The Goodhue Volunteer

J. H. PARKER : : : : Editor.

Red Wing, May 14, 1862.

McClellans Plans.

The Washington correspondent of the New York *Times* says:

"It is not improper now to say that General McClellan's plan of the campaign of the peninsula was, when he had got into position before Yorktown, to have General McDowell push across to the head of the peninsula with 50,000 men and cut off the rebel retreat that has now taken place. If this plan had been carried out not a regiment of all the rebel army at Yorktown would have escaped; but the plan was changed at Washington after General McClellan got before Yorktown and changed without his knowledge or consent. His enemies blame him now for letting the enemy away, the very thing, above all others, that McClellan's plan, if followed would have effectually prevented."

With regard to the authenticity of the above we know nothing. Probably the correspondent of the *Times* knows about as much about the matter as we do, which is not enough to bet on. The policy and feasibility of the plan indicated by the foregoing quotation, however, is perfectly apparent to every one: and with regard to the improper interference of the Washington military civilians, it was some time ago stated that Gen. McClellan had filed in the office of the Secretary of War, a protest particularly setting forth the particular items which he protested against, so that if he should be unsuccessful and his failure should be owing to such interference, the blame might rest where it belongs. In his official report of the evacuation however, he says nothing to indicate that things are working contrary to his hopes or expectations. He speaks with the utmost confidence of being able to "drive the enemy to the wall," and all his preparations indicate that he was expecting them to leave. So, although it appears to us that it would have been good warfare to have gotten a force in the rear of the enemy as rapidly as possible, yet it may not have been any part of the original design. If it was not, and things are working in their contemplated order, we yet have confidence to believe it will come out all right. But we confess we can see but little advantage to be gained by the capture of Richmond unless the army is broken, captured or dispersed, notwithstanding some of our exchanges seem to be jubilent over the prospect of the speedy unobstructed march of our army to Richmond.

United States Securities.

The evidence of the stability of the old Republic, around whose destinies the hope of millions of her children cling; over whose once apparently impending destruction thousands have wept, and hearts have bled, for whose salvation alters of worship have been vocal with supplications to the Almighty, is no less apparent in the brilliant victories of our armies, than in the firmness with which the Government securities not only maintain their value, but steadily and constantly appreciate, notwithstanding all the fluctuation incident to the interuption of trade consequent on a state of war. The seven and three tenth per cent notes are in demand at $1.02 which is fully as good as gold, six per cent bonds, payable in 1881 are worth 97 cents, while certificates of government indebtedness on all kinds of contracts are worth, and eagerly purchased at 99 cents. This is as good and perhaps better than can be said of any other government securities on earth and considering the war now on our hands is highly creditable to our government. Our Treasury Department has been managed with consumate skill and to Mr. Chase, as much as to any other man on the continent is due the present prosperity of affairs. He has not made much fuss but he has done a great deal of work.

This state of things surprises those foreign financial lords, who supposed that unless they came forward with their money we should be moneyless and consequently powerless, while it demonstrates the wisdom of relying upon ourselves for all things money included.

Sharp Shooters.

Our company of Sharp Shooters are in Mc Dowell's division on the Rapahannock, and have not yet had much chance to signalize themselves, although when the opportunity is presented they will, no doubt give good account of themselves. But the Sharp Shooters that have figured before Yorktown have astonished the world by the accuracy of their aim, and the deadly effect of their fire at distances at which it was never before thought possible to do execution with small arms. In some instances rebels have been made to bite the dust at the incredible distance of one thousand yards; and frequently entire batteries have been silenced, because no man dared expose himself to certain death by attempting to load or fire it. Whoever conceived the idea of organising a regiment of professional marksmen, is the man who did a great service for his county, by bringing into our army such an effectual force

Prospect of the Crops.

From close observation extending over a considerable portion of the county, and from careful inquiry from all parts, we have arrived at the conclusion that the crops this year, if nothing unforeseen intervenes, will be quite as abundant as last year, and probably more so. As great breadth of land has been sown to wheat, while much more is being put into corn and oats. These, last year, were neglected to such an extent that they have commanded an exhorbitant price. In many portions of the county, there is scarcely enough left for seed. To remedy this evil, and to prevent its recurrence next year (with the exception of that portion relating to price) our farmers generally are planting freely.

So far as our observation has extended, all the old plowed ground has been or is being planted, while all the land broken up last summer is being planted in addition to wheat was planted last year.

Gold Hunting.

From every section of the State, and from nearly all the Northern States of this Union comes the intelligence that people are leaving for the gold mines. The present excitement on this subject is not new. From the records of the earliest civilization among men we learn that gold has been the central object of all their hopes. The passion for mining seems to come periodically lasting a while and then dying out.

The discovery of America, although no doubt the result of scientific calculation on the part of Columbus, was, so far as his patrons and those explorers who immediately followed him were concerned, based upon, and brought about by the one absorbing hope to get gold.

The first discoveries of the metal in South America and in Mexico, was the signal for the outburst of all those evil passions that may at times possess wicked men. Those discoveries though the cause of immediate wealth and inflated trade, were the ruination of Spain.

Ever since, discoveries have been going on, until it is now admitted by all, that gold exists in every portion of this country—in some to a much greater extent than in others.

With each new discovery, the mania for gold digging has sprung up, and men have left good business, pleasant homes, valued friends and all they have on earth, to seek their fortunes, they know not where. Experience has been uniform. Not more than one out of ten make anything, and not more than one out of an hundred gets rich. It is a lottery. Yet men say "I may win, I can but lose."

The first discovery of gold in California set on fire the whole nation; thousands yes millions flocked to that land of promise, and experienced cheerfully and nobly sufferings and privations that they would not have endured at home, all in the hope of acquiring that which they hoped would place them above want, and give them a position in the world.

California is without doubt as good gold region as there is on the continent. Just as large stories were told about it, in the early days of its discovery as there are now being told about the Pikes Peak, the Cariboo or the Salmon River mines; yet the failures in California exceed the successes by millions.

We may hope for nothing better now.—That there is gold, and plenty of gold in each of the places mentioned we have no doubt. So there was and is plenty of gold in California. The migration is pretty evenly divided between the three places this spring, and we certainly hope they will all do well. But if they would all stay at home we are sure they would.

More Trouble with England.

Sometime ago our blockading ships captured the English ship Emilie S. Pierie, while the latter was attempting to run the blockade. A prize crew was put on board of her and she was sent to a Northern Port for adjudication. While on the way the Captain and crew of the captured vessel recaptured her from the prize crew, and escaped Our Minister, Mr. Adams, has demanded of the British government that she be given up, we assuming the doctrine that the British captain was unjustafiable in the act of resisting the prize crew, that he should have awaited the decision or a prize court to determine his rights, being of a neutral nation and not entitled, as beligerants are to resort to force under such circumstances.—What the English rule in such a case will be is uncertain. It seems to us there may be some force in the position they will probably assume that if a vessel is taken as a prize, she is taken by force and must be held by force; and if at any time that force is inadquate to hold the vessel, it amounts to an abandonment of the prize and, that therefor, the act of the English Captain was not an unlawful act. Our government probably have not demanded a restoration however without full consideration of the subject.

Agricultural Products.

BEAURU OF STATISTICS,
St. Paul, April 24th, 1862

Mr. Editor:

As the Assessor is on his rounds again will you oblige me by calling attention to the following facts:

1. Farmers are required by law to furnish assessors with *lists of their crops of the previous year*, giving the area of each crop, and the amount produced according to blank schedules supplied by assessors.

2. These lists of crops are not intended for the purpose of taxation, but solely for statistical purposes. It is highly important that this be understood in order that complete lists may be furnished.

3 The law provides only for the listing of the crops of the previous year, but in addition, I have sent circulars to assessors requesting them to keep an account of the number of acres sown or planted in each crop the present year.

Will you do me the favor to impress upon your farmer readers the fact that the information thus sought is for purely statistical purposes, and to urge them to make full and accurate statements of the tillage of the present year, as well as the crops of last.

J. A. WHERLOCK,
Com. Statistics.

WHAT John J. Crittenden thinks of President Lincoln, is pretty plainly expressed by the following passage from his speech in Congress on the Emancipation Bill.

I voted against Mr. Lincoln and opposed him honestly and sincerely; but Mr. Lincoln has won me to his side. There is a niche in the Temple of Fame, a niche near to Washington, which should be occupied by the statue of him who shall save his country. Mr. Lincoln has a mighty destiny.—It is for him to step into that niche. It is for him to be but a President of the people of the United States and there will his status be. It is in his power to occupy a place next to Washington—the founder and preserver—side by side.

Miscellaneous Items.

THE City of Philadelphia being short of money, the Pennsylvania Central Railroad has advanced $100,000 expressly to pay the school teachers.

THE editress of the *Ladies Repository* says 'the nation wants a man;' and the Milford *Journal* asks, if that lady has not "confounded her own personal want with that of the nation."

IMPORTANT IF TRUE.—The Indianapolis *Journal* says that Hon. Henry S. Lane, of the U. S. Senate, and Hon. C. B. Smith Secretary of the Interior, have written letters to that city stating that the war will be terminated in ten weeks.

THE best drilled as well as the best dressed regiment in New Orleans, is a negro regiment, and prominent among them can be seen "Old Jordan, who is captain of company A. All the officers of this regiment are colored.

A GOOD HIT.—Mr. Colfax in his efforts to protect the press from the serious and oppressive consequences of the tax levy, said that it would kill many of the country newspapers, which would all be needed to explain the complications and machinery of the tax bill.

THE Louisville *Democrat* is guilty of the following:

Epitaph discovered on an old tombstone in the old churchyard at Weisnishtwo:

Here lies Toutant de Beauregard,
Who for the truth had no regard.
When seized by Satan he will cry,
"I've caught old Satan! Victory!"

POETIC JUSTICE.—there has been considerable "poetic justice" in this war, and the last instance that we have heard of is, that the crew of the Galena is made up of picked men from the crews of the two vessels disabled by the Merrimac.

SINCE the capture of Fort Henry there have arrived at Cincinnati, from the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers, a total of 2,822 sick and wounded soldiers, of whom some 250 were rebels. They made eighteen steamboat loads. Nine of these boats bringing some 1,900 wounded, came from the Pittsburg battle field.

Maine has begun to furnish horses to England. A Morgan mare, five years old, 15 hands high, and weighing 1,000 pounds, brought in Norway village last fall, and well known as the "Belle of Brunswick," has recently been taken to Liverpool for Mr. John De Costa. The mare has trotted in 2:50, and sold for $800.

SINGULAR.—At Yorktown a soldier, named Corporal Tucker, was injured under remarkable circumstances. The shot in passing did not strike him, but the velocity of the missle raised a swelling on his breast and bereft the poor man of his speech.—The doctors think he will regain his utterance.

THE Flood in Mohawk Valley, N. Y., last Thursday, was higher than it has been known for twenty years. The New York Central railroad was completely submerged on Thursday and Friday, and no trains could run, owing to the high water putting out the fires in the engines.

NEW MILITIA LAW IN NEW YORK.—The Legislature of New York has passed a bill creating a new militia system in that State, which will effect an entire revolution in the present system. Under it the militia will be known as the National Guard of the State of New York.

THE Washington *Republican* avers that not one-fourth of the sum appropriated by the emancipation bill for the compensation of slave owners, will be needed, so many of the slaves having already been run off by their masters in anticipation of the passage of the act.

TROPHY FROM PITTSBURG.—An object of great interest was on exhibition at the Board of trade, in Chicago, a few days since. It was a Louisiana lance about twelve feet in length, taken from a member of a company of cavalry known as the "Hell Cats" and brought to that city by J. G. Wilson, Esq. just returned from the battle field.

A SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT.—When the rebel prisoners were about leaving Chicago for Madison, as they reached the cars, the Washington Artillery, of Memphis, seeing Col. Mulligan approach, proposed three cheers for him, which were given with a zest by the whole line.

THE Telegraph reported yesterday morning the passage by the lower House of Congress of the bill to prevent and punish polygamy, and to amend certain acts of the Territory of Utah establishing the same.—Should this bill finally pass, it will probably occasion some trouble among our Utah bretheren, and probably renew the discussion of territorial sovereignty.

GENERAL DONIPHAN of Missouri has taken the stump in favor of the Union, and is counselling all men caught by the secession delusion, to abandon that cause, to lay down their arms if they have been engaged in acts of disloyalty, and to show their sincerity by taking the oath of allegiance, and if demanded to enter into bonds for their good conduct.

IT is stated that there are as many as forty ladies employed in the Treasury department, clipping government notes. The credit of employing women instead of men—where it can be done—is due to Secretary Chase. Among the women is one upon whose musical education fifty thousand dollars have been spent by her friends.

THE colored people of Chicago held a mass meeting on the 21st inst. on the occasion of emancipation in the District of Columbia. Among other resolutions they passed the following very sensible one:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting (and we speak advisedly for the masses of our people) that the abolition of slavery in the Southern States will result in the general migration of the colored people of the North to the South.

A good anecdote is told of one of the Connecticut boys. While in conversation with a rebel, after the capture of Fort Pulaski, the latter said, "At least, with all our faults we have never made wooden nutmegs."—The Yankee, a very demure looking specimen, innocently replied: "We do not make them of wood any longer, and pointing to one of the big projectiles lying near, which had breached the fort, added quietly, "we make them now of iron." Secesh subsided.

CHAPLAIN OF THE THIRD REGIMENT.—Governor Ramsey has appointed Rev. B. F. Crary as Chaplain of the Third Regiment Minn. Volunteers, vice Chauncey Hobart, resigned. We understand Dr. Crary has signified his acceptance of the position, and will immediately proceed to his field of labor. We think this is a most excellent appointment.

Rev. Mr. Eggleston will supply Dr. Crary's pulpit for the time being.—*Pioneer.*

BY TELEGRAPH.

Hard Faught Battle

OUR VICTORY COMPMETE.

From Below New Orleans

A NAVAL BATTLE.

MOVEMENT ON NORFOLK.

SEWALL'S POINT ATTACKED.

NORFOLK OURS.

ALSO THE NAVY YARD.

MERRIMAC BLOWN UP.

FROM FOOTE'S FLOTILLA.

Our Troops Within Twenty-two Miles of Richmond.

WILLIAMSBURG, May 6.

To E. M. Stanton Secretary of War.

I have the pleasure to announce the occupation of this place at the result of a hard fought action yesterday, by Honcock's Brigade. The engagement had the effect to turn the left of the enemy's line of works.

The enemy abandoned their entire line during the night, leaving all of his sick and wounded in our hands.

The loss yesterday was very severe.

We have some 300 men wounded, and more than 1,000 wounded and prisoners.

Their loss is heavy—our victory complete.

I have sent cavalry in pursuit. The conduct of our men was excellent, with scarcely an exception.

The enemy's works were extensive and exceedingly strong.

Our loss in Hooker's division is heavy but very little in other parts of the field.

Hancock's success was gained with a loss of not over 25 killed and wounded.

We have other battles to fight before reaching Richmond.

The rebels are flying from Williamsburg towards Richmond. G. B. McCLELLAN.

WILLIAMSBURG, VA., May 6.

The enemy evacuated this place and their works in front last night, their rear guard passing through about 6 o'clock, and at 9 General McClellan and escort entered the town.

We are in possession of about 150 of the enemy's wounded who were left behind without any rations, medicine, or surgeons. They also left a number of their dead unburied.

The enemy had a force here yesterday of 50,000 men and only decided to evacuate after the brilliant bayonet charge of General Hancock.

A majority of the white inhabitants remain. The number of the enemy now in our hands will reach about 1,000, including the wounded.

WILLIAMSBURG, May 6th.

To Hon E. M. Stanton:

Every hour proves our victory more complete. The enemy's loss is great and principally in officers. I have just heard of five more of their guns being captured.

(Signed) Geo. B. McCLELLAN,
Major General.

NEW YORK, May 7.

The steamer Columbia has arrived from Havana, the 3d. The gunboat Smith arrived at Havana on the 30th from Fort Jackson, 26th.

The attack on rebel boats commenced on the 23d. Com Faragut in the Hartford, and thirteen steamers passed the forts, and General Butler landed 4,000 men above

The rebels lost eleven gunboats and the Hollin's Turtle, Manassas.

Our forces took 300 prisoners.

We lost about fifty men. Our gunboat Verona was sunk.

On the 29th a flag of truce was sent to Commodore Porter asking conditions for a surrender, to which Porter replied "No conditions." Our flag now waves over the Custom House.

The chains across the river were removed by our gunboats. The rebels sent fire rafts down the river, but they did little damage.

One set fire to the Hartford, but it was speedily extinguished.

WILLIAMSBURG, May 7.

The New York *Times'* editorial correspondent from Yorkcown states that General Franklin went up the York river with his division yesterday, and I hear this afternoon that General Sedgewick had also embarked at Yorktown, and will join Franklin this morning

They are expected to march from the York river to a place called New Kent, on the road between Williamsburg and Richmond, and there to cut off the rebels' retreat.

It is barely possible that we may have hard fighting yet, but the general opinion is that the enemy will escape in the way indicated, and that General McClellan can advance upon Richmond without any very formidable opposition.

NEW YORK, May 7.

Nassau papers of the 30th contain news from Charleston obtained from rebel schooners which had run the blockade.

F. Adderly appears to be general agent for all Secessiondom at Nassau.

The Charlestonians were expecting to be attacked soon, and considerable excitement prevailed there. Business was almost entirely suspended.

Forts Sumter and Moultrie were being furnished with heavy guns, and there was general uneasiness as to the result of the success of General McClellan at Yorktown.

Five schooners had arrived at Nassau from Charleston, with cotton and turpentine.

FORTRESS MONROE, May 8.

Shortly before noon to-day the Monitor, Naugatuck, Seminole, Susquehanna, Dacotah and San Jacinto, in order named, went up towards Sewall's Point, Capt Lardner of the Susquehanna, in command of the expedition.

As soon as within range fire was opened with shot and shell against Sewall's Point. Most of the shells were good ones It was nearly half an hour before a reply was made from the Point.

The Rip Raps next opened fire and then the Naugatuck for the first time.

Several shots were fired from the siege gun on the extremity of the Point, when one from the Monitor struck in the vicinity, doubtless disabling the gun, as it has not been fired since.

The position of the Monitor was far in advance of the rest of the fleet and she continued in motion until within a mile or two of the Point where considerable execution must have been done by her accurate firing.

The Naugatuck kept in the back ground, the range of her Parrot guns enabling her to do so. Sewall's Point battery replied briskly.

The Rip Raps fired occasionally; a continual fire was kept up from the gunboats.

On account of distance no details can be given. Nothing occurred till two o'clock when firing was very feeble from the Point. The Monitor about this time returned from her advanced position, and joined the fleet.

At 2:15 a very dense black smoke arose rapidly from the Point, caused probably by burning of rebel barracks and other buildings.

At about half past two, the Merrimac made her appearance, when the fleet returned with the exception of the Monitor.

The Merrimac is still at 5 o'clock off the Point. The Monitor is ready to attack her. The Seminole has returned to the lower roads.

There is no prospect of a fight at present. 5:30 P. M. The Monitor has returned. The Merrimac is in same position.

BALTIMORE, May 9.

The special correspondent of the *American* sends the following relative to affairs in Hampton Roads and the Peninsula.

FORTRESS MONROE, May 8.

This has been a most stirring and exciting day at Old Point, and all are anticipating the early fall of Norfolk

At eleven o'clock the steamer Naugatuck was observed raising steam, and about twelve o'clock moved out by the side of the Monitor, which vessel also cleared her deck for action taking down her awning and stood forth in full fighting trim.

11 30.—The gunboat Dacotah has just moved up in line of battle, together with the sloop of war Seminole and the San Jacinto flag ship. The Minnesota was also under steam.

12 o'clock.—The Naugatuck has moved up towards Elizabeth River, followed by the Monitor and the Dakotah, in line of battle. The San Jancinto follows slowly.

Heavy firing can be heard in the direction of James river, where you have already been informed by telegraph the Galena and other gunboats have gone up.

In the meantime the Dakotah, Monitor, and Naugatuck had reached the channel and taken a position off Sewall's Point, and the Dakotah fired a shot towards Craney Island A second shot from the Dakotah struck the beach at Sewall's Point.

12 30 P. M.—The Susquehana moves up and takes the lead of the San Jacinto and Seminole. No answer from either of the rebel forts, and the Dakotah and Seminole are steaming up the Elizabeth river.

The Naugatuck is lying off towards the mouth of James river. Presently the Dakotah and the Monitor approach Craney Island and Sewall's Point.

The Dakotah fires every few minutes alternately at Sewall's Point and Craney Island, the enemy making no reply although the balls reach their intended destination

The Monitor is now taking the lead, in the meantime the Seminole and Susquehana opened on Sewall's Point, and two shots are fired from the Point, the latter falling short of the Monitor which is now a mile above the other vessels.

12:40.—The rebels are firing radidly from Sewall's Point, principally on the Monitor, while a succession of shells are being poured on the enemy from the Susquehana, Dakotah, Seminole and San Jacinto, broadside after broadside.

The Rip Raps also throw an occasional shell into Sewall's Point.

12:50—The Susquehana, Dakotah, Seminole and San Jacinto continue to pour in shells and the Monitor threw her first two shells full a mile and a half from the Point.

U. S. FLAG SHIP UNION,
HAMPTON ROADS, May 9, 2862

To His Excellency, the President of the United States:

Agreeable to a communication just received from the Hon. E. M. Stanton, I have the honor to report the instructions I gave yesterday to the officers commanding the several vessels detailed to open fire upon Sewall's Point were, that the object of the move was to ascertain the probability of landing a body of troops thereabouts, and to reduce the works if it could be done; that the wooden vessels should attack the principal works on Enfilade, and that the monitor, to be accompanied by the Stevens, should go up as far as the works and there operate in front.

On the appearance of the Merrimac outside of the works the Monitor had orders to fall back into a fair channel way and only to engage her seriously in such a position. That ship together with merchant vessels, intended for the purpose could run her down if an opportunity presents itself. The other vessels were not to hesitate to run her down, and the Baltimorian, an unarmed steamer of light draught, high speed and with a curved bow, was kept in the direction of the Monitor expressly to throw herself either before or aft of her plated house, but the Merrimac did not engage the Monitor, nor did she place herself where she could be assailed by our ram vessels to any advantage, or where there was any prospect whatever, of getting at her.

My instructions were necessarily verbal and in giving them I supposed I was carrying out your wishes in substance if not to the letter.

The demonstration resulted in establishing the fact that the number of guns in that principal work on Sewall's Point has been essentially reduced and is not greater now than about 17, and that the number of men now stationed there is comparatively quite limited.

The quarters connected with this work were set on fire by our shells, and no doubt seriously injured.

I am very respectfully,
your obedient servant,
L. M. GOLDSBOROO.
Flagg Officer commanding Naval Blockading Squadron.

MILWAUKEE, May 10.

Quite an exciting naval manouver took place at Fort Monroe on the 8th inst. without any apparent effect except to draw out the Merrimac, and cause her to return again; but when our fleet returned she was seen steaming out again. The Monitor and Merrimac were at one time within a mile and a half of each other, neither willing to advance, when the Merrimac turned round and went under the guns of Craney Island. The President viewed the scene.

Generals Franklin and Sedgewick have had a hard battle with Lee's forces, but defeated them with a loss of three hundred killed and wounded on our side

General Burnside is advancing on Norfolk.

General Grant attacked the rebels a few miles from Corinth, their line constantly falling back. It is thought they will evacuate Corinth and retire to Columbus, 95 miles south of Corinth.

A fight is progressing in General Fremont's column, the particulars of which are not yet received.

BALTIMORE, May 11.

The news brought by the boat from Old Point states that our troops crossed to the Virginia shore on Friday night, whilst the Rip Raps shelled Sewall's Point. A landing was made at Willoughby Point, at a spot selected by President Lincoln the previous day. He was among the first that stepped ashore.

The rebels fled at the advance of our troops.

The latest advices state that General Webber was within three miles of Norfolk.

The Merrimac remained all day off Caney Island.

WASHINGTON, May 11.

The Navy Department received the following this morning:

FORT MONROE, May 10—12 o'clock.

Norfolk is ours! Also Portsmouth and the Navy Yard!!

Gen. Wool completed the landing of the troops this morning, and commenced the march on Norfolk with 5,000 troops.

Secretary Chase accompanied the expedition five miles from the landing.

A rebel battery was stationed on the opposite side of the bridge over Tanner's Creek. After a few discharges the rebels burned the bridge, which compelled us to march round five miles further.

At five P. M. our forces were within a short distance of Norfolk. They were met by a delegation of citizens, and the city was formally surrendered.

Our troops marched in, and now have possession. Gen. Viele commands as Military Governor.

Neither the city nor the Navy Yard were burnt.

Gen. Huger withdrew his forces without a fight.

Commander Rogers, expedition heard from this afternoon—he is descending James River. Reports from McClellan favorable.

FORTRESS MONROE, May 11.

To Gideon Wells, Secretary of the Navy:

The Merrimac was blown up by the Rebels about 5 o'clock this morning.

The Monitor, Naugatuck and the gunboats have gone towards Norfolk.

NEW KENT COURT HOUSE, May 10.

This afternoon the pursuit of the Rebels by Gen. Stoneman has been in every respect successful. His headquarters now is 27 miles from Richmond, while the advance, composed of the Eighth Illinois Cavalry, is five miles ahead The enemy are in sight but gradually falling back.

The inhabitants in nearly every instance have left. It is said the rebels will make a stand at Batham Bridge, 15 miles from Richmond, and head-waters of the Chickahominy River. The main army is rapidly following within a few miles.

Cumberland, a small town on the Pamunkey River 2 1-2 miles from here, was destroyed by the enemy, and is now occupied by us.

The rear of the enemy is Longstreet's Division, consisting of ten regiments of infantry, two batteries and a regiment of cavalry.

An engagement took place yesterday between our advance and the enemy's rear at Slaters Mills three miles from there. Fourteen of their cavalry were killed and a number captured.

Howell Cobb was here last night and left this morning.

The enemy's retreat was admirably accomplished, carrying almost everying with them.

FLAG SHIP BENTON,
Above Fort Pillow May 10.

To Gideon Wells, Secretary of the Navy:

The naval engagement for which the rebels have been preparing, took place this morning. The rebel fleet of eight iron-clad gunboats, four of them rams, came up handsomely to the fight which lasted an hour.—Two of the rebel gunboats were blown up and one sunk, when the enemy retreated precipitately under the guns of the fort.—Only two of our vessels were engaged. The Cincinnati sustained some injury from the rams but will be in fighting condition tomorrow.

Capt. Sternble distinguished himself and is seriously wounded. The rebels are supposed to be commanded by Hollins.

(Signed) O. H. DAVIS,
Commanding Mississippi Flotilla.

CAIRO, May 11.

Desperation of the rebel cause in Mississippi culminated yesterday in the attack on our flotilla early Saturday morning. Eight of their gunboats came round the point above Fort Baldly and advanced towards our fleet. The Cincinnati, which was stationed at the point where the rebels came up on Friday, did not attract their attention until the fleet had passed above her. Soon as she was seen a simultaneous attack from all of their gunboats were made upon her with but little effect, as the guns were poorly aimed. The Cincinnati, in the meantime, had hauled into the stream where an iron-clad ram, supposed to be the Mallory, advanced in the face of a continued broadside from the former, until within 40 yards, and being a faster sailor, succeeded in moving between the Cincinnati and the right hand, when the men appeared upon her decks preparing to board her, with grapple thrown out. The design was frustrated by throwing hot water from the steam batteries of the Cincinnati.—In the meantime the rest of our gunboats had arrived at the scene of action and engaged the rebel fleet. The Mallory, undaunted by failure on the attempt to board, crowded on full head of steam and came towards the Cincinnati, evidently intending to run her down.

Capt Sternbel, in command of the Cincinnati, waited until the rebel monster was within twenty yards, when he sent a broadside into her from his Parrott guns which did fearful execution. The two boats were so close together by this time that it was impossible for the gunners of the Cincinnati to swab their guns; and it was only by bringing their steam batteries to bear on her again that the Mallory was compelled to haul off.

Capt. Sternbel shot her pilot with his revolver, and was himself wounded by a pistol shot fired by the pilot's mate of the Mallory.

While the engagement between the Mallory and Cincinnati was in progress, our shots had exploded the boilers of one of the rebel gunboats and set fire to another, burning her to the water's edge.

The air was very heavy, and under cover of the dense smoke which hang over the river, the rebel fleet retired, and was pursued until they gained shelter under the guns of Fort Wright.

None of our boats were injured except the Cincinnati and her damages is so slight she can be repaired in 24 hours.

Four men on her were wounded, including the master's mate. No other casualties are mentioned.

When the smoke had cleared away, a broadside from the flag ship Benton was sent after the Mallory. Shortly after she was seen to careen and went down with all on board.