

THE HOUR OF TRIUMPH!

The cheering progress of our armies for the past two weeks has revived the drooping spirits of those who faltered. It has refreshed the energies of even the staunchest patriots, who could not but look with concern upon the ominous appearance of the future of our country. Disloyal sentiments prevailed to some extent at the North; and among the loyal classes a tone of despondency was apparent, while the disaffected rejoiced correspondingly. Appearances are often deceitful. The exultation of the traitors was short lived; their hopes perished as quickly as they were born. Gen. Lee entered Pennsylvania with a legion of rebels ready to fall upon the teeming coffers of the North. Our continued prosperity aggravated them; their privations and sufferings maddened them. Some slight successes at the outset filled them with delusive hopes that their march northward would be triumphant. In one fell hour, for them, the scene was wholly changed. The sunshine of promise that opened before them turned to the lurid glare of disappointment, and crushed, beaten back, disorganized by the bravery of our troops and the skill of our generals, the shattered forces of the traitors are sent whining to their holes.

Following swiftly on the heels of this triumph at the North, comes the news of the reduction of Vicksburg, and the loss to the rebels of the stronghold of their territory. The endurance of the soldiers of the army of the West, their valor and discipline, are the fullest proofs of efficiency on the part of the generals, and no man need claim a higher honor than to say he belonged to the army of the Potomac or to that in the South-west.

Awakened as from a nightmare of despondency into which it had been plunged through incompetency, high and low, the nation breathes freer; it stretches out its strong arms and prepares to gather in the fruits of its victories. The political advantages likely to spring from these important victories lately achieved by us are incalculable, and will, we hope, forever silence the sneers, caviling and threats of disaffected persons at home and unfriendly Governments abroad. Let every loyal person rejoice that at last, in its hour of peril, the mighty strength of this people has been made manifest. The struggles that seemed to presage dissolution were only the throes of awakening life; and, renewed in strength and purpose, the Government of these United States of free America will go forward to the completion of the glorious destiny open before it.

We wish success to our arms as our only hope. If any of our readers should chance to differ from us on this most vital point, we wish them to read "What the Rebels propose to do with our Coal Mines," published in another column and taken from the *Richmond Whig*.

MAJOR-GENERAL GEORGE GORDON MEADE.

On the 28th day of June, Major-General George Gordon Meade was ordered by the President to take command of the army of the Potomac. He at once issued a modest yet soldierly order to his army, and put it in rapid motion towards Gettysburgh, Pennsylvania, at which place the rebels under General Lee were in large force, "flushed with the pride of successful invasion." In a series of brilliant and sanguinary battles fought under the eye of the Commanding General, and continuing three days, desperate charges were repeatedly made by the enemy; but as often as they were made, so often did the brave army of the Potomac withstand the shock, until the rebels were everywhere repulsed and commenced a rapid retreat towards the Potomac. General Meade was not unprepared at any point where his lines were attacked; he always had a supporting force to assist in every emergency. All the accounts which we have read satisfy us that for skillful generalship and dauntless bravery, no other battles since the war began can compare with these. Under the most trying and extraordinary circumstances, General Meade has exhibited the highest strategic and tactical skill, and has risen to the rank of a great "military captain." Without detracting at all from the merits of other generals, an extinguisher is effectually put upon that miserable partisan cry that the army of the Potomac would only fight under a certain leader, when the truth is that this army has always fought with great valor; the

trouble being more with the commanding officers than with the troops. We rejoice, in common with all loyal hearts, in the apparent fact that, after a series of bloody reverses and few successes, this Potomac army has at last found a true military leader—one who seems to understand his business.

Our readers will be interested in the following brief sketch of General Meade's life and career. He was born in Spain in the year 1815, of American parents. His father was, at the time of his birth, residing in Barcelona, Spain, where Captain Meade, now commanding the *North Carolina*, and General Meade, the subject of our sketch, were born. The two boys were brought to this country; one was educated for the navy, which he entered in 1826; and the other for the army. George G. Meade entered West Point Military Academy, as an appointee from the State of Pennsylvania, during September, 1831, and graduated on the 30th of June, 1835, standing number nineteen in his class, which has produced such men as Generals Morell, Naglee, Haupt, Patrick, Martindale, Roberts, and others. He was appointed in the army from the District of Columbia, and entered the service as brevet second lieutenant of the Third Artillery on the first of July, 1835.

His conduct in Mexico was marked by determination and bravery, and at the battle of Palo Alto he was particularly distinguished, and so mentioned in the official reports. During the several conflicts of Monterey, 21st, 22d and 23d days of September, 1846, he again became distinguished, and for his bravery was brevetted a first lieutenant, to date from Sept. 23, 1846. This brevet was awarded in May, 1847. During the month of August, 1851, he was promoted to a first lieutenantancy of his corps, and on the 19th of May, 1856, was further promoted to a captaincy, which rank he held at the breaking out of the rebellion. When the rebellion broke out, and President Lincoln called for three hundred thousand volunteers, the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps was raised, and placed under the charge of General McCall, as division commander, and Generals Reynolds, Meade and Ord, as brigade commanders. All of these brigade commanders have nobly distinguished themselves during the present war, having each risen to a rank equal to a marshal of France. General Meade was appointed a brigadier-general of volunteers, with a commission to date from Aug. 31, 1861.

On the 26th of June, 1862, he took part in the famous battle of Mechanicsville, where General Stonewall Jackson made such a terrific dash upon General McClellan's right wing, and Generals McCall, Reynolds and others were taken prisoners. His noble conduct and bravery on this occasion were particularly noticed. The next day he was engaged in the battle of Gaines' Mills and also took a conspicuous part in the seven days' battles before Richmond.

At the battle of New Market Cross-roads he was severely wounded, but under skillful treatment he recovered, and almost immediately returned to the army, where he took command of the Pennsylvania Reserves, and led those troops during the eventful battles of South Mountain and Antietam; and when at the latter battle, General Hooker was wounded and had to leave the field, General Meade for a short time had charge of the Ninth Army Corps.

At the battle of Fredericksburgh, Dec. 13, 1862, he greatly distinguished himself; the whole loss of the division was one thousand six hundred and forty-four, being the greatest division loss during the whole of the disastrous fight.

In March, 1863, the Senate confirmed the appointment of General Meade as major-general of volunteers, to date from Nov. 29, 1862.

During the fearful contests of May 2d, 3d, and 4th at Chancellorsville, General Meade's corps played its part in the same noble manner that had characterized the troops under his special command since the commencement of the war. It bore its part manfully, and in the end covered the retreat of the whole of Hooker's army.

General Meade is a thorough soldier without political aspiration. He has a well poised mind; and above all he is a high-toned Christian gentleman, well worthy of the confidence and support of every lover of his country.

The great Exhibition building in London has been purchased by Government to use for national purposes.

What the Rebels propose to do with our Coal Mines.

If it be true that the Confederate forces occupy Harrisburgh, the attention of the commanding general will no doubt be directed to the coal-fields, which lie within forty or fifty miles of that city. His first aim will be to cut all the railroad connections, and thus put a stop to the transportation of fuel. His next will be to destroy the most costly and not easily replaced machinery of the pits. Whether he would stop at this is questionable. He might set fire to the pits, withdraw the forces sent out on this special duty, and leave the heart of Pennsylvania on fire, never to be quenched until a river is turned into the pits, or the vast supply of coal is reduced to ashes. The anthracite coal is found in large quantities in no other part of the world but Pennsylvania. Enormous quantities are used in the United States Navy, the countless workshops and manufactories of the North, in the river boats, and even upon locomotives. It cannot well be replaced by any other fuel. The bituminous coal which is found near Pittsburgh would not answer the purpose, even if it would bear the cost of transportation. Our troops already hold the railroads and canals leading from the Cumberland coal-fields. All that is needed is to seize the anthracite fields, destroy the roads and the machinery of the pits, set fire to the mines and leave them. Northern industry will thus be paralyzed at a single blow.

These views may have induced General Lee to move upon Harrisburgh. We doubt whether he would fire the mines, but the destruction of the Mauch Chunk railroads and pit implements would be as legitimate as blowing up tunnels and aqueducts or burning bridges. Of one thing we may be sure, that whatever is best to be done will be done by General Lee, and if he thinks fit to destroy the Pennsylvania mines they will certainly be destroyed. Should he leave them untouched it will be for the best of reasons. But it is impossible not to indulge the hope that he will avail himself of the tremendous power which the possession of the coal-fields, even temporarily would confer.—*Richmond Whig July 2d.*

DARKNESS FROM A VOLCANIC ERUPTION.—After the reading of a paper on "Borneo," at a late meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, London, Mr. Crawford related some particulars respecting the volcanic eruption of the Timboro Mountain in 1814, of which he witnessed some of the effects. At a distance of 300 miles it was pitch dark for three days; the ashes were carried by the monsoon to a distance of 1,200 miles from the mountain, and for ten days he was obliged to write by candle-light.

THE bark *Western Metropolis*, formerly a large passenger steamer upon Lake Erie, is of 1,350 tons burthen, and can carry about 65,000 bushels of grain, or twice as much as any other vessel on the lake trade. Her length is 280 feet; breadth of beam 40 feet, and depth of hold 14 feet. She carries about 5,000 yards of canvas. She sailed recently on her first trip from Chicago to Buffalo, carrying 72,000 bushels of oats, and 1,000 barrels of pork—the largest cargo ever moved on the lakes.

MORE factories are being erected and will soon go into operation at various points in Wisconsin. The wool interest of that State is destined to be a great and important one in the future. The immense prairies produce, spontaneously, nourishment for thousands of flocks of sheep.

THE first wool sale of the season has been made in Michigan at fifty cents. The wool crop of the State last year was 6,500,000 pounds, and it is estimated that it will be increased the present year by 2,000,000 pounds. The whole wool clip of the country this year will reach 100,000,000 pounds.

PERTINENT.—An exchange says that when the convict D'Utassy arrived at Sing Sing, he incidentally mentioned that he had a University education, and was master of eleven different languages. The keeper replied: "One language is all we have here, and we want very little of that."

THE Tredegar Iron Works, recently burned at Richmond, have been rebuilt, and are now in full blast.