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[WHOLE NO. 188.]

INFANT CHOIR.

Who shall sing if not the children?
Did not Jesus die for them?
May they not, with other jewels,
Sparkle in his diadem?
Why to them were voices given—
Bird-like voices sweet and clear?
Why, unless the song of Heaven,
They begin to practice here?
There's a choir of infant songsters,
White-robed, round the Saviour's throne,
Angels nease, and waiting, listen;
O! 'tis sweeter than their own;
Faith can hear the rapturous chorus,
When her ear is upward turned;
Is not this the same; perfected,
Which upon the earth they learned?
Jesus, when on earth sojourning,
Loved them with a wondrous love;
And will he, to heaven returning,
Faithless to his blessing prove?
O! they cannot sing too early;
Fathers, stand not in their way;
Birds do sing while day is breaking—
Tell us, then, why should not they?

[From the Richmond Whig, July 1.]

THE RESULT THUS FAR.

The siege of Richmond is raised. A vaunting and confident army, our superior in numbers and equipments, has been routed and put to flight. An unscrupulous and mendacious commander has had the historic seal of falsehood stamped on his bombastic bulletins. Southern prowess and devotion have again been nobly asserted. All nations are now enlightened as to the unconquerable strength of the Confederate States; they have shown that they are worthy of, and capable of making good, their independence, and have demonstrated, so that denial or cavil or delay would be absurd, their right to be recognized as one of the Powers of the Earth. They have stricken a blow that will make every nerve in Yankeeism quake and ache with fear. It will go hard with the "great financial bubble," if it do not collapse. Their greatest General will lose caste, and their greatest army will lose confidence. We have gained largely in arms, horses and other valuables, as well as in experience and esprit. The skies are very bright over head, and the earth very firm under foot.

THE GENERAL SCHEME.

The great conflict of the Chickahominy has been a series of battles. Beginning with the grand detour of Jackson from Hanover C. H. to get in the rear of the enemy, and the vigorous onset of Gen. A. P. Hill at Meadow Bridge, to effect a crossing and bear down on his right flank, the enemy has been expelled from one fortified position after another, whenever he made a stand, until the whole of his right wing was driven Southward down the Chickahominy a distance of some sixteen or eighteen miles. This involved the cutting off of the main body of McClellan's army, on side of the river, from supplies and reinforcements, as well as from the natural line of his retreat. Gen. Jackson has made so wide a circuit and operated so much in the enemy's rear, that we have comparatively but little knowledge as to the details of his operations. We know, though, that he has played a most important part in unseating McClellan and dislodging him from the fortifications in which he felt so perfectly secure. What havoc he has played with enterprising Yankee sutlers and trades people, and the hosts of camp followers, we can well imagine. Stuart's dash was the premonitory pelting of which this was the storm.

MCLELLAN'S STRONGHOLD.

McClellan's entrenched camp on this side of the Chickahominy is described as a work of thorough science and skill, and as betraying an almost incredible amount of labor. For defensive purposes, and held by brave troops, it would have been impregnable. A gentleman of intelligence who explored it thoroughly, gave it as his opinion that it could have been held against any force short of half a million of men. The masterly plan of getting in McClellan's rear and intercepting his supplies is the only one by which he could have been dislodged.

THE EVACUATION.

Prisoners state that McClellan, realizing his fact that he was cut off from the base of his supplies, the York River and Pamunkey, commenced evacuating his positions on this side of the Chickahominy as early as Friday night. All day Saturday, Saturday night and Sunday, he was engaged in dismantling his fortifications,

stores as he had the means of transporting. A great quantity of these latter, with a large amount of camp equipment, was destroyed. One grand hecatomb not less than thirty feet high with a base of a hundred feet diameter was found by our advancing troops but a short while after it had been set on fire. This was composed of barrels, coffee, sugar, salt, &c., &c. It was skillfully interlarded with combustibles, and the heat had already become so great that the burning pyramid could not be approached.

THE RETREAT.

The evacuation, as far as could be judged, was conducted with skill and in good order. The artillery and ordnance stores were all carried off. A very heavy rear guard confronted our troops and gave back but slowly. Gen. Magruder was engaged an hour or two Sunday evening with a portion of this rear guard, about a mile and a half below the field of the Seven Pines. Their object seemed to be to hold us at bay until night, that they might escape under cover of the darkness. Along the track of their retreat small arms, knapsacks, overcoats, blankets, camp furniture and provisions were scattered in considerable profusion, but nothing indicating a panic or pell-mell fight. Prisoners captured on this side of the Chickahominy said that the evacuation excited profound surprise in the army, as they were entirely ignorant of what had occurred on their right and rear. They knew that there was fighting beyond the river, but were not permitted to know the result.

OUR TROOPS.

The favorite idea of those who but partially understood Southern character has been, that while our troops might excel in dash and impetuosity, they lacked the endurance, the constancy and solid momentum for continuing an obstinately contested effort. This delusion,—it was never anything else,—is now dispelled. For five days our irresistible legions have pressed forward against a storm of shot and shell, over breastworks and ditches, through abatis and swamp, without food, or sleep, or rest, beating the enemy back step by step, and never once recoiling or faltering. All along, this steady forward movement has been embellished and illustrated by pictures of that dashing valor which had been mistaken as the substance and extent of Southern courage; but the conspicuous fact has been the unflinching fortitude and unwavering resolution with which our men have stood up to their work, and pressed on against all odds and regardless of all consequences. There is nothing superior to it in all history. Truer and nobler manhood were never displayed.

THE ANTECEDENTS OF THE FIGHT.

All that was known to the public of the arrangements for the battle, and the plans of the commanding General, Robert E. Lee, was rather inferential than positive. The brilliant achievements of "Stonewall Jackson" in the Valley, led many to suppose that he was acting independently of the plan for the campaign in Eastern Virginia, but we doubt not, if the truth were known, that whilst he was vested with large discretion as to his movements, he was acting in harmony with the policy and plans of the distinguished Generals who were in command of the army before Richmond. After Jackson's victories over the Yankees at Cross Keys and Port Republic, heavy reinforcements were sent to the Valley, and the opinion seemed well founded that it was the intention of our Government to give Jackson a sufficient army to penetrate Pennsylvania, in response to the popular clamor for offensive warfare; or, at least, to make a diversion to prevent reinforcements from going to McClellan. Whatever may have been the object of the movement it is no longer a secret that Jackson's army, including the reinforcements sent to him from Richmond and other points, did not march towards the land of Penn., but, on the contrary, travelled by railroad towards the seat of war, in this vicinity. The troops sent to him from Richmond (Law's and Hood's Brigades) certainly had a very circuitous journey, but "the longest way 'round is often the shortest way 'across," and so it proved in this instance.

A TOPOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

A correct understanding of the position of the contending force and the progress of the fight

country, but as this is not within convenient reach of every reader, we will state that a line due north from Richmond would strike the Chickahominy near the Meadow Bridges, about six miles distant, whilst another line due east would intersect the same stream about eight miles from the city. This line is nearly represented by the York River Railroad. Between Meadow Bridges and the latter railroad, the distance, we believe, along the Chickahominy on the north side, is about ten miles. Two miles east of the Meadow Bridges is the Mechanicsville turnpike, further on Beaver Cam creek, emptying into the Chickahominy, then the New Bridge road, on which Coal Harbor is located, and then Powhite creek the latter being two or three miles above the railroad crossing. The lines of the Yankee army extended across the Chickahominy near this point. South of the railroad is the Williamsburg stage road, and connecting the latter with the New road is the Nine Mile road. South of the Williamsburg road is the Charles City road.

STORMING ENTRENCHMENTS.

It now being 3 p. m. and the head of our column in view of the Federal camps, Gen. Pryor was sent forward with his brigade to drive away the heavy mass of skirmishers posted to our rear to annoy the advance. This being accomplished with great success, and with little loss to us, Pryor returned and awaited orders. Meanwhile the Federals, from their camps and several positions on the high grounds, swept the whole face of the country with their numerous artillery, which would have annihilated our entire force if not screened in the dips of the land and in gullies to our left. Advancing cautiously but rapidly in the skirt of woods and in the dips to the left, Wilcox and Pryor deployed their men into line of battle—Feartherstone being in the rear—and suddenly appearing on the plateau facing the timber-covered hill rushed down into the wide gully, crossed it, clambered over all the felled timber, stormed the timber breast works beyond it, and begun the ascent of the hill, under a terrific fire of sharpshooters, and an incessant discharge of grape and canister, from pieces posted on the brow of the hill, and from batteries in their camps to the right on the high flat lands. Such a position was never stormed before. In descending into the deep creek, the infantry and artillery fire that assailed the three brigades was most terrific. Twenty-six pieces were thundering at them, and a perfect hailstorm of lead fell thick and fast around them. One of Wilcox's regiments wavered—down the General rushed furiously, sword in hand, and threatened to behead the first man that hesitated. Pryor steadily advanced, but slowly; and by the time that the three brigades had stormed the position, passed up the hill through timber, and over felled trees, Feartherstone was far in advance. Quickly the Federals withdrew their pieces, and took up a fresh position to assail the three brigades advancing in perfect line of battle from the woods and upon the plateau. Officers had no horses, all were shot—Brigadiers marched on foot, sword in hand—regiments were commanded by Captains, and companies by Sergeants, yet onward they rushed with yells and colors flying, and backward, still backward fell the Federals, their men tumbled every moment in scores. But what a sight met the eyes of these three gallant brigades? In front stood Federal camps, stretching to the northwest for miles! Drawn up in line of battle were more than three full divisions, commanded by McCall, Porter, Sedgewick, &c.—banners darkened the air—artillery vomited forth incessant volleys of grape, canister and shell—heavy masses were moving on our left through the woods to flank us! Yet onward came Wilcox to the right, Pryor to the left, and Feartherstone in the centre—one grand, matchless line of battle—almost consumed by exploits of the day—yet onward they advanced to the heart of the Federal position, and when the enemy had fairly succeeded in almost flanking us on the left, great commotion is heard in the woods!—volleys upon volleys are heard in rapid succession, which are recognized and cheered by our men—"It is Jackson!" they shout, on their right and rear! Yes, two or three brigades of Jackson's army have flanked the enemy, and are getting in the rear! Now

up to madness, Wilcox, Feartherstone and Pryor dash forward at a run, and drive the enemy with irresistible fury—to our left emerge Hood's Texan brigade, Whiting's comes after, and Pender follows! The line is now complete, and "forward" rings from one end of the line to the other, and the Yankees, over 30,000 strong, begin to retreat! Wheeling their artillery from the front, the Federals turn part of it to break our left, and save their retreat. The very earth shakes at the roar! *Not one piece of ours has yet opened! all has been done with the bullet and bayonet,* and onward press our troops through camps upon camps, capturing guns, stores, arms, clothing, &c. Yes, like bloodhounds on the trail, the six brigades sweep everything before them, presenting an unbroken, solid, front, and closing in upon the enemy, keep up an incessant succession of volleys upon their confused masses, and unerringly slaughtering them by hundreds and thousands!

"STONEWALL," AT WORK.

But "where is Jackson?" ask all. He has travelled fast, and is heading the retreating foe, and as night closes in, all is anxiety for intelligence from him. 'Tis now about 7 p. m., and just as the rout of the enemy is complete—just as the last volleys are sounding in the enemy's rear the distant and rapid discharges of cannon tell that Jackson has fallen upon the retreating column, broken it, and captured 3000 prisoners! Far in the night, his insatiable troops lay upon the enemy, and for miles upon miles are dead, wounded, prisoners, wagons, cannon, &c., scattered in inextricable confusion upon the road. Thus, for four hours, did our inferior force, unaided by a single piece of artillery, withstand over thirty thousand of the enemy, assisted by twenty-six pieces of artillery!

In total, we captured many prisoners, and thirty pieces of artillery up to 5 p. m., Friday, and in the battle of Gaines, Mills captured 26 field pieces, 15,000 stand of arms, 6 stand of colors, three Generals (Reynolds, Sanders and Rankin), and over 4000 prisoners, including dozens of officers of every grade—from Colonel to lieutenants of the line.

THE LOSS ON BOTH SIDES.

We have been at great pains to ascertain the number of our wounded in the engagements commenced last Thursday evening, and continued almost uninterrupted since, and are glad to announce that it has fallen far short of our fears and expectation. At five o'clock yesterday evening all of our wounded had been removed from the field, either to the roadside hospitals or to this city. Two thousand have been received at the city hospitals, and gentlemen who have been on the different battle fields, engaged in the removal of the wounded since the beginning of the first fight, inform us there are at most not more than from four to five hundred in the roadside or field hospitals.

Of the number of our killed we have no means of making an estimate, but it will be seen that our wounded fall short of those of the Seven Pines by several hundred.

With regard to the enemy's losses, the estimates vary from 15,000 to 20,000 killed, wounded and missing. Five thousand prisoners had been taken up to Sunday noon, and the Yankee loss in killed and wounded, at the least calculation, was 10,000.

THE BOOTY.

The cannon and arms captured in this battle were numerous and of very superior workmanship. The 26 pieces were the most beautiful we have ever seen, while immense piles of guns could be seen on every hand—many scarcely having the manufacturer's "finish" even tarnished. The enemy seemed quite willing to throw them away on the slightest pretext, dozens being found with loads still undischarged. The number of small arms captured, we understand, was not less than 15,000, of every calibre and every make. The field pieces taken are principally Napoleon, Parrot and Blakely (English) guns. We have captured large quantities of army wagons, tents, equipments, shoes.

Money was found quite abundantly among the slain. Some men, in interring the dead, often searched the pockets, etc., one man finding not less than \$150 in gold; another fished out of some