, from unnecessary or wanton injury to private property, and he enjoins upon all officers to arrest and bring to summary punishment all who shall in any way offend against the orders on this subject.

R. E. LEE, General.

An Interesting Ceremony—Retaliation Regularly Inaugurated.

On yesterday, at twelve o'clock, meridian, the central reception room of the Libby prison was the scene of a ceremony exceedingly interesting, though painful, yet no less painful than necessary. The Government having become thoroughly advised of the murder of two Confederate officers in Kentucky, Captains Corbin and McGraw, by General Burnside, for recruiting men for the Confederate army in that State, determined at once to take measures of retaliation.

On Sunday, Capt. Turner, commandant of the prison, received the order from General Winder to proceed with the drawing by lot of two officers, from among the three hundred held there in confinement, to suffer the death penalty in pursuance of this determination; and on yesterday, at the hour above mentioned, the officers were marched down from their apartments on the second floor to the reception room. A table, at which Capt. Turner stood, was placed in the centre of the room, and the prisoners were arranged in a square about it.

The roll was then called by the clerk. Two officers were absent, and these being very ill, were not deemed fit subjects for the measure about to be adopted. Capt. Turner then read the order of Gen. Winder, and informed the prisoners that they were at liberty to select one of their own number; or, if they preferred it, one of their chaplains, three of whom were present, to draw the lots. They selected one of the latter, the Rev. Mr. Brown, he being the eldest.

The lots consisted of the names of the officers written each upon a separate slip of paper, which was folded over to present a blank exterior. They were placed in a wooden box, some eighteen inches long by eight in square width, and the arrangement was that the first two names drawn out would designate the two doomed to suffer the penalty of death.

The scene was one of great solemnity. Every man seemed endeavoring to nerve himself to dare the fate which awaited but two of their number. Mr. Brown stepped forward and drew in succession two lots. One bore the name of Capt. Henry W. Sawyer of the 1st New Jersey Infantry, and Captain John Flynn, of the 51st Indiana regiment. A shade of relief came over the general appearance of the body, and settled into an expression of sorrow. The two doomed men did not speak, and all remained for a moment silent. They were ordered to step forward and the rest were marched back to their quarters.

Upon being taken into the Commandant's office, the two men evinced some signs of agitation, and in a few minutes Sawyer wept bitterly as he sat down to write a last letter to his wife. Flynn, however, gave no further sign of emotion. They were thence taken before Gen. Winder, who duly returned them to the prison under a commitment to close confinement until the day of execution.—*Richmond Enquirer of the 17th.*

Secretary Seward and the Czar on Non-Intervention.

A dispatch from St. Petersburg, dated on the 13th of June—the day the Canada sailed from Queenstown—says:—The Journal de St. Petersburg of to-day published a despatch dated June 4, addressed by Prince Gortchakoff to Mr. Clay, expressing the Emperor's satisfaction at the reply of Mr. Seward to the proposal of France to join the diplomatic intervention in favor of Poland. The despatch concludes as follows:—"Such facts draw closer the bonds of sympathy between Russia and America. The Emperor knows how to appreciate the firmness with which Mr. Seward maintains the principle of non-intervention."

[From the (London) Times, June 14.]

It is amusing to see Mr. Seward coquetting with the government of Russia on the Polish question. The American Secretary, as our readers are aware, was invited by France to co-operate with other Powers in appealing to the Czar on behalf of the unhappy race who are gallantly and so desperately fighting for their liberty. Mr. Seward did not exactly see it. He fell back on the doctrine and the habit of non-intervention. At the same time, however, he did not forget to avow his confidence in the Emperor, who said he "will receive the appeal of Europe with all the good will compatible with the general welfare of the vast States which he governs with so much wisdom and moderation." The Phraseology is really delicate; and the Czar enjoyed it keenly. At any rate his Minister, Prince Gortchakoff, did not lose a moment in conveying to Mr. Seward an expression of his satisfaction. He avows himself "delighted to find the policy and intentions of the Emperor so well appreciated by the American people," and he expressed his "warm hopes for the pacification of America." The retort is as courteous as it could be: for America has Poland to deal with as well as its own. America has "vast States," which Mr. Seward no doubt thinks are governed with much "wisdom and moderation;" and non-intervention, therefore, is a very convenient doctrine for America to preach as well as to act upon.— Indeed, there is just enough of the analogy between the circumstances of federal America and those of Russia to account for the entrancing fellow feeling which Mr. Seward and Prince Gortchakoff seem to have for one another.

From Helena.

PANOLA, July 7th.—A dispatch from General Holmes dated Helena, July 4th, states that we captured three batteries, when the enemy received reinforcements from below, together with five gunboats, and drove our forces back. Our loss five hundred. Heavy firing was heard next day.

NATCHEZ, July 6.—Transports towing two barges loaded with coal passed down this morning, and one last night.

Officers on Gen. Smith's staff report that Price was ordered on Sunday, the 28th, to take Helena, and that he moved immediately. Nothing from Port Hudson. All quiet.

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Where the great battle between Gen. Lee and Gen. Meade has most probably been already fought, is in Adams county. It is 75 miles from Washington by the road through Frederick and Emmetsburg, and 25 miles from Baltimore by the road through Westminster. It is situated on elevated ground, at the junction of several important roads, at the junction of Chambersburg about 15 miles, and from Shippensburg about 26 miles, from both of which places excellent roads lead to Gettysburg, uniting just west of the town near the Blue Ridge mountains. This range of mountains, with its spurs, run very near the town, and present a most defensible front to an enemy approaching from the town.

The situation of Gettysburg with regard to Washington and Baltimore, is nearly that of a right angle triangle, of which Baltimore is in the right angle, with the road to Gettysburg as the perpendicular, the road from Washington to Gettysburg as the hypotenuse.— Westminster, an intermediate point between Gettysburg and Baltimore, is the terminus of the Westminster branch of the Northern Central Railroad. Frederick City is about half way between Gettysburg and Washington, and is near the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

Hanover Junction is at the junction of Northern Central Railroad with the Hanover branch, and is in York county, Pa., 11 miles south of York, and 45 miles from Baltimore. A defeat at Gettysburg, with a retreat to Washington, leaves Baltimore a sure prize to Gen. Lee, or a retreat to Baltimore leave Washington open to the Confederate army.—*Richmond Enquirer.*

Explosion and Loss of Life.

Last evening, about 5½ o'clock, when the passenger train from Petersburg was coming up the grade from Falling creek bridge, six miles from this city, the locomotive, which was traveling at the rate of about ten miles an hour, exploded her boiler, killing the fireman, severely scalding the engineer, Mr. Hugh Burnes, and killing and wounding several Confederate soldiers, who were passengers. Two coaches, filled chiefly with ladies, from the flag of truce boat at City Point, six or eight cars loaded principally with exchanged prisoners, and the baggage and mail cars formed the train. Three cars near the engine were badly injured. In one of them was the crew of the captured Confederate steamer Atlanta, one of whom was killed and several wounded.

The second car from the locomotive was blown off the track; one of its inmates was killed and several were wounded. The locomotive is a complete wreck. It was blown about twenty feet from the train, turned completely around and tumbled side upwards in the ditch on the side of the track. The cause of the explosion is unknown. It is supposed that the water in the boiler was unwarily permitted to get too low. The conductor of the train, Capt. T. W. McCrary, exerted himself nobly in attending promptly to the wounded and taking measures for the speedy removal of the wreck. He was assisted by many of the passengers, and at a late hour last evening, with farther aid from the superintendent, all was clear.—*Richmond Enquirer of the 17th.*

Probable Transference of the Papal See to Mexico.

It would not be at all surprising if it should turn out that one of the principal objects which Napoleon had in view in undertaking the invasion of Mexico was the transference of the seat of the Papacy to the capital of the Mountzumas. The Roman question has always been one of his greatest perplexities, and this solution of it will probably be as acceptable to the Holy Father as to himself.— The revenues of a country so rich in the precious metals as Mexico will amply compensate the church for the renunciation of the historical and ecclesiastical glories with which the Eternal City is associated. We can therefore understand the promptitude with which the news of the fall of Puebla was communicated by the Emperor to the Vatican, and the gratification with which it is said to have been received. Pius IX. will not fail to appreciate the benefit resulting from such an exchange. It will be easier to keep him in Mexico by the aid of French bayonets than it can possibly be in Rome.—*N. Y. Herald.*

Price of Newspapers.

The Southern Watchman puts up the following knock down argument in reference to the price of news papers to which we invite the attention of all readers:

It is said that owing to the peculiar circumstances of the case it would now be unfair to take gold as a standard of value. Inasmuch as corn is the basis of our provision crop, let us try that as a standard. When we published our paper at \$2, we could buy four bushels of corn for that amount. Our paper was therefore worth four bushels of corn. Four bushels of corn is now worth \$12 in this market, and further up the country \$20. Our paper is therefore worth \$12 by the corn standard. It was formerly worth two bushels of wheat. Wheat was selling here a few weeks ago at \$12. Measured by the wheat standard, our paper is worth \$24. A year's subscription to our paper would formerly buy ten pounds of sole leather, which, at present prices, amounts to \$30. Our paper is therefore, measured by this standard, is worth \$30 per year. A year's subscription would formerly buy four yards of jeans, or sixteen yards of cotton homespun. The four yards of jeans is worth \$20, and the country homespun is \$24 at this time. According to this standard, our paper is now worth from \$20 to \$24. A year's subscription would formerly buy sixteen pounds of bacon, which will now cost \$16 or upwards. Hence our paper is worth \$16 by the bacon standard. We might thus go on *ad infinitum*, on every case, that to bring newspapers to a level with everything else would fix their price at from \$12 to \$20 per year.