

PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

There are good reasons for believing that the war in the States, which, from reports, has of late assumed an uncivil aspect, that is, the fightings have not always been done according to the rules which the Christians have adopted for their observance in their conflicts with each other, is still going on with no more prospect of its coming to a close than there was one year ago. It was then believed by the people of the North generally, that it would end by the complete subjugation of the seceders in the course of three months, and all would be peace and prosperity again. The seceders so believed that it would be of short duration. The events that have since transpired have, however, dispelled that illusion, and although Unionists may affect to believe that the sanguinary and destructive scenes that have been and are being enacted will soon terminate, and a more permanent peace and union be established than existed before the commencement of hostilities between the two sections of the once great and prosperous United States, there seems to be no assurance that such will be the case; but, on the contrary, notwithstanding the great success of the Federal arms within the last three months there has nothing transpired that would warrant even a belief that the Confederates have been conquered, or their feelings of hatred towards the Unionists have been changed, excepting that they appear more intense and virulent as time progresses. Their destructiveness and determination not to yield is manifested more and more, as the Federal armies extend their victories and advance into their country, by their burning up and destroying whatever they possess, which might, on falling into the hands of their invaders, benefit them financially, or aid them in the prosecution of the war. The amount of property thus destroyed has, up to the present time, amounted to many millions of dollars, and the work of destruction has increased as their prospects of success on ensanguined fields have diminished by the defeats they have sustained, since the tide of war has been turned against them, and in favor of the Federal arms.

The spoils that have been taken from the seceders have comparatively been trifling, excepting arms and munitions of war, which could not be destroyed nor removed in the hasty retreats they have frequently been obliged to make. In the surrenders that have been made to the Federal arms, some considerable provisions have fallen in the hands of the victors, but no great amounts have been reported. The declarations that were made by the people of the South, that rather than have the products of their soil fall into the hands of those who were endeavoring to force them back into the Union of States, they would burn or otherwise destroy them, have been carried into effect more extensively than was anticipated by the Federalists when those announcements were first made, and hundreds of thousands of bales of cotton have been burned, and thousands of tons of sugar, and vast quantities of molasses, tobacco and other products of the Southern States, and provisions when in danger of being taken, have been destroyed by fire and water to prevent capture by the Federal troops which have been marched into the seceded States for their subjugation. In their flight from towns and cities, on the approach of their invaders, they have dealt out destruction and desolation with a heavy hand, and their conquerors have not been materially benefited by anything they have left behind them in their retreats. What they may do hereafter cannot positively be stated; but judging from what they have done, the torch may with some certainty be expected to be applied, not only to the products of the earth, but to their cities and towns, when about to be taken by the victorious armies now marching through the seceded States.

Since the battle of Shiloh on the 6th and 7th of April, there has been a mighty gathering of Union forces in the vicinity of Pittsburg Landing, on the Tennessee river, and of Confederate troops at Corinth, Mississippi, which points are not far distant one from the other; and arrangements on an extended scale have been in progress for a great battle, and if not completed by this time, they must be nearly so, as from reports the two armies have been within a short distance of each other for weeks, and some skirmishing has been done, and some few prisoners have been captured by each army. No scientific fighting had

been done up to latest dates, but the indications were that the long expected engagement between the Union army under General Halleck, and the Confederate hosts under General Beauregard could not be prolonged many days, and that it would transpire unless the Confederate army should evacuate their stronghold at Corinth, and retreat towards the Gulf. In the event that the impending battle shall be fought at Corinth, as has been anticipated and long looked-for, blood may be expected to flow freely, and many a brave fellow will be numbered with the slain. The appointments of both armies are no doubt of the best order, and their means of dealing out death each to the other must necessarily be extensive, as they have been preparing for a long time for the contest, and the commanding generals know full well, that their opponents are skilled in the art of war, and the men constituting the respective armies are not wanting in those qualifications, which make Christian fightings so much more interesting than the conflicts of savages and barbarians.

While preparations for the great and, as generally believed, decisive battle between the two armies have been progressing, several demonstrations have been made to the right and left of their lines, by detachments from both armies, and there has been considerable skirmishing done between them at different times and almost daily.

On the 23d of April, a skirmish is reported to have taken place between an advanced squadron of Federal cavalry and a detachment of Confederate cavalry, which lasted an hour, when both parties retired. The loss is said to have been considerable; but how many men were killed and wounded is not stated. A reconnoissance in force was made from Pittsburg Landing about the same time, towards Beauregard's headquarters, and a camp of Confederates was surprised some nine miles from the Landing, and about thirty prisoners are reported to have been taken. A serious skirmish of a latter date is said to have taken place between an advanced detachment of the Federal army, five thousand strong, and a large Confederate force in the immediate vicinity of Corinth. The casualties were not reported. Other skirmishes and reconnoissances are mentioned, also the capture of several towns in the northern part of Alabama and Mississippi, and the southern part of Tennessee, on the right and left of the opposing armies, but the reports are so vague that no very correct idea of the extent of the desolation and loss of life caused by those demonstrations, can be formed; but enough is stated to show conclusively that the work of destruction in the burning of towns, villages, bridges, railroads and the demolition of whatever was deemed of worth, was not very limited; and, if all things were not done strictly in accordance with the code of Christian warfare, they were in harmony with the practice which has been adopted by the combatants in the present American civil war.

The naval operations at Fort Wright have been progressing, but not very rapidly, at least, no great things have been reported as having been done there till recently. There has been a good deal of powder burned and many shots and shells have been thrown at the enemy. Com. Foote has evidently been moving cautiously, and the prolongation of the siege or by whatever name the antagonistic operations there may be called, seems to indicate that the defenses of the Confederates at that point are of the first order, and that their capture by a direct assault has not been considered expedient, as it might not have been successful. That the place will be reduced at no distant day, and the Federal fleet, under Commodore Foote, descending, will meet Commodore Farragut's fleet ascending at some point on the Mississippi, after having removed every obstruction to their passage, there is but little doubt.

Concerning the operations of General Curtis, in Southern Missouri or Northern Arkansas but little has been said for a long time. It was reported, some weeks since, that he had marched his army back into Missouri and had established his headquarters at Forsyth, Taney county. Subsequent reports represent his army as being on White river, constructing boats for an expedition down that stream. A detachment of cavalry had been recently sent from his army to destroy the extensive saltpeter works at Yellville, Ark., which order was efficiently carried into effect

by their demolition by fire. Gen. Curtis had captured several jayhawkers, and Major Hubbard had attacked and routed Colonels. Stenwright and Coffee, with four hundred Indians, killing and wounding some thirty and taking about sixty prisoners.

The operations of General McClellan at Yorktown continued to progress, and fighting and skirmishing were daily occurrences, till two o'clock on Sunday morning, May 4th, when the enemy abandoned their works and retreated to Williamsburg and, at seven o'clock, the Federal army took possession of and occupied Yorktown with its defenses, which are said to have been of great strength. About fifty pieces of artillery, some medical stores, ammunition, tents and other appliances of war were left behind. General McClellan immediately ordered his cavalry and horse artillery to pursue the retreating columns of the Confederate army and, as stated, came up with the rear just before night at Williamsburg, when some fighting was done. On Monday, there was a battle fought there, resulting in the killing of over one thousand men and the wounding of about four times as many, according to the report which was not soon permitted to be sent over the wires. All the troops that could be mustered were put in motion to pursue and harass the Confederates in their retreat towards Richmond; and up to latest dates, several conflicts are reported, but such are the restraints placed upon the transmission of intelligence in relation to the movements and operations of the army and particularly in relation to engagements with the enemy, that no very definite account of the marchings, skirmishings and fightings of the several corps of McClellan's army with which, to use his own words, he intends to "push them to the wall," has come to hand.

From the New Seat of War.

Nine-tenths of the literature of the States during the last twelve months has been devoted to the marchings of armies to battle fields, to the roaring of cannon, to tremendous fighting, to dashing cavalry and splendid bayonet charges, to brilliant fetes of arms and heroic deeds, with occasionally, but rarely, some "hard fought fields;" yet, with all the modern improvements in arms and missiles of destruction and death, neither the Beauregards of the South nor the McClellans of the North have yet attained to anything like European celebrity for slaying on a grand scale, and probably they do not want to. Taste has a great range in descriptive word painting, and possibly the style of the Old World may have been indulged in soaring high in figures for the love of the thing, while the New World in the last half of the nineteenth century may have, by way of indulging its habitual distaste for the style of its ancestor, struck out on the other extreme and taken up figures very lazily. "One killed and three wounded on our side, while the enemy must have suffered severely," is the general stereotyped edition of nearly every report from both sides, and lower than that we should hope the telegraphic censors will not venture till the contending parties have quit the business altogether and beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.

We did not mean to say as much as we have here scribbled by way of introduction to our subject, but we could not stop till we had expressed the opinion that hard fighting, extreme danger and a nation's peril are not to be judged, now-a-days, by the numbers that "bite the dust," and also stated that possibly, while the great majority of the people in these valleys have been very incredulous about the dangers on the eastern road, some of our fellow creatures may have been terribly exposed and some of them still more terribly frightened—and that they certainly had a right to be—if it so pleased them.

A gentleman, T. S. Boardman, Esq., arrived here on Saturday evening last, on his way to Carson, after having been detained by Indian hostilities and other causes on the road since the second of April. As per report, Mr. Boardman had the misfortune—or the honor—to have shared in the fight between Split Rock and the Three Crossings of the Sweet Water, which was telegraphed here soon after with the order to stop the mails and to send no more passengers eastward. On that occasion, out of nine white combatants, five carried from the field the honors of war and all of them a lively remembrance of what Indians will do when they think they

ought to do it. The circumstances as narrated set forth, that between forty and fifty Indians resolved to attack two stages of the Overland mail, and those with them travelling together for safety; but, even with the sense of insecurity, very badly accounted for a fight. The stages at the moment of attack were placed a little way apart, on rising ground, in parallel lines and the opening space and behind the wheels as well barricaded as paper sacks, blankets and hay could make them. The Indians kept in the sage brush nearly four hours, firing away at the besieged between the wheels. On two or three occasions the red skins dashed at the temporary fort,—while the besieged, with remarkable cordiality, were hugging mother earth, and discharged their arms into and over the barricade, and in this way the wounded can honorably account for being shot in the back. As the Indians retreated, the whites returned the compliment by discharging their revolvers and other arms but with what effect is not stated.

The Indians captured the mules early in the fight, and, for some reason, quit early in the evening. The whites then made for the next station and barricaded themselves for several days; they finally got to Bridger, and as before stated, Mr. Boardman, who fortunately escaped without a scratch arrived here on Saturday evening.

About the time of this fight a report came in that a station keeper was killed, and subsequently it was stated that an express rider had been chased; but we heard of no other hair breadth escapes till a telegram on Sunday forenoon announced the arrival at Bridger of Capt. Lot Smith, with his command, just in time to pursue some hostile Indians who had dared to pursue an unprotected stage and driver into the Fort. There was considerable interest manifested in the city about the result of Capt. Smith's pursuit after the Indians, and our former scepticism began to waver a little; but on Monday morning we had the astounding intelligence that after a ride of five miles in search of the hostile Indians who were reported to have pursued the stage, Capt. Smith and company came up with about half a dozen mountaineers and an old squaw, who had been out on the cattle range, which the driver seeing at some distance conceived to be Indians thirsting for his blood!

We are yet much inclined to the belief that the reports of Indian hostilities on the plains have been greatly exaggerated and perhaps as groundless as the one above referred to. That a fight took place, as reported, there is no doubt, and that by Indians; but had there been no goods on hand, purchased at government sales last year, which holders wished to sell at high prices, and no interest to have been subserved of a private and sordid nature there probably would not have been much difficulty with the Indians, and the mail stages would have continued running with as much regularity as the roads would have permitted up to the present time.

Teams for the East.

Yesterday, in the forenoon, the teams from Iron, Beaver, Millard and Sanpete counties, going to the Missouri river, conjointly with a proportionate number from Juab, Utah, Wasatch, Summit, Great Salt Lake, Tooele, Davis, Morgan Weber, Box Elder and Cache counties, for the purpose of aiding the immigration of the Saints this season, arrived in the city producing a very pleasing sensation and imparting to the streets a lively and stirring appearance. There were collectively some two hundred yoke of oxen, most of them in fine condition. Of the number, as reported by one of the teamsters, twenty yoke were from Iron, nineteen from Beaver, thirty-two from Millard, and one hundred and twenty-eight from Sanpete. A better lot of oxen we have never seen at this season of the year. There were in the company about forty wagons well fitted up for the trip. As was the case last year, four yoke of oxen are to be allotted to one wagon on the return trip, and the deficiency existing in the number of wagons will be supplied by purchases in the States.

This company will soon take up their line of march over the mountains, and be followed by the others going on the same service in the course of a few days.

The teams from Cache and Box Elder counties started some two weeks since, and but for the overflowing of the Ogden, would have been the first to have reported at headquarters.