

The Richmond Dispatch
We extract from the Norfolk Day Book of the 21st inst., the following editorial account of the fight near Elizabeth City on Saturday last:

We learn that the enemy landed in a force supposed to be from five to eight thousand strong, at Richardson's Landing, some three or four miles the other side of South Mills, on Saturday last. Our information is positive, not having seen any official account. By some it is said they landed at the above place, and by others that they landed lower down and marched up to Robertson's.

From the best information we can get, we gather that Col. Wright, with a portion of the 3d Georgia Regiment, and Capt. McCook's company, were sent to meet about 500 men, and that the next day, while on their march, and that the artillery suddenly emerged from their concealed position when the enemy were within 400 yards of them, and opened a deadly fire upon them, with grape and canister. This was supposed to be about 11 o'clock on Saturday, and from that time until 5 o'clock on Sunday, the fighting was all about the same, until they got behind their entrenchments, where they made a stand and set off for reinforcements.

It is said that the advance by our troops was of the most determined nature, and kept the enemy back much longer than it was thought possible to do, in view of his superior numbers. The first and second videttes sent off in the course of the day reported great slaughter among the enemy, and that some of our forces were lost. But later in the day the news came in that we had lost 15 killed and about 20 wounded. Among the killed were Capt. McCook, of the 3d Georgia, and Capt. Harris, of the 2d Georgia. The latter was killed while engaged at Deep Creek on Sunday morning. Capt. McCook was killed by a Minnie ball entering in the vicinity of his heart.

A report reached here yesterday morning that Col. Wright's force had fallen back to the "Half-Way House" on the 21st inst., and that they were being rapidly reformed. The casualties to the enemy are not known, but it is believed they killed and wounded will far exceed our own.

Later accounts from the scene of action represent that the enemy landed in a force of two or three thousand men, and marched toward the place of our encampment, and cutting off the troops we had stationed at the South Mills. In this they signally failed, and it is said they had to pay dear for their temerity. They were met by Col. Wright's four companies of the 3d Georgia, and Capt. McCook's artillery company, all of our five hundred men, and were literally mowed down by our troops.

They made three assaults on our troops and were in each instance beaten back with great slaughter. It is said that our most prominent officers and about five hundred of our troops were killed and wounded. The loss to the enemy is supposed to be about 1,000 men, and that they were being rapidly reformed. The casualties to the enemy are not known, but it is believed they killed and wounded will far exceed our own.

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The following was received at Washington, D. C., Navy Department, on the morning of Wednesday, April 9:

FLAG-SHIP DESTROYER, ISLAND NO. 10, April 8, via Cairo. Hon. Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy: I have to inform the Department that since I sent the Island No. 10, I have been taken of both the Island and the troops upon the Tennessee shore, by the gunboats and troops under the command of Gen. Butler.

Seventeen officers and three hundred and sixty-eight privates, besides one hundred of their sick and one hundred men employed on board of transport, are in our hands, unconditionally prisoners of war.

I have had a hasty examination to be made of the forts, batteries, and magazines in the quarters. There are eleven earthworks with seventy heavy cannon, varying in calibre from 32 to 100-pounders rifled.

The magazines are well supplied with powder, and there are large quantities of shot, shells and other munitions of war, and also great quantities of provisions. Four steamers all at once fallen into our hands, and two of them, with the gunboat Grampus, are sunk, but will be easily raised.

The floating battery of sixteen heavy guns, turned adrift by the rebels, is said to be lying on the Missouri shore, below New Madrid.

The enemy upon the mainland appear to have fled with great precipitation after dark last night, leaving in their hands, and prepared to make in their quarters. There seems to have been no concert of action between the rebels upon the island and those occupying the shore; but the latter fled, leaving the former to their fate.

These works, erected with the highest engineering skill, are of great strength, and with their natural advantages, would have been impregnable, if defended by men fighting in a better cause.

A combined attack by the naval and land forces would have taken place this afternoon, or to-morrow morning, had not the rebels so hastily abandoned this stronghold. To mature these plans of attack, has absolutely required the twenty-three days of preparation.

Gen. Pope is momentarily expected to arrive with his army at this point, he having successfully crossed the river yesterday under a heavy fire, which no doubt led to the hasty abandonment of the works last night.

I am unofficially informed that the rebel gunboats which so gallantly ran the fire of the rebel batteries a few nights since, yesterday attacked and defeated a force of the enemy opposite, demoralizing eight heavy guns.

The following is a copy of the order of Gen. Maxell on assuming the command of the rebel forces on the 5th inst.:

Soldiers—We are strangers. The commander to whom we are attached, and each to the other. Let me tell you who I am.

I am a General, made by Beauregard—a General selected by Generals Beauregard and Bragg for this command when they knew it was in peril. They have known me for twenty years. Together we have stood in the fields of Mexico. Give me your confidence. Give me who I have ordered.

Soldiers, the Mississippi Valley is entrusted to your courage, to your discipline, to your patience. Exhibit the vigilance and coolness of last night, and hold it.

Wm. D. MAXWELL, Brigadier-General, Commanding.

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It was a solemn anthem, the notes of which were traced in blood on the iron breastworks, that might have satisfied Mars himself.

The Confederates stood their ground against the furious onset, and for the fourth time the enemy was compelled to retire.

As we meet the rock a thousand ways— In honor and glory, we have been engaged; they had fought eighteen hours, and would have slept but for the fact that they were engaged in the preceding night in searching out and taking care of the wounded. It was evident, too, that the enemy had been largely reinforced, and that each succeeding attack was made by fresh troops and overwhelming numbers.

The enemy retreated for some time, but finally came up and renewed the conflict. He was met with undiminished courage and resolution by the Confederates, who displayed the greatest possible gallantry. The battle raged on, and night alone separated the combatants. At length the enemy fell back, and so did the Confederates, both sides being exhausted and sorely tried.

The Federal loss was heavy. Six Confederates were killed, including Capt. McCook, of Henningsen's battery, Wise Legion, and Lieut. Wilson, of the third Georgia regiment; sixteen wounded, and fifteen missing.

The battle continued for five hours. Col. Wright's force retired from the field at midnight, and fell back to the half-way house on the Dismal Swamp Canal, a very strong position, and has been reformed.

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BY TELEGRAPH.

FOR THE JOURNAL.

FROM RICHMOND, VA., April 10th—P. M. The report that General Jackson was falling back to Waynesboro' is discredited here, and the report corrects with official information. Nothing from Gen. Sherman.

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS. RICHMOND, VA., April 20th, 1862. The Senate on yesterday (Saturday) passed the House bill appropriating five hundred thousand dollars for the construction of the Railroad between Galveston and New Orleans. Also, the House bill to provide for the organization of partisan Rangers. The Senate refused to concur in the House resolution rescinding the resolution for adjournment on the 21st inst. (Monday, to-day)

In both Houses a report was made by joint committee on the flag and seal, with the accompanying design for the flag—a red field, with a white shield, bearing in the centre the device of the sun, on a square shield, and one ray for each State. The House postponed the consideration of the report for the present, by a vote of yeas 39, nays 21.

CANNONING FROM THE RIFRAPERS—FIGHT NEAR ELIZABETH CITY, N. C. NORFOLK, VA., April 20, 1862. There was heavy cannonading yesterday afternoon at the Rip Rap, from which thirty-one shells were thrown from Sevier's Point, without damage.

Discharges of musketry, continuing for hours, were heard on Friday and Saturday night, supposed to be some distance above Newport's News.

A large Federal force, supposed to be five thousand, landed on Pasquotank river, Camden county, near Elizabeth City on yesterday. They were attacked by Col. Wright's third Georgia regiment, and Capt. Ferber's militia company at one o'clock, P. M. Our small force fought with great bravery.

The Federal loss was heavy. Six Confederates were killed, including Capt. McCook, of Henningsen's battery, Wise Legion, and Lieut. Wilson, of the third Georgia regiment; sixteen wounded, and fifteen missing.

The battle continued for five hours. Col. Wright's force retired from the field at midnight, and fell back to the half-way house on the Dismal Swamp Canal, a very strong position, and has been reformed.

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THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE AFFAIRS AT ROANOKE ISLAND.

The committee has published a report, which satisfactorily establishes the fact that the disaster at Roanoke was the unavoidable consequence of the action and orders of the Government at Richmond.

General Wise, finding that his written appeal for aid in the defence of the island to headquarters at Norfolk, and to the Department at Richmond were neglected and with indifference, repaired in person to Richmond, and called upon the Secretary of War, and urged in the most important manner the absolute necessity of strengthening the defences upon that island with additional men, arms and ammunition.

The Secretary of War replied verbally to his appeal, and for the purpose of relieving the mind of the Secretary that General Huger had about 15,000 men in front of Norfolk, lying in camp from 7th and 8th of February, and that a considerable number of the said force would be sent to the defence of Norfolk, and especially as his (General Wise's) district supplied Norfolk and its army with nearly all of its provisions, pork and forage, that reinforcements at Roanoke Island were as absolutely necessary to the defence of Norfolk as forces in the front, and that General Wise, on the 23rd of January received the following military order No. 17:

Brigadier General Henry A. Wise, Provisional Army, will immediately proceed to Roanoke Island, North Carolina, and assume command of the Confederate States troops at that place.

It is apparent to the committee, from the correspondence on file of the Department at Richmond, that General Eger, his superior officer, the Governor of North Carolina, and other persons, that he was fully alive to the importance of the situation, and that he was fully prepared to meet the emergency and means to the defence of that position; and that he is in no way responsible for the unfortunate disaster which befell the island of Roanoke, on the 23rd of February. But the committee cannot say the same in reference to the efforts of the Secretary of War and the commanding officer at Norfolk, General Huger.

It is apparent to the committee that the most important for the defence of Norfolk, and that General Huger had under his command at that point upwards of fifteen thousand men, and a large number of heavy guns, and that he could have thrown, in a few hours, a large reinforcement upon Roanoke Island, and that himself and the Secretary of War had timely notice of the entire inadequacy of the means of men and munitions of war, and of the threatening attitude of the enemy. But General Huger and the Secretary of War paid no practical attention to these important requisitions, and permitted General Wise and his inconsiderable force to remain to meet at least fifteen thousand men, well equipped, and well supplied with provisions.

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COMMERCIAL.

WILMINGTON MARKETS, APRIL 23. BEER CATTLE—None are coming in, and the market is bare. A few calves would sell quick at 12 1/2 to 14 cents per lb. BEEF—30 cents per lb. BACON—In light hocks, and receipts small; prices, however, are not quite so high as to small sales, at 20 to 25 cents per lb. for hams and hock. BUTTER—In scarce and in demand. Retail at 75 cents per lb. COFFEE—Cuba, 70 to 75 cents per lb. CANDLES—Have advanced in price, and we now quote Tallow at 35 cents per lb. and refined at 40 cents per lb. CORN—In moderate demand, and stock light. We quote Yellow at 21 to 22 cents per bushel, and white at 21 1/2 to 22 1/2 cents per bushel. FLOUR—Selling from the granaries, in lots to sell at 15 to 16 cents per bushel. CORN—In moderate demand, and stock light. We quote Yellow at 21 to 22 cents per bushel, and white at 21 1/2 to 22 1/2 cents per bushel. FLOUR—Selling from the granaries, in lots to sell at 15 to 16 cents per bushel. CORN—In moderate demand, and stock light. We quote Yellow at 21 to 22 cents per bushel, and white at 21 1/2 to 22 1/2 cents per bushel. FLOUR—Selling from the granaries, in lots to sell at 15 to 16 cents per bushel.

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