

THE NEW SOUTH.

PORT ROYAL, SATURDAY, SEPT. 6, 1862.

Departure of General Hunter.

The salvos of artillery which last evening awakened the echoes in Port Royal Harbor, as they burst from the grim sides of the *Wabash* and the grassy slopes of Fort Welles, were given in honor of Major General Hunter, who left in the *McClellan* for Washington. Gen. Hunter goes home on leave, but there is little probability of his returning. The country, at this crisis of her affairs, has great need of the military talent of her distinguished sons, and cannot afford to let it shelve itself, when it may be turned to useful account. It is likely, therefore, that Gen. Hunter will be called to an active command as soon as he reaches Washington. During his administration in this department his course on some questions, particularly that of forming a negro regiment, made him many enemies, but even those most bitterly opposed to his political views, respect him for his sincerity, courage and firmness of purpose. It takes with him to his new field of duty, what that may prove to be, the best wishes for his health and prosperity of all in the Department of the South. Accompanying him were his estimable wife and the members of his Staff.

The Battles in Virginia.

We yield a large portion of our space this morning to the publication of the news respecting the desperate battles of Thursday, Friday and Saturday last in Virginia, believing that the accounts will be read with painful yet absorbing interest. The gloomiest portion of the news is taken from an extra of the *New York Tribune*, issued at 7 o'clock of the morning of Monday last, but we are trustful that the picture of the reported reverse is too darkly shaded. The account was given by a gentleman who left the battle-field late on Saturday evening, and it is about twelve hours later than the official report of Friday's battle, made by Gen. Pope. The result up to the date of Gen. Pope's dispatch was highly encouraging. He stated that the enemy had been driven from the field in a badly used-up condition; and, although our losses were not less than eight thousand men, those of the enemy, from the appearance of the field, outnumbered ours two to one. He also spoke of the enthusiasm of our troops, which was increased by the fact that the battle was fought on the identical field of Bull Run and alluded to great captures both of men and munitions of war. Subsequent to the writing of this report the rebels were largely reinforced, and the tide of battle turned against us. On Sunday there was no general engagement, and our men were reported to be firmly concentrated that evening at Centreville, in good condition and spirits for another encounter.

While, therefore, we are compelled to endure the pain of suspense until another mail shall bring us the result of the struggle, we have reason to hope that our armies, strongly reinforced, will renew the engagement to overthrow at once and forever the hordes of traitors, who have, without doubt, staked all their power, and all their hopes for their villainous cause, in a final and desperate effort to capture the Capital of the Republic.

Brig. Gen. J. M. Brannan, U. S. A., is now in command of the Department of the South. He will remove his headquarters from Beaufort to Hilton Head to-day.

—Assistant Surgeon William F. Cornick, U. S. Army, who came up from Key West, on the *Delaware*, has entirely recovered from an attack of yellow fever which he had on the passage. As that epidemic is still prevailing at Key West, and there being need of additional medical attendance, Dr. Cornick has returned to his former post of duty.

—Brig. Gen. Rufus Saxton left for the North yesterday, by the *McClellan*, in ill health.

THE NEWS FROM THE NORTH.

Brighter Aspect of Affairs.

The past few days have been fruitful of excitements, because of the disheartening reports,—based upon verbal information received in the early part of the week by the transports *Star of the South* and *McClellan*,—respecting the condition of affairs with the army in Virginia. We had rumors of the complete disorganization of McClellan's command, of the cutting off of Pope from his supplies by a rapid flank movement on the part of Stonewall Jackson, and of the advance of a heavy column of rebels within a few miles of Alexandria, thus placing Washington in imminent peril. As these vague rumors passed from mouth to mouth, their gloomy character was magnified, and we were left in a state foreboding disaster to our cause and of most painful suspense. This unpleasant feeling has been sensibly relieved, however, by advices to the 30th ultimo, received on Thursday by the gun boats *Norwich* and *Massachusetts*. Without doubt these advices form a foundation for the circulation of those cheering reports; but the last news puts a more favorable aspect upon affairs. General Burnside had formed a junction with Pope, and a battle was fought in which the enemy had been driven back beyond Manassas with heavy loss, and Stonewall Jackson's plans of taking Washington were utterly defeated. The Government has expelled newspaper correspondents from the army lines, thus depriving the public of its only definite source of information, and our files are filled with rumors, obtained from stragglers. These we have carefully sifted, to present what appears to us a tolerably correct idea of the events of the few days preceding the battle and the "situation" up to date of last advices:—

On Tuesday, the 28th, a body of rebel cavalry, estimated at 2000 strong, under Col. F. Hugh Lee, made a successful raid on Manassas Junction, under circumstances which reflect much disgrace upon our officers who commanded the position. Three trains, numerous prisoners, and quartermaster's stores, to the amount of half a million of dollars, were captured. The enemy afterwards destroyed all the buildings, public and private, the station houses and storehouses; and, passing on six miles farther, burned the massive railway bridge over Bull Run, thus cutting off communication between the Capital and the Army. The boldness of this swoop parallels that of Stuart in the rear of our armies on the Peninsula. Bull Run bridge is so completely within our lines that it is not easy to understand how the rebels could have visited there without being captured. This cavalry dash was followed at once by an advance of the enemy in strong force, under Jackson, through Thoroughfare Gap, which had been left unprotected, and on the 27th they had extended their lines to Fall's Church, destroying every means of communication between the Capital and Gen. Pope, with the purpose of marching straight upon Washington.

In the *N. Y. Tribune*, of the 30th, we find an official report from Gen. Pope, dated Manassas Junction, Aug. 28,—10 P. M.,—the latest advices direct from the army, which shows what his force had done towards frustrating the enemy's plans:—

To Maj. Gen. H. W. Halleck, Commander-in-Chief.

As soon as I discovered that a large force of the enemy was turning our right toward Manassas, and that the division I had ordered to take post there two days before had not yet arrived from Alexandria, I immediately broke up my camps at Warrenton Junction and Warrenton, and moved rapidly back in three columns. I directed McDowell, with his own and Sigel's corps, and Reno's Division to march upon Gainesville by the Warrenton and Alexandria pike, Reno and one division of Heintzelman to march on Greenwich, and with Porter's corps and Hooker's division, I marched back to Manassas Junction.

McDowell was ordered to interpose between the forces of the enemy which had passed down to Manassas through Gainesville, and his main body moving down from White Plains through Thoroughfare Gap. This was completely accomplished—Longstreet, [rebel] who had passed through the gap being driven back to the west side. The forces sent to Greenwich were designed to support McDowell, in case he met too large a force of the enemy. The division of Hooker, marching towards Manassas, came upon the enemy near Kettle Run, on the afternoon of the 27th, and after a sharp action routed them completely, killing and wounding 300, capturing camps and baggage, and many stand of arms.

This morning the command pushed rapidly to Manassas Junction, which Jackson had evacuated three hours in advance. He retreated by Centreville, and took the Turnpike toward Warrenton. He was met six miles west of Centreville by McDowell and Sigel, late this afternoon. A severe fight took place which has terminated by darkness. The enemy was driven back at all points and thus the affair rests.

Heintzelman's corps will move on him at daylight from Centreville, and I do not see how the enemy is to escape without heavy loss. We have captured 1000 prisoners, many arms and one piece of artillery.

JOHN POPE, Major-General.

The agent of the New York Associated Press, at Washington, furnished the following as the condition of affairs with the army up to noon of Friday, the 29th:

"We have trustworthy advices, through letters received to-night, that affairs at Washington and Alexandria to-day wore a more favorable aspect. The Secessionists at Alexandria are less jubilant and carry despondent countenances.

Generals Burnside and Pope have successfully cut their way through the rebel forces to Manassas, and have formed a junction with the army of Virginia, under Gen. McClellan, this side of Centreville.

There has been a severe engagement with the rebels by the divisions under the command of Gens. Hooker, Sturges and Sumner, in which the rebels were completely routed and driven back from the vicinity of Manassas and Bull Run through the passes of the Bull Run Mountains.

The loss of life on both sides is said to have been heavy. No accurate information can be obtained on this point, but it is believed that the enemy were severely punished, and many prisoners taken.

It is also stated that the Potomac River is now fordable at any point above Washington, and much excitement prevails throughout Western Maryland, arising from the fear that a portion of the rebel army may make a desperate raid in that direction."

POSTSCRIPT!

DESPERATE BATTLES IN VIRGINIA!

Our first Successes followed by a Reverse.—Retreat of the Army to Centreville.—Gen. McClellan Censured, &c., &c.

The steam transport *St. Mary*, Capt. Talbot, arrived yesterday afternoon, bringing New York papers to Sept. 1—giving three days later news of the battles in Virginia. We copy from the *New York Tribune* extra, the following synopsis. The battle commenced at 5 o'clock on Thursday afternoon, near Stone Bridge, on the old Manassas battle field, between Jackson's rear guard and a part of Sigel's corps under Gen. Schenck. It lasted until 9½ o'clock. Early Friday morning Jackson effected a junction with Longstreet and other portions of the rebel army who probably reached the battle field by way of Thoroughfare Gap or from the North by way of Aldie Gap. The battle was opened by our assault—Sherman's battery commencing. Sigel's line of battle was formed with Schurz on the right, Schenck on the left and Steinwehr in the centre and as a reserve. Gen. Milroy, with his independent Brigade, led the advance.

The enemy were pushed gradually but steadily back until 1 in the afternoon. Then they suddenly and fiercely advanced in a bayonet charge against Milroy, who was compelled to fall back, as well as Gen. Schenck's brigade which was sent to his support. Milroy's command was so badly cut up that he could not gather a regiment. Meanwhile Gen. Schurz was fighting in the woods with great determination, holding his ground though losing heavily, and handling his troops skillfully. Gen. Steinwehr supported him.

On Schenck's left heavy masses of rebel troops appeared, and he was reinforced by the divisions of Stevens and Reynolds; but all were driven back.

The result of the fighting on Friday was that at first the enemy was driven back two miles, but having been heavily reinforced recovered a mile of the ground he had lost. Our troops rested at night a mile in advance of the position where the battle had begun.

On Saturday the battle was more general. Heintzelman, Porter, McDowell, Sigel and Banks were engaged, though Sigel having had the hottest work the day before was kept back as a reserve. The morning, until 10 o'clock, was spent in massing troops, deploying and manœuvring. Heintzelman attacked at 10. Porter moved down