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Wednesday,.....March 26, 1862.

PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

Owing to the storms that have occurred of late on the plains and in the mountains, and the unusual bad roads, and high water between this and the Missouri river, delaying the mails, we are unable to bring up the history of the war to as late a date as we should otherwise have done; but from what has been received it fully appears that the war, up to latest dates was progressing as steadily as ever with no prospect of its terminating this spring. The enmity of the people of the South against those of the North evidently grows more bitter as time progresses, and there are no friendly feelings manifested by the citizens of the Northern towards those of the Seceded States. The idea of conquering a peace or fighting till they become reconciled to each other, and unite again as one nation seems preposterous.

The Federal armies have been victorious wherever they have marched since the commencement of February, and the territory occupied by the Confederates in December last has been materially lessened in extent. The prospects are it will be shortly further decreased in length and breadth, but lookers on, both in the Old and New world are of the opinion, that the curtailment of their territory is not conclusive evidence that the Seceders will return to their allegiance to the Federal government, or that they are any nearer subjugation than they were when the attack was made on Sumter in April last which commenced hostilities between the two portions of the once powerful and glorious United States.

Preparing for the Flood.

The citizens throughout the city are generally preparing for the anticipated flood, from the melting of the mountain snows, by cleaning out and repairing the water courses along the sides of the streets, so that the water, should it come in torrents, may be conducted through the city and into the Jordan without unnecessarily overflowing gardens and cultivated grounds, causing damage wherever it may chance to flow. Every canal, ditch, sect or water course in the city, natural or artificial, should be prepared for passing off or discharging the water to their utmost capacities, and then by dividing it judiciously and giving it the right direction, no particular damage may be expected to result, unless the dissolving process shall, per chance, be attended with rain. In that event, if proper precaution be not taken, much damage may be expected to ensue.

It has generally been believed that the channel in the center of North Temple Street would, under ordinary circumstances, carry off all the surplus water of City Creek. That a large amount may be conducted to the river by that "deep ditch" is certain, but if too much water be turned into it the channel will soon be widened, and what there is left of that street will soon be among the things that were. It is to be hoped that too much dependence will not be placed on that water course for disposing of the superabundance of water now congealed and deposited on the Wasatch hills.

CALIFORNIA MAIL.—Another mail from California arrived here last evening, between 9 and 10 o'clock, with San Francisco dates to the 15th inst. We received a liberal share of our usual exchanges, but could only give them a cursory glance as we were ready to lock up. We noticed that the Pacific States and Nevada were still having a liberal share of the general stormy weather.

TOOELE COUNTY.—It is reported that the farmers in Tooele have nearly completed their seed sowing. Not so wet there as here.

WAR NEWS ITEMS.

A dispatch from Cairo, on the 28th of Feb., announced that the Confederates, in their retreat from Nashville, left 1,000 sick and wounded, destroyed all the bridges, burned all the steamboats but one, fired the city in many places, but the citizens extinguished the flames. The majority of the property owners remained. Governor Harris made a speech, and said that he had done all he could and was going to leave, and advised them all to follow.

On the 27th, Gen. Halleck sent a dispatch to Gen. McClellan, announcing that Gen. Curtis took possession of Fayetteville, Arkansas, on the 26th, that the enemy set fire to, and burned part of the town before leaving, and that the Federal troops were in possession of all the Confederate's strongholds—they having crossed the Boston mountains. The retreating enemy left behind them, at Mudtown, a quantity of provisions which they had poisoned; forty-two officers and men were poisoned by eating some of it. Capt. Dalfert died from the effects of the poison, and other officers and men suffered much, but it was thought most of them would recover. The indignation of the Federal soldiers was so great that they were with difficulty restrained from retaliating upon the prisoners of war.

Gen. Halleck, in a general order of that date stated, that persons guilty of such acts, when captured, will not be treated as ordinary prisoners of war; nor will they be shot, but suffer the ignominious punishment of being hung as felons. Officers of troops guilty of such acts, although not themselves the advisers or abettors of the crime, will, when captured, be put in irons and conveyed as criminals to headquarters. The laws of war make it their duty to prevent such barbarities, and if they neglect that duty they must suffer the consequences.

A dispatch from Clarksville, Tenn., to the Chicago Times, stated that there was but one Union man in that town, and nothing had saved his life but his old age. There was not a spark of Union feeling there, and that fact was not disguised. Hon. Cave Johnson, who was a powerful advocate for the Union until the war commenced, is now as powerful an advocate on the other side; and said that the only effect of their recent reverses would be to drive the people of Tennessee into the mountains and render them desperate.

Col. Wood's cavalry, about the last of February, drove the enemy out of Dent, Texas and Howell counties, Mo., and took sixty prisoners. According to Southern papers, Gen. Polk issued orders, on the 27th ult., to tear up the track of the Memphis and Ohio railroad, preparatory to evacuating Columbus.

A letter was found as reported, in Price's camp near Fayetteville, written by one James L. Adams to Gen. Price, soliciting the position of surgeon in his army, dated "Dover, Pope county, Arkansas, December 17th, 1861," in which occurred the following:

"Our men over the Boston mountains pen and swing the mountain boys who oppose southern men; they have in camp thirty, and in the Barrowville jail seventy-two, in the Clinton jail thirty-five, and have sent twenty-seven to Little Rock. We took up some as low down as Dover. We will kill all we get, certain: every one is so many less. I hope you will soon get help enough to clear out the last one in your State. If you know them, they ought to be killed, as the older they grow the more stubborn they get."

After Gen. Curtis' success at Fayetteville, Gov. Rector of Arkansas issued a proclamation drafting into immediate service every man in the State, subject to military duty, to respond in twenty days.

On the 26th of February, the advance guard of Gen. Banks division, consisting of the 28th Pennsylvania, crossed the Potomac and took possession of Harper's Ferry; the next day they were largely reinforced and possession was taken of Charlestown and other places in the vicinity.

Gen. Lander died on Sunday, March 2d, from the debilitating effects of the wound he received at the battle of Edward's Ferry.—Gen. McClellan issued a general order announcing his death, paying a high compliment to his public service, intelligence and courage.

Forty men belonging to Jeff. Thompson's band, were captured by a company of Federal cavalry, on March 1st, near Sykeston, Mo. The burning of Columbus, by the Confederates, was commenced, as per published statements, on the 27th of February, and the evacuation was completed at noon; on the 3d of March. Fourteen thousand men left by river transportation. The works were occupied by Federal troops at 5 p.m. on the 3d. A portion of the barracks and other quarters were still burning at the time. It was at first reported that the fortifications were left uninjured, but a subsequent statement represents that they were ruined. The railroad bridges were burned and the track torn up for six miles. The works are said to be four miles in extent and every prominent point on the bluffs along the river was fortified with heavy cannon, which, on the evacuation of the Confederates, all they were unable to carry away were thrown into the river.

The forces under Gen. Banks took possession of Martinsburgh, Va., on March 3d without opposition. It was reported that a battalion of Federal soldiers had been surprised at Keatsville, Barry county, Mo., by a Confederate regiment and that, after a short engagement, the attacking forces retreated, taking with them seventy horses belonging to the Federal army. Reports from Arkansas stated that the enemy had commenced active guerrilla warfare against Gen. Curtis, and had attacked a wagon train going to Cassville and drove it back, capturing and destroying several wagons.

On the 5th, Gen. Halleck issued a general order complimenting the army in southwest Missouri, for steadiness and courage on the battle field. A dispatch from Denver city, of the 7th, announced that a desperate battle had been fought at Valverde, ten miles south of Fort Craig, on the 21st ult. The battle lasted all day, and would probably be resumed on the next. The loss was great on both sides and the victory claimed by both parties. Capt. McRae, chief of artillery, and every one of his command were killed and his cannon captured by the enemy.

It was reported at St. Louis on the 8th, that a fight had taken place in Lincoln county, Mo., between one hundred secessionists and a company of Federal cavalry in which the latter were victorious, killing and wounding fifteen of the enemy. The Federal loss trifling. At latest accounts from Arkansas, McCulloch had burned Cane Hill and all the villages on the Indian frontiers.

The following is the published account of a fight which took place at Newport News between the Confederate steamer Merrimac, aided by two gun boats, and the Federal war vessels Cumberland, Minnesota, Roanoke, St. Lawrence, Congress and Monitor, and several gun boats, on the 8th and 9th of March:

"The Merrimac was first seen from the ramparts of Fortress Monroe at one o'clock. Her sides, bows and stern, covered with sloping iron plates, extending two feet below the water line, meeting above like the roof of a house. On her bows and water line are two sharp iron points, resembling plows. From her bows were seen two guns projecting from long elliptical port holes. The design of the enemy did not become apparent till after one o'clock, by which time the Minnesota got under way for the scene of action. The Roanoke, flag-ship, being disabled, was taken in tow by two gun boats. The first shot was fired at two o'clock from the frigate Cumberland. The Sewall's Point batteries then opened on the Minnesota, which, passing, several guns at the Rip Raps, replied. The Cumberland was struck twice by the Merrimac's sharp bows, making terrible holes in her water-line. The Cumberland continued firing until water entered her port holes, when she careened slowly and finally sunk. No apparent effect was produced on the Merrimac by the continuous firing from our batteries and vessels. The Minnesota got aground on her way up, and could render but little assistance. Shortly after three o'clock the rebel gun boats Yorktown and Jamestown arrived. The former was disabled early in the afternoon, and put ashore for repairs.

After sinking the Cumberland, the Merrimac turned her attention to the frigate Congress. In less than an hour afterwards she surrendered. The officers and marines were taken prisoners. The seamen were allowed to escape. The frigate St. Lawrence arrived at Fortress Monroe during the afternoon, and immediately proceeded up the river, following the example of the Minnesota and Roanoke, firing on the battery at Sewall's Point, but like the rest, her shots fell short. The gun-boat Majestic also turned up, but at sundown the Roanoke, Majestic and St. Lawrence returned. The conflict between the Minnesota and rebel gun-boats continued without apparent effect till dark. At midnight the Congress was burned by the rebels. During the evening, the iron-clad Monitor arrived, and proceeded to take part in the action. Reinforcements of men and ammunition were sent yesterday afternoon to Newport News. During the night only an occasional gun was fired. This

morning the conflict was renewed. Until the presence of the Monitor was known to the Merrimac, the latter was engaged with the Minnesota, which but for the timely arrival of the Monitor, might have been lost. The Monitor and Merrimac engaged each other two or three hours, at long and short range without any damage seen on either. They seemed almost to have run each other down once or twice. The Monitor's battery finally succeeded in forcing a long hole in the post side of the Merrimac, when she at once returned to Norfolk about one o'clock. The gun-boat Dragon was struck by a shot from the Merrimac in her boiler. The gun-boat Zouave was also damaged, and obliged to retire.

The principal loss of life was on board the Cumberland. It is thought that one hundred and fifty must have been killed and drowned. According to the reports of her officers, the Minnesota had six lost on her. One rebel gun-boat was cut in two by the Cumberland."

From Mexico,

Vera Cruz dates to the 21st of February, state that Gen. Prim had a conference with Doblado at Soledad, twelve leagues from Vera Cruz, and that preliminaries had been arranged for opening negotiation at Orizaba. The French troops would be allowed to advance to Tepnaco, the Spanish to Orizaba and the English to Carova. Sickness and desertions continued among the Spaniards.

An Efficacious Remedy.

Complaints are frequently made, that all who go to the kanyons and mountains for wood, poles, timber, etc., are not careful to respect the property of others; and that, occasionally and not unfrequently, men and boys consider it less laborious to take that which has been cut by others than to cut what they want themselves, and, regardless of right, take whatever they thus find and appropriate it to their use, which is a wrong that should be corrected. It is not pleasing for any individual who has cut and slid down from the heights, wood or timber of any kind, and placed it in an accessible position, to have it taken by another before he has time to haul it away himself. Every individual so offending should be compelled to make restitution to the injured party; and we know of no more effectual remedy for the evil complained of, than to have the "four-fold" ecclesiastical rule applied to such offenders, invariably. One or two applications of that kind administered by a court "having jurisdiction" would be quite certain to effect a cure in cases not too chronic, and should three administrations of that rule fail to produce a healthy and desirable result, some more potent remedy should be immediately applied.

There has been too much leniency extended to that class of wood "dealers" heretofore, and, in our opinion, it is high time that a stop was put to such proceedings; and if there be a plan more feasible and effective than the one proposed, let it be adopted and carried into execution. For all such offences, atonement or restitution will sooner or later have to be made, and in justice to the guilty they should be required to do it at the earliest practicable date after their "weaknesses" are made manifest.

Salmon River Gold Mines.

The gold mines on Salmon river, Washington Territory, have, according to accounts, created much excitement in Oregon as well as in California and elsewhere, and even the farmers have been operated upon by the "yellow fever" to that extent that thousands have resolved to abandon their farms, and go to the mines.

A letter published in the Portland Times, from an individual who was seeking his fortune in those newly discovered mines, contains some wholesome advice to that class of men—as follows:

As to the farmers of Oregon, who are preparing to abandon their farms by thousands, I think they are simply crazy! If these mines prove as rich as they are generally supposed to be, a good farm will be more valuable to the farmer, and yield him more gold in the next two years, than the best set of mining claims in the Nez Percés country. Stay where you are, and if it prove a failure, as most of the great gold discoveries of late years have, you will be no worse off; it proves a success, wait—let the gold come to you.

It is expected that at least fifty thousand men will go to these mines the present spring. There has been much suffering among the miners who have been there during the winter, and it is reported that at least one hundred of those on their way there have died of cold, hunger, and fatigue.