THE BATTLES IN VIRGINIA.

THE BATTLE OF THE WILDERNESS.

Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.

ARMY N VA., BATTLE FIELD May 7.

Again it becomes my grateful task to chronicle another Confederate victory. While it cannot be regarded in its military aspects as a decisive battle, since the enemy was neither routed nor driven back across the Rapidan; yet when we consider the circumstances under which it was fought, the elaborate preparation made by the enemy, the large army of veteran troops with which he advanced, and the common consent with which both sides had come to regard the present campaign as probably the last act of the bloody drama which has convulsed the North American continent for the last three years, we cannot but look upon it as one of the most important battles of the whole war. The boasted leader of the Federal army chose his own time and place to deliver battle; he made the attack and was repulsed with heavy losses; his combinations were penetrated and defeated, and his whole movement checkmated, at least for the present. These are results of great consequence, and for them the country should be grateful to the Giver of all victory, and to the brave army by whose valor they have been achieved. But let us take up the narrative at the beginning and bring it down to the present time, and thus see what was done and how it was done.

The moment Gen. Lee ascertained that Grant had really cut loose from his base at Culpeper, Hill's and Ewell's corps were withdrawn from their positions on the Rapidan and ordered to advance upon the enemy's line of march, the former taking the plank road and the latter the turnpike, both leading from Orange C H to Fredericksburg. Longstreet, who was encamped in the vicinity of Gordonsville, ready to move upon any point was ordered to march down the Catharpin road. The main body of Grant's army crossed at Germanna Ford, and took the road leading from thence in the direction of Bowling Green and Richmond and known in the neighborhood as Brock's road. The first object at which he aimed, doubtless, was to reach the point where this road intersects the Orange and Fredericksburg plank road and turnpike. These highways run nearly parallel to each other, the distance between them varying from one mile to three miles and more. There is an unfinished railroad which also runs nearly parallel to the other two roads and extends from *Orange C H.* to Fredericksburg. The turnpike lies on the north side or next to the river, the railroad on the south side, and the plank road between the two. These roads do not cross Brock's road, along which Grant was moving, at right angles, but diagonally, the distance between the points where they cut Brock's road, being as follows: between the railway bed and the plank road about 500 yards and between the plank road and turnpike nearly 4 miles. The enemy's line of battle extended along Brock's road from the unfinished railroad across the plank road to the turnpike, and was consequently about 4 miles in length. Chancellorsville is 4 miles below on the plank road, and Fredericksburg about 16 miles. The surrounding country is very appropriately called the Wilderness, the people being ignorant, the soil destitute of fertility, the supply of water scant, the ground broken and covered with a dense and almost impenetrable growth of stunted bushes, pines, and black jacks. It is a blasted region, adjoining the district known as the "poisoned fields of Orange," and producing but little for the subsistence of either man or beast. So thick are the woods in some places that it is impossible to distinguish a man, even in the absence of verdure, at a distance of fifty paces. The reader can readily imagine that it would be difficult to select more unfavorable ground for a battle between two great armies. It only remains to be added that the battle was fought near the western boundary of Spottsylvania county, the line of battle being nearly at right angles to a straight line drawn from Fredericksburg through Chancellorsville to Orange C H. If the reader will keep these points clearly in his mind, and will place a good map before him, he will find but little difficulty in forming a satisfactory conception of the battle.

As has already been stated, Ewell moved down the turnpike, which is on the left and nearest to the river, and Hill down the plank road. Stuart passed still further to the South, and marched down the Catharpin road, so as to throw his cavalry in front of the head of Grant's army and retard its march. His troops did their duty well, especially Rosser's brigade, of Hampton's division, and forced the Federal cavalry, which was marching up the road by which he was advancing back into Brock's road, with considerable loss in men and horses. Indeed Grant had thrown his cavalry up the turnpike, plank road and Catharpin road, in the vain hope that he might be able to interpose a screen between himself and the Confederates, and thus both protect and conceal his movements. But Lee was not slow in penetrating his designs, and immediately sprung upon his flank like a tiger upon the side of an ox. Ewell and Hill pushed rapidly down the turnpike and plank roads, encountered and drove in the cavalry and infantry supports which had been thrown forward to block up these highways, and compelled the whole army to halt and defend itself. Stuart in the meantime had reached Brock's road, in front of the enemy, and thus opposed another obstacle to his further advance. It is not known that Grant specially directed to give battle here, but he saw the danger of his position and immediately formed into line of battle and advanced nearly 2 miles to meet the threatened attack. This, it will be seen hereafter, was all that saved him from a most disastrous defeat, since it gave him time to send his trains to the rear and throw up strong entrenchments, parallel with and in front of the road by which he had been marching, and behind which he might rally his troops in the event they were beaten back. This was Thursday, the 5th, one year and one day after the great battle of Chancellorsville.

It was about four in the afternoon when the two armies encountered each other. Grant attacked heavily and repeatedly along the whole line, and especially on our right, which he showed a disposition to turn, and thus place himself between Lee's army and Richmond; but in every instance he was repulsed with heavy loss. He was persistent, however, in his efforts to break our lines, and continued his assaults until night. His last advance against Hill's front was made just before dark, and was handsomely repulsed by Wilcox's and Heth's divisions. His final attack upon Ewell was made after night against that part of the line held by Edward Johnson's division. Here, too, he was beaten back, leaving many dead and wounded on the ground. During these operations Ewell captured 2,000 prisoners, nearly all of whom were taken by Gordon's Georgia brigade and Hays's Louisiana, both of whom behaved with distinguished gallantry.

Longstreet had not yet reached the ground. Leaving Gordonsville at 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, he marched 15 miles that night. The next day he marched down the Catharpin road (so called from a run which it crosses) 17 miles, his orders being to strike Brock's road at a point south of the unfinished railroad. He halted during the afternoon within 8 miles of the battle field; but owing to the peculiar condition of the atmosphere, and the density of the forest, he could not hear the guns of Hill and Ewell and was not aware the battle had commenced until the receipt of a dispatch from Gen Lee at midnight, ordering him to come over to the plank road to the assistance of Hill. His corps was put in motion immediately, and reached the field Friday morning soon after sunrise. Hill's troops were aware of the approach of Longstreet's corps, and that it would take their place in the line. They had had a hard fight the previous evening and rested but little that night, and when the head of McLaws' division (now commanded by that model soldier, Brig Gen Kershaw,) came in sight, they relaxed somewhat their vigilance and were preparing to withdraw, when they were attacked in front with great fury by a very heavy force. Under these untoward circumstances, Wilcox's and Heth's divisions, which had done so well the evening before, were thrown into confusion and gave way, just as Kershaw double quicked it to the front in column. The latter succeeded in throwing three regiments of his old brigade, commanded by Col Hinnegan, into line while Wilcox's and Heth's men were falling back over his troops, and with this small, but heroic band, he confronted the heavy masses of the enemy, now flushed with the hope of an easy victory and pressing rapidly forward. These regiments suffered severely, but they maintained their ground until the remainder of the division could be got into some sort of line under the terrible fire to which it was exposed. Gen Lee witnessed the unfortunate and unexpected confusion and tears rushed into his eyes. He at once placed himself at the head of Gregg's Texan brigade, Field's division, formerly Hood's, and prepared to lead it in person.

The heroes of the Lone Star, who had made the circuit of the Confederacy under Longstreet, remonstrated against such an unnecessary exposure of his life—a life so important and precious to the Confederacy and to all friends of liberty throughout the world. He replied that he must win this battle at every hazard—that he must whip the fight. The Texans, who had not yet moved from their tracks, answered that they could whip the fight without his leading them, and would do it. In the meantime appeals were made by several officers to Longstreet as the only person who could probably dissuade Gen. Lee from so rash a proceeding. He went immediately to Gen. Lee and begged him to restrain himself, and not to think of exposing himself and the cause which he had so much at heart to such terrible chances. The Texans, too, finally gave him to understand, in the most respectful and affectionate manner, that they would obey any order he might give, provided he remained behind, but that they would not budge an inch if he led them. Gen. Lee was at length prevailed upon to desist from the hazardous undertaking and right gloriously did the heroic Texans redeem their pledge.

Kershaw has, by the unanimous voice of the army, won his spurs and Major General's commission. When he and Fields, another officer who behaved with great judgment and gallantry, at length got into position under these difficult circumstances, with their old leader, Longstreet, to guide and direct them, it would have done you good to have seen how they and their officers and men pressed forward with shouts that rent the skies; and finally repulsed the immense numbers that crowded down upon them with terrible slaughter. They saved the day, which for nearly two hours trembled in doubt, and were at length enabled to assume the offensive. It was evidently Grant's object to turn our right wing, and if he had succeeded, it is impossible to say what might not have been the result.

On the left we were equally successful. An attempt was made to pierce that part of Ewell's line which was held by Pegram's brigade, but it was signally defeated. With this exception, the left wing was not required to take any further part in the heavy fighting of the day, the enemy's almost exclusive attention being given to our right.

About 11 o'clock, Longstreet was ordered to move upon the enemy's left flank, and if possible dislodge him from the railroad cut and the plank road, and drive him back upon Brock's road. The brigades selected for this movement were G. T. Anderson's and Jenkins's, of Fields' division; Mahone's and Davis's, of R. F. Anderson's division and Wofford's and perhaps two others of Kershaw's division. Anderson's division had but lately arrived, having been left at Orange C H., to guard against any demonstration upon our rear. The flank movement was completely successful; the enemy was taken by surprise and driven back from the railroad cut across the plank road with heavy loss, a portion of his troops retreating rapidly down the plank road to Brock's road. Mahone's Va brigade of Anderson's division ran over the 4th U. S. infantry, a regiment which boasted that it had never been broken before. The plank road being clear, Longstreet advanced down it at the head of Jenkins's brigade, and had hardly gone a half mile when he was fired upon by Mahone's brigade, which was drawn up in the dense woods parallel to the road, and not more than 75 paces from it. Capt. Doby, of Kershaw's staff, was killed instantly; the intrepid Gen Jenkins received a mortal wound in the head, from which he died in a few hours afterwards, and Gen. Longstreet was shot in the neck. Gen. Lee called to see him just before he was moved, and when he bade him farewell and came out of the tent where his great Lieutenant lay, his eyes were filled with tears. It is a remarkable coincidence that Jackson received his death wound just 12 months ago only 4 miles from the spot where his companion in arms fell, and just after he had completed a successful flank movement, and under almost precisely the same circumstances. Heaven grant that Lee may not lose his left arm now, as he lost his right arm then!

Gen Longstreet had just been congratulated by Gen. Lee, Gen. Kershaw, and others, upon the complete success of his attack upon the flank of the enemy, and he was sweeping down the plank road to pluck the rich fruits of his victory, then almost within his grasp, when he was struck down by his own friends. The delay of an hour which ensued gave the enemy time to escape back behind the entrenchments on the Brock road. The command of the corps then devolved upon Major Gen. Fields, and to-day it was turned over to Major Gen Anderson, of Hill's corps.

The enemy had thus been repulsed along our whole line, and left many dead and wounded in our hands. In many places his dead appeared to be five or six times as numerous as our own. Our loss was not so heavy as at first reported, and will not exceed 5,000, of whom not more than 500 were killed. Most of the wounds were comparatively slight, owing to the protection afforded by the trees and bushes. The enemy's loss cannot be much less than 15,000, inclusive of prisoners. The unfavorable character of the ground and the thick chapparal prevented both sides from using artillery, only a few guns being put in position.

At half past four o'clock Gen. Lee determined to feel of the enemy and ascertain his position on Brock's road. On the right, where I had my position, the brigades of Kershaw, Humphreys, and Wofford, of Kershaw's division, Anderson, Jenkins, Gregg, and Law, of Field's division, and Mahone, of Anderson's division, moved forward in the form of the letter V, with the sharp point towards the enemy. G. T. Anderson, known in the corps as "Tiger Anderson," formed the apex of the line, and succeeded in reaching the enemy's entrenchments, two of his men falling within the works. On the left Ewell was equally successful. The result of the attack or reconnoissance was the discovery that Grant had been driven back a mile and a half, that he had thrown up a strong line of entrenchments in front of Brock's road, and that his left wing rested upon a deep cut in the railroad, along which he had posted a force that effectually protected it. His position is therefore a strong one, being rendered the more so by the dense woods through which his line runs. Lee's position is equally satisfactory.

Last night Gordon, of Early's division, threw his brigade around an exposed point in the enemy's lines, and took Brig Gens Seymour, of Ocean Pond memory, and Shaler, and about 500 men prisoners. Seymour admits that Grant has been whipped, and that the Federal army will continue to be whipped until their ports are closed and the troops reduced to "parched corn and beans like the rebels." He says Grant drinks too much liquor, and that the war on the part of the North is conducted as if it were a matter of frolic and contract.

Our lines were withdrawn a few hundred yards last night, and from the enemy's immediate front, for the purpose of improving their position. Not understanding exactly what the movement meant, Grant advanced with heavy force this morning at half past 10, but he soon discovered where the Confederate troops were. He was driven back with ease, and now at sunset is cowering behind his entrenchments in the Wilderness. His troops have not done as well as they did under McClellan, Burnside, or even Hooker. The Confederates, on the contrary, never fought better. Gen. Lee had caused it to be circulated among them some days ago that they must not think of defeat as possible; it was a thing not to be even dreamed of. Nobly have his invincible legions responded to the call of their great chief. Oh, that we may ever have such a leader and such an army!

THE BATTLE OF SPOTTSYLVANIA COURT HOUSE.

ARMY OF N. VA., Spottsylvania C. H., May 13.

On yesterday was fought in front of this modest little village—henceforth to be famous through all coming time—one of the fiercest and most obstinate battles of modern times. It commenced at daylight, and raged and roared with tremendous fury until two o'clock in the afternoon, when the enemy retired from the bloody conflict. Grant made the attack, as he did at the Wilderness, and gained a considerable advantage by the suddenness and vigor of the assault early in the day, but with this exception, he was repulsed with a loss that will carry mourning to thousands of Northern and European hearthstones, and dismay and confusion to the tyrants and demagogues whose hosts he leads.

The battle was fought on the north side of Spottsylvania C H., on undulating ground, diversified by fields, pine thickets, and patches of woods. Our line is nearly in the form of a horse shoe, and extends around the Court House or village on the north or north western side, so as to cover all the approaches from those quarters. Slight entrenchments had been thrown up along our entire front, extending from near the Shady Grove (or Catharpin road continued) on the west, around to and beyond the Fredericksburg road on the north east side of the village. At one point on the right is an eminence a few hundred yards in advance of the general direction of our line, and in order to prevent the enemy from getting possession of it for his artillery a sharp angle was projected so as to include the hill within our entrenchments. The result shows that this was an unfortunate piece of engineering. Past the foot of the hill on the north side sweeps a ravine which presents a convex line to the hill, the two approaching each other like circles that touch but do not cut each other. The enemy availed himself of this ravine in his assault upon the angle, which was the weakest point in our lines, being considerably in advance of the general line and beyond the reach of support from the forces operating on the right and left.

Information was received night before last that Grant was retiring in the direction of Fredericksburg and Germanna ford; a report to this effect was noised abroad through the army, though subsequent events show that it was without the least foundation. Through a mistake, which I cannot trace to its source, but which grew out of this mischievous report, the artillery which had been posted on the hill in the angle alluded to above, was withdrawn during the night. This left Maj. Gen Johnson, of Ewell's corps, whose division, heretofore considered one of the best in the army, occupied this part of the line, without any artillery support. He communicated this fact to his corps commander at midnight, with the additional intelligence that the enemy was massing a heavy force in his front for the purpose as he believed, of assaulting him next [yesterday] morning. These guns or others were sent back, and were just moving into the angle at four o'clock yesterday morning, when the force which Gen Johnson reported to be massing in his front, made a vigorous assault upon his position and carried it.

The assaulting force had been assembled in the ravine at the foot of the hill, was very strong, and advanced, one report says, in columns of regiments. It had rained the evening before, and considerable fog prevailed, under cover of which the attack was made. One or two guns were got into position and fired, but the horses attached to the other pieces were shot down before they could be unlimbered and most of the cannoneers captured. Jones' Virginia brigade, whose commander was killed at the Wilderness while trying to rally his men, was the first to break; the old Stonewall and other brigades belonging to this division becoming involved, soon followed its example, and the last seen of Gen. Johnson, the hero of Alleghany, he was standing almost alone, with a musket in his hand, contesting the ground single handed with the multitudinous foe. The brigades composing the division are the Stonewall brigade, Gen. James M. Walker, and Jones's brigade, both of this State, Stewart's brigade of Virginians and [one regiment of] North Carolinians, and Stafford's brigade of Louisianians. Jones and Stafford fell at the Wilderness, Walker was wounded yesterday; Stewart, and Johnson, the commander of the division, were taken prisoners, and the Colonel commanding Jones's brigade is reported killed, with many other officers. The guns left on the field, but which neither party had been able to move on account of the fire of the other—some 18 or 20—are said to belong to Crenshaw's, and Page's battalions. 1000 or 1200 prisoners were left at the same time. It should not be imagined that the enemy gained the hill without opposition, sudden and vigorous as his assault was. He was received with volley after volley, and the ground was covered with his slain; but he had massed such a heavy force upon a single exposed point, some distance in advance of the general line, and incapable of being instantaneously supported, that it was found impossible to repulse him.

The Confederates suffered severely as they retreated across the intervening space to our second line, which may be considered the base of the triangle, covering the hill. Even this line is somewhat in advance of the direction of the general line. But the broken division did not stop here; they continued their retreat far to the rear. Fortunately the gallant Gordon, commanding Early's division, was in reserve and swept to the rescue in a manner that excited the admiration of every beholder, including Gen. Lee. The enemy swarmed over the hill and rushed against the lines to the right and left, but Rodes and Gordon and Wilcox were there to meet them.

The battle was soon fully joined, and for nine hours it roared and hissed and dashed over the bloody angle and along the bristling entrenchments like angry sea beating and chafing against a rock bound coast. The artillery fire was the most sustained and continuous I have ever heard for so long a time, averaging thirty shots to the minute, or 1,800 to the hour for six hours. The rattle of musketry was not far less furious and incessant. At 10 o'clock, when the din and uproar were at the highest, an angry storm cloud swept over the field, and thus to the thunders of battle was added "the dread artillery of the skies." It was now manifest that Grant's real assault, as Gen. Lee had believed, would be launched against our right wing, and to that point the opposing forces gravitated from all parts of the field, just as when a cloud surcharged with electricity forms in the heavens, all the lesser clouds and racks drift to it, and are swallowed up in the swelling, angry mass.

Grant strove hard to hold us to other parts of the field, and prevent this concentration of force, and for that purpose he engaged Anderson on our left, and Early, who had been sent to the extreme right. He made three separate assaults against the former, but was repulsed each time with frightful loss by Field's division, formerly Hood's. Early, at the head of Hill's corps, hurled him back, as a mad bull would an incautious mastiff caught upon his horns, as often as he advanced upon him.

But it was against Ewell, who held the right of the original line, that Grant expended his greatest efforts and gained his most desperate assaults. Having gained a foothold in the angle or centre of Ewell's position, he brought up line after line and hurled it with tremendous violence, at one time against Rodes, at another against Gordon, and then against both. Wilcox was brought up and placed on Gordon's left, and Wofford and Humphreys, of Kershaw's division, and Jenkins's brigade, of Field's, Anderson's corps, were sent to the assistance of Rodes. Additional batteries were sent in the same direction. Heth went to the right, and all of Anderson's old division but Wright followed him. And thus the whirling, remorseless maelstrom drew every thing into its angry vortex. The enemy exhibited a courage and resolution worthy of a better cause; Grant seemed to have breathed into his troops somewhat of his own spirit and indomitable energy. But if the Federals fought well, the Confederates fought better. From early dawn until far in the afternoon, with steady hands and unblanched cheeks, they faced the leaden hail that was rained upon them without intermission. At some points the two armies fought on opposite sides of the entrenchments, the distance between them not being more than the length of their muskets. Again and again would Grant marshal his men for the onset, and right valiantly did they respond; but as often as they turned to the assault so often were they repulsed, as if they had rushed against a wall of iron. At no point of the line, and at no time during the long and terrible and exhausting conflict, did the heroic children of the South falter or waver for one moment. Each man knew that he was fighting the battle for the possession of Richmond—the battle, indeed, for the independence of the Confederate States—and the thought of yielding to the foe never once entered his mind.

During one of the assaults, Gordon inflicted very heavy loss upon the enemy by moving around and striking the assaulting column in flank. The enemy was thrown into great confusion, and retired rapidly to the rear, leaving many dead and wounded on the ground.

The most important movement against the enemy's flank, however, was executed by Mahone's and Lane's brigades on the extreme right, under the direction of Gen Early. The expedition was intended to operate, not against the flank of the assaulting column, but against the flank of the Federal army, and thus afford relief to our centre and left wing, both of which were hard pressed. The two brigades were placed under command of Mahone, who passed around to the Fredericksburg road, and was about to engage the enemy, when he met the latter coming out probably to take us in flank. An engagement ensued immediately and resulted in the defeat of the enemy, who retired back to the main army, where considerable commotion was produced by the fresh danger with which it was threatened. A division operating against our left, supposed to belong to Burnside's corps, was withdrawn and double-quicked across the field to check Mahone. Just before it reached the scene of action, it came within full view of Pogue's and Pegram's guns and not more than 1200 yards distant. 12 pieces were brought to bear upon it in less time than it requires to describe this brilliant episode in the battle. The enemy stood their ground for a moment, then staggered back, and finally broke in the wildest disorder. What with Mahone's fire in front and the artillery ploughing great gaps in their flank, their loss was terrible. A shell exploded just as it struck the ground right in their midst, and hurled one man into the air several feet above the heads of his flying comrades. This movement afforded instantaneous relief to our left, and from this time the assaults of the enemy grew more and more feeble, along the whole line, and finally they ceased altogether at 2 p. m.

Our men were anxious to follow up the enemy when he was repulsed, but Gen. Lee's plan was to act on the defensive, and not to strike until the right time came. The federal army far exceeded his in numbers, they had entrenched themselves as his had done, and common sense, as well as military science, would teach the propriety of patiently awaiting rather than rashly making the attack. The result has shown the wisdom of the policy adopted. Grant has already well nigh exhausted himself, whilst Lee's army remains almost intact, ready to assume the offensive or to continue to act on the defensive as occasion may require.

Our loss in the rank and file is remarkably small, the men being well protected by the entrenchments. The casualties, however, have been unusually heavy among the field officers, who were unprotected, and had to move frequently from one point to another, under the terrible infantry and artillery fire of the enemy, which swept every part of the field in rear of our entrenchments. The ground is torn and ploughed up by the direct and cross fire of the Federal guns as if it had been prepared by the farmer for the reception of spring seed. Three assistant surgeons were killed in the discharge of their duty on the field, and Chaplain Owen of Texas, was severely wounded early in the morning whilst on his way to the Richmond Howitzers to hold prayers.

Gen. Lee made more than one narrow escape, his clothes being covered with mud thrown upon him by bursting shells. He will persist in staying near the point of greatest danger. The whole country, with one voice, should protest against such rash exposure of a life in which we are all so deeply interested, and upon the preservation of which so much depends.

The two armies, led by the most renowned chieftains on the Western Continent, if not in the world, have now been wrestling with each other for the mastery for eight long days. Thank God the smaller combatant thus far has been marvelously successful, and has suffered comparatively little loss except in officers, whilst the larger being the wrong doer, has been punished beyond all precedent in this war. His dead and many of his wounded still remain on the ground, being too near our entrenchments to be moved, and they tell their own melancholy tale. If half that prisoners report of their losses in battle, and from desertion, straggling and demoralization be true, then the enemy's casualties are indeed frightful. The loss in prisoners here has been about equal, say 1,500 on each side. This gives us the advantage by 8,000, including those taken at the battle of the Wilderness.

Last night we rectified our lines near the angle which has given so much trouble, retiring it somewhat and locating it where it should have been run originally. The enemy still retains possession of the angle, but has not been able to remove the guns left by Crenshaw and Page, nor have we, the sharpshooters on either side preventing it. We brought away from the Wilderness 12,000 captured rifles and muskets.

Both armies have rested from the strife to-day. The dead have to be buried, the wounded have to be cared for, shattered regiments and brigades have to be reorganized, and fresh plans to be devised. This requires time, and the men require rest. There can be no doubt that Grant's troops were well supplied with liquor before they entered the battle; many of the prisoners, including more than one Colonel, were in a state of intoxication when taken.

MAY 14.—There has been a good deal of shelling and picket firing to-day, and at one time a renewal of the strife seemed to be imminent. The New York Herald urges the recall of Grant and his army to the north side of the Rappahannock. Will he go? We hear that the movement upon Richmond from City Point and the Peninsula has failed to accomplish its purpose; that being true, what can Grant hope to gain by pressing further in this direction? It is said he started with 92,000 muskets; if he can muster 50,000 of these now, he is more fortunate than prisoners, both officers and men, represent him to be. SALLUST [P. W. A.]

THE BATTLE ON THE SOUTHSIDE.

From the Richmond Examiner, 21st inst.

From the accounts we get, it is likely that no battle field of this war has witnessed more desperate fighting than in the battle of Monday on the Southside. This appears to be the opinion of officers, men, surgeons, and all. Soldiers who took part in the fight, say that not even the fields of Gettysburg witnessed more gallant and desperate charges than were made on that day. The position of the enemy at some points along his lines was impregnable, and was carried only by dint of the most bold and desperate valor. In one instance our men had to charge some fortifications of the enemy at the bottom of a hill, and as they advanced the enemy's fire, made sure and unerring by its declivity, broke in upon their ranks with most terrible effect; but on marched our brave men amidst the storm of grape and canister, until in an instant, they leaped over the fortifications and sent the enemy reeling back in dismay and confusion. In other points of the field the enemy had formed the most intricate abattis, over which our men had to charge in the face of the most deadly fire. But worse than intrenchments, abattis and all, was a kind of defence which none but a yankee could have devised. All through the woods the yankees had ingeniously passed lines of small wire, twining it from tree to tree, until a perfect wire fence was formed in their front. Our men could not see this wire until close up to it, and the first thing they knew of it was when they stumbled against it. In charging the enemy, our men found their advance suddenly arrested by these lines of wires, some reaching up as high as the breast, and forming an almost insuperable barrier. By this means they were brought to a dead halt in their charge, and had to *crawl under and disentangle* themselves, one by one, as best they could—the enemy all this time pouring into their ranks a murderous fire! If anything would have thrown men into a retreat and panic, it would seem to be this. But not so. Our brave men faltered not—nothing could daunt them—they steadily overcame this obstacle in the face of the most terrific fire—and then charged on the enemy with more desperate courage than ever!

The enemy's loss is said to have been very severe. Besides their wounded left on the field, there were a large number carried off by them. Parties along the river report that on the night after the battle, wagons and ambulances were running all night, and the screams of their wounded could be heard for a mile—the ambulances dashing at full speed so as to get off as many of them as possible. The enemy's retreat was made under cover of darkness, and all accounts represent it, even to the care of their wounded, as almost a scare and panic.

Thirty fifth N C Troops—near Petersburg, to 21st inst

Field and Staff—Slightly wounded: Lt Col J T Johnson. Ensign Wm Steward.

Co A—Wounded: Frank Alpin, mortally; A Kinsey, D Henderson, Ely Cox, Owen Padrick, Jas Brinson, severely; Sgt J W Dawson, Wm Scott, slightly; private F Holt

B—Killed: Private Sam Moore. Wounded: Sgt J U Josten, mortally; private J C England, hand

C—Killed: Sgt J A Patterson, privates J A Johnson, N Morris. Wounded: A Johnson, mortally; D Hales, B Goins, J C Ferguson, Lts N R Kelly and M Ray, private D C McDonald severely; slightly N R Jackson, G Libbette, Arch Hannors, D T Cameron, (in hands of enemy.)

D—Killed: Sgt J O Marks, Corpl J H Johnson, Jesse Bullard, J P Rosser, J L Johnson. Wounded: Capt R E Petty, seriously; Sgt W J Johnson, Corpls W H Harper, T B Gunter, privates W H Moore, S S Hatch, B H Johnson severely; W J Bryan, M Womble, W H Grace, John Mann, D Hammock, D Williams, slightly; H H Blenk, leg; A Horton, arm; W H Waite, over eye.

E—Killed: Rufus Shotwell, J W Chatham. Wounded: Wm White, John Bowes, slightly.

F—Killed: Wm Fincher, A G Meanes, T H Lemmonds. Wounded: J A Lewis, P C Keziah, P P Yandle, severely; Corpl T A Fowler, W P Rutch, H Prisley, slightly; J N Fincher, arm.

G—Killed: T C Blackwell. Wounded: W A Morris, J P Radden, severely; Lt M L Henley, privates R P Levi, W H Levi, J J Levi, D L Beddingfield, T B Leach, G W Beddingfield, W F Hopps, N Morris, slightly.

H—Wounded: A C Barkley, J O Grier, G S Hunter, G Herren, J D Tatton, Thos Woodall, severely; Corpls A G Gunter, J W Caldwell, J R Alexander, J W Beaver, J R Cochran, T M Hall, W J McLaughlin, T J Wilson, D W Morris, John Hucks, slightly.

I—Killed: Sgt Allen Smith, Corpl Jas Pool, privates J H McLaughlin, Daniel Jones, G W Dinkins. Wounded: Capt W A Ellis, private Benj Howell, mortally; Corpl D S Westmoreland, Robt Worrel, severely; Stephen Worrel, J Grubbs, slightly; Lt E M Wright, leg; A Secrist, hand; J A Denny, arm; J W R Beard, leg; O Vaghan, slightly. Supposed to be killed and in hands of enemy: C R Fulgum, Wm Deems, Stephen Horn

K—Killed: Lt J M Rockett. Wounded: Corpl W A Wilson, Corpl A R Hines, P Hollar, severely; Sgt J C Swiss, B F Arney, Corpl H C Sigman, R P Rocket, slightly; A Ward, mortally.

Total—Killed, officers 1, enlisted men 23; wounded, officers 8, enlisted men 90—122.

Forty ninth N C T, near Petersburg, May 14 16, 20.

Field and Staff—Wounded: Col Lee M McAfee, slight; Capt & A Q M C A Durham, dangerous. Missing: Asst Sur R H Goode

A—Killed: Lt H C Conley. Wounded: Capt G W Lytle, Jerry Walker, Jethro Ward, D M Carraway, W R Wilford.

B—Killed: Nash Dillinger. Wounded: Lt Daniel Lattimore, A H Pailbeck, Thos Disher, Amos Irvin, Sg R D Shields, John Lattimore, Saml Putnam, Wm Wiggins, O P Gibson, Alex Fonts.

C—Killed: W B Daniel, J A Lefreit. Wounded: Sgt R A Stone, Ransom Sides, M L Plummer, M Mack, David Batie, Corpl Thompson, W A Thompson, James Thomas, J A Hall, W O Styers, J M Stackleatner, N Ketchie, Lawson Greer, S S Benson, E P Lentz.

D—Killed: Sgt J T McDonald. Wounded: E Stewart, J A Cox, N Kennedy, Alex Johnson Sen, slightly; D Cole, N B Caddle, A Johnson jr, seriously.

E—Killed: P A Goodnight. Wounded: Sgt A L Reid, N C Morrison, J R Woods.

F—Killed: Capt J P Ardrey, Lt Barnett, Corpl W J B Smith, W A Tevepaugh. Wounded: Lt Elliott, Sgt J L Weeks, Wm Tidwell, W M Hudson, S R Neal, Z Porter, S L Porter, J M Howard, J Culp, J H Osborne, W Griffith, J S Watts, A P Spratt, D J Ray, Thos D Griffith, R A Porter, Jas Kerr, David Johnson.

G—Wounded: Lt B F Dixon, J D Dillinger, Corpl T W Harmon, A W Huffstickler, R J Mitcham, W H Putnam, John Waterson, W B Bird, J C Neal, J B Read, J M Waters.

H—Killed: Sgt E L Rankin, John Pierce, E C McLean, C Knight, J L Clemmer, J F Whitesides. Wounded: Lt Wm Linsberger, R G Flowers, W J Henderson, T Holland, E A McNair, A Cherry, J Huffstickler, W C P Waner, Jas Hope, T L Payne, J H Hays, Wm Bryson, L K Linneart, W D Martin, J G Stowe, Wm Linebarger, R F Boyd, Wm Cosner, J Foy, A L McArthur, M E Pasour, Wm Falls, A M McAllister.

I—Killed: Thompson Browe, Corpl J S Lee. Wounded: Sgt W J Long, Jacob Brown, A Collwell, J P Collins, A J Litton, J T Powell, A Wickoff, N I Colwell, J H Hill, J P Sitzer, F Loftin, P W W Brawley, D L F Gobble, J F Jones, J W Wickoff.

K—Killed: John Winters, Vardrey Anthony, A Arvens, Danl Blackburn, W H Hill. Wounded: Sgt J H Baker, W J Snowden, J Dixon, W R Freeman, Geo Towdry, Z Langdon, John Lowe, A Baumgarner, Dave Blackburn.

For Sale—Land in Robeson.

1030 ACRES SWAMP LAND, one mile from the Fayetteville and Lumberton Stage road, four miles from the Southern Plank Road and sixteen miles from Fayetteville. The character of this land is very superior and it can be readily drained. About 100 acres is high land. Address

JOSEPH THOMPSON, Lumberton.

May 17. [illegible]tpd

THE LAST TWO WEEKS

During the past two weeks, the war has raged with a fury unexampled in all our previous campaigns. The forces of the enemy have been directed by a general whose one idea it is, to hurl them into battle. Reckless alike of the lives of his soldiers and the arts of strategy, he has trusted for victory to the momentum of his attack and the rapidity of his blows. He has hoped to crush his enemy by his mere weight. He fights by "main strength and awkwardness," combined, it must be confessed, with great industry and pertinacity. As a consequence the operations which have ensued since his crossing of the Rapidan present a series of great battles and severe skirmishes not before equalled in the war, accompanied with a sacrifice of life on the part of his soldiers that should touch the profoundest sensibilities of a monster, if that monster were their general.

The following enumeration will be acceptable, particularly to such of our readers as have been during a portion of the time cut off from the mails:

May 4th.—Grant crossed the Rapidan at Ely's and Germanna fords

May 5th and 6th.—The great battles of Wilderness. Grant repulsed and driven at all points, with great loss. Abandons his dead and wounded on the right, and retreats to his intrenched lines between Wilderness and Trigg's Mill, nearly coincident with the Brock road leading from Wilderness to Spottsylvania C. H. Gen Longstreet wounded on the 6th.

May 7th.—Skirmishing. Grant retreats towards Fredericksburg.

May 8th.—Two battles fought to day at Spottsylvania C. H., between Longstreet's corps, under Anderson, and the fifth corps, under Warren, supported by cavalry. The enemy repulsed with heavy loss in both instances.

May 9th.—Skirmishing.

May 10th.—Grant attacks Lee in his intrenchments near Spottsylvania C. H., and is defeated with great loss.

May 11th.—Skirmishing.

May 12th.—Great battle of Spottsylvania C. H. Grant attacks our lines, breaks over a part, capturing several thousand men of Johnson's Division, but is driven out, and repulsed at all points with enormous loss—the ground in front of our lines being piled with his slain.

May 14th.—Grant moved his lines by his left flank, taking position nearer the Richmond and Fredericksburg railroad. He then remained pretty quiet, until

May 18th.—Grant "attempted an assault" on Ewell's line, but was easily repulsed. His loss said to be considerable.

Thus much for Grant's immediate movements, with the troops under his eye. But other important operations around Richmond form a part of the same drama and must be mentioned as a portion of his proceeding:

May 6th.—Butler lands in large force at Bermuda Hundreds, near the junction of the James and Appomattox. Skirmish near Port Walthall.

May 7th.—Battle at Port Walthall. Enemy defeated.

May 10th.—Great Cavalry expedition against Richmond, under Gen. Sheridan. Battle near Chester Station. Cavalry fighting.

May 11.—Heavy cavalry fighting. General Stuart wounded.

May 12th.—Cavalry fighting continued. Enemy attack second line of batteries on the Mechanicsville road. Gen. Gracie skirmishes with the enemy on the Meadow Bridge road. Gen. Gordon (cavalry) wounded. Gen. Stuart died. Sheridan recrossed the Chickahominy, and disappeared towards the James.

May 13th.—Heavy cannonade at Ft Drewry. Enemy demonstrating against it by land.

May 14th and 15th.—Heavy cannonading and skirmishing with the enemy near Fort Drewry.

May 15th.—Gen. Breckinridge defeats Seigel near New Market, and puts him to flight.

May 16th.—Gen. Beauregard attacked the enemy near Fort Drewry, drove them out of their entrenchments and captured many prisoners.

May 17th.—Butler retires to Bermuda Hundreds and fortifies.—*Richmond Sentinel.*

The Battles near Shreveport.—We give below an official dispatch from Gen Kirby Smith, notifying the Government of the victories of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill, on the 8th and 9th of April last. The news of these victories has long been known here, but it is gratifying to have an official statement of their extent and importance.

HEAD'QRS TRANS-MISSISSIPPI DEP'T, Shreveport La., April 12th, 1864.

Gen. S. Cooper, Adj't and Insp'r General:—Sir—I have honor to report that the 13th army corps of Gen. Banks' command was signally defeated three miles below Mansfield, La., on the afternoon of the 8th. The 19th army corps coming to its support, was repulsed with loss and in disorder.

Reinforced by parts of the 16th and 17th corps, the enemy in force made a stand at Pleasant Hill, a strong position, 20 miles below Mansfield. Our troops attacked with impetuosity on the afternoon of the 9th. Night closed on a most sanguinary struggle, in which the enemy were worsted, and retreated under cover of the darkness, leaving their wounded on the field.

From the best information we can obtain, Gen Banks's command numbered at least 35,000, of which 28,000 were engaged at Pleasant Hill on the 9th.

Our cavalry pursued to Nachitoches. Gen. Taylor commanded on the field.

We captured 21 pieces of artillery, over 3,000 prisoners, and over 200 wagons.

Our loss is severe—over 2,000 killed and wounded—Gen. Mouton, Cols Beard, Noble, Armant, Taylor and Buchel among the casualties.

Providence has given us a signal and glorious victory. Respectfully,

E. KIRBY SMITH, Gen. Com'dg.

Incidents of the Engagement on the Oostanaula—Coolness and Heroism of our Men.—In the 58th North Carolina regiment there is a private named Early who exhibited a degree of courage unequaled during this war. When the enemy had thrown their men behind the redoubt in which Corbett's battery was placed, this man stood up in the pits with his body half exposed and opened a rapid firing on the enemy, almost preventing them from sharpshooting, for no sooner would a Yankee raise his head above the redoubt than a ball would enter his brain and he would fall dead across the work. In this manner Early had killed six when I had occasion to go up to the point he was stationed at, and I felt very much amused at the manner. "Get up there," he would exclaim to the Yankees, "get up and show your heads, why the d—l dont you take a shot at me—now just raise up for a second," and whenever a Yankee would be found bold enough to accept his challenge, a bullet through his head was the reward he received. Early distinguished himself and will be honorably mentioned in the official report of his General.

This is only one instance illustrative of the spirit of our men. I could cite dozens of instances did my time permit. On every side the yankees were received with an enthusiasm almost amounting to frenzy, and never in this war have Confederate Soldiers displayed a greater degree of heroism than the army at Oostanaula.

Correspondence Atlanta Intelligencer, 19th.

One Regiment that got out of the Big Fight.—A Washington letter dated the 6th inst., says: The 58th regiment Pennsylvania reserves reached town about midnight last night from the front, having been mustered out of the service in pursuance of an arrangement by which the Government allows the time they were in State service to go to their credit on the three years' term.

A Young Brigadier.—Col. James Dearing has been made a Brigadier General, his promotion to date from the capture of Plymouth. Though a very young man, being not yet 23 years of age, Gen. Dearing is said to be one of the most meritorious and efficient officers in our service. He is from Lynchburg, Va.

THE HABEAS CORPUS IN CONGRESS.

In the House of Representatives on Friday last Mr. Foote's resolution to repeal the law suspending the writ of *habeas corpus* was taken up. Mr Rives, of Va. spoke at length in reply to Mr Foote, and in favor of the policy of the Government. Mr. Pugh, of Ala. moved to lay the resolution of Mr. Foote on the table. The motion was agreed to, 55 yeas to 26 nays.

The Speaker laid before the House the following message from the President:

To the House of Representatives of the Confederate States of America:

The following resolution, passed by the House on the 14th inst. has been received:

"Resolved, That the President be requested to inform the House, if not incompatible with the public interest, whether the reasons given in his special message for suspending the writ of *habeas corpus* still exist, and what additional reasons now exist to such extent that the public safety requires the continuance of the suspension thereof."

In my opinion the reasons given in the special message transmitted to Congress at its last session, recommending the suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus*, still exist in undiminished force, and the present juncture especially requires the continuance of the suspension. The effects of the law for that purpose have been most salutary, and to that law, is no inconsiderable degree, are we indebted for the increased efficiency of the military preparations which have enabled our gallant armies, under the Providence of God, to beat back the vast invading forces which still threaten us.

In my opinion, it would be perilous, if not calamitous, to discontinue the suspension, while the armies of the enemy are pressing on our brave defenders with persistent effort for their destruction, and for the subjugation of our country.

It is a source of gratification to be able to inform you that the mere passage of the law suspending the writ was so effectual in restraining those who were engaged in treasonable practices and in dangerous complicity with our enemies, that the instances are extremely few in which arrests were found necessary.

The effect of the law in preventing the abuse of the writ, for the purpose of evading military service by men whose plain duty it is to defend their country, can hardly be over-estimated.

The sensitiveness exhibited in different parts of the country to the legislation on this subject, is indicative of the love of freedom which is innate among the people, and which should ever be cherished as the sole guarantee for the preservation of their constitutional liberties.

It is not doubted, however, that if those who have expressed dissatisfaction with the law, had been in possession of the information which it was my duty to communicate to you, and which may not yet be revealed without injury to the public interest, they would fully have approved the exercise of the power of suspending the writ which was entrusted to Congress by the Constitution. All trusts impose duties. The power was entrusted expressly with the intent that it should be used when necessary to the public safety in case of invasion; Congress, concurring with me, that the exigency had arisen which required the exercise of the power, performed but a plain duty in passing the law; and such will, I doubt not, be the judgment of the people, when the facts can be made known without detriment to their interest.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

Richmond, Va., May 20th, 1864.

Mr. Baldwin of Va. spoke in reply to Mr. Rives, and Mr. Conrad of La. obtained the floor to continue the debate on the same question.

The Situation near Petersburg.—Our forces now occupy a line some three or four miles east of the railroad, having forced the enemy east of Turkey Bend on James River. Our right rests on the Appomattox and our left on the James. The enemy will soon be compelled to abandon the Bermuda Hundreds Neck altogether, as there is now scarcely room for him to even bivouac an army on the contracted space left to him. Every day his situation grows more and more precarious.—*Express, 23d.*

There was nothing more than skirmishing on Saturday and Sunday.

The Wounded Heroes.—The Lynchburg Virginian states that Lieut. Gen. Longstreet continues to improve. He sits up daily, is in fine spirits, and talks hopefully of the prospects of our success in the great struggle. His right arm, which was entirely paralysed by the painful wound in his shoulder, begins to manifest signs of returning sensibility. He can now move the fore finger and thumb of his right hand. Gen. Harry Hays, who is also in Lynchburg, is improving.

Arrival of captured arms.—We noticed at the depot of the Richmond and Fredericksburg railroad, yesterday, eight or ten freight cars loaded exclusively with yankee muskets, brought from the battle fields near Spottsylvania C. H. We learn from Col. Baldwin, Chief of Ordnance for the army of Gen. Lee, that we have already secured 18,000 Yankee muskets on the battle-fields in Spottsylvania, and 4,000 in Chesterfield, in addition to five pieces of artillery, including 3 twenty pound Parrotts and 2 Napoleons.

Richmond Examiner, 21st.

The Third.—The battle of the Wilderness makes the third great battle which has taken place in Spottsylvania county, Virginia. The first was the defeat of Burnside at Fredericksburg, the next the defeat of Hooker at Chancellorsville, and the last the defeat of Grant at the Wilderness.

The Piedmont Railroad.—The first train passed over the entire length of this road on Friday last.

Direct Importation.

75 DOZ. HAND SAW FILES;
90 doz Horn Dressing Combs;
60 " Gutta Percha do;
30 " Ivory Fine do;
15 " Gutta Percha do;
15 " Gutta Percha Round Combs;
30 " Tooth Brushes, assorted;
55,000 Sewing Needles.

—ALSO—

On consignment,
Rice,
Tobacco and Cooking Soda,
at wholesale only.
For sale by THO. J. JOHNSON.
Fayetteville, May 19. 33-13tpd

A FEW IMPORTANT FACTS
IN REGARD TO
THE "SOUTHERN HEPATIC PILLS."

1. THEY are prepared from the best quality of Medicines by the discoverer, now an aged Minister of the Gospel, and are safe.
2. They have been known for years and tested by thousands.
3. Five hundred persons are known to have been cured by them.
4. They are not recommended by the proprietor for everything, but only for diseases which arise from disordered livers.
5. Directions and certificates accompany each box, and these certificates are from well known and most respectable individuals.
6. Correspondents recommend them as good for Liver Disease, Chills and Fevers, Pneumonia, Jaundice, Dyspepsia, Bilious Fevers, Bilious Rheumatism, Worms, Pleurisy, Bronchitis, &c.
7. Several gentlemen state that the use of these Pills has been to them an annual saving of from $100 to $200; they are the best plantation medicine ever offered to the public.
8. Some physicians of the highest standing prescribe them to their patients, and hundreds of boxes have been sold to regular practitioners.
9. During the last quarter 2,880 boxes have been sold to two Druggists, one in South Carolina, and one in North Carolina, and some time ago over 3,700 boxes were ordered by Druggists in one town in Virginia.

☞ Price, $3 a box. For $30 a dozen boxes will be sent to any address. A very liberal discount to Druggists and country merchants. Cash (new currency) to accompany orders. Address

GEO. W. DEEMS, Goldsboro', N. C.

For sale in Fayetteville by N. A. Stedman & Co; in Rockingham by T. T. Northam; in Wadesboro' by Dr. Bennett; in Albemarle by J. M. Bivins; in Clinton by Hubbard & Moseley.

May 10. [illegible]tpd