

North Carolina Argus.

NEW SERIES—VOL. IV—NO. 34.1

WADESBOROUGH, N. C., THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 1862.

EWOLE NO. 192.

Battle of the Seven Pines—General Johnston's Official Report.

RICHMOND, June 24th, 1862.

Gen. S. Cooper, Adjutant and Inspector General—Sir—before the 30th May I had ascertained from trustworthy scouts that Key's Corps was encamped on this side of the Chickahominy, near the Williamsburg road. On that day Major General D. H. Hill reported a strong body immediately in his front. On receiving this report, I determined to attack them next morning—hoping to be able to defeat Key's Corps completely in its more advanced position before it could be reinforced. Written orders were dispatched to Major Generals Hill, Huger and G. W. Smith. General Longstreet, being near my Headquarters, received verbal instructions. The receipt of the orders was acknowledged. General Hill, supported by the Division of General Longstreet (who had the direction of operations on the right) was to advance by the Williamsburg road, to attack the enemy in front; General Huger, with his Division was to move down the Charles City road, in order to attack in flank the troops who might be engaged with Hill and Longstreet, unless he found in his front force enough to occupy his Division; General Smith was to march to the junction of the New Bridge road and the Nine Mile road, to be in readiness either to fall on Key's right flank, or to cover Longstreet's left. They were to move at daybreak. Heavy and protracted rains during the afternoon and night, by swelling the stream of the Chickahominy, increased the probability of our having to deal with no other troops than those of Key's. The same cause prevented the prompt and punctual movement of troops. Those of Smith, Hill and Longstreet were in position early enough, however, to commence operations by 8 o'clock A. M.

Major-General Longstreet, unwilling to make a partial attack, instead of the combined movement which had been planned, waited from hour to hour for General Huger's Division. At length, at 2 o'clock P. M. he determined to attack with out those troops. He accordingly commenced his advance at that hour, opening the engagement with artillery and skirmishers. By 3 o'clock it became close and heavy.

In the meantime I had placed myself on the left of the force employed in this attack, with the division of General Smith, that I might be on a part of the field where I could observe, and be ready to meet any counter-movements which the enemy's General might make against our centre or left. Owing to some peculiar condition of the atmosphere, the sound of the musketry did not reach us. I consequently deferred giving the signal for General Smith's advance, till about 4 o'clock, at which time Major Jasper Whiting of General Smith's staff whom I had sent to learn the state of affairs with General Longstreet's column, returned, reporting that it was pressing on with vigor. Smith's troops moved forward.

The principal attack was made by Maj. Gen. Longstreet, with his own and Maj. Gen. D. H. Hill's Division—the latter mostly in advance. Hill's brave troops admirably commanded and most gallantly led, forced their way through the abatis, which formed the enemy's external defenses and stormed their entrenchments by a determined and irresistible rush. Such was the manner in which the enemy's first line was carried. The operation was repeated with the same gallantry and success as our troops pursued their victorious career through the enemy's successive camps and entrenchments. At each new position they encountered fresh troops belonging to it, and reinforcements brought on from the rear. Thus they had to repeat repeated efforts to re-take works which they had carried. But their advance was never successfully resisted.

Their onward movement was only stayed by the coming of night. By night fall they had forced their way to the Seven Pines, having driven the enemy back more than two miles, through their own camps, and from a series of entrenchments; and repelled every attempt to re-capture them with great slaughter. The skill, vigor and decision with which these operations were conducted by General Longstreet are worthy of the highest praise. He was worthily seconded by Major General Hill, of whose conduct and courage he speaks in the highest terms.

Major General Smith's Division moved forward at 4 o'clock—Whiting's three Brigades leading. Their progress was impeded by the enemy's skirmishers, which, with their supports, were driven back to the railroad. At this point Whiting's own and Pettigrew's brigades engaged a superior force of the enemy. Hood's, by my order, moved on to operate with Longstreet. General Smith was desired to hasten up with all the troops within reach. He brought up Hampton's and Hutton's brigades in a few minutes.

The strength of the enemy's position, however enabled him to hold it until dark.

He was prevented from resuming his attack on the enemy's position next morning by the discovery of strong entrenchments, not seen on the previous evening. His Division bivouacked on the night of the 31st within musket shot of the entrenchments which they were attacking, when darkness stayed the conflict. The skill, energy and resolution with which Major General Smith directed the attack would have secured success if it could have been made an hour earlier.

The troops of Longstreet and Hill passed the night of the 31st on the ground which they had won. The enemy were strongly reinforced from the north side of the Chickahominy on the evening and night of the 31st. The troops engaged by General Smith were undoubtedly from the other side of the river.

On the morning of the 1st of June, the enemy attacked the brigade of General Pickett, which was supported by that of General Pryor. The attack was vigorously repelled by these two brigades, the brunt of the action falling on Gen. Pickett. This was the last demonstration made by the enemy.

Our troops employed the residue of the day in securing and bearing off the captured artillery, small arms, and other property; and in the evening quietly returned to their own camps.

We took ten pieces of artillery, six thousand muskets, one garrison flag, and four regimental colors, besides a large quantity of tents and camp equipage.

Major-General Longstreet reports the loss of his command as being about.....3000
Major-General G. W. Smith reports his loss at.....1233

Total.....4283

That of the enemy is stated in their own newspapers to have exceeded ten thousand, an estimate which is no doubt short of the truth.

Had Major General Huger's Division been in position and ready for action, when those of Smith, Longstreet and Hill moved, I am satisfied that Key's corps would have been destroyed, instead of being merely defeated. Had it gone into action even at four o'clock, the victory would have been much more complete.

Major Generals Smith and Longstreet speak in high terms of the conduct of their superior and staff officers.

I beg leave to ask the attention of the Government especially to the manner in which Brigadier Generals Whiting and R. H. Anderson, and Colonels Jenking and Kemper and Hampton, exercising commands above their grades, and Brigadier General Rhodes are mentioned.

This, and the captured colors, will be delivered by Major, A. H. Cole, of my staff.

I have been prevented by feebleness from making this report sooner, and am still too weak to make any but a very imperfect one.

Several hundred prisoners were taken, but I have received no report of the number.

Your obedient servant,
(Signed) J. E. JOHNSTON, General.

*See Longstreet's report.

THE BLOOD STAINED LEAF AT LUCKNOW.

While spending the Sabbath amid the Waldenses, I met an English lady who related to me the following story of Lucknow. A Christian lady of India, during the late war in that country, while reading to the soldiers in the hospital, was interrupted by the entrance of several Highlanders, who came to bid adieu to some sick comrades. Before they left she addressed to them words of encouragement and sympathy, and reminded them of their danger and of the importance of having a personal interest in the great salvation. Giving to one of them her Bible, he selected the twenty-third Psalm and read it, after which she prayed with them. As they were about to leave they asked her for some token of remembrance. Opening her satchel, she presented each with a book or tract, except one, for whom none was left. Going to the apothecary, she procured a pen and paper, and wrote upon it six verses from 2 Cor. v., selecting the 1st, 7th, 10th, 14th, 15th, and 17th, and adding thereto the hymn,

"How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ear."

This she gave to the remaining soldier telling him that she should look for him in heaven.

Many months passed away, during which the regiment to which these men were attached had passed through the thrilling scenes of the relief of Lucknow. One day while the same lady was going her rounds through the hospital, she was told that a newly entered patient desired to speak to her. Approaching his bed, she found a man whose face she did not recognize, but who assured her that he had been her name mentioned and pulled

the leaf on which, months ago, she had written these texts of Scripture and the hymn, for the Highland soldier. He had been his companion in the march from Cawpore to Lucknow. Whenever they halted that paper was taken out and read. He had been led to Jesus, and these words were learned by heart. In one of the dreadful conflicts a ball struck him and he fell. His companion bore him to the surgeon, but it was all in vain; his life was ebbing fast away. "Dear brother," said he to his comrade, "I am going home first. We have loved to talk of home together; don't be sorry for me, for I am so happy! 'How sweet the name of Jesus sounds!' Read me the words she wrote." His friend pulled them out from his bosom, all stained with blood, and read:—"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God—an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." "For the love of Christ constraineth us, because we thus judge that if one died for all, then were all dead." "Yes said he the love of Christ constraineth us." I am almost home. I'll be there to welcome you and her. Good bye; dear"—the word died upon his lips, and he was gone.

His comrade knelt by his side, and taking that torn and bloody leaf, put it into his own bosom, and then went and laid his friend in the grave. After undergoing many hardships and exposure, he found his way to the hospital, to die. Kneeling by his side, that lady prayed for him and commended his soul to God. As she rose and was about to leave him he said, "I feel that I shall not be able to think much longer. I have seen such frightful things! Thank God I have a sure and blessed hope in my death. But I have seen so many in fearful terror!" As she was turning away he detained her for one last and dying request. "Dear madam, when I am gone, promise me that this paper shall be put into my coffin. It gave to me a friend on earth, he led me to a Saviour in heaven." She gave him her promise and left him. The next morning, on visiting him again, she found him almost gone. She took his clanny hand in hers, but it gave no pressure in return. She looked into his eyes, but the film of death was upon them, and in a few moments all was over. The men who had watched with him told her that until sense left him he was talking of home with Jesus. Taking this torn and bloody leaf from his pillow, she placed it in the hands of the corpse, and that evening saw it laid in the grave.—Rev. Dr. Leyburn.

PANIC AT STRASBURG—From a gentleman recently from Strasburg we learn that there occurred a panic among the Yankees at that place on last Wednesday week. A hurricane sweeping from the South raised a great line of dust in the road leading from Front Royal. The Yankees, some two thousand in number, thought the army of the ubiquitous Stonewall was certainly upon them. Setting fire to all their tents and stores they fled in confusion, the greater number of them not halting till they arrived in Winchester. The amount of property destroyed by them in this panic is estimated at between thirty and forty thousand dollars.—Richmond Examiner.

—"First class in geography come up. Bill Toots, what's a cape?"

"A thing that mother wears over her shoulders."

"What's a plain?"

"A tool used by carpenters for smoothing off boards."

"What's a desert?"

"It's goodies after dinner."

"That will do, Bill; I will give you a touch of some goodies after school."

"Think you, sir; but mother says I must never take desert—it's unhealthy."

Common brown sugar is worth, in Richmond, seventy five cents a pound by the hog-head, while molasses is selling at between six and eight dollars a gallon.

FROM STONEWALL—This indomitable old hero is again upon the tramp and will soon make the country ring with his shouts of triumph. A letter dated the 22nd from an officer in Lawton's Brigade, to his wife in this city, states that Stonewall's army was then in Gordonsville, and would take up the line of march the next day for Orange Court House. Pope's army was at Culpepper Court House, about 25 miles from Gordonsville and 18 from Orange, and unless he skedaddled, our boys would soon be upon him. There had been two small skirmishes between the outposts or scouting parties of the opposing armies.

WELL AWAY TO SABBATH-SCHOOL.

When the morning light drives away the night,
With the sun so bright and full,
And it draws its line near the hour of nine,
I'll away to Sabbath-school:
For 'tis there we all agree,
All with happy hearts and free,
And I love to early be
At the Sabbath-school.
Chorus—I'll away, away, I'll away, away,
I'll away to Sabbath-school!

On the frosty dawn of a winter's morn,
When the earth is wrapp'd in snow,
Or the summer breeze plays around the trees,
To the Sabbath-school I go:
When the holy day has come,
And the Sabbath-breakers roam,
I delight to leave my home
For the Sabbath-school.

In the class I meet with the friends I greet
At the time of morning prayer;
And our hearts we raise in a hymn of praise,
For 'tis always pleasant there:
In the book of Holy Truth,
Full of counsel and reproof,
We behold the guide of youth
At the Sabbath-school.

May the dews of grace fill the hallow'd place,
And the sunshine never fail,
While each blooming rose which in memory grows,
Shall a sweet perfume exhale:
When we mingle here no more,
But have met on Jordan's shore,
We will talk of moments o'er
At the Sabbath-school.

AN EASTERN LEGEND.—Some hundreds of years ago there was a great scarcity of corn in Egypt—the people were daily perishing of want; yet some avaricious merchants hoarded up their stock until it became worth its weight in gold. Among these was an old miser, named Amin, who had filled one of Joseph's "Granaries," at the last plentiful harvest. Day by day, as the famine wasted his fellow-citizens, he sat upon the steps of his corn store, speculating on their sufferings and calculating how he could make the utmost usury out of God's bounty. At length there was no more corn elsewhere, famishing crowds surrounded his storeroom and besought him as a charity to give them a little food for all their wealth. Gold was piled around him—the miser's soul was satisfied with the prospect of boundless riches. Slowly he unlocked his iron doors, when lo! he recoils, blasted and terror stricken from his treasury. Heaven had sent the worm into his corn, and instead of piles of yellow wheat he gazed on festering masses of rotteness and corruption. Starving as the people were, they raised a shout of triumph at the manifest judgment, but Amin heard them not—he had perished in his hour of evil pride.

"HASSAN."

A correspondent of the Wheeling "Intelligencer" says that a sister of "Stonewall" Jackson, who lives in Beverly, Virginia, is a staunch Union woman.

While Mr. Buchanan was President the Pottstown, Pa., Bank came into existence and out of compliment to him the notes contained his portrait. But of late the bank has received so many mutilated notes, with the words, "traitor," "Judas Iscariot," &c, inscribed under the portrait, that it has resolved to call in all the notes bearing the likeness and reissue new ones. It must be done to abate a nuisance.

SALT.

Göveror Clark has contracted for the use of salt water at the Virginia salt works, and our State Commissioner has been sent there to manufacture salt for this State. The Greensboro' Patriot says the Commissioner will furnish it to counties at \$3 50 per bushel. We suppose it is to be delivered at the county seats for this price, or at points conveniently reached. [Sols. Watchman.]

SAD ACCIDENT.

A very distressing accident occurred at the Fair Grounds near this place early on Monday morning. Mr. Wilson whilst examining a pistol pulled the trigger not knowing it was loaded when it went off, the ball entering the breast of Mr. Thomas B. Boyed, killing him almost instantly, this is another instance of the careless handling of fire arms before seeing whether they are loaded or not.—Charlotte Whig.

GEN. HALLECK—By order of President Lincoln, Major-General Halleck has been assigned to the command of the whole land forces of the United States. This important "Order" is dated July 11th, and was therefore issued on