

FROM GRANT'S ARMY.
A GREAT BATTLE AT REAM'S STATION.
Attempt to Recover the
Weldon Railroad.

New-York Tribune.

Vol. XXIV.....No. 7,300. NEW-YORK, MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 1864. PRICE FOUR CENTS.

FORT MORGAN TAKEN.
Rebel Confession of its Fall.
NO PARTICULARS GIVEN.

TERRIBLE SLAUGHTER OF THE REBELS.
They Withdraw in the Night.
DEAD AND WOUNDED LEFT IN OUR
HANDS.
Weldon Railroad Still in Our
Possession.

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Our troops were quietly withdrawn at dark, without molestation. Our loss will probably exceed two thousand; that of the enemy at least double that number. Eight guns were captured by the enemy.

In attempting to withdraw Clark's Battery, stationed on our left, most of the artillery men and horses were shot.

The Fourth N. Y. Artillery gallantly rallied round the guns and turned them upon the advancing masses of the enemy, but were unable to save them, losing in the attempt seventeen officers and a large number of the men.

Among our casualties are Captain Hawley, of Colonel Smyth's staff, killed; Captain Dennison, Commissary Second Brigade, Second Division, leg amputated, and Captain E. Brownson, Commissary of Munster, Hancock's Corps, wounded through stomach, since died.

Lieut.-Col. P. A. Walker, A. G. C., on the staff of Hancock, and Lieut. Desjardis, of the 7th Michigan, are missing, and supposed to be captured.

LL-Col. Smith, of the Seventh, was captured and robbed, but afterwards made his escape. Beyond forcing us from a position which had become untenable to us, the enemy accomplished nothing.

By their success, they have not rendered our position on the Weldon Road untenable and assurances are not wanting to convince us that the line assumed by Warren will be held against any effort of the enemy to compel its abandonment.

The last fight for the Weldon Road—What it amounts to. Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune. WASHINGTON, Sunday, Aug. 29, 1864.

Warren's position on the Weldon Road is impregnable against the attack of the whole of Lee's army, should he be fool-hardy enough to make it. Important movements are on foot, details of which it would be improper to mention.

Petersburg papers of Friday, while claiming a victory on Thursday, and the capture of over 2,000 prisoners, admit that their loss was very heavy in killed and wounded, and that the object of the attack—the recapture of the Weldon Road—was a failure.

having his horse shot under him, Gen. Hayes had reformed his Brigade in comparative order, and was withdrawing it himself on foot and closest to the enemy, when a sudden dash cut him off; his fate was not known until the Richmond papers reported him a prisoner.

Our revenge came on Sunday morning, two days later. By that time portions of the 9th and 2d corps had filled in the gap. We held a well-defended line from the Appomattox due north of Petersburg to the Weldon Railroad, due south a distance of 10 miles.

The enemy massed upon the extreme left, and assaulted with all his might. He surged around the salient point on the railroad, and came on as though he thought he had turned the flank, but he was trapped. Warren had a refused flank at almost a right angle down the railroad, and the crowded Rebel masses fell a prey to the dispositions made to welcome him. Our men had it all their own way—their slaughtering, their very few of the slaughtered; and yet the enemy madly poured into that slaughter-pen more and still more men, and they were each man in turn swept down. They were in full sight in a broad field—our men behind earthworks. The range was short to the woods end of which they broke, and our men stood thickly and fired rapidly, many of them with aim. For every prisoner lost, the revenge was a man killed or wounded, before they went back—all that was left of them.

Summarizing up, then, the brightest, welcomest thing, because it must be confessed that it is a little novel, is this; leaving prisoners out of the account (of which I roughly stated we have lost 200 and taken 1,000), the Rebels have lost in killed and wounded, on an estimate of the least sanguine of those who had the most and best data for judging, twice the number we have. The Richmond papers are particularly laudatory over the losses in the repulse they suffered at the hands of Warren Sunday morning. In general officers they concede the following killed during the week of fighting, viz: Gen. Saunders, Gen. Lamar, Gen. Garrard, Gen. Chambliss and Gen. W. H. E. Lee; and those wounded, viz: Gen. Barton, Gen. Finnegan, Gen. Anderson, Gen. Clingman and Gen. Conner, in all ten generals. And they mention other field-officers, colonels, &c., in the same proportion. Since it is precisely men and precisely good officers which they can least afford to lose, the fact that in those they have lost so heavily, should be made of large account in arriving at a just estimate of the week's fighting.

But we hold, and will continue to hold, the Weldon Railroad. They used to run ten to fifteen trains per day over it. Only the Danville Road is now left to them. Of how much advantage the loss to them of this road will be time alone can determine. But the persistence with which they have defended it, and the desperate efforts they have made to regain possession of it, serve to show what value they place upon it, and how great a blow its loss is to them. More than six weeks ago Grant attempted to possess it. Failed then, he has succeeded now—and his persistence in maneuvering for it may be taken as evidence of the value he attaches to it. It has already been thoroughly destroyed—to the burning of every tie, and the twisting of every rail—for a distance of ten or more miles, being from within two miles of Petersburg to a point several miles below Ream's Station. The destruction has been mainly performed by Barlow's division, of the 2d Corps, with Gregg's cavalry for guard to men at work.

The extent of the line now held by Meade's and Butler's armies, reckoning by the shortest roads, is not less than thirty miles. And Lee has to meet Grant on every point of this tremendous line. It will task even his powers, with his far inferior force. Nevertheless, it must be remembered that it is one of the maxims of war that the offensive army must be twice the numbers of the defensive army, in order that it shall have equal chances of success. We shall see.

Latest from the Army of the Potomac. WASHINGTON, August 28th. A letter from the Army of the Potomac dated yesterday, says, the portion of the line of the Weldon Railroad recaptured by the rebels in Thursday's engagement extends from Ream's Station about three miles northward.

The road had, however, been previously entirely destroyed, and cannot be of any use to the enemy while we continue to hold the portion on the north, and between that and Petersburg. The latter portion is entirely in our possession.

Everything was quiet along the entire front, at the last accounts, with the exception of occasional picket-firing. Both parties were engaged in burying their dead and caring for their wounded.

Some corn-stacks, situated in the rear of the enemy's skirmish lines, behind which they have been in the habit of secreting themselves, were set on fire by the explosion of one of our shells, and burned to the ground.

THE STORY CALLED IN QUESTION IS IT A HOAX? OFFICIAL. WASHINGTON, Aug. 28, 1864.

Another dispatch gives the following extract from the Richmond Examiner of yesterday: "Fort Morgan is in the enemy's possession—whether blown up or evacuated is not known."

Gen. Sheridan, in a dispatch dated yesterday, at half-past two o'clock p. m., reports: "The enemy left my front last night, falling back to Smithfield or Middleway. We captured 101 prisoners yesterday, and inflicted a loss of 150 killed and wounded. There have been a few faints to cross the river by cavalry at Williamsport, but there was no strength shown. The indications today are that they will fall back out of the valley."

Other reports state that the enemy is leaving the Shenandoah Valley. Nothing has been received from Gen. Sheridan for two days.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

Something Further. Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune. WASHINGTON, Sunday, Aug. 29, 1864.

Secretary Stanton received to-day a dispatch stating that Richmond papers announced the capture of Fort Morgan. Papers of the date indicated we subsequently received, but they contained so much information.

Latest from Sheridan's Army. HEADQUARTERS MIDDLE MILITARY DIVISION, Aug. 27-9 a. m. Friday afternoon, at 5 o'clock, Gen. Crook moved out Wells's brigade of Thoburn's division from the left of our line, to reconnoiter the enemy's position and ascertain if they had any force of importance stationed in his front.

Our men advanced in line of battle, with a heavy skirmish line out in front, and soon engaged the enemy's skirmishers, who rapidly retreated on their reserves, stationed a short distance in the rear of the skirmish line.

Our men advanced boldly and rapidly until they came within 500 yards of the enemy's line, drawn up to receive them, who opened a heavy fire of musketry, which lasted nearly twenty minutes, when the enemy broke and ran under cover of a battery of artillery, which had in the meantime been brought up and placed in front of the works, in exactly the same position where they had a battery last Thursday, when we made a similar reconnaissance.

From Secretary Stanton to Gen. Dix. WASHINGTON, Aug. 27, 1864—10:20 a. m.

Major-General JOHN A. DIX: On Thursday, the 26th, Gen. Hancock, who was south of Ream's Station, was attacked several times during the day, but he repulsed the enemy at every assault. At half-past 5 p. m. a combined attack was made on his center and left, which after one of the most desperate battles of the war, resulted in the enemy withdrawing from the field, leaving their dead and wounded on the ground. The details are given in the following brief official reports of Gen. Grant, Gen. Meade and Gen. Hancock, just received:

SECOND ARMY CORPS, Aug. 26, 1864. For General Humphreys: The attack about 5:30 p. m. was probably intended to be simultaneous, with Wilcox on my center and Heth on my left. The enemy formed in the woods, placed their artillery in position, opened a heavy cannonade, lasting about fifteen minutes, and then assaulted Miles's force.

We resisted tenaciously, but the enemy broke the line. Some of Gibbons's troops were hurried over to repair the damage, and the enemy only gained a slight foothold. They soon attempted my extreme left and drove Gibbons's division from his line. His men had been much wearied in marching over to Gen. Miles and back during the repeated assaults. General Gibbons succeeded in forming a strong line, and the enemy, who were pressing on with great enthusiasm, were severely checked by the dismounted cavalry under General Gregg, which he handled handsomely. Miles regained most of his entrenchments, distinguishing himself. All he had to do was to work with such small parties as could be rallied and formed by his staff officers.

The fighting was continuous until dark, the enemy being held in check by artillery, dismounted cavalry and skirmishers. At dark we withdrew for the reasons stated. The Chief of Artillery reports that he lost about two hundred and fifty horses. The enemy made no advance up to a late hour last night, holding, as far as could be seen, some of our captured guns with their skirmish line. They must have suffered heavily. My own loss, including cavalry, will perhaps not exceed twelve or fifteen hundred, though this is a surmise, as the command is not yet organized. Captain Brownson, of my staff, was mortally wounded, dying during the night. Colonel Walker, Assistant Adjutant-General, is missing.

This is acknowledged to have been one of the most determined and desperate fights of the war, resembling Spotsylvania in its character, though the number engaged gives less importance to it. A few more good troops would have given a victory of considerable importance. I forward this forenoon prisoners from the field from Wilcox's Division. Major Angel of my Staff, saw and conversed with two prisoners of Mahone's Division last night. I do not find them this morning. They said Mahone's Division, with the exception of one Brigade, was there.

W. S. HANCOCK, Maj.-Gen. U. S. GRANT, Lieut.-Gen. The following is just received: SECOND CORPS—12:30 P. M., August 26, 1864. A safeguard that was left on the battle field remained there until after daylight this morning. At that time the enemy had all disappeared, leaving their dead on the field unburied. This shows how severely they were punished, and doubtless, hearing of the arrival of reinforcements, they feared the results to-day if they remained.

G. G. MEADE, Major-General. The following is just received: SECOND ARMY CORPS, Friday, Aug. 26, 1864—1 p. m. To Lieut.-Gen. GRANT: Since sending my last dispatch I have conversed with the safeguard referred to. He did not leave the field until after sunrise. At that time nearly all the enemy had left, moving towards Petersburg. He says they not only abandoned their dead, but their wounded also. He conversed with an officer, who said their losses were greater than ever before during the war.

The safeguard, says he was over the field, and it was covered with the enemy's dead and wounded. He has seen a great many battle fields, but never such a sight. Nearly all of the enemy's and all our wounded, were brought off, but our dead were unburied. I have instructed Gen. Gregg to make an effort to send a party to the field and bury our dead. G. G. MEADE, Maj.-Gen.

U. S. GRANT, Lieut.-Gen. Our forces hold the Weldon road, and in a dispatch dated 3 P. M. yesterday, Gen. Grant says that their loss of this road seems to be a blow to the enemy he cannot stand. I think I do not overstate the loss of the enemy in the last two weeks at 10,000 killed and wounded. We have lost heavily, but ours has been mostly in captured, when the enemy gained temporary advantages. The number of Rebel prisoners taken on our side has not yet been reported.

Gen. Grant makes the following report of an unsuccessful attack by the enemy: "Yesterday (Thursday) morning the enemy drove in Butler's picket line. The picket-guard soon rallied, however, drove the enemy back and re-established their line. The result was one killed, sixteen wounded and fourteen missing on our side. Two commanding officers and fifty-nine enlisted men were captured from the enemy. What their casualties were in killed and wounded we do not know."

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