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FROM VIRGINIA.

PARTICULARS OF THE LATE BATTLES!

THE MOST DESPERATE FIGHTING AND THE MOST BRILLIANT VICTORY OF THE WAR!

We give details from the Richmond papers of the late battles in Virginia as far as received. The following details by the correspondent of the Enquirer are interesting and instructive:

FREDERICKSBURG, VA., May 6, 1863.

The battle seems to be over, and from all I can gather a glorious victory has crowned the Confederate arms. Not having seen a Richmond paper for three days past, I am at a loss to know whether my daily dispatches have reached you, and for that reason I propose to give you a history of the whole fight, beginning with the crossing below town on Wednesday morning last and bringing it down to the brilliant charge of Monday evening, when the enemy were driven in confusion across the river, their midnight cry being "Retreat to Banks' Ford."

The first movement of the enemy i. e., the crossing below town, can hardly be said to have been a feint. It would be perhaps more proper to speak of it as a movement designed to co-operate with the main attack at Chancellorsville, or it is possible that this force was left in front of Fredericksburg to prevent a rear movement on our part, which, if successful, and the river once crossed by our troops, at a point near town, their access to the railway could have been cut off and their base of supplies rendered useless to them. To guard his rear and protect his base, the force, which afterwards operated offensively, was at first intended to act defensively, in all probability.

How it afterwards acted on the offensive and succeeded in carrying by storm "Marye's Heights," can probably be explained by the fact that Hooker had been hard pressed and whipped in the fight of Saturday and Sunday morning at Chancellorsville and made this in order to create a diversion and enable him to cover his retreat.

Chancellorsville having been the real point of battle it will be most fitting to treat of it first.

On Thursday evening Gen. Anderson, who was holding a position in front of the United States Mine Ford, twelve miles above Fredericksburg, ascertaining that the Yankees, numbering five army corps, with at least eighty thousand men, crossed the Rapid Ann at Kelley's and Germanna Fords, having previously crossed the Rappahannock at Eley's Ford, in Culpepper county, and were advancing down the plank road. Gen. Anderson at once fell back to Chancellorsville, and took up a line of battle in front of the plank road, and extending to the river, and reaching over towards the old Catharine Furnace. Gen. Anderson, however, having too small a force to hold the enemy at this point, fell back to a position some four miles below Chancellorsville, and fronting the old mine road. On Friday morning Gen. Anderson was reinforced on the right Gen. McLaws, and on the left by Gen. A. P. Hill. At this period Gen. Jackson took command and ordered an advance, himself leading it, and succeeded during the day in driving the enemy back, they making but slight resistance. On Friday night our forces rested fully two miles beyond the ground occupied by the Yankee forces on the previous evening. The forces principally engaged thus far in this quarter, belonged to Semmes' brigade, of McLaws' division, and Mahone's brigade, of Anderson's division.

Saturday morning wore away without important results. There was some artillery firing and a little skirmishing but the engagement did not become general until about five o'clock in the afternoon, from which hour the fight raged furiously until about eight o'clock. Jackson, at this time, had thrown a force on their upper flank, and was driving them fiercely down upon our lower line, which, in turn, was hurling them back, and rendering futile all their efforts to break through our lower lines and making it necessary for them to give back towards the river.

There was an intermission in the firing from eight o'clock until about nine. But

from nine until long past midnight the sound of artillery and small arms was well nigh deafening. The explanation was ready. Jackson was pressing them with a night fight. Our boys drove the Yankees, who stoutly held their ground, until near day; and at early dawn of the holy of holies, the fight began on both ends of the line, and by eleven o'clock the firing had ceased. On the upper end of the line, near Chancellorsville, the Yankees were whipped, and were in full retreat towards the river. On the lower line, near Fredericksburg, however, they had succeeded in carrying Marye's Heights, and were rioting in the wild excess of joy. They had stormed, they said, the Gibraltar of America, and their route to Richmond was plain and easy, little remembering that they had hurled a column of fully ten thousand upon one regiment in front, and thus gaining the rear of the rest of Barksdale's brigade.

But "the best laid schemes of men and mice gang aft agone," and whilst the Yankees were facilitating themselves on their splendid successes, and imagining themselves to be in the rear of our army, Gen. Lee was so manoeuvring as to meet the enemy, who were now throwing themselves forward from the town on the plank road. About four o'clock on Sunday evening, McLaws' division, including Wilcox's brigade of Anderson's division, met the advance column of the Yankees, under Gen. Sedgwick, at Salem Church, four miles beyond Fredericksburg, on the plank road, and our line of battle was formed at right angles with the plank road. The battle here raged for about two hours, but the Yankees were repulsed with considerable loss, including some five to six hundred prisoners. Our line on the Telegraph road, meantime, had been formed at Smock's about three and a half miles out from town.

Early on Monday morning Lawton's old Brigade, now Gen. Gordon's, supported by Gen. Smith's and General Havel, all of Early's Division advanced towards Marye's Heights, and charged them without firing a gun, driving the enemy from a position from which less than twenty-four hours before, he had dislodged Barksdale's gallant Mississippians, after a most heroic resistance, in which the enemy's loss was quite considerable. In this condition matters remained until about five o'clock in the evening, when a general advance was ordered. At the firing of a signal gun, Gen. Early moved upon the enemy from the right and Gen's. Anderson and McLaws from the left. The enemy, who held a position on the plank road, extending up and down, were quickly dislodged and driven with great loss from the field. Their resistance was slight. The charge was grand. Early's men, and especially the Louisianians, under Hayes, walked over the enemy as giants over pygmies, while from above, the men of Anderson and McLaws who had been constantly marching and fighting for five days, showed no signs of relaxation, but marched boldly and fearlessly up to their appointed work. The result was the enemy was driven in confusion towards Banks Ford, across which he succeeded in making his way during the night, not, however, without serious loss in killed, wounded and prisoners. Gen. Hoke of the North Carolina Brigade, in Early's division was wounded in this charge. Whilst this was going on Barksdale's men were holding the stone wall, Marye's hill and the heights commanding the plank road, so as to prevent a movement on our rear out from Fredericksburg. But this was hardly necessary. Yankee desire for a general advance had been satisfied, and by the nightfall the Yankees had begun to prepare for the third and last time to evacuate Fredericksburg—and by day-break our pickets were in the town, which is once again in the hands of Barksdale's men.

Though the enemy at Chancellorsville, did not recross the river at the United States Ford until to-day, there has been no general engagement since Sunday—only some occasional skirmishing and feints of attack to cover up their retreat across the river. Hooker, though having the choice of position, did not act offensively after crossing,

but fortified and threw himself on the defensive, thus forcing our men to contend against him in this fight against vastly superior numbers, aided by breastworks, fortifications and all sorts of obstacles. But they were of little avail; Jackson turned their flank and fell upon their rear. And Jackson's boys did their work with all their might and main. They charged faster over the battle field than they marched into it, and their cheering as they drove the enemy before them broke upon the air with fine, inspiring effect, an old too plainly that our men were terribly in earnest, and were fighting for home, for woman, manhood and independence. In such a cause it were worse than base not to strike heavy blows for freedom and the right.

Hooker expected success. He had planned well: but General Lee has proved himself more than a match for him, and his splendid army now lies a part dead on the south side of the Rappahannock, a part wounded on its north bank, and some here, too, and a large part of the advance is already near your city. Hooker had drawn every man from the fortifications, and came prepared with eight days' rations—i. e., eight days' hard tack: three days' cooked meat and eight days' cattle in a herd and eight days' coffee. Hooker made his men a speech, telling them he had advantage of position and was bound to go forward, and all that he asked of them was to fight. He had summoned every man from the fortifications, and had uncovered Washington, and must have put into the fight, from first to last, not a man under one hundred and fifty thousand.

The bravery, fortitude and endurance of our men in all of these engagements cannot be too highly praised or too gratefully remembered by the country. It would seem invidious to make special allusions where all fought so well, but it is due to candor and truth to say that the troops of McLaws and Anderson were oftener engaged than other troops, they being engaged in fighting and marching almost without intermission or refreshments, from Thursday night until Tuesday morning, a period of four days and nights. While to D. H. Hill's old division, commanded by Gen. Rhodes, and Trimble's division, led by Gen. Gholston, Early's division, led by Early himself, and A. P. Hill's men, under their favorite leader, the country is indebted.

The cavalry, too, claim a share of this glorious work, for while the infantry were thus being engaged, one brigade under Fitzhugh Lee met the enemy near Spotsylvania Court House and succeeded in whipping and driving them back to Chancellorsville, certainly two brigades of cavalry, and, perhaps, four, killing the Colonel of the Sixth New York Cavalry and two captains, and taking some sixty prisoners.

It is with sincere regret that I am unable to speak to the praise of all the artillery engaged, but I hear the First Company of Richmond Howitzers and Maney's Battery highly commended for their effective and steady firing. All that I can do is to pay tribute to them all by stating that Col. Crutchfield's Battalion and Col. Alexander's, in Jackson's Corps, and Major Richardson's, in Anderson's Corps, and Col. Cabell's, in McLaws' Division, all acquitted themselves with a skill and bravery that reflects the highest credit upon this arm of the service.

The battle field which reaches from Fredericksburg to a point above Wilderness, some twelve miles up from town, and out to the river, with the exception of about two miles between Salem and Zoar Churches, attests the skillful aiming and deadly destruction of our artillery. The Yankee dead and wounded are strewn over the entire country. Yet had it not have been one of the most thickly wooded sections of land in Virginia the Yankee loss would have been far greater.

Over this same field of battle are scattered, in immense quantities, blankets, canteens, knapsacks, haversacks, cartridge boxes, and any quantity of rifles, muskets, and various other equipments of the soldier. Our boys, however, found but little to eat. The Yankees had well nigh devoured the commissariat, still, a good quantity of hard tack, with some good cooked meats and

coffee, were found in the Yankee haversacks. We also captured some freshly slaughtered meats, and some corn and oats; all of which are quite valuable, and just the articles we needed.

Fredericksburg, on this occasion, did not suffer severely as she did before, though the Yankees managed to steal a good deal. Private houses, I believe, were in no instance entered, where the families were present and the town was not shelled, nor were any citizens arrested or carried off in the town. A few were arrested outside, but in every instance, I believe, they were rescued by our own soldiery.

Hooker commanded in person at the Chancellorsville fight, and occupied a position near that place during the fight. Hooker has made a good fight. He has manoeuvred well, and done better than any other Yankee General; but Hooker is not the equal of our commander-in-chief. Gen. Lee, during this fight, has displayed the highest qualities of an able and successful commander. To him the country is indebted for the most wonderful qualities of the soldier and tactician. He had manoeuvred and combined so as to surround the Yankees twice, and drive them back to the river, when they supposed, on both occasions, that they had gotten into his rear, and were about to surprise him; whilst Gen. Jackson has outdone himself, and exhibited the highest characteristics of a strategist and a skillful General, fully confirming all his best renown, and adding new laurels to the many already won in the service of his country.

Our losses are fully 5,000, whilst those of the Yankees are confessed to be fully 25,000, and about thirty pieces of artillery. We have captured very near 8,000 prisoners, and have lost, I suppose, about 1,000 prisoners. These results of the fight point most conclusively to a most brilliant Confederate victory. We have captured one Brigadier General and any quantity of field and staff officers.

Among the killed on our side, are Gen. Paxton, of the Stonewall brigade; Gen. Nichols was wounded in the leg, having previously lost an arm at Winchester; Gen. McGowan was wounded slightly; Gen. Hoke was wounded in the arm. Generals Slocumb, Howard and O'Neil, of the Yankee army, are reported killed, and "Fighting Joe" said to be slightly wounded. There are also many good and true officers and men who have fallen, but our report would be too lengthy to enable us to make mention of all, so, presuming that my report is long enough, I will close.

The following is from the Dispatch. For the present when all is confusion, it is somewhat difficult to give anything like an accurate or connected account of the series of battles which have taken place on the Rappahannock within the past week, and have again crowned the arms of our infant Confederacy with undying renown. Such information as we have been able to gather, we lay before the reader this morning, and think we hazard nothing in saying that it approaches nearer to accuracy than any account yet published of the grand series of movements which has rolled back once more the tide of fanatical invasion, and hurled, discomfited and dismayed, across the Rappahannock the boasting hosts of the enemy.

As early as Thursday of last week information was received at headquarters that the enemy was crossing in force at Germanna and Bank's ford, when infantry were at once sent up to the vicinity of Tabernacle church to co-operate with our cavalry in that neighborhood. On Friday, at an early hour in the morning, it became apparent that the main force of the enemy had crossed at the above fords, and that his principal demonstrations were to be made from that quarter. Consequently all of our troops with the exception of Early's division and Barksdale's brigade, left the lines in front of Fredericksburg and marched towards Tabernacle Church. On arriving at the plank road the troops were halted and partial line of battle formed, and reconnoitering parties and skirmishers sent in advance to ascertain the position of the enemy. Pretty soon the guns of the skirmishers were heard, indicating the near presence of the