



ALBERT CARRINGTON.....EDITOR.

Wednesday.....June 8, 1864.

THE GREAT BATTLES IN VIRGINIA.

The style of a writer on the battle-field, with the din of a deadly strife still ringing in his ears, the air he breathes impregnated with the odors of consumed charcoal and brimstone, and the land on which he rests, still red and reeking with the heart's blood of his countrymen, cannot fail to be infinitely more interesting than the limited summary which economy suggests for the lightning messenger. On the second page of this issue, the reader will, therefore, find selections from one of the best writers of the New York Tribune staff, on the introductory battles between Lee and Grant. Elsewhere, the advance of Butler up the James river, and a Baltimore letter on the Confederate views and opinions of the two great generals, and of the position of both at the date of writing, will, altogether, enable our readers to form a pretty correct estimate of the greatness of the struggle now going on. With the assistance of the pen, the immediate subsequent, and the present telegrams will be better understood.

RICHMOND TO BE TAKEN.

Great preparations are on foot in the Eastern States to honor the taking of the Confederate Capital. Gen. Grant is not advancing quite so fast as to suit the anxiety, but he is reported to have expressed the satisfaction with the occurrence of that event on the 4th of July proximo—the nation's birthday. Vicksburg, capitulated to him on the last Fourth, and Richmond to do so on the Fourth coming would hoist him to the highest pinnacle of fame. Add to these, the capitulation of Charleston on the Fourth of next year, with it the end of the war, and the nation will GRANT him anything that he pleases to ask for, and he will have a right to ask it. He is in earnest, and has a better show for finishing this terrible struggle than any and all the generals who have preceded him. He seems to have his own way—and that is something.

THE MUSTER AND REVIEW.—We had not the opportunity of visiting the Parade Ground on Saturday, to witness the muster and review, of the First Brigade of the Nauvoo Legion—and we regret it. We understand the forenoon was devoted to drill, the afternoon to the review and inspection. Col. Burton was in command of the First Cavalry on the north of the parade ground, and Col. Ross commanded the Third Infantry to the south. Maj.-Gen. Grant and Brig.-Gen. Kimball were present, and with the other officers were in full uniform. A large number of distinguished visitors, military and civil, were there at different portions of the day to witness the drill and evolutions of the troops.

We have no idea of what was done, or how—creditably or otherwise—for that with the best and most flattering information is a small matter at any time; but it is gratifying to learn, that, notwithstanding the many claims upon the time of our citizens, they begin to exhibit more signs of commendable pride in military matters than they have for some time back.

It is a maxim that "what is worth doing at all is worth doing well," and military matters ought to be done well or not touched at all. In reality, no man can look upon himself as a true American citizen and a good member of any community, who disregards the duties and obligations which the law of the land requires and imposes upon him. There has been a time when one class of our citizens were left to do all the drilling and the consequent service of efficient men, while others, in better and more favored circumstances, were permitted to dodge, and squirm, and back out, under the most frivolous and ridiculous pretexts; but we are glad that there is a gradual

decrease of this, and a still less disposition to tolerate it. John who carries the hod, has no more at stake than Mr. James behind the counter, and is quite likely to be as good a man. Hereafter, we shall look out for the favorable progress that is promised, and hope yet to see the day when the militia of Utah will be second to none in discipline as they are certainly second to none in fidelity and worthy of confidence.

Col. Burton has, we are informed, sent east for the most recent works on "Cavalry tactics," that his men may beguile some lingering evening hours in acquiring a knowledge of the "art of war"—in theory, at least. We hope to hear of others doing likewise. While the gist and interest of news to-day in the United States is from the tented field, no better time could be chosen for that study.

DROWNED.—On Sunday afternoon there was considerable excitement in the Fourteenth Ward, on the reported drowning of Matthias Cowley in the Jordan. "It appears that he had gone to the river early in the forenoon, for the purpose of fishing, and while there, had undressed and gone in to bathe. His clothes were found on the Jordan bank about half a mile north of the bridge; but his body had not yet been found, after two days most diligent search of the river with grappling irons. It is expected that with a change in the river, the body will yet be cast ashore, and parties are stationed along its banks to keep watch. He leaves a very excellent wife and child to mourn his untimely end.

QUARANTINE ATTENTIONS WANTED.—We have pretty reliable information that a train of merchandize, for this city and Bannock, passed over Green River some ten days ago, and in that train were several persons reported sick with small pox. We ask particular attention of the Quarantine Physician, and all others, whose business it is to look after the health of the city, that this fearful scourge is not permitted to come among us, if human labor and energy can prevent it. We hope that we shall have occasion to commend the faithful discharge of the Doctor and his assistants.

THEATRICAL.—On Saturday evening, that fine Drama Eustache Baudin will be presented for the first time this season. It is enough of itself to draw a good house; but the additional announcement of songs by Dunbar and McAllister, and the imitation of Mrs. Irwin in the song and dance of Independence Day, by Miss Louisa Young, cannot fail to make it a very fine evening's amusement. The Management has been urgently solicited, for the re-appearance of the little Miss, and we have no doubt that many before disappointed in not seeing her debut will embrace the opportunity of seeing her on Saturday evening.

DETENTION OF THE EASTERN MAILS.—From Wednesday of last week, to Sunday evening, there were no mails received from the eastern States. The high waters on the route proved a very serious obstruction to the progress of the stages; but with a good deal of labor the employees were overcoming the unlooked for deluge. The mail agent at Latham reports that the stage company had to ferry over two miles to reach the land. With such a fact before us, it is expected that we will have a few opportunities, during the next month, of exercising patience.

NOTICE.—Col. D. J. Ross is an authorized traveling agent for the DESERET NEWS, and our agents and subscribers are expected to make his labors valuable to this office and all concerned, through making settlements and payments with as much liberality and promptness as a candid consideration of all the circumstances will permit.

INDIAN RUMORS.—For some days, we have heard rumors of Indians threatening difficulties about Weber somewhere, and of other more distant reports; but we can get at nothing reliable. There is always a ready ear for charges against the Red-man and they are no doubt bad enough; but there are many Pale-faces a great deal worse.

VISITING THE SANCTUM.—We had the pleasure of a call on Monday from W. C. Phillips, Esq., of Reese River. Mr. Phillips was founder of the *Reveille* at Austin, and comes eastward in quest of health. His friends will be pleased to learn that he has greatly improved since leaving home.

POSTMASTER AT UNION.—Every two or three weeks, a parcel of fifteen papers addressed T. A. Wheeler, Union, is reported passing your office, and being, consequently delayed in delivery. Is it so?

ANOTHER JUDGE.—Sol. F. McCurdy, Esq., of Weston, Missouri, arrived here last week, as Associate District Judge, in the place of little Waite.

APPOINTMENTS.—The Postmaster-General has appointed Henry Holmes, Postmaster at North Ogden, Weber county, in the place of Thos. Dunn, and Benj. Green, has been appointed Postmaster at Draper, Salt Lake county, in the place of A. W. Smith.

JUDGE RALSTON.—The announcement by a Virginia paper of the discovery of the body of Judge Ralston was premature. Every effort has been made to trace his wanderings in the mountains but unsuccessfully; yet, hope is entertained, though it looks like hoping against hope. The Judge was known to many of our citizens.

SANPETE COUNTY.—Elder F. C. Robinson, Manti, informs us that the usually favorable weather is there, as also in many other localities, lightening the labors of irrigation, and producing a luxuriant growth of the products of fields and gardens, giving promise of abundant harvests.

No police report this week. Civilization! Tidy again.

Owing to the intense interest over the military movements in the vicinity of Richmond and Atlanta, we stopped the press several hours to get in to-day's paper the latest intelligence. We had necessarily to crowd out other matters that will appear in our next.

THE DELUGE AT DENVER.

In last week's paper we noticed, on the verbal report of a traveler, the disaster that had befallen Denver City, from the sudden rushing of a great body of water over the before dry bed of Cherry Creek. Since that, we have received a copy of the *Commonwealth* with full details of the terrible calamity, that are intensely interesting, and presenting the best picture of a miniature deluge that our eyes have ever gazed on. About thirty persons are reported drowned and property to the amount of about a million dollars was destroyed. The *News* that we reported submerged and all in confusion, was literally washed away, and large portions of the heavy press machinery were carried by the swift current some miles away from the city.

The *Commonwealth* says:—

"When the flood was discovered, [about midnight] it had entirely surrounded our building, and was washing with wildest fury on every side, carrying upon its uneven surface masses of flood-wood, houses, fences, gigantic cottonwood trees, and driving before its irresistible current huge boulders, which created a dull rumbling sound, that rendered other sounds still more frightful. The first object selected by the element, was the Methodist Episcopal Church, at Larimer street bridge, which, together with the bridge was hurled from its fastenings down the furious stream, with a velocity worthy of Niagara, either above or below the falls. The blacksmith-shop near the church immediately followed, and then a succession of fearful noises of buildings continually falling, waves surging high in air, the sight of which, by the pale clouded light of the moon, was so awfully grand that the imminent danger was forgotten for a moment, until some gigantic masses of wood, trees and stones, would come bounding against our office, causing the whole structure to tremble from its roof to its base, dispelling our previous admiration, and in its stead filling us with a most fearful for the safety of our situation.

Long and anxiously did all in the *Commonwealth* building watch the *News* office, hoping even against hope that it might withstand the fury of the waters. Light gleamed from its windows, showing that all were as'ir within. Hardly had those in this office exchanged opinions as to whether the building would be able to hold out, when the light disappeared, and shortly afterward, and at a quarter to one, a loud crash came bounding over the water, and the *Rocky Mountain News* office was totally demolished, the occupants barely saving their lives.

One of the most distressing of all the scenes which transpired during the night was that of women wading waist deep in ice-cold water with children in their arms, in constant danger of being borne along with the rubbish, their screams and cries rendering the already dreadful night thrice more alarming. Many families were quartered in the upper room of this building, the compositors of this paper rendering them every assistance

in their power. At half-past two A. M., nearly all who were in danger had been removed to high ground, and what few were left behind were soon sought after by the gallant soldiers of the first Colorado cavalry, on their horses, and many were the good deeds performed by them. One little boy was rescued by one of these brave fellows at the risk of his own life. We are indebted to a member of that regiment, whose name we do not know, for conveying us with our books and papers, to Ferry street, where we found comfortable quarters in Gen. Pierce's office.

When day had dawned, many availed themselves of the liberty granted by Quartermaster Mullen to seek the roof of his building to behold the sight there spread out before them. It is beyond our capacity to describe what was there presented to our gaze. On every side, from the extreme bank of Cherry Creek on the east to the further bank of the Platte on the west, all was water. Front, Cherry, and Ferry streets had each a river of their own, aside from the one which followed the heretofore dry bed of Cherry Creek. Houses, trees, fences, cattle, hogs, chickens, wagons, barrels, boxes, tents, baggage, household furniture, wagon beds, and indeed property of almost every description was sailing at the rate of twenty miles or more an hour towards the Missouri River.

Early in the morning, the inhabitants of East Denver were gathered in great numbers on the east bank of Cherry Creek, in Larimer street, when they immediately opened communication with West Denver by means of paper upon which they had written, wrapped around a small sized stone, and then cast over by those who had the power of forcing them across. Many dispatches were sent and received in this way.

About ten o'clock word was received that the Platte was rising rapidly, and it was essential to the safety of residents in the Platte Bottom that they should immediately move to the higher ground. Here was another panic; nearly all the families being deserted by the men who, not suspecting any danger from that quarter, had gone to see how things were further up town. The report of this new disaster soon spread over town, when a great stampede of men was seen in that direction and in a few minutes a general transportation business was carried on.

Notwithstanding the seriousness of the situation, there is a spirit of good heart and determination to face the difficulties of the moment, that speaks well for the enterprise of the people of Denver. They have lost heavily, but are not broken; they are wounded but not discouraged. Denver will recuperate.

"FIGHTING" FACTS.

Washington was in his 44th year when he assumed command of the revolutionary armies, and in his 50th year when he took Yorktown. Gen. Taylor was in his 62d year when the Mexican war began, and in less than a year he won the battles of Palo Alto, Resaca de la Palma, Monterey and Buena Vista. He, too, was badly supported. The secession war has been conducted by elderly or middle-aged men. Gen. Lee, whom the world holds to have displayed more ability in it, is about 56, Gen. Rosecrans is 45, and Gen. Grant 42. Stonewall Jackson died at 37. Gen. Banks is 48, Gen. Hooker 45, Gen. Beauregard 46, Gen. Bragg 49, Gen. Burnside 40, Gen. Gilmore 40, Gen. Franklin 41, Gen. Magruder 53, Gen. Meade 48, Gen. Schuyler Hamilton 42, Gen. Charles S. Hamilton 40, Gen. Foster 40, Gen. Lander—a man of great promise—died in his 40th year. Gen. Kearney was killed at 47 and Gen. Stevens at 45. Gen. Sickles was in his 41st year when he was wounded at Gettysburg, and Gen. Reno was 37 when he died so bravely at South Mountain. Gen. Pemberton lost Vicksburg at 45. Gen. T. W. Sherman is 46, and W. T. Sherman is 44. Gen. McClellan was in his 35th year when he assumed command at Washington in 1861. Gen. Lyon had not completed the first month of his 43d year when he fell at Wilson's Creek. Gen. McDowell was in his 43d year when he failed at Bull Run, in consequence of the coming up of Gen. Joe Johnston, who was 51. Gen. Keyes is 53, Gen. Kelley 47, Gen. King 40 and Gen. Pope 41. Gen. A. S. Johnston was 59 when he was killed at the battle of Shiloh. Gen. Halleck is 48 and Gen. Longstreet is 40. The best of the Southern cavalry leaders was Gen. Ashby, who was killed at 38. Gen. Stuart is 29. On our side, Gen. Stanley is 30, Gen. Pleasanton 40, and Gen. Averill is about 30, Gen. Phillips is 51, Gen. Polk 58, Gen. S. Cooper 68, Gen. J. Cooper 54, and Gen. Blunt 38. The list might be much extended, but very few young men would be found in it—or very few old men, either. The best of our leaders are men who have either passed beyond middle life or may be said to be in the enjoyment of that stage of existence. It is so, too, with the rebels. If the war does not afford many facts in support of the position that old Generals are very useful, neither does it afford many to be quoted by those who hold that the history of heroism is the history of youth.—[Atlantic Monthly.]

The *Old Pinte* says that the rush of travel over the mountains is so great that the California Stage Company have been induced to stock their line with an entirely new lot of material.

—It is said some babies are so small that they can creep into quart measures: but the way in which some adults can walk into such measures, is astonishing.