

THE SOLDIERS' JOURNAL.

LOCAL AND PERSONAL ITEMS.

THE "FOURTH" AT RENDEZVOUS OF DISTRIBUTION.—The stirring melody of our post band, commingled with the sullen roar of artillery on Maryland heights, at early dawn, announced the advent of the eighty-eighth anniversary of our national independence to the slumbering denizens of our camp, and almost before the rays of the morning sun had tinged the eastern horizon everybody was astir, and all seemed to partake of the inspiration which the sacred associations of the day create. The morning was spent in quiet preparation for the contemplated ceremonies of the afternoon. At one o'clock, P. M., a sumptuous repast was served to the men, and at three they were marched by divisions to the summit of Aspect Hill, where a splendid flag-staff had been raised, and from which the stars and stripes were to be displayed for the first time with appropriate ceremonies. The men were formed by divisions on the right of the stand, under the direction of their respective commanders, while the 14th Veteran Reserves, under the command of Lieut. Colonel Carlyle Boyd, formed on the left and in front of the stand. The post band occupied a position at the foot of the flag-staff. To the beautiful and nymph-like Miss July* McKelvy, daughter of the post commandant, was assigned the duty of raising to its place the glorious ensign of our country, and as it unfolded its beautiful lines of red and white to the breeze, and turned its azure field, decked with the thirty-four stars of our national constellation, to the cloudless sky, its prototype, a shout of patriotic enthusiasm arose from the assemblage that made the welkin ring.

Maj. Schofield, Paymaster U. S. A., the orator of the day, was then introduced to the audience by Lieut. Col. McKelvy, and for more than an hour held them spell-bound by his convincing and eloquent argumentation and eulogistic sentiments. He was succeeded in turn by Mr. Jones, of Cincinnati, Ohio, Mr. Uniac, a soldier connected with the post, and Mr. Holly, of —, the latter of whom, in lieu of a speech, concluded the ceremonies by reading an admirably written letter, which constituted a fitting epilogue to what had been said by the presiding speakers.—The proceedings were interspersed with music by the band, and characterized throughout by the most unbounded enthusiasm.

Soon after nightfall the band appeared upon the stand, and immediately the heavens were aflame with fire-works, the display from Aspect Hill being very fine and extensive. The shouts of the soldiers assembled at the base of the hill, the roaring, cracking, and hissing of the fire-works, as, with lurid glare, they coursed their way through the heavens, and the moving harmonies of the band, combined to form a scene and create an entertainment inspiring in the highest degree. After the fire-works had been expended, a large number of ladies and gentlemen assembled in Dining Room No. 1, which had been fitted up in elegant style for the occasion, to enjoy a social "hop." The interior of the building being superbly decorated with festoons of evergreens, and draped with flags, when brilliantly lighted, presented a scene truly enchanting, while the beautiful and tastefully attired ladies of Washington, Alexandria, and the camp, with their escorts in rich military and

*So named because she celebrates her birth and that of American liberty on the same day.

civic costumes, contrasted pleasantly with the hangings of the hall. At about ten o'clock the orchestra struck up and the entertainment began, and continued well into the small hours of the night, a fine lunch being served at 12 o'clock, without an unfavorable circumstance to mar the brilliancy or distract the vivacious interest of the occasion. Thus concluded the celebration of our country's natal day in Rendezvous of Distribution, an occasion that will be remembered with pleasure by all who witnessed or participated in its proceedings as long as life lasts.

A NEGRO SHOT.—On Friday last a negro named Charles Brown, and a German named Geo. Fink, held as prisoners in Deserters' Division, became involved in an altercation while employed with some other prisoners in sinking a well, in the course of which the negro knocked his antagonist down with a brickbat, inflicting a severe wound just above the left eye. The German rallied and opened on the negro with stones, etc., who endeavored to defend himself with a shovel, but was compelled to retreat so precipitately that he refused to halt at the guard beat when challenged by the sentinel. The sentinel endeavored to check him with the bayonet, and failing in this ordered him to return after he had passed the beat, but the negro paid no attention and was fired upon, the charge lodging in his back and right side, inflicting a dangerous wound. He was immediately conveyed to the hospital.

ARRIVAL OF PAROLED PRISONERS.—On Friday last, sixty men, among whom were four citizens, arrived here direct from Richmond, having left there on the 26th ult. Their release was effected, we understand, through the mediation of Mayor Slaughter, of Fredericksburg, for the purpose of securing a similar disposition of the sixty citizens of Fredericksburg, now held as hostages by our government for the prisoners delivered into the enemy's hands by that barbarian, just after fighting begun in the Wilderness. They are in a sorry plight externally, but burning with a patriotic determination to wreak vengeance upon the infamous traitors of whose galling oppression they have been the subjects.

THE "FOURTH," AT AUGUR HOSPITAL, was observed with proper spirit. At early dawn a beautiful flag was unfurled from a flag-staff one hundred and twenty-five feet high, for the first time, with appropriate ceremonies; an elegant dinner was served to the patients, at two, and in the evening, such as were able, were permitted to participate in the pyrotechnical diversions of the camp.

LIEUT. CHARLES J. BROWN, in charge of Ordnance Department, furnishes the following report of the operations of his bureau, for the month of June:

Number of men, belonging to the Army of the Potomac, armed by this Department, 3,844
Rounds of ammunition issued, 384,000

MAJ. WILLIAM H. FRY, of the 16th Pa. Cav., left camp, on Sunday evening last, for the front, in charge of a provisional battalion numbering nine hundred men.

THE LATEST NEWS.

WASHINGTON, July 3.

Major General Dix:

A dispatch from Gen. Grant's headquarters, dated at 9 o'clock this morning, gives the following result of Gen. Wilson's operations:—"Sixty miles of railroad were thoroughly destroyed.—The Danville road, Gen. Wilson reports, could

not be repaired in forty days, even if all the materials were on hand. He has destroyed all the blacksmith shops where the rails might be straightened, and all the mills where scantlings for sleepers could be sawed. Thirty miles of the South Side road were destroyed. Wilson brought in about 400 negroes, and many of the vast number of horses and mules gathered by his force.—He reports that the rebels slaughtered without mercy the negroes they retook. Wilson's loss of property is a small wagon train used to carry ammunition, his ambulance train and twelve cannon. The horses of the artillery and wagons were generally brought off. Of the cannon two were removed from their carriages, the wheels of which were broken, and thrown into the water, and one other gun had been disabled by a rebel shot breaking its trunnions before it was abandoned. He estimates his total loss at 750 to 1000 men, including those lost from Kautz's division."

A rebel force made its appearance near Martinsburg this morning, and were at last accounts destroying the railroad and advancing on Martinsburg. The reports received as yet are too confused and conflicting to determine the magnitude of the force or the extent of its operations.

WASHINGTON, July 3—9P. M.

Maj. Gen. Dix, New York:

The following telegram, dated to-day at Marietta, Ga., was received this evening from Gen. Sherman, giving the successful result of the flanking operations in progress for some days back:—

"The movement on our right caused the enemy to evacuate. We occupied Kenesaw at daylight, and Marietta at half-past eight in the morning. Thomas is moving down the main road toward the Chattoohocchie, and McPherson towards the mouth of the Nickajack, on the Sandtown road. Our cavalry is on the extreme flanks. Whether the enemy will halt this side of the Chattoohocchie or not will soon be known. Marietta is almost entirely abandoned by its inhabitants.—More than a mile of the railroad iron has been removed between the town and the Kenesaw."

EDWIN M. STANTON

Secretary of War.

The safe arrival of Gen. Hunter's command at Charlestown, Western Virginia, is announced. Judging from his dispatch, the story of the capture and destruction of our batteries was a humbug. It is now asserted that Hunter lost not a pound of army property, and his losses in men will not exceed 2,000, all told—the enemy's loss was greater.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

At Rendezvous of Distribution, Va., for the week ending Saturday, July 2nd, 1864:—

BY SURGEON E. A. VANNORT.

	THERMOMETER.				WEATHER.			
	8 A.M.	WD 2 P.M.	WD 9 P.M.	WD WERT.	8 A.M.	WD 2 P.M.	WD 9 P.M.	WD WERT.
Sunday	89	W	102	W	80	W	80	Fair
Monday	85	W	91	NW	56	E	6	F-Cy
Tuesday	70	SW	80	NW	60	S	6	Fair
Wednesday	70	SW	80	SW	67	S	6	Fair
Thursday	68	S	80	S	60	S	6	Cy-F
Friday	75	W	88	SW	80	W	6	Fair
Saturday	80	SW	83	NW	79	SW	6	F-Cy
Mean Temperature during the week	77 1/2							
Rain fallen	"							
No. of Hours, 5/4, quantity	0.54							

AUGUR GENERAL HOSPITAL REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING JUNE 2ND, 1864.

No. of beds	671
" admitted during the week	137
" returned to duty	38
" transferred	7
" on furlough	6
" discharged	4
" deserted	3
" deceased	5

REMAINING IN HOSPITAL.

From Rendezvous of Distribution, 562
G. L. SUTTON, Surg. U. S. V., in Charge.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT

Of men received and sent to their respective regiments during the week ending Saturday, July 2nd, 1864:—

Men received	1320
Number of men sent to their regiments	1258
W. J. SHELDRAKE, Serg't Major.	

DESERTERS' DIVISION.

List of men received for the week ending June 18,	256
Sent away	247
Discharged	6
In Camp	254

F. T. STEWART,

Lieut. 29th Ohio Vol., in Charge.

E. E. BOYNTON, Rep. Clerk.