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TO THE PUBLIC.

I hereby inform the public that the DESERET NEWS is not and has not been an organ of mine, for, except matter accompanied with my name, I have only occasionally, and that too some time ago, known any more of the contents of the NEWS until after it is published, than I have of the copy furnished to the compositors of the New York Ledger.

BRIGHAM YOUNG.

G. S. L. City, Jan. 23, 1863.

THE LATE HALLECK-HOOKER DEFEAT.

Concerning the late bloody conflicts at and near Fredericksburg, resulting, so far as known, in the most disastrous defeat of the war, nothing of importance has been received as yet. We had expected to have been in receipt of Eastern exchanges, ere this, containing some connected and intelligible account of the movements of the army of the Potomac, from the time of its breaking camp at Falmouth to cross the Rappahannock, until its return after having unsuccessfully measured its strength with the enemy; but in consequence of some delay, none have been received later than the 2d of May from New York, which, as understood, was the day the first great battle was fought. The rigid censorship which has been exercised by the Government agents to prevent the country and the world from learning the extent of the disaster, although it may have been prudent and wise, has kept the facts from, and will for some time to come keep the public in darkness concerning many things in which the people are deeply interested; but in process of time, the true condition of things will be made known, when they will be better prepared than at the present time to hear the unwelcome news.

From the disconnected statements which have gained publicity thus far through the agency of the telegraph-wires, no correct idea as to the number of men who were engaged in the several battles, nor of the casualties resulting, can be formed. The Confederates are made to say that their forces at Chancellorsville did not exceed seventy thousand, but no Federal statement has set forth whether Gen. Hooker had greater or less number on that part of the field, although the inference might be drawn from some of the reports that the Confederates were in superior force. We have seen it stated in some of the New York journals that the army of the Potomac consisted of not less than one hundred and sixty thousand men; but if they all crossed the river, it is not supposable that they were all engaged.

How many men were killed and wounded on each side and how many prisoners were taken by each army respectively has not as yet been made to appear. The only Federal General reported killed so far as known, was General Berry, commanding Hooker's old corps. "Stonewall" Jackson is also the only Confederate General reported killed. He is said to have been shot accidentally or through mistake, by some of his own men, on the evening after the battle of Saturday the 2d, receiving three balls in his left arm, which had to be amputated. He died on Sunday the 12th as per report.

The highest reported estimate of the losses sustained by Gen. Hooker was seventeen thousand. Some of the reports set down Lee's loss at twenty-five thousand. The reported losses sustained by some of the regiments and brigades of the Federal army show that more than half their numbers were slain. Gen. Meagher, commanding the famous Irish brigade, is reported to have tendered his resignation, as his command was reduced to the lowest number requisite for one regiment. After the return of the ill-fated

army to Falmouth, Gen. Hooker issued a congratulatory order, in which he said that, if all had not been accomplished that was expected, the reasons for the failure were too well known to the army, and that it was sufficient to say that they were of a character not to be foreseen or prevented by human sagacity or exertion.

The Secretary of War is said to have issued an order, that while the army of the Potomac shall remain encamped at Falmouth, no passes shall be granted to persons to go within the lines for the purpose of obtaining the bodies of deceased friends. The wounded are reported to have all been cared for within six or eight days after the last conflict, and at latest dates they had all been brought across the river.

It appears that Halleck and Hooker have become enemies, if not before, since the disastrous defeat, with which they both stand charged. Hooker seems to have managed to have Halleck saddled with a large share of the blame, and to have obtained a promise from the President that he shall have the privilege of conducting the next advance, when it shall be advisable to make one, without any interference on the part of Halleck; that is, that he shall be permitted to go it "on his own hook."

MOVEMENTS OF GEN. GRANT.

Having exhausted his military skill and ingenuity in attempting to capture Vicksburg by digging canals, cutting levees, inundating and desolating the country, running war vessels into bayous and creeks before considered impassable for steamers of the shallowest draft, and doing many other things, indicating a lack of knowledge of the arts of war, Gen. Grant, after the disastrous running of the blockade, of which the public have been kept in ignorance, as far as has been possible under the circumstances, abandoned his schemes for the reduction of that stronghold of the enemy without making one scientific movement, so far as reported, to besiege or attack the place, and turned his attention to other points, since which he has, as reported, been more successful, and has discomfited the enemy on more than one occasion.

The gunboats, which succeeded in running down past Vicksburg, made an attack, according to Southern reports, on the enemy's works at Grand Gulf, and, after a heavy cannonading for several hours, the boats, in a crippled condition, retired. Soon after this reported repulse, the capture of Grand Gulf by Gen. Grant, was announced. Five hundred prisoners were reported to have fallen into his hands, with all the guns and a large amount of military stores.

Port Gibson, Mississippi, was taken by Gen. Grant, on the first of May, after a severe conflict with the enemy, eleven thousand strong, from ten in the morning till night, with a loss, as per report, of one hundred and fifty killed and five hundred wounded. The loss of the enemy is not stated, but is said to have been very great. Over one thousand prisoners and several pieces of artillery are said to have been captured. The Confederates retired towards Vicksburg, destroying all the bridges they crossed, to retard the progress of Gen. Grant's forces who were in hot pursuit of the retreating foe.

About the time Gen. Grant commenced his inland movements, Gen. Sherman, with several transports and gunboats, moved up the Yazoo and made an attack on the enemy's batteries at Haynes Bluffs, in which one gunboat was severely crippled, having received a sixty-four pound shot through her turret and another through her wheel-house. About eighty men were reported killed and wounded during the engagement. Gen. Sherman retired to Young's Point after the object of the feat had been accomplished.

On the night of May 3d, a steam tug, in attempting to run the blockade at Vicksburg with two barges loaded with commissary stores, was set on fire by a hot shot from the enemy's works and destroyed, together with the barges. There were, as per report, twenty passengers on board besides the crew, only one of whom escaped. A Southern report states that twenty-four prisoners were taken off the tug by the Confederates while she was on fire.

After Gen. Grant's successes at Grand Gulf and Port Gibson, he is reported to have destroyed the bridges and tore up the railroads east of Vicksburg to prevent the Confederates

from evacuating that place, should they be disposed to do so, and then moved towards Jackson, the capital of Mississippi. On the 7th inst. he is reported to have had a battle with the Confederates under Gen. Bowen, at Clinton, near Jackson, and repulsed the enemy. The report has not been confirmed, and a subsequent one states that, in consequence of the advance of Confederate troops from Charleston and Mobile, Gen. Grant was falling back towards the Mississippi to await reinforcements. There were indications of a big battle in that vicinity before many weeks should pass away.

SUMMARY OF WAR NEWS.

About the last of April, the Confederates under Jenkins, Imboden and Jones, made their appearance at Morgantown, Virginia, in considerable force. The Baltimore and Ohio railroad received special attention during their raid, and a large amount of property was destroyed. Their unexpected visit to that region caused considerable alarm, as Pittsburg, Washington, Uniontown and Waynesburg, Penn., and Wheeling and other towns in Virginia for several days were in danger of being sacked by the invaders. Gen. Mulligan, of Lexington notoriety, with a force deemed sufficient to vanquish the enemy, gave them battle at Fairmount, but was defeated with heavy loss—the Confederates appearing in greater numbers after the commencement of the battle than before anticipated. Reported measures were then instituted as quickly as possible to prevent them from extending their depredations further north and west, and after remaining in the vicinity of Morgantown several days they moved southward. The exact amount of damage done to the railroads and of property destroyed by them has not been stated, but it is represented to have been not inconsiderable.

During the time Gen. Hooker was fighting the enemy on the south side of the Rappahannock, Gen. Peck was operating on the Blackwater and the vicinity of Suffolk, and is reported to have successfully resisted the advance of the Confederates in that direction, and caused them to abandon the siege of Suffolk, evacuate their works on the Nansemond, and fall back in the direction of Petersburg with considerable loss.

Col. Strait is reported to have left Murfreesboro about the middle of April, with a force of some two thousand men, on a raid into the north-eastern part of Alabama and north-western part of Georgia, to destroy railroads, iron works, etc. He succeeded in destroying much of the property intended, and in doing great damage to the railroads, but was subsequently defeated in four or five engagements by Gen. Forest, and ultimately forced to surrender unconditionally near Rome, Georgia, about the 5th of May, after having made vigorous efforts to escape from the enemy, who were in pursuit of him with an overwhelming force.

Col. Grierson, with a formidable cavalry force, is said to have left western Tennessee April 15th, on a raid through Mississippi. Reports represent, that he spread destruction and desolation wherever he went—tearing up railroads, burning bridges, destroying military stores and demolishing telegraph lines, to the great damage of the enemy. The Confederates are said to have admitted, that the raid was the most formidable one that had ever been made by the Yankees in that State. He is reported to have reached Baton Rouge on the 2d instant, with a large number of prisoners, over three hundred negroes and many horses, which had been captured by his command during the raid.

Late reports from Gen. Banks' department are somewhat conflicting. He is said to have ordered all registered enemies to leave his department by the 15th of May. Some successful demonstrations had been made by Com. Farragut up Red river, and portions of Gen. Bank's forces were said to be marching in that direction. Confederate reports represent, that Kirby Smith has been assuming offensive operations, in the vicinity of New Orleans. The reports, however, lack confirmation.

RETURN OF PRESIDENT YOUNG.—On yesterday afternoon, at half-past four o'clock, President Young and company arrived, on their return from the South, all in good health and excellent spirits, having traveled from Goshen, a distance of sixty-eight miles, in about ten days.

ARREST, TRIAL AND SENTENCE OF VALLANDIGHAM.

According to report, Hon. C. L. Vallandigham, late member of Congress from Ohio, was arrested at his residence in Dayton, on the morning of the 5th inst., by a detachment of soldiers sent for that purpose, by order of Gen. Burnside, and taken to Cincinnati. His arrest caused considerable excitement as represented, and an attempt was made by some of his friends to prevent his being taken away by the military; but to no purpose. The excitement continued to increase during the day, and as soon as it became dark at night, a mob composed of nearly a thousand men attacked the Journal printing office, the leading Republican paper in the city, and after demolishing every thing belonging to it, set fire to and burned the buildings in which it was situated. Several adjoining buildings were also consumed. The rioters burned the bridges on the roads leading into the city, to prevent the arrival of troops from Cincinnati and other points; cut down the telegraph lines, and for several hours held supreme control. Before morning, however, a sufficient number of troops arrived, notwithstanding the precautionary measures taken by the mob to prevent their coming, to disperse the rioters and to put an end to their domination for the time being.

The unfortunate Ex-M. C. was arranged before a Military Court on the 6th, the next day after his arrest, to which proceeding he strongly protested, denied the jurisdiction of the court, and refused to plead unless he could have time to prepare a written plea, which of course was not granted. His offense has not been stated, but it is well understood to have been the too free use of his pen and tongue, in opposition to the administration and its war measures. He was, it is unnecessary to state, found guilty by the Court. The punishment the prisoner was adjudged to receive was of a novel character, as he was to be banished to the Island of Tortugas as stated, during the war.

Montgomery County, of which Dayton is the County seat, was placed under martial law by Gen. Burnside. The Empire, Vallandigham's organ was suppressed, the editor imprisoned, and at latest dates, by the aid of the military, Republicanism was in the ascendency in that section of the Buckeye State.

FROM GOSHEN AGAIN.

It will be seen by the communication from Goshen, to be found in another column, that the people of that place are still struggling on, hoping to succeed in their endeavors to build up a town or city on the plains, south of Lake Utah, notwithstanding there is no "hill" there on which it can be built. We admire their diligence and perseverance, and have no doubt that the result thereof will be satisfactory to them in due time, and that, at no distant period, a nice thriving village will greet the eyes of those who may chance to pass that way, although the probabilities are that it will not soon be as populous as was Goshen in Egypt before the Israelites vacated it to take up their residence in the land of Canaan, which had been given to Abraham and his posterity for an everlasting inheritance.

From the reticence of our friends at the "Head of the Lake," for a long time past it was not known whether the idea of building up a town thereabouts had been abandoned or not. That a good site was wanting we were fully advised; also that several had been selected and subsequently abandoned as unsuitable, as has been the case in several other places which might be named. Under such circumstances, discouraging in their tendency, the people of Goshen, according to the showing, have manifested a spirit of perseverance and industry that many might imitate with profit to themselves and community.

DEPARTURE.—Hon. Frank Fuller, Secretary of the Territory, left for the west by the overland stage on Wednesday last. How long he may be absent we are not advised—rumor says but a few weeks. No announcement has been made of the appointment of a successor, but he evidently does not expect to be the incumbent of the Secretaryship much longer, although we are not aware that he anticipates a removal from office. His many friends wish him success in whatever may tend to his prosperity not only during his temporary absence but in all future time.