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ALBERT CARRINGTON, EDITOR.

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ADVERTISEMENTS

No future insertion must be handed in by Monday Noon, and paid for in advance.

By Telegraph.

Washington, 12.

The Richmond Dispatch of Friday contains the following dispatch from Lee:

Headquarters, March 9.

To Breckinridge: Bragg reports that he attacked the enemy yesterday, four miles in front of Kingston, and drove him from his position. He disputed the ground obstinately and took a new line, three miles from his first. We captured three pieces of artillery and 1,500 prisoners. The number of the enemy's dead and wounded left on the field is large. Ours is comparatively small. The troops behaved most handsomely. Gens. Hill and Hoke exhibited their usual zeal and energy.

(Signed)

LEE.

New York, 12.

A New Orleans letter of the 27th announces the arrival there of 2,000 exchanged prisoners from Texas, including a number of naval officers.

The rebel papers have an article on the passage of the new enlistment act, saying it is a measure of necessity, and not of choice.

The speech of Senator Hunter in the rebel Senate is printed. He voted for the bill to arm and emancipate negroes, under instructions from the Virginia legislature, but he entered his protest against it as an abandonment of the contest and of the ground upon which the South seceded.

Washington, 12.

John G. Nicolay, the President's private Secretary, was nominated yesterday for the post of Consul to Paris, to fill the vacancy created by the promotion of John Bigelow, the late incumbent, to the post of Charge d'Affaires at the French court. The nomination was unanimously confirmed.

Cairo, 12.

Over two million dollars worth of goods and property has been destroyed at Eastport, Mississippi, by the flood in the Tennessee river. The rebels held possession of Hickman, Kentucky. The steamer Post Boy was totally destroyed by bursting her boiler, 25 miles above New Orleans, on the 5th. Two lives were lost.

New York, 13.

The Herald's New Orleans letter says Juarez is reported advancing on Matamoros with 3,000 men. Mejia has 1,000 and is afraid he will be compelled to surrender. He sent out Cortinas with a regiment to check his progress, but Cortinas surrendered his whole force of Mexicans to Juarez. The reason given for this is that Maximilian agreed to give Cortinas half a million dollars, provided he turned over his command to the Imperial Government, but after he had consented he refused to pay him. The Imperialists are becoming alarmed at the increasing force of the Liberals and the treachery of the Mexican commanders and their troops in the service of Maximilian.

Another skirmish between Sherman's cavalry and that under Wade Hampton on the 3d inst., at a point not named, is reported in the Richmond papers. The rebel Col. Aiken was killed and Hampton's Adjutant-General wounded. These are all the particulars of the affair furnished.

The Richmond Examiner is informed, by a rebel officer from South Carolina, that Sherman has completely devastated the portion of that State through which he passed. This officer says he has not spared a house in his track.

Gen. Emery of the 19th corps, has

succeeded Gen. Hancock as commander of the Middle Military Department, comprising the lower part of the Shenandoah Valley and other Territory in that region, during the continuance of Gen. Sheridan's more active field operations.

The greater part of the troops in the Shenandoah Valley have been concentrated in the vicinity of Lynchburg.

Large supplies of food for needy residents, furnished by the Shenandoah Relief Association, have arrived in the Shenandoah Valley.

The Richmond journals of last Friday announced that the removal of the gold belonging to the banks of that city had already commenced and in the strongest language, the legislature and people are called upon to put a stop to this exodus of precious metal, on the ground that if removed it will nearly all get into the hands of the Yankees, and that upon its retention depends the very safety of the rebel capital itself.

The exchange of prisoners at the mouth of Red river continued. Gen. McKean has relieved Gen. Ullman, in command at Morganza.

The Herald's special says, the War Department attaches very little importance to Bragg's reported success in North Carolina, as the force captured must have been only a construction party, accompanied by a small force as a guard. They were re-opening the Atlantic and North Carolina railroad. Headquarters, Middle Military Division, Columbia, Virginia, March 10.

To Grant: In my last, dated Waynesboro, I gave you a brief account of the defeat of Early by Custar's division. The same night this division was pushed across the Blue Ridge and entered Charlottesville at two in the afternoon of the next day. The Mayor and the principal inhabitants came out and delivered up the keys of the public buildings.

I had to remain at Charlottesville two days. This time was consumed in bringing over from Waynesboro our ammunition and pontoon trains. The weather was terrible, the rain being incessant. The two divisions were, during this time, occupied in destroying the two large iron bridges, one over the Rappahannock river and the other over More's creek, near Charlottesville, and the railroad for a distance of eight miles in the direction of Lynchburg.

On the 6th of March, I sent the 1st division, Gen. Devine commanding, to Scottsville, on the James river, with directions to send out light parties through the country and destroy all the merchandise, mills, factories and bridges, on the Rappahannock river, the parties to join the division at Scottsville.

The division then proceeded along the canal to Duguidesville, 15 miles from Lynchburg, destroying every lock, and in many places the bank of the canal.

At Duguidesville we hoped to secure the bridge to cross the river, as our pontoons were useless, on account of high water. In this we failed, as both this bridge and the bridge at Hardwicksville were burned by the enemy on our approach. Merritt accompanied this division.

The 3d division started at the same time from Charlottesville and proceeded down the Lynchburg railroad to Amport Court House, destroying every bridge on the road and in many places miles of road. The bridges on this road are numerous, some of them 500 feet in length. We found great abundance in this country for our men and animals, in fact, the canal had been a great feeder of Richmond.

At Rockfish river, the bank of the canal was cut, and at New Canton, where the dam is across the James, the guard lock was destroyed and the James river let into the canal, carrying away the bank and washing out the bottom of the canal. The dam across the James at this point was partially destroyed.

I have had no opposition. Everybody is bewildered by our movements. We have had no news of any kind since I left.

The bridges on the railroad from Swoop's Department on the other side of Staunton, to Charlottesville, were utterly destroyed, also the bridges for a distance of ten miles on the Gordonsville railroad.

The weather has been very bad indeed, raining hard every day, with the exception of four days, since we started. My wagons have, from the state of the roads, detained me.

Up to the present time we have captured 14 pieces of artillery, 11 at Waynesboro, and three at Charlottesville. The party I sent back from Waynesboro started with six pieces, but were obliged to destroy two of the six for want of animals. The remaining eight pieces were thoroughly destroyed. We have also captured 12 canal boats, laden with supplies of ammunition, rations, medical stores, etc. Commodore Holans, of the rebel navy, was shot near Gordonsville, while attempting to make his escape from our advance in that direction.

(Signed)

SHERIDAN.

Cairo, 13.

A few days ago, Gen. Bailey made a forward movement from Baton Rouge, through Louisiana and Mississippi, with about 3,000 cavalry, well supported with artillery. When last heard from, he had captured Clinton, Louisiana.

Louisville, 13.

An expedition of 50 men of the 30th Wisconsin, sent from here on Saturday, surrounded, yesterday morning, a barn in Webster, Meade county, capturing Sue Mundy, Magruder, and Henry Metcalf, after some resistance, in which three of our men were slightly and a fourth was mortally wounded. Magruder is suffering from a recent wound and is not likely to recover.

New York, 13.

The Spanish and Italian ministers had arrived at Vera Cruz. Don Diaz Robles has returned from Matamoros, after instituting several reforms and getting on foot many internal improvements there. The reported outrages at Matamoros on Union refugees and the American Consulate are repeated.

Philadelphia, 13.

The Bulletin's Washington special says, a letter dated near Kingston, 10th, and received here at noon to-day, says, on the 9th Bragg again attacked Cox's force, making two separate assaults, which were repulsed with heavy loss to the enemy. Rutger's division of the same corps captured one piece of artillery and 200 prisoners. The enemy left the field in confusion, and all their killed and wounded fell into our hands.

New York, 13.

Vera Cruz papers, brought by the Liberty, have the following:

The 400 prisoners captured at Oaxaca, have been removed to Puebla. Among them were several deserters from the French army, who had been entrusted with important commands by the defending party. It is supposed that prisoners will be detailed to labor on the public works. The dispersion of various guerrilla bands is reported at Estopette, and the France-Mexican Generals declare that, in consequence of the fall of Oaxaca, the Juarist Generals Rehagury and Garia have both given in their submission to the Empire. By order of the Emperor, a war department, with the necessary officers and officials, has been formed in Mexico.

New York, 14.

To-day's mail from Mexico brings the text of Maximilian's decree of religious toleration, the promulgation of which had been previously announced, but the entire text of which is now for the first time transmitted for the associated press.

Maximilian, Emperor of Mexico, having consulted our council of Ministers, we hereby decree the following:

Article 1st. The Empire protects the Catholic Apostolical Roman Church, as the religion of the State.

Article 2d. Free and ample toleration is extended throughout the Territory of the Empire, to all religions which are not opposed to civilization and good habits. The establishment of a new religion will, however, require the authorization of the Government.

Article 3d. As circumstances may require, instructions will be issued to the police, regarding the exercise of religion.

Article 4th. The Council of State shall be informed of any abuses committed by the local authorities, against the exercise of other religions and

against the liberty which the laws guarantee to their ministers.

This decree shall be deposited in the archives of the Empire and published in the official journal.

Given in the palace of Mexico, 26th of February, 1865.

MAXIMILIAN.

West's Fork, 10.

To Grant. The enemy made a heavy attack on our center and left to-day, but was decisively repulsed, with heavy loss, his dead and badly wounded being left on the field. We also took several hundred prisoners. Our loss was small. Gen. Couch is only 12 miles from here to-night. He will be up early in the morning. We took the prisoners from Lee's and Stewart's corps. They say two corps are here and the rest of Johnson's army are coming.

(Signed)

SCHOFIELD.

City Point, Va., 13.

To Stanton. The following is taken from to-day's Richmond papers:

Headquarters, March 10.

To Breckinridge. Hampton attacked Kilpatrick at daylight this morning and drove him from his camp, taking his guns, wagons, many horses and several hundred of prisoners, and relieving a great number of our own men who had been captured. The guns and wagons could not be brought off for want of horses. Many of the enemy were killed and wounded. Our loss was not heavy. Lieut.-Col. J. S. King was killed, and Brig.-Gen. Hume, and Cols. Kugan and Morrison were wounded.

(Signed)

LEE.

Washington, 13.

The report current a few days past, that the United States Consul had been ordered to leave Matamoros, is without foundation. In fact, the Consul, Mr. Pierce, resigned his office last year, and consequently the closing of the Consulate was a matter of course. In view of the complications incident to the war in Mexico and the blockade of the Rio Grande, the United States government has since that time preferred to be represented at Matamoros by a commercial agent, instead of a Consul, as this class of officers have no political functions and do not require official recognition by the government of the country in which they reside.

New York, 15.

The Herald's Newbern correspondent of March 11th, says some of the heaviest fighting there has been since the corps commanded by Gen. Cox reached the vicinity of Kingston, occurred on Friday, 10th. The rebels evidently had learned that Couch, with a portion of the 23d corps, was not far off, and would soon join Cox, and it urged them to extraordinary desperation. They charged again and again on our works, making 10 or 12 separate charges through the day. Generally they spent their fury on the left, but some of the time they would charge on the entire line, vainly hoping that the momentum of so large a body would break down everything. Our men, however, stood their ground heroically, as attested by the piles of slain rebels lying before our works in various directions. The enemy also fought with valor worthy of a better cause.

On Friday night and Saturday morning, 10th and 11th, Couch's forces came up from towards Wilmington and effected a junction with Cox, which gave us the advantage, of course, of which the rebels were not slow to become informed. So they at once began to fall back, abandoning all further opposition on this side of the Neuse river. They are now on the north side of the river, with the bridge that crosses over to Kingston partially burned. The much talked of ram Neuse is also partially destroyed.

The Herald's Washington special says a letter from Schofield's headquarters, Newbern 11th, says: This morning Hoke attempted to break our lines, but was repulsed with terrible slaughter. Our own loss is not more than 300 or 400 killed and wounded. The rebel loss in killed, wounded and prisoners is eight times greater. We have possession of the field and the rebel dead and wounded are in our hands.

Washington, 14.

General Schofield, in a dispatch dated the 12th, states that on the night of the 10th, near South-west creek, Bragg was

[Continued on page 107.]