

The Weekly Register

POINT PLEASANT, VA.

THURSDAY, MAY 20, 1862.

SOMETIME since, in alluding to a notice of the Commander of the rebel force of the Kanawha, Gen. Heath, we took occasion to admonish that "brave and talented" officer, as the rebel prints chose to style him, that if he attempted to lead his gang of ragamuffins into the Valley of the Kanawha, it was altogether likely that they would get at least a decent thrashing. It seems from late dispatches, which we publish in another place, that the prediction we then made has been fully verified. The "brave and talented Gen. Heath" rather had it "rubbed in" on him at Lewisburg the other day. We advise him to back water on both wheels.

THERE are all kinds of stories about Guerrillas, Jayhawkers, horse thieves, &c., many of which are too improbable and ridiculous to entitle them to a moment's consideration. We think there can be no reason to suspect or fear any attack from the heathenish devils at present, but to be forewarned is to be forearmed, and we, therefore, advise our loyal friends to each provide himself with some kind of shooting iron, and to shoot whenever they meet with anybody that looks mean enough to be shot. It seems that we are to have no peace, however much we may desire and plead for it, and if the loyal people and the traitors have become so far separated that it is not possible for them again to live together under the same government, the sooner the shooting commences the better.

Retaliation.

The Wheeling Intelligencer makes a suggestion that it seems to us is not without both force and reason. It is to the effect that a proper number of the leading secessionists in Western Virginia, taken proportionably from the different counties, should be seized and held as hostages for the good treatment or surrender of a number of Union men confined by the rebels in counties under their control. There is said to be a large number of men suffering thus for their loyalty in the jails of Middle and Eastern Virginia, and the loyal government owes it as a duty to such men to leave no legitimate means untried to restore them their rights and liberty. Retaliation in kind, as a proceeding of this sort would be, is perfectly legitimate in a state of warfare, and would probably prove effectual. The property of the prisoners can be made to pay the expenses of their imprisonment.

About Posting Letters.

The special agents of the Post Office Department desire that no letters be sent to the office to be mailed, which are directed with a pencil. Write plainly and with ink.

Many letters doubtless are lost from pencil superscriptions becoming illegible. Another serious trouble arises from the extensive use of fancy envelopes, covered over with designs, verses, &c., often leaving no space for the address, post marks, and stamp.

Use very plain envelopes, and put everything intended to be looked at inside the letter.

A report has been received in this place—but of which the telegraph has brought us no confirmation—to the effect that a decisive battle has been fought at Corinth, in which the Federal troops gained a brilliant victory. The report also adds that General Halleck now holds that place, and that 20,000 prisoners were taken.

The Baltimore Union men are desperately in earnest. Secession sympathizers are summarily silenced, and leading traitors have fled for safety from the city. The "Maryland Avengers" had opened a recruiting office in Baltimore street.—The soldiers Massachusetts is now sending to the Capital, will not be mobbed in that place. There has been a change since April, 1861.

The Supreme Court at Harrisburg, Pa., lately rendered a very important decision touching the right of a majority of a church congregation to secede from the minority and take possession of the church property. The decision was made in a case connected with the First Reformed Dutch Church of Philadelphia, and was in favor of the claim of the minority to hold the property, as they constituted the lawful congregation under the character, and were, with such of the majority as might return to the usual common order of the church, entitled to all the rights thereof.

A Baltimore Opinion of Tenderness Toward Traitors.

The Baltimore Clipper, talks straight out as to the effect of the misapprehended tenderness of the Government toward notorious traitors within its magisterial jurisdiction:

The conduct that has been exhibited toward the traitors in this State—and from indications it is the same elsewhere, when they have not a Butler, or a Halleck or a Burnside or an Andrew Johnson to take the responsibility to teach the traitors and rebels their proper place and duty—the system pursued has been to encourage and strengthen the rebel arms. Those who are engaged in this rebellion stop at nothing to carry out their purposes—they are bold and unblushing in their conduct and language, especially when they are in the hearing of those who they believe will not report them—and even when they are seized for any overt act, they know they are to suffer some slight detention, and be again set at large to renew their treasonable designs. Many of those among us who have ever entertained Union feelings, during the long period in which the rebel armies were upon our borders, were afraid openly to avow them; they argued that if by any mishap to our army the rebels should reach our State, every one of them would be subject to the same cruelties that had been inflicted upon the loyalists of Western Virginia, Missouri, Tennessee and Kentucky—in fact the leading demons of the tribe in our midst boldly proclaimed that such should be the case, and that the lamp post of the city would not be sufficient to hang up all those who were most active in aiding the Government in putting down the rebellion; confiscation and banishment were freely threatened, and the well known desperate character of the leaders here left no doubt as to the realities in store for the loyalists of our State, if, as was daily threatened, Jeff. Davis and his minions could have obtained a foothold in our State.

The Soul Alone Needs Intervention.

The London Times of May 10, contradicting all its former predictions and assertions with regard to the weakness and daily increasing exhaustion of our Government and treasury, labors to prove that the rebels alone require foreign aid, comfort or advice; and that if such a calamity as intervention should come on the country, it must come at their instance. The writer says: "They (the Washington Cabinet) have already possession of the seas, and the whole British navy could give them nothing more. We might lend them money, but of this, too, in some form or other, they have got enough to allow a present expenditure of \$800,000 a day. As to sending them men, all the effective troops now serving in England might be landed in New York without causing any perceptible increase in the fabulous numbers of the Northern armies. We might send them three times as many soldiers as we sent to Canada without adding five per cent. to their forces in the field. No ruler in the world, not even the first Napoleon, ever disposed of so many men or so much money as Abraham Lincoln. He has fully 650,000 troops now under arms, and it is boasted that he could double that number. His finances may rest on a less stable foundation, but he has, at any rate, enough and to spare at the time.—Intervention, therefore, on behalf of the North, would be simply a nullity, for no alliance could add to its power or promote its ends."

More Guerrilla Outrages.

On Friday the 16th inst. Corporal C. D. Baylis and ten privates of Co. A, 6th Virginia Regiment, started from Spencer with a wagon and a four horse team for this place. When about eight miles this side of Spencer, they were halted by a Ranger picket and immediately fired upon by three squads of Rangers secreted in thick brush on the top of a hill above the road and about 40 yards distant. From the report of the guns, it is estimated that the Rangers numbered from 30 to 40. The picket immediately on firing came out of his ambush and running toward Corporal Baylis and his men threw up his arms saying he did not fire, but it was of no avail, Corporal B. ordered his men to fire and the picket fell dead. One of the horses was killed, and another bullet aimed at Corporal B. struck another horse in the leg causing a serious wound. The horses becoming frightened ran 250 yards beaking the wagon to pieces, and it was while the team were endeavoring to release the team from it, that the second horse was shot. Not a man on our side was hurt, notwithstanding the bullets flew thick about them. The wounded horse was left on the way and the other two were driven in.

Corporal B. says they were insulted all along the route, but from the superior force of the guerrillas he deemed it best to draw off his squad while escape was practicable, at the same time he believed they would be pursued. The wagon, a few knapsacks, caps, and one gun and two horses, make the sum of our loss.—[Ravenwood Chronicle.]

The Arnoldsburg Affair.

We have it upon reliable authority, that our forces at Arnoldsburg, numbered about 150 men, under Major Trimble, were attacked by the rebels who numbered about 300. The latter were defeated, having three of their number killed and one wounded. Our forces had none killed, and but one wounded. He was shot in the arm while in the act of taking aim.—[Chronicle.]

[From the Shelby (Ky.) News, May 21.]

The Plans of the Traitors.

In our issue of last week we renewed a suggestion that we have on several occasions, during the past few months, urged upon the Military Board of this State and the Federal authorities: the necessity of raising and organizing a military force in each county, of one hundred mounted men, to act in the several counties or when required, to unite their commands in defined districts. We would again urge this matter upon the attention of those who have authority to carry the suggestion into practical operation.

There were reasons, nine months ago, why this plan—or one analogous to it—should have been adopted. At this time there is an absolute necessity for it.—Had the suggestion been put into practical operation even six months ago, the men composing the companies would have been well drilled and thoroughly understood their duties. As it is now, however speedily the companies may be organized, it is very probable that before they are sufficiently trained and drilled there may be need of their services; indeed, to our mind, circumstances tend very strongly to induce the conclusion that the danger that would demand their service is now imminent. We are no alarmists. We do not desire to circulate rumors or fears that will cause excitement, or increase the feeling of forest which has taken possession of so many of our best citizens. But facts are developing, which show that the traitors are determined to carry out, as far as possible, their deliberately concerted plan to keep the seat of war from their own peculiar soil—the Cotton States. That has been, from the first, the leading object of the Southern traitors who lead the van in the traitorous attempt to overturn the Government and break up the Union. Filled in their earlier attempts to carry out this daring object, new plans were recently formed, and all the energies of the traitors are expected to carry these plans into operation—partially, if not thoroughly. The measures recently adopted by the traitors, and which they are endeavoring to carry out, may be stated thus:

1. Withdraw all the forces from the Virginia and North Carolina coast, and concentrate them at some central point in Virginia. These forces to form one wing of the rebel army, to be placed under command of Joseph E. Johnson, and to move in the direction of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, for the purpose of invading that State.

2. Withdraw all forces from the coast of South Carolina and Georgia, and concentrate them at Chittanooga, or some adjacent point. This division to form another wing of the rebel army, under command of Robert E. Lee, and to move in the direction of Louisville, for the purpose of invading Kentucky and Ohio.

3. Withdraw the forces from the coasts of Florida and Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas, and concentrate them at Corinth. This wing to be commanded by G. T. Beauregard, and to move in the direction of Paducah, with the intent of invading Illinois and Indiana.

This plan was formed by a full council of leading traitors. It is not necessary for us to give the source of our information. Suffice it, that our informant obtained it from a native of this State, now a resident of another State, and whose name has often been given in the newspapers in the Southern States as a trusted and confident agent of the traitors against the Union. Socially and politically he stood among the most prominent before the rebellion.

The object to be gained in carrying out the plan was, first to secure subsistence, of which there is none, or at least but very little, in the South—not enough to supply a tithe of the ordinary demand; and secondly, to force into their armies all fighting men. The several commanders were to push forward their forces with all possible dispatch, and possess themselves of all the important military posts on the rivers and in the loyal States, before these posts could be occupied by the Federal forces; and thus while the Union armies held and occupied the post of importance in the States in rebellion, the forces of the traitors would advance into the very heart of the country.

We think the reader will agree with us, that the recent movements of the forces of the traitors show that this development of their plan is correct. It is true that their attempt in forming the middle wing under Lee, at Chittanooga, has been at least for the present foiled, by the energetic movements of McClellan. But news from Western Virginia shows that John E. Johnson is concentrating all the forces he can bring against Fremont's command in that direction—leading directly toward Pittsburg. And the evidence is overwhelming that all the forces from those States to constitute Beauregard's army at Corinth, are concentrating there rapidly, with the design and hope of overpowering Gen. Halleck's army, and if successful in the object, then moving according to their plan. They will, by these means, cause the Federal authorities to move an army in that direction to meet them, during which time the traitors will rally, by persuasion, impressment, and under their description law, to their army every traitor and rebel in Tennessee and Kentucky.

With these facts before us, we, and the reader also, can see why it is that Morgan, Wood, King, and Scott, with their marauding bands, are thrown forward into Tennessee and Kentucky:

They are ready to act in gathering all the rebel forces that can be mustered—fully enforcing the conscription law in the States, whenever Beauregard moves forward, and also to cut off the small detachments of Union forces stationed at various points in Kentucky and Tennessee, and small bodies that may be sent out. They are further to steal and rob, intimidate and despoil loyal citizens, and act in conjunction with the traitors in the various communities in suppressing the Union element, and giving encouragement to the drooping spirits of the Secessionist traitors.

That all the leading traitors and rebels in this State, as we also believe in Tennessee, are fully cognizant of the plan of operations of their traitorous leaders is evident. We need but refer to their threats and attempts at intimidation toward Union men, and their recent open avowal of treasonable sentiments. We might refer to the fact that in this county, but a few days ago, a violent traitor and rebel went to an old gentleman, one of the most deservedly respected citizens in the county, and advised him to no longer express his love for the Union he had fought to maintain, and his hatred for the treason that was attempting to destroy that Union, but if he would not and could not take sides with the "Southern Rights men," to keep his tongue still—to refuse to express his opinion in opposition to rebellion; for it would be but a short time before the Union men in this section would be overpowered, and those who were known as avowedly devoted to the Union would be dealt with, and as he had respect for this old gentleman, he did not desire to see him among the proscribed Union men, and if he would keep quiet hereafter he might escape. Or, we might refer to the taunts made by an active traitor to a man who sympathizes with the rebels only because his hatred to Abolitionism blinds his judgment to the fact that the Secessionist traitors and the Abolitionist traitors are working to accomplish the same end—the destruction of the Union.—The traitor declared that the time had come when they need no longer mince about the matter, but could openly avow their sentiments—that is, their treason. But there is no necessity of referring to these things, or to others of like import. The thing is patent to every observing person that the traitors are aware of the designs of the leaders. Their conduct betrays the fact; and it should be received and acted upon as an indisputable fact by the Union men.

Now, we have no idea that, by any possibility, the traitors will, or can succeed in carrying out their plans. But, "an ounce of preventive is worth pounds of cure." It is no time for Union men and the authorities to be silent and inactive. Because, under the blessing of a just and righteous God, the Union armies have gained so many and such glorious victories, is no good nor sensible reason, why the Federal authorities and loyal citizens should fold their arms in quietude. Is not the authority of the Federal Government yet resisted stubbornly and determinedly? Are not traitors and rebels in our midst deriding and denouncing the Government, and avowing that there is no longer any Union; and that they owe no allegiance to it? Is not the evidence clear enough to fasten the conviction on every mind that there is a wide and most malignant conspiracy among the traitors to inaugurate a system of marauding—jayhawking—in this State, similar to the one they inaugurated in Missouri last fall?

Fellow-citizens—Union-loving patriots—we tell you this is no time to fold your arms and cry peace! peace! For there is no peace; and will be none, if you are not vigilant and active. Let the Union men everywhere be on the alert.—It is high time every one was. The facts crowd upon each other, that should carry conviction to every mind, that treason is rampant in this State, and the traitors are about to precipitate marauding bands upon the people. Forewarned we should be forearmed. Let every law-abiding man—every patriotic citizen, stand ready to assist in enforcing the laws, and putting down treason; and its concomitants, robbery, arson rapine and murder. Be up and doing; and if the State and Federal authorities will not take the steps necessary to organize mounted companies such as we have suggested, fr-patriotic citizens form volunteer companies, and organize themselves for mutual protection. And let there be no delay. The sooner the better.

Troops for Washington.

New York, May 26.—The Seventh Regiment, Colonel Laffers, left to-night for Washington, 900 strong. Their march down Broadway was a perfect evanion.

The Fifth Regiment left Fort Hamilton for Washington.

Intense feeling here. Providence, May, 25.—Enlistments are progressing rapidly. A regiment leaves to-morrow night, and another the next. The Marine Artillery is recruiting.

Gov. Sprague accompanies the soldiers to the war.

Reported Retreat of Jackson.

WASHINGTON, May 26.—It is rumored this morning that Jackson has withdrawn his forces from the Shenandoah Valley more rapidly than they made their appearance.

It is supposed that the new troops coming in will be put into the forts about the city, while the more disciplined troops will be distributed as the exigencies may require.

From Gen. McClellan's Army.

MCCLELLAN'S HEADQUARTERS, May 24.—The driving of the rebels from the vicinity of New Bridge, by our artillery, yesterday, was followed to-day by a reconnaissance, composed of the Fourth Michigan, Colonel Woodbury, and a squad of the Second Cavalry. Thirteen men of the 4th Michigan succeeded in getting between four companies of the 5th Louisiana and a brigade of the enemy, and attacked them unexpectedly, killing about 80, wounding 15 and capturing 31. We lost one killed, mortally wounded and 6 slightly. To-day Stoneman's brigade together with Davison's, advanced from New Bridge up the Chick-shominy to Ellison's Mills on Bell Creek. Here they concentrated four regiments of rebels with nine pieces of artillery and some cavalry. The 8th and 9th Georgia regiments under Howell Cobb were posted to resist our advance to Mechanicsville. After about one hundred and fifty rounds from our artillery the rebels withdrew. A portion of Davison's brigade followed, but night coming on, they encamped within six hundred yards of the enemy. At daylight the batteries on both sides opened, but the fire was too hot for the rebels, and they retreated.

A dispatch from McClellan to the War Department, states that in three skirmishes to-day, we drove the enemy from Mechanicsville, seven miles from New Bridge. The 4th Michigan again finished the Louisiana Tigers, fifty prisoners and fifty killed. Our loss, ten killed and wounded. Two squadrons of the 8th Ill. Cavalry, under Maj. Clendenin, were sent up the river to destroy a bridge of Richmond & Fredericksburg Railroad.—Mechanicsville, now occupied by our troops, is five miles from Richmond.

Sunday, May 25.—General Negley's brigade is encamped five miles beyond Bottom's Bridge. To obtain this they were obliged to engage the rebel General Stewart's brigade. Our loss two killed and six wounded. Rebel loss supposed to be about fifty.

Contrabands from Richmond say that the inhabitants are leaving for Danville. All capable of bearing arms are compelled to remain.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, May 24.

Mr. Arnold, in the House, last night, urged the passage of an efficient confiscation bill. The rebels were treacherous, cruel and barbarous, and treated with altogether too much leniency. Our forbearance was cowardice. It was time to forgive them when they lay down their arms and ask for mercy. The question of Slavery must be met. No man had spoken more wisely on this subject than the President, who was in favor of the country being entirely free. We fight for liberty and the Constitution; the rebels for slavery and the subversion of Constitutional liberty. The President, in words of earnest appeal to the Border States has sought to control the whirlwind direct the storm the rebels have provoked. His proposition for emancipation will make freedom not only national, but universal. Slavery must die.—Mr. A. appealed to the friends of freedom to have faith in the President, who will seize the opportunity which Providence has given him. Let the Border State men join hands with the President and make this one great homogeneous free people.

Mr. Arnold also urged as a means of putting down the rebellion and defraying the expenses of the war, the passage of a confiscation bill, arguing in favor of passing it under the law of nations.

Mr. Kellogg made a strong speech this morning in favor of the confiscation of rebel property, movable and immovable, arguing that they partook of the double character of public enemies and traitors, to be pursued as enemies during the war and punished as traitors after a peace was concluded. He referred to the suffering recently seen among his constituents, and cited numerous authorities.

Important from Corinth.

LOUISVILLE, May 25.—Before Corinth, May 25.—A reconnoitering party from Pope's command had a skirmish yesterday, resulting in a complete rout of three rebel regiments, with a loss of their knapsacks, and several killed and wounded, and six prisoners taken. The regiments fled in confusion across the creek. Our loss is four wounded.

Rebels Routed.

In Camp on Larry Creek, near Batesville, Ark., May 21.—Quite a spirited skirmish took place on the 10th, near Leary, on the Little Red River, between about two hundred and fifty men of Gen. Osterhaus' division, and some six hundred rebels, under Colonels Coleman and Hicks, in which the latter were routed, with a loss of 13 left on the field, and quite a number wounded. Our loss was 15 killed and 34 wounded.

The rebels have burned all the bridges across the Bayou de la Cypresse, and ten thousand bales of cotton have been consumed on the Arkansas river by order of Beauregard.

Brigadier General Roane, who is in command of the forces of this State, has three regiments of Texans at Little Rock, and the Arkansas militia are said to be gathered at the same point in considerable numbers.

Rebel Evacuation of Richmond.

BALTIMORE, May 26.—I left Gen. McClellan's headquarters on Saturday. A balloon reconnoissance was made from headquarters that day. This disclosed the fact that the rebel army was then evacuating Richmond.

GEN. BANKS ATTACKED BY A LARGE FORCE.

He Falls Back Toward Winchester.

Washington, May 25.—Dispatches received by the War Department state that General Banks was attacked at Winchester this morning and has fallen back toward Martinsburg and Harper's Ferry. The enemy are reported in large force.

It is reported that the rebel force has left Richmond, and has moved North to take the offensive.

LATER.

Washington, May 25.—Dispatch received at the War Department at 10 o'clock to-night, from Banks at Winchester. He moved from Strasburg to Winchester to secure his stores and trains. His advanced guard arrived there at 5 o'clock all safe. A strong attack was made on the trains at Middletown by the rebels, but they were repulsed.

We lost a few wagons which the teamsters abandoned.

Gen. Banks will return in the morning to Strasburg.

Col. Kenly, commanding the force at Front Royal, was wounded and taken prisoner.

No particulars of the engagement have been received. The enemy occupy Front Royal. General Geary occupies a strong position on the Manassas Railroad at White Plains, and has been reinforced.

OFFICIAL.

Headquarters, Martinsburg, May 25.

E. M. STANFORD.

The rebels attacked us at day-break in great force, estimated at 15,000, consisting of Ewell's and Jackson's divisions.

Our right and left wings stood well for a while, when two Regiments broke the lines under the fire of the enemy. The right wing fell back and were ordered to withdraw. They passed through town in considerable confusion, but reformed and continued to march in good order to Martinsburg, twenty-two miles distant. Our entire force was less than 4,000, consisting of Gordon's and Donnelly's brigades with two regiments of cavalry under General Hatch, and two batteries of artillery. Our loss is considerable, as was that of the enemy, but cannot now be stated.

General Situation.

Washington, May 26.—McClellan reports progress in front of Richmond.—Halleck has been joined by Gen. Curtiz force.

A dispatch received to-night states Banks made good his retreat across the Potomac at Williamsport.

Gen. Saxon commands at Harper's Ferry. The city is intensely excited by the intelligence from the Valley of the Shenandoah. Banks fought the enemy six hours.

The rebels are understood to be advancing from Winchester to Harper's Ferry. Our troops are being reinforced.

Rumor says Jackson is advancing to support Ewell, and Johnson, it is also stated, has still another force behind him. Prompt means have been taken to meet the emergency.

The Baltimore Seesaw Rampant.

Secessionist in Baltimore have been exulting over the report of the defeat and death of Col. Kenly. The announcement that Kenly was not dead was received with shouts of applause. Great excitement exists in the city. Two men have been knocked down in front of the telegraph office. One was heard to say, "You have it your own way now, but we'll have it ours soon." Obnoxious citizens have to keep out of sight. The intense feeling is explained by the fact that the regiment which suffered most belonged to Baltimore. Many arrests have been made by the police.

1 30 P. M.—The mob attempted to hang a man in Monument square, but was prevented by the police.

5 40 P. M.—Crowd increased this afternoon. Several people were chased and knocked down. After arrest by the police the crowd thinned. All is now quiet.

From Norfolk.

Norfolk, May 24.—Deserters from Petersburg, say in consequence of scarcity of provisions, the army is much demoralized, numbers deserting daily.—They have been lately on half rations.—They say fully half the army would desert if they had the opportunity, but the rebels intend making a desperate resistance. As soon as disposition is shown by the Norfolk people to return to their allegiance, the port will be opened, and its former status restored. No such disposition is yet manifested. Should Richmond be captured, hundreds of Norfolkites would openly declare for the Union.

Fight at Front Royal.

Strasburg Va., May 24.

HON. E. M. STANFORD:

Col. Henly's command of infantry and cavalry have been driven from Front Royal with considerable loss in killed wounded and prisoners.

The enemy's force is estimated at from 5,000 to 6,000, and is reported as falling back on Front Royal. He probably occupied the place this morning.

N. P. BAXES,

Major-General