

## NOTES ON MILITARY AND NAVAL AFFAIRS.

## THE SITUATION.

## OPERATIONS BEFORE RICHMOND—A SEVERE BATTLE.

The army of Gen. McClellan is in front of Richmond, and in attempting to gain the southern bank of the Chickahominy river, a great battle ensued. The enemy fell suddenly and in great force upon the advance brigade, under command of Gen. Silas Casey, numbering about six thousand men, composed of New York and Pennsylvania troops. This attack began on Saturday, the 31st ult., and at the close of that day our forces engaged were routed, their camp equipage and baggage taken, and, we regret to state, 19 cannon were captured and borne in triumph to the enemy's headquarters at Richmond. Frederick the Great observed that "the passage of rivers in the presence of the enemy is one of the most delicate operations in war." The advance guard is necessarily exposed to attack, and as all the troops cannot cross at once this danger is much enhanced. The enemy took advantage of this necessity, and came down heavily upon a comparatively small force, who could not withstand the shock. Gen. McClellan determined to retrieve all the ground lost in the affair of Saturday; accordingly on Sunday morning, after making all the necessary precautionary movements, and taking the proper steps to move forward, he sent up a balloon to the distance of two thousand feet, where it was kept, and a regular telegraphic communication established from that elevated point of view direct to the Commanding-General. As soon as the telegraphers were ready they minutely described the location and number of the enemy's troops. And as they advanced—for they were again coming forward to charge upon what they supposed our demoralized troops—the operators gave the General their force and the direction in which they were advancing, and he promptly ordered his troops to the proper place, when the enemy were met and repulsed.

An attempt was made by the enemy to shoot down the aerial general, and after repeated firing they succeeded in exploding shells near the balloon; in fact so near that it was deemed imprudent to remain up any longer in that precise location, and, accordingly, the balloon was lowered to the ground, to be shifted to another position. Not many minutes elapsed before it was again sent aloft, and in a position not easily reached by the enemy's missiles.

The reverse of Saturday was fully retrieved on Sunday, and a splendid victory was gained. The Union forces are now in sight of Richmond, and we may at any moment hear of another great battle, or another ignominious retreat as at Corinth. The battle of Sunday was fought under the direction of Gen. McClellan, who was most gallantly sustained by Generals Heintzelman, Sumner, Richardson, Hooker, Sedgwick, Sickles and Meagher, and the brave troops under their command. The rebels were routed and driven back at the point of the bayonet, and left 1,200 of their dead on the field. The loss on both sides is severe. We understand that Gen. Casey's troops were mostly raw recruits, and if so we cannot understand why they should have been allowed the advance of the army.

## THE EVACUATION OF CORINTH.

Where are the rebels against the government to make their last and final stand? is now a question of intense interest. Columbus, Ky., was at one time proclaimed the Gibraltar of the Confederates, the key to the vast Mississippi valley—the stronghold for the defence of Memphis and even New Orleans. Bowling Green was a point of great strategic importance, the key to the capital of Tennessee as well as a base for operating against the independence of Kentucky in her proud place as a State of the Union. But by the superior strategy of the Federal generals and the indomitable bravery of the Union troops, these confessedly strong positions were all turned and evacuated of their rebellious contents, and the victorious legions have pressed forward to the very central spot where treason was incubated and hatched into life. Gen. Beauregard, after having been driven out of the border States, finally took up his position at Corinth, a small town in Mississippi, at the junction of important railway connections, and issued his urgent appeals to the people and governors of the insurgent States to rally to his support, and, as it was supposed, for a grand struggle for Southern independ-

ence. The battle of Pittsburg Landing deprived him of 10,000 men. Still, information continued to reach our camp, from stragglers and deserters, that his shattered forces were being rapidly reinforced and that he was fortifying his position for a grand fight. Corinth was admirably located for defence. On the northern and eastern sides it was protected by heavy and almost impassable swamps, rendering the approaches to it in the direction of the Federal forces both dangerous and difficult. Gen. Halleck had literally to move like a snail toward his wily foe, and just as he was about to pounce upon him, lo! he was not there. The evacuation of Corinth took the whole country by surprise, and up to this time there is a mighty puzzle to know whither Beauregard and his troops have gone. Some think he is in Richmond with a portion of his army; others, that he is wandering about the borders of Mississippi and Tennessee looking anxiously for the "last ditch" in which to die in defence of his treason to that government which fed and clothed him, and educated him in the art of war, to stand up for its defence whenever and wherever assailed. Such is, oftentimes, the ingratitude of man.

Corinth was entered by the Federal forces under Gen. Pope, on Saturday afternoon, May 23d. The Mayor came out to meet him, and made a formal surrender of the place. Gen. Halleck in his dispatch to the war office, says:—

The enemy's position and works in front of Corinth were exceedingly strong. He cannot occupy a stronger position in his flight. This morning he destroyed an immense amount of public and private property, stores, provisions, wagons, tents, &c. For miles out of the town, the roads are filled with arms, haversacks, &c., thrown away by his fleeing troops. A large number of prisoners and deserters have been captured, estimated by Gen. Pope at 2,000. Gen. Beauregard evidently distrusts his army, or he would have defended so strong a position. His troops are generally much discouraged and demoralized. In all the engagements for the last few days, their resistance has been slight.

## THE VALLEY OF THE SHENANDOAH RE-POSSESSED.

The bold operation of Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson in forcing Gen. Banks's small army out of the Shenandoah valley has been brought to a speedy termination. The forces of Gen. Fremont and a portion of Gen. McDowell's have formed a junction in the valley, and were pursuing Jackson with all possible speed. The enemy's rear guard was driven out of Strasburg on Sunday evening the 1st instant, and General Fremont pushed on after them as far as Woodstock, where a halt was made for the night, the enemy being only three miles distant. On Monday morning the pursuit was continued and the enemy was driven from three positions, taken up by them to retard the advance of our troops. The flight of the rebels was a hurried one, as is evidenced by the fact that the roads and woods along the line of retreat are strewn with arms, stores and clothing.

We are rejoiced to know that Col. Kenly, of Maryland, is not dead, as was reported, but is safe at Winchester. Report speaks highly of Dr. Antisell, Surgeon of Gen. Williams' Brigade, through whose almost superhuman efforts nearly all our wounded and sick soldiers, during Gen. Banks's retreat, were saved from the hands of the enemy. Dr. Antisell was formerly Chief Examiner in the Patent Office, and is a most worthy and efficient man. We are pained to say that he came near being turned out of the Patent Office under the operation of the Potter's Investigating Committee, on a charge of disloyalty. A more infamous charge was never made against an honorable and high-minded and capable man.

## GUERRILLA WARFARE AND ITS TREATMENT.

It is the announced purpose of the confederates, in case their armies are defeated, to resort to guerilla warfare; thus hoping to worry out the patience and long suffering of the government, in its attempt to restore order and law once more amongst them. This species of warfare, although irregular, has been practiced more or less for a long period. It was employed with considerable success against the great Roman Generals Pompey and Metullus. During the Peninsular War, the Spanish guerilla did essential service to the English army in cutting off French convoys, couriers, &c. The Mexicans also resorted to it when their country was invaded by the American forces under Gen. Scott. When hard pressed these bands of marauders scatter in every direction, and mingle with the people, and are thus lost sight

of, until they are once more ready to make a foray. The guerilla system is now somewhat in vogue in Western Virginia, Tennessee, and Missouri, and nothing but the infliction of summary punishment upon all who are caught will ever suppress it. They are nothing more or less than highwaymen and murderers, and deserve to be treated as such.

Brigadier-Gen. Schofield, commanding the Missouri State Militia, has issued a general order, stating that hereafter all guerillas and marauders in that State, caught in arms, engaged in their unlawful warfare, will be shot down on the spot, and that all citizens who give shelter and protection to these outlaws, or who will not give all the assistance in their power to the military authorities in detecting and bringing them to punishment, will be regarded and treated as aiders and abettors of the criminals.

This is right; a milk and water policy with these wicked men will never put a stop to these foul deeds of murder and robbery; therefore they must be made feel the certain rigors of the avenging arm of justice.

## SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS OF THE BLOCKADING FLEET.

The English press has been quite mum of late on the question of an "inefficient blockade." It is no longer a "paper blockade;" indeed, our excellent friend, John Bull, will soon begin to growl, we fear, that the blockade is unnecessarily stringent and severe, inasmuch as many valuable prizes are beginning to fall into our hands which belong to his loving and loyal subjects. The record is encouraging, and many of our "jolly tars" are made happy over their good luck in catching these stray craft that attempt to break Uncle Sam's paper blockade.

The following steamers (several British) have been seized while attempting to run the blockade. The *Circassian*, valued with her cargo at \$1,200,000; *Bermuda*, *Cambria*, *Fuan*, *Labuan*, *Patras*, *Magnolia*, *Florida*, *Ella Warley*, *Stellan*, *Calhoun*, *Lewis Wallace*, *Fox*, and rebel gunboat *Planter*, whose aggregate value, with cargo, is estimated at \$5,000,000.

We are happy to notice that commander Haxtun, of the *State of Georgia*, blockading at Wilmington, has just arrived in this city with the prize steamship *Nassau*. This steamer formerly ran between Charleston and Nassau, carrying arms and ammunition to the rebels, and has made several successful trips. She undertook to run into Wilmington on the 27th of May, with a cargo of Enfield rifles and ammunition, and was nabbed in the act. Commander Haxtun is an old friend, and has all the good qualities of our best naval officers. He was for over two years on the African coast, engaged in suppressing the infamous slave trade, and when ordered home last fall, instead of taking the usual furlough, he at once reported himself ready for duty, and was shortly assigned to the gun boat *State of Georgia*. He is a brave and gallant officer, and will not flinch from duty to the old flag.

## PREPARATION FOR A BATTLE—GEN. McCLELLAN'S ORDERS.

It will be interesting to many of our readers to read the following order of Major Gen. McClellan, in anticipation of a battle before Richmond. The order is clear and emphatic, and specifies all the conditions needed to insure success. No one can read it without perceiving that the General Commanding understands his business:—

1. Upon advancing beyond the Chickahominy the troops will go prepared for battle at a moment's notice, and will be entirely unincumbered, with the exception of ambulances. All vehicles will be left on the eastern side of the Chickahominy, and carefully packed. The men will leave their knapsacks, packed, with the wagons, and will carry three days' rations in their haversacks. The arms will be put in perfect order before the troops march, and a careful inspection made of them, as well as of the cartridge boxes, which, in all cases, will contain at least forty rounds. Twenty additional rounds will be carried by the men in their pockets. Commanders of batteries will see that their limber and caisson boxes are filled to their utmost capacity. Commanders of army corps will devote their personal attention to the fulfilment of those orders, and will personally see that the proper arrangements are made for parking and properly guarding the trains and surplus baggage, taking all the steps necessary to insure their being brought promptly to the front when needed. They will also take steps to prevent the ambulances from interfering with the movement of any troops. These vehicles

must follow in the rear of all the troops moving by the same road. Sufficient guards and staff officers will be detailed to carry out these orders. The ammunition wagons will be in readiness to march to their respective brigades and batteries at a moment's warning, but will not cross the Chickahominy until they are sent for. All quartermasters and ordnance officers are to remain with their trains.

2. In the approaching battle the General Commanding trusts that the troops will preserve the discipline which he has been so anxious to enforce, and which they have so generally observed. He calls upon all the officers and soldiers to obey promptly and intelligently all orders that they may receive.

Let them bear in mind that the army of the Potomac has never yet been checked. Let them preserve in battle perfect coolness and confidence, the sure forerunners of success.

They must keep well together, throw away no shots, but aim carefully and low, and, above all things, rely upon the bayonet. Commanders of regiments are reminded of the great responsibility that rests upon them. Upon their coolness, judgment and discretion the destinies of their regiments and success of the day will depend.

#### TELEGRAPH WAR BALLOON.

General McClellan's valuable adjunct to his *corps d'armee*—the Lowe reconnoitering balloon—is getting to be quite an institution. During a fight lately between the rebels and a force of Union troops, in which the latter were engaged in dislodging some batteries that had been erected, the balloon did effective service in directing the movements of our artillery. A telegraph wire, attached to an instrument on board, conveyed intelligence to our men what to do and what not to do, and corrected any mistakes made by the transmission of such messages, as "too short," "just a little over," "fire lower," "the last shot took them," &c. The enemy could not be seen by the men at the batteries, and our batteries in turn were hid from the view of the enemy, the majority, of whose shots fell wide of the mark.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

A portion of Gen. Curtis's army, which was ordered to reinforce Gen. Halleck, marched from Batesville, Ark., to Cape Girardeau, Mo., a distance of 240 miles, which he accomplished in ten days, some of the men being obliged to travel barefoot for the last sixty miles. This gives an average of 24 miles a day. This, for an army, is great marching.

It is announced that Little Rock, the capital of Arkansas, is fully occupied by National forces under Gen. Curtis, and that the Legislature had scattered, and Gov. Rector, who at one time threatened to whip "all creation," had fled from the State. He is doubtless looking for Claiborne Jackson, who ran away from Missouri last year. Reports also state that the people of Arkansas are showing a considerable degree of loyalty to the government.

It is an encouraging sign in the political heavens that large Union meetings have been held in Norfolk and Portsmouth, Va., and also at Columbia, Tenn. At the latter place ex-Governor Neil S. Brown came forward and urged the people to return to their allegiance, as in his opinion the Confederacy of Mr. Davis had about come to an end—that it was useless for Tennesseans longer to contend with the Federal government. Mr. Brown was at one time a member of the secession Military Board at Nashville. He is evidently a sensible man, and has found out that the government of the United States does not intend to hurt him in the least.

Wherever our soldiers have gone they have shown a most commendable spirit of industry and ingenuity. As an evidence of this, the Chicago Tribune states that since Gen. Halleck took command at Pittsburg Landing, our army has built, incredible as the story may sound, more than fifty miles of intrenchments, and full two hundred miles of wagon roads! Four parallels, each more than twelve miles in length; three or four roads—wide, corduroyed and bridged—leading from the landing to each *corps d'armee*—all the works of our men, many of whom never before handled a spade or an ax in all their lives.

Gen. Mitchel is now plating with iron, and otherwise preparing for warlike operations, a ferryboat lying near Huntsville, on the Tennessee River. With this, manned with two 10-pound Parrott pieces, he

hopes to bid defiance every attempt to cross the river.

The design for the new flag for the rebel Confederacy, consists of a red flag and a blue Union. In the center of the Union is a golden sun, with thirteen rays, corresponding to the number of States. The body of the flag is ornamental, with an Argent Saltiva, or St. Andrews' Cross, the feet resting within the sides of the bar, and the lower line of the upper sinistral bar striking the bar of the Union. The designs meet the wishes of those who favor an expressive symbol of the sun as well as those who prefer the cross.

Gen. Pope, with a force of 40,000 men, has found Beauregard and his army. They were thirty miles south of Corinth, fleeing in great disorder. Gen. Pope had taken 10,000 prisoners and 15,000 stand of arms, also nine locomotives and a large number of cars. The rebels were throwing away their guns and everything that impeded their flight.

#### Pepper for Soldiers.

A gentleman who saw and conversed with several of the wounded soldiers who arrived from Newbern a few days since, says that they told him that pepper would be one of the most acceptable and best things that could be sent by friends to the soldiers, and one that has not been thought of. Pies and rich cakes are so injurious that many Generals forbid their being eaten, but pepper is an excellent preventative of diarrhoea, which is prostrating large numbers in the warmer climate. One of the soldiers was a veteran in the Mexican war. He stated that a liberal use of pepper had been found very useful to prevent this disease, and that he had wholly escaped by the use of it in North Carolina. It is not provided by the government, and can only be obtained of the sutlers at exorbitant prices. The soldiers advised all who send articles to soldiers to put in a supply of pepper. It is put up in tin boxes holding a quarter or half pound each; the soldiers punch holes in one end and thus make pepper castors.

#### The First Iron-Plated Ship.

At a recent meeting of the Archaeological Society of London, Captain Windus, of the Navy, read an account of a remarkable carrack or war galley, equipped by the Knights of St. John, of Jerusalem, and described by Bosio, the historian of the Order, which had been plated with sheet-lead as a defence against bullets.

This vessel was built at Nice, in A. D. 1530, and made one of the great squadron sent by the Emperor, Charles V., against Tunis, to assist the dethroned Muley Hassan against Barbarossa.

The celebrated Andrew Doria commanded the expedition, and after a few days Tunis was taken by storm.

This metallic clad galley was called the *Santa Anna*, and aided greatly in taking the city. She had six decks, consequently was larger than the *Merrimac*. Her crew consisted of 500 men.

#### The Tone of Bullets.

A soldier writing from one of the camps on the Potomac, thus alludes to the peculiar music made by bullets passing through the air:—It is a very good place to exercise the mind with the enemy's picket rattling close at hand. A musical ear can study the different tones of bullets as they skim through the air. I caught the pitch on a large sized Minié yesterday. It was a swell from E flat to F, and as it passed into the distance and lost its velocity, receded to D a very pretty change. One of the most startling sounds is that produced by the Hotchkiss shell. It comes like the shriek of a demon, and the bravest old soldiers feel like ducking when they hear it. It is no more destructive than some other bullets, but there is a great deal in mere sound to work upon men's fears. The tremendous scream is caused by a ragged edge of lead, which is left on the shell.

FLAG-OFFICER Farragut, who is in command of the Mississippi squadron, is a Tennessean by birth. He married in Norfolk, but cut loose all his social connections there when Virginia passed the ordinance of secession, saying to his friends that he had argued with them so long as argument could avail, and now, having to choose between them and his country, should bid them farewell.

#### Terrible Rock Oil Conflagration.

On the 29th of May, an immense conflagration of rock and coal oil occurred at Williamsburg, Long Island. The science of the matter was fully discussed at the meeting of the Polytechnic Association, and a full report will be found on another page. The discussion was based on the account in the *Evening Post*, and the following is the revised account published in the *Post* next day:—

The fire in Williamsburg yesterday afternoon, reported in our third edition, proved to be very disastrous. It commenced at half-past two o'clock on board of a lighter, commanded by Patrick McLaughlin, lying at the foot of North Second street, as she was discharging a load of petroleum oil, at the storehouses of Messrs. Schieffelin Brothers. One of the barrels of oil fell and burst, and, being set on fire from a lighted tobacco pipe, exploded with a loud report, and was followed by a series of explosions from the other barrels, shattering the vessel and scattering the fragments far and wide. The men were sent into the air, and a sheet of fire and smoke spread over the water.

The conflagration extended to the dock with inconceivable rapidity, and in a few minutes some fifteen thousand barrels of petroleum and kerosene had exploded with the heat, pouring their contents into the East river. The lumber yard of Ebenezer Hill caught fire, and several vessels near the lighter were destroyed. Police boat No. 1 repaired to the scene of disaster, and saved several vessels. About three o'clock the fire alarm was given, and the fire companies hastened to the spot; but they found it impossible to allay the flames with water. They directed their efforts to adjoining buildings with success. It was impossible, for hours, to reach the piers which were the scene of the conflagration. The fire continued during all night. Water had no effect on it whatever, and the explosions continued for hours.

The total loss of the Messrs. Schieffelin is estimated at from \$75,000 to \$80,000—fully insured in a large number of city companies, in sums of from \$1,500 to \$5,000. The oil was received on consignment by Messrs. Schieffelin Bros. & Co. from the well-owners in Pennsylvania, to be sold for their account. The bark *Silver Cloud*, belonging to Messrs. Jewett & Co., was burned to the water—loss \$25,000. A lighter took fire, was towed out into the river and scuttled—loss \$10,000.

Mr. Ralph W. Kenyon lost in lumber about \$4,500—insured in the Kings county and Williamsburg City Insurance Companies. The new dock at the foot of North Third street, belonging to the corporation, was totally destroyed, together with a quantity of lumber—loss \$10,000. Loss of Flint & Hall, lumber dealers, \$3,000; loss of Fisher, Ricard & Co., \$10,000. The bark belonging to Jewett & Co. was worth \$25,000—insured. Two piers belonging to the Waterbury estate were destroyed—loss \$6,000; and the firm of E. Hills & Co. lost \$3,000.

At the first explosion Mr. McLaughlin, the commander, was terribly burned. He jumped overboard and was rescued in a dying condition and conveyed to the Hospital. He was brother of the Register. Some five men on board the lighter are supposed to have perished. Several other persons were badly injured.

Nor a single man, out of a crew of thirty, was injured by the bursting of the 100-pound Parrott Gun on board the *Naugatuck*. This proves the value of Mr. Steven's principle of mounting and loading ordnance, by which the crew are protected beneath the deck and below the water line while loading and firing.

THE appraisers of Col. Colt's estate reckon his property at over \$3,000,000, exclusive of his Western and Texan lands, his gold and lead mines in South America, and his property in England—all of which are probably worth another million.

WITH hay at a cent a pound and meal at the same price, the daily cost of keeping a horse will be twenty-eight cents, making \$1 95 per week—equal to \$102 20 a year.

COMMODORE Foote is a very religious man, as is well known. Some one says that the rebels, who are feeling his bombs, must think he belongs to the "Hard-shell Baptists."