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Domestic.

FROM WASHINGTON CITY!

WASHINGTON, AUG. 30.

After an intermission of several days, owing to the unfortunate events herein-after noticed, we have it in our power to issue a paper in the present reduced form, which we hope in a day or two to change to its usual shape and condition.—*Nat. Int.*

THE FATE OF WAR,

Has befallen the City of Washington. It was taken by the enemy on Wednesday the 25th instant, and evacuated by them in the course of Thursday night, after destroying the interior and combustible part of the Capitol, of the President's house, and of the public offices. The Navy Yard was burnt by order of our officers, on learning that the enemy was in possession of the City. Not having room or time in this hasty publication, to detail particulars, we content ourselves with publishing the following letters, which, with a few remarks subjoined, must suffice for this day. Particulars will be given hereafter.

Copy of a letter from Brigadier General Winder to the Secretary of War, dated Baltimore, August 27, 1814.

SIR—When the enemy arrived at the mouth of the Potomac, of all the militia which I had been authorized to assemble there were but about 1700 in the field, from thirteen to fourteen hundred under General Stansbury near this place, and about 200 at Bladensburg under Lieut. Col. Kramer; the slow progress of draft and the imperfect organization, with the ineffectiveness of the laws to compel them to turn out, rendered it impossible to have procured more.

The militia of this state and of the contiguous parts of Virginia and Pennsylvania were called on en masse, but the former militia law of Pennsylvania had expired the first of June or July, and the one adopted in its place is not to take effect in organizing the militia before October. No aid therefore has been received from that state.

After all the force that could be put at my disposal in that short time, and making such dispositions as I deemed best calculated to present the most respectable force at whatever point the enemy might strike, I was enabled by the most active and harassing movements of the troops to interpose before the enemy at Bladensburg about five thousand men, including three hundred and fifty regulars and Com. Barney's command. Much the largest portion of this force arrived on the ground when the enemy were in sight, and were disposed of to support in the best manner the position which Gen. Stansbury had taken. They had barely reached the ground before the action commenced, which was about 10 o'clock P. M. of the 24th inst. and continued about an hour. The contest was not as obstinately maintained as could have been desired, but was by parts of the troops sustained with great spirit and with prodigious effect, and had the whole of our force been equally firm, I am induced to believe that the enemy would have been repulsed notwithstanding all the disadvantages under which we fought. The artillery from Baltimore, supported by Major Pinkney's rifle battalion, and a part of Capt. Dougherty's from the Navy Yard, were in advance to command the pass of the bridge at Bladensburg, and played upon the enemy, as I have since learned, with very destructive effect. But the rifle troops were obliged after some time to retire and of course artillery. Superior numbers however rushed upon them and made their retreat necessary, not however without great loss on the part of the enemy. Major Pinkney received a severe wound in his right arm after he had retired to the left flank of Stansbury's brigade. The right and centre of Stansbury's brigade, consisting of Lt. Col. Ragan's and Shuler's regiments, generally gave way very soon afterwards, with the exception of about forty rallied by Col. Ragan, after having lost his horse, and the whole or a part of Capt. Shower's company, both of whom Gen. Stansbury represents to have made, even this deserted, a gallant stand. The fall which Lt. Col. Ragan received from his horse, together with his great efforts to sustain his position, rendered him unable to follow the retreat; we have therefore to lament that this gallant and excellent officer has been taken prisoner; he has however been paroled, and I met him here recovering from the bruises occasioned by his fall. The loss of his services at this moment is serious.

The 5th Baltimore Regt. under Lt. Col. Sterrett being the left of Brig. Gen. Stansbury's brigade, still, however, stood their ground, and except for a moment when part of them recoiled a few steps, remained firm, and stood until ordered to retreat, with a view to prevent them from being out-flanked.

The reserve under Brig. Gen. Smith of the District of Columbia, with the militia of the City and Georgetown, with the regulars and some detachments of Maryland militia, flanked on their right by Commodore Barney and his brave fellows, and Lieut. Col. Beal, still were to the

right on the hill, and maintained the contest for some time with great effect.

It is not with me to report the conduct of Com. Barney and his command, nor can I speak from observation, being too remote, but the concurrent testimony of all who did observe them, does them the highest justice for their brave resistance and the destructive effect they produced on the enemy. Commodore Barney, after having lost his horse, took post near one of his guns, and there unfortunately received a severe wound in the thigh, and he also fell into the hands of the enemy. Capt. Miller of the marines was wounded in the arm fighting bravely. From the best intelligence, there remains but little doubt that the enemy lost at least four hundred killed and wounded, and of these a very unusual portion killed.

Our loss cannot, I think, be estimated at more than from thirty to forty killed, and fifty to sixty wounded.

They took altogether about one hundred and twenty prisoners.

You will readily understand that it is impossible for me to speak minutely of the merit or demerit of particular troops so little known to me from their recent and hasty assemblage. My subsequent movements for the purpose of preserving as much of my force as possible, gaining reinforcements, and protecting this place, you already know.

I am with very great respect, Sir, your obedient servant,

WM. H. WINDER.

Brig. Gen. 10th Mil. Dist.

Hon. John Armstrong, Secretary of War.

N. B. We have to lament that Capt. Sterrett of the 5th Baltimore regiment, has also been wounded, but is doing well. Other officers, no doubt, deserve notice, but I am as yet unable to particularize.

The Enemy having evacuated the city, those inhabitants who had departed generally returned on Saturday. No attempt has since been made by the enemy to re-occupy it.

On Saturday, several of the enemy's vessels appeared in sight down the river, and a flag was sent down by the citizens of Alexandria, offering to surrender at discretion. We are not precisely informed of the terms or nature of the capitulation agreed on, which however shall be hereafter stated. The fort at or near Warburton was blown up by the commander about dusk on Saturday evening. The following letters relate to that circumstance:

Copy of a letter from the Secretary of War to Captain Dyson, dated 29th August, 1814.

SIR—I send Capt. Manigault with orders to receive your written or verbal report of the causes under which you left the post committed to your charge. In this you will state the orders under which you acted, & from whom received. I am, &c. your most obedient servant.

J. ARMSTRONG.

Capt. Dyson, Corps of Artillery.

Camp at Macon's Island.

August 29th, 1814.

SIR—I had the honor to receive your communication of the 29th inst. The orders received from Brig. Gen. Winder through Maj. Hite, verbally, on the 24th inst. were, in case I was oppressed by, or heard of, an enemy in my rear, to spike our guns and make my escape over the river. The enemy approached by water on the 27th, and we had learnt on that day through several channels that the enemy had been reinforced at Benedict, 2000 strong, and that they were on their march to co-operate with the fleet, in addition to the force which left the city. Under all these circumstances, the officers under my command were consulted, and agreed it was best to abandon the fort and effect a retreat. The force under my command was thought not equal to a defence of the place.

I have the honor to be, with great consideration your obedient servant,

SAML. F. DYSON,

Capt. corps of Artillery.

The Hon. John Armstrong,

Secretary of War, Washington.

Capt. Dyson is, we learn, under arrest, and the command of his company given to Lieut. Spencer.

The President of the United States was not only active during the engagement which took place with the enemy, but had been exerting himself for two or three days previous, and has been personally active ever since. Every one joins in attributing to him the greatest merit.

The Enemy's vessels now lie off Alexandria about six miles below this city, and by some are supposed to menace it. We are prepared to meet, and we hope to repel them.

Private property was in general scrupulously respected by the enemy during his stay in the city, with the exception of two houses burnt because guns were fired from them on the enemy. The Office of the National Intelligencer, besides these, was the sole exception. Cockburn, the incendiary hero of Hampton, presided at the demolition of its material parts, and amused the spectators with much of the peculiar slang of the Common Sewer in relation to the Editors of this paper. The destruction of our office will account for the present appearance of our paper.

The officers of government are now all at this place, and about resuming in their ordinary course all the functions of government, to which a momentary interruption has been given by the sudden incursion of a strong force of the enemy. This event, however it may have produced considerable loss to the Public, much loss to a few individuals, among whom are ourselves, and great anxiety to all classes, can produce no serious effect, either on the government, or on

the community generally. The inconvenience, though serious to us and those who have bravely fled to our succour, to the people of the United States will be momentary; the loss to the proprietors of the city (those excepted whose property was destroyed) was very trivial. The only serious effect is the stigma which this event will necessarily, we do not say justly, affix on the national character. That stain can only be effaced by future vigor and unity of action. In what manner these should be exhibited, is a point we shall leave for future elucidation.

AUGUST 31.

Mr. Secretary Mowbray has, in pursuance of the united requests of the commanders of the various descriptions of troops assembled in this district accepted the command of the military force now in the vicinity.

Gen. Armstrong having yesterday retired from the execution of the duties of Secretary of War in this district, in consequence probably of the prejudice which has been excited against him among the troops, the duties of his office also have been temporarily consigned to the Secretary of State, who immediately entered on the discharge of them. Many measures were forthwith put in a train of execution, which it may not now be proper to announce, and the effect of which will be seen in due time.

The enemy continued last night still at Alexandria, emptying the warehouses as agreed on in the capitulation which will be found in our columns; a capitulation of such a nature as the citizens of Georgetown indignantly repelled an invitation to enter into. Two of the frigates or vessels of war are said to have gone down yesterday; but there are doubtless others below to supply their place.

Night before last, we learn, nine transports of the largest class entered Patuxent river. Their destination is for the present only matter of conjecture.

Troops are every hour arriving in the city, in larger or smaller corps, which it would be difficult, if we wished, to enumerate. Among those arrived or expected are a number of seamen, under their gallant commanders.

THE BATTLE OF BLADENSBURG.

Of this interesting and important action, there was almost as many accounts as there were men engaged.—We have already published the official report of the commander in chief, and we now give such additional particulars as appear interesting and authentic. In doing so, we find none more deserving notice than the following, selected from the Baltimore papers, and furnished by those, no doubt, who witnessed and took a share in the most arduous part of the conflict. The troops of this city chiefly composed the reserve, and not being fully brought into action, could not of course speak of the most interesting scenes from actual observation; and therefore it is, that we resort to other sources for additional details, omitting from them such remarks as are unimportant, or from a personal view of the battle and from other intelligence, we deem not well founded:

To the Editors of the Baltimore Patriot.

FRIDAY EVENING, AUG. 26.

Gentlemen—Having witnessed the late unhappy occurrences at Washington, I will, agreeably to your request, put them on paper; that, if necessary, they may be used to correct some of the many erroneous reports which are circulating.

I arrived at Washington on Sunday, the 21st inst. At that time the officers of government and the citizens were very apprehensive of an attack from the British, who had landed a force on the Patuxent. Their numbers had not been ascertained, but reports were various, stating them from 4000 to 16,000. Gen. Winder was stationed near the Wood-Yard, with about 2000 men, hourly expecting large reinforcements from every quarter, particularly from Baltimore, 3000 men having been ordered to march immediately from that place. On Sunday the public officers were all engaged in packing and sending off their boats and the citizens their furniture. On Monday, this business was continued with great industry, and many families left the city. The specie was removed from all the Banks in the district. Reports were very current that Winder had received large reinforcements; so that it was believed by many well informed persons, that he would have 10,000 men embodied in the course of the week. In the expectation that there was a very considerable force collected, the President, accompanied by the Secretary of War, and of the Navy, left the city for the camp. They arrived there late that night; and the next morning finding but 3000 men, and learning that the Baltimore troops were encamped at Bladensburg, they returned to the city on Tuesday to make further arrangements. All the books and papers were sent off, and the citizens generally left the place.

In the course of that day a scouting party from General Winder's army had a skirmish with the British advance guard, and returned to camp with such tidings as induced Gen. Winder to retire to the city with his army, which he accomplished by 9 o'clock in the evening, burnt the old bridge which crossed the Eastern Branch, and encamped on the hill, directly above the other bridge, about one mile and an half from the Navy Yard, and prepared to defend that passage. In the event of the British being too strong, the bridge was to be blown up, for which he had every thing prepared. At this post he remained the whole night, expecting the enemy's forces. On Wednesday morning I walked through the army, and remained at the bridge until 10 o'clock, when advice was received, that the enemy had taken the Bladen-

burg road. The troops were immediately put in motion, and by 12 o'clock the whole were on their march, in the hope of forming a junction with the Baltimore troops, before the enemy reached Bladensburg. This was only partially accomplished, when the battle commenced, and was contested by the Baltimore troops and the men from the flotilla, with great spirit and gallantry, until it appeared useless for so small a force, very badly supported, to stand against six thousand regulars, all picked men and well supplied—a retreat was ordered, when the President, who had been on horseback with the army the whole day, retired from the mortifying scene, and left the city on horseback.

On Thursday morning, I proceeded on with the army, to Montgomery Court House, where Gen. Winder's head quarters were established. I had some conversation with him. He appeared to regret very much, that he had not been enabled to have made a greater resistance, altho' he was perfectly satisfied, that a successful resistance could not have been made with the force in the neighborhood of Washington, since, if all had been brought together before the action, it would not have been so large as that opposed to him, and our force were principally militia, and that of the enemy all regulars and picked men.

FURTHER PARTICULARS.

[The following is furnished the editors of the Patriot by an officer of distinction, who was in the battle.]

The British left Bladensburg Thursday night by the road to the Patuxent, carrying with them as many of their wounded as 40 horses could drag in waggons, carts and carriages. They left 83 wounded behind and thirty men to take care of them; among the former were two Colonels and one Major. The last died a few hours after. It is supposed their loss in killed and wounded, amounted to 500. The field and road in front of Commodore Barney's battery was strewn with dead men and horses. None but officers being on the latter, their loss must have been severe. Before the Commodore ordered a retreat, his horse was shot under him; he was himself wounded with several of his officers and men, and the enemy had surrounded his brave band, having driven his right flank (composed of regulars) from their post, and thereby got in his rear. Gen. Ross acknowledged his fire to have been tremendous, and that his first gun laid ten of his men in the dust.

One advantage their men had over ours was their carrying each from 60 cartridges upwards. They however were so loaded with their ammunition, knapsacks, &c. and were so overpowered by their rapid march, that many fell dead in the road. As they passed through Bladensburg their mouths were open gasping for breath and their officers were driving them forward with their swords and espionettes. Twelve were buried in one field, that had not a wound.

Commodore Barney's wound will be tedious, but is not dangerous. He has been removed to his residence on Elkridge. Captain Miller of the marines, was badly wounded in the arm, whilst ably supporting the Commodore's left. Many of his men as well as the brave flotilla boys were killed and wounded.

A deserter who was in the battle states that Col. Thornton of the 85th regiment, was shot from his horse (a grey) early in the battle; that Major Wood, of the 29th fell shortly after, and that he believed from 3 to 400 have deserted from the enemy.

When we remarked, in our paper of yesterday, that private property had in general been scrupulously respected by the enemy during his late incursion, we spoke what we believed, from a hasty survey, and perhaps without sufficient inquiry. Greater respect was certainly paid to private property than has usually been exhibited by the enemy in his marauding parties. No houses were half as much plundered by the enemy as by the knavish wretches about the town who profited of the general distress. There were, however, several private buildings wantonly destroyed, and some of those persons who remained in the city were scandalously maltreated. Among the private buildings destroyed, was the dwelling house owned and occupied by Mr. Robert Sewall (formerly rented by Mr. Gallatin) from behind which a gun was fired at Gen. Ross, which killed the horse he rode; the houses built for Gen. Washington on the brow of Capitol hill, the large hotel belonging to Daniel Carroll of Dudm. and others, and recently occupied Mr. Tomlinson, the rope walks of Tench Ringgold, Heath and Co. and John Chalmers, were destroyed by fire, without any pretence being assigned therefor that we know of.

The enemy was conducted through the city by a former resident, who, with other detected traitors, is now in confinement.

Cockburn was quite a mountebank in the city, exhibiting in the streets a gross levity of manner, displaying sundry articles of trifling value of which he had robbed the President's house, and repeating many of the coarse jests and vulgar slang of the Federal Republican respecting the chief magistrate and others, in a strain of eloquence which could only have been acquired by a constant perusal of that disgrace to the country.

The magazine at Greenleaf's Point was destroyed (partially only) and the guns spiked on Thursday. In a dry well belonging to the barracks our soldiers had thrown many barrels of powder for concealment. After exploding the magazine, the British soldiers threw casually into this well one or two of their matches, which communicated to the powder deposited there. The effect was terrific. Every one of his soldiers.

(See fourth page.)