

BRIEF PARAGRAPHS.—The New York Chamber of Commerce met on Thursday, and passed a series of resolutions in favor of a steadfast support of the U. S. government in the prosecution of the present war, and for the embodying and sending on of more troops.—The New York Herald, of yesterday evening, says the news from Gen. McClellan's army has produced a panic in Wall street—and that government stocks fell three to five per ct., &c. On yesterday there was a rally. The Herald says the merchants ought to call a meeting.—The conduct of the Orleans princes in quitting the U. S. army, and starting for Europe is variously commented on in the Northern papers.—The New York papers represent the feeling and excitement in the city of New York as most intense yesterday and the day before, in consequence of the recent war news.—We have but few exchange papers to-day, yesterday having been universally observed as a holiday.—A correspondent of the N. Y. Herald says that Gen. Jeff. Davis was at the house of Mrs. Price, just opposite Dr. Gaines', for three consecutive days before the battle of Thursday, in every case engaged in close consultation with Gen. Lee.—The N. Y. Post has opened its paper batteries upon Gen. McClellan, and calls for his removal—but most of the New York papers are warm in their praises of his skill and courage, and express their belief in his ultimate success.—The rumors concerning war movements fill the air, and are generally but air.—The National Intelligencer objects to General Hunter's course in relation to the negroes, and says he is not justified by any instructions he ever received.—The Boston Post informs us that a certain organ in Detroit has undertaken to pour out some foul abuse upon Gen. Sturgis, which will do no harm to the object assailed, but may recoil upon those engaged in such work.—Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson is reported as having received his death wound as he was riding in a charge—the ball passing through his head.—The New York World says that Gen. Fitz John Porter is one of the best generals, in every respect, in the U. S. service.—Mr. G. W. Rives (son of Wm. C. Rives, of Va.), now a citizen of Illinois, it is said in the newspapers has been disinherited by his father.—Massachusetts, it is said, has not yet furnished her quota of men under the law of Congress.—There are no Confederate cavalry now in Warrenton, Va.—There was no session of Congress yesterday, there being no quorum present.—The U. S. soldiers at Manassas and Catlett's Station celebrated the Fourth of July.—Several Union refugees from seceded States have been appointed to offices in Washington.—Several officers of the Confederate army, prisoners in Washington, have been released on parole.—Mr. C. H. James, clerk in the Census office, in Washington, died on Thursday.—The price of coal is advancing in Boston.—At the celebration of the Fourth in Baltimore, speeches were made by Gen. Wool and Mr. Segar; everything was quiet and orderly in the city.—It is reported that reinforcements from General Burnside are in James river for Gen. McClellan.—Accounts from Fredericksburg say that there is much distress there; a regiment raised in that place is said to have suffered much in the late battles before Richmond.

JOB PRINTING neatly and carefully executed at this office.

WAR NEWS.

General McClellan, in a dispatch dated Berkeley, Wednesday afternoon, states that he has succeeded in getting his army to that point, and was being reinforced by the troops sent from Washington. He also says that a severe battle was fought on Tuesday, resulting in the repulse of the Confederates. Berkeley is in Charles City county, ten miles below City Point, and thirty from Richmond as the crow flies, but about fifty miles following the windings of the river. There are various estimates of the losses sustained in the several engagements, the Press dispatch placing the joint casualties at forty-five thousand, of which fifteen thousand is given as the Federal loss, and the remaining thirty thousand as that of Confederates. The loss in officers is very severe on both sides. Generals McCall and Reynolds were wounded and taken prisoners and Generals Sumner, Heintzleman, Burnes, Gorman and Meade were also wounded, but were taken from the field. Of the Confederates it is reported that Gens. Jackson, of Virginia, and Rhett, of South Carolina, were killed. The report that Gen. Magruder was taken prisoner is not confirmed. The Confederates are supposed to have taken the most prisoners, five thousand being estimated as the number captured by them. Many prisoners were also captured by the Federal army, but they were found to be an incumbrance and were released, many of them making their way back to the Confederate lines. All the bridges were blown up by Gen. McClellan as he retreated, and such property and stores as could not be saved were destroyed. The Confederates are believed to have outnumbered the Federals in every engagement and always fighting with the greatest desperation.

A Richmond paper of Friday last contains a brief account of the battle of Thursday, generally corroborating the statements heretofore given, and claiming to have repulsed the Federal army, capturing three of their batteries.

On Saturday last three Federal gunboats, the Monitor, Stepping Stones and Island Belle, went up the Appomattox river for the purpose of destroying the railroad bridge at Petersburg. The officer of the boats found the water too shallow to allow them to accomplish their purpose. The Island Belle grounded, and to prevent her falling into the hands of the Confederates, she was burnt. Considerable firing took place between the boats and the batteries and the infantry on the shore, but no casualties on the Federal side are reported.

A dispatch from Com. Farragut says that he silenced the batteries below Vicksburg while his fleet was passing them, but was exposed to a raking fire afterwards. Commodores Farragut and Davis are now in communication.

It is reported that some Federal scouts were taken prisoners in North Alabama, and taken to Atlanta, Georgia, and hung. A party who arrived at Louisville yesterday is the authority, but it is not believed.

The Confederates in Mississippi make daily demonstrations on the different parts of the line of Gen. Halleck's army. On Tuesday a strong force made an attack on an advance guard at Brownville, but were compelled to retreat.

There was no public celebration of the 4th in Washington.

THE BATTLES BEFORE RICHMOND.

[From the Washington National Republican.]

During Saturday, there was no fighting of consequence. The force which had attacked our right wing, could not get across the Chickahominy in the face of our artillery, and in front of our centre and left they were not strong enough to attack our army in its intrenchments. During Saturday and Saturday night preparations were made for the retreat, which was commenced on Sunday morning by the army, the wagons having commenced their backward movement on Saturday.

On Sunday evening, there was a sharp fight at Savage Station.

On Monday there was a heavy battle at White Oak Swamp, which raged from noon to night. Our informant thinks it was as severe a battle as that of Friday, and that our loss was as great as at Fair Oaks. We were decidedly victorious, capturing some artillery and three thousand prisoners. Among them were Col. Lamar, ex-member of Congress from Mississippi, and Col. Pendleton, of Louisiana, late of Cincinnati. Our informant did not hear of the capture of Gen. Magruder.

On Tuesday, there was fighting, less severe, and principally by artillery, and on this day our forces were assisted by the gunboats.

Our informant does not think our loss in all the fighting exceeds fifteen thousand in killed, wounded and taken prisoners by the enemy, and he believes that the enemy's loss was far greater than our own. In most of the actions our army selected its own positions.

The enemy fought bravely, and even desperately, and seemed to be in overwhelming numbers. The canteens of all their men who fell into our hands were found to be well supplied with whisky.

Our men were in good spirits on Tuesday.—Gen. McClellan reports them so on the next day, (Wednesday.) Their victory of Monday was most important in that respect. But, although in good spirits, they were, of course, much exhausted by marching and fighting.

Our informant thinks that Gen. McClellan intends, when he says in his dispatch of Wednesday, that he had lost but one gun, to be understood as referring to siege guns. Our informant says we had lost several pieces of field artillery, but not more than we had taken.

When our informant left the army, it was at Turkey Island, fifteen miles from Richmond, "as the crow flies." From thence to Berkeley's Bar, where Gen. McClellan reports the army on Wednesday afternoon, is seven miles by land! By the river, the distance between the two places is fifteen miles.

If the Richmond papers represent their losses on Thursday and Friday at 25,000 men, which we doubt, they must have been in a state of panic. Their losses were doubtless large, but cannot have approached that figure.

We have no doubt that our informant is right in representing the battle of Friday as a serious defeat for us. We have understood it so all along, and there can be no imprudence in now admitting it, after the victory of Monday, and the assured safety of our army at Berkeley's Bar.

What our informant says as to the number of reinforcements which had passed Fortress Monroe down to 2 o'clock P. M. of Wednesday, we shall keep to ourselves, saying merely that our army is safe.

The N. Y. Herald says: "Six battles have been fought, and three hundred thousand men engaged. Twenty to thirty thousand of these are dead or bleeding attestations of the valor or desperation that animated them. A retreat, or rather a strategic movement, has transferred the scene of operations from the Chickahominy to a distant point, and all speculations based upon previous positions of the grand army are as vain as the conclusions based upon its present are bewildering."

Aldridge, "the African Roscius," has been very successful in his theatrical tour through Russia.