

New-York Tribune.

VOL. XXII.....No. 6,584.

NEW-YORK, MONDAY, MAY 12, 1862.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

IMPORTANT FROM THE SOUTH-WEST.

Great Destruction of Property by Rebels.

REINFORCEMENT OF THE CONSCRIPTION ACT.

Beauregard's Army on Half Rations.

ROBABLE EVACUATION OF FORT WRIGHT.

CAIRO, Saturday, May 10, 1862.
A refugee from Memphis reports that a large number of troops had arrived at Memphis from Arkansas and Texas, and were immediately sent to Corinth. The Provost-Marshal commenced burning the cotton early last week. Most of the sugar and molasses was brown into the river. The Rebel Government seized a large amount of property and sent it to Columbus, Miss., and promised to pay for it three months after the treaty of peace with the United States.

Jeff Thompson was scouring the country around Memphis with his gang, enforcing the conscription act.

Deserters from Beauregard's army report that the troops are on half rations, and that their provisions will not last forty days.

All the infantry which had been stationed at Fort Wright had been sent to Corinth.

A number of citizens of Memphis had been imprisoned for expressing doubts as to the success of a Rebellion. Most of the citizens remained, but a number of the Rebel sympathizers were leaving for the interior, in anticipation of the arrival of the National fleet.

CAIRO, Saturday, May 10, 1862.
Commodore Foote arrived here to-day, en route to Cleveland, leaving Capt. Davis in charge of the fleet. The destruction of property at Memphis is corroborated by the Federal prisoners exchanged yesterday.

We also learn from them that Gen. Villipigne expressed himself as thoroughly disgusted with a manner in which his command had been taken away piecemeal.

It is the general opinion among distinguished officers that Fort Wright will be evacuated within a week.

FORT WRIGHT PROBABLY EVACUATED.

CAIRO, Saturday, May 10, 1862.
A special dispatch to *The Tribune*, from Cairo, says:

"A report reached here last night that a lieutenant from the gunboat Benton yesterday approached the works at Fort Wright, and could see no signs of life there. He used a glass, and he approached nearer to the works, and could see but two laborers there, although he could look right into the works, not a soldier could be seen."

A special dispatch to *The Times*, from Fort Wright, says:

"A deserter arrived at the fleet yesterday, who asserts positively that all the land forces have been withdrawn from the fort, save barely enough to work the guns. Jeff Thompson came up yesterday, under a flag of truce, and exchanged a couple of Union sergeants, captured at Belmont, for Rebel officers of equal rank. He has command both afloat and ashore."

SECESSION PLOT AT PADUCAH, KY.

CAIRO, Saturday, May 10, 1862.
A special dispatch from Cairo to *The Chicago Tribune* says:

"Intelligence from Paducah states that a secession plot, on the part of the secession residents there, has been discovered, to hand the town over to the Rebels. Steps have been taken to punish the conspirators. For several weeks past they nightly met—600 in number—in a large hall in that place. But for information given by one of their number, the plot would have been consummated within another week. The military force has since been largely increased, and every precaution taken to prevent a surprise. The large 64-pounders upon the embankments and around the marine hospital are turned upon the town, to be used in case of an outbreak."

A SURPRISE BY REBEL CAVALRY.

CAIRO, Saturday, May 10, 1862.
The steamer Roe, from Pittsburg Landing yesterday afternoon, has arrived, and reports that 100 of our cavalry, while reconnoitering from the left wing on Thursday night, were surprised by a superior force of Rebels, and captured.

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MOVEMENTS OF REBEL CAVALRY.

CAIRO, Friday, May 9, 1862.
The enemy have 1,000 cavalry at Dresden, Tennessee, and 500 at Gardner Station; and last night it is reported that a company of Rebel cavalry occupied Union City.

MORGAN'S CAVALRY COMING NORTH.

NASHVILLE, Friday, May 9, 1862.
One hundred and eighty of Morgan's Cavalry have arrived at Nashville, en route for the North.

UNION FEELING IN ARKANSAS, ETC.

ST. LOUIS, Saturday, May 10, 1862.
The following is from the correspondence of *The Democrat*:

BATESVILLE, Ark., Wednesday, May 8, 1862.
The Union feeling, which, along the route to this place, has been at a low ebb, has displayed itself in a gratifying manner since the arrival of Gen. Curtis's command here. Men from the surrounding country are daily coming in and organizing themselves on the side of the old Government. The day we reached here 30 men came in from a distance of 30 miles to congratulate us on our arrival. Large numbers of secessionists are coming forward and taking the oath of allegiance, saying that the Southern Confederacy is dead. Many of the townships are loyal to the cause, and it has only been in the larger villages, where the secessionist politicians have kept the thing alive, that the country people have been overawed.

Arkansas lies prostrate at the feet of the Government. There are no Rebel troops in the State except Coleman's Jay-hawkers and some Texas regiments, said to be at Little Rock.

All the steamers on the Arkansas and White Rivers have been taken away by the Rebels to prevent their falling into our hands.

Twenty-eight slaves, belonging to Judge Martin, have been confiscated and emancipated, and allowed to go where they pleased.

FROM NASHVILLE.

Retaliatory Measures of Gov. Johnson.
NASHVILLE, Saturday, May 10, 1862.
Gov. Johnson has issued a proclamation announcing that for every Union man captured or maltreated by marauding bands, five or more prominent Rebels shall be arrested; and for all property of loyalists destroyed, ample remuneration shall be made to them out of the property of such in the vicinity as have given aid, comfort, information or encouragement to parties committing such depredations. The order will be executed to the letter, and special warning is given accordingly.

THE ADVANCE OF McCLELLAN'S ARMY.

The Enemy Still Falling Back.

THE ENGAGEMENT AT SLATER'S MILLS.

Only Twenty-two Miles More to Richmond

THE REBELS DESTROY AS THEY GO.

NEW-KENT COUNTY HOUSE, VA., May 10-3 p. m.
The pursuit of the retreating Rebels by our troops under command of Gen. Stoneman, has in every respect been successful.

His headquarters are now here, 27 miles from Richmond, while the advance, consisting of the 8th Illinois Cavalry, is 5 miles ahead. The enemy is in sight, but gradually falling back.

The inhabitants here, in nearly every instance, left, but from the best information that has been obtained, the Rebels will make a stand at Bottom Bridge, 15 miles from Richmond, on the headwaters of the Chickahominy River.

Gen. McClellan, with the main body of the army, is rapidly following up within a few miles.

Cumberland, a small town on the Pamunkey River, and 21 miles from here, was deserted this morning by the enemy, and is now occupied by our troops.

There are no Rebels to be seen, as reported by scouts, this side of the Chickahominy River, except on the direct road to Richmond.

The force under Gen. Stoneman consisted of the 2d Rhode Island and 9th Pennsylvania regiments of infantry, Capt. Robinson's battery of light artillery, and the 6th Cavalry, under Maj. Williams.

The rear guard of the enemy, which remained here last night, and which our men had to drive before them, was Gen. Longstreet's division, consisting of ten regiments of infantry, two batteries, and a regiment of cavalry, the 1st Virginia.

Our advance was this morning strengthened on ascending the force of the enemy, by the 8th Illinois Cavalry and two regiments of the 1st New-Jersey brigade.

The enemy, on leaving here this forenoon, fired two buildings containing commissary and quartermaster's stores.

The engagement yesterday between our advance and the enemy's rear at Slater's Mills, three miles from here, resulted in fourteen of the enemy's cavalry being killed and several taken prisoners.

They secured their wounded.

The 6th Cavalry, which made a most brilliant charge, had three killed and three men missing, and thirteen wounded.

Howell Cobb remained here last night, and left with the Rebels this morning.

The enemy's retreat has been most admirably accomplished, carrying almost everything with them in the shape of forage and provisions, the wagon trains in the daytime, and their troops at night.

The enemy covered their retreat with a line of skirmishers stretched across the country, driving in their stragglers at the point of the bayonet.

The Richmond papers of the 6th make no mention of the movements of their army.

The country between here and Bottom Bridge is thickly wooded, with few clearings, and in many places low and swampy.

The jail here was burned yesterday.

The railroad from West Point to the bridge where it crosses the Pamunkey River, has been torn up.

The destruction of the bridge will probably follow.

FROM GEN. BANKS'S DIVISION.

REPORTS FROM DESERTERS—GREAT DEPRESSION AMONG THE REBELS—DESERPTIONS NUMEROUS.

NEW-MARKET, VA., Saturday, May 10, 1862.
Deserters from the enemy report that the recent Union victories have caused the greatest depression of feeling among the Rebel officers, who look upon their cause as hopeless. Their soldiers are very ragged, and without the means of getting new clothing. Hundreds would desert if it were generally known they would be kindly received by our officers. The enemy's ranks are daily becoming thinned by desertions.

The weather is very dry, and the roads horribly dusty. No new movements of the enemy have been discovered within the last 48 hours. Scattered Rebel scouts are occasionally seen in the Eastern Valley, above Columbia Bridge, who fly rearward on the approach of our men.

The wheat crop is luxuriant. Fruit-trees bear promise of an abundant yield, and are considered beyond danger from frost.

Active scouting is kept up between here and Harrisonburg.

NEW-MARKET, Saturday, May 10, 1862.
Via MOORE'S JUNCTION, May 11.

Some weeks ago, a sick soldier, on the way from Strasburg to Winchester, was surrounded by armed citizens, stripped of arms, and released. A few days ago the soldier identified one of the parties, who was arrested and brought hither. More recently, a delegation from Winchester in his behalf, arrived here, and offered, if the person arrested, whom they claim to have been innocent, be released, the five perpetrators of the act shall be delivered up. It has since transpired that there was a regularly organized band of "farmers by day and soldiers by night" for the purpose of intercepting our messengers, but the activity of our cavalry prevented the consummation of their objects. To-day, three members of the Ira Harris Guard, detailed to guard horses in the pasture near the foot of Manassas Mountain, a mile from camp, went to a neighboring farm house, and asked for bread and milk. They obtained the milk, but were directed to another house at the foot of the mountain for bread.

On the way thither they passed a barn, out of which there came 15 or 20 Rebel soldiers, who shot two of our men, killing one and mortally wounding the other. The third escaped. Our men were unarmed. The Rebels probably came over the mountain by a secret path inaccessible to cavalry. Four women, occupants of the house, who directed the men to the second house, were arrested on suspicion of complicity with the affair, examined, and exonerated. The Harris Guards, Col. De Forest, paid a visit to Harrisonburg to-day. None of the enemy were there. Ashby's scouts occasionally visit the town to enforce the conscription. The inhabitants express regret at our withdrawal.

Manassas Mountain, east of the town, has been burning for two days and nights, presenting a magnificent spectacle, visible for 30 miles.

THE SEAT OF WAR IN EASTERN VIRGINIA.

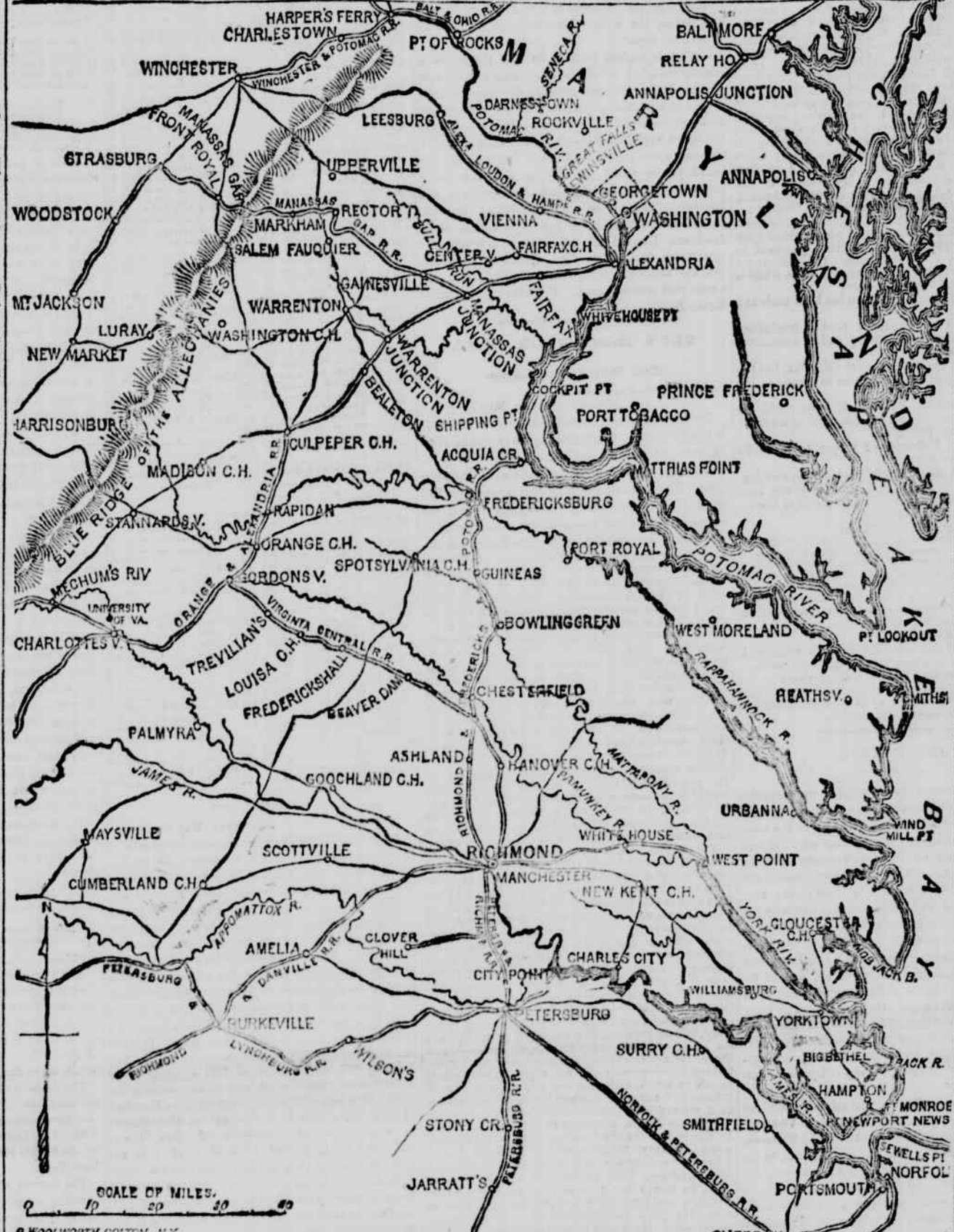


TABLE OF DISTANCES.
Taking Richmond to the center, the following table shows at a glance the distance of different points in Virginia from there:

From Norfolk to Richmond	100
From Cape Henry to Richmond	100
From Hampton to Richmond	100
From Fortress Monroe to Richmond	100
From Yorktown to Richmond	100
From New-Kent House to Richmond	100

From Williamsburg to Richmond	100
From Fredericksburg to Richmond	100
From Washington to Richmond	100
From Winchester to Richmond	100
From Gordonsville to Richmond	100
From New-Kent House to Richmond	100

MORE GLORIOUS NEWS

Surrender of Norfolk.

The City and Navy-Yard in Our Possession

PORTSMOUTH ALSO CAPTURED.

GEN. HUGER RUNS WITHOUT FIGHTING.

DESTRUCTION OF THE MERRIMAC.

WASHINGTON, May 11, 1862.

The following was received at the War Department this morning:

Norfolk is ours, and also Portsmouth and the Navy-Yard.

Gen. Wool, having completed the landing of his force at Willoughby Point about 9 o'clock this morning, commenced his march on Norfolk with 5,000 men.

Secretary Chase accompanied the General.

About five miles from the landing place a Rebel battery was found on the opposite side of the bridge over Tanner's Creek, and after a few discharges upon two companies of infantry that were in the advance the Rebels burned the bridge.

This compelled our forces to march around five miles further.

At 5 o'clock in the afternoon our forces were within a short distance of Norfolk, and were met by a delegation of citizens.

The city was formally surrendered.

Our troops were marched in, and now have possession.

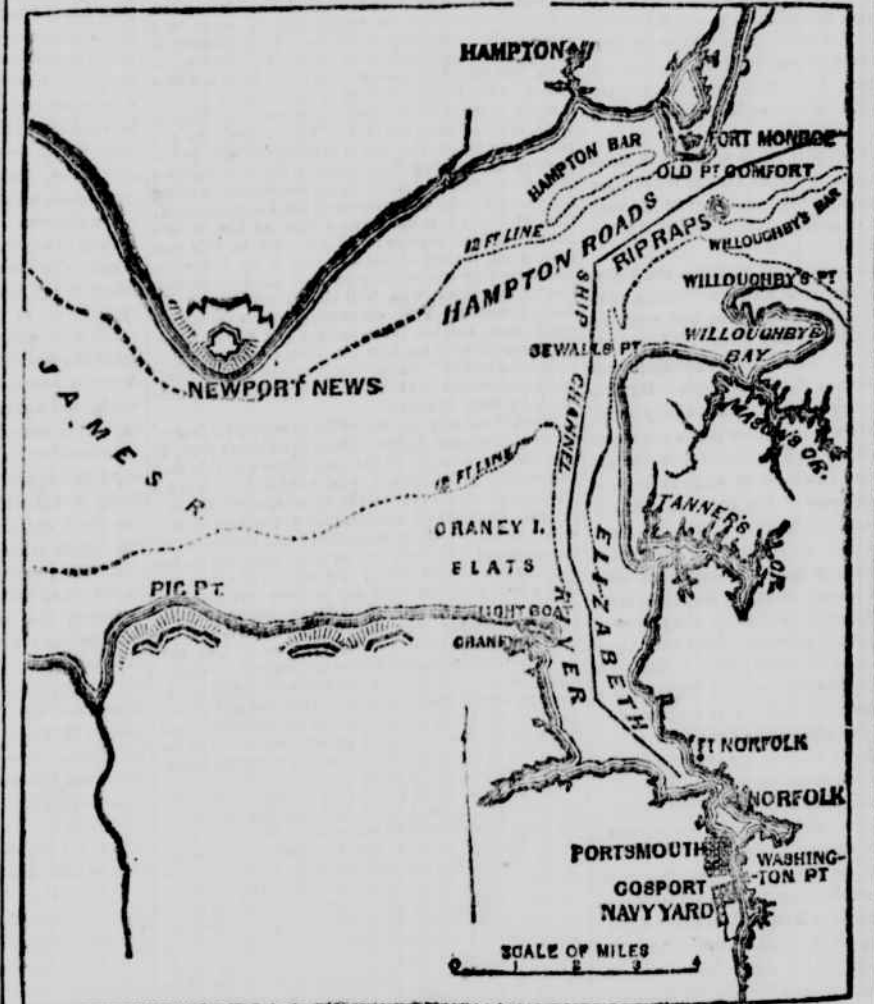
Gen. Viele is in command as Military Governor. The City and Navy-Yard were not burned. The fires which have been seen for some hours proved to be woods on fire.

Gen. Wool and Secretary Chase returned about 11 o'clock to-night.

Gen. Huger withdrew his force without a battle. The Merrimac is still off Sewall's Point.

Commander Rogers's expedition was heard from this afternoon, ascending the James River. Reports from Gen. McClellan are favorable. EDWIN M. STANTON. BALTIMORE, May 11, 1862.

NORFOLK AND VICINITY.



a spot selected the previous day by President Lincoln himself, who was among the first who stepped ashore.

The Rebels fled as our troops advanced. At last advices Gen. Max Weber was within three miles of Norfolk.

The Merrimac remained Saturday all day off Craney Island.

FOURTH MONROE, Friday Evening, May 9, 1862.
Old Point this evening presents a most stirring spectacle. About a dozen steam transports are loading troops. They will land on the shore opposite the Rip Raps, and march direct on Norfolk. At the time I commence writing (9 p. m.), the moon shines so brightly that I am sitting in the open air, in an elevated position, writing by moonlight. The transports are gathering in the stream; they have on board artillery, cavalry, infantry, and will soon be prepared to start. The Rip Raps are pouring shot and shell into Sewall's Point, and a bright light in the direction of Norfolk leads to the supposition that the work of destruction has commenced.

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place selected for the landing, which is about a mile below the Rip Raps. It is said he was the first to step on shore, and after examining for himself the facilities for landing, returned to the Point, where he was received with enthusiastic cheers by the troops who were embarking.

The Merrimac still lies off Craney Island, and the Monitor has resumed her usual position. The fleet are floating quietly at their anchorage, ready at any moment for action.

It is evident that the finale of the rebellion, as far as Norfolk is concerned, is rapidly approaching. The general expectation is that the troops now embarking will have possession of the city before tomorrow night.

10 P. M.—The expedition has not yet started, the delay being caused by the time required for stowing the horses and cannon on the Adelaide. The batteries at the Rip Raps have stopped throwing shells, and all is quiet. The scene in the Roads, of the transports steaming about, is most beautiful, presenting a panoramic view seldom witnessed.

11 P. M.—The vessels have not yet sailed. The Merrimac exhibits a bright light. It is said the Seminoles will go up the James River in the course of the night.

LATER.
WILLOUGHBY'S POINT, Saturday Morning, May 10, 1862.

The troops left during the night, and at daylight could be seen from the wharf landing at Willoughby's Point, a short distance from the Rip Raps.

Through the influence of Secretary Stanton, I obtained this morning, a permit to accompany Gen. Wool and Gen. Mansfield and staffs to Willoughby's Point, on the steamer Kanawha, and here I am, on "sacred soil," within eight miles of Norfolk.

The point at which we have landed is known as Point Pleasant, one of the favorite drives from Norfolk. The first regiment landed was the 20th New-York, known as Max Weber's regiment, which pushed on immediately under command of Gen. Weber, and were, at 8 a. m., picketed within five miles of Norfolk. The 1st Delaware, Col. Andrews, was pushed forward at 9 o'clock, accompanied by Gen. Wool, Mansfield and staff. They were soon followed by the 16th Massachusetts, Col. Wyman.

The rest of the expedition consists of the 10th New-York, Col. Bendix; the 48th Pennsylvania, Col. Bailey; the 99th New-York (Coast Guards), Maj. Dodge's Battalion of Mounted Rifles, and Capt. Follet's Company D of 4th Regular Artillery. Gen. Wool and staff remained to superintend the landing of the balance of the force, all of whom were landed and off before noon.

The President, accompanied by Secretary Stanton, accompanied Gen. Wool and staff to the wharf, and then took a tug and proceeded to the Merrimac, where he was received with a national salute. It is generally admitted that the President and Secretary Stanton have infused vigor into both the naval and military operations here, and that the country will have no cause for further complaint.

THE EVACUATION OF NORFOLK.
REBEL REPORTS.

The Fortress Monroe correspondent of *The Philadelphia Inquirer* writes, under date of May 8:

A Council of War was held in Norfolk last Friday, Secretary of War G. W. Randolph, and Malory, Secretary of the Navy, Gen. Huger, Brig-Gen. Bianchard, and the Colonels of the different regiments stationed at Norfolk and Portsmouth, were in attendance. The result was the determination to evacuate Norfolk. The evacuation immediately commenced. The bodies of the Rebel troops were sent to support Magruder and Johnston. The guns and machinery of the Navy-Yard are being shipped to Raleigh and Charlotte, N. C. Commissary stores are mostly shipped to Petersburg and Richmond.

The heavy guns are being dismantled at all the batteries, and a few rounds only of ammunition for each gun are left. Commodore Lee says "there shall not be a brick left standing" in the Navy-Yard, Hospital, etc.

Many families are removing their effects, but the majority will remain. Great excitement exists at the anticipated arrival of the Union forces. Barrside is said to be moving up the Roanoke and Chowan Rivers, to cut off the Rebel retreat from Norfolk. It is currently reported in Norfolk that McDowell has 80,000 men opposite Fredericksburg. Secessionists, they think, has superseded Banks, and has a force of 30,000 men operating against Stonewall Jackson. The majority of citizens in Norfolk and Portsmouth are Union, and the leading secessionists propose to remain and take the oath of allegiance to remain and take the oath of allegiance.

Buchanan is not dead, neither has his leg been amputated. He is at Norfolk, but very feeble.

Provisions are scarce—Tea selling at \$2 1/2 pound; Coffee, 90 cents; Sugar, 35 cents; Butter, \$1 50.

Night before last the Jamestown and Yorktown went up the James River, with two Rebel gunboats in tow, taking them up to Richmond to have them putted. Another gunboat also accompanied them. Capt. Byers says that the Rebels were to mount his boat with a gun this morning, and add her to the Confederate fleet. He therefore concluded to leave.

The 16th Virginia Regiment is at Sewall's Point, and there are 5,000 troops in Norfolk and Portsmouth.

McClellan is reported within 15 miles of Richmond, and the people do not credit the evacuation of Yorktown. It is reported that Buell and Halleck have been cut to pieces at Pittsburg Landing.

REJOICINGS.
IN PHILADELPHIA, April 11, 1862.

This city has been in a fever of excitement, flags are floating in every direction, and the chimes of St. Stephen's Church rang a joyful peal this evening, on account of the news from Fortress Monroe.

IN BRIDGEPORT, Ct. April 11, 1862.

A salute of 100 guns was fired here to-day in honor of the recent victories.

VICTORY ON THE MISSISSIPPI

Two Rebel Steamers Blown Up.

ANOTHER SENT TO THE BOTTOM.

Great Triumph of the Union Fleet.

WASHINGTON, May 11, 1862.

The following has been received:
FRAG-SHIP BENTON, ABOVE FORT FLEWELL, MISSISSIPPI RIVER, Saturday, May 10, 1862.
Via CAIRO, May 11.

To the Hon. GIBSON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy.

The naval engagement for which the Rebels have been preparing took place this morning.

The Rebel fleet, consisting of eight iron-clad gunboats, four of which were fitted with rams, came up handsomely. The action lasted one hour. Two of the Rebel gunboats were blown up, and one sunk, when the enemy retired precipitately under the guns of the fort.

Only six vessels of my squadron were engaged. The Cincinnati sustained some injury from the rams, but will be in fighting condition to-morrow. Capt. Stembel distinguished himself, and he is seriously wounded. The Benton is uninjured.

Mortar-boat No. 16, in charge of 2d Master Gregory, behaved with great spirit. The Rebel Squadron is supposed to be commanded by Commodore Hollins.

C. H. DAVIS,
Captain Commanding Western Flotilla, Mississippi River, 1862.