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WAR NEWS.

An expedition under Gen. Negley captured the town of Rogersville, Alabama, on the 14th of May, driving, as reported, the Confederate forces stationed there across the Tennessee river. No arms, ammunition, or military stores were taken, the enemy having fled on hearing of the approach of a Federal force, taking their baggage and stores with them.

A recent report of the battle of Williamsburg, states that in one of the regiments belonging to Gen. Sickles' brigade there were two field officers and twenty-one company officers killed, and four hundred men killed and wounded of the eight hundred engaged in the action. The total Federal loss is set down at two thousand five hundred killed wounded and missing.

The Secretary of War, on the 16th, ordered the release of Col. Baldwin, of Virginia, a prisoner of war, who was to be exchanged for Col. Corcoran, of New York, taken prisoner by the Confederates at the battle of Bull Run.

Eight hundred and eighty-five prisoners released from Richmond, on parole, are reported to have arrived at Fort Monroe, and left on the 14th on their way home, and it was stated that some of the Confederate prisoners who were to be returned to Richmond, refused to go, and took the oath of allegiance.

The President having nominated Gen. Wool to a full major-generalship for "gallant and meritorious conduct" in the capture of Norfolk, the Senate, on the 17th of May, confirmed the appointment by acclamation.

The railroads, in those parts of Virginia, recovered from the Confederates, have to be strictly guarded; so says report—for such is the hatred of many of the people in the country occupied by the Federal armies, to the government, they will destroy the roads by burning the bridges and tearing up the tracks every opportunity which presents, notwithstanding the increasing Union feeling there so often announced.

There is much sickness reported among the troops stationed at Cairo, and recently there were two hundred of one of the Illinois regiments in the hospital.

It is stated that at latest dates there was not much public demonstration of Union feeling in New Orleans, owing to the uncertainty of the future, as alleged, but business was reviving under the firm course of Gen. Butler.

According to reports the Confederates evacuated Pensacola on or about the 11th of May, and the city was taken possession of on the 12th and occupied by the Federal forces under Gen. Arnold. The first statement made was that the Federal batteries on Santa Rosa and also the fleet bombarded forts McRae and Barancas, previous to their evacuation by Gen. Jones, who, when he evacuated that stronghold, burned up everything excepting the barracks, foundry and Navy-yard. The Confederates version of the affair, states, that on the night of the 9th, the forts and Navy-yard were set on fire and destroyed, after all the movable property had been removed from them and Pensacola, and that the Federals on discovering what was going on, opened fire upon them, and kept up a heavy bombardment during the conflagration, doing no injury. According to their report everything in and around Pensacola was burned, excepting the custom house, which was not combustible, and the railroad track was torn up for a considerable distance from the city.

Commodore Dupont, in an official dispatch, states that on the morning of May 13th, the colored pilot of the Confederate armed steamer Planter, in the absence of her officers, with the aid of some contrabands managed to get her away from the wharf in Charleston harbor, ran her out past the forts with

the Confederate flag flying, and surrendered her to the blockading fleet.

A report was put in circulation that on the 19th of May, a boat from the Federal fleet reconnoitered Fort Wright, and returned with the intelligence that neither troops nor gunboats were to be seen, which induced the belief that the Confederates had abandoned the place, and retired to Fort Randolph, twelve miles below. That evening the enemy sent up a boat with a flag of truce, but gave no explanations. On the 21st one of the Federal boats which was reconnoitering in the vicinity of the fort was fired into unexpectedly, and on the next day two mortar boats went down and renewed the bombardment, but drew off, or ceased firing, at night. It was reported by deserters that the Confederate fleet had been reinforced by the arrival of a new ram, called the General Price, and the iron-clad gunboat Arkansas. The fleet was at Fulton, two miles below Fort Wright, on the 23rd, as was ascertained by reconnoissance.

An attack was reported to have been made by Gen. Sherman, on Russell House Point, near Corinth, on the 15th or 16th of May, in which he drove the enemy therefrom with a loss to the attacking party of forty-four killed and a considerable number wounded, and to the enemy of forty killed, and one hundred wounded. The Confederates had occupied the place some time, to the great annoyance of the Federal troops. Other conflicts along the line were reported, and said to have been severe, but no details were given of either, excepting that the 8th Missouri had a set-to with the enemy within three hundred yards of their works, and some fine rifles were taken from them, superior to any in use in the Federal army.

Guerrilla warfare, from reports, seems to have been very generally inaugurated throughout the mountain region of Virginia, the Valley of the Shenandoah, and the western parts of the State, also in some parts of Tennessee and Kentucky, and in southern Missouri, and many depredations have been of late committed, towns burned, trains captured, and other predatory acts performed by bands of those out-laws and desperadoes in all of those States, often in the immediate vicinity of the garrisons, and camps of the Federal armies. In Virginia, it is believed by Federal officers that as many as two thousand of the Confederate cavalry have been disbanded and formed themselves into marauding bands, and from their knowledge of the country commit depredations with impunity, and greatly annoy the Federal troops, and the Unionists wherever found.

It was announced that Gen. Cox, stationed at Princeton, Va., with a Federal force, was attacked by a Confederate detachment under Humphrey Marshall, on the 16th of May, and that Gen. Cox had to retire, leaving the enemy in possession of the place. It was subsequently reported that Gen. Cox repulsed the enemy and retook the place on the following day.

The President issued orders about May 20th calling upon the several States for volunteers to fill up their respective regiments, some of which have been considerably lessened by the operations of the war. It was estimated that it would take about fifty thousand to fill up the thinned ranks. Some new regiments, about fifty, were also called for, as a reserve corps to fill future vacancies that may occur.

Gen. McClellan, in making a reconnoissance with his staff at Cumberland, came quite unexpectedly in contact with a Confederate force, and escaped capture by dint of fast riding. It is said that he returned with a force, and soon made the enemy retire.

There have no very definite accounts of Gen. McClellan's operations in front of Richmond up to the 25th of May been received, but it is understood that he continued to move onward slowly and cautiously, and that every inch of ground was contested by the Confederates. The Confederate force at and in the vicinity of Richmond, was said to be nearly two hundred thousand.

A dispatch from Gen. Banks announced that the enemy, some six thousand strong, attacked and drove the Federal army under Col. Kentry from Front Royal on the 23rd, with considerable loss. It was subsequently made to appear that the repulse was a most disastrous affair, and was followed up by the enemy by a series of attacks upon Gen. Banks' division, till his entire army was driven out of

the Shenandoah Valley, and forced to cross the Potomac into Maryland.

The particulars of Gen. Banks' defeat, and of the losses sustained by the army under his command, have not been made public. They are supposed to have been of a serious nature from the disconnected, contradictory and uncertain accounts that were permitted to be sent forth. More reliable and definite information relative to the unfortunate and sanguinary repulse may be expected in the course of a few days.

At latest dates from the seat of war, important events were impending.

The Engagement at Fort Darling.

The Federal gunboats Monitor, Galena, Port Royal, Aroostook and Naugatuck, according to General McClellan's report, made an attack on Fort Darling on James river, seven miles below Richmond, on the 16th of May, and after a severe engagement were forced to retire. The particulars of the affair, so far as made public, are not explicit. The first in circulation announced that seventeen men had already been buried and there were several wounded on board the boats, and that the hundred pound gun, carried by the Naugatuck, exploded the first fire, and although not so stated in the official report, it was subsequently stated that seventeen men were killed by the explosion and others wounded.

The commander of the Monitor Lieut. Jefferson in his official report stated that, as the fleet ascended the river, a sharp fire of musketry was poured into all the boats from rifle pits on both shores; that at length they discovered extensive fortifications on an elevation of two hundred feet with several smaller batteries, all mounting guns of the largest size, and that at the foot of the bluffs on which the formidable works were situated, the river had been obstructed by the sinking of vessels secured by chains. The Galena anchored at a thousand yards distant and was soon warmly engaged, and to take off some of her fire, the Monitor passed ahead of her but could not elevate her guns sufficiently to reach the fortifications. One shot from the enemies batteries struck the Monitor on the turret and two on her side, near the pilot-house, doing no damage beyond the bending of the plates. The works he stated were of that nature that they could be taken only by the co-operation of land forces, and the gunboats withdrew and went down the river to near Williamsburg. Reported loss, thirteen killed and eleven wounded.

A letter written on board the Galena, the next day after the engagement, stated that she anchored within half a mile of the enemy's works, and swung her broadside to them; that the first shot was fired by the Confederates and struck the port-bow of the Galena, passing through her armor, and that shortly after, she received another shot near where the first struck, which also passed through, killing one man and wounding four. The letter also stated that during the fight, which lasted four hours, the Galena got twenty-eight shots in her side and seventeen on deck, and had fourteen men killed and fifteen wounded; that their ammunition gave out, and the gunboats retired; that if they had succeeded in taking the battery they could not have held it, and that the result had fully demonstrated that the Galena could not stand a heavy fire at short range. Another statement set forth that there were only three boats—the Monitor, Galena and Naugatuck—engaged, the Port Royal and Aroostook having stopped behind from some unexplained cause. A subsequent letter from one of the officers of the Galena stated that she fired two hundred and thirty-eight shots, and that if they had had plenty of ammunition they could have silenced the enemy's battery in two hours more, although on high bluffs and mounting ten guns, some of them ten-inch rifled.

In the course of three or four days after the engagement, and when the facts in relation to the repulse became somewhat known, it began to be, as per report, very generally considered as an exceedingly disastrous occurrence, and the loss very heavy. Of the twenty-eight shots which struck the Galena on her side, eighteen passed through, riddling her in a terrible manner. At latest dates no further efforts had been made to ascend the river, and Fort Darling remained unmolested.

Stormy.—The weather on yesterday was cloudy and stormy, and with a little cool. Some rain fell in the valley, and considerable on the mountains, from appearances, and also some snow.

Introduction of Silk Worms into Deseret.

As time progresses, one useful thing after another is introduced or imported into these isolated valleys, and new enterprises are entered upon by the citizens of Deseret, calculated to develop the resources of the country, and add to the wealth, comfort and independence of the people. Manufactures of most kinds have received, from the enterprising citizens in every county and valley, more or less attention, and many are embarking in such undertakings. The production of wool, flax, hemp and cotton, commensurate to the wants of the community, is beginning to be considered indispensable, and measures are being taken to increase the amount of these products to the full extent of demand, at the earliest practicable date, with a fair prospect of success.

In an isolated, inland country like this, the production by the people within themselves as a community, of everything that is essential to their existence and comfort, is of vital importance; and unless they do so, as far as possible, they will not and can not keep much silver and gold in store; and instead of being socially independent, they will in no small degree be subject to and controlled by influences, foreign to their interests. All should not engage in the same kind or branch of business, but there should be agriculturists and manufacturers of all kinds, some producing one thing and some another, of the necessities and comforts of life.

Acting upon this principle, many desiring their own advancement, and the general prosperity of the commonwealth, have made laudable exertions to introduce into the country something that would tend to the attainment of those ends; either some improvement to what previously existed, or something new. Most of the exertions thus made have been successful, but some have not, as yet; but energy and perseverance will no doubt eventually accomplish many things that have not hitherto been successful or attended with satisfactory results.

Among the things that have been attempted and not effected till recently, has been the introduction of silk worms into these valleys, by some considered impracticable and of but little importance, while others have believed that the production of silk in Deseret was essential, and would be profitable when once introduced. Of the latter class, Mr. Thomas Whittaker, of Centerville, Davis county, has not been among the least energetic, and after repeated failures in his endeavors to introduce and raise silk worms, he has at length succeeded to his entire satisfaction. Wishing to have them increase as fast as possible, and that a fair trial be made of the practicability and utility of raising the worms and producing silk extensively throughout the State, he proposes, as will be seen by his advertisement, to let those who are prepared to feed them, have some of his small stock, which opportunity will no doubt be improved by those having *Morus multicaulis* trees growing upon their grounds in this vicinity. It is hoped and believed that the enterprise will be both successful and profitable.

The Companies for the Missouri River.

The companies with teams for the Missouri have been often heard from since their departure and were getting along quite well considering the high waters and bad roads, which, as anticipated, had impeded their progress. Those difficulties, however, had, to latest dates from the several trains, been, by diligence and perseverance, overcome with but little loss or damage—a few wagons upset and broken, with some little loss of provisions and other articles comprising their casualties.

Col. Burton and company, returning from the "seceded" or "infested" section of the eastern road, through which he escorted Mr. Hooper and those accompanying him, met Capt. Murdock and company at Fort Bridger, which place they left on the morning of May 23rd, expecting to camp that night on Muddy, twenty miles distant. Captain Duncan's train, with Captain Horn's close in the rear, was met that forenoon a few miles this side of Fort Bridger. Captain Harmon left Bear river on the morning of the 29th, and the companies in charge of Captains Haight and Miller, respectively, were met on that day near each other about fifteen miles up Echo, all well and progressing finely.