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Affairs on the Lines.

[Special Correspondence of the Baltimore American.]

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2, 1862.—The excitement that prevailed in this city on Sunday and Monday has considerably abated, and no fears are now entertained of further disaster.

General Pope had been largely reinforced at Centreville by fresh troops, and his communication by railroad with Washington had furnished him with abundance of supplies and ammunition. His wounded were rapidly arriving in Washington by railroad and ambulances, and it was thought he would be ready to-day for active offensive operations, having made an advance yesterday. In all these respects he has the advantage of the enemy, and has of course been able to recuperate and bring his army again into fighting condition more rapidly and effectively. [The writers predictions have not been fulfilled as is now known by all]

General Franklin's Corps of the Army of the Potomac, with the commands of General Sumner, had already joined him, together with the command of General Banks, which was temporarily cut off by the reverse of Saturday.

General McClellan has taken command of the defences of Washington, with all the troops and new levies in and about the city, his old troops having been all forwarded to General Pope.

Many speculations are afloat with regard to the condition of the enemy for supplies and water, but there can be no doubt that the plan of drawing Gen. Pope to the south side of the Rappahannock, and then making a dash in his rear, was contemplated for a long time previous to its having taken place, and they had doubtless concentrated supplies there for the emergency.

The rumored death of Gen. Ewell, and the wounding of General Jackson, is not at all credited, though in so fierce a conflict they have doubtless lost many officers.

The propriety of making an immediate advance on the enemy is extensively discussed, some preferring that time should be given for the organization and drill of the new troops, and others that the blow should be struck at once, before the enemy has time to recuperate. General Pope, however, knows the condition of the enemy better than those who discuss the point, and will doubtless take such course as will be most to the advantage of his cause.—He is still being reinforced.

The St. Paul Press of the 28th ult., contains a clear narrative of the recent massacres in Minnesota, by Outer-Day, a friendly Indian, which throws great light on its origin and extent. It states that secessionists had nothing to do with its origin.

Though the rotunda, Senate and House halls and the corridors of the Capitol, have been hastily converted into a hospital—cots and beds being placed in every available place—no patients have as yet been admitted; but, as the beds are now ready, they will be taken in at any moment that may be necessary.

WAR NEWS.

The army concentrated for the defence of Washington has fallen back from the position at Fairfax Court House to the points occupied by the army of the Potomac previous to the peninsula campaign. As the troops moved towards Washington the Confederates followed closely, harrassing the rear with shell, but no damage is reported. There was no fighting yesterday. A considerable portion of the Confederate army is believed to be massed at Vienna, twelve miles from Washington, while large bodies of their troops have moved up the line of the Potomac as far as Leesburg. A strong force is said to be near the ford opposite Poolsville Maryland, and it is believed that, if an attempt is made by them to cross into that State, it will be in that vicinity. It is understood that the U. S. government has made ample preparations to meet any such movement. Gen. McClellan has assumed command of the entire Federal forces in and around Washington, and established his headquarters in that city. On Monday night, General Burnside was on the east side of the Potomac river, about six miles from Fredericksburg, in a strong position. Confederate cavalry were in the vicinity and had attempted a flank movement without success. The above is a brief summary of the news of the army movements as published in a Washington journal of last evening. A dispatch received since the above was written states that eleven hundred soldiers taken prisoners by the Confederates in the recent battles, and paroled, arrived in Washington last night. Gen. Lee, they report, has established his headquarters a short distance beyond Bull Run, on the road to Warrenton. Gen. Stuart was at Fairfax Court House with his cavalry.

The Washington Star says:—"Sergeant Burnham, of the Metropolitan police, who went to the battle-field of Saturday, returned this morning. From him we learn that one hundred and fifty wagons, driven by negroes, were sent to the field under a flag of truce to bring away the wounded. The rebels consented to the removal of the wounded, but took the negroes. Burnham noticed that many of the dead and wounded were stripped of their clothing, and happened to speak of it loud enough for a Confederate officer to hear. The latter exclaimed, "Shut up, you s—of a b—, or we'll take you, clothing and all." A rebel officer, once a merchant in Alexandria, said to Burnham, "Don't mind him, he is drunk.—The dead were stripped in violation of General Lee's orders, and he says that those who did it shall be shot."

The Washington Republican says that on Tuesday night, at the Chain Bridge, some of the Federal troops mistook each other for enemies, and commenced a brisk skirmish, which continued long enough to do considerable damage before the mistake was discovered.

Gold in New York yesterday was quoted at 118½.

Evacuation of Fredericksburg.

Fredericksburg was evacuated on Saturday afternoon by General Burnside. A considerable quantity of government property and a number of bridges were destroyed during the final evacuation of the place. For several days rumors of successes and defeats both of Pope and Jackson, were prevalent in Fredericksburg. The Confederates in that vicinity continued in a jubilant frame of mind over reported defeats of the Federal forces in the battles which were known to be in progress, and their expectation that General Burnside's army was about to evacuate the place, and fall back to Aquia Creek. In this crisis the real feelings and sentiments of many of the citizens, especially the women, were plainly exhibited.

Such matters went on during Friday until about five P. M., when the Federal pickets fell back, and announced that a Confederate force was approaching [the city. Upon this, quite a panic arose, and the Union citizens with the negroes retired across the river.

The exodus of the negro population was general, and hundreds of them could be seen, with their household effects upon their heads, and accompanied by their large families of children, retreating from the town.

The Federal troops commenced leaving the place on Saturday morning. A large machine shop, where the railroad engines have been repaired, was undermined with powder, and at the last moment was blown up with a tremendous noise. The destruction of the three bridges across the Rappahannock was accomplished by covering the woodwork with pitch and hay, and setting fire to this combustible material after the troops had left the city. At Falmouth, on the other side of the Rappahannock, all the newly erected government bake-houses, constructed for baking bread for the army in that vicinity, were demolished. The railroad depot was burned in the same manner as the bridges. A large amount of lumber at the depot was also destroyed. The retiring troops marched over a bad road from Fredericksburg to Aquia creek. Burnside himself superintended the removal of the troops and stores. Two hundred barrels of flour were among the articles destroyed. Everything was conducted in perfect order. The troops at Aquia creek are under full protection of the gunboats of the Potomac flotilla, and are prepared to meet the enemy at the place they now occupy.—*N. Y. Express.*

LOSSES.—It seems to be generally conceded that General Pope somewhat exaggerated the Federal loss in the dispatch fixing it at eight thousand in killed and wounded, and decidedly exaggerated the enemy's loss in placing it at double that number. The record of all the battles, including that of Saturday, will, however, show, as is thought, a loss from 10,000 to 12,000 at least on the Federal side, in killed, wounded and prisoners. The loss of the enemy is thought to have been less, since they fought much as usual behind cover. Many of the artillery horses, at which the enemy directed many of their heavy guns, were shot down and several batteries captured.—*N. Y. Express.*

Capt. M. P. Engle, late of Gen. Casey's staff, died in Washington yesterday, of injuries received from a bad fall.