

rapidly and the enemy's movements, attended on sand-banks, are beauty spots on the picturesque scenes of the great river. If Grant is forced to retire, many of the vessels of the Yankee fleet between Vicksburg and Port Hudson must be lost. When scarcity, bad water, malaria and demoralization have done their work upon Grant's hosts, Johnston's opportunity will have arrived, and we have strong hopes that a combined attack between him and Pemberton will result in releasing one of those "pulverizing" military operations of which we read so much in Northern papers.

We think the "situation" greatly relieved and we certainly "breathe freer." We can now afford to await events with

The situation of the day is very similar to that of last September. Again the Confederate cavalry is ventilating its chivalry at Chambersburg. Ewell stretches that arm, which was once Jackson's, into Western Maryland; Lee and the mass of his force menace Washington and Harrisburg from the Valley and from Piedmont. The Grand Army of the Potomac has been rapidly withdrawn from the road to Richmond, and Hooker hopes to rival McClellan by striking the Confederate General in his flank, while the latter operates, as last year in the arc of a circle, the chord of which is held by his enemy. Hooker has not an idea that he did not get from McClellan, but Lee has more than one, and they are his own. This new campaign on the other side of the Potomac will not necessarily end in another Antietam. The two armies are very different in this June of '63 from what they were in September '62. Gen. Lee commanded 40,000 effective men in the first Maryland campaign, and they were worn down by the most rapid series of pitched battles and forced marches recorded in modern history. What he has now we will not say; but they are well known to be perfect in condition, refreshed with long rest, confident in themselves and their officers. The enemy have neither the numbers, nor the organization, nor even the spirits they had last year. They have not McClellan. In his place, they have Hooker, equally despised by both armies, and, with justice, as a braggart, a bully and a fool. He may dream of an Antietam, but will never execute it, even if the Confederate leader should give him all the chance he could desire, in retracing step by step the campaign of last year.

A thousand conjectures probably would not touch the plan, which will be pursued by the Confederate General in the offensive campaign he has undertaken. If Lee is the great captain he is supposed, the first light on his intention which either party gains will come from his official bulletin; and his plan may then be found so simple that all had looked over it, or so profound that no one imagined it. It would be inexcusable if the enemy should know his movements in advance this year as in the last. He has the whole affair in his own hands, and knows the ground by the actual movements of his army thereon. He starts from the same points that he did then, but the variations which may be introduced into the ulterior operations of the campaign are almost infinite.

The earliest intelligence of the business now begun will come to us through the Northern press. The reader will find his paper of this morning chiefly occupied with the refreshing details of the first sensations experienced by the North, when awakening from the delicious slumber into which it has been lulled by Hooker's hymns of victory. The alarm bell of Brooklyn rings at midnight for the news that Ewell had crossed the Potomac; the shops are closed in Philadelphia; the rich fly on the wings of fear from Harrisburg and Carlisle, the farmers drive their flocks to the mountains. A guilty conscience is the parent of panic terror. Over all hangs the fearful looking for a judgment to come; the dread of a just vengeance from those whose sisters their hirelings have outraged, whose families they have ruined, whose country they have ravaged with fire and sword. Such sensations do incalculable good. These are the peace-makers. Whatever else comes of this campaign, this result is valuable beyond price. Up to this moment the Northern people have never felt the war. They have known of its calamities only by their newspapers, and have read them with unmingled pleasure, because they inflicted and the South suffered. This alarm, this dread, these flying families, this cessation of business, this mustering of militia, these bells in the dead of night, are the first intimations they have received of war's reality. If they were repeated and redoubled; if some better cause than the cowardice and guilt of those who are now a prey to panic, was furnished by the flames of their farm houses and the conflagration of their town a treaty of peace would not be far distant.

If, however, their journals speak truly there is little probability that these happy effects of the late movements will last long. Yankeeedom will soon recover from its alarm, and the sleep of distant cities will soon be undisturbed by the midnight tocsin, if the invasion is continued as it has been commenced. It appears that the Confederate cavalry has gone to Cham-

bersburg only to show the people there that they are all the same "damn'd tom-fellers" that they were last year. One thinks he reads the paper of September when he finds that "property is respected," that all things are paid for "in greenbacks," that the few horses taken are only borrowed on the word of honor from the man in command that they will be returned uninjured. For what object or on what principle the force of last autumn is now again enacted, we cannot imagine; but the fact is a guarantee for the long duration of the war. The commercial North, relieved of its absurd apprehension, will discover that it is almost as pleasant and profitable to be invaded as to invade.

Rich. Examiner, June 22.

#### FROM THE VALLEY.

Our latest intelligence from our army that passed down the Valley and crossed into Maryland, is derived from Northern papers, and will be found elsewhere in these columns.

The prisoners taken at Winchester, and in that vicinity, and which have been by some people so anxiously expected here, arrived in Staunton last evening. The eagerness of people here to see them is explained by the fact that one whole regiment is composed of renegade Virginians. It is yet unknown whether they are to be marched from Staunton to this city or brought by rail. If they come by the latter mode, a portion of them may arrive here to-day.

A gentleman who came from Staunton yesterday says that there arrived there Sunday evening about one hundred of the Yankee wagons captured at Winchester. Each wagon was drawn by four splendid Yankee horses, was loaded with Yankee muskets, and had a Yankee limbered cannon behind.

#### THE CAVALRY FIGHT IN FAUQUER.

From an officer who was wounded in the recent cavalry fight in Fauquier, and who reached this city last evening by the Central train, we have some particulars of the engagement. On Wednesday night, shortly after dark, Gen. Robertson's brigade attacked and routed the First Rhode Island regiment, who were on picket at Middleburg, on the road running from Aldie to Ashby's Gap. Aldie is about ten miles northeast of Centerville, and thirty miles from Alexandria. The night being dark, we did not, after driving them out of Middleburg, pursue the Rhode Islanders till the next morning, when Robertson made another dash at them, and succeeded in capturing the whole regiment, with their horses and equipments.

The enemy then advanced to meet us in heavy force, and a very severe battle ensued which lasted until night, and was renewed the next day (Friday). We had three brigades engaged from first to last, viz: Robertson's, Fitz Lee's (commanded by Col. T. T. Munford) and Wm. H. F. Lee's (commanded by Col. Chambliss). Our success up to Thursday night, at which time our informant left, was complete; but in the battle of the next day, the enemy is reported, in some measure, to have retrieved his loss of the previous day, and recaptured most of his prisoners. Forty of our men are believed to have been taken prisoners. The number of our killed and wounded is said to have been small.

The enemy's loss in killed and wounded was greater than in any cavalry fight during the war. One Colonel is said to have been killed and another captured.

Two hundred of the Yankee prisoners taken in the fight arrived at Winchester on Saturday last.

We have been able to learn of few of our casualties. Lieut. Col. Watts, of the 2d Virginia cavalry, will lose an arm. Major Carrington, of the 3d Virginia cavalry, was captured.

Owing to the distance between this battlefield and any point on the railroads to which our trains are running, several days must elapse before we receive full and authentic particulars of this battle.

It is reported that about the time or just before this battle, Mosby, who with his partisan corps is acting independently, captured somewhere in the neighborhood of Centerville, several officers of Hooker's staff, and carried them, with valuable papers found in their possession, to Gen. Stewart's headquarters.

It is proper to add that up to 8 o'clock last evening, no official intelligence of this battle had been received at the War Office. This would lead us to suspect that the importance of the affair had been unduly magnified by the reports we have received.

At a late hour last night, it was said the President had received a dispatch from Gen. Lee, stating that Stuart had been successfully engaging the enemy's cavalry for several consecutive days. Owing to the lateness of the hour at which this report was circulated, we had no opportunity of ascertaining its authenticity.

#### FROM TIDEWATER VIRGINIA.

We learn from a gentleman who left the White House yesterday evening, that the reports of there being gunboats and many yankers at that point is all trash. Everything is quiet in the vicinity, and not even the smoke of a yankee gunboat darkens the horizon.

It is, however, true that the yankees have again been in King and Queen. On Saturday, three hundred of their cavalry came up as far as Olivet church, nine miles from the Court House, and wheeling to the right, proceeded to Dragon swamp at the head of the Piankijank river. Hence, finding the bridges over the swamp burnt, they returned by a circuitous route to Gloucester Point. As usual, they stole all the negroes and horses they could put their hands on. They stated their object in making the raid to arrest and parole all the men liable to militia duty under the late call of Gov. Letcher, but we did not hear of their making any arrests.

#### FROM EAST TENNESSEE.

We mentioned yesterday the report that

thirteen hundred yankee cavalry had penetrated to Knoxville on Thursday last, and had been expelled by our troops only after a fierce struggle. It seems there was more of truth in the rumor than is usually to be found in Sunday sensation stories. Official information has been received here that Yankee cavalry, in the force stated above, did on Thursday advance as far as the outskirts of Knoxville, and that they were there met, beaten and driven back by our troops.

Last night it was reported, but not officially, that the enemy having on yesterday succeeded in evading our forces, had again burnt the long railroad bridge over the Holston river. A telegram to this effect is said to have been received at Lynchburg by the President of the Virginia & Tennessee railroad. If this be true, it will prove a serious interruption to our communication with the Southwest.

#### LATEST FROM THE NORTH.

The Baltimore *Copper*, of the 19th inst., has been received in this city, but it gives but little additional news.

Yankee telegrams from Harrisburg, 18th, state that a Confederate force was north of Greencastle, Pennsylvania, and that six regiments of mounted infantry were encamped at Williamsport, on the north side of the Potomac, and four regiments at Hagerstown, Maryland.

Mosby's cavalry were eight miles below Chambersburg. A portion of the Confederate cavalry which left Greencastle in the direction of Mercersburg, were at McConnellsburg, going north towards Hancock.

The Confederates are paroling all the citizens. Fresh troops are arriving at Harrisburg, but not so rapidly as the State authorities wish.

Violsburg telegrams to the 14th, state that no change had taken place in the position of the lines. Everything useful has been destroyed in the country around for thirty miles. The rebels are believed to be erecting an interior line of works. The superintendent of contrabands is making arrangements to withdraw to a safer place the large number of negroes collected there.

A dispatch from Murrensboro' says that Bragg has received three brigades of reinforcements, and now has eighteen brigades of infantry and cavalry. The indications are that he is about to assume the offensive and invade Kentucky. Buckner is organizing a large force in East Tennessee for offensive operations, and the Union men in despair of reaping their wheat, have turned their stock into the fields.

#### IMPORTANT FROM THE SOUTH-WEST.

The President on yesterday received from Gen. Joseph E. Johnston a telegram announcing that Major General Richard Taylor, commanding a division under Gen. Kirby Smith, had taken possession of Miliken's Bend. The dispatch does not mention any battle as occurring, and therefore we presume the Yankees evacuated the place without a fight. Miliken's Bend is a strong position commanding the Mississippi river, twenty miles above Vicksburg. It being in our possession, effectually cuts off Grant's supplies.

#### THE FLORIDA.

The Yankee papers mention the fact that one of our cruisers has been seen fifty miles off the mouth of Chesapeake bay. That vessel, we are enabled to announce, is the Confederate gunboat Florida, Captain Mallit.

From the Examiner, June 24.

#### FROM THE ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA.

The news from General Lee's army which reached here yesterday by the Central train possesses interest in no common degree. It is said that the whole army is now beyond the Potomac, Longstreet, who was the last to cross, having passed the river at Edwards' Ferry, near Leesburg, on Sunday evening. A. F. Hill is believed to have crossed at a ford higher up the river two days before.

Whilst the rear of Longstreet was crossing the river, a severe cavalry fight took place back of Leesburg, near the gap in the Kittocan Mountains, through which his corps had just passed. We presume that all of Stuart's brigades were engaged in the fight, but have heard nothing definite on the subject. It is reported, however, that we used artillery freely in the engagement.

From the best information we have, it would appear that Lee has most successfully used his cavalry to cover the movements of his infantry. Ever since Stuart's grand refile in Culpeper, the enemy has been possessed with the belief that he was seeking an opportunity to make a great cavalry raid into Pennsylvania. This idea has been encouraged to that extent that our cavalry movements have engrossed all the attention of the enemy, and whilst he has been devoting all his energies to nipping the raid in the bud, our infantry and artillery have been steadily and silently moving northward in fear and to the left of our cavalry. Before the enemy had recovered from the shock they received at the battle at Brandy station, Ewell was at Front Royal, on his way to Winchester, and Hill and Longstreet beyond Warrenton, en route for the Potomac.

One version of the affair at Leesburg represents that the whole of Longstreet's corps was engaged, and that he administered a heavy repulse to Hooker. This is regarded as doubtful.

Persons direct from Winchester say that Harper's Ferry has been in possession of our troops since Saturday, the enemy having evacuated the place on our approach, without showing fight.

The difficulties in the way of obtaining authentic intelligence from our army is already very great, and daily increasing as the seat of active operations is moved northward. All the roads north of Winchester are strongly picketed, and no one is permitted to pass them. The same is the case as regards the roads leading from Gordonsville northward. In addition to this is the fact that none of our lines of railroad are in operation to within forty or fifty miles of the present scene of

military operations. Under these circumstances it will be easily understood that the news which reaches us is fairly in its coming and then mainly untrue and unsatisfactory.

Of Hooker's movements or whereabouts we know, if possible less than Lee's. He is believed to have been completely outmaneuvered and deprived as still to be abiding at Centerville looking for Lee in the direction of Manassas and Thoroughfare Gap. It is likely however, that he has before now, been brought to comprehend the situation, and that he is hurrying through Washington to meet our army on the soil of Maryland.

#### FROM FREDERICKSBURG.

Our readers have already been informed that Hooker left and destroyed the railroad from Fredericksburg to Aquia creek and the extensive wharves and warehouses which he had caused to be constructed at the latter place, because its destruction would have consumed time, which latterly has been precious with him, and because he thought it could be of no service to us. His property at Aquia creek is considered secure under his gunboats, two of which he left to protect it. In this he has already learned, if his thoughts are not wholly occupied with weightier matters. On Monday night, a detachment from the Fifth and Sixth Virginia cavalry, under cover of the darkness, proceeded to Aquia creek, and fired the depot and the village of warehouses thereabouts. On the appearance of the flames, the gunboats opened a terrific fire upon the vicinity of the burning buildings, but we are glad to say, without any other effect than contributing to the destruction of the houses. Every house and slanting was consumed, and a greater part of the magnificent wharf, recently constructed by the yankees. Our men report that the only property of value in the buildings was a vast quantity of Yankee soap.

The two railroad bridges built by the yankees will, at least for the present, be permitted to remain. The one over Potomac creek is said to be one of the most superb structures in this country. It is built upon a new plan, and is six hundred feet long, and between seventy and eighty feet high. The abutments are of a substantial and elegant masonry. The bridge over the Brook is also a fine structure, but of much smaller dimensions.

#### FROM THE PENINSULA.

It may interest those, if any such there be who have been apprehending an advance of the yankees upon Richmond by way of the Peninsula, to know that when the York river train left the White House yesterday evening there were neither yankees nor rumors of yankees in that neighborhood.

We have nothing from Williamsburg or Yorktown.

The renewed assault on Vicksburg is the necessary consequence of the capture of Miliken's Bend. That General Grant has been willing to try that desperate chance of success is clear proof that he feels his actual position before the town, since the occupation of the river bank above him, to be without even a desperate chance of success. That his dispirited, sickly and demoralized troops were ready to follow that doubtful and sanguinary path to safety which leads up the hills of Vicksburg, is satisfactory evidence that they also know that their situation is evil. If that army had but lately arrived in the neighborhood of Vicksburg, and the present was the first assault, these deductions would not be authorized by the facts. But repeated assaults have already been made.

They had been repulsed with such ease, have been accompanied with such terrible loss to the assailants, and have been so innocuous to the assailed, and to their fortifications, that they have served only to demonstrate to the learned and the unlearned in military affairs, that Vicksburg is one of those places so fashioned by nature and art, as not to be taken by assault. A long siege, circumvallation and complete blockade, are the only means by which that town can be touched. The Yankee commanders having satisfied themselves of the inefficiency of all others, had determined to rely on these means alone, and had made their intention universally known. They had erected extensive batteries, built a military road, and protected their external line from the operations of General Johnston by a gigantic ditch and abatis. Despite the deadly climate, and the water of the streams in that country, which they would often be forced to use, and which produce fever as certainly as the malaria of their marshes, Vicksburg would have been compelled to succumb to Yankee perseverance, if the siege be not interrupted by the operations of troops in the field. When Johnston was hurried to the scene of action, there were no troops in the field, but the miserable remnants of the beaten army which had been shut up in the town. The process of collecting an effective force has been tedious. But that it is now enough to disturb the siege of Vicksburg, and to render the plan of Grant abortive, appears from the late intelligence. Nothing would have forced the enemy to his last assault, contradictory as it is to all his schemes, but the conscious certainty that his position is hazardous, and that it is impossible to protract the slow process on which he relied for success.

One hope now remains for Grant. It rests on the possible recapture of Miliken's Bend. While that place remains in the hands of the Confederates, transports cannot pass. Field artillery will be able to do there more than siege guns could effect at Vicksburg. But it cannot be denied that what we have just taken from the enemy may possibly be recaptured by superior forces. A federal army may attempt to enter by the same road, thus let in the column of Kirby Smith, and gunboats can cooperate in the attack from the water side. For defense against these contingent dangers, the Confederacy has the sagacity and skill of Johnston and Smith. They will go far to supply the insufficient numbers of their troops. The great change which has come over the scene in the Valley of the Mississippi, a change from just despair to rational hope, encourages us to believe that they will yet bring the ship to port in safety and in glory.—*Richmond Examiner*, June 24th.

The great affair is still obscured by mist and cloud. No intelligence has been received from Lee's army worthy of consideration. It is even uncertain whether the whole or a part of our troops are on the northern bank of the Potomac. That no action has yet taken place may

be safely assumed, but we cannot say we are already shocked.

But the situation is no longer that to which the public has been well accustomed. All quiet on the Potomac will not soon be the harbinger of the war for many days. Presently the news will come in thunder-claps.

Through the instrumentality of its newspapers, the Yankee Government endeavours to diminish the danger of Washington by a counter-attack at Richmond. These journals would have us believe, that while the army of Virginia is on its terrible road into the land of sin, this city will helpfully succumb to the united forces of Dix and Peck, and all the small fry who are tormenting the defenceless neighbourhoods of the seaboard. But this preposterous menace will only serve to put the troops defending Richmond duty on guard, and we are pleased to know that it has had this effect.—General John Pope discovered a new strategic principle, namely, that of leaving his rear to take care of itself; but we have not learned the names of the Confederate Generals.

If the North possessed at this time the million of men which its Department of War claimed at the beginning of the year, Richmond might now be considered to be in considerable danger. The Yankee Government might confront Lee with legions more numerous than his own, while it held a competent garrison at Washington, and could still send Hooker and the army of the Rappahannock to Richmond. But if it ever had a million of men under arms, they are not now under arms. Even the army that did exist on the 1st of January exists no more. Expiration of enlistment, and demoralization, plague and pestilence, battle and sudden death, have done their work. The army under Lee is sufficiently numerous to occupy the undivided attention of all the troops the enemy can muster. Unless Hooker were to rush on us with his whole host, while Lee was beyond the Potomac, Richmond is in no danger. Even then, its fortifications might prove as tough work as those of Vicksburg, and Lee would have full time to destroy Washington and fall down on the enemy's rear before his business here could be completed.—*Rich. Examiner*, June 24th.

## CAROLINA WATCHMAN.

SALISBURY, N. C.

MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 29, 1863.

#### STATE OF AFFAIRS.

Up to this time we have nothing definite of the whereabouts of the Army of General Lee, or that of his antagonist, Hooker. All our information is mostly of a conjectural nature. Hooker has no doubt been making a very rapid "backward" movement, for the purpose of the retiring General Lee, in the invasion of our territory. But as General Lee has so far out-generated him, Hooker will have his hands full, if he does not fall altogether. The Confederate General doubtless understands what he is doing, and has made his calculations accordingly. If it is within range of possibility, we feel sure it has been determined, from present indications, to transfer the scene of operations from Southern soil to that of our worst than savage enemies, thereby permitting them to enjoy some of the horrors of a war so ruthlessly waged by their own men against an unoffending people. Let them feel it—yes, let them drink to the very dregs the bitter dose so villainously applied to Southern lips.

In the capture of Winchester, there is but one source of sorrow, and that is, the escape of the brave, Milroy. If he could have been captured, the victory would have been in a measure, full, as he had made himself particularly conspicuous in bravery and the robbery of the people of that town, and indeed wherever he has had the power.

From Vicksburg the news is good, our gallant army still holds out, and as will be seen, have again repulsed Grant. We learn the stirring process of the Yankees does not work very well—our forces receiving supplies and reinforcements across the river after dark, very often. We have stronger hopes of the successful defense of the City than ever.

Port Hudson is still erect, and the siege, it is said, abandoned. However this may be, Banks has met such a disastrous defeat at this point, that he is not likely to attack it soon again.

From Tennessee, we learn another disgraceful raid has been made by the enemy, destroying bridges, &c. Gen. Bragg was still at Tallahoma, and no indications of a general battle were apparent.

In our own State all is quiet, the Yankees keeping themselves very close about Newburn. So far as we can learn the number there must be small, so says the latest advices from that place.

The train on the North Carolina Rail Road ran off the track at this place on Wednesday night last. Quite a number of passengers were on board, and among them General LOVELL of the Confederate States Army, on his way South.

We learn that the lock on the switch was not broken by some scamp, and the train thrown off by that means. The hammer and chisel were found close by the switch with which it was broken. How hot to all the finer impulses of human nature must the man be who would deliberately contemplate the destruction of a large number of human beings who had never wronged him. Such a person is a fit associate for the fiends beneath. This we hope will be a warning to our authorities to be more vigorous in guarding the Town. We learn, further that it is the habit of a certain class of our population, to hold meetings nearly every night, where the "carrying on" is said to be very extensive. Who superintends these gatherings we know not, but we regard them as almost useless and they should be stopped. At this time, all should be on the alert and any