

THE CAMDEN WEEKLY CONFEDERATE.

"KNOWLEDGE IS POWER, AND THE PRESS IS THE ROYAL THRONE UPON WHICH SHE SITS, AN ENTHRONED MONARCH."

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BY

J. T. HERSHMAN.

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LATEST ARMY NEWS.

Kershaw's Brigade in The Battle of The Wilderness.

An officer of Kershaw's brigade, who was wounded in the recent battle near the Rapidan, has furnished us with the following details of the fight; and being the only definite intelligence yet received, they will be read with interest:

As is already known, the battle commenced on Thursday the 5th inst., about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. A glance at the map will reveal a plank road running from Orange C. H. to Fredericksburg. Between these two towns, on the river, are Germania and Ely Fords, where were stationed our pickets and a strong cavalry reserve, under General Rosser and others. These being driven back by the Federal advance, the enemy crossed in force, and forming a line, still continued to press our cavalry with their largely superior numbers some six or seven miles, until our infantry supports, under A. P. Hill, checked further movements. The latter then took up the gauge of battle, and fought the enemy until dark, when the engagement ceased with every advantage to us.

Friday morning our forces arrayed as follows: Well on the left, resting on the river, and A. P. Hill in the centre. Gen. Longstreet came while we were hurrying towards the scene of conflict from Gordonsville, and after marching two days, had halted to rest on Thursday evening, about eight miles from the field. At 1 o'clock, at night, orders were received by the sleeping troops to resume their journey without delay, and with cheerful alacrity they fell into ranks and proceeded about six miles, when the arrival of fresh orders and the approach of daylight compelled them to double quick the remaining two miles which intervened between them and the battle-ground. They proved not to be a moment too late, for on reaching the field they found the engagements already in progress, the Federals pressing our lines with dangerous vehemence, and Heth's division driven from their improvised fortifications to a point within two hundred yards of their wagons. Generals Lee, Longstreet and Kershaw were riding together, and instantly divining the condition of affairs, formed the corps under fire, which moved by the right flank into line of battle, and commenced work. Scores of men fell during this process, but the troops, with their habitual coolness, never faltered a step, and continued to push on to their post of duty. It was now about 7 o'clock and the battle raged furiously. Order had been restored; the confidence of the troops was at its height, and almost at the first volley it was discovered that the enemy were quaking in the presence of the fresh veterans, who had never yet known defeat. Dashing forward with wild impetuosity, the entrenchments were recovered and the enemy along the entire front of Longstreet's corps as far as could be seen by our informant, were driven back in confusion, leaving the ground clothed with their dead and wounded, and covered with the debris of battle. These entrenchments consisted of rails, logs and earth piled hastily together, about knee high, and extended at intervals along our front, affording protection only to the privates, who fought in a recumbent position. This will account for the unusual loss of officers, who seldom deign to lie down; and possibly for the many wounds in the extremities. Kershaw's brigade held a position on the right of the plank road, one regiment only being on the other side in support of a battery of artillery. The brig was under the command of Colonel Heningan, General Kershaw acting as Major General of the division. Bryan's and Wofford's brigades were on the right of that of General Kershaw. The ground was generally level, but covered with woods and undergrowth, which prevented the use of artillery, so that probably not more than two hundred rounds were fired during the day. The enemy used scarcely any. After driving the Federals from the entrenchments, the fighting on this part of the line was mostly at long range, the Yankees preserving respectful distance, until dispositions had been made in other portions of the field for a simultaneous dash forward, which should at once decide the issue of the battle. Meanwhile, a desperate fight was in progress on the left, the sound of which told us that we had at that point likewise driven the Federals from their position.

Col. Nance and Lieut. Col. Gaillard were both shot behind the entrenchments, about 9 o'clock in the morning, and both struck in the head. The former died almost instantly, and the latter lingered until he was carried 200 yards to the rear, where he died on his litter. Both were behaving with splendid gallantry, and were shot in the act of cheering on their men. Col. Gaillard had just

mounted the breastwork to obtain a clearer view of the enemy's lines, and stepped back to his place among the men, when the ball sped on its fatal errand. Col. Kennedy, of the 2d, had been previously wounded in the shoulder and gone to the rear. Major Wallace then assumed command, and with the coolness and ability which has characterized that officer on every field of battle, carried the regiment through the remaining scenes of the day. We regret that we are unable to say more concerning the part subsequently performed by the brigade, owing to the wound which disabled our informant and compelled him to go to the rear.

The public are already aware of the circumstances attending the wound of Gen. Longstreet; but it is not generally known that that officer, with Generals Jenkins and Kershaw, was on the eye of initiating a flank movement, which in all probability would have broken the enemy's columns and achieved perhaps one of the grandest victories of the war. The unfortunate mistake, however, cost something more than lives and services of the valuable men who were sacrificed. The loss in Kershaw's Brigade is estimated to be not more than 400 killed and wounded; but it is disproportionate, when various commands are compared with each other, owing to the heavy flanking fire to which, by reason of superior positions held by the enemy, some of the troops were exposed.

It is now beyond peradventure that no inconsiderable portion of the Federal army consisted of Western men. Various incidents establish this fact; but none more forcibly than the capture of a sword taken by the Yankees from the body of Maj. J. S. Hard at the battle of Chickamauga. The weapon had traveled from that point, possibly in the hands of the same officer who had confronted the same brigade on that bloody field; been waved amid the smoke of the same rifles, and was finally yielded back to those who had so often followed it to victory. The doubly precious relic will be sent to his family.

The Battle Monday near Drewry's Bluff—Details of Beauregard's Victory.

As expected and already stated, the great battle near Drewry's Bluff was joined Monday. The plan of battle was conceived and decided upon on Sunday night by the gallant BEAUREGARD, and as daylight broke, the work commenced. A Richmond paper thus refers to it:

Almost before the gray of morning, our forces on the left, under the command of Gen. Ransom, marched out against the enemy, and gave him battle. The enemy, occupied a strong position, and was strongly entrenched in some fortifications that had been evacuated by us on Friday last, with a view of drawing the enemy on and inducing him to venture an assault on our inner line of fortifications. This was the enemy's right and our left, and perhaps about a mile or so from Drewry's Bluff. No sooner were our men up than they charged upon the enemy with a perfect yell. The fighting grew severe, and the battle for a time, wavered. But the onset of our men was too much. In a moment our men swept over the fortifications like an avalanche, and the enemy was soon in rapid flight, leaving our men in full possession of the fortifications and the captors of four stand of colors and one battery. This movement on our left was most handsomely executed, and all accomplished by seven o'clock in the morning.

Driven from these fortifications, the enemy fell back upon his own entrenchments and a general advance was ordered along the lines. The victory on the left was quickly followed up. The enemy was no sooner within the fortifications than an order was given to charge him. Our men advanced to the charge, but his fire was so terrific that certain regiments broke in confusion. Here was the trying point—the enemy must be dislodged. In an instant some of those men who stormed the memorable heights of Gettysburg were ordered up, and a second charge was made. The enemy's fire was terrible—making wide gaps in our lines—but steadily our men moved on. As they approached, the enemy poured into them a most galling fire—seemingly reserving his fire until our men were well up—sweeping them down by rows—but not a cheek blanched or an

arm faltered. Through a perfect sheet of fire they marched up to the fortifications, and with a shout of victory leaped over the breastworks and captured the greater portion of the enemy's force—General Hackman and over eight hundred privates.

While this was going on along our left our centre and left were also pressing the enemy with great success. A change had been made upon his centre, across the turnpike, by Gen. Hoke, and he had been driven back from each of his positions. Here the enemy had no regular fortifications, but was well protected by abatis formed by felling trees and other temporary defences. Our artillery was used against him with great effect. The Washington Artillery, supported by Bagood's South Carolina brigade, who acted most gallantly throughout, succeeded in silencing a battery of the enemy, consisting of three 20 pounder Parrotts and two 12 pounder Napoleons. One of the Parrotts was turned upon the enemy, and contributed to putting him to flight.

Up to this time the enemy had fought well and with great stubbornness, but, driven from his fortifications and pressed on all sides, he began to fall back rapidly. Our victory now became easy. Dispirited and demoralized, the enemy showed but faint resistance, and the retreat was but a step removed from a rout. In charging upon them a whole regiment threw down their arms and rushed into our lines.

From a dozen sources we have reports of their demoralization. On official authority we learn that several hundreds of prisoners captured in the retreat expressed the greatest alacrity to come on to Richmond, saying that their time was nearly out—and that if they would only show them the road to Richmond, they would come over without any guard being placed over them.

The retreat once began and the enemy gave way rapidly. Our army continued to press him, and up to 4 o'clock yesterday we had driven him two miles and a half. Our forces kept well on his heels, and captured a good deal of artillery, stores, arms and ammunition which he had strewn along the way. Several hundred prisoners were picked up in squads, and many of them were under the influence of liquor—showing that Butler like Grant, had plied his men with whiskey before going into battle. This is confirmed by dozens of persons from the battle field, and admits of no doubt.

It is impossible to state just now the fruits of our victory, but there is no doubt that our army won yesterday, under the gallant Beauregard, a most brilliant success. The fight was commenced yesterday with the enemy posted in his fortifications, but by seven o'clock our army had dislodged him, and before the setting of the sun he had been repulsed and driven back to Proctor's creek, a distance of two miles or more. The number of prisoners taken is not yet known, but it may be put down considerably over a thousand—and a Brigadier General among the number—and, perhaps later accounts may swell it to several thousand. We captured, also, a great deal of artillery some say as much as twenty six pieces—besides a quantity of stores, ammunition, &c. It may be a day or two before we can know the extent of our success, but in the meantime let us be content with the assurance that our army, under the invincible Beauregard has won a great victory.

General Longstreet was struck by a piece of shell from the enemy's gun the report that he was wounded by Mahon's brigade being a mistake.

J. T. HERSHMAN—Editor.

Camden, Wednesday, May 25

GEN. STUART'S funeral took place at St. James' Church, Richmond, on Friday. The attendance was immense, and among the pall-bearers, was Gen. Braxton Bragg.

The subscription price of the Daily Atlanta Confederacy, and other papers of that city we believe, is now \$15 per quarter, or at the rate of \$60 per annum.

Tabooing the Fives.

Those of our friends in the country who wish to make purchase of goods in Camden, would do well, before leaving their homes, to supply themselves with one-third more money—if in fives—than is their custom, as we believe nearly every merchant and trader in the town, is receiving and paying them out at a discount. If there be any who pretend to receive them at their par value, be careful that you do not have imposed on you an advance in price of double the discount. We mention this, that the unsuspecting may not be deceived, as we have had an instance of the kind recited to us within the past few days, and it has been suggested that their names be given.

There is no doubt but that Camden can justly claim as respectable and intelligent a mercantile corps as can be found in the Confederacy, numerically, but as if to verify the old proverb there must be one or more black sheep in every flock.

Marcus Baum.

The subject of this notice was a native of Schweseritz, Prussia, and aged 31 years. He was amongst the first of Carolinas adopted sons who buckled on the armor of battle to engage in repelling the invader of our sacred soil. On the 29th of May, 1862, he entered the ranks of Capt. E. H. CARTER'S Company—6th South Carolina Regiment—Col. BRANNON—where he remained until after the battle of the Seven Pines, in which he received a severe wound in the arm. Gen. KERSHAW, seeing and appreciating his many noble qualities, in the capacity of both citizen and soldier, promoted him to the responsible position of Orderly of the Brigade, and entitled to consideration as that of a staff officer, which post he filled with fidelity to his country, at the same time reflecting credit on himself and giving unmistakable evidence that the trust reposed in him by his commander had not been misplaced. Having shared with that brigade of veterans the dangers and hardships of the service with the spirit of a true soldier, he at last fell a martyr on the 6th inst., in the glorious cause, for the attainment of that liberty which is the prized boon of man's existence.

As a soldier he was patriotic, and brave even to a fault; as a citizen he had a soul alive to every sense of honor and duty, imbued with a spirit of lofty bearing; as a companion, associate and friend, he was generous, high-minded, and congenial in all his associations, with an ardent temperament—a warm and true friend where he considered the object worthy of his confidence.

Reasons for Yankee Lying.

The Mercury says: It is important to General Grant that disgrace from failure should be avoided as long as possible, and that he should get the benefits of time, even though brief, in order to redeem his affairs by all practicable efforts. It is important to the tottering finances of the Yankee Government at Washington to conceal, as long as possible, the failure to crush Lee's army and take the Confederate Capital. It is important to the credit of the Yankee nation abroad that such a failure should not be known. It is important to the interests of many of the financial bulls in Wall street. It is important to the tone and spirit of the army operating against Gen. Johnston in Upper Georgia.

To lie accords with the habit and principles of the Yankee Government, and it has had great success in the practical effect hitherto produced—at least in Europe.

From the Georgia Front.

The Carolinian of a late date says: The grandest game of strategy is now being played among the hills and valleys of Northern Georgia that ever rested on the chess-board of a campaign. Seventy thousand are dropping slowly back, foot

by foot, before a force whose estimate is third greater. We read of battles and skirmishes of a gigantic scale; and yet see not one word to dishearten—not one thought which shows the spirit of that noble army unequal to final task before it. Our men seem to feel that they are not retreating to escape, but retreating to fight. The memory of Missionary Riege is to be avenged; the defeat that has caused many a sun-browned cheek to flush with shame, is to be wiped out, and these soldiers know that every foot of rugged soil the enemy places between himself and Chattanooga—every day that he protracts his march—every pound that diminishes his stores of subsistence—draws him into their coils, and will add to the completeness of their revenge. We look for no disaster. On the contrary, we believe that the vicinity of the Etowah River is destined to become historic among the closing scenes of this war, and that Thomas and his proud hordes will be the last invaders who will press their feet on the soil of the Empire State.

Latest From Beauregard's Army.

RICHMOND, May 21.—A telegram from General Beauregard, dated at headquarters this morning, says: "All quiet last night. We remain in possession of the enemy's rifle pits and the ground gained in yesterday's fight, which was quite severe during part of the day especially, near Ware Bottom Church. I regret to say that General W. S. Wicks' missing—it is feared he fell into the hands of the enemy whilst gallantly leading his troops into action."

RICHMOND, May 22.—Last night the enemy made an assault on our right, towards Petersburg, with a view to retake the position and battery lost by them on Friday. They were ably repulsed, with heavy loss. Our situation very light.

Gen. Breckinridge's Battle.

On Friday week, at 9 a. m., Major General Breckinridge moved from Staunton down the Valley to New Market. On Sunday following, he engaged Sirgeley three miles above Newmarket, and by Sunday evening, at 7 o'clock, had defeated and driven him beyond the Shenandoah river, six miles from Newmarket—having marched forty-nine miles, fought, defeated and routed the enemy, numbering from seven to ten thousand; in two days and a half!

The Cadets of the Virginia Military Institute were in the field and behaved splendidly. They lost five killed and fifteen wounded!

A Scriptural Prophecy.

The end of the war—Editor of the Savannah Republican—Let us notice the prophecy in Daniel concerning a war between the North, and South and see if there is not an analogy sufficient to create the belief that it has reference to the present war. I know that commentators have given a different view of the subject; though some have given a positive assurance that their notion was correct. I would particularly refer to the army raised by the King of the North (Dan. xi. v. 3;) and then after the overthrow of that army, the second great army, (Dan. xi. v. 13, 14;) which met with a similar defeat; and then the possession taken of the Islands and cities: "The tidings out of the East;" and then the desperate effort to destroy, and his final overthrow, in all which, I think, we have a clear prophecy from Scripture of the present struggle.

Now as to the time of the end (Dan. xii. v. 6, 7, 12 v.)

"And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river. How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?" The full duration is given—"a thousand three hundred and five and thirty days." Now according to this prophecy, if it has reference to the present war, peace may confidently be expected between this and the first of September; counting the days from the first battle at Fort Sumter, April 12, 1861, it will be observed that the thousand three hundred and thirty-five days will be accomplished on the first of September, 1864.

DAWSON.

We set our Price on the Yankees, and took 9000 of them at that figure.

[FOR THE CAMDEN CONFEDERATE.]

To the Citizens of Kershaw District.

GENTLEMEN: As my term of office, as Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions for your District will soon expire, I take the present opportunity of addressing you a few lines, to inform you that I am a candidate for said office again. I will not have the pleasure of canvassing the district, and calling upon you at your homes, as I have done heretofore. It would afford me a great deal of pleasure to have done so, but circumstances beyond my control will not admit of it. Duty again calls me to the front. I leave on the 19th inst. to rejoin my command. I feel sincerely grateful to you fellow citizens for the confidence reposed in me for the last eight years, and beg you to rest assured that I will proudly and cheerfully serve you another term, if elected. I truly hope that this is the last year of the war, and I will be permitted to fulfill the duties of the office myself until our difficulties are settled. I will remain in the field and appoint some competent person who is exempt from military duty, to act for me during my absence. In the present unparalleled condition of our country, the services of every able-bodied man is required in the field. I am therefore satisfied that it is my imperative duty to remain in the front, and continue to assist in repelling our ruthless invaders, until the independence of our country is established upon a satisfactory basis, and acknowledge by the world. I claim no higher privilege or honor than to remain in its military service.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your grateful fellow citizen,

W. CLARKE.

Important for Reference.

The annexed statement of distances between different points at the seat of war between Richmond and Petersburg, published in the South by the James River, has been furnished us by Dr. R. K. Gregory. The map to which we referred yesterday is posted in the Charlotte Times office with references; both of which will afford much valuable information:

- From Richmond to Petersburg, by railroad, 21 miles.
- From Richmond to Petersburg, by James River, sixty miles.
- From Richmond to Chester, 133 miles.
- From Chester to Petersburg, 10 miles.
- From Chester to Drewry's Bluff, five and a half miles.
- From Chester to Chesterfield Court House, six miles.
- From Chester to Fort Walthall Junction, two miles.
- From Chester to Port Walthall, five miles.
- From Chester to Bermuda Hundreds, thirteen miles.
- From Petersburg to Port Walthall, seven miles.
- From Port Walthall to Bermuda Hundreds, eight miles.
- From Petersburg to City Point, twelve miles.
- From Drewry's Bluff to Howlett's Mill, five miles.
- From Chester to Warebottom Church, five miles.
- From Chester to Salem Church, six and a half miles.
- From Chester to Water Station, two miles.
- From Richmond to Drewry's Bluff, seven miles.
- From Drewry's Bluff to Stone Bridge on turnpike, three miles.
- From Drewry's Bluff to Proctor's Creek Bridge on turnpike, two miles.
- From Drewry's Bluff to Half-Way house on turnpike, five miles.
- From Drewry's Bluff by river to Dutch Gap, eight miles.
- From Drewry's Bluff to Chesterfield C. H., seven and a half miles.
- From Drewry's Bluff to Rice's turnpike, two and a half miles.

A Curious Prayer.

In the State of Ohio there resided a family, consisting of an old man and the name of Beaver and his three sons, all of whom were hard "pets," who had often laughed to scorn the advice and entreaties of the pious but very eccentric minister, who resided in the same town. It happened that one of the boys was bitten by a rattlesnake, and was expected to die, when the minister, calling on the family, knelt down and prayed in this wise:

"O Lord, we thank thee for the rattlesnake; we thank thee because one has bit Jim. We pray thee send a rattlesnake to bite John; send one to bite Bill; and send one to bite Sam; and O Lord, send the biggest kind of a rattlesnake to bite the old man; for nothing but rattlesnakes will ever bring the Beaver family to repentance."

Why is a preacher near the end of his sermon like a boy with a rent in his clothes? Because he's tore his clothes.