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THE EIGHTY-SIXTH ANNIVERSARY.

By reference to the proceedings of the City Authorities, it will be seen that arrangements have been and are being made for a proper celebration of the eighty-sixth anniversary of American Independence by the people of Great Salt Lake City, a movement which we most cordially indorse and believe that the demonstration on that day, will evidence to all who may witness it, that the people, en masse, approve of continuing the "time honored" custom of observing, by appropriate ceremonies, the day which gave birth to a powerful nation which might have continued united, happy, peaceful and free, if the Author of their independence and greatness had not been forgotten.

The programme of the doings on that occasion has not, we believe, been fully matured. It is understood that the Hon. George A. Smith will be the orator of the day, and, although the intervening time is short, no doubts are entertained but that the arrangements will be complete, and the celebration such as will do honor to the committee and to the citizens generally.

FROM WASHINGTON.

In the House of Representatives on the 9th ult., Hon. J. M. Bernhisel, Delegate from Utah, presented the Constitution of the State of Deseret and the memorial accompanying it asking for admission into the Union on an equal footing with the original States, which were received and referred to the committee on Territories. On the 10th, the Vice President presented the same in the Senate, when Mr. Latham, of California, moved to print the constitution and memorial, and to admit the Senators elect, Messrs. W. H. Hooper and G. Q. Cannon to the floor of the Senate, which motion was referred to the committee on Territories, in that branch of the National Legislature. The next day Mr. Latham offered a resolution to admit Messrs. Hooper and Cannon, claiming to be Senators from Deseret, to the floor of the Senate, which was laid over. It will be remembered that the Senators from California, Messrs. Latham and McDougall were the only members who voted "nay" on the passage of the polygamy bill, so called.

On June 20th, the President approved the bill prohibiting slavery in the Territories.

In the Senate on the 20th, the Pacific railroad bill, being under consideration, Mr. Trumbull moved to strike out the section providing for four branch lines at the eastern terminus, which was rejected, 15 to 25. The bill was then read the third time, and passed 35 to 5. The nays were Messrs. Howe, King, Pearce, Wilkinson and Wright.

The tax bill, which had been under consideration for some three months, passed both houses of Congress on the 22d ult., unanimous in the Senate, and nearly so in the House, there being but seven negative votes. The law is to go into effect on the 1st day of August, and is to cease, as reported, in 1866, and provides for a tax on persons and corporations engaged in certain pursuits, for licences; on manufactured articles and products, to be paid by the manufacturer when sold; on incomes of individuals, steamboat and railroad companies, public officers and others, and on stamps to be affixed to certain documents, papers and medicines.

HEAVY THUNDER SHOWERS.—The weather of late has been much like that experienced in countries, where showers, attended with thunder at this season of the year, are of frequent occurrence. Within the past week there have been several heavy showers on the mountains, and also in this valley, and on the afternoon of Sunday, and during the night, there was much sharp lightning and heavy thunder, bringing to remembrance scenes we have witnessed in the northern and western States.

THE WAR ON THE MISSISSIPPI.

There was unquestionably much fighting done on and along the shores of the Mississippi and its tributaries, between the Federal and Confederate armies, fleets, boats, forts and batteries, from the 6th to the 20th ult., but it is not possible, from the meager and disconnected accounts of their belligerent operations, to determine to what extent the combatants were lessened in numbers, or the effective force of either was reduced by the hostile collisions which occurred.

According to one report which has obtained publicity, the Federal flotilla consisting of five gunboats and eight rams arrived at Memphis from Fort Wright, on the evening of June 5th, where an action took place on the morning of the 6th—the Confederate fleet commencing and the Federal armament ending the engagement. During the conflict, the Federal ram Monarch ran into the Confederate gunboat Beauregard and so disabled her that she sunk in a short time. The Confederate ram, Little Rebel, made a dash at the Monarch, which moved out of the way and the blow intended for her was received by the Confederate boat, General Price, which so disabled her, that she had to run ashore from whence she fired a shot which struck and disabled the Confederate boat, Gen. Lovell, which was subsequently run down by the Federal ram, Queen of the West. The Confederate boat, Jeff. Thompson, was set on fire by a broadside from the Benton and was burned. The remainder of the Confederate fleet then retreated down the river, after burning the new gunboat nearly finished, pursued by the Federal boats, which subsequently captured three of the enemy's vessels after having been run ashore and abandoned. The only casualties that occurred to the Federal forces, as set forth in the report, was the disabling, slightly, of the ram Lancaster, and the stunning of Col. Eliot, commanding the Federal rams, by a splinter which struck his breast. The Confederate loss was supposed to be heavy, but the exact amount could not be ascertained.

The Federal rams were manned by sharpshooters which did great execution, as per report, in shooting the enemy's gunners. The steamboats at the landing were captured, and Memphis surrendered without resistance. No mention is made of the burning of cotton nor the destruction of sugar and molasses, as was previously threatened, although persons who accompanied the expedition down the river from Fort Wright, reported that they saw the smoke of burning cotton, at all the plantations they passed along the river.

The Memphis papers admitted in their report of the engagement that many Confederates were killed by the Federal sharpshooters, and that quite a number went down with the sinking vessels during the engagement, but did not report how many boats were sunk. They stated that the Federal were superior to the Confederate boats, and sustained but little loss, how much beyond the damage sustained by one ram was not known. A vast crowd of spectators were assembled on the bluffs near the city, to witness the engagement—many of them ladies who shed tears at the result. Two Indiana regiments, Col. Fitch in command, occupied the city.

A reconnoissance is reported to have been made down the river, a few days after the battle, some twenty miles where heavy batteries were discovered.

According to one report, Col. Slack, and as set forth in another, Gen. Lew. Wallace, arrived at Memphis, on the 13th and assumed command of the city. The first official act was to take possession of the Argus office, an ultra Secession paper, and place it under the supervision of Union men, appointed for that purpose. Some threats are reported to have been made, about tearing down the Stars and Stripes, waving over the residences of Union citizens. Orders were given by the provost marshal to shoot every person who should attempt to pull down a flag or molest a loyal citizen, and all citizens found bearing fire arms or concealed weapons, were ordered to be arrested and lodged in prison. At a later date, Col. Slack issued a proclamation inviting the people in the country to come to the city for the procurement of whatever they might need to supply their wants, assuring them of protection in the legitimate pursuit of business.

On the 12th, four hundred and ten persons, half of them soldiers took the oath of alle-

giance, and the members of the police force and other officials some ten days afterwards.

Guerrilla bands are reported to exist all along the banks of the Mississippi from the mouth of the Ohio to New Orleans, firing into boats as they passed up and down and committing depredations whenever opportunity presented. In the northern part of Mississippi, after the fall of Memphis, they ravaged the country and burned up all the cotton that had not been previously destroyed by the owners.

It is the expressed opinion of Com. Farragut and others that the war on the Mississippi will be carried on in future in that way. General Williams at Baton Rouge, having written to General Butler, asking what course should be taken in relation to guerrillas, received for answer that they should be tied by military commissions at the drum head, their houses burned, their property destroyed and every means taken to show them that they were not soldiers but murderers and land pirates.

About the middle of June, an expedition, consisting of four gunboats and two Indiana regiments under Col. Fitch, is reported to have proceeded up White river, a Kansas, nearly a hundred miles where a Confederate battery was found and attacked; the engagement lasting over four hours, during which a shot passed through the boiler of the gunboat Mound City, causing a terrible explosion and great loss of life, one hundred and seventy-five or more having been killed and many severely injured. The troops were disembarked at a point further down the river, marched up and attacked the battery in the rear and carried it by storm. The loss of the Federal land forces is said to have been small, while that of the enemy is set down at one hundred and twenty-five killed and wounded and thirty prisoners.

It was stated on the authority of a letter written on board the steamer Brooklyn off Baton Rouge, on the 3d, that Gen. Williams had encountered a large Confederate force near that place, the result of which was not known, but General Butler had sent reinforcements to Gen. Williams, and six thousand troops were reported to have landed there the following day. There has no report been made to the effect that Baton Rouge had been taken, but such is the inference from what is stated about Federal troops leaving that place for Vicksburg.

Dispatches from Com. Farragut, at New Orleans, on the 24, stated that he had been up to Vicksburg with part of the fleet but had not attacked the place. He left a number of boats there for a blockading squadron and returned to New Orleans. A dispatch from Vicksburg some two weeks later stated that no demonstration had been made after the retirement of the Federal fleet, but several gunboats had just appeared from below. Five thousand Federal troops from Baton Rouge were also expected to arrive there shortly. General Butler reported that all but eight of the mortar boats had gone up the river and those would be sent as soon as tugs could be obtained to tow them. General Lovell had, as per report, established his headquarters at Meridian. All the Confederate troops had left Vicksburg. Later reports represented that Com. Farragut was before Vicksburg, prepared to bombard the city, should it not surrender unconditionally.

Commodore Farragut reported to the War Department that he had an engagement between a part of his fleet and a Confederate battery with a force of five hundred men, on the 16th, near Grand Gulf, Miss., in which one of his boats was struck twenty five and another seventeen times, and he was obliged to haul off, but, having been reinforced, he renewed the attack on the 18th, and was successful in silencing the battery, but the bluffs were filled with riflemen, who occasionally fired on the fleet, and if they did not desist, the Commander intended to burn the town.

NOT RECEDED MUCH.—The warm weather and continual showers have contributed to keep the waters from falling much the past week, and the Jordan and some of the other large streams were as high as ever on Monday, and have receded but little if any since. The snow line is yet far below the summit of the Wasatch range.

FIRE AT GENOA.—A fire is announced to have occurred in Genoa, Nevada, on the morning of the 19th of June, which destroyed the Telegraph and Post Offices, with contents, and the Union Hotel.

OPERATIONS AT AND IN FRONT OF RICHMOND.

There has but little transpired in relation to the movements of the army of the Potomac since the battle of Fair Oaks up to the 22d of June. The reporters having been excluded from the lines, and even Members of Congress denied the privilege of visiting any of the encampments to gratify their curiosity and ascertain how things are progressing, there is nothing known of General McClellan's operations, only what little is obtained through the War Department, and that is not of a very intelligent and satisfactory nature.

A letter from New Bridge, which was published in one of the New York papers, stated that on the 6th all the Federal troops, excepting Porter's and Franklin's Divisions and some reserves, had crossed the Chickahominy.

According to Gen. McClellan's official report the Federal losses in the battle of Fair Oaks, were in killed, eight hundred and ninety; wounded, thirty-six hundred and twenty-seven; missing, twelve hundred and seventeen.

The Confederates admit a loss of eight thousand, including five generals, twenty-three colonels, ten majors and fifty-seven captains.

A dispatch on the 7th of June announced that the enemy had made no particular movement to interrupt or interfere with the resumption of Gen. McClellan's plans of attack on the Confederate capital. On the 8th all was reported quiet in front of Richmond, excepting the cannonading of the parties engaged in building bridges.

It was announced on the 12th that a reconnoissance was made that morning and the enemy found to be quiet but were in force, and some skirmishing ensued.

A dispatch on the 15th stated that the movements of the Confederates on that day had been extensive but involved in mystery. They opened a sharp artillery fire in the morning, which was kept up about three hours. A subsequent report stated that after driving the Federal pickets from Old Church, a detachment of Confederate cavalry went to Garriek's Landing, on the Pamunky, four miles from White House, and burned two schooners and some wagons. From thence they went to Tunstalls Station with the view of burning the railroad bridge: fired into a train that was passing, killing and wounding several, destroyed the telegraph line, and then returned safely to Richmond.

Skirmishing is reported to have been going on in front of McClellan's lines on the 19th, and the enemy had assumed a more menacing attitude, intending, as was supposed, to bring on a general engagement in order to draw the Federal troops within range of their batteries, which seems to be no part of Gen. McClellan's plan, choosing to approach their works scientifically and force them to evacuate rather than risk the chance of battle.

The enemy opened fire on General Hooker's advance, on the 21st, which was replied to by a heavy battery that sent several shells into their midst, dealing out death liberally.

Deserters from Richmond reported that the Confederates were making great preparations for defense, and were throwing up additional works around the city, and had recently mounted many guns. They had also dug rifle pits all along the approaches to their works from the Federal lines. Their number is stated at two hundred thousand, and they were determined to make a bloody fight. It was also stated by deserters that the soldiers were kept on short rations—a pound of flour and half a pound of bacon each per day. Beauregard was said to be second in command.

LATEST FROM THE EAST BY MAIL.—The mails have at last commenced bringing something from the east, besides the old matter that had been lying by the wayside for months. We received dates by the last arrival up to the 14th of June from New York and other eastern cities. It is hoped that the "Overland" will perform good service hereafter.

BURGLARY.—The trading shop of H. E. Phelps, East Temple street, was broken open on the night of Monday last, and several articles of value taken therefrom, among which was an army revolver, No. 46, marked H. C. K., which may lead to the discovery of the burglar.

HAY.—New HAY is now occasionally seen in market.