

St. Mary's Gazette.

DEVOTED TO LITERATURE, NEWS, AGRICULTURE, AND GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

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Decisive Battles of the World.

The decisive battles of the World, those of which, to use Hallam's words, a contrary result would have essentially varied the drama of the world in all its subsequent scenes, are numbered as fifteen by Prof. Creasy, who fills the chair of ancient and modern history in the University of London. They are the grand subjects of two volumes by him, lately from Beutly's press, and are:

1. The battle of Marathon, fought 490 B. C., in which the Greeks, under Themistocles, defeated the Persians under Darius, thereby turning back the tide of Asiatic invasion, which else would have swept over Europe.

2. The battle of Syracuse, 416 B. C., in which the Athenian power was broken, and the rest of Europe saved from Greek domination.

3. The battle of Arbela, 331 B. C., in which Alexander, by a defeat of Darius, established his power in Asia, and by the introduction of European civilization, produced an effect which may yet be traced there.

4. The battle of Meturus, 208 B. C., in which the Romans under Scipio, defeating the Carthaginians, under Hannibal, and by which the supremacy of the great Republic was established.

5. The victory of Arminius, A. D. 9, over the Roman leader Varus, which secured Gaul from Roman domination.

6. The battle of Chalons, A. D. 491, in which Aetius defeated Attila, the Hun, the self-styled "Scourge of God," and saved Europe from entire devastation.

7. The battle of Tours, A. D. 732, in which Charles Martel, by the defeat of the Saracens, averted the Mohammedan yoke from Europe.

8. The battle of Hastings, A. D. 1066, in which William of Normandy was victorious over the Anglo-Saxon Harold, and the result of which was the formation of the Anglo-Norman nation, which is now dominant in the world.

9. The battle of Orleans, A. D. 1429, in which the English were defeated, and the independent existence of France secured.

10. The defeat of the Spanish Armada, A. D. 1588, which crushed the hopes of Papacy in England.

11. The battle of Blenheim, A. D. 1704, in which Marlborough, by the defeat of Tallard, broke the power and crushed the ambitious schemes of Louis XIV.

12. The defeat of Charles XII, by Peter the Great, at Pultowa, A. D. 1709, which secured the stability of the Muscovite Empire.

13. The battle of Saratoga, A. D. 1777, in which Gen. Gates defeated Burgoyne, and which decided the contest in favor of the American Revolutionists, by making France their ally, and other European powers friendly to them.

14. The battle of Valmy, A. D. 1792, in which the Continental allies, under the Duke of Brunswick, were defeated by the French under Dumouriez; without which the French Revolution would have been stayed.

15. The battle of Waterloo, 1815, in which the Duke of Wellington hopelessly defeated Napoleon, and saved Europe from his grasping ambition. [Or put back Europe half a century in its progress toward liberty and distinctive nationality, which was only recovered by the battle of Solferino.]

THE SITUATION.

Unless all the indications are exceedingly deceptive, the country will soon be startled by important war news from at least four vital points—Central Virginia, Eastern Tennessee, Northern Georgia, and the region around Charleston.

The rebel news from Charleston shows that General Gillmore and Admiral Dahlgren mean mischief to that city. The monitors have got to work in earnest, and were endeavoring to open up the channel; incendiary shells had been fired into the streets, and there was every indication when the first telegram was sent that the federal army and navy were about to try and ensnare the defenses by a coup de main. The next news from that point will be awaited with breathless interest. At last accounts General Burnside's

command was in extreme peril. He had lost all of East Tennessee save Knoxville, where he was invested and in danger of capture. The administration reports him safe; but the country has lost all faith in such announcements on the part of the War Department. Matters have a very gloomy look in that quarter. Longstreet is an able general, while Burnside is not. If Longstreet had his army in motion. This threatening movement of Longstreet upon Eastern Tennessee compels him to take the initiative against Bragg. The latter must either fall back or fight, and, to save Longstreet, he must do the latter. Reinforced by General Sherman's command, which is much larger than the highest rebel guesses have placed it, General Thomas' force must largely exceed that of the enemy. If numbers, skill, and valor can give us a victory, we ought soon to hear of one in the neighborhood of Chattanooga.

General Meade's army is also in motion, and Lee must either fall back to Richmond or fight a battle. There are indications that his purpose is to retreat, and the sudden sending away of the Union prisoners would seem to indicate that the rebel government is of opinion that a siege of their capital is not an improbable event.

In the new march "On to Richmond" the country may rest assured that General Meade will do all that an able, skillful officer can do. Gettysburg proved General Meade to be an accomplished tactician as General Lee, and the recent movements in Virginia show him to be a master of strategy. He has yet to win his spurs in a great offensive movement; but his recent brilliant success over Lee on the Rappahannock indicates an ability on his part to give as well to avoid a blow.

It is well understood that Gen. Meade is advancing against Lee under positive orders. His own judgment is against so important a movement without a larger force. So, if a reverse should occur, the fault must not be laid at his door, but at those of the President and General Halleck.

All the movements in the field seem to be co-operative, except the one at Texas. If General Banks was not operating against Mobile instead of Brownsville, he would have kept 20,000 rebels employed at the former point who are now swelling the armies of Bragg and Longstreet. If we lose Eastern Tennessee it will be because of this aimless Texas expedition.—*New York World.*

LATEST NEWS FROM THE SOUTH.

The following are extracts from Richmond papers:

PRISONERS RATIONED IN RICHMOND.

[From the Richmond Examiner, Nov. 21.] As the Yankee press and people are just now dreadfully exercised in regard to the quantity and quality of the food furnished the Yankee prisoners, we append the bill of fare served daily at the Libby and Castle Thunders, furnished us by the commandants of these two posts.

At the Libby, one pound of fresh bread or crackers and half a pound of fresh beef, (the fatted cow killed daily for their feasting) varied daily by sweet potatoes and nutritious soup. The same ration is also served on Belle Isle; and is the identical food that the lying, vindictive, Puritan chaplains stigmatize as putrid and unfit to eat upon every occasion of their return to the North.

Our greatest regret is, that the soldiers in General Lee's army are not furnished with the same ration every day. At the Castle, where are confined the Confederate prisoners and several hundred Yankee deserters and Union men, the rations consist of half a pound of fresh meat and half a pound of bread for breakfast, and for dinner and supper combined half a pound of bread, with a pint or pint and a half of excellent soup; cabbage, (the best we ever saw,) turnips and sweet potatoes, forming the ingredients. If prisoners are discontented with such fare as we have enumerated, baked turkey, pound cake and wine would find them grumbling still.

We always suspected that this outcry at the North against the imaginary wrongs and privations of the Yankee prisoners was gotten up to be used as a new "war cry," all the rest having "played out," and as a means to increase the hate, already very enough, between the two sections.

THE LATE FIGHT IN THE TEEDE DISTRICT.

Mobile, Nov. 16.—A letter received from a member of Gen. Green's staff announces the defeat of two Yankee columns in Louisiana. Gen. Franklin's division encountered a portion of Gen. Dick Taylor's army, under Gen. Green, near Alexandria, on the 5th, and after a stubborn fight the Yankees were routed, with the loss of their stores and 600 prisoners. Gen. Weitzel's division is reported to have been routed by Gen. Dick Taylor, near Opelousha. The expedition is said to be abandoned. A portion of the troops have returned to Port Hudson and Baton Rouge.

FROM NORTHERN VIRGINIA. [From the Richmond Examiner, Nov. 21.] Since the recent successful dash of Gen-

eral Hampton upon the camp of the enemy, there have been no military movements of interest in Northern Virginia. All was quiet along our lines up to eleven o'clock yesterday morning.

ANCIENT ESTATES.

In a recent editorial article we alluded to the fact that in England, such was the influence of example and custom, that they were often handed down from father to son for long generations. Corroborative of this, we find the following facts in a recent number of an English periodical.—The interesting and often quoted statement made some time since by Lord Palmerston, respecting the uninterupted descent for nearly eight centuries, from father to son, of a small estate in his own neighborhood in the new forest, relates, as is well-known, to the family of Parkis, the lime-burner, who picked up the body of William Rufus, and carried it in his humble cart to Winchester to receive the last sad rites. But we can place upon record a case of still longer descent of a small property among persons in no way allied to rank and fortune and who have never risen above the condition of yeomen; while, we believe, they have never fallen below it. At Ambrose's Barn, on the border of the parish of Thorpe, near Chertsey, still resides a farmer of the name of Wapshot, whose ancestors have lived, without a break, upon the same spot, ever since the reign of Alfred the Great, by whom the farm was granted to Reginald Wapshot.—There are several families among our unprivileged gentry—the country aristocracy, who can trace their names and possessions in a direct male descent back to the Saxon times—below that rank we are not aware of a more striking instance of permanence among changes than the past history of the Wapshots.

There is something very pleasant in this long continuance of an estate in the same family—but we are afraid that it is often the result of considerable injustice to the younger sons and daughters. The claims of the latter to a fair and equal portion of the father's property, must of course be sacrificed to the dignity of the estate and of the family name. Is it not paying, as Dr. Franklin would say, rather "too dear for the whistle"? Probably the younger children generally would decide that it was.—*Saturday Evening Post.*

The Little Gentleman and General Washington.

"SENEX," in the Alexandria Gazette, is furnishing that paper with a series of reminiscences of the "Old Town." In a late number we find the following anecdote: There was a little gentleman in Alexandria by the name of—let me think—I will not assert that it was Prigg, I would not swear that it was not Priggins, nor would I wager that it was neither the one nor the other. It matters not—the little gentleman was very pragmatical and very testy, and whoever saw a little gentleman that was not? Politics raged here, with great bitterness. Prig was of the Jefferson school; it is well known that Washington was a Federalist. On the occasion of a large political gathering in Alexandria, the little man, as was usual, was hobnobbing about, and though seen by very few at a time, he was heard everywhere, and was very abusive of all who did not happen to think exactly with himself. Always turning and shifting about, he, in the course of the day, chanced to be where the General was standing, and his remarks being exceedingly offensive, Washington gave vent to some expression, which caused much umbrage to the little gentleman. Being as plucky as he was quick, he rushed towards the General with hostile intent. Whether arrested before he gave the blow, I am not informed, but everybody stood amazed. On the day following the General sent word to the little gentleman that he wished to see him at his rooms, in the City Hotel. Nothing daunted, he promptly obeyed the summons, but what was his surprise, when instead of pistols for two, as he expected, he saw upon the table a decanter of wine, and two wine glasses! "Good morning, sir," said Washington, in his blindest accents, at the same time extending his hand. "I am always provoked with myself, Mr. P., when, at any time, I do anything which my judgment condemns, and I am particularly so now, for having used towards you the epithet which I did yesterday. I ask your forgiveness, sir, and I beg that you will further oblige me, by taking with me a glass of wine." The little gentleman, who was taken all aback, and subdued almost to tears, forever afterwards, he was the fast friend of General Washington.

REMOVAL FROM WASHINGTON.

The Cincinnati Enquirer is responsible for the following rumor: We learn from reliable authority that the resignation of Chief Justice Roger B. Taney is now in the hands of the President. We also learn that the resignation of Mr. Chase as Secretary of the Treasury is also in the hands of the President. Mr. Chase, it is understood, will take the place of the Chief Justice shortly after the meeting of Congress.

THE PROPOSED PEACE CONGRESS—THE TEXT OF LOUIS NAPOLEON'S LETTER.

The letter of the Emperor of the French to the Sovereigns, inviting them to a congress at Paris, has been published. It points out that, from the political condition of Europe, it is impossible not to acknowledge that nearly everywhere the treaties of Vienna have been destroyed, modified, or misunderstood. The Emperor continues as follows: "We are threatened with a danger so much the more formidable because the improvement effected by civilization, which has bound the people together by an identity of material interests, would render a war still more destructive. Let us not wait before taking our part for sudden and irresistible events to disturb our judgment, and draw us despite ourselves into a conflict of arms. Called to the throne by Providence and the will of the French people, but trained in the school of adversity, it is perhaps less allowable for me than any other to ignore the rights of sovereigns and the legitimate aspirations of people.—Thus I am ready, without a pre-conceived system, to enter an international Congress with the spirit of moderation and justice, and to share the portion of those who have endured so many various trials. If I take the initiative in this venture, I do not yield to an impulse of vanity, but because I am a sovereign, the most credited with ambitious projects, and I have got it at least to prove by a frank and loyal step that my sole object is to arrive, without a shock, at the pacification of Europe. If this proposition be agreed to, I pray you to accept Paris as the place of meeting.—Europe would perhaps see some advantage in the capital whence the signal for overthrow has so many times issued, becoming the seat of conferences destined to lay the basis of a general pacification."

A MISMANAGED ARMY.

The Army of the Potomac appears to be used by the government as a sort of metropolitan police—a body of *gendarmes* for the protection of Washington. It patrols the environs. It is an armed vigilance committee. The soldiers feel this, and it dishonors them. They have been marched and countermarched before. Their feet are blistered, their femoral muscles ache with marching. And what does it all amount to? "Washington is safe! that's all. The country has expected something more than this of its hundred thousand veterans in Virginia. They have expected something more of themselves—believe they could have achieved success—are chagrined that they have not been permitted to do so. "Thus far shall thou go and no farther!" (from Washington) seems to be the standing order of the government to its *Hans Guards*. They have obeyed the mandate, and consequently the grand army of the Union, is just where it was a year ago. Every land mark within fifty miles of Columbia must be as familiar to every veteran in the ranks as Trinity Church is to the Bulls and Bears of Wall Street. The Country and the Troops are alike disgusted with the seamy, shilly-shally, point-to-point policy which has so far governed the movements of the national forces in Virginia.

Have we got so general that the War Department can trust with discretionary powers, who is competent to "take the responsibility"? Is the Army of the Potomac always to be tied, we had almost said, to the apron strings of the commander-in-chief?—*New York Ledger.*

FROM GILGANNAN'S MESSENGER, OCT. 24.

MEXICAN THANKS TO NAPOLEON.—The Mexican deputation was yesterday received by the Emperor. His Majesty listened with great attention to the report made to him by the President.—M. Gutierrez de Estrada—of the reception given them by the Archduke Maximilian. His Majesty congratulated the members on the favorable results of their mission, and expressed the greatest anxiety for the regeneration of Mexico.

Before retiring, M. Gutierrez de Estrada presented to the Emperor, in the name of the regency of the Mexican Empire, the vote of thanks of the junta of notables, deposited in an oblong box of massive silver of delicate workmanship, and tied up with ribbons of the national colors of Mexico—red, white and green. The box itself was enclosed in a small case of blue velvet.

"LIBERTY SERVANTS" IN NEW YORK.

The Sunday Times says, spicily:—"In the Central Park, the other day, we counted forty carriages driven by servants in livery. Twenty-five years ago, it would have been difficult to find—setting aside the attendants of foreign ministers—half that number of livery servants in the United States. Every year we see more and more the rare-show splendors of the European aristocracy. We shall soon have as much gold leaf on our gingerbread as they. It seems to us, that some thirty years ago, such beings as 'plain republicans' existed. Where are they now? The late Wm. L. Macey, when Secretary of State, issued a manifest against putting court suits on the backs of American ambassadors. Since then, we have got into courtly ways at home. Tinsel, trumpery, and etiquette reign supreme at the seat of government. Look at the quartering of some of our new first families. The panels of their carriages display coats of arms that you would hardly know from some of those last date from the days of the Crusades.—To be sure, if you have studied heraldry, the blazoning of some of the escheatous strikes you as contrary to the rule of arms. We have seen one or two that looked as if they had been executed by Rouge Sanglier, the mock pursuivant sent by William de la Marek to Charles of Burgundy, whose ignorance of his art was exposed by the duke's herald, Toinson d'O. But the colors were vivid and the varnish new and shiny, and nobody—save the nobody who is answerable for this paragraph—noticed the mistake. We are getting along finely. By and by we shall have lords and ladies, perhaps. Nay, perhaps something higher—who knows?"

THE RICHEST INCIDENT OF THE SEASON.

This forenoon, on conductor Frank Lyman's train, coming from Milwaukee to La Crosse, we saw the richest mistake of the season. In the fourth seat, back of the stove in one of the passenger cars, sat a gentleman and lady, sweet and gushing as the fairy ones of olden times. His arm encircled her waist in beaklike squeezing—his one hand wandered around her amplitude and bonnet strings, like a lost child in a berry-patch, seeking a place to rest, and his eyes were fixed on the face of his fair companion with all the earnestness of a Romeo. In short, they were the observed of the observers.

In the first seat back of the couple alluded to, sat a demure looking lady, naturally interested in the display of affection in front of her, so natural and touching.—When the cars entered the tunnel the gentleman was standing by the stove for a moment. When part way through, and while all was dark as night, he groped his way back—and just as the train began to emerge into the least glimmer of light, was a yell which started the entire load of passengers. The poor fellow had gone one seat too far back, had seated himself in the wrong seat, and was trying his best to kiss the demure lady, who couldn't see it. He lit out in a hurry, and with the most sheepish look we ever saw, took his place beside the girl, while the spectators were convulsed with laughter.—*La Crosse Herald.*

WANTED TO BE IN SEASON.

Not many miles from Boston, some time since, there was a revival, and a merchant who was noted for his dishonesty, suddenly became pious and joined the church. He took to exhorting, and one evening remarked that he had done many things for which he was sorry, and he deemed it his duty to make full restitution to those he had wronged. He therefore notified all such that if they would call at his store he would certainly do so.

About four o'clock the next morning a gentleman called at the merchant's house and aroused him from bed. Raising the window he demanded the business of his visitor at that early hour in the morning: "Is this Mr. W.?" "That is my name." "Well, I understand you have offered to make restitution to those you have cheated. You will remember that upon one occasion I have suffered to the extent of fifty dollars, and I have called to get it." "Why did you not wait until proper hours and then call at my store?" "Simply because I thought if I did there would be such a rush that I would not get anything."

CURE FOR SMALL-POX.

The German Reformed Messenger has received a letter from a friend in China, in which it is stated that a great discovery is reported to have been recently made by a surgeon of the English army in China, in the way of an effectual cure of small-pox. The mode of treatment is as follows: When the preceding fever is at its height, and just before the eruption appears, the chest is rubbed with croton oil and tartaric ointment. This causes the whole of the body to appear on that part of the body to the relief of the rest. It also secures a full and complete eruption, and thus prevents the disease from attacking the internal organs. This is said to be now the established mode of treatment in the English army in China, by general orders, and is regarded as a perfect cure.

LEGAL TENDER NOTES.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Post writes:—"Mr. Chase will not issue any more legal-tender notes, except of the kind bearing interest. He has authority to issue four hundred millions of this description of legal tender, bearing five per cent interest. This will satisfy all his wants during the next year. The secretary has no power to issue notes except for the national banks, and enough legal tenders (without interest) to replace the notes which have been destroyed, and it is asserted by his friends here that he will not ask Congress to give him further authority to issue notes without interest unless it may be to a small amount, in times of dangerous stringency in the money market. The notes bearing five per cent interest and made legal tender will undoubtedly be issued in sufficient quantities to pay the debts of the government after the resources from the duties, internal taxation and sale of live-twenty bonds are exhausted."

THE FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun, in a recent letter to that paper, says:—"The fugitive slave law continues to be duly executed in this city, in a case here and there, where owners in Maryland think it worth while to follow or seek the absconders here. Such an instance occurred on Saturday last, when a colored boy named Gusto Bullen was arrested in the market-house, on a writ, as the property of Mr. Henry Thorne, of Prince George's County, and taken before Commissioner Cox. Mr. George B. H. Day, well known in that connection, soon appeared as counsel for the boy, but Mr. Thorne readily taking the required oath of loyalty, and proving by a neighbor, Mr. Luther W. Kirby, his ownership of the negro, and also producing a letter from Dr. John H. Bayne, of the Army, endorsing his loyalty, the Commissioner considered the matter sufficient, and remanded the servant to his master."

HOW NATURE COVERS UP BATTLE-FIELDS.

Did I ever tell you, among the affecting little things one is always seeing in these stirring war times, how I saw on the Bull Run battle field, pretty, pure, delicate flowers growing out of the emptied ammunition boxes, a rose thrusting up its graceful head through the head of a Union drum, which doubtless sounded its last charge (or retreat, as the case may have been,) in the battle, and a cunning scabrous verberna peeping out of a fragment of bruised shell, in which strange cupit had been planted? Even so shall the graceful and beautiful ever grow out of the horrid and terrible things that transpire in this changing but ever advancing world.—Nature covers even battle grounds with verdure and bloom. Peace and plenty soon spring up in the track of devastating campaigns, and all things in nature and society shall work out the progress of mankind and harmony of God's great design.

GENERAL HOOD.

The Knoxville Register says General Hood has been promoted to a Lieutenant Generalship for meritorious service. The Memphis (Atlanta, Ga.) Appeal, of the 10th, says he would leave that afternoon for Richmond. He still travels on a litter; but during his stay at Atlanta he greatly improved, and we learn that their is little doubt that he will in due time, be able to assume active duties in the field. The Appeal also says that he has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General, and that the corps in General Bragg's army now commanded by Breckinridge will be known as Hood's corps.

THE NEXT SPEAKER.

Indications from all directions point to the successful election of the Hon. Schuyler Colfax as the next Speaker of the House, by an almost unanimous choice, and the withdrawal of Casey, of Kentucky, for the Clerkship, in favor of Hon. Edward McPherson, of Pennsylvania, now Deputy Commissioner of Internal Revenue, indicates his selection, for that post. His only competitors of any consequence are Mr. Buckingham, of Massachusetts, and Mr. Fessenden, of Maine. Both of these gentlemen are ex-members.

DEAN UPON IRELAND.

Late English papers state that the drain on the farming population of Ireland is giving serious alarm to the landlords of that country. At a recent agricultural dinner, the Marquis of Waterford declared that, if the emigration continued at the rate at which it had lately progressed, there would be no laborers to the soil, and Ireland would become a mere sheep-walk.

THE POPULAR VOTE OF MARYLAND.

Assuming that the vote for Mr. Gadsden for Comptroller of the Treasury, denotes the actual strength of the Union sympathies in Maryland, it will be found, by considering the full vote of the State, that this new party is far from being in the ascendancy in Maryland.