

Free



South

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NO. 31.

NEWS ITEMS.

Dispatches from Leavenworth, Kansas, to the 25th report a victory for Gen. Blunt over the Rebels in the Indian Territory on the 16th inst. The enemy were overtaken at Elk Creek, 5,000 strong, under Gen. Cooper, and was there vigorously attacked by 2,500 men and twelve guns of Gen. Blunt's command. The fight was obstinate; but by a bold charge it was finished in the flight of the rebels who left all their stores in our possession. Our cavalry were pursuing the fleeing rebels when the express left. The Rebel loss was 60 killed and 24 wounded. Col. Williams of the 1st Colored Kansas was severely wounded.

The Nashville Union says it is reported that Hon. Meredith P. Gentry, formerly an eminent Whig Member of Congress, more recently Member of the last Confederate Congress, surrendered himself voluntarily to the Federal commander at Shelbyville, a few days since. He was the "American" candidate for Governor of Tennessee, in 1855, but defeated by Andrew Johnson.

Two prize steamers arrived at Philadelphia on the 24th—the Kate Dale, captured by the gunboat R. R. Cuyler off Tortugas, and the Lizzie, captured by the Santiago de Cuba off Abaco.

Lee has successively tried all the Blue Ridge gaps, and been repulsed in each instance. Foiled in his desperate attempt to march into Central Virginia, it is thought that he is now moving in all haste up the valley of the Shenandoah toward Staunton. Our army is practically between Lee and Richmond, and ready for any battle he may offer. Starts cavalry is no longer able to do us serious damage; only Mosby's band are troublesome. At Chester Gap our cavalry re-captured 1,100 cattle, several thousand sheep, a number of horses and mules. Our cavalry have done most excellent service for the past week.

Admiral Porter has officially informed the Navy Department of the result of the expedition recently sent by him through the navigable waters of the Red River country. The enemy appear to have been taken completely by surprise. Two fine steamers laden with stores were captured, and two others were burned by the Rebels to prevent their falling into our hands. Large quantities of ammunition were also captured. At Harrisonburgh, on the Red river, a very strong fort was found, on a considerable elevation, which could not be reduced by wooden gunboats, which alone composed the expedition.

The service of officers and men on board the Monitors in Charleston harbor has been found very severe upon them, in consequence of the very limited accommodations and difficulty of ventilation while prepared for action. The Navy Department is about to dispatch a large steamer with reinforcements for the crews of the Monitors and relieve them by changing the men employed upon them at intervals, allowing them a time to rest on board the steamer while fresh men take their places.

The United States steam sloop Ossipee captured on the 20th inst., the James Battle and Wm. Bagley, loaded with cotton, blockade runners from Mobile.

The United States steamer Sciota, off the coast of Texas on the 7th inst., chased two small vessels, both of which ran ashore and were burned by our men. Their cargoes consisted of cotton. On the Thursday following, while passing Corpus Christi, two vessels were discovered at anchor behind Mustang Island, awaiting an opportunity to escape the blockade. A rifle twenty pounder was fired at them, when both got under weigh and stood up the bay about six miles, where they grounded. An expedition in charge of Lieutenant Davenport was at once sent across the island to capture them if possible, and if they could not be saved to destroy them by fire, which was done after an unsuccessful attempt to float them. While returning Lieutenant Davenport accidentally shot himself with a rifle ball, the ball passing through the right leg

below the knee and his left arm above the elbow.

The United States Hospital steamer Cosmopolitan, Capt. Crocker, from Port Royal, S. C., in 72 hours, with 185 wounded soldiers from General Gillmore's corps at Morris Island, had arrived at New York.

The following is a list of deaths on the passage from this city:—

Lieut. A. M. Goodwin, 9th Maine; Sergt. C. H. Grogan, Co. I, 6th Conn; Corp. J. M. Durgin Co. F, 7th N. H.; Jacob S. Kreesman, Co. D, 174th Penn.—fever and diarrhoea; F. Iseman, Co. F, 111th New York; Eben Degggett, Co. E, 7th N. H.; An unknown man—a paroled prisoner; J. C. Morrell, Co. H, 7th N. H., died 28th; Lieut. J. W. Worcester, died July 27th.

The Fulton (Mo.) Telegraph states that a petition is circulating in the Southwestern part of the State, by Edwin Price, asking the President to permit Sterling Price to return to Missouri. It is said he is penitent and desires to abandon the rebel cause, come home, and spend the remainder of his days in peace. Edwin Price it will be remembered, is a son of the General.—He abandoned the rebellion more than a year ago, and has since lived quietly on his farm in Chariton County.

Arrangements have been made to purchase a part of the battle field at Gettysburg for a cemetery, in which it is proposed to gather the remains of our dead. The ground embraces the point of the desperate attack made upon the left centre of our army. Eight other States have already united with Pennsylvania in this project.

The Indian country, as far down as the Arkansas river, has been reclaimed by our troops, and a part of the refugee Cherokee have gone on with the troops, but their occupancy is not permanent.

It is stated that the force of employed menanced northward is ordered to return there on Monday. There were at the time of the last evacuation of the point over twenty immense storehouses there, which have since been destroyed.

Information received at Washington on the 31st from the Army of the Potomac states that Lee massed his forces at Culpepper on Wednesday, and made other preparations to give us battle on the Rappahannock. His first advance south of Culpepper was to foil us in taking the Fredericksburg route; but finding we did not advance he concentrated his army at Culpepper. The Rappahannock is guarded from Fredericksburg to Ely's Ford on the Rapidan by only one rebel regiment. The Rapidan is fortified south of Culpepper.

Mosby's gang made an extensive haul of sutlers on Thursday night at Fairfax Court House. There is no Union force stationed immediately at the Court House. The Sutlers of the Army of the Potomac have been generally advised of the fact; but it is a convenient resting place at the end of the first day's journey, and some six or seven sutler's, with their teams, wares and chattels, bivouacked there, and were all made prisoners.

We learn from Vicksburg that General Heron has gone to Mobile with his division. Our army at Vicksburg has fallen back to the Big Black river. It was reported that Joe Johnston is retreating to Mobile.

By the arrival of the Morning Star from New Orleans, with dates to the 25th, we learn that the Mississippi is fully open to navigation. Several steamers had arrived at New Orleans from St. Louis within a few days. General Franklin had reached Baton Rouge.

Our war vessels are committing some havoc on the enemy. The United States steam sloop Ossipee captured on the 20th ult., the James Battle and Wm. Bagley, loaded with cotton, blockade runners from Mobile.

Nine hundred of Morgan's men have been lodged in Camp Chase prison, and they will be

kept there until the officers of Streight's expedition are released from Libby prison.

Within a few days past more than 2,000 cavalry men, representing every regiment in the Army of the Potomac, have arrived at Washington for horses to take the place of those damaged by late excessive service.

The rebel reports of the death of the gallant Gen. Osterhaus, in the skirmishing before Jackson, are now authoritatively contradicted. Gen. Osterhaus was not only living at a date later than that assigned as the time of his death, but was as anxious as ever to deal earnest blows at the rebels.

All is quiet at Port Hudson and Vicksburg. The fortifications at the former place are being strengthened, and the enlistment of negro troops is progressing rapidly.

Rumors prevailed that General Weitzel had captured three thousand rebels at Donaldsville; that Brasher City had been retaken by us, and that General Franklin had arrived at New Orleans to take command of General Bank's army.

General Grant has perfected a complete system of mounted patrols between Vicksburg and New Orleans, who, with the gunboats, afford ample protection to vessels. Everything is quiet. There are no signs of rebels on either shore.

Passengers from Vicksburg report that our forces have burned Jackson, and that the pursuit of Johnston is at an end for the present.

Grierson and his cavalry have arrived at Memphis.

New York city is now quiet. Home Guards are being formed in some of the wards, where citizens meet at stated times, to all, with a view of defending themselves and their neighbors. Arrests are constantly made and many desperate characters are locked up where they can do no injury.

Some difficulty having been experienced in securing buildings in which to make the drawing, in place of those that were burnt by the mob, in New York city, the Provost Marshal has determined in case he is unsuccessful in securing other places, to make the drawing upon the remains of those buildings. Out of the ashes the rubbish and riot it is hoped will arise a Phoenix of law and order.

Sickles reached his Maj.-Gen. Daniel B. Sikes, from Washington in New York on the 23d ult. He bore the journey with great fortitude, and it is confidently believed that he will be restored to sound health.

HEENAN AND SAYERS.—By recent letters from England we learn that in consequence of the recent rebel raid into Pennsylvania and the removal of the scene of war from Virginia into the Northern States, Heenan and Sayers have indefinitely postponed their visit to this country. They are evidently afraid that their tour through the States at this juncture of affairs would not prove successful in a pecuniary point of view, and therefore they will await a more convenient season before crossing the Atlantic. Heenan's engagement with Howe & Cushing's Circus expires on the 26th of the present month. After a few week's enjoyment in Paris, where he proposes proceeding, he will return to England to prepare, by a strict course of training, for his great contest in the roped arena for ten thousand dollars with the redoubtable Tom King. His old trainer, Jack McDonald, will accompany him and superintend his preparation, as well as second him on the eventful day. Tom Sayers will, in all probability be his other second, and give him the benefit of his vast experience in the ring. There is but little speculation as to the result as yet, as the backers of the men do not care about betting on an event yet so distant. In what little is done, Heenan has the call of \$100 to \$700.

GRANTED.—You can take it for granted that when a young lady is too nervous to venture into a lobby alone, and insists on your accompanying her, she expects some reward as soon as the door is closed.

Of what profession is an Armstrong gun? A breeches-maker.

MR. EDITOR.—The following is an extract from a letter addressed by Bishop Payne, of the African Methodist Church, to his nephew, Charles H. Holloway, of the 54th Mass. Young Holloway had a father and mother in Charleston. He hoped to fight his way with his comrades into that city, the "mother of abomination," to carry freedom to her bondmen, but he fell mortally wounded in an engagement on James' island on the 16th of June.

The heroic conduct of his regiment in the recent assault upon Fort Wagner, is a prophecy of certain victory and universal freedom. The letter will be read with interest. M. F.

"You hope that your movement will meet with my approbation. In answer to which I have this much to say. I felt disappointed, at first, because I desired to educate you to a high point of scholarship, in order that you might become one of the Educators of our hopeless race.

"But secondly, I know, I owe a duty to our common country and common humanity, which requires me, not only to willingly give up my cherished nephew, but an only son, if I had such, a precious sacrifice to the cause of holy freedom, justice and government. I, thirdly, therefore, commend you to the care and friendship of the Lord of Hosts, who will keep you in perfect safety among contenting arms, as he can in a garden of flowers.

"I am glad to hear that you and brother Ben. are still striving to preserve your Christian character in the midst of the temptations and vices of the encampment, by reading a chapter in the Testament every night. I regret to hear that you have no chaplain. I shall try to have your regiment furnished with one, as soon as possible. Give my kind regards to your tent mates, tell them I request them all to make the Lord their friend, by sincere repentance of their sins and a saving faith in Christ, the friend of sinners who is also able to make you victorious in every battle and to bring you alive out of the most terrible battles, if by so doing, you can the better glorify his holy name.

"As soldiers be ever found true to your country and faithful to the Government who has armed you in its defence. Beneath, and in the wake of the star spangled banner, there is freedom for the black man. May Heaven ever cause it to wave in triumph upon every battle field, and may you, my dear nephew, be found among the truest of the true, and the most faithful of the faithful.

"I received the five dollars you sent in behalf of the Xenia, (Ohio) College. Please tender our thanks to the young men who joined you in making up the amount.

"The Lord be with you in all things and in all places. Yours affectionately,

PAYNE.
Xenia, Ohio, July 11, 1863.

GENERAL ORDERS, NO. 41.

HEADQUARTERS, U. S. FORCES,
Fort Royal Island, Beaufort, S. C. Aug. 1, 1863.
Captain R. O. Greenleaf, 4th New Hampshire Vols., late Provost Marshal to this command, having been ordered to rejoin his Regiment on Morris Island, S. C., Captain E. L. Walrath, 115th Regt. N. Y. Vols., is hereby appointed Provost Marshal at this Post, and will be obeyed and respected accordingly.

By Command of Brig.-Gen. R. Saxton,
S. M. TAYLOR, Capt. and Asst. Adj. Gen.

If men will but amuse the world, it will freely forgive them for cheating it.