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THE BATTLE OF FREDERICKSBURG.

The long expected battle which was believed by thousands would deal a death blow to the rebellion and open the road to Richmond, by way of Frederickburg, has been fought at that place, and resulted in the most disastrous defeat which the Federal arms have sustained since the commencement of the destructive internecine war which is raging with maddening fury throughout a large portion of our once free and happy country. Contrary to the anticipations of the government and of the many who considered the army of the Potomac invincible under the brave and gallant Burnside, and that when arrayed against the enemy on the field of battle would, under that celebrated commander, annihilate the Confederate army which had been assembled at and in the vicinity of Fredericksburg, to oppose the occupation of the right bank of the Rappahannock, by the "Yankee invaders," the well appointed and thoroughly disciplined army of the Potomac, numbering, as per report, upwards of one hundred and eighty thousand men, commanded by the best officers, as alleged, which the country could produce, has been defeated and compelled to retire across the river, after having occupied Fredericksburg four days, and made several unsuccessful attempts to drive the enemy from their works on the hills in the rear of the city.

The details of the operations, from the commencement to the termination of the battle, or the series of battles, and the retirement of the Union army to the north side of the Rappahannock, have not yet been received, and the meagre accounts which have been sent over the wires, are so disconnected, that it is quite impossible to give a very concise history of the movements of the Federal troops and of the conflicts in which the several divisions of the Union army were engaged. The first movement made by Gen. Burnside, is reported to have been on the night of the 10th inst., and soon after, the enemy became advised thereof, and signaled the divisions of their army, along the Rappahannock by sending up rockets to inform them that the "Yankees" were coming. The work of constructing three pontoon bridges across the river, at Fredericksburg, was commenced, as stated, at five o'clock on the morning of the 11th, and when they had been about half completed, the builders were compelled to abandon the work and retire, the fire of the enemy having been so severe that the engineers and workmen could not withstand its murderous effects. They returned again to the work, and were again repulsed. According to the published statements, four unsuccessful attempts were made during that day under cover of a heavy cannonade, which was kept up on the city and the enemy's rifle-pits near the bank of the river. Nearly ten thousand rounds of ammunition are said to have been fired by Gen. Burnside's artillery, doing great execution, burning up a considerable portion of the business part of the town, and killing and wounding scores of the Confederate troops. The carnage is reported to have been terrible. The entire army is said to have been under arms, near the river, ready to cross over as soon as the bridges should be completed, through the shower of leaden and iron hail, which was hurled upon them by the enemy most profusely from their batteries, rifle pits and other works of defense which had been prepared for the occasion. Every effort to drive the Confederates from their rifle pits and earth works along the river were unavailing until an enfilading fire was made to bear upon them, so effectually that they were forced to abandon the pits which enabled the engineers to complete two of the bridges, and at about five o'clock in the afternoon the army commenced crossing over and

soon drove the enemy back to their line of works in the rear of the city, although they fought desperately, and dealt out death with a heavy hand. The Federals are represented to have been not very merciful and many of the enemy were slain in the streets of the city before it was in complete occupation of the grand army.

The division under Gen. Franklin crossed three miles below the city, and met with but little opposition while putting in their pontoon.

The morning of the 12th was so foggy, that everything was enveloped in comparative darkness most of the forenoon. The troops are represented to have been in motion crossing over at an early hour—Gen. Sumner's division taking the lead, followed by Gen. Hooker's corps. There does not appear to have been much fighting done on that day. On arriving on the south side of the river and occupying Fredericksburg, Gen. Burnside ascertained, from deserters, the nature, position, and strength of the enemy's works, which consisted of two long lines of batteries on the heights back of the town, the first about a mile distant, the second a mile in the rear of the first. He also ascertained that the Confederates had concentrated a large force there and in that vicinity, and that their commanders, Gens. Lee, Hill, Longstreet, Stewart and Jackson, were determined to fight, and give the "Yankees" a warmer reception than they had before received from the Confederates on any field of strife.

On the morning of the 13th, the several divisions of the army having been arranged as advantageously as possible, a general attack was made upon the enemy's lines and a most desperate battle is reported to have been fought, continuing from sunrise till after dark. Gen. Franklin commenced the attack on the enemy's right, commanded by "Stonewall" Jackson and gained some little, but no permanent advantage, in the course of the day. The other divisions and corps of the Federal army, in consecutive order from the left to the right, were led to the attack—Gen. Sumner's division engaging at ten o'clock, when the battle became general and raged, as stated, with awful fury until the curtains of night were spread over the scene. Assault after assault was made upon the enemy's works, but to no purpose, other than to have brave men cut down by thousands, as they marched upon the Confederate batteries, determined to conquer or die. Some little impression was made on the enemy by Gen. Sumner's division, as reported, in the course of the afternoon, but at night, when the battle ended, he was compelled to fall back, leaving his dead, who fell near their works, on the field,—such was the murderous fire of the enemy, that they could not be brought away.

There was some fighting done on Sunday the 14th, but how much has not transpired. It was reported that great preparations were made on that day for a renewal of the attack on the enemy's works on Monday, but so far as known, there was not much fighting done after the close of the conflict on Saturday night.

A council of war, as stated, was held on Monday, when it was determined to retreat, as any further attempt to carry the enemy's works would only result in the slaughter of the Federal troops with no prospect in view of driving the Confederates from their position, which, a correspondent declared were as impregnable as Sebastopol. To retire across the river was considered hazardous, and every precaution was taken to induce the Confederate commanders to believe that the fight would be renewed on Tuesday morning. Soon after dark on Monday night the 15th, a heavy wind storm prevailing, the retreat was commenced, and before daylight on Tuesday morning, the entire army of the Potomac had been transferred from the south to the north bank of the Rappahannock, and the bridges taken up. So well had the retreat been planned, and so silently were the movements of the various divisions executed, that the enemy were now apprised of what was transpiring until the withdrawal of the Grand Army from their front, and its deliverance from the snare into which it had been drawn, had been completed.

Thus terminated the great battle of Fredericksburg, which if not the most sanguinary "ever fought on this continent," must have been exceedingly fierce and bloody, for it can-

not for a moment be supposed, that such a numerous and well-disciplined army, commanded by one of the bravest of men, would have turned their backs upon their enemies, until after their ranks had been greatly thinned by the operations of the fight.

The reports relative to the losses sustained by the Union army from the time it left Falmouth on the night of the 10th, till its return on the night of the 15th, are meager and not very conclusive. The first statement made of the casualties in Gen. Franklin's division represented that they amounted to about six thousand. Gen. Sumner's division must have suffered according to the various reports far more than Franklin's, one corps, that of Gen. French, numbering seven thousand when it went into the battle, coming out with only twelve hundred men. The latest official reports reduce the number of killed, wounded and missing to less than twelve thousand, which is certainly not very great, considering the number of men engaged. Of that number only about twelve hundred are reported killed. It is very evident that if the losses sustained were no greater than stated, the fighting was not so desperate as represented.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.

The Legislative Assembly does not seem to have done much business, as yet, although both branches have apparently been moving as fast and been as industrious as law-makers generally are, and have, so far as our knowledge extends, evinced a disposition to do whatever may be considered necessary for the good of their constituents, individually, and the community generally, by enacting such laws and making such provisions, during the session, as will accomplish the objects desired. It is quite evident, however, that there will be but little legislation of a local nature done during the Twelfth Session, and that but few bills, of any kind, will be passed, till after the holiday ceremonies shall have been performed. Several bills have been introduced, some of which have been under consideration, and when the mill gets in first-rate running order, they will unquestionably be put through, to use a military phrase, in "double quick."

In the Council, on Tuesday the 16th, Mr. Hyde presented a petition from Sanpete county, asking for an appropriation for the benefit of said county, which was received, read and referred to the committee on Claims and Appropriations. On the receipt of a message from the House, proposing a joint session of the Assembly at an early hour, a committee was, on motion of Mr. Carrington, appointed to confer with a like committee of the House in relation to the subject. Messrs. Carrington and Benson were appointed said committee.

In the House, on Tuesday, Mr. Long presented a bill for an act, constituting county jails, prisons, and for other purposes, which was read and referred to the committee on the Penitentiary. Mr. Bean introduced a bill for repealing the law, now in force, in relation to Territorial, county and city taxes, which was referred to the committee on Revenue.

A message was sent to the Council, proposing a joint session of the two Houses, to which an answer was returned stating that the Council was not then prepared to meet the House in joint session, and that a special committee had been appointed by that body, and asked the House to appoint one to confer therewith on the subject, and designate a time when it would be convenient for both branches of the Legislative Assembly to meet in joint session. The House concurred, and Messrs. Taylor and Hatch were appointed by the speaker to constitute the House committee for that purpose.

Mr. Bean presented a memorial to Congress for the establishment of mail routes in Wasatch, Summit and Morgan counties, which was referred to the committee on Petitions and Memorials.

In the Council, on Wednesday the 17th, among other matters which were under consideration, was the Act of Congress securing homesteads to actual settlers, which the committee on the Public Domain and School Lands were instructed to examine, and make report at an early date, relative to the advantages that may be expected to accrue to the people of this Territory therefrom, if any, and whether any legislation was necessary on

the subject. The committee on Roads, Bridges and Ferries were also instructed to take into consideration the propriety of making an appropriation for the construction of a road from St. George to Kanarrab, along the Rio Virgin, and Ash creek.

Mr. Hyde introduced a bill for an act authorizing the issuing of executions against judgment debtors non-residents of the county, in which judgment may be rendered, which was referred to the Judiciary committee.

In the House, on Wednesday, the committee on Roads, Bridges, etc., were instructed to inquire into the condition of the Provo river bridge, in Utah county, and of the State road in that vicinity, and report what measures should be taken to re-construct the bridge and repair the road, both of which were washed away or damaged by the floods last summer.

Mr. Wright presented a petition from Lafayette Granger, asking for a ferry franchise, securing the right to him to establish ferries on Black's and Ham's Forks of Green river, which was referred to the Appropriate committee; and Mr. Kelsey presented a memorial for mail service from Salt Lake City to Tooele City, which was referred to the committee on Petitions and Memorials.

Mr. Long presented a bill, for an act, prescribing the manner of assessing and collecting Territorial and county taxes, which, on being read, was referred to the Revenue committee.

In the Council, on Thursday the 18th, Mr. Carrington from the special committee appointed to arrange for a joint session in conjunction with a like committee of the House, reported they had made arrangements for the holding of a joint session in the Council Chamber, at two o'clock in the afternoon of that day, which report was accepted and the House notified accordingly.

Mr. Cummings presented a petition, numerous signed by the citizens of Utah county, praying for legislation to prevent the cultivation of broom-corn, chocolate, etc., which, with a surplus cane, which was referred to the committee on Agriculture. He also presented a petition from the Provo Canyon Road Company, asking for the relinquishment of of the claim of the Territory to said road, which was received, read and referred to the committee on Roads, Ferries, Bridges and Kanyons.

On the 18th, in the House, Mr. Taylor, from the joint committee, appointed to arrange for the holding of a joint session, reported that they had agreed to hold the session at 2 o'clock that afternoon, which was accepted. Some petitions were received and referred, after which Mr. Rockwood, from the committee on roads, &c., who had been instructed to inquire into the condition of the State road and bridge across the Timpanogos, at Provo, reported that the committee had discharged the duty assigned, and the result of their inquiries was that they had become convinced that Utah county was abundantly able to rebuild the bridge, and put the roads in that county in complete repair; and that no appropriation of money to be paid out of the Territorial Treasury was necessary for that purpose. A protracted debate arose in relation to the subject pending, which the hour arrived for the holding of the joint session. The report was subsequently referred back to the committee.

At 2 p.m. the two branches of the Legislative Assembly went into joint session, and after disposing of the business which was presented for consideration and action, a adjournment was taken till 2 p.m. on Friday.

There was not much business done in either the Council or House on Friday the 19th. The committee on Roads, Bridges, etc., in the Council, received instructions on motion of Mr. Smith, to inquire into the propriety of building a new bridge across the Sevier river, in Juab county, as the old one has become greatly dilapidated and unsafe for crossing. The committee on Roads, Bridges, Ferries and Kanyons in the House were instructed to enquire into the condition of the bridges across the Weber and Ogden rivers, in Weber county, and of the Territorial Road in the vicinity of those streams, and make report at an early date.

On the dissolution of the joint session, which was held in the afternoon, both branches of the Assembly adjourned till Tuesday the 23rd inst., at 1 p.m.