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By Telegraph.

Baltimore, 21.

The following from the American, is an account of the great battle of the Shenandoah valley:

Headquarters Military Division, Winchester, Va., 19th, 9 P. M.

Sheridan's army this day fought one of the most successful and decisive battles of the war. Victory again perched on our banner. The rebel army has been defeated and literally routed, with a loss at least of 3000 killed and wounded, including 5 Generals. Sunday morning Early sent Gordon's Division of rebel Infantry from Bunker Hill where it had been stationed for the past few days, to drive Averill out of Martinsburg and destroy the bridge on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad across the Opequan, which they erroneously thought had been repaired. They occupied Martinsburg for a short time, without doing any damage to the railroad, and were eventually driven by Averill, as far as Dukesville. Gen. Sheridan, learning their movements, ordered his whole command to break camp and prepare to march. Accordingly at 3 o'clock on Sunday the 10th, all struck. The different divisions were all under arms, and prepared to move at a moment's notice. At 9 o'clock orders were received from Sheridan, for the 6th and 19th corps to be ready to start at 3 o'clock, and the army of Western Virginia, under Cook, at 5 the following morning.

Shortly after 5 o'clock Wilson's division of cavalry crossed the Opequan at Berryville, on the Winchester pike, moving his command rapidly along the road and driving in the enemy's skirmish line, he gallantly charged the enemy's field works with his 1st brigade and carried them at the point of his sabre, capturing thirty prisoners. In this charge Col. Brinton, of the 18th Pa. cavalry was wounded within a few feet of the enemy's works whilst gallantly leading his regiment. These field works were so constructed as to guard the ford at the Opequan and prevent our passage at that point. Our cavalry having secured a safe passage for the infantry the 6th corps moved across the Opequan and along the pike towards Winchester to a point about a mile and a half from the ford, where it formed in line of battle and threw out a strong skirmish line. At the same time the artillery opened on the woods into which the enemy's infantry had retired and kept up an incessant cannonade, the enemy replying briskly with parts of two batteries. There was a delay of two hours caused by the non arrival of the 19th corps, which through a misconception of orders had failed to come up at the proper time. Sheridan having learned on Sunday that the main portion of Early's forces were encamped in the vicinity of Bunker Hill, (Stevenson's depot,) resolved to mass his forces on the Winchester and Berryville pike, and by a rapid movement, to hurl them on Early's rear. There is no doubt but that the enemy were completely surprised and outmaneuvered by Sheridan. While the different columns were being marched to the appointed place of rendezvous, a portion of our cavalry under Tarbett and Averill, kept up a strong picket line along the Opequan, and by demonstrating in force at Burn's ford, they kept a large portion of the enemy at that part of the field, which was nearly twelve miles distant from the point where it was intended our infantry should operate and strike a blow which should result in the signal defeat of Early's army. The delay in the arrival of the 19th corps, enabled Early to move Gordon's division at a double quick from Bunker Hill, (distant ten miles,) and bring it up in time to form a line of battle with Breckinridge's, Rainer's and Hoke's commands, which had already arrived, and were formed in a belt of woods skirting Berryville and Winchester. As soon as the 19th corps arrived, it was formed in four lines of battle about 300 yards apart, on the right of the 6th corps, and everything being in readiness the advance sounded at noon, when the two corps advanced in splendid style and as composedly as though on parade. The first line had not advanced more than 200 yards before it became warmly engaged with the

enemy who were posted in line about 600 yards distant. At the same time our artillery opened a furious cannonade, throwing shells and solid shot into the opposite woods, where the enemy could be distinctly seen moving up reinforcements. Our different lines of battle continued to advance steadily until within nearly 200 yards of the enemy's line, when the rebels opened a furious cannonade with grape and cannister from two batteries which they had previously kept secreted, and which plowed through our advancing lines and mowing down large numbers of our men. The first line was obliged to give way under so murderous a fire, and in retreating behind the second line threw it into a momentary confusion, and it was also obliged to fall back behind the third line, which had, in the meantime, been ordered to lie down in order to avoid as much as possible, the effects of the withering fire which the enemy's batteries were directing against our lines. The artillery was now brought up and posted in a commanding position to silence the batteries of the enemy which caused us so much annoyance, and our lines were reformed again and moved forward, regaining the advanced position which they had held when they were obliged to fall back. But this success was not gained without a most obstinate resistance on the part of the enemy. Gen. Sheridan had previously ridden along the lines and was received everywhere by the men with the greatest enthusiasm, and when they advanced it was with the terrible determination to do or die in the attempt. Having regained the advanced position previously occupied, the different lines of battle were ordered to lie down and wait for the arrival of Crook's corps, which was held in reserve on the eastern side of the Opequan; they were ordered up to take a position to the extreme right of our line, and in order to counteract the movement on the part of the enemy, who were massing troops on their left flank with a view to turning our right. Precisely at 3 o'clock Crook formed on the right of the 19th corps, his 1st division on the extreme right of our line, the 2d division in the rear and supporting a division of the 19th corps. Gen. Crook having formed his men, rode along the lines and was received by the most vociferous cheering; the men promising to go in and wipe out Winchester. Gen. Tarbett, with Merrett's and Averill's divisions of cavalry, having crossed the Opequan about 9 o'clock at Burn's and Knox's fords, having been hard at work all day fighting considerable bodies of the enemy's infantry and cavalry and having been successful in steadily driving them before them, now arrived on our extreme right and were prepared to take part in the final struggle which secured us the victory. Gen. Sheridan rode out to where Tarbett was stationed, and after a consultation with him as to the part the cavalry were to take, ordered a final charge, which was made with an impetuosity which nothing could resist. Our line, extending three miles in length, advanced amid cheers and yells which could be distinctly heard above the noise of artillery and musketry. As our lines advanced closer and closer to those of the enemy, the battle became more and more fierce—the slaughter now was awful, at every discharge the men could be distinctly seen dropping all around, and the two contending lines at some points could not have been over 200 yards apart. Just at this critical period, above the roar of artillery and musketry—the cheers and fierce yells of the contending armies—could be distinctly heard the shrill notes of the cavalry bugle sounding the charge, which was the death knell to Early's army. There could be seen the gallant Custar and Merrett, each with the headquarters' flag in hand conspicuously amongst advancing squadrons, gallantly leading the charge which in connection with the desperate courage of our infantry, secured us the victory. The columns of Early's command were forced to give way and break before the fierce onslaught which the cavalry made upon them, which, with sabre in hand, rode them down, cutting them right and left, capturing 720 privates and non commissioned officers, with nine battle flags and two guns. Broken and demoralized, the di-

visions composing Early's command now fled in confusion, throwing away everything which could in any way impede their flight, and strewing the ground with their arms. Some made for the heights beyond Winchester, but they were speedily dislodged by Averill and forced to beat a hasty and ignominious retreat up the valley, where such of Early's command as are left him are now scattered. Our victory is a glorious one and well calculated to thrill the heart of every loyal man.

Washington, 21.

The following is the reply of Sherman to Hood's charge of cruelty:

General:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, consenting to the arrangements I proposed, to facilitate the removal South of the people at Atlanta who prefer to go in that direction. I enclose a copy of my order, which will, I am satisfied, accomplish my purpose perfectly. You style the measures proposed, as "unprecedented, and appeal to the dark history of war for a parallel as an act of studied and ungenerous cruelty." It is not unprecedented. Gen. Johnston wisely and properly removed families all the way from Dalton down. I see no reason why Atlanta should be occupied. Nor is it necessary to appeal to the dark history of war, when recent modern examples are so handy. You, yourself, burned the dwelling houses along your parapet. I have seen to-day fifty houses you rendered uninhabitable because they stood in the way of your forts and men. You defended Atlanta on a line so close to town, that every cannon and musket shot—as showed from our line of intrenchments that over shot their mark—went into the habitations of women and children. Hardee did the same at Jonesboro. Johnson did the same at Jackson, Mississippi. I have not accused you of heartless cruelty, I merely instance these cases of very recent occurrence, and could enumerate hundreds of others, and challenge any fair man to judge who has at heart pity for "the families of brave people." I say it is a kindness to the families at Atlanta to remove them now at once, from scenes which women and children should not be exposed to. Brave people should scorn to commit their wives and children to the rude barbarities of war and its dark history. In the name of common sense, I ask you not to appeal to a just God in such a sacrilegious manner. You, who, in the midst of peace and prosperity, plunged a nation into a civil war, a dark and cruel war, who dared and bagged us to battle, insulted our flag, seized our arsenals and forts that were left in honorable custody, seized and made prisoners of war, the very guardians sent to protect your people against Indians and negroes. Long before any overt act was committed to you by the Lincoln Government, you tried to force Kentucky and Missouri into the rebellion in spite of themselves, falsified the vote of Louisiana, and sent privateers to plunder unarmed ships, and expelled Union families by thousands, burned their houses and declared by an Act of Congress, the confiscation of all debts due northern men for goods. You may talk this to marines, but not to me who have seen these things, and who will this day make as much sacrifice for the peace and honor of the South, as the best born Southerner among you. If we must be enemies let us be men, and fight it out as we propose to-day, and not deal in such hypocritical appeals to God and humanity. God will judge us in due time and he will pronounce whether it be more humane to fight it with a town full of women and families of brave people at our back, or remove them in time to places of safety among their own friends and people. Signed: W. T. SHERMAN.

Washington, 23.

Harpers Ferry, 23. Sheridan has again beaten Early at Fisher's Hill, capturing 16 guns and many prisoners.

Signed: STEVENSON.

Washington, 24.

The following official dispatch was received from Sheridan, detailing some of the particulars of the late battle and victory at Fisher's Hill:

"I cannot, as yet, give any definite account of the battle. Our loss is light. Crook struck the left flank of the enemy,

doubled it up and advanced down their lines." Rickett's division of the 9th army corps swung in and joined Crooks; Getty's and Wheaton's divisions took up the same movement, followed by the whole line, attacking beautifully; they carried the works of the enemy. The rebels threw down their arms and fled in the greatest confusion, abandoning most of their artillery. It was dark before the battle ended. I pushed on after the enemy during the night to that point with the 6th and 19th corps, and have stopped here to rest my men and issue rations. If Gen. Tarbett has pushed down Surrey valley, according to my directions, he will achieve great results, for I do not think there was ever an army so badly routed in this valley. Soldiers are hiding away and going to their homes. I cannot, at present, give any estimate of prisoners. I have pushed on regardless of everything. The number of pieces of artillery reported captured, is sixteen."

Signed: SHERIDAN.

Stevenson reports that three thousand prisoners from the field reached Winchester last night. Reinforcements and supplies have been forwarded to Sheridan.

Signed: STANTON.

Washington, 24.

The Republican extra has the following: The Government received despatches from Stevenson this morning, dated at Harper's Ferry, announcing that 2,000 prisoners had reached Winchester last night; and also says that 1,600 were captured on the 19th near Winchester and arrived at Harper's Ferry; 1,600 more are yet to come.

A later dispatch says that 1,600 prisoners were captured at Strasburg on the 22d and reached Winchester this morning. When last heard from, Early's army was flying down the valley panic stricken, and Sheridan in hot pursuit near Woodstock.

Boston, 22.

A letter from Fremont, withdrawing his name as a candidate, is published to-day.

New York, 22.

Gen. Cochrane has published an address to the War Democrats withdrawing his name from the Cleveland ticket.

Washington, 26.

Dispatches from Sheridan to 11 o'clock Saturday night, dated six miles south of Newmarket, are received. He had driven the enemy from Mount Jackson without being able to bring on a general engagement. The enemy were moving rapidly and he has no cavalry at present to hold them. Tarbett had attacked Wyckham's force at Surrey and captured a number of prisoners. Sheridan found rebel hospitals in all the towns from Winchester to Newmarket. Twenty pieces of artillery were captured at Fisher's Hill, together with 1,100 prisoners, a large amount of ammunition, caissons, limbers, and a large quantity of entrenching tools and small arms; no list of the captured materials has yet been received. The small towns through the valley contain a great many of the rebel wounded. Gen. Stevens reports the arrival at Harper's Ferry of a train of our wounded, twenty captured guns and eighty additional captured officers. Breckenridge has gone to take command of the rebel department of the southwest.

Washington, 23.

To Montgomery Blair—You have generously said to me, more than once, that whenever your resignation could be a relief to me, it was at my disposal. The time has come. You very well know that this proceeds from no dissatisfaction of mine with you, personally or officially. Your uniform kindness has been unsurpassed by that of any friend. It would only make trouble in your department and in those of some others. It is yet much to say that in the three years and a half during which you have administered the General Post office, I remember no single complaint against you in connection therewith. [Signed] A. LINCOLN.

To the President:—I have read your note of this date referring to my offer to resign whenever you should deem it advisable for interests that I should do so, stating that, in your judgment, the time has now come. I now, therefore, formally tender my resignation of the

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