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coffee, and eatables our wounded, who were left in their hands, had in their possession.

Reinforcements are pouring in. The Government is sparing no effort to keep up the army to its maximum efficiency. Several thousand troops marched yesterday to the front, full of heart and hope. General Meade has issued an order stating that he is well satisfied with the position of affairs, that reinforcements are steadily arriving, and that, as the rebel communications are cut, the enemy is just in the condition which is most desired. We have constructed entrenchments, mounted guns, and will be ready to open fire when deemed advisable. When the weather permits, we may prepare ourselves for one of the deadliest and most decisive struggles of the war. All useless appendages are being rapidly removed, and the wounded are coming in steadily from the front. A few days more will mark an epoch in our history."

WASHINGTON, May 18, 11:15 A. M.

We have received no reports of operations since my last dispatch. The latest information from General Grant was that the roads had greatly improved. Large reinforcements had reached him, and he designed to move against the enemy without delay.

It is the design of the Government to keep up the national forces until the rebellion is overthrown, and in order to provide against any inopportune reduction, when the service of the hundred days' men expires a draft to fill up their place and all other reductions will be ordered to take place on the first of July, by which time the new enrollments will be completed. No order is yet issued.

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

The following important intelligence of the operations of Gen. Crooks, in Southwestern Virginia, is derived from a dispatch to the Cincinnati *Commercial* of the 18th inst., dated Gauley Bridge, May 17:

"A courier has arrived this morning direct from Gen. Crooks. He has fought three battles near Newbern, in Pulaski county, Virginia, on the direct line of the East Tennessee railroad, with the forces under Generals Morgan, Sam Jones, and A. Jenkins, gaining a complete victory over the enemy. The enemy lost 600 in killed and wounded, and we took 300 prisoners. General A. Jenkins fell into our hands, mortally wounded. Our loss is 400 killed and wounded. The large railroad bridge over New river at Newbern, with several miles of track, is completely destroyed. Gen. Crooks was at Newbern on the 13th.

CAIRO, May 18.

The report of the blockade of the Red river below Alexandria, Louisiana, is confirmed. It is reported that there is a partial blockade of the Arkansas river, below Little rock. Effective preparations are being made to blockade White river also; but it is believed that General Canby will soon attend to these matters.

Friday, 20.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, }
May 18-6 P. M. }

The attack on the enemy's right was to have been made at an early hour this morning, but on examining the ground in that vicinity it was found to be unfavorable for the handling of an army, so the plan was changed, and at 5 o'clock this morning, Hancock, supported by the 6th corps on his right and Burnside on the left, advanced against the enemy's works. The rifle-

pits in front were those which had been abandoned by us, but were filled with rebel sharpshooters, who were soon dislodged and driven through a second line and behind a thick and impenetrable abatis, which was of a most formidable nature. On examination, it was deemed best not to attempt charging through this barrier, and the troops fell back in good order, although exposed to a galling fire of shells and canister from both flanks. Our loss in this movement was considerable, being about eight hundred in killed and wounded, among whom were Colonel Murphy, commanding Corcoran Legion, wounded; Lieutenant Colonel De Lacy, 16th New York volunteers, in bowels; Major Burns, 155 New York, in head; Lieutenant Colonel Vanderharden, 116 Pennsylvania volunteers, in shoulder; Major Baker, commanding 30th New York, wounded; and Major Carples, 52d New York, wounded.

Burnside's corps were partly engaged, and lost of the above amount about one-fourth.

The Corcoran Legion acted like veterans, and kept their ground for over an hour under a very hot fire.

An attack was made by the rebels on the left in the afternoon, where Warren was posted, but our batteries soon drove the enemy back and silenced their guns.

All is now quiet.

MAY 19, 9 A. M.—I have just received news that Guinea Station, on the Fredericksburg and Richmond railroad was entered last night by our scouts. They captured telegraph operators and apparatus, rebel mail, etc. The station was destroyed, besides a large quantity of supplies.

BERMUDA HUNDRED, May 18.

All quiet with our army to-day.

The object of the demonstration on Fort Darling was merely to draw off and entertain as many of Lee's troops as possible. Also, to attract the attention of all the rebel forces in and about Richmond, to enable General Kautz to destroy the communications south of Richmond.

On Monday morning, the 16th, the enemy came out of their earthworks in front of Fort Darling at daybreak, having been heavily reinforced during the night by Longstreet's corps, and made three separate desperate charges upon our entrenchments, all of which were promptly and energetically repulsed by our men.

The enemy lost, in these three charges, from 1,000 to 1,500 men, while our loss was very slight.

General Butler having learned that Beauregard was heavily reinforced by Longstreet's corps; also, by rebel papers and a courier, ascertained that General Kautz's cavalry had destroyed the bridge over the Appomattox river and several miles of the Danville railroad track; also, the dams, locks, and embankments of the canal leading into Richmond, decided to fall back from before Fort Darling, and gave orders accordingly, and by Monday evening our army had safely arrived behind our new lines of entrenchments, having retired in perfect order, excepting General Hickman's brigade, which was badly disorganized, and the General captured. This brigade formed the extreme right wing, and the enemy attacked this point with great desperation, following them back nearly two miles with an overwhelming force, capturing a large number, and killing and wounding many of the brigade.

Three of our siege guns fell into the hands of the enemy, the horses being killed. The guns were previously spiked.

At present it is impossible to estimate our loss. Stragglers are constantly coming in.

We have lost more prisoners than the enemy. But their loss in killed and wounded doubly exceeds ours, as our men were protected by entrenchments.

Several of Longstreet's men were captured, who stated that his whole force was co-operating with Beauregard.

Lieutenant Colonel Floyd and Captain Couch, of the 3d New York infantry, are wounded, the former in the leg, and the latter has lost his left arm.

Saturday, 21.

WASHINGTON, May 20—6:20 P. M.

To Major General Dix, New York:—

This afternoon we have dispatches dated at half-past eight this morning from General Grant.

Last evening an effort was made by Ewell's corps to turn our right. They were promptly repulsed by Birney's and Tyler's division, and some of Warren's troops that were on the extreme right. About three hundred prisoners fell into our hands, besides many killed and wounded. Our loss foots up a little over six hundred wounded, and about one hundred and fifty killed and missing.

Gen. Grant says that probably our killed and missing are overstated.

Over twenty-five thousand veteran reinforcements have been forwarded to Gen. Grant.

The condition of the army, and his contemplated operations, are entirely satisfactory. The army is abundantly supplied.

Under instructions from this department, Col. Schriver, commanding at Fredericksburg, is arresting and sending to Washington as hostages for our wounded soldiers sent to Richmond by Mayor Slaughter, an equal number of the principal citizens of Fredericksburg and its vicinity. Nine persons are in custody, who are suspected to have been engaged with Mayor Slaughter.

The Mayor had made his escape before intelligence of the outrage had reached Washington.

Our gunboats have reached Fredericksburg, and the sick and wounded who could not be transported overland, will be brought here on water transports.

Despatches from Sherman, dated at Kingston, ten o'clock last night, state that during the day he had pushed a column beyond that place after Johnston as far as Cassville, skirmishing the latter part of the day with Hardie's corps. A hard fight for Atlanta was looked for.

No reports have been received from Gen. Butler to-day.

Maj. Gen. Hunter has been placed in command of the Department of West Virginia, including the Shenandoah Valley.

The latest dates from Maj. Gen. Canby were at Vicksburg. The river was reported to be blockaded by shore batteries of the enemy at different points, but measures had been taken by him which were believed to be adequate for clearing the river of all such obstructions, and enable him to reach Alexandria, where he will take command of the army.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

PHILADELPHIA May 20.—Cincinnati papers contain an interesting dispatch from Gauley Bridge, West Virginia, giving an account of a brilliant victory by General Averill on the right of the main body of Crook's army. On the 10th Averill reached a point within four miles of Wytheville, where he encountered the enemy four thousand strong under General Sam Jones, and fought them four hours, driving them—killing and wounding many, and capturing some prisoners. Under cover of darkness, the enemy