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Johnston and Sherman.

The New York *World* of the 3rd has an interesting letter from its Baltimore correspondent, "Druid," of date March 1st. In the letter the *World's* correspondent gives the relative strength, as far as his knowledge extends, of the opposing armies under Generals Johnston and Sherman. The letter is interesting, as being the speculations of a usually well-informed correspondent. After stating that General Johnston had assumed direction of the campaign now progressing against Sherman, "Druid" goes on to say:

ATTEMPTED CONCENTRATION OF TROOPS UNDER SHERMAN.

If the troops recently at Wilmington and Newbern, under Generals Terry, Foster and Schofield, had effected a junction with Sherman, the united Federal forces then would have greatly outnumbered Gen. Johnston's army. But these accounts state, not only that this junction had not taken place, but that it would not take. Instead of moving westward from Wilmington, by way of Fayetteville to join Sherman at Concord, these troops it is said, are moving northward to Goldsboro, with the intention of marching on Raleigh, from which it is inferred by the Confederates that it is the intention of Gen. Sherman to meet them there. In this case, of course, Gen. Sherman will endeavor to force the passage of the Yadkin river, and at that point, or near there, in all probability, the battle will take place, which will decide Gen. Sherman's fate.

ACTUAL STRENGTH OF GEN. JOHNSTON.

At the time that General Lee assumed the chief command of the Confederate armies, there were 95,000 Confederate troops in the West and Southwest namely:—30,000 under General Taylor, Hood's successor; 25,000 in Arkansas and Missouri, under General Price (some correspondents of administration papers, writing from St. Louis and Memphis, say that Gen. Price had 28,000); 20,000 in Texas and Louisiana, under General Magruder; and 20,000 in scattered detachments in Florida, Mississippi and Alabama, including the garrison at Mobile.

GENERAL LEE'S MEASURES TO EFFECT CONCENTRATION.

Thirty thousand of these troops were at once ordered to report to General Beauregard, in South Carolina. Their orders were to proceed first to Atlanta and Macon, where they would be met by staff officers of Gen. Lee, with specific instructions. The numbers of troops who were en route in pursuance of these orders are stated to be—10,000 from General Taylor; 10,000 from General Price; 5,000 from Texas, and 5,000 from Mobile, which latter place is to be evacuated. Cut this number down one-third, and we have 20,000 troops hastening by railroad to join General Johnston, for they would all reach Atlanta by railroad. From Atlanta, the route would be to Washington, in Wilkes county, Georgia, fifty miles northwest of Augusta. From this point to Chesterville, Chester co., South Carolina, a distance of one hundred and twenty, a new railroad is said to have been constructed and to be now in operation, passing through Abbeville, Newberry and Allston. That part of the road from Abbeville to Allston, was completed and in operation as early as 1863; so that there were only the two links from Washington to Abbeville, and from Allston to Chesterville, a distance of sixty miles in all, to be built in 1864.

JOHNSTON'S FORCE AT LEAST 60,000 STRONG.

If these two links have been built, as stated, then these 20,000 troops, coming all the way by railroad, have joined Gen. Johnston by this time. If not, they will have these sixty miles to march on foot, which will retard their arrival four days later. Besides them, it will be remembered, General Johnston is in command of the troops recently at Charleston and Branchville, 20,000, those recently at Wilmington, Goldsboro and Hugsford, 12,000; those recently under Hardee at Savannah, 16,000; General Wade Hampton's cavalry, 10,000; and the troops recently at Macon and Augusta, 8,000—in all 66,000. Cut this down also and call it only 40,000, and still, with the 20,000 above, General Johnston will have

60,000 troops. It is with this force, which many well informed persons believe is nearer 80,000 than 60,000 strong, that General Johnston will fight the battle with Sherman which will decide the fate of the latter. But he will not have to fight it with these troops alone.

DELUSION IN REGARD TO LEE'S ABILITY TO MOVE.

The greatest delusion which the North is laboring under is, that the presence of General Meade's army before Petersburg prevents General Lee from sending away from Richmond any troops to reinforce Johnston. The truth is, not only could Gen. Lee do this without imperilling the safety of Richmond or Petersburg in the least, but he could do it without the knowledge of General Meade. The closest observation fails to discover any increase or diminution in General Lee's numbers. No intelligent person needs to be told that we cannot see the whole of Lee's army. The part of that army that is visible to the closest observation is not one tenth part of the whole. For aught General Meade knows to the contrary, General Lee may have been reinforced during the last ten days by as many as 25,000 men, and General Lee, after all, may attempt to pierce Meade's centre and to defeat one of his wings before it can be supported.

HOW THE MANOEUVRE CAN BE EFFECTED.

On the other hand, does not every sensible person know that a skillful military commander can move troops silently, in the night, from point to point, and night after night in succession, and still maintain the same show of force in front, neither more or less? Certainly, it can be done; has been done, time and again, both in European wars and in this war. What is there to prevent General Lee from having thus transferred 20,000, 30,000 or even 40,000 of his troops from his lines to some points on the Danville and Lynchburg railroads west of Petersburg and southwest of Richmond? Nothing. And the stake in North Carolina is so high a one, so much depends upon the defeat of Sherman there, that in all probability he has done it. Suppose that General Meade suspects he has done it. How is he to find out? Only by an assault on some part of Lee's lines, or by a fourth or fifth attempt to reach the Lynchburg railroad, by again "extending his lines."

HOW CAN THE TRUTH BE ASCERTAINED.

Suppose we should try either, what would be the result? I know the gallantry and skill of our officers. I know the courage and devotion of our troops. But I know also something of the nature of the defences of Richmond and Petersburg, and of the facilities which General Lee has for concentrating troops at any point that is threatened with a real attack. No troops in the world are braver than ours; but no troops in the world can accomplish impossibilities. The army that was repulsed at Fredericksburg and at the mine at Petersburg, and at every attempt that has been made by General Grant, either to carry the works defending the rebel lines or to reach the Lynchburg railroad—that army would have no cause to blush if success did not crown their next effort. The defences of Richmond and Petersburg were erected with this end in view, and they might be held by a comparatively small force at a time when, in case of need, the main body of Gen. Lee's army must be employed elsewhere.

RICHMOND WILL NOT BE GIVEN UP.

That period, General Lee probably believes, has now arrived. General Sherman must be defeated in North Carolina. He can send General Johnston, by railroad, in a very short time, thirty thousand troops, and have forty-five thousand left for the defence of his lines. There is every reason to believe that he has done this. But let no one suppose, because he has done so, either that Petersburg will be evacuated, or that Richmond will be yielded without a terrific struggle. If the Confederacy falls now, it will fall at Richmond, and General Lee will fall with it. While the Confederacy remains Richmond will remain its capital.

CRITICAL POSITION OF GENERAL SHERMAN.

To recur to General Johnston. If General Lee has sent him only 25,000 troops, he will have 85,000 at the lowest computation, and with these it need not be said that Sherman's position becomes one of great peril. If the reports which have reached here, referred to above, be correct, it is evidently the intention of both Lee and Johnston to defeat Sherman on the Yadkin, and to risk much in order to effect that end.

PRISONERS SOLD FOR SUBSTITUTES.—The House committee for the District of Columbia have, by an investigation, ascertained that, recently seventy persons committed to the jail of that District, have been bailed out and sold to substitute brokers. Five or six of them were charged with grand larcenies, and the remainder with trivial offences.

Latest from Europe.

Advices from Europe to the 15th have been received:

THE REPORTED CESSION OF SONORA.

The "Times," in a leader, says:

The American war has been singularly fruitful of unexpected events, but of all the turns of fortune none has been more theatrically sudden than one that is now reported to have happened in favor of the South. At this moment the rejoicings of the North are suddenly hushed, and we are assured from New York that President Davis has the game in his hands, and can secure the independence of the South either with the assent of the North, or in despite of it, according to his pleasure. The clue of this startling mystery is to be found in the statement, firmly credited in America, that the Emperor of Mexico has conveyed in trust of Napoleon III, the northern portions of the Mexican territory, to be held and administered by a French Viceroy, in liquidation of the claims of France upon the Mexican Government. This cession, it is assumed in the North, could not possibly occur without the recognition of the Southern Confederacy by France, and that recognition, it is further assumed, would at once be followed by England and the other great Powers of Europe.

The presumptions current on this subject are strengthened by the anticipations entertained of an emancipation policy on the part of the Confederate Government. The surprise felt in this country at so marvelous a change of prospect, will be increased in no small degree by general incredulity.

DEPREDACTIONS OF THE SHENANDOAH.

The Cape mail has brought the following intelligence:

The United States steamer *Iroquois*, eight guns, arrived in Table Bay, on January 9, with a portion of the crews of the schooner *Lizzie M. Stacy* and the bark *Edward*, both of which vessels were burnt at sea by the *Shenandoah*, the men on board afterward being landed at Eristan d'Acumba, from whence they were taken by the *Iroquois*.

In addition to the above, the following is a list of the ships burnt by the *Shenandoah*: *Alena*, bark, from Cadriff, bound to South America with coals; *Susan*, brig, from England to South America with coals; *D. Godfrey*, bark, from Boston to Valparaiso; *Charter Oak*, schooner from Boston to San Francisco.

Adelaide, bark, with Argentine flag, at her peak, was boarded. It appears that the captain of the *Shenandoah* demanded her bill of sale and transfer to the Argentine Republic, which the captain could not produce. She was then ordered to be destroyed. After they had broke the cabin and poured tar and turpentine over the floor, the captain of the *Adelaide* spoke a few words to the privateer captain, upon which he immediately ordered them to repair what damage they had done, and release the vessel. It is said that she belonged to a friend of the Confederates.

CONFEDERATE CRUISERS.—The New York Times in an article on British neutrality says:

No naval expedition can now, by any possibility, start from any Confederate port to prey upon our commerce. Yet we have news that an iron clad, the *Olinda*, alias *Stonewall*, afloat, and that the *Ajax*, the *Serulus*, and three other rebel privateers are preparing to start from England. It may be true that these vessels will be armed out of British jurisdiction, but the vessels carrying their arms and crews will also start from British ports.

MISSISSIPPI MOVING.—A meeting was held in Columbus, on Saturday, where speeches were made by Gov. Whitfield, Hon. A. Murdock, and Rev. Mr. Stainback, all breathing the same indomitable spirit of resistance to the death, and scouting the idea of peace upon any other conditions than that of independence.

Old Bull reappeared, after an absence of many years from the concert in Berlin, recently. His old admirers were pleased to find that, although his hair has become grey, he possesses all the wonderful mastery over his instrument which he displayed in years long since passed away.

PROMOTED.—Rev. J. H. McNeil, editor of the *North Carolina Presbyterian*, who has been for some time acting as Major of the 5th North Carolina cavalry, has been promoted to the rank of Colonel.

Dr. Holmes says in his new lecture, it should be no reproach to New England that she has many insane persons; the persons who fight the battles of thought will have most killed and wounded.

Northern News.

The Northern papers continue to report a great number of deserters from our lines, and are in great exultation.

The Illinois Legislature has passed a bill to pay the members in gold.

The War Department has received information that the rebels in Canada are contemplating a descent on Rochester and Oswego.

There is a great inundation at Nashville caused by the rise of the Tennessee.

The Yankees are discussing the propriety of making a Chief of the Freedmen's Bureau—Gen. Butler is spoken of.

Gen. Pope has been again removed from the Department of the North-west.

Bob Lincoln, son of Abe, has been made a Captain on Grant's staff and sent to the front. 199,690 emigrants landed in New York last year.

Before adjourning, the Federal Congress adopted a resolution that the U. S. Government will never recognise the rebel debt on any conditions.

SAVANNAH ITEMS.—Eggs are selling at \$1.50 per doz.; flour \$16 to 18 per barrel; Irish potatoes, \$4 per bbl.

Stringent orders have been issued against all letters, newspapers and other documents being sent without the city.

Negro soldiers are being enlisted and actively drilled.

The cashiers of the Bank of the State of Georgia and the Central Railroad Bank are wanted at the Postoffice Marshal's office.

Last week was a continuous succession of rain and thunder storms.

Professor Wiegand formerly of this city, is "tooting" his horn for the Yanks.

The small pox is prevailing. The price of gas is fixed by military order at \$6 per 1000 feet.

A Northern Correspondent of the Washington press says:

Matters are approaching a crisis. Before many weeks the last grand and decisive battle will have begun. The preliminaries are being rapidly arranged.

Such a contest as will be, the world has never witnessed, for upon it depends the fate of the country. In that battle, should we suffer a defeat, it will be overwhelming, and all the advantages we may have gained in the past six months, will be as worthless as the bubble reputations they have made.

From all the outer garrisons and troop depots the rebel army at the Capital is being augmented. Silently but surely the storm is gathering. Let us not be the sanguine of success.

Land forces continue to be concentrated at Pensacola. Statements from North Alabama relate that a portion of Thomas' army is moving eastward toward Chattanooga. It is supposed he intends a movement through Wills Valley into Alabama to act in concert with operations against Mobile.

Private information from Charleston reports the garrison greatly reduced. The Yankees are running railroad trains from Charleston to Summerville.

McAbone writes to the *New York Weekly Review* that he has discovered a tallow mine. To the objection that geologists may say that this is an impossibility, he replies, "What would they have said of an oil well ten years ago?"

COFFEE CAKES.—Take some rice that has been boiled soft, twice as much flour as rice, a little fine Indian meal, and a little yeast. Mix it with cold water and let it rise over night. This will make a fine biscuit for breakfast.

"Mother," said a little fellow, "is there any harm in breaking egg shells?" "Certainly not, my dear, but why do you ask?" "Cause I dropped the basket just now; and see what a mess I am in with the yolk!"

One hundred and seventy thousand dollars in money and over fifty thousand dollars worth of provisions have been contributed in Augusta for the benefit of Columbia sufferers.

Lincoln is the first President, since 1833, an interval of 32 years, who has been re-inaugurated. Gen. Jackson was the last, previous to Mr. Lincoln.

De Quincey somewhere tells an anecdote of a man who, being threatened with assault by eighteen tailors, cried out, "Come on, both of you."

An English writer says a peculiar atmosphere surrounds royalty. We suppose it is the heirs to the throne.

Sorrow comes soon enough without despondency; it does a man no good to carry around a lightning rod to attract trouble.