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Wednesday,November 5, 1862.

PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

It is an old saying that "large bodies move slow," the truth of which has been and is being fully verified by the movements of the Federal armies since the commencement of the existing war. They have fought many battles, but the commanding generals have not been much inclined to make many long marches, nor to change their positions very rapidly, nor further than has been absolutely necessary to carry out their strategic schemes and keep the enemy within a short distance of their lines, where they could be found without much reconnoitering in the event of their getting ready to fight, which occasionally occurs.

Since the Confederates left Maryland, after the battle of Antietam, it seems to have been no easy matter to ascertain the locations of their encampments. Reconnoissance after reconnoissance was made with no great success, and the exact position of the main body of Lee's army was not ascertained till quite recently, when it was discovered to be but a short distance from the Potomac, and right in front of Gen. McClellan's lines. As soon as the discovery was made, a portion of the Army of the Potomac was put in motion under Gen. Burnside, which passing down the river below Harper's Ferry crossed over into Virginia, and at latest dates was moving on slowly in a southerly direction, followed by other divisions of the army.

So far as reported, there had been but little fighting and not much skirmishing done, with the exception of one severe action, which lasted five hours, resulting in the defeat of the enemy. The fierceness of the battle, fought exclusively with artillery, can best be determined from the number of casualties reported, those of the Federals being unusually large, one killed and fourteen wounded. The loss of the enemy not known, further than it had been satisfactorily ascertained that five were killed.

At latest dates from the seat of war, Gen. McClellan had established his headquarters once more on "sacred soil," and a great battle was expected soon to be fought, the report of which will in all probability, come to hand in the course of the coming week.

Of the movements of the Federal armies in Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas and Missouri, but little is known, and it is believed that they remain in statu quo.

LITERARY LECTURES.

We are gratified to learn that lectures of a literary character are to be delivered on two evenings of each week, during the winter season, in the Seventies' Council Hall, commencing on next Friday evening, at half-past six o'clock.

The first lecture will be delivered by Mr. Joseph Young, sen., subject: History of the rise, progress, and persecutions of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; and on Tuesday evening the 11th, Mr. J. V. Long will be the lecturer; subject: Popery and the Popes, in the first six centuries of the Christian era.

Among the numerous subjects already selected for lectures, are the following:

Astronomy, Geology, Architecture, Mechanics, Eloquence, Witchcraft, Hydrophobia, Mahomedanism, Evidences of Divinity in Mormonism, and General History.

The committee who have the management of these lectures appear to be alive to the true interests of the community, and to be imbued with a desire to disseminate scientific and other useful knowledge, among the citizens of Deseret.

We feel assured that the lectures will be well attended.

For Dixie.—The emigrants for the cotton country will soon all be on their way thither.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS ITEMS.

It was estimated, a few weeks since, that there were twenty thousand disabled soldiers in the hospitals in Washington City, and fifty thousand more in the immediate neighborhood.

The 7th Maine regiment is reported to have gone home to recruit its strength and numbers. It has been in ten hard-fought battles since taking the field last spring, viz., Lee's Mills, Yorktown, Williamsport, Mechanicsville, Golding's Farm, Savage's Station, White Oak Swamp, Malvern Hill, South Mountain, and Antietam. The regiment numbered, when it passed through Boston, for the Potomac, on the 23d of August, 1861, eight hundred and fifteen strong; when it reached Boston again on its return, it numbered one hundred and thirty-two, as stated. The survivors, including sick, wounded, disabled and prisoner, are said to have been three hundred and sixty. One hundred men fell on the battle-field of Antietam. Of its officers, five are reported killed, four dangerously wounded, several captured and some disabled by sickness. The regiment is said to have presented a sad spectacle of the havoc of war.

Some of the Western States are getting more contrabands than they know what to do with, and many of them are represented as being in a most destitute condition and suffering for food and clothing.

It is said that in New York the large bounties offered to volunteers has induced many to enlist two or three times under different names, drawing the bounty in each instance, in consequence of which there was quite a deficiency in numbers when war-time came, which had to be supplied after it had been supposed and announced that the required quota had been raised.

An order has been issued by Governor Morgan for a draft to be made on the 10th of November, (Monday next) to make up the full quota of one hundred and twenty thousand, the number apportioned to the Empire State, under the two last calls of the President. It is supposed that about thirty-five thousand men will have to be supplied by the draft, which will, of course, include many abolitionists, who are generally said to be more willing and ready to hiss on the "dogs of war," than to volunteer.

Several aspirants for Congressional honors announced themselves before the election in Ohio and other States as independent candidates, proposing, if elected, to put an end to the war, some on the "peace" principle, and others in a "Constitutional way outside of all parties." The electors seemed to have had very little confidence in the ability of those who thus offered their services to accomplish what they severally proposed.

The draft in Ohio was made the 1st of October. Of the fifteen who "drew prizes," as it is called, in the town of Crosby, Hamilton county, Ohio, as reported, was one clergyman, one Shaker, one hotel-keeper, three common laborers and nine farmers—the preacher drawing the first prize. In Cincinnati, a hotel-keeper obtained the first, a farmer the second, a Shaker the third, and a minister the eighth prize. It would seem, from what has been stated, that such prizes were not much desired by the Buck-eyes, generally, and that many of those subject to the draft were exceedingly tremulous before it was made, who were not of the "Shakers" faith. The Knickerbockers in many instances are said to be similarly inclined.

The Post Office department has issued instructions to Post Masters not to receive soiled government currency stamps for postage, which regulation is everywhere spoken against as unjust, as it will be impossible to use them for the purpose for which they were invented but a short time before becoming soiled with the most careful handling. That is a small matter to be whining about when other things of so much greater importance and involving the existence of the nation are constantly being brought to view.

The Hotels in Washington City are represented as doing a cash business this fall, and the daily net profits of Willard's are estimated at one thousand dollars per day.

The American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions was recently in session in Springfield, Mass. Seventeen missionaries from various fields in the east are reported to have been in attendance. The Board has now twenty missions under its control and

direction, and had during the last year one hundred and ten stations, one hundred and forty-four missionaries, and about one thousand laborers of all kinds, one hundred and seventy-four churches, and between eight and nine thousand scholars in their missionary schools. Owing to retrenchment effected by the missionaries, and the donations made to them direct, the expenditures for the support of their missionary operations for the year are said to have amounted only to \$332 288 48. Liberal donations were made by wealthy individuals for the next year's expenses, Mr. Chittenden, of New York, giving \$50,000. The Board seems to have great faith in the ultimate success of their scheme of converting the heathen to Christianity.

An Episcopal General Convention has of late been held in New York City, and some of the members are reported to have become exceedingly disgusted with the inhospitality extended to them by their brethren of that city. The Rev. Mr. Breck, of Delaware, is said to have made a speech, in which he drew invidious contrasts between Richmond and New York; in the former city the delegates were hospitably entertained by the citizens free of charge, while in New York they were compelled to go to the hotels and pay extravagant sums for their entertainment. At the close of his speech he introduced a scathing resolution condemnatory of the inattention of the New Yorkers to the comforts and wants of the reverend delegates, which, on the suggestion of others less offended, was subsequently withdrawn. The convention, after being assured of a welcome at Detroit, Chicago, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and other places, finally decided to hold the next triennial convention at Chicago, as offering the greatest facilities for entertainment.

On the 15th of October, Bishop Hughes visited Camp Sloat, New York, and administered the rite of confirmation to about four hundred soldiers of the Corcoran Legion. The ceremony consisted in their coming forward after being addressed by the Bishop, arrayed in his pontifical robes, in relation to their duties as Christians while in the army, and the reading of the usual Latin prayers, assisted by about a dozen Catholic clergymen, kneeling before the prelate, who touched them with his hands and sprinkled them with water. The ceremonies are represented as having been very imposing.

A draft was made in the several towns in Connecticut, on the 10th of September to obtain the quota of men required of that State, but in consequence, as stated, of so many exemptions having been made in favor of those drafted, another draft was ordered to be made on the 27th of October to make up the deficiency occasioned by the exemptions, but what seems a little strange, in some of the towns, the number required by the second draft to make up their respective quotas is considerably larger than called for by the first apportionment and draft.

On the 17th of October there was a great Republican ratification meeting at the capitol, Albany, N. Y., which was addressed by Messrs. Dickinson, Raymond and Cochran, who poured the "moulten lead" into the Democratic candidates and the Conservatives without stint. They wanted no change. Everything was going right with the government, and but few errors had been committed, and it was no time to right wrongs now, nor till the war had ended, last as long as it might and cost whatever of blood and treasure its vigorous prosecution should require.

Contrabands who flee into Illinois do not meet with a very cordial reception. There were about a thousand of the poor creatures at Cairo, naked, bedless and starving. Some are represented to have died from destitution and exposure. They should be forwarded to Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York and the New England States as fast as possible where their presence would be better appreciated.

Acton, Mass., was visited by a destructive fire on the night of Oct. 24th.

Gen. Foster, commanding the department of North Carolina, with his headquarters at Newbern, has recently issued an order, requiring an export duty of ten per cent. to be paid on all cotton and hides shipped from that port.

FROM THE NEW GOLD MINES.—A company of about twenty men arrived yesterday from Grasshepper Creek. Their reports are exceedingly favorable.

SALT ARRANGEMENTS IN VIRGINIA.

The scarcity of salt in the Southern States having caused the exportation thereof to other States from the salt works in the counties of Smyth and Washington, Virginia, to that extent that the people in the "Old Dominion" were in a suffering condition for the want of that essential article, so much so that the Legislature of the State recently took the matter into consideration and passed an act authorizing the Governor to make, ordain and enforce such regulations in relation to the manufacture, distribution and sale of salt as would secure to the people of the commonwealth a sufficiency for their use, to the exclusion of exportation until their wants should be supplied.

Acting under the law, Governor Letcher, on the 10th of October, issued a proclamation forbidding the exportation of salt beyond the limits of the State of Virginia, unless to fill contracts previously existing with the Confederate States, or some State of the Confederate States, or with individuals for the benefit of some county, city or town, under certain prescribed rules and restrictions; and any attempt to transport salt, except under some contract thus existing, and according to the prescribed rules, either by transportation companies or individuals, it is declared shall work the confiscation thereof to the commonwealth.

All salt manufactured after the passage of the act is held to be the property of the State, until otherwise indicated, and in the event that the owners of salt works refuse or cease to manufacture salt, under the direction of the Governor, exclusively for the State, their works and property are to be taken possession of and used for the use of the commonwealth so long as required. Railroad and other transportation companies are required to transport the salt from the works to designated depots, and if they refuse, their railroads, canals, &c., are to be seized and used till the salt shall have been conveyed to the places where it is to be distributed to the people. The price of the salt, and the quantity to each individual, is to be prescribed by the Governor, and after the price shall be thus prescribed, the sale of any salt within the commonwealth at a higher rate per bushel, is declared by law to be a misdemeanor, and any violation of the rules and regulations prescribed by the Governor is also a misdemeanor to be punished, upon conviction, by fine of not less than one hundred nor more than two thousand dollars.

A board of assessors has been appointed by the Legislature to assess the compensation or damages to be paid for property seized or used by the State under this law. The act prohibited all courts or judges from issuing orders or injunctions to stay any proceedings of the Governor, or his authorized agents, under this law.

Salt certainly seems to be an article of no little consideration in times of war, especially in non-manufacturing countries and States, and the appropriation of the salt made in Virginia to the exclusive use of her citizens may not be satisfactory to her Sister States.

THE STATE ELECTIONS.

Yesterday was the time fixed by law for holding Congressional elections in the States of New York, Massachusetts, Illinois, New Jersey, Michigan and Wisconsin. In New York, and some other States, a Governor and Lieut. Governor were to be elected. The contest between the Republicans and Democrats in most of these States was expected to be spirited, as it was believed by some that a principle was at stake involving the fate of the Constitution, and if the radicals should be successful, the blow which has been struck at the "grand old instrument" would prove fatal; but if the conservatives should be victorious at the polls, it was believed, by not a few, that the life of the Constitution would be preserved for "a thousand years." Under such circumstances the result of the ballottings must have been looked forward to with much anxiety by that party not in power throughout the country.

THE SEASON.—The weather continues pleasant, but it has been somewhat cool the last few days. There was some rain fell on Friday last, the first for many weeks; but not enough to wet the ground much. On the tops of the mountains some considerable snow fell, most of which will remain till next summer.