The Semi-Weekly News

Published on Tuesday and Friday.

JNO. DICKINSON
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

Our Agents:

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TUESDAY,.....AUGUST 19, 1862.

Persons sending us remittances will be good enough to send no other paper money than Louisiana State or Confederate Notes, Shreveport bills, and Texas Treasury Warrants. Other money sent will be returned.

When subscribers see a Red pencil mark on their paper, it signifies that the time paid for has Expired.

There was a report on Saturday that Stonewall Jackson had an engagement with Pope, in which the latter was defeated.

The Vicksburg Citizen has, like the Whig, withstood the fire of the enemy, and again visits us. Friend Swords we glory in the pluck of your city and yourself, and congratulate you for sustaining no further damage than the explosion of a shell "overhead."

The weather is warm and "dry," in keeping with the folks' dry looks, as they pass some familiar haunt, were a social smile was often exchanged, before Martial Law arrived. He is awful strict, an old lady informs us.

News to Us.

Mr. David Taylor, a subscriber of our paper, living in Rocky Comfort, Ark., writing to us, adds the following postscript:

No news of import. You of course have heard that the Yankees have left Arkansas, also that Curtis took with him on his retreat all the negroes, for six miles, both sides of the road, and destroyed all that was not portable; even rudely removing the ear and finger rings off the ladies. All the clothes that the negro *fair sex* did not want were torn in shreds. To those that claimed to be Union, he said, prove it by joining the first *Federal* Arkansas Regiment, under the backslider Fishback. He, Fishback, Colonel of said Regiment, is the only signer of the secession ordinance that has as yet fallen from grace. If they joined the regiment then he would give them a Federal receipt for what property he had taken; so to use the property had to go, Union or no Union. I think next time, if it ever comes, our people will not be quite so credulous. Federal promises will not do to tie to.

GOOD NEWS FROM ARKANSAS.—The guerillas are doing good service in Arkansas. The Memphis (Yankee) Bulletin, of the 7th, gives a lengthy account of the rebel guerrillas' work among the Federals. On the 4th, two regiments of Federal troops were escorting some two or three hundred negroes, or perhaps more, and about sixty wagons, containing provisions and material, toward some locality where it was intended to establish a post. Near L'Anguillo bridge, beyond Madison, on the St. Francis river, the party was attacked by an overwhelming force, which rushed upon them from various points. Little or no resistance appears to have been possible, and after firing one volley the Federals and negroes were dispersed, some of them being taken prisoners. The Federals put their loss in killed at seven, and thirty wounded. 20 wagons with stores were captured. Another party of Yankees, escorting twenty wagons of provisions and camp equipage, were very suddenly pounced upon by our men the same day. The wagons were taken and seventeen Yankees killed. A party of ninety Federals were surprised near Helena about the same time, and all killed wounded or captured but two. This is the Yankee version of the story, and we have no doubt if the truth was known their loss would be much greater than that reported. Arkansas is beginning to look up again, and we hope she will soon rid herself of every despot.—Vicksburg Whig.

Our Deputy Postmaster informs us that he has received a lot of Postage Stamps. The public can now lay in a supply.

Mr. M. Levy has lost a horse, for the recovery of which he offers a liberal reward. See advertisement on the first page.

The Policy of the North.

View this question in what light we may, it would be exceedingly difficult to arrive at any correct conclusion. There are so many diversities of opinion on this subject, that we venture the assertion that no two persons could be found who entertained the same ideas about the matter.

From the commencement of this war to the present time, the programme of the North has been so intrically varied that our wisest heads have been puzzled. We can scarcely believe that the North now, intends making any great demonstration in the field. They have been taught by experience, that they miscalculated their undertaking, for this we desire no better evidence than their own acknowledgment and the exhibit of the state of their finances, which makes them look aghast at the probable result, and great schemers as they profess to be they stand nonplussed.

We think it probable that the North will now endeavor to try our resources by prolonging the war, under the impression that we can be starved out, as they argued sometime past. In this, however, they will succeed as they have in all their futile attempts, for the policy of our government is also different now from what it was heretofore.

What Will They do Next.

The following is the murderous order of the Yankee General Steinwehr. The President has very properly issued a proclamation declaring him not entitled to the benefit of the cartel signed by Gen. Hill:

Headquarters 2d Division,
Green's Farm, July 13, 1862.
Special Order, No. 6.

Major Gen. William Stedman, commanding 6th Regiment Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, will cause the arrest of five (5) of the most prominent citizens of Luray, Page county, Virginia, and send them to these headquarters with an escort as hostages. They will be held as long as we remain in this vicinity. They will share my table and be treated as friends, but for every one of our soldiers who may be shot by bushwackers, one of these hostages will suffer death, unless the perpetrators of the deed are delivered to me. It is well known that these so-called bushwackers are inhabitants of the district and encouraged in their cowardly acts by the prominent citizens here.

You will leave a copy of this order with the family of each man arrested by you.

A. STEINWEHR,
Brig. Gen. Commanding 2d Division.

We often allude to the cruelty of a cat, while watching it playfully torturing a mouse, but there is no comparison. The Federal army is composed of many such barbarous wretches, and we are consequently bound to expect such brutalism.

If this is the kind of policy our enemies intend to pursue, we think the sooner the black flag floats over our armies, the better for our people. Do not understand by this kind reader that we are in favor of harsh measures, on the contrary, we advocate mild steps, yet, if all we hear of the barbarities of the Federals be true, our voice is for throwing the black flag to the breeze. We feel confident that the advantages of this system of warfare, if adopted, would not only bring the cowardly scamps to their senses, but be the means of speedily terminating this war. It is folly to throw pearls to swine.

We had the pleasure of a visit from Rev. Wm. Carey Crane, D. D., one of the talented editors of the Louisiana Baptist. The Reverend gentleman delivered an able sermon at the Baptist church, on last Sabbath evening

Special Correspondence.

The following came just too late for our last issue, at that time it would have been more interesting, however we give publicity to it:

VICKSBURG, Aug. 8, 1862.

Friend Dickinson:

I crossed here this morning; have seen some of the fortifications which seem to be as strong as they can be built. I have seen the cannon balls and bombshells laying around here by the cartload, but after all the tremendous firing of the Federals here, they have done but little damage to the town.

The report here this morning, is that Breckinridge attacked Baton Rouge with about 3000 men (Federal force supposed to be 5000) and drove the Federals to the arsenal, but had to fall back then about one mile, his troops being nearly exhausted. Our loss in the engagement reported to be 500 in killed and wounded; Federal loss about the same. Reinforcements have been and are now being sent to Breckinridge from here. We have to mourn for the loss of our brave Arkansas (the gunboat), she being at Baton Rouge engaged in the fight and becoming disabled, was blown up by our men, to prevent her falling into the hands of the enemy. This is the latest news, received about one hour ago. The fighting at Baton Rouge is expected to be renewed as soon as reinforcements reach Breckinridge. Yours,

REKLIPS.

Reliable Information Concerning the Arkansas.

From Lieut. Reed, of the ram Arkansas, says the Jackson Mississippian, we learn the following particulars:

The Arkansas left Vicksburg at 2 o'clock Sunday morning, and steamed leisurely down the river, having ample time to reach Baton Rouge at the appointed hour.—When she arrived within fifteen miles of Baton Rouge, her starboard engine broke down. Repairs were immediately commenced and at eight o'clock were partially completed, though she was not in a condition to engage many of the Yankee vessels on account of the injury received.

At 4 o'clock, almost to a minute, Gen. Breckinridge opened the attack upon Baton Rouge. A messenger was dispatched at 5 o'clock to ascertain the strength of the enemy's fleet, and the Arkansas proceeded to a point five miles above Baton Rouge, where she was cleared for action.

We learned from the guerillas on shore that there were only three gunboats. On rounding the point the starboard engine again broke down, and the ship drifted ashore in sight of Baton Rouge on the Arkansas side. Repairs were immediately commenced, and the ship got afloat at five o'clock the same evening. The engineers reported that the engines were unreliable. It was determined to make a trial trip up the river to ascertain the strength of the engines—proceeded some five hundred yards up the river, when her engine again broke more seriously than ever. The crew were engaged all night in repairs.

Next morning at 8 o'clock, the lookouts ashore reported the Federal fleet coming up. The ship was moored, head down stream, and cleared for action, and in this condition was determined to fight to the last. At 8 o'clock the Essex came round the point and opened fire. At this moment the engineers reported the engines ready, and that they would last half a day.

The lines were cut and the Arkansas started after the Essex with the intention of running her down. Proceeded about three hundred yards in the direction of the Essex, and the larboard engine suddenly stopped. She then makes for the bank, her stern down, the Essex pouring a hot fire into her. In this condition we open fire with the stern. The Essex continued to advance; and when within four hundred yards the crew of the Arkansas were ordered ashore and the vessel fired. After all hands were ashore, the Essex fired upon the disabled vessel most furiously. In an hour after her abandonment the fire communicated to her magazines and all that remained of the noble Arkansas was blown up.

Lieut. Stevens was in command of the Arkansas, and displayed remarkable coolness under the most perilous and distressing misfortunes. Our informant, Lieut. Reed, states that but for the misfortune to her engines the expedition against Baton Rouge would have been a most brilliant success; and the Yankees would have been driven from New Orleans in a few days.

A Moscow journal affirms that a great emigration is taking place from the United States to the amoor. Over 10,000 Bohemians and other persons of Sclavonic origin in Missouri, California, etc., etc., have agreed to leave their present residences, and settle in the new territory ceded by China to Russia, and extending along the coast of Manjuria down to the forty-second degree of latitude. They will be particularly welcome on account of their speaking a language similar to that of the Russian.

The Capture of Murfreesboro—The Women in Battle.

The Bristol (Tenn.) Advocate gives some interesting particulars of the capture of Murfreesboro by Col. Forrest. It says:

From thirty to forty of our men were killed, and from 40 to 50 wounded. This was done principally by the battery, and from the Courthouse, in which large numbers of the enemy had taken shelter. Our men broke a hole in the courthouse, and were about burning it with its contents, when they learned that the Yankees had a number of the citizens of Murfreesboro under arrest in a large upper room, in order to try them for treason against the Lincoln dynasty.

Never were soldiers hailed with more enthusiastic expressions of gratitude and exultation, than were the Confederate soldiers hailed by the citizens of the town. Numbers of them, including not a few ladies, joined in the bloody conflict, and with pistols and everything else with which they could fight, assisted in dealing dismay and death upon the hated invaders of their homes and their rights.

It was yet early in the morning when our forces commenced the attack, and many of the ladies of the place could not be restrained from rushing into the streets, with dishevelled hair and in their sleeping attire, cheering our soldiers; and when any would fall, or were wounded, they would clasp them in their arms, assisting in bearing them to their houses and ministering to them as to delivering angels, and when our officers would remonstrate, telling them that they were in danger from the shots of the enemy, they would reply that the Lord would defend them, and that it was no greater peril than that to which their gallant defenders were all exposed.

We failed to mention in the proper connection, that Col. Wharton—the brave Confederate in arms of Col. Forrest—was wounded. As he was able, however, to superintend the guard which brought the Yankee prisoners through the mountains, it is hoped he will soon recover.

In the jail at Murfreesboro, were several of the daring band of Col. Jack Morgan, who had been taken prisoners some time ago, when that bold ranger met with his reverse at Lebanon. Our soldiers released them from prison early in the action, and they fought like Spartans till the affair was ended. None enjoyed the victory with a better relish than did these liberated heroes.

Among the prisoners we saw was Brig. Gen. T. A. Crittenden, of Indiana. He was a sour, beefy, crest-fallen looking fellow, with no marks of manliness and but few of intelligence about his face. We had a short conversation with him at Kingston, where they staid on Friday night. He was evidently an inferior man to some of his Colonels and other officers.

The Knoxville Register also contains some particulars of the fight. It says:

As Col. Forrest's command were marching through Cannon county, on their way to Murfreesboro, the citizens crowded the throughfares, cheering our gallant men with every demonstration of joy. The ladies everywhere were particularly enthusiastic. Some of the citizens of Cannon had been arrested and were confined in prison at Murfreesboro. The ladies besought our men, with tears in their eyes, to rescue their husbands and fathers from the hands of the tyrant. One little girl ran up to that old patriot and soldier, Capt. Haney, of the 1st Georgia cavalry, and wringing her hands, implored him to bring her father back to her again. The old man turned to her, with his whole soul beaming in his face, and exclaimed, while the manly tear started to his eye, "I will my daughter! I will!" The result proved the truth of his words. The Captain was the first to enter the court house, where the prisoners were confined—and that child's heart has been made glad by the safe return of of the father to the household roof.

As our little army went dashing into Murfreesboro, awaking the echoes by the rattling of their horses hoofs "o'er the stony streets," the whole population were aroused from their slumbers, and rushed to their windows, balconies, and verandas, with every demonstration of delight. Ladies could be seen kneeling in postures of thankfulness to Heaven for the day of their deliverance. As the morning advanced and as the fight thickened, the same fair ones were in the streets in spite of the whistling of balls and rain of lead, administering to the wants of our soldiers, filling their canteens with water and their haversacks with an abundance of provisions. Unheeding the shots from the enemy's guns, they thought only of the comfort of their gallant champions. One lady received a ball through her dress, whilst another lady had her parasol shot from her hand, the ball passing within two inches of her jeweled fingers. Such heroism has never been known in the annals of war, and will illuminate to the remotest generation the history of our glorious land.

A company of Federals were in possession of the courthouse, and were shooting our soldiers in all directions from the windows above. Col. Morrison, (1st Ga.) dismounted three of his companies and ordered them to charge the building, which they did in most gallant style, rushing through the public square to the very doors of the edifice, under a most galling fire of musketry. Conscious that the loss of life to our men would be terrible by attempting to pass up the stairway, the building was immediately set on fire, when the Yankees above bawled out lustily for quarters. The fire was extinguished, the whole company surrendered, and our imprisoned fellow citizens were happily released. Old Capt. Haney was the first man to enter the courthouse and to receive in his arms the liberated captives.

Late in the day Col. Morrison was surprised to see the old hero rushing towards him frantic with joy; and exclaiming "Colonel, I'll be d—d if I haven't taken Gen. Crittenden and all his staff!"—"You don't say so, Captain," answered the Colonel "If I haven't there's no h—ll!" exclaimed the old man and passed on to new deeds of heroism and of glory.

Telegrams

☞Continued from first page.☜

Col McCook while going to Decatur in an ambulance, attended by a body guard, was attacked by the guerrillas and killed.

Everything outside of Huntsville is a scene of desolation—houses are deserted and sacked, and fields laid waste.

Gens Buel and Rosseau have 2000 men in the vicinity of Huntsville; 500 negroes are entrenching on the north side of Huntsville, and 400 negroes and a large force of soldiers are fortifying Stevenson.

The enemy have rebuilt the bridges and restored the broken track on the railroad from Nashville to Huntsville and Bridgeport.

Richmond, Aug 12—The following official dispatch was received today at headquarters:

Valley District, Aug. 11, 6¾ o'clock, a. m.

Col.—On the evening of the 9th instant God blessed our arms with another victory. The battle was near Cedar river, about six miles from Culpepper Court House. The enemy's forces, according to the statements of prisoners, consisted of Banks, McDowell, and Seigel's commands. We have over four hundred prisoners, including Brig. Gen. Prince whilst our loss in killed is less than the enemy. Yet we have to mourn the loss of some of our best officers and men. Brig. Gen. Chas. S. Winder was mortally wounded whilst ably discharging his duty at the head of his command, which was the advance of the left wing of the army. We have collected about 1500 small arms and other ordnance stores.

I am, Colonel, your ob'd't serv't,
T. J. JACKSON,
To Col. R. H. Chilton, A. A. G.

Augusta Aug. 14—The Savannah News of this morning says that the steamer Gen. Lee returned from Fort Pulaski on Monday night last. She was detained at the Fort on the ground that the Federals thought she was going to return without their permission. Her officers were sent to Hilton Head but subsequently allowed to return with the boat. A great many articles were stolen from the boat by the Yankees, but the Federal officers promised to punish the theft.

Richmond, Aug. 12.—Northern dates of the 9th have been received. The War Department has issued an order vesting the United States Marshal and Chief of Police with full power to arrest and imprison any person who by act, speech, or writing tend to the discouragement of volunteers or enlistments, or in giving aid and comfort to the enemy. It is also ordered that every citizen liable to be drafted, who shall attempt to leave the country, shall be arrested. It has since been ordered that the militia be drafted.

Volunteering is reported to have rapidly improved. A dispatch from Harrisonburg says Pennsylvania has made up her quota.

The London Herald's Paris correspondent says an article in the Constitutionel, advocating the recognition of the South, has created a great sensation. It is looked upon as confirming the report that Lord Palmerston, having declined to join France in tendering mediation between the belligerents, the step has been taken jointly by France and Russia.

The Paris correspondent of the Independent Belge says the Emperor of Russia has proposed to make a personal appeal to President Lincoln, in order to induce him to accept in principle the negotiation of compromise between the North and South.

Richmond, Aug. 13.—New York papers of the 9th contain letters from Port Royal expressing great apprehension of an attack upon the fleet at Hilton Head, and agree as hazardous in the extreme, their positions at that point Beaufort, and fear the Yankees will loose supremacy over those waters. Great preparations on those islands to resist an attack.

At last accounts the excitement had somewhat abated, three contrabands having reported that floating battery is a complete failure.

The name of Jeff. Davis has been erased from the arch of the Washington and Potomac Aqueduct, by order of Secretary Smith.