

THE LATE FIGHT AROUND RICHMOND AND PETERSBURG.

THE FIGHT NEAR RICHMOND.

The Richmond Enquirer of the 28th ult., says: At an early hour yesterday morning a movement in force upon our works was developed by the enemy on the lines below Richmond, and on the right of our line before Petersburg. During the previous night the enemy had made extensive preparatory manoeuvres, and, it is said, had received heavy reinforcements. Be this as it may, the enemy began below Richmond by making some demonstrations against our right, bringing about a heavy cannonade, which was intermingled some times with considerable skirmishing. The enemy made no determined attack upon our front, but seemed to be simply feeling the strength of our line. They continued to move out to the right, however, upon a line parallel to our works, skirmishing occasionally along our exterior line, but making no impression. Upon reaching the vicinity of the junction of the nine mile road with the Williamsburg turnpike, they made several serious efforts to break our line, but were repulsed with considerable loss. The cannonade continued during nearly the entire day. The principal fighting occurred on the Williamsburg and Nine-mile roads, some seven or eight miles from the city. Our losses were very slight. The firing ceased about six o'clock in the evening.

THE FIGHTING AT PETERSBURG.

The Richmond Dispatch of the 29th ult., says: The enemy, in his attack below Petersburg, seemed to have gained no advantage and suffered heavy loss. It appears that the Second, Ninth and a part of the Fifth corps of Grant's army moved around to our right on Wednesday night, and early on Thursday morning drove in our pickets at Armstrong's mill, pressing rapidly forward in strong force in the direction of the Boydton plankroad, distant some two miles, striking, in the meantime, that portion of our breastworks occupied by our cavalry, before which he was temporarily checked.

By massing and flanking, however, our lines were broken, and the enemy, pouring in, swept around to the plankroad, striking it at Burgess's mill, seven miles from the city. Such was the rapidity of the enemy's advance that our men were compelled to retire hastily, leaving their camp and all its appurtenances in the hands of the Yankees. A quantity of forage, some horses and wagons, and a few prisoners, were captured at the mill.

The enemy at once formed into line of battle across the plankroad, stretching his columns out through Burgess's fields, and planting a heavy battery on the commanding hill which overlooks the mill pond and the road in this direction. Our forces confronted him on the eminence this side of the road, a valley and a bridge lying between them.

The artillery on both sides was mostly engaged until late in the evening, when the musketry took part, and the fighting was very severe until after dark. At night our men had failed to dislodge the Yankees from their position, and they still held the Boydton plankroad and Burgess's mill.

An official dispatch, received yesterday at the War Department, thus describes the enemy's operations in this quarter:

"The enemy crossed Rowanty Creek below Burgess's mill, and forced back the cavalry in the afternoon. Gen. Heth attacked, and at first drove them, but found them in strong force. Afterwards the enemy attacked and were repulsed. They still hold the plankroad at Burgess's mill. Heth took some colors and prisoners."

Our loss in killed, wounded and missing is estimated at three hundred. This flank movement places the enemy still further from the Southside railroad than when he started. It was a detour to avoid our strong line of works, with the hope of forcing our troops back into them, and will amount to nothing more than to extend somewhat their foraging limits. Mr Burgess was taken prisoner by the Yankees.

About dark the enemy made a feint on our skirmish line in the vicinity of Wilcox's farm. Their attack amounted to nothing.

About ten o'clock Thursday night, the enemy made a determined and vigorous onset upon our lines in the vicinity of Rives's farm and to the left of the Southampton plankroad. They were entirely unsuccessful, however, although they massed three columns along into phalanxes and endeavored to press us back by the sheer weight of their heavy bodies of troops but this was only productive of more terrible slaughter, the artillery mowing great gaps in the squares of men and the Southern rifles bringing down whole ranks at every volley.

The Federals made a number of distinct assaults, but were repulsed each time with very heavy loss. We took a few prisoners.

Yesterday, the Yankees, satisfied, or rather suffering from the results of the previous day's fight, remained quiet. A report prevailed among the passengers who came by last night's train that they had abandoned the position which they had gained on the Boydton plankroad. Two hundred and fifty Yankees arrived by last night's train from Petersburg.

Gen. Dearing, who was reported killed (and so supposed), was only separated by accident from his command, and eventually returned to it.

The Richmond Dispatch of 31st ult., says: In the battle of Thursday last, our infantry loss, in killed and wounded, will not exceed one hundred and fifty. In prisoners we lost between three and four hundred. In the cavalry, our loss was not very severe, as Gen. Hampton's main attack was upon the Federal rear.

Immediately after the cessation of hostilities on Thursday night, the enemy commenced to withdraw his forces in the direction of his fortifications on the Vaughan and Squirrel Level roads, and by 2 o'clock Friday morning had entirely disappeared from the plankroad, with the exception of a small force left there to keep up an appearance of his presence in our front. As soon as this was discovered, a brigade of our troops was ordered to advance and feel the enemy's position; and meeting with such slight resistance, they pushed forward, only to ascertain that the enemy had gone. Some 250 additional prisoners were taken here. Some 300 Federal dead were found unburied on Thursday's field, and about 200 of his wounded, too much disabled to be removed. Fifteen hundred stands of small arms were gathered up, with a number of limbers, caissons, wagons, etc., which the enemy had abandoned, showing that his retreat was hurried. It is probable that many wounded were carried in ambulances.

The enemy had fallen back to his original position, and we have re-established our former lines. During the fight of Thursday, three stands of colors were captured by Mahone's old brigade.

About dark on Thursday night, while the fighting was progressing on our right, a small force of the ene-

my made a bold dash upon our works on the left and succeeded in capturing a portion of them. They also gained possession of one piece of artillery and took prisoners Lieut. Col. Harrison and 20 or 30 men of the 56th Va. Regt.

The Yankees were driven from our works with the loss of ten or twelve prisoners. On Friday night, the enemy made a fierce assault upon McKee's lines, south of the plankroad, but were repulsed with heavy loss. Only a small portion of our troops were engaged.

On Saturday, all was quiet along the whole line and all the old lines seem to have been re-established.

The Petersburg Express of the 2d says:

A number of deserters came into our lines yesterday embracing every branch of the Federal service—infantrymen, cavalrymen and machines. The former report that the Yankee army was exceedingly demoralized on their recent retreat from the Boydton Plankroad, Grant's official statements to the contrary notwithstanding. They also state that every available team with the army was used to carry away such of the wounded as could not walk, and that many of them were so crowded as to render their condition anything but comfortable.

It was evident that Grant made this advance with the expectation of fighting a great and successful battle, as he came with all his best corps commanders, largely supplied with provisions and conveniences for his wounded. Twenty-five or thirty thousand men are a heavy force to make a single reconnaissance. That they did not fight as well as might be expected from the numbers, is fully substantiated by the fact that two or three small brigades of Confederates broke through the thick lines and pierced beyond the centre of their position. An additional attacking force of two more such brigades, would have caused the route and capture of half the Yankee army, with Grant in the bargain.

Grant, in his official dispatch, claims the capture of several government teams loaded with supplies from Stony Creek. They happened to be four teams belonging to the Southern railroad company, enroute to Stony Creek, and loaded with coal and two thousand pounds of bacon. The coal and bacon were thrown out on the roadside, and wounded Yankees crowded into the wagons and hurried off to the rear. Our soldiers subsequently recovered the bacon, and have no doubt enjoyed many a hearty meal of it since.

Beyond all doubt, the Yankees were worse whipped and more thoroughly demoralized in this battle than in any other of the war. Every evidence betokens it, and a little more vigor on our side, would not only have made it one of the most brilliant victories for us, but would have swept half the opposing force from the field.

THE NORTH SIDE.

The Sentinel says that the enemy are busily engaged in strengthening battery Harrison, using sand bags for the purpose, and are throwing up fortifications along their entire lines. Our troops are not idle. Their lines have been made very strong, the amount of work done being wonderful, considering the short time in which the labor was performed. The pickets are within short range, but do not fire on each other.

[For the Argus.]

LIST OF CASUALTIES

In Co. K, 26th N. C. Troops, LINE-OF-BATTLE, Oct. 29, 1864.

Mr. Editor: For the information of the friends and relatives of the members of Co. K, 26th N. C. T., you will please publish the following list of casualties in said company, in an engagement with the enemy, on the Boydton plankroad, south of Petersburg, on Thursday, the 27th inst.:

Killed—Lieut. J. L. Henry and Private John F. Lee.

Wounded—Lieut. J. A. Polk, slight, in thigh; Private J. A. Ingram, flesh wound, in shoulder.

Missing, (and supposed to be captured)—Privates Wm. H. Jarman, H. D. Lee, and J. B. Eddings, the latter acting as Ensign.

W. D. WEBB, O. S.

In the Fourteenth N. C. T., in the battle of Strasburg, October 19, 1864.

Mr. Editor: Please publish the following for the information of relatives and friends:

Co. A.—Killed—None. Wounded—Serg't Jas. W. Newsom, in bowels, mortal, since dead; Corp'l Jesse F. Newsom, in face, severe.

Co. B.—Killed—None. Wounded—Private Z. Russell, in finger, amputated.

Co. C.—Killed—None. Wounded—Privates G. W. McCauley, in thigh, severe; J. H. D. Sanders, in thigh, severe; A. A. Waddill, in shoulder, severe; John Threadgill, in leg, slight. Missing—Privates H. B. Sanders and J. D. Mask.

Co. D.—Killed—None. Wounded—Capt. Wm. M. Weir, in bowels, mortally; Privates H. M. Dameron, in bowels, mortally; Serg't V. F. Goforth, in left leg, severe. Missing—Corp'l J. F. Long and Private W. Bond.

Co. E.—Killed—None. Wounded—Privates John Cook, in left hip, slight; John W. Hubbard, in left leg, amputated; A. Messer, in mouth, severe; B. Pollard, in leg, severe. Missing—Private H. C. Lassiter.

Co. F.—Killed—None. Wounded—Serg't A. H. Jones, in right thigh, broken—captured; Serg't W. B. Westall, in right shoulder, slight; Privates J. B. Patillo, in left , severe; D. W. Phelps, in finger, amputated. Missing—Privates E. Campbell and J. C. Melton.

Co. G.—Killed—None. Wounded—Capt. A. J. Griffith, in left thigh, severe—captured; Privates W. W. Stubblefield, in face, severe. Missing—Private John S. Strader.

Co. H.—Killed—None. Wounded—Serg't C. A. Shankle, in right arm, severe; Serg't Ivey Ritchie, in side, severe; Serg't Bennett Russell, in left arm, severe; Corp'l Eben Lowder, in left arm, severe; Privates John Dry, in right leg, severe; W. E. Dees, in foot, severe—captured.

Co. I.—Killed—None. Wounded—Capt. Thos. B. Beall, in neck, severe; Privates William Conrad, in shoulder, severe; J. H. Swing, in leg, slight; Robt. Kesler, in thigh, slight; M. Lopp, in ankle, slight. Missing—Private H. B. Beck.

Co. K.—Killed—None. Wounded—Privates J. E. Moore, in shoulder, severe; J. H. Watkins, in leg, severe. Missing—Serg't John D. Thompson and Private A. F. West.

Total—Killed, none. Wounded—Officers 3, men 30. Missing, 11 men. Aggregate, 44.

W. C. POWAN, Chaplain.

Camp 14th N. C. T., Oct. 25, 1864.

Yankee papers state that Lincoln has put a substitute in the army. We would advise him to put a substitute in the Presidential chair and go into the army himself.

NORTH CAROLINA ARGUS.

77.] WADESBORO', N. C. [805.

THURSDAY:.....NOVEMBER 10, 1864.

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RAGS! RAGS!

Will our readers save and send to us all the cotton and linen rags and scraps they can get together? Send them if there is only a pound—each pound helps us to make up a lot for the mill. The saving of rags may seem a small matter to some, but to those engaged in newspaper publishing it is of the utmost importance; and if it be too small a matter for some, let them turn the business over to their negroes. We would like to procure from one to two thousand pounds of rags between this and Christmas.

In order to allow those connected with the publication of this paper to participate in the solemn ceremonies enjoined by the President's proclamation next Wednesday, we shall put the paper to press on Tuesday instead of Wednesday, (our usual press day.) Advertisements and other matter for publication will therefore please be handed in not later than Monday.

We regret to announce that a letter has been received by the wife of Capt. C. H. Sturdivant, Co. K, 43d N. C. T., from the Surgeon of the 53d N. C. T., in charge of our wounded at Winchester, stating that Capt. S. died at that place on the 20th of September, from a wound received in the battle of Winchester on the 19th of September.

We stated last week, upon information furnished by a letter received in this place from a member of the 14th N. C. T., written at New Market, Va., and dated the 23d ult., that Capt. Joseph Jones, Co. E, commanding the 14th regiment in the action of the 19th, near Strasburg, had fallen a prisoner into the hands of the enemy. We are happy now to state that letters have been received from the Captain by his parents, residing near this town, in which he states he succeeded in getting up with his command on the 24th. It appears that during the confusion in his command, caused by the giving away of some portions of our line, while rallying his men he was captured by the enemy's cavalry, and was held a prisoner by them until a late hour of the night of his capture. Some confusion occurring among his captors he took advantage of it and escaped. He was in the mountains for four days, without anything to eat, and when he got up with his command he was in a very exhausted condition.

We learn that, under recent orders, our fellow-townsmen, Lieut. John M. Little, has been assigned as Inspector of Conscription for the Second District of this State.

In September, 1863, Lieut. Little, who was acting as Chief Enrolling Officer of this (the Seventh) District, was promoted, with a number of other First Lieutenants, to the rank of Captain, with the designation of "Captain and Enrolling Officer." At the same time Major Mallett, Commandant of Conscripts for this State, was promoted to the rank of Colonel. These promotions were all made by the Secretary of War, subject to the confirmation of the Senate. At the subsequent session of Congress the Senate failed to confirm these promotions or appointments, because in the case of the Commandants the law provided they should be of no higher rank than Major, and in the case of those appointed as Captains and Enrolling Officers, there was also no provision in law for any such office. Notwithstanding the action of the Senate, however, the Secretary directed Col. (now Major) Mallett, and the Commandants in the same category with himself, and the Captains concerned, to hold on to the rank to which they had been nominated until further orders. Some two months ago Col. Mallett fell back upon his old and present rank of Major; and recently, under General Orders No. 73, the office of District Enrolling Officer was abolished and the Captains who were District Enrolling Officers were thrown back upon their original rank. Thus our friend Little fell back to the rank of First Lieutenant, and is one of the few former District Enrolling Officers who has been retained under the new order of things as an Inspector, which, we take it, argues well for his standing with the authorities, in that they appreciate the ability and zeal with which he has discharged his somewhat important and delicate duties.

We learn that Surgeon General Warren has received a communication from Judge Quid which conveys the agreeable intelligence that "within the past few days an arrangement has been made, by which such of our soldiers as are held as prisoners of war can be supplied with clothing, blankets, bread, meat, sugar, coffee, pickles, vinegar, &c.

We trust that our humane and patriotic fellow-citizens will not permit this opportunity to pass without doing something to alleviate the sufferings of their sons and brothers who are now languishing in Northern prisons.

All contributions for this purpose will be promptly forwarded to their proper destination, if left with the Surgeon General at Raleigh, or delivered to any one of his regular agents.—*Ral. Conservative.*

The agents nearest this point appointed to receive and forward contributions for prisoners, are Sprague Brothers, Salisbury; A. Hagan, Charlotte; and E. Murray and Co., Wilmington.

"Isaac," said Mrs. P., as she rocked her chair and plied her knitting, "what does U. S. stand for in Gen. Grant's name?" "United States," replied Ike, as he adroitly twisted the monkey's tail under the rocker of the old lady's chair. "Isaac," said the old lady, standing facing her chair, "what shocking things those exploring mines must be—I was sure I was explored by one of them;" but composing and seating herself again, as she spied the monkey scampering off under the bed, howling, with his tail in his paw, she prospected vigorously with her knitting. Ike, with one eye on the old lady, continued his artillery practice with marbles, firing at the tea-pot which sat on the little stove, imagining it to be an iron-blad monster, as the old lady calls them. "What impudent men these extinguished Militia Officers are!" observed Mrs. P. "The newspapers say Gen. Grant has been feeling Gen. Lee's breastworks, as if Gen. Lee had any works about his breast!—And then falling back!—Good for him! he might have known Gen. Lee would knock him down, if he's like he was when he used to come to our house. Ah me! Just then one of Fie's shots takes effect on the spout of the tea-pot and breaks it off. He instantly makes a flank movement on the monkey's line of retreat, thereby exposing his rear, which the old lady (seeing the disaster to the tea-pot) immediately takes advantage of and makes a vigorous attack on the point exposed, converting Ike's retreat into a complete disaster and leaving her "master of the situation."

"SKETCHES OF NASSAU."

We have received from the author, Frank I. Wilson, a copy of this very interesting little work. It is written in very entertaining narrative style, and gives a great deal of information about Nassau, with the author's experiences of New Providence, the point on the Island, from whence a great part of the blockade goods have found their way into the Confederacy. Attached as a part of the book is an interesting tale, called "The Devil's Ball-Alley," founded on a tradition of the Cherokee Indians—scene the western part of this State. We commend the work to our readers. Single copies, \$3.00.

The Raleigh Progress is affected by a very bad spirit—it is snapping and snarling at everything and everybody excepting itself and the small party it is trying to keep alive. In giving our little item of last week relative to the escape of three Yankee prisoners from two of our old citizens it takes occasion to ask—

"Where are all the 'patriots' and 'loyal voters' of Anson that not more than two men were sent to guard three prisoners?"

The Progress is informed that those of the "patriots" and "loyal voters" of Anson, who have not fallen in defence of the South, will be found in the army, fighting manfully for Southern independence. It is said the editor of the Progress was once in the army, very early in the beginning of the war, but did not stay after the bullets and bayonets began to come very close to him.

The Supreme Court, at its recent special session, made the following decisions upon writs of habeas corpus:

1. JOHNSON vs MALLETT.—A member of the police for the city of Raleigh is exempt from conscription, because he is a civil officer, whom the General Assembly has demanded as necessary to the administration of the laws of the State.
2. In the matter of McDANIEL.—A substitute, who becomes such after he was fifty years old, is not entitled to a discharge on account of his principal having been called into service.
3. KESLER vs BRAWLEY.—Senior reserves are entitled under the act of Congress to their discharge, when they arrive at the age of fifty years.
4. In the matter of FOWY.—One who works fifteen, able-bodied hands, between the ages of sixteen and fifty, is not entitled to exemption, if one of the hands be a free negro—all of the hands must be slaves.
5. The fifteen hands must have been between the ages of sixteen and fifty, on the 1st day of January 1864. It is not sufficient if one or more of them have become sixteen since that time.
6. A farmer having less than fifteen hands, who is detailed to work upon certain terms, is liable to have his detail revoked, and to be called into active service, the government surrendering his bond to him.
7. A foreigner, who comes to reside in the State for a longer or shorter time, and who does reside here thirty days, is liable to perform military service in the Home Guards.
8. It was decided by Judge Battle with the concurrence of the other Judges, that a warden of the poor is exempt from conscription.

In Union county, last week, the negro man and woman who murdered Mrs. John E. Austin last summer, were tried, found guilty and sentenced to be hanged on the 25th of November. A man named Helms, charged with being accessory to the shooting of Little, was tried and acquitted. It will be remembered that Media, Helms, and other deserters, were concealed in a house when the deceased Little, and other officers, approached it for the purpose of capturing them. Media is to be tried here this week.

Char. Democrat.

The Wilmington Journal has received Bermuda advices to the 12th and 19th ult., containing the trial and release of Acting Master J. C. Brain, J. S. N., and associates, for the burning of the steamer Roanoke. They were released on the 12th and set at liberty. The charges against them have been withdrawn by the Attorney General.

It is said that while Hood's army was on the march towards Tennessee, in its recent movement, as it rose an eminence overlooking Cedar Valley a greasy butternut, at the head of the column, was heard to exclaim—"Starve, h—ll! Here's corn enough to feed the Confederacy!"

Official document from the War Office at Washington show that the Yankee government has called into the field, from first to last, over three millions of men. They have, besides, some six hundred vessels of war.