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PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

The movements of the grand army of the Potomac, since Gen. Burnside was invested with its command on the 8th of Nov. have been attended with the greatest possible secrecy, and the public have known nothing concerning them comparatively, till recently, further than it was generally understood, that some considerable portion of it, more or less, was being concentrated near Fredericksburg, either as a feint to draw the attention of the enemy in that direction, while an advance on Richmond was being made from another quarter, or to force their way by that route to the Confederate capital.

Many are the speculations which have been indulged in, relative to the operations and movements of Gen. Burnside, who many have believed would by his superior judgment, perseverance and military skill, vanquish the Confederate armies, crush out the rebellion, and establish the supremacy of the Constitution and laws of the old Federation, in the Seceded States in the course of a few months. Some supposed that as soon as he could get matters and things pertaining to his command arranged to his notion, he would move direct on to Richmond, despite of all opposition, and when he commenced moving, they were disappointed in his marching down the Rappahannock to Fredericksburg. Others thought it a strategic movement, and but few apparently understood, that during the time the army of the Potomac was measurably inactive, after McClellan was relieved of command, and before Burnside got fully installed as his successor, Gen. Lee made such disposition of the forces under his command, that it would have been impracticable and hazardous for Gen. Burnside to have moved in any other direction.

Had there been no obstacle of a formidable nature directly in front, it is not probable that the army of the Potomac would have taken the road to Fredericksburg, instead of marching towards Richmond by way of Gordonsville, when Burnside got ready for operations; and on its arrival opposite that place, the commanding General, would have of course crossed the river, occupied the town and moved on southward, if the enemy had not been there, or in that vicinity in such force as to render a general engagement with the Confederates extremely hazardous. An unsuccessful battle fought then, would have forever blasted Burnside's hope of future glory, and his name would soon have been added to the list of Major-generals not in command. From all that has been made known, it is very evident that there has been no mysterious strategic movements in progress, and the delay in crossing the Rappahannock, at Fredericksburg, has been for the assembling and preparing a force deemed sufficient to repulse the enemy, and render the success of the grand army more certain. It remains to be seen, and for future historians to record, when the results of the campaign and of the war shall have been fully made known, which of the two opposing armies gained most by the lapse of time.

It is represented that the Confederates have erected formidable works on the hills back of the town and up and down the river of great extent, which were commenced before the Federal army arrived there; and that they have been strengthening their lines and collecting forces in that vicinity ever since. From the statements which have been published, it has been impossible to determine with any degree of certainty whether the Federal or Confederate army at Fredericksburg, or within supporting distance in the event of a conflict, was the more numerous, and better appointed. That General Burnside has been furnished with all the men and munitions of war deemed necessary to ensure a decided victory over the enemy, when the

long expected battle should be fought, is not doubted, and the enemy is believed to have been equally well prepared.

Between the first and tenth of December, the enemy's cavalry are represented to have crossed the river at various places above Fredericksburg, and attacked the Federal outpost, without any apparent intention of bringing on an engagement, but simply to annoy the troops, and ascertain, as far as possible, their strength and position. The frequency of their attacks, in which they often, as reported, surprised detachments and camps, caused Gen. Burnside to issue an order in which he expressed his determination to dispense with the further services of every officer in command of a post, camp or detachment who should suffer his command to be surprised by the enemy, unnecessarily, which is said to have given great satisfaction.

All things having been prepared, and in readiness, as far as possible, the long-desired forward movement was commenced on the night of the 10th instant, and before daylight on the morning of the 11th, the work of constructing pontoon bridges was commenced at Fredericksburg and three miles below. At the latter place, where Gen. Franklin's division were to cross, there was, as reported, but little opposition; but at Fredericksburg three or four unsuccessful attempts were made to construct the bridges, the fire of the enemy from their rifle pits having been so murderous that the engineers had to abandon the bridges after they were about half completed.

Gen. Burnside ordered up his artillery and opened fire on the town, under cover of which the bridge building operations were resumed, but with no better success, till an enfilading fire by artillery from the right compelled the enemy to leave their pits. At what hour the bridges were completed and the army commenced to cross over has not transpired, but it has been announced that a large portion of the army were in the occupancy of Fredericksburg the next day, and that much hard fighting has been done, resulting fatally to many a brave man, but not, so far as known, in the repulse of the enemy, and the probabilities are, from the nature of the position, the number and strength of the contending armies, that much blood will be shed before the works of the enemy will be reduced, or they compelled to evacuate them and fall back to Richmond.

Some movements of the Federal troops, in Eastern North Carolina, have of late been reported, but no battles have been fought there, so far as known. In Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee and Kentucky, all is not peace yet. The guerrillas seem to be as active as ever, but neither Rosencrans nor Grant have recently had a fight with the enemy. There has nothing been permitted to be published, for several weeks, in relation to McClellan's Mississippi expedition. The destination of Gen. Banks' great southern expedition has not yet transpired, but the war is still progressing nevertheless.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

During the first week of the session there was but little business done further than to complete the organization of the two houses, move from the Court House to the State House, and to get things fixed up and arranged, so that the wheels of legislation would move off without hindrance and harmoniously during the remainder of the forty days.

On the 9th, the second day of the session, the Speaker announced the standing committees of the House as follows:

Judiciary: Lorin Farr, John Taylor, Jonathan C. Wright, Aaron Johnson, Albert P. Rockwood.

Claims and Appropriations: Hiram B. Clawson, Edwin D. Woolley, Albert P. Rockwood.

On Petitions and Memorials: Amasa M. Lyman, Joseph A. Young, John V. Long.

Revenue: Albert K. Thurber, Jonathan C. Wright, Peter Maughan, Thomas Callister.

Elections: Silas S. Smith, Judson L. Stoddard, Eli B. Kelsey, Thomas Dunn.

Counties: Peter Maughan, Thomas Dunn, Madison D. Hambleton, Timothy B. Foote.

Roads, Bridges, Ferries and Kanyons: Albert P. Rockwood, William B. Preston, Thos. Rhoads, Reddick N. Alfred.

Education: John Taylor, Jon. C. Wright, Albert K. Thurber, John V. Long.

Engrossing: John V. Long, Lorin Farr, George W. Bean.

Printing: Joseph A. Young, Hiram B.

Clawson, Thomas Callister, George W. Bean Agriculture, Trade and Manufactures: Edwin D. Woolley, Timothy B. Foote, John Stoker, Eli B. Kelsey.

Militia: Amasa M. Lyman, Albert P. Rockwood, Thomas Callister, Hiram B. Clawson.

Incorporations: Jonathan C. Wright, John Stoker, Judson L. Stoddard, William B. Preston.

Library: Lorenzo H. Hatch, Thos. Rhoads, Peter Maughan, Madison D. Hambleton.

Public Domain and School Lands: Aaron Johnson, Amasa M. Lyman, Silas S. Smith, Reddick N. Alfred, Joseph A. Young.

Penitentiary: Edwin D. Woolley, Lorenzo H. Hatch, Judson L. Stoddard.

The standing committees of the Council are the same as at the last session, there being no new members in that body, and are constituted as follows:

Judiciary: Albert Carrington, L. E. Harrington, Geo. A. Smith, Orson Hyde.

Claims and Appropriations: Jas. W. Cummings, W. Woodruff, Lorenzo Snow.

Petitions and Memorials: Geo. A. Smith, F. D. Richards, O. Hyde, E. T. Benson.

Revenue: W. Woodruff, L. E. Harrington, John W. Hess, Daniel Spencer.

Elections: Ezra T. Benson, Wm. J. Cox, Lorenzo Snow.

Counties: F. D. Richards, John W. Hess, James W. Cummings, A. Carrington.

Roads, Bridges, Ferries and Kanyons: Orson Hyde, Geo. A. Smith, Daniel Spencer, L. E. Harrington.

Education: Lorenzo Snow, Orson Hyde, F. D. Richards, Albert Carrington.

Engrossing: Orson Hyde, Albert Carrington, J. W. Cummings.

Printing: Wilford Woodruff, E. T. Benson, L. E. Harrington.

Agriculture, Trade and Manufactures: W. Woodruff, L. E. Harrington, Daniel Spencer, John W. Hess.

Militia: F. D. Richards, Orson Hyde, Wm. J. Cox.

Incorporations: Lorenzo Snow, J. W. Cummings, Geo. A. Smith.

Library: Ezra T. Benson, Wilford Woodruff.

Public Domain and School Lands: A. Carrington, Lorenzo Snow, J. W. Cummings, W. J. Cox.

Penitentiary: Ezra T. Benson, Daniel Spencer, L. E. Harrington.

Both branches of the Legislative Assembly met on Monday, pursuant to adjournment. There was but little business of general interest transacted in the Council on that day. In the House Mr. Long presented a bill concerning justices of the peace, and Mr. Woolley a bill for the establishment of estray pound's and for other purposes, each of which were read and referred—the former to the judiciary committee, and the latter to the committee on counties.

The annual report of the directors of the Penitentiary, accompanied by the report of the Warden, was received, and referred to the committee on Penitentiary and ordered to be printed. The report of the Warden, Colonel Rockwood, shows that financially that institution is in a much better condition than it has been before since the prison was built. It appears there were six prisoners confined in the Penitentiary on the 22d day of January last, viz., John Laird, Delos M. Gibson, John Ormond, William Riley Green, Charles Manhard and Truelove Manhard, and that there were eight committed afterwards, and before the date of the report, whose names, as stated, were Alfred Higgins, William Eccles, John H. Winslow, Henry Angle, Isaac Neibaur, Wilford Luce, John M. Luce and George Wood. Of the whole number only four—T. Manhard, W. Luce, Winslow and Wood, are now in prison. The term of imprisonment of Green, Laird and J. M. Luce has expired. Two—Ormond and Neibaur—have been the recipients of executive clemency. Gibson, Higgins, Eccles, C. Manhard and Angle escaped at different times; the two latter are yet at large, and the three former are reported to have been killed by officers and others in attempts to capture and return them to prison.

WANTED—A BOOKBINDER, who thoroughly understands the business, can, by applying at this Office, find employment during the winter.

FOUND.—A bunch of woollen yarn and a handkerchief. Inquire for them at our office.

ALDERMAN CLINTON'S COURT.

Dan. Harding, the drunken stage driver, to whose exploits reference was made last week, was adjudged, on trial before the alderman, to have disturbed the peace and quietude of the city by his furious driving and other bacchanalian demonstrations, to the amount of fifty dollars, which his friends assisted him in paying. He has since skedaddled.

Frank Stevens and Jacob Swartz, two old cronies, had a fight on Wednesday last, in the street, for which they were each fined ten dollars and costs. Swartz, as alleged, thinking that he had come off second best in the affair, entered a complaint against Stevens for selling liquor, at wholesale and retail, within the limits of the corporation, at divers times and to sundry persons, without having papers authorizing him to traffic in such beverages, which, on being brought into court, he acknowledged to be true, and was required to pay one hundred dollars therefor into the city treasury, and certain other small amounts for services rendered by the officers in that behalf allowed by the city fee bill, and taxed in the bill of costs, a part of which has been paid and the balance secured.

On Saturday, another retail liquor dealer, named Pearsall, connected with the establishment of Mr. Hickey, was accused, arraigned, found guilty and the hundred dollar remedy applied, which, it is said, invariably works a cure in such cases.

A white man, (whose name our reporter, for some reason, does not feel at liberty to give, and we have not been to examine the docket,) a few days ago assaulted a negro somewhere in the vicinity of Main street, got the worst of it, complained of himself, and mended the broken ordinance with an application of ten dollars, which His Honor deemed sufficient, under the circumstances, to make the law honorable.

How many more of the few lawless individuals about town, who have not been caught, will think themselves smart enough to escape detection, and continue the practice of their illegal and corrupting deeds, of course, is unknown; but we should think that it was about time for such characters to get their eyes open.

THE CONCERTS IN THE TABERNACLE.

In further allusion to the concerts of the Deseret Musical Association, held last week in the Tabernacle, it is gratifying to us to state that, so far from satiated in their taste for music by the performances of the first evening, our citizens seemed rather to be more awakened to the delightful character of this species of amusement. The truth of this was thoroughly evinced on the evening of the second concert, when the house was well filled by an auditory who were not deterred from going, notwithstanding an existing snow storm during nearly twenty-four hours previous, and which was yet in full blast at the hour of opening.

We have no disposition to enter into a criticism upon individual performances, neither would it be just to do so, as we regard the distinctly-stated object of the concerts as having been unexceptionably attained—that of publicly exhibiting the excellence of a new system of written music, in connection with the proficiency of classes for some time having received instruction therein; and secondarily, the obtaining of means to defray the many incidental expenses necessarily incurred during a series of gratuitous winter evening lectures on this science.

The anthems and choruses sung, exhibited to the general satisfaction of the audience the skilful training of the Association, under the superintendence of Prof. D. O. Calder. From the admirable manner in which the chorus of the Marseillaise was sung, the fact that it was only twenty minutes before the classes, seems almost incredible.

In justice to our own feelings, we can scarcely refrain from particularly and personally referring to the enrapturing performances of some of the ladies of the Association; but prudential considerations, commingled with a hearty appreciation of the whole musical performance, by young and old, male and female, forbid.

LATEST FROM THE NORTH.—Rumor says, that the Indians, who have been encamping near the northern settlements, have left and gone to Bear River Lake, where it is hoped they will remain during the winter.