

# The Western Democrat.

OFFICE ON THE WEST SIDE OF TRADE STREET

CHARACTER IS AS IMPORTANT TO STATES AS IT IS TO INDIVIDUALS, AND THE GLORY OF THE ONE IS THE COMMON PROPERTY OF THE OTHER.

\$2 per annum IN ADVANCE

W. J. YATES, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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### CONSCRIPTION.

HEADQUARTERS CAMP OF INSTRUCTION, Near Raleigh, June 26th, 1862. SPECIAL ORDER NO. 1. I. All persons subject to the provisions of the act of Congress entitled "An act to provide for the Public Defence," approved the 16th of April 1862, and known as the Conscription Act, are hereby ordered to appear at their regular Regimental muster grounds in their respective counties, on the 8th day of July, prox.

### The Battle of Manassas.

FULL PARTICULARS—RETREAT AND PURSUIT OF THE YANKEES, &C.

The following letter from Gen. Lee to President Davis will be found to contain the particulars in a few words of our great victory on the Plains of Manassas, on the memorable 30th of August:

Headq's Army Northwestern Virginia, Chantilly, 3d September, 1862.

His Excellency, Jefferson Davis, President Confederate States of America:

Mr. President: My letter of the 30th ult., will have informed your Excellency of the progress of this army to that date. General Longstreet's division, having arrived the day previous, was formed in order of battle on the right of General Jackson, who had been engaged since morning, resisting an attack commenced on the 28th. The enemy, on the latter day was vigorously repulsed, leaving his numerous dead and wounded on the field. His attack on the morning of the 29th was feeble, but became warmer in the afternoon, when he was again repulsed by both wings of the army. His loss on this day, as stated in his published report, herewith enclosed, amounted to 8,000 killed and wounded.

The enemy being reinforced, renewed the attack on the afternoon of the 30th, when a general advance of both wings of the army was ordered, and after a fierce combat, which raged until after 9 o'clock, he was completely defeated and driven beyond Bull Run. The darkness of the night, his destruction of the Stone Bridge after crossing, and the uncertainty of the fords, stopped the pursuit.

The next morning, the enemy was discovered in the strong position at Centreville, and the army was put in motion towards the Little River turnpike, to turn his right. Upon reaching Ox Hill on the 1st of September, he was again discovered on our front on the heights of Germantown, and about 5 P. M., made a spirited attack upon the front and right of our columns, with a view of apparently covering the withdrawal of his trains on the Centreville road, and masking his retreat. Our position was maintained with but slight loss on both sides. Major-General Kearney was left by the enemy dead on the field. During the night the enemy fell back to Fairfax C. H., and abandoned his position at Centreville. Yesterday about noon he evacuated Fairfax C. H., taking the roads as reported to me, to Alexandria and Washington.

I have, as yet, been unable to get official reports of our loss or captures in these various engagements. Many gallant officers have been killed or wounded. Of the general officers, Ewell, Trimble, Taliaferro, Fields, Jenkins and Mahones, have been reported wounded. Col. Means, Marshall, Baylor, Neff, and Gadberry killed. About 7,000 prisoners have already been paroled, about the same number of small arms collected from the field, and thirty pieces of cannon captured, besides a number of wagons, ambulances, &c. A large number of arms still remain on the ground. For want of transportation valuable stores had to be destroyed as captured, while the enemy, at their various depots, are reported to have burned many millions of property in their retreat.

Nothing could surpass the gallantry and endurance of the troops, who have cheerfully borne every danger and hardship, both on the battle-field and march. I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obt's servant, R. E. LEE, Gen'l.

[Chantilly is north of Centreville and northwest of Fairfax Court-House, about six or eight miles from each. The "letter of the 30th," referred to in the above, was not received. The Little River turnpike leads from Middleburg to Alexandria about a mile this side of Fairfax C. H. Germantown is on the Little River turnpike, about half a mile west of the intersection with the Centreville turnpike.]

The following correspondence will illustrate the thoroughness of the enemy's defeat in the battle of the 30th. It bears date, as will be seen, of the next day:

Centreville, August 31, 1862. Sir: Many of the wounded of this army have been left on the field, for whom I desire to send ambulances. Will you please inform me whether you consent to a truce until they are cared for? I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN POPE, Maj-Gen. U. S. A., Com. Commanding-Officer Confederate Forces, near Groveton.

Headq's, Army of Northern Virginia, August 31, 1862.

Sir: Consideration for your wounded induces me to consent to your sending ambulances to convey them within your lines. I cannot consent to a truce nor a suspension of military operations of this army. If you desire to send for your wounded, should your ambulances report to Dr. Guillet, Medical Director of this army, he will give directions for their transportation.

The wounded will be paroled, and it is understood that no delay will take place in their removal. Very respectfully, your obt's serv't, (Signed) R. E. LEE, General.

### INTERESTING ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE.

Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.

Groveton, near Manassas, Aug. 31, '62.

As a favorable opportunity offers to write you, I will drop you a line stating simply what I saw and what part was taken by the battalion to which my company is attached. It is composed of four companies—Capt. Jordan, of Bedford; Rhett, of S. C.; Eubank, and W. W. Parker, of Virginia.

Hearing that a fight would probably come off yesterday, Col. S. D. Lee of S. C., who commands the battalion, pushed on from Salem on Friday till 2 A. M. Saturday, when we found ourselves upon the battle-field of the day before. At daybreak I was aroused by pretty brisk picket firing on our right and left, and to my surprise, found we had advanced right in among the pickets, indeed not more than 500 yards from the enemy. About six we were ordered to fall back and take position on the left of the turnpike, about a half mile from

the road, upon a commanding position. Here we had a grand view of the plains of Manassas, reaching as far as Centreville.

To the front the land breaks beautifully into hill and dale, forming a sort of amphitheatre. About a mile immediately in front were a few houses called Groveton, I believe; and this point the Yankees occupied with a strong battery—indeed, two of them. On their right and rear long lines of infantry were seen in line of battle, and far in the distance immense clouds of dust filled the heavens. From early morn a brisk little picket firing was kept up on our right, our boys occupying a barn and an orchard. An attempt was made by a few companies (advancing through a corn-field) to drive out this troublesome picket. In our own battalion there are 16 guns; and four others, two from Norfolk and two from Lynchburg, I believe, making 20, occupied the crest of the hill before mentioned. The rifle guns were ordered, to "fire at the men in the corn-field." A few shots stopped their advance, and caused the men to scatter and lie down. Then commenced a cannonading between our batteries and two of the enemy's, which was kept up, with intermissions of 15 or 30 minutes, till the great fight took place. About 1 A. M. a regiment advanced rapidly from the enemy's left, determined this time to drive out our pickets. This effort succeeded, and our brave sharpshooters retired through the orchard in good order. So soon as they got well out of the way we opened upon the enemy, and in 10 minutes they skedaddled in fine style, sheltering themselves in the ravines and behind the barn. At 2 o'clock the forces that had been moving almost the whole day towards our left, began to move in the opposite direction, and we concluded that they were retiring towards Manassas, two or three miles distant. Several attempts were now made to advance upon our left like those to drive in our pickets on our right, but a few shells served to scatter the skirmishers and drive them into the woods that skirted this beautiful valley on either hand. When almost every officer was satisfied that the enemy, foiled in his attempt to make us bring on the fight by these little advances on our right and left, was about to retire, and merely kept up the cannonading in order to conceal his retreat, suddenly at 4 P. M., a regiment after regiment of infantry were thrown out of the woods upon our left and advanced in very good order for the purpose of driving out our pickets and take our batteries on the left flank. In an instant, Col. Lee, always cool and self-possessed, ordered every howitzer to the left, and then such a blaze of artillery as I never heard. The guns, from the nature of the ground, were very close together, and it was almost impossible to distinguish the discharge of the guns in your own from those in other batteries. It was clear that the next thirty minutes would determine the fate of all our batteries. At the same time the enemy made his infantry advance, he commenced a most furious cannonading. No sound was heard for two hours from this time but the roar of cannon and the bursting of shells. The enemy had a 30-pounder, which was used some time during the earlier part of the day, but fortunately he did not get our range. So soon as the dark columns got near enough to our infantry, two small regiments which had been placed upon our left to support us, poured a deadly fire into them.

For some time four or five regiments had gotten out of our sight, having advanced under cover of the hill, and I expected to see the men driven out of the woods and see the enemy mount the hill; but still the battle raged. The shells burst above, around, and beneath us. Every man is at his post; no talking, no ducking of heads now. All intense, silent earnestness. It was an hour big with every man's history. It was a struggle for life. The face of every man was flushed, his eye full, and his arm stronger than was wont. It seemed that the very heavens were in a blaze, or like two angry clouds surcharged with electricity and wafted by opposing winds, had met terrific in battle. Presently the Yankee columns began to break and men to fall out to the rear. The retreating numbers gradually increased, and presently the great mass, without line or form, now move back like a great multitude without guide or leader. From a slow, steady walk, the great mass, or many parts of it, move at a run, and our eyes tell us the victory is won. Then did many a man say deep down in his heart, with flushed face and filling eyes, "Thank God!" One youth ran to me and said, "I thought God would give us the victory." Who knows but God honored that child's faith! He heareth the young ravens when they cry. Now the scene changes. Our infantry pour down from left and right, and our guns cease lest we should kill our own men. The guns of the enemy, however, blaze the faster, as if in a fit of desperation. On our right, Longstreet, whose name is a terror to the enemy, closes upon them, and the hills on the right roar with musketry. The battle gradually recedes—slowly, but steadily, like a great storm of a summer's day. Our ammunition was exhausted and we could not follow. Until nightfall the battle raged, especially on the right, and it is said that our loss in that quarter was heavy—and that nothing withstood the onset of our men.

It is impossible to state our loss. It is, however, much less than that of the enemy. I know this from personal inspection. This morning we moved up and occupied the enemy's ground, and we are permitted to rest and see if something may not be had to eat, as our men have been fasting for over twenty-four hours. But for green apples they would have suffered greatly.

In conclusion, permit me to say that, as a nation we have often bowed the knee to beg God's favor in our trials. Should we not, as a nation, raise our hands and our hearts in thanksgiving for his goodness. It is not always noble to beg, but 'tis always magnanimous to be grateful.

### A BATTLE AT GERMAN-TOWN.

The enemy completely routed—Jackson and Longstreet across the Potomac.

Another severe battle occurred between the Confederates under Gen. A. P. Hill and a large body of the enemy, on Monday, 1st inst., at Germantown, a small village in Fairfax county, near the main road leading from Centreville to Fairfax C. H., and about two miles this side of the latter place. The enemy, it appears, succeeded in rallying a sufficient number of their routed troops at

the point named, to make another show of opposition to the advance of the victorious Confederates on their Capital. On Sunday, the pursuit of Pope's army was commenced and pressed with vigor on the Fairfax C. H. road, and on Monday morning at daylight the enemy were discovered drawn up in line of battle across the road, their right extending to the village of German-town. Gen. Hill immediately ordered the attack, and after a brief but hotly contested fight, the enemy were broken and fled in utter rout towards Alexandria. They were pursued for several miles, and many prisoners captured. All their artillery was abandoned and fell into our hands.

We have no particulars of the casualties on either side, but it is stated that the Yankee dead covered the field of battle and numbers of the frightened wretches slaughtered in their flight. Among their killed were Gens. Stearns and Kearney. We had no officer of note killed or wounded. This column of our army continued to advance, and on Tuesday evening occupied Munson's, Mason's, and the adjoining hills, within full view of the Yankee capital, and only five miles from Alexandria.

On Thursday morning two divisions of our army, one under Jackson and the other under Longstreet, left Drainsville at 8 o'clock, and took up the line of march for the Potomac, one crossing the river at Edward's Ferry to Poolesville, in Maryland, and the other at White's Ferry, a short distance lower down.

### ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

From the Richmond Enquirer.

Counting the stragglers and deserters, we think the enemy must have lost at least fifty thousand of his veteran troops by the battles of Sudley and Manassas. We dare say the number is even considerably larger. The arms and munitions captured will prove also a valuable addition to our supplies.

In addition to the facts made known in Gen. Lee's letter, we are enabled to give some interesting details of the battles, which we have received from an officer and gentleman of the highest respectability and intelligence, and whose statements are entitled to the most implicit credit, because of his habits of close observation as well as careful narration. This gentleman, as is known to us, is thoroughly acquainted with the scene of battles from his youth. He commanded also a company in last year's Manassas battle. On the present occasion he was a spectator of the Saturday's fight from the eminence occupied by General Lee; and on the next day, in company with a number of others, he devoted six hours to a ride over the battle field.

The battles of Thursday and Friday were both fought in the neighborhood of Sudley, where Jackson held position, and where he still was on Saturday morning. Our line of battle, on Saturday morning, was an obtuse crescent in shape, and at least five miles long. Jackson's line, which formed our left, stretched from Sudley, on Bull Run, along the partly excavated track of the Manassas Independent line of railroad, for a portion of the way, and thence towards a point on the Warrenton Turnpike, about a mile and a-half in rear of West of Groveton.

Longstreet's command, which formed our right wing, extended from the point on the turnpike on which Jackson's right flank rested, and prolonged the line of battle far to the right, stretching beyond the line of the Manassas Gap railroad.

It is thus seen that a point on the Warrenton Turnpike, a mile and a-half West of Groveton, was the centre of our position, and the apex of our crescent, whose convexity was towards the West. It was here, in an interval between Jackson's right and Longstreet's left that our artillery was placed. Eight batteries were planted on a commanding elevation, and were greatly distinguished early in the battle by their brilliant execution.

The enemy's line of battle conformed itself to ours, and took, therefore, a crescent form, of which the centre or more advanced portion was at Groveton, whence the wing declined obliquely to the right and left. Their batteries were in rear of their infantry, and occupied the hills which they had held in the fight of July, 1861, but pointed differently.

Battle was joined between the artillery about 12 o'clock, and the terrible execution of ours was evidenced by the mangled corpses of the enemy which our subsequent advance disclosed. A number of them lay in the road at Groveton, and on the hills around. Not long after, Jackson's wing became engaged, and about 4 o'clock, P. M., the battle was raging along the whole line. The bearing of our troops, as they pressed forward to the battle, is described as magnificent. Jackson's left advancing more rapidly than his right, swept around by the Pittsylvania House and pressed the enemy back towards the turnpike; while Longstreet, making an analogous move in his wing, crowded back those in front of him towards the Henry hills.

Hood's Brigade formed Longstreet's left, and, of course, charged next the turnpike. In its track it met Sickles' Excelsior Brigade and almost annihilated it. The ground was piled with the slain. Pickett's Brigade was on the right of Hood's, next came Jenkins' Brigade, and next was Kemper's, which charged near the Conrad House. Evans' and Anderson's were the reserve, and subsequently came into action.

Thus moving, our army drove the enemy on both wings, pressing them across the Henry and Robinson ridge, and through the pines and copes beyond, and across Bull Run. Long after night-fall our artillery was still thundering at the retreating enemy. It is a remarkable coincidence that one of the numerous batteries captured by our army, was taken on the precise spot where Rickett's battery became ours on July 21st, 1861. The guns, as before remarked, pointed, however, in different directions on the two occasions. The ride over the battle field on Sunday, revealed a scene of carnage of which this war had furnished before no equal example. The heaps of the enemy were thickest where they had assailed Jackson's line at the railroad excavations. They here almost paved the ground. Another scene of great carnage was in the road which runs across the turnpike near the Henry house. The enemy had

made a stand there in the gully-worn track, and in a space of less than two hundred yards, nearly a thousand had met their deaths. In the piece of woods near and west of this road, our own loss was heavier than anywhere else, the enemy making good fight from their natural intrenchments.

But while these were the spots where death held its fiercest carnival, the whole field of combat was strewn with victims. Our informant states that several times his company paused to count the number of corpses of the enemy in sight, and after counting in every instance over three hundred, they ceased from inability to distinguish among those lying furthest off. He declares that he speaks in great moderation when he expresses the opinion that he saw not less than five thousand slain Yankees, and judges an additional thousand as a small estimate for those he did not see. One of the enemy lay stretched across the grave of Mrs. Henry, the victim of the last year's fight. The wounded appeared on every hand imploring assistance. He thinks twenty thousand a moderate estimate of the killed and wounded of the enemy. It will be exceedingly gratifying to learn that, after a careful observation, the same gentleman is perfectly convinced that our slain cannot exceed six hundred, and he believes will be a hundred less. Our wounded, too had all been cared for; and the burial of our dead commenced on Monday.

When we contemplate not merely the great victory we have won, but our very small comparative loss, we have double reason for gratitude to God for his manifest favor. It is proper to add that the great disparity in the casualties to the opposing armies does not exist in the opinion of our present informant only, but it was the judgment of his companions also, and has been asserted by numerous other independent observers.

Let the whole Confederacy, then, bow in grateful adoration that not only is our country saved, but our friends are spared!

### THE GREAT SOUTHERN VICTORY IN KENTUCKY.

Complete Rout of the Yankee Army—Over Ten Thousand Men Captured.

From the Knoxville Register we extract the following intelligence relative to the great victory achieved over the Yankee forces near Richmond, Ky., on Saturday, the 30th August. It will be seen that our victory was complete in every particular, the entire army being captured, numbering over ten thousand men. The following is a despatch from Gen. Smith announcing the victory:

"We had three fights on the 30th near Richmond, Ky. The enemy was completely routed. General Nelson is wounded in the thigh, Gen. Miller killed. About three thousand prisoners, including General Manson and staff, captured, together with all their artillery and small arms, wagons, &c. Our loss small."

Immediately after the battle the following congratulatory order was issued by Gen. Smith: Headquarters Army of Kentucky, Richmond, Ky., Aug. 30.

The Major-General commanding returns his heartfelt thanks to the troops of this command, officers and men, for their exceeding gallantry in the several actions of this day, their patient, unflinching endurance of fatigue during two days and nights, forced marches, and fighting three battles in twelve hours.

The country shall know of your sufferings on the march, as well as of the bold, pressing charges of this day.

To-morrow being Sunday, the General desires that the troops shall assemble, and under their several Chaplains shall return thanks to Almighty God, to whose mercies and goodness these victories are due. E. KIRBY SMITH, General Commanding.

The Register publishes the following highly interesting letter, which it says is from a very worthy source and entitled to the utmost credit:

Gen. Smith and staff mounted their horses at 7 o'clock, Saturday morning, and moved to the front some eight miles to where our forces arrived last night. Just before reaching the place the enemy attacked us, opening with artillery, and in about an hour the infantry opened. In less than an hour we drove them from their position, with great slaughter on their side, we taking many prisoners. Our loss was quite heavy, especially in officers. We moved on about two miles beyond Congressville, at which place the fight first occurred, and found them again in position, when we made the attack, and the second time drove them from their position, with still greater loss both in killed and wounded and missing, with smaller loss on our side. This second fight occurred about 2 or 3 o'clock, and our troops having marched some eight miles, and having no water except a little taken from the stagnant pools along the road, and seeing the enemy again preparing to receive us, we halted our men and gave them several hours' rest. Everything being ready, a short march brought us within sight of Richmond, where the enemy made a third stand, when we moved on and attacked them the third time.

After hard fighting we routed them, and drove them through the place a little before sundown in utter confusion. In this last fight we did not lose many men, but we captured from 1,300 to 1,500 prisoners, besides their killed and wounded. After we had whipped them in front and started them running, Colonel —, with his command, who had been sent around on the Lexington road to catch them keeping his command in ambush until the retreating army came up, attacked them, and succeeded in capturing and killing nearly the whole army, taking all their guns and some ten pieces of artillery, with all their wagons, stores, etc. It is estimated that their killed, wounded and missing will reach some 10,000, whilst ours will not reach more than from three to five hundred killed and wounded. Their loss in killed dred killed and wounded. Their loss in killed and wounded officers is very heavy. The troops were from Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky, and commanded by Gen. Bull Nelson. Colonel Cassius M. Clay commanded a brigade. Gen. Smith commanded our troops, and by hard fighting and the blessing of God, we destroyed their fine army. It was a grand sight to see our ill-clad, and sometimes barefooted troops, with no food and but little water, marching with a steady front on their

splendidly equipped foe. It was one of the grandest battles I ever saw.

It filled our hearts with pride to see our men move onward and never give way. Glory be to God on high for the splendid result.

Gen. Smith and staff escaped unhurt.

The Register editorially says: "The courier who brings the dispatch of Gen. Smith, further reports that a regiment of Kentucky infantry, and a large body of cavalry, hitherto in the Federal service, have joined Smith's victorious army, and that the Southern Rights Kentuckians are flocking to his standard in great numbers. We think we may safely say that the day of Kentucky's deliverance from the hateful thrall of the abolition despotism has brightly dawned."

### THE SPIRIT OF THE STATES BEYOND THE MISSISSIPPI.

The Governors of the four Confederate States West of the Mississippi have issued the following joint address to their people:

To the Soldiers of the States of Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas.

We, your Governors, have deemed it our duty freely to confer with one another for our common good, and for the advancement of the sacred cause of the Confederacy—a cause that involves not only the permanent prosperity of the States concerned, but the preservation on this continent of the rights of self-government bequeathed to us by our forefathers.

We are determined to do all in our power for the safety and protection of the States we represent, and for the prosperity and perpetuity of the Confederacy.

While the enemy remain in the temporary possession of the Mississippi, we are in a measure cut off from free and unrestrained communication with our sister States and with the Confederate authorities at Richmond.

This induced the necessity of concert of action on our part, as the Executives of the several States West of the Mississippi.

We have had that consultation, and have taken every step that in our opinion we deemed necessary, for fully representing to the Confederate authorities the wants and necessities of these great States.

We have every assurance that the President has neither forgotten nor abandoned us, and are well satisfied that in a short time the proper steps will be taken by him for fully protecting the integrity of our soil, where it has not yet been polluted, and for driving the enemy back from amongst us, by interposing a stubborn resistance to his further advance at every point.

We have every confidence in the Confederate authorities; we believe that they will fully sustain the credit of the Government here, and provide amply for our future defence. But in order that they may be able thus to defend us, it behooves us all to be at work. Let every fire-arm be repaired, every gun-smith and every worker in iron, and every mechanic, be employed in fashioning the materials for war. Let busy sit day by day at the spinning wheel, the loom, and with the needle, never wearying in preparing the necessary articles of clothing for the brave soldiers of our States, who stand between her infancy and misery, as an impassable bulwark. Let all the warlike resources of these great States be brought to light. It is for liberty and light we fight, and a good God has given us in this fair land all the material that brave men need to defend their homes and their honor.

Let no despair enter any heart. A bright ray of light comes to us from the direction of the tomb of Washington. Again have our brave sons on the soil of Virginia driven back, and almost destroyed and utterly demoralized, the greatest and best army of the North. It will be months before he can recover from the blow; we will have a breathing time again before he makes his next effort. Let us diligently use the golden opportunity and prepare by every means in our power for the conflict that is still inevitable.

As to the final result, fellow-citizens, judging by the history of the past eighteen months, can you doubt it?

Except on the coast and on our rivers at points easily assailed by gun-boats, we have had no cause to complain of the result.

Witness Bethel, Manassas, Oak Hills, Lexington, Leesburg, Belmont, Shiloh and Chickahominy. Our soldiers have shown on every field a desperate valor that has wrung reluctant plaudits from our hated foes. Whenever ordered to advance, they have done so regardless of the danger, and at the word of command have crowded the road to death as a festival.

With such soldiers, and such incentives to action, and with all present causes of complaint in the course of speedy removal, we again say to you, be of good cheer. There is every thing to encourage us, and you may rest assured that it is our fixed and unalterable purpose to contest every inch of ground with the enemy, and judging you by your past patriotism, we shall most confidently rely on you for your hearty and earnest co-operation.

Be firm, true, hopeful and resolute, and a just God will help and protect, whilst brave hearts will fight and die for you.

Submission or subjugation places the feet of the oppressor upon your necks, yields up your noble women to butlers, and degrades or drives into exile your children.

A people united and determined to be free, can never be conquered. Remember this; gird on your swords, shoulder your rifles, and be ready for the word of command when given by the Government of our choice and affection.

C. F. JACKSON, THOS. O. MOORE, H. M. RECTOR, F. R. LUBBOCK. MARSHALL, TEXAS, July 28th, 1862.

W. J. YATES, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

Headq's, Army of Northern Virginia, August 31, 1862.

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