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From the Army of the Potomac.

For several days past both the Federal and Confederate armies have been moving—one for the purpose of making a flank movement, and the other to take a strong defensive position.

The consequences of these movements are, that both armies are now much nearer Washington than they were a week ago.

There is not the slightest doubt, but Gen. Lee has been reinforced, so as to enable him to act on the offensive; and it is pretty evident, had Gen. Meade not fallen back as quickly as he did, he would have been not only out-maneuvred, but out-flanked.

The headquarters of the Army of the Potomac last evening were some distance this side of Warrenton Junction, and no doubt ere this are at Centreville. Gen. Meade blew up the bridge at Rappahannock Station, which crosses the Rappahannock river at this point, last evening, for the purpose of checking the advance of the Confederates.

In fact it was a new, quick, and masterly movement that saved the Federals from the contemplated and rapid movement of the Confederates. The Federal army now occupies a very strong defensive position.

The telegraph wires between Washington and Centreville were cut this morning—consummated, no doubt, by some of the guerillas within the Federal lines.

Heavy cannonading has been going on at the front all the morning. There is but little doubt that a general engagement is now going on, the result of which will be known before many hours pass.

The story about the Federals abandoning and burning their stores when they evacuated Culpeper is false, as nothing was destroyed or left behind that was of any use to General Meade's army.

A gentleman connected with the army informed us this morning that a pontoon train—a whole bridge—fell into the hands of the Confederates. He states that those who had it in charge were so hard pressed that they were compelled to flee to avoid capture.

The cannonading as we go to press, can be heard at Alexandria and Georgetown very distinctly—the weather being cloudy, the sound can be heard much better than if it was clear. Great anxiety is manifested among our people to know the particulars.—[Washington Union of yesterday.]

THE FIGHTING ON MONDAY.

Yesterday a train arrived from Catlett's Station with some one hundred and eighty sick and wounded, mostly sick. The wounded are mainly of Gregg's cavalry, who were engaged in the fight on Monday. Among them are Major Young, Lieutenant Martin, aid to

Gen. Gregg; Major Wilson and Lieut. F. A. Baker, adjutant of the 8th Penn. cavalry, who are slightly wounded, with the exception of Martin, and Wilson who is severely wounded in the arm.

The whole of Gregg's division was ordered from Bealton Station on Saturday towards Culpeper, and arrived at Culpeper at 4 o'clock p. m. From thence the 2d brigade of the 2d Division was ordered to Fox Mountain to support Kilpatrick, but finding that Kilpatrick did not need reinforcements, the brigade left him on Sunday morning and rejoined the division at Culpeper. On Sunday night Gregg moved to Warrenton Springs, arriving about 9 o'clock at night.

On Monday morning two regiments—the 4th and 13th Pennsylvania—were sent forward to Jefferson, about five miles from the Springs, and the 1st Maine were sent out towards Little Washington to reconnoiter. The last named regiment encountered a large force of the Confederates just beyond Amisville, and were surrounded, but gallantly cut their way out, and crossed the river at Waterloo Ford, about twelve miles above the Springs.

About 10 o'clock Monday morning, the Confederates advanced on the 4th and 13th Pennsylvania, which were at Jefferson, with cavalry, showing heavy infantry supports in their rear.

The Federal cavalry, seeing that they were being overpowered, fell back slowly, contesting the ground, to a large forest this side of Jefferson, where Gregg, who led these regiments in person, dismounted a portion of his men and sent them out as skirmishers, their horses having been sent back to the Springs.

After stubbornly contesting the ground for nearly two hours, they were ordered to fall back slowly, and as they were doing so a heavy infantry force of the Confederates was discovered on each flank, and at the same time three regiments of cavalry, having made a wide detour, attacked them in the rear. At this time the 10th New York was sent to the support of Gregg, and Reed's Battery (M, 2d U. S. Artillery) opened on the Confederate cavalry, but owing to the short range of the guns, (which were brass Napoleons,) no serious damage was inflicted by them.

The 4th and 13th were now pressed severely in the front and the centre broken, and at the same time they were attacked on each flank and in the rear. The Federals cut their way through and escaped across the river with heavy loss.

The 16th Pennsylvania was now dismounted and thrown out along the river banks as skirmishers, while the 8th was also dismounted, and ordered to support the battery, which had only four short range guns, and the Confederates opened with some twenty pieces of artillery, but the Federal troops gallantly held the ground for several hours, repulsing the charges of the Confederates, and gradually fell back on the Fayetteville road, the Confederates following, but keeping at a respectful distance.

Col. Gregg had but two aids with him—Lts. Martin and Cutler—and both were wounded, the former severely and the latter slightly.—Lieut. Adams, 4th Pennsylvania; Maj. Wilson, 8th Pennsylvania; Lieut. Col. Kettler, 1st New Jersey, Major Russell, 1st Maryland, were wounded; and the loss of the second brigade it

is thought will amount to about 450 men in killed, wounded and missing, the 4th and 13th Pennsylvania regiments suffering most severely.

Col. Gregg is highly spoken of for the manner in which he fought his men, and it was owing to his skill and bravery that the 4th and 13th fought their way out of a precarious situation. He was at the head of his men in the thickest of the fight, and in several charges he took the lead.

During the engagement the Confederates charged the battery and captured one of the guns; but the 1st N. J. Cavalry gallantly charged back and recaptured the piece, which was immediately turned on them with good effect.

The Federal cavalry yesterday held the Confederates in check, and there was some little skirmishing—one man being wounded while on picket last evening.—[Wash. Star.]

FROM THE FRONT.

The Washington Chronicle says: "Yesterday morning, about daylight, a heavy artillery fire commenced, and was kept up without cessation until noon. We have no details of the results, or the wherefore of it, but we think no general engagement has taken place."

SIEGE OF CHARLESTON.

[Correspondence of the Washington Chronicle]

MORRIS ISLAND, October 6, 1863.—Very little is transpiring here beyond the enlarging and strengthening of old, and the erection of new forts, mounting guns, building winter quarters, going through almost impassable marshes on picket, loading and unloading ship loads of stores, and signaling among the fleet.

Some eighteen slaves went off from Marlboro', on the 14th instant—and 25 or 30 more joined them on the road to Washington.

The Confederate steamer Lee narrowly escaped capture off Wilmington. Two blockaders pursued her, firing several shots. One shell passed through her forward, one exploded inside, injuring three of the crew. She has several naval officers on board, on their way to England, for the purpose of bringing out a vessel building there.

The Washington Chronicle says:—"Yesterday morning, a train containing about three hundred sick soldiers arrived at the depot from Catlett's Station, which place they left at two o'clock, A. M. They looked very distressed, and some of them appeared very ill. In the afternoon about four hundred soldiers from the front also arrived. The majority of them were wounded in the recent skirmishes which have taken place with the enemy. But few of them were very seriously wounded. They all seemed cheerful and expressed a wish to be able to return."

The Navy Department has received a dispatch from Admiral Dahlgren in which he states that the Ironsides was not injured in the slightest degree by the explosion of the torpedo placed under her by the Confederates. He says that the party who had the torpedo in charge were captured, together with their sailing orders, which furnish important information.