

The Daily Bulletin.

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The Daily Bulletin.

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Advertisements of charitable institutions at half price.

Letter from Mississippi.

A FULL ACCOUNT OF VAN DORN'S BRILLIANT RAID.

GRANADA, SUNDAY EVENING, }
December 28, 1862 }

The town is in a furor of excitement at the return of Major General Van Dorn and his dashing command from the brilliant raid upon Holly Springs, which has been so stupendously disastrous to the enemy and so importantly successful to our arms. Gen. Van Dorn started from this place thirteen days since, having first supplied his cavalry command of 2,700 men with fifteen days rations to support and satisfy the inner man, and a bottle of turpentine and box of matches, each, to enable them the more perfectly to carry out their work of destruction upon Abolition property. Striking out northeast, the command passed through Pontotoc and having no time to devote to the Yankee marauders who were at the time south of them on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, having much more important work on hand, Van Dorn's force marched on through New Albany and started out on the Ripley road, in order to perfectly deceive the enemy. Two hours after the force passed through Pontotoc, 1100 Yankee cavalry, which had been on a raid down the Mobile and Ohio road, returned with a train heavily laden with the plunder they had stolen. They were informed that Van Dorn had only passed an hour before with 15,000 troops. Taking a few minutes' time to destroy their train, they took the shortest route to Corinth and left on fear-inspiring wings. Meantime, Van Dorn left the Ripley road to the left and took a byway and meandering route through the swamp, and came within eight miles of Holly Springs in the evening, where he bivouacked his forces until two hours before day, when he moved cautiously into town, leaving the Texas brigade upon the heights outside as a reserve. As our troops dashed in from all sides, the entrance proved a complete surprise, the breaking streaks of daylight showing the Yankee tents; with their yet undisturbed slumbers. A charge was ordered upon them, and the torch applied to the canvas which covered them. To paraphrase "Belgium's" picture—

"Ah then and there was hurrying to and fro,
And running in hot haste,
And cheeks all pale and blanched with woe
Exhibiting Yankee cowardice."

The rapidity with which the tents of the enemy were vacated was marvelous; and impelled by burning torches and rapid discharges of side arms, the Yankees took no time to prepare their toilets, but rushed out into the cool atmosphere of a December morning, clothed very similarly to Joseph when the lady Poliphar attempted to detain him. The scene was wild, exciting, tumultuous. Yankees running, tents burning, torches flaming, Confederates shouting, guns popping, sabres clanking; Abolitionists begging for mercy, "rebels" shouting exultingly, women in dishabille clapping their hands, frantic with joy, crying "kill them, kill them"—a heterogeneous mass of excited, frantic, frightened human beings,

presenting an indescribable picture, more adapted for the pencil of Hogarth than the pen of a newspaper correspondent.

The surprised camp surrendered 1,800 men and 150 commissioned officers, who were immediately paroled. And then commenced the work of destruction. The extensive buildings of the Mississippi Central depot, the station house, the engine houses, and immense store houses were filled with supplies of clothing and commissary stores. Outside of the depot the barrels of flour, estimated half a mile in length, one hundred and fifty feet through and fifteen feet high; Turpentine was thrown over this, and the whole amount destroyed. Up town, the court house and public buildings, livery stables and all capacious establishments were filled, ceiling high, with medical and ordnance stores. These were all fired, and the explosion of one of the buildings, in which was stored one hundred barrel of powder, knocked down nearly all the houses on the south side of the square. Surely such a scene of destruction was never before presented to the eye of man. Glance at the gigantic estimates:

1,800,000 fixed cartridges and other ordnance stores, valued at \$1,500,000, including 5,000 rifles and 2,000 revolvers.

100,000 suits of clothing and other quartermaster stores, valued at \$500,000; 5000 barrel flour and other commissary stores, and about \$1,000,000 worth of medical stores, for which invoices to that amount were exhibited, and 1,000 bales of cotton and \$600,000 worth of sutlers' stores!

As there was no time to remove their immense stores from the buildings containing them they were all destroyed, comprising the Mississippi Central depot, engine houses and store houses, the most elegant and capacious in all the South, the courthouse, livery stable and the largest buildings on the public square.

While the capture of the camp, paroling of the prisoners and destroying of the stores were going on, the Texas Rangers, comprising the 9th, 6th, and 3d legions, became engaged with the Michigan cavalry, and drove them pell-mell through town, and ran them off North with a considerable loss to the Abolitionists, and a loss of thirty killed and wounded on our part.

The ladies rushed out from the houses, wild with joy, crying out! "There's some at the fair ground. Chase them! kill them for God's sake!" One lady said: "The Yankee Commandant of the Post is in my house; come and catch him;" and a search was instigated but without success, when the noble woman insisted that he was there, concealed; and finally, after much ado, the gallant (save the mark) Colonel Murphy, the intrepid Yankee Commandant of Holly Springs, was pulled out from under his bed, and presented himself in his nocturnal habiliments to his captors.

The Provost Marshal was also taken, and addressing Gen. Van Dorn, said: "Well, General, you've got us fairly this time. I was in bed with my wife when I heard the firing, and I at once said, 'Well, wife, it's no use closing our eyes or hiding under the cover, we've gone up.'"

Our attention was given to Grant's headquarters, which he had left twenty-four hours before. All his papers, charts, maps, etc., were captured, together with his splendid carriage, which was burned. Among his papers was found a pass, to pass the bearer over all the railroad and steamboats in the United States, at Government expense; to pass all pickets and guards, and other papers, at once interesting and valuable. Mrs. Grant was also captured, but no indignity was offered to her.

Nearly every store on the public square was filled with sutler's stores, and after our men had helped themselves, the balance of the goods were burned.

When our forces first reached the depot, there was a train about leaving. The engineer jumped off and ran

away, and one of our men took his place, shut the throttle-valve and stopped the train. Sixty cars and two locomotives were then fired and destroyed.

After the complete destruction of all public property about the place, and after each man had supplied himself with a suitable quantity of clothing and boots, at six o'clock in the morning the march was renewed, and Davis' mill was the next place attacked. Here the enemy were entrenched, and sheltered themselves in a block house and fort formed of cotton bales. The cavalry were commanded to charge, and at tempted to do so, but the swamp and intricate lagoons breaking off in front of the enemy's position would not permit it. The Yankees opened fire with some effect from their fort, and were supported by a nine pound rifle gun mounted on an iron clad railroad car, forming a railroad battery. The Texans were again ordered to charge, and Major Dillon, of Van Dorn's staff, whose gallantry during the expedition was particularly conspicuous, attempted to lead them to the attack, but the men refused to follow, believing the way impassable and the position too strong for cavalry demonstrations alone. Col. M'Cullough, of the Missouri cavalry, was ordered to get in the rear of the railroad battery, cut the track to prevent its escape, and capture it. I believe they succeeded in cutting the road, but our forces were compelled to withdraw, and the steam battery was not taken. The forces then pushed on to Middleburg and Bolivar, and attacked both places, but found them too strongly defended and garrisoned to succeed in taking either of the points. The gallantry of Col. M'Cullough and his command, the 2d Missouri cavalry, Pinson's and Saunders' Mississippi battalions, is especially mentioned by Maj. Gen. Van Dorn.

Major Frank Armstrong and Major Phifer contributed much to the success of the expedition, both being dashing cavalry leaders and members of the old army with the rank they now hold. It is a great piece of injustice that the government does not make these daring and experienced officers Brigadier Generals of cavalry, which this army is sadly in need of. Major Armstrong will be remembered as the successful leader of the expedition against Decatur and Bolivar last summer, and Phifer as acting Brigadier of an Arkansas brigade at the battle of Corinth. Maj. Kimmell, Maj. Schaumburg, and Lieut. Sullivan, of Gen. Van Dorn's staff, are highly complimented for their gallant conduct.

When the command turned back after its unsuccessful attack upon Bolivar, the enemy sent a force of 10,000, comprising three branches of the service, out after Van Dorn, and made great efforts to flank and cut off his force, but this dashing officer was too wary for them, and succeeded in returning with four hundred head of captured horses and mules, laden with booty taken from the enemy.

The presence of Gen. Van Dorn with the cavalry expedition the Yankees could not understand, and they believed he was advancing at the head of the whole army.

The people of Tennessee are represented as having been almost frantic with joy at the appearance of our forces once more upon their borders. They fed our soldiers with a bountiful hand, and wept for joy. "Thank God, you have come at last!" one and all exclaimed. Their hospitality was not a little surprising to our soldiers, who have been so uniformly swindled and extorted from in Mississippi. The people of Tennessee had been induced to believe that Gen. Grant's headquarters were at Jackson, Miss., and that our whole army had been captured. Judge, then, of their surprise when they were visited by Van Dorn's command.

Van Dorn did not form a junction with Forrest, as we were led to believe, but their forces were at one time within a mile of each other. Forrest captured Trenton, and completely destroyed the railroad connection between Columbus

and Humboldt, and Van Dorn did the same between Bolivar and Grand Junction.

The enemy are now, without doubt, forced to fall back to Jackson, and Forrest, in all probability, will accelerate their movements towards Columbus, Ky.

General Van Dorn's raid proved entirely successful, and is to be regarded as one of the most important, if not the most important cavalry demonstration of the war. He has caused the enemy a loss of stores which it will take months to recover from, and has deprived his command of everything essentially necessary to the placing of his forces in the field.

It is to be regretted that he does not remain in command of the entire cavalry of the army. We learn that he has been ordered to report to Jackson.

The entire number of prisoners captured and paroled during the raid is 2,100 privates and 175 commissioned officers.

One thousand of our men supplied themselves with new revolvers. Truly, an important affair. L'IMPORTANCE.

Headquarters, Army of Tennessee.

WINCHESTER, Jan. 9th, 1863.

General Orders, No. 2.

The General Commanding has perceived with surprise and pain that some of the troops of this army have been engaged in the indiscriminate destruction of fences and houses, devastating a fair and fruitful country, on the productions of which our salvation depends. Fields of growing wheat have been left without fences, and property, which even a rapacious enemy had respected, has been needlessly destroyed.

Such wanton acts of waste are unworthy the character of Confederate soldiers, injurious to the holy cause they defend, and are alike destructive of personal honor and military discipline.

This growing evil must be checked, and Commanders and Inspectors are enjoined to take all proper precautions in future to prevent such disgrace to our fair name. Inspectors will in all cases report to these Head Quarters by what troops such injuries have been inflicted.

They will cause a rigid scrutiny into all such acts, and bring to punishment all offenders.

Citizens are invited to bring in their accounts for such injuries, when they will be audited and paid, and the amount charged against the responsible commander.

By command of Gen. BRAGG.

(Signed,) GEO. WM. BRENT,
A. A. Gen'l.

—OFFICIAL—

The Savannah News, in speaking of the fight at Murfreesboro and Gen. Bragg, says:

The fight of the 31st was certainly one which would do any commander credit; and we have yet to see the reason for censure in his abandonment of Murfreesboro for a stronger position when he found himself hopelessly outnumbered by the enemy. Let us get the facts before we pass judgment. And as for the requirement of inviolable success as a test of merit—the greatest military captain the world ever saw—Frederick, of Prussia, would have stood it but poorly; Bonaparte would have been a lame duck, and as for Washington, as his career was pretty much one of defeats, had he been operating in our times the press would have given him fits, or tried to do it. If Gen. Bragg is not a thorough soldier in temper, habits education, and mental constitution—if he is not a man of large capacity, of indomitable pluck and untiring energy—we are a good deal mistaken in our judgment of him; but, then, it is true our judgment on such a matter is not worth much. Ah, if he had but ten thousand more men the world would have been sounding his praises this very day.

The report that a Confederate fleet is fitting out in England is true. Look out, Yankees.