

PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

The mails have been so irregular during the last three or four weeks that the history of the war could not be kept up as regularly as when communication with the east was regular and unobstructed. The war, however, has been progressing steadily, and the Federal arms have been victorious, with a few exceptions, according to reports, in most of the conflicts that have taken place between the Unionists and Confederates since the first of February last. The latest intelligence received from the seat of war by mail is to the 9th instant.

There was a battle on the 23d of March, near Winchester, Va., between the Confederate cavalry and a portion of Gen. Shields' troops. The Federals were victorious, taking two guns and many muskets, killing and wounding several hundred as per report. Gen. Shields was wounded in the left arm. His loss in killed and wounded is stated at one hundred and fifty. The number of Jackson's troops engaged is said to have been fifteen thousand, and Gen. Shields, only eight thousand.

The mortar fleet now operating at the mouth of the Mississippi, when it left Lake Pontchartrain, consisted of twenty-one mortar vessels, eight steamers, and one store-ship, and was amply provided with heavy mortars, shells, and ammunition. The officers and seamen enrolled numbered about two thousand, and are spoken of as being peculiarly fitted for the work they had in hand.

A letter published in the Missouri Republican, written on board the steamship Mississippi off ship Island, says that they were going to take their topmasts down and lighten the vessel by taking out two hundred and fifty tons of coal, and disposing of extra anchors, so that the ship would draw only eighteen feet when she was going up the river, with the rest of the fleet, if she could get over the bar, to attack and take Forts Jackson and St. Philip, and then further up to bombard New Orleans. The writer anticipated that they would meet with a warm reception, as they would have to pass within three hundred yards of Fort Jackson, and might be either blown out of the water or scalded to death, as their engines and boilers would be above the water line, with nothing to protect them from the enemy's shots.

On the 27th, a reconnoissance was made from Fortress Monroe by a detachment of Federal troops, extending to Big Bethel, which was occupied by about fifteen hundred Confederates, who fled on the approach of the Federal forces, and the place was taken possession of by them.

Col. Buford, with three regiments stationed near Island No. 10, with a detachment of cavalry and artillery from Hickman, made a forced march to Union City, and attacked the enemy there on the 1st instant, who fled, as stated, in every direction. Twenty were killed and one hundred prisoners, with a large amount of spoils were taken. The Confederate force was stated at about fourteen hundred men, one half infantry, the other cavalry. Federal loss reported—one killed.

A dispatch received at St. Louis stated that there was a fight at Hamonsville, Mo., on the night of the 26th ult. between four companies of State militia, and some six or eight hundred of the enemy, in which the latter were defeated with a loss of fifteen killed and many wounded. A few of the Federals were reported wounded, but none killed. Another report stated that a detachment of the 1st Illinois cavalry overtook a guerrilla band under Col. Parker, on the 28th, ten miles west of Warrensburg. Fifteen of the enemy were killed and twenty-five taken prisoners, including Col. Parker. Two Federals reported killed and several wounded.

On the 9th of April, Gen. Pope crossed the Mississippi river from New Madrid, and occupied Tiptonville, capturing the enemy's floating battery of fourteen guns, and driving them from all their works below New Madrid. In the course of the day the Confederates abandoned their upper batteries and retreated into a swamp. Some six thousand, as reported, were taken prisoners, including three generals. One hundred siege guns, and several field batteries were captured. The other spoils were large quantities of military stores, small arms, tents, wagons, horses and provisions.

The accounts of the evacuation of Island No. 10 the same day are not very explicit.

According to published statements the Federal forces at Pittsburgh Landing, on the Tennessee, were attacked on the evening of April 4th by two regiments of infantry, two pieces of artillery, and a large force of cavalry, who fired one round and then commenced retreating. The Federals returned the enemy's fire, killing and wounding several, and taking a few prisoners.

There was a great battle fought at Pittsburgh Landing between the Federal troops under Generals Grant and Buell and the Confederates under Generals Beauregard and Johnston, commencing on the morning of April 6th and ending on the evening of the 7th, of which various accounts have been received, but from those given, after the excitement produced by the fight had subsided a little, it is fully made to appear that the Confederates came off first best in the engagement on Sunday and drove Gen. Grant's army from the field, but by the arrival of General Buell's army was saved from annihilation or total defeat; and after nine hours hard fighting on Monday the Confederates retired towards Corinth, their stronghold, taking with them some six thousand prisoners, as they claim.

The battle was unquestionably the most severe and desperate that has been fought since the commencement of the war. The first report stated that the Federal loss was from ten to twenty thousand killed, wounded and prisoners, and that of the Confederates much greater, but subsequent reports materially lessened the number of killed and wounded on both sides, and no very reliable account has yet been given of the casualties in that sanguinary conflict, although enough has been made public to show conclusively that the loss of life was very great.

Among the slain on the side of the Confederates was Gen. A. S. Johnston, late commanding the Department of Utah, who was killed in the battle on Sunday, April 6th, by a cannon shot. The loss of the Federal army in officers was heavy. It is said they fought in their uniforms, while the Confederate officers wore no badges of distinction. Both armies claim the victory but it was unquestionably in the end gained by the Federals as they regained, on the 7th, the ground they lost on the 6th. It is said, however, that they did not follow the Confederates when they retired but a short distance beyond the camp ground occupied by them when Beauregard commenced the attack.

From present appearances there must shortly be another conflict at, or near, Corinth, Mississippi, between Beauregard and Gen. Buell, each of whom, according to authenticated reports, have at least one hundred thousand men under his command, and there is but a short distance intervening between their lines. Both seem confident of victory whenever they may meet in battle array.

From Secession.

It was stated in southern papers that President Davis had recently advised the Confederate congress to absolve all the Confederate prisoners released on parole by the Federal authorities, from their oaths and permitted to take part in the war, alleging that the Federal government had exhibited a breach of faith in the exchange of prisoners.

After the fall of Newbern, the people of Charleston were loud in their denunciations against the North Carolina troops, charging them with cowardice. There were, it is said, two regiments there from that State who were so much displeased with the epithets bestowed upon them by the chivalry of Charleston that they revolted and went home.

A recent New Orleans dispatch states that the Mississippi is fortified so as to be impassable for any hostile fleet or flotilla. Forts Jackson and St. Philip are armed with one hundred and seventy heavy guns—68-pounders, rifled by Barkley Britton, and received from England. The navigation of the river is stopped by a dam of about a quarter of a mile from the above forts, which no flotilla can force in less than two hours, during which it would be within short and cross range of one hundred and seventy guns of the largest caliber, many of which would be served with red hot shot, numerous furnaces for which have been erected in every fort and every battery.

In a few days, they would have two ironclad floating batteries ready, the plates of which are four and a half inches thick, of the best

hammered iron from England and France. Each battery has mounted twenty 68-pounders, placed so as to skim the water and strike the enemy's hull between wind and water. They also boast of having an abundance of shells, cupola furnaces for melting iron, Congreve rockets and fire ships.

The dispatch further says that between New Orleans and the forts, there is a constant succession of earthworks. At the plain of Chalmette, there are redoubts, armed with rifled cannon, which have been found to be effective at five miles range. A ditch thirty feet wide and twenty deep, extends from the Mississippi to La Cypriere. In forts St. Philip and Jackson, there are 3,000 men, of whom a goodly portion are experienced artillerymen and gunners who have served in the navy of the United States.

At New Orleans, there are 32,000 infantry, and as many more quartered in the immediate neighborhood. In discipline and drill they boast of bravery far superior to the Yankees. They also boast of having two very able and active generals, Sorrel and Mansfield, and for commodore, they have "old Hoin—a Nelson in his way." With their defenses and appliances, they intend giving the Yankees a hot reception. In conclusion, the dispatch says: "Our only fear is that the northern invaders may not appear. We have made such extensive preparations to receive them that it would be vexatious if their invincible armada escape the fate we have in store for it."

The Troubles on the Eastern Route.

We have seen so much devilishness among men that we are largely cautious in crediting what we are told about Indians and Indian troubles. We are not so high in the organ of self esteem as to conclude ourselves either infallible or immaculate, yet we have a peculiar way of thinking, and take some pleasure in telling our own story in our own way.

We have been told that the Indians for about a hundred and fifty miles east of Green river, are at the present time, in the highest state of secession against all creation generally, and against the Mail company especially, and in their moments of playfulness are sporting largely with the best animals of the company, burning stations for pastime and doing sundry murders as favored by opportunity, and doing this kind of business so extensively that orders have been issued by Mr. Eaton, the general superintendent of the eastern portion of the Mail line, to stop the transportation of the mails from going further east than Bridger or Green river. The number of horses and mules stolen, is set down at nearly a hundred and fifty. How many stations are burned is not reported, and the murder of whites, so far as is really reliable, does not yet extend beyond one young man at, we think, Muddy Station. Some six or seven others may have been killed by the same Indians, but that is only a matter of conjecture, beyond the report of a fleeing station keeper, that he saw a robe and pistols which he recognized as belonging to that number of whites, there is not, so far as we know, any further evidence of their having been disposed of by the Indians. In the foregoing we have embraced all that is known to the public of the depredations on the eastern route.

We have as much interest in the uninterrupted continuation of the Daily Overland Mail as "any other man"—we wish to see it a success, and though this portion of it has been in the hands of old government favorites and speculators—up to a very recent date—men who cared next to nothing about the public service, so that they got the dollars, we have seen with satisfaction the effort made by the present proprietor's agents to fulfill the contract, and we indulged the hope that the thing would yet shape itself to be a permanent benefit to Deseret, as well as to the more favored citizens east and west for whose use it was directly designed. The present difficulties that threaten the continuation of the Mail service makes us therefore the more disgusted with the conduct of those who have sown the seeds for this "rebellion," hence we speak plainly.

Indians are treacherous, and their sense of obligation for kindness is extremely dull—all that we grant, but even with that knowledge, we would be slow to advocate the course that has been generally pursued toward them. They have been treated in their roaming over the plains by the generality of white men as ravenous wolves, to be shot at for

pleasure, and when in the relationship of familiarity as is too often the case at the stations all along the mail route, the Indian, for his own sordid gratification, may have winked at liberties with his family; but his sense of honor and his affections are not quite so deadened as to calmly see a gross outrage, where his cupidity has not been enlisted to combat the vestige of manhood that lingers about him, without showing hostility.

In another part of this issue we extract from the *Carson Silver Age* some sensible strictures on the infamous course of some whites on the western route, which might lead to serious trouble there. Trace the causes of sudden outbreaks among the Indians, and bad white men are certain to be found the first aggressors. When this eastern difficulty commenced in the neighborhood of Split Rock, some weeks back, we had it from a gentleman who had lived for years on the road, in that direction, that there were good reasons for believing that the depredations had been committed by whites, and that "there was no Indian in it." We hear of grave accusations at this very time against some one in authority on that route who has been indulging his pleasure in the swinging business—and boasts, we expect, of the number of French traders whom he has hurg during the last twelve months. The Frenchmen probably could well be spared from this lower world, and their deeds might justly merit the punishment of Mr. Division Agent; but we are much misinformed if the Red Skin operations have not been brought against the Eastern Mail Company by the influence of such relationships and proceedings as we have stated.

We feel assured in our own mind that the Eastern Mail Company must needs have a thorough cleaning out of its own Red Skins, before it can count very surely upon the profits of the half million contract. Soldiers will doubtless be hurried up from the eastern frontiers and some fighting, frightening and swaggering done; but they will all learn before they are through with the troops they have longed so much for, that it is better to feed than fight the Indians and that morality is an excellent policy, even on the plains, though there should be no municipality jealously watching over the observance of certain commandments.

Theatre Closed.

The Deseret Dramatic Association terminated their first season's performances, in the New Theatre, on Saturday evening, with a very attractive bill:—Love's Sacrifice, The Widow's Vengeance and songs from Mr. Dunbar.

The Association is fast gathering a rich variety of talent, and before the opening of the Fall season we hope that their numbers will be augmented and still more diversified. There is doubtless a vast amount of such talent among the citizens of Deseret, with a constant prospective increase, and as the theatre is a public institution we shall take pleasure in noticing the onward march of the Association to the first place on the "stage of life."

During the present season "the management" has exhibited a large liberality of disposition to encourage the aspirants for the honors of the boards, and though in some cases several new faces failed to become "familiar" there have, nevertheless, been some very excellent additions, promising fair to hold their places with the public.

The Stoppage of the Mails.

We are not prepared to say anything definite about the temporary suspension of travel on the eastern route, but we think that there is little reason to apprehend any lengthy interruption of mail conveyance. The public will do well to attend to mail business as before, as it is not unlikely the apprehensions of losing that contract, will lead the chief directors of the company to order its employees to do their utmost to keep the way open. In a few days, some of them will get over the fright. There is nothing reported wrong on the western line and that will be required to run as regularly as before.

INFORMATION WANTED, by George Harrison, respecting the whereabouts of his brother, William Harrison, who emigrated from London to the United States in 1856; since which time he proceeded to Utah. Address, 30 Florence street, Islington, London. [Millennial Star.]