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Lee and Beauregard.

[From the Richmond Whig, June 15.]

It will now be Grant's effort to precipitate a large body of his force upon Petersburg, which he may fancy of as much importance to Richmond as Grand Gulf was to Vicksburg. Herein, he again errs; but to what extent we shall not be in haste to inform him. There are contingencies which may serve ere long to enlighten him, and that very suddenly. Around Petersburg there are fortifications superior to those which held Ulysses in check for two months before Vicksburg. Behind these works there is no incompetent leader, with an army disgusted and disheartened at his imbecility. The first engineer of the age and a field captain equal to any in the world are there; his troops have unbound confidence in him; he has proved them and him on many fields; he awakens enthusiasm as none other can awaken; and when Grant comes in contact with him, he will find another master, nay, two masters—for the day which sees the bulk of Grant's army on the south side will find the two best heads, and the two bravest, purest, and most magnanimous hearts on this continent opposed to him, and that will be a field day, indeed.

Grant's soldiers complain that they have been forced into slaughter pens. Do they wish a fair, open fight, with the odds two to one in their favor? Let them pitch their picks and swords into James river, and draw out their line of battle on the south side. They shall have an entertainment which shall satisfy the survivors for the remainder of their natural lives. Our word for it, their appetite for war will cease from that time.

But they have enough of battle diet already. Lieutenant Russel assures us that they are tired of butting their heads against fortifications, and will gladly hail the day when they can sit down and dig, while the batteries do their fighting. If they prefer that game, let them try it. The struggle will last a little longer, but the end will be the same. In time and blood, we shall make them pay roundly for every inch they gain; and if, eventually, they get possession of the Cockade City (quite an improbable event), they will have buried before its walls twice as many men as Grant had in the beginning of the campaign, and four times as many as the Yankees can afford to lose.

Secretary Chase telegraphs, from Washington that the entire debt of the Federal government, "including all the legal tender notes and unpaid requisitions, amounts to one thousand seven hundred and nineteen millions, three hundred and ninety five thousand, one hundred and sixty-eight dollars. The interest bearing legal tender notes which have been withdrawn amount to \$38,890,700. The ordinary legal tender notes which have been withdrawn and placed in reserve amount to \$17,258,872. Of course it will be necessary to replace a portion of the 5 per cent. legal tenders with compound interest 6 per cent."

Capt. Birney, late of Gen. Birney's staff, died in Washington on Sunday.

Some particulars of the battle on Friday last, before Petersburg, furnished by the Agent of the Northern Associated press, represent the fighting as very severe. It is stated that although each division of the second corps attempted in turn to storm the Confederate breastworks, but little ground was gained, as the Federal troops in making the assault were obliged to cross open fields of from two to four hundred yards in extent, exposed to an enflaming fire from batteries which swept the entire area. The last attack, which was made at five o'clock in the afternoon, by the third division of the second corps is said to have resulted in a heavier loss than any that preceded it. The Federal losses in two days' fight before Petersburg are estimated at eight thousand men.—A telegram from Bermuda Hundred states that the advance of three Federal corps—Smith's, Hancock's and Burnside's—upon Petersburg, compelled the Confederates to abandon their entrenched position at Bermuda Hundred and hasten to the defence of the city. Gen. Butler immediately sent out a force under Gens. Terry and Turner, which is said to have destroyed an important bridge on the Petersburg and Richmond Railroad and also several miles of the track. The rumor was that Terry and Turner were attacked by the Confederates and driven back to their entrenchments at Bermuda Hundred. The telegram, however, simply says, that as they re-entered their works on the James River, Early's corps, which had crossed the river above Drury's Bluff, was seen coming down the Petersburg turnpike. The James River, a few miles south of Drury's Bluff is said to have been blockaded to prevent a surprise by the Confederate rams. The navigation of the lower portion of the James River does not appear, however, to be secure, as the despatch steamer Amanda Winants and also the steamer John A. Warner have been fired into by a Confederate battery planted on the north side of the river, some forty miles below City Point. The Warner it is reported escaped without injury, but the Winants was hulled near the water line.

About twenty five of Jesse's command attacked Bardstown, Kentucky, Saturday morning: the garrison of the place numbering twenty five men, surrendered. The Confederates then moved down the railroad, and destroyed the bridge and water station near Boston.—Thence they went across the Nashville Railroad, two miles north of Elizabethtown, and when last heard from they were going towards Litchfield.

A dispatch from Washington in the Northern papers, says that "Mr. Wells, U. S. Secretary of the Navy is organizing a very powerful naval expedition against certain Southern ports, as it is necessary for him to redeem his reputation, and he is determined to make Rebel fire fly, so as to save, if possible, his position in the Cabinet."

Gold, in New York, yesterday, 199½.

In the U. S. Senate, a few days ago, Mr. Wilson, of Massachusetts, said:—"We have sent forty-eight thousand men to reinforce General Grant since the commencement of the march toward the Rebel capital. Within thirty days we have gathered up over the country these reinforcements, two thousand of whom are the one hundred days' men raised in the State of Ohio.

Mr. Wade—Over two thousand have gone. Mr. Wilson—Two thousand of them are already there, and others are hastening to that field of duty. The government is casting a dragnet over the country, gathering up all the soldiers it can and hurrying them forward to the support of General Grant. If we had fifty thousand or one hundred thousand fresh men to send to his support to-day, this rebellion would, I believe, go down within sixty days, to rise not again.

Mr. Conness—I ask the Senator why we have not got them?

Mr. Wilson—We have raised men during past eight months as rapidly as we could do it, and we have put them into the field. Since the 17th day of October we have put seven hundred thousand men in the field, and it is an unparalleled exertion of the power and the patriotism of the people. It requires time, it requires money, it requires organization to put such vast masses of men in the field. The Government now desire to continue that great work."

Remarkable Coincidences.

At Spottsylvania Court House, Brigadier General Henry H. Walker, of A. P. Hill's corps, lost his foot.

In D. H. Hill's attack upon the entrenched camp at Bermuda Hundreds, Brigadier General Wm. S. Walker was severely wounded in the foot and taken prisoner.

Major General H. T. Walker was shot through the foot in the recent engagement near Dallas, Georgia, between Johnston and Sherman.

The commander of the Stonewall Brigade, General James L. Walker, was badly wounded in the great battle of May the 12th, when Ed. Johnston's division suffered considerable loss.

General Marmaduke killed, in a duel, Gen. Marsh Walker, of Arkansas.—[Richmond Whig.

It is officially announced that "the Unconditional Union State Central Committee," met in this place yesterday, "present, Messrs. Wing of Norfolk; Massey of Alexandria; Brown of Fairfax, and Henshaw of Loudoun;" and adopted a resolution for holding "a mass Convention" here on the 7th of September next, "to organize for the Presidential election and nominating Electors," and all the "loyal people of the State, within the Federal lines" are invited to send delegates.

A Federal scouting party from this place captured last week "a store" kept in the woods, in Prince William County, by John A. Keig, valued at about \$3,000; "a smuggler" engaged there was also captured.

The physicians in New York recommend that the people eat less meat than formerly for health; and this is called "a flanking movement against the beef speculators."