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THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

The Grand Army of the Potomac, according to the meager reports published, continued moving on southward towards the Rappahannock, and Gen. McClellan had established his headquarters at Salem, where late in the evening on the 8th instant, he received an order relieving him from the command of the army, which he immediately turned over to his successor, Gen. Burnside, and with his staff left the field for Trenton, New Jersey, where he was ordered to report.

It is represented that on the evening preceeding the order, Gen. McClellan expressed his belief to his officers that, within three or four days, at the furthest, the greatest battle of the war, would be fought by the army of the Potomac, and a great victory won; which would probably end the rebellion.

On Gen. Burnside's assuming command, the army which was represented to have been previously moving onward, suddenly came to a halt, and no further advance had been made up to the 13th, at which time it was massed in the vicinity of Warrenton. The five days preceeding had been as represented, most profitably spent by Gen. Burnside, in perfecting his plans, for the great battle so long expected, and which when fought, it is believed by many, will result overwhelmingly in favor of the Federal arms, and probably terminate the war.

Concerning the movements of the Confederates, so many reports are in circulation that it is difficult to determine, where the main body of their troops are located. It was announced on the 10th, that Gen. Johnson had succeeded Gen. Lee, in the active command of the Confederate armies north of Richmond, and that he had established his headquarters at Culpepper. Reconnoissances made about the same time, reported that the Confederates were in strong force between the Rappahannock and the Rapidan, under the command of Gen. Hill. Other reports represented that Gen. Hill was with Jackson, in Shenandoah valley, and that Longstreet was in command at Culpepper.

On the 11th, it was announced from Harper's Ferry, that the enemy's pickets had again made their appearance on the Potomac, between Berlin and Point of Rocks, and their cavalry were scouring the country in the vicinity of Loudon Heights. It was subsequently reported that Johnson was at Winchester, with a large force intending to move westward, and then it was stated that he was between Winchester and Harpers Ferry, with a force of from twenty-five to thirty thousand men, and that the Confederates had occupied some of the gaps in force, in Gen. Burnside's rear, threatening him from that direction.

INDIAN DIFFICULTIES.

Since the arrival at Camp Douglas of the two companies of the Second Cavalry California Volunteers, detached by Col. Connor from Ruby, under command of Major McGarry, to look up and chastise the Indians which had committed the murders and depredations on the Humboldt and in that vicinity the present season, many rumors have been in circulation relative to the service performed and the punishment inflicted upon the few Indians who were found along the road from Gravelly Ford to City Rocks. Of the truth or falsity of the rumors we had no means of judging, but from the nature of the orders which were given to Major McGarry by the Colonel commanding, as reported at the time, it was but reasonable to suppose that all the natives found had been killed, whether innocent or guilty. It was believed, however, that the numbers killed by the expedition were comparatively few, notwithstanding most of the rumors indicated that many had been slain. It was also believed that, whether few or many, none of the

guilty had been caught, for if those who had murdered and robbed the emigrants passing that way had not left the road before the expedition started, they of course decamped as soon as they ascertained that troops were marching that way. Not wishing to give utterance to anything not strictly or substantially correct in relation to these matters, the rumors were allowed to pass unnoticed at the time, but since then several communications have been published, which purport to have been written by persons fully advised in relation thereto, in one of which it is stated that between Gravelly Ford and City Rocks Major McGarry captured twenty six Indians; that he held twenty-four of them as hostages, and sent two out to bring in those who committed the murders—informing the two that unless they returned within a certain number of days he would shoot the remaining twenty-four, and that as the two did not return within the time specified, the twenty-four were taken out and shot. It is further represented that the order from Colonel Connor was to hang all Indians that it should be found necessary to execute, but as the Major could not find trees large enough, he was compelled to carry out the order as above stated. The same writer sets forth that the Indians had nearly all gone to the buffalo country on a big hunt, which was undoubtedly true.

That the Indians captured and killed, as set forth by the correspondent, were not those who committed the murders, is fully made to appear in his statement of the tragic affair. They may have had some complicity in the matter, but the presumption is that they did not consider themselves guilty, otherwise they would not have been captured.

Another version of the capturing and killing of the Indians has been given by "an eye witness" which differs some little from the one to which reference is made, not so far as numbers are concerned; but relative to the way the captures were effected and the times of execution, which represents that they were not all taken at one time and place, that their execution, generally, soon followed their capture, and that in the instance when the two were sent out to bring in the murderers they had not time so to do before the hostages were shot. How that may be we know not, and it matters but little whether they were shot at sight or kept a month before they were executed, as it may not be expected to have any influence with the Aborigines in that region in their future hostile operations, for if other and more salutary measures be not taken by the Government to induce those ignorant wanderers to peace before next summer, the emigrants who may pass that way will doubtless witness a repetition of the bloody scenes of the present and past years—as the chastisement inflicted, if such it may be termed, admitting that it was of the right kind, of which serious doubts are entertained, cannot be deemed effectual, and in the absence of military power, will probably make the natives in that region more vindictive and bloodthirsty than they were before.

The difficulties existing among the hostile bands in Washington Territory, which have resulted in the indiscriminate massacre of hundreds of men, women and children within the last few years, have been of long continuance, and were engendered, as generally admitted, by the evil practices of the whites with whom they have had intercourse as traders, and by the inhuman treatment they have often received from travellers and emigrants passing through their country from one side of the continent to the other, many of whom have shot Indians when opportunity presented, and committed other deeds calculated in their nature to arouse the worst passion of the savages and incite them to revenge, which they would wreak upon some of the white race, even upon those who were friendly to them and had treated them kindly, if no others could be found, for under such circumstances Indians know but little or no difference between friends or foes, and if they consider blood their due they will take life the first favorable opportunity they may have after becoming thus impressed, and oftener than otherwise in such cases the innocent become the victims of their wrath. Such has almost invariably been the case in the massacres that have been committed by the Shoshones and Bannocks within the last three years; but with all these facts before the world, no efforts have been made to effect a settlement of the difficulties with those tribes by the Government or its officers, and their hostility to the whites, especially to

emigrants, has increased from year to year, till now, have been safe of late in passing through the country unless traveling in large companies and well provided with the means of defence.

It is very generally believed by those acquainted with the Indian character, that if a wise and judicious course had been pursued towards the Indians roaming over the desert immediately north of this Territory, after it became known that they entertained hostile feelings towards all whites traveling through their country, they might have been disposed to peace long ago, and many lives might have been saved. As things now are, not only the lives and property of emigrants passing that way are decidedly unsafe, but the settlements in Utah and Nevada, bordering on the country of the disaffected bands, are and will be exposed to their hostile incursions, so long as the present order of things shall continue to exist, and may be expected to be more so as time progresses.

The American Indians are a treacherous, uncertain race of beings at best, and are generally troublesome neighbors, particularly those inhabiting the western deserts, but the history of the past shows conclusively that much of their hostility to Europeans and their descendants has not been without cause. The World in speaking of the late Indian difficulties in Minnesota, recently gave utterance to the following, which cannot be successfully controverted.

"It is to the serious discredit of our Government that while it has quarreled with and made war upon every Indian tribe within its jurisdiction, an Indian war has been unknown in British North America during the present century. The difference consists simply in the mode of treatment adopted by the two governments. The British system protects the aborigines from gross injustice; ours inflicts in tolerable wrong upon them."

The course pursued by President Lincoln towards the Sioux, who, as alleged, made war upon the settlers in Minnesota because of the gross frauds practised upon them by the Government agents, massacred some five hundred persons, and laid waste a large extent of country, as reported, is decidedly more wise and humane than that of some of the officers of the army. Gen. Pope recently sent a dispatch to the President, informing him that some three hundred of the captured Sioux had been found guilty, on trial, by a military commission, of having been engaged in the massacres, and sentenced to be hung, which the people of Minnesota were very anxious should be done, and asked the approval of the sentence by the President, to which he replied—"Hang some of the ringleaders only;" a decision for which the settlers in that Frontier State will probably have reason to be thankful in time to come.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS ITEMS.

It is reported that all the regular Confederate forces have been withdrawn from Western Virginia, but the country continues to be infested with guerillas who are very active in their operations.

As stated by the New York City papers, some of the recruiting officers in that city have been making quite a speculation out of the recruiting business. It is alleged that they have paid recruits fifty dollars, the amount of the city bounty, and sold them to other towns in the State for one hundred and fifty dollars, to fill up the quotas of said towns, thereby pocketing one hundred dollars for each recruit thus enlisted and transferred. Five thousand men have, it is said, been thus enlisted and transferred, at a cost to the city of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, by which operation the speculating recruiting officers have realized half-a-million. They will, of course, be rewarded for their patriotism.

Active measures are being taken in the east to relieve the sufferings of the twenty thousand citizens of Minnesota who lost their all by the operations of the late Indian war, and are now in a suffering condition with winter fast approaching. The massacre of five hundred men, women and children, the devastation of a considerable portion of the State, together with the expense incurred by the war and the sufferings ensuing to those who are left destitute of food and clothing is charged to the Indian Agents who have been needy politicians, with whom a fraud upon the Indians has been the rule and fair dealing the exception. It is alleged that the Indians have been shamefully

treated and that they made war upon the whites to be revenged upon their plunderers.

The well-known American ship-builder, Donald McKay is announced to have recently returned from Europe, where he has been visiting the navy yards of England and France, and inspecting the iron-clad fleets those nations are constructing. He doubts the propriety of the United States constructing so many vessels of the Monitor pattern, as he regards them inferior to the large vessels building in Europe for offensive purposes. Their lowness in the water and inferior speed would, he thinks, put them at the mercy of the huge rams, for such they all are, that compose the European fleets. The Ironsides, and the great ram building by Mr. Webb, he fears will be the only two effective vessels in the navy for deep water purposes.

According to rumor, charges of a grave and serious character have been preferred against Gen. Curtis, and it is expected that he will soon be suspended from command, and his cotton speculations investigated by a court of inquiry. It is alleged that he has realized thereby about three million of dollars—a real money making arrangement, if true.

It is stated that some Government commission brokers have been sent to Fort Lafayette, by order of the War Department, for buying up Government claims at usurious discount.

It was reported recently that there were nearly sixty thousand sick and wounded soldiers in the United States' hospitals, more than one-half of the number being in the hospitals along the Atlantic coast and the Gulf of Mexico. There were twelve thousand in the west and seventeen thousand in Washington city; a sad spectacle of the horrors of war.

The mortar schooners at the New York navy yard are having their mortars removed and replaced by two rifled guns on their sides, and two one hundred pound Parrot guns, one forward and the other amidships. It is rumored that as soon as ready for sea they will sail on some important expedition, but whither has not transpired.

SEVENTIES' HALL LECTURES.

Mr. Long delivered his promised lecture on Popery and the Popes in the first six centuries of the Christian era, on Tuesday evening, the 11th inst., to a large and attentive audience. His denunciations of the Emperors Nero and Trajan, for their cruel persecutions of the early Christians, were rather severe, but the climax of severity was not reached until the speaker began to describe that enemy of literature, Pope Gregory the Great, who took the chair of St. Peter in the year 590. The lecturer spoke of him as the enemy of mankind, and the particular scourge of the human race; the destroyer of all the valuable libraries in Europe and Asia, the most determined enemy to the progress of civilization that ever entered the Vatican, and finally as the usherer in of those horrible scenes of blood and carnage that were witnessed in the dark ages.

The lecturer gave the names of the Popes, and the number that swayed the Papal sceptre in each century as he passed along, and gave his views in regard to the baneful influence which was spread through the then known world in succeeding ages, by those pretended successors of St. Peter.

The introduction of infant sprinkling, the Council of Nice, under the auspices of Constantine, the son of the sainted harlot, the two vacancies which occurred in the holy see in the 4th century, and the departure of the Priesthood from the earth to heaven: all received the attention of the speaker.

Last Friday evening, Mr. Elias L. T. Harrison delivered a highly interesting lecture on that pleasing and inexhaustible subject, to the lecturer, Astronomy. In his opening remarks he stated that astronomers, like geologists, deal in hypothesis, but astronomy does not. The lecture was replete with interesting information upon almost every conceivable question connected with this glorious science. Mr. Harrison's simple method of showing how astronomy determines the size, distance and parallax of the planets rendered the lecture unusually interesting.

Towards the close of the lecture, when describing the vastness, the magnitude and glory of the countless millions of the creations of God, the speaker was truly eloquent.

Phelps' Inimitable Almanac for 1863 is in press, and will shortly appear!!