

**A DEADLY STORM OF IRON SHOT AND SHELL.**—Forming his men under cover of a small knoll in the rear of the town, skirmishers were deployed to the left, toward Hazel Dell; Sturgis, supporting at the same time, moved up, and rested on a point on the railroad. The moment they exposed themselves on the railroad forth burst the deadly hail. From the rifle pits came the murderously aimed missiles; from the batteries, tier above tier, on the terraces, shot planes of fire; from the enfilading cannon, distributed on the arc of a circle two miles in extent, came cross showers of shot and shell. Imagine, if you can, for my resources are unequal to the task of telling you, the situation of that gallant, but doomed division.

Across the plain for a while they swept under this fatal fire. They were literally mowed down. The bursting shells made great gaps in their ranks, but these are presently filled by the "closing up" of the line. For fifteen immortal minutes, at least, they remain under this fiery surge. Onward they press, though their ranks grow fearfully thin. They have passed over a greater portion of the interval and have almost reached the base of the hill, when brigade after brigade of Confederates rise up on the crest and pour in fresh volleys of musketry at short range. To those who, through the glass, looked on, it was a perilous sight indeed. Flesh and blood could not endure it. They fell back shattered and broken, amid shouts and yells from the enemy.

Gen. French's division went into the fight six thousand strong; late at night he told me he could count but fifteen hundred.

While the broken column retires to its original position in the outskirts of the town, to reform for a new encounter, we know what goes on on the left.—[Letter in N. Y. Times.]

The N. Y. Times has a long article against the bill recently passed by Congress admitting Western Virginia as a State, and concludes as follows: "We need but apply one touch-stone to the assumption of the people of Western Virginia. If they were recently the true and veritable government and people of the Commonwealth of Virginia, as they assumed, then they, having all the rights of the whole State, were under all its obligations and duties.—Among these obligations is a debt of \$45,000,000. The people of Western Virginia having, by their conduct, come under a liability for that entire debt, must see to it that it is paid."

Messrs. Crittenden, Hall and Crisfield, the committee appointed by the border State caucus, to wait on the President in regard to his emancipation policy, yesterday had an interview with President Lincoln. They maintain silence as to what transpired between the President and themselves, but from hints dropped by their friends, it is believed that the interview was unsatisfactory to them.

We learn that the charge under which Gen. Meredith is under arrest, is for failing to obey a particular order from Gen. Doubleday. His defence, is that three separate orders were brought to him by three of Gen. D.'s aids at the same moment, and he could not know which was the last one issued.

Mr. Joseph Thompson, first deputy U. S. marshal for New York, has been subpoenaed before the General Sessions grand jury to testify in an inquiry of charges against Edwin M. Stanton, esq., Secretary of War, and others.—It is supposed that the charges are for false arrests and the imprisonment of certain citizens in Fort Lafayette.

It is estimated that there are nearly 5,000 wounded yet to arrive in Washington.

**FROM THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.**

[From the Government Dispatches.]

HEADQUARTERS, Dec. 18, P. M.—Yesterday the Confederates sent, under a flag of truce, a request that we would bury our dead.

A burying party accordingly went over and continued their labors to-day. During the truce Col. Walton, chief of General Longstreet's artillery, informed some of our officers that the Confederate infantry force engaged on Sumner's front on Saturday was only two brigades, but that they had a large reserve near by. He said the Federals exhibited the greatest bravery, but he considered their position impregnable, and that a force of 500,000 would find it impossible to carry the heights in the face of their batteries.

The Confederate loss was small compared with ours, from the fact that they were protected by stonewalls and rifle pits. Our losses as heretofore reported, have been considerably decreased by arrivals of stragglers in camp.—The Confederates took nearly eight hundred prisoners from us, a considerable portion of whom were absent from their camps when we evacuated the south side of the river. The prisoners taken on both sides have been paroled.

It is stated that Generals Lee and Longstreet came down to-day and held a conversation with some of our officers.

The flag of truce was withdrawn to-night, after all our dead were buried.

The Philadelphia Press has the following:—"A scouting expedition which was sent out from Brownstown, Va., has just returned. They made a march of 160 miles in nine days; caused Floyd to retreat with his force across the Big Sandy to Pikeville, Kentucky; burned the town of Logan, with the residence of Floyd, his mills, and some adjoining farm buildings; destroyed an ordnance store of the Confederates at Wyoming, and a commissary store on the head of Island creek; broke up a gang of bushwhackers near Logan, and captured fifty head of cattle, forty horses, some arms, and thirty-seven prisoners."

The New York Times is informed that the printers have already furnished the Treasury with \$222,000,000, of demand notes, in denominations of one, two, five, ten, twenty, fifty, one hundred, five hundred, and one thousand dollar bills. Of the postal or fractional currency, nearly four millions have been supplied. Of the notes, larger and smaller, still forthcoming from the presses of the contractors, there are thirty millions above one dollar to be delivered, and some forty-six millions below that denomination; making a deficit at this moment of seventy six millions of dollars.

Upon the request of certain Union citizens of Berkeley, Jefferson, Frederick, Hampshire and Clarke counties, in Virginia, Colonel Lamont, a native of that section, has applied to Gov. Pierpont to order an election for Congress, in that Congressional district, before the 1st day of January.

A private letter from a person attached to the Mississippi Gunboat Fleet, written only thirty miles above Vicksburg, on the 3d inst., states that the gunboats were to be concentrated at the mouth of the Yazoo River, twelve miles below "Island 100," while the army were to mass at some point above, and march across the country to Yazoo City, which place is but a few miles back of Vicksburg, so as to make the attack simultaneously.

**LADIES' DRESS FURS.**—Just opened, an extensive and well-assorted stock of LADIES' and CHILDREN'S DRESS and FANCY FURS, made expressly for our retail trade, by our house in New York, and warranted to be the best in this market.

We especially call the attention of purchasers to our **Russian Sable, Martin, Fitch, Mink, Siberian Squirrel, and American and Canadian Furs**, consisting in Ladies' and Children's Tippets, Capes, Mantles, new style of Fur Collars, and Gentlemen's Mufflers.

We defy all competition in this line. At the same time we bring in remembrance our stock of **Ladies' Cloaks and Mantles, Dress Goods**, and general stock of **DRY GOODS**, which is daily increased with the newest and choicest patterns of fashion.

Furs from the country will be bought, both for export and manufacturing, at the highest market prices.

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**CORN MEAL AND HORSE FEED,** which will be sold, in quantities to suit purchasers, at the lowest market price. nov 17—3m DELAHAY & BROWN.

F. G. SWAINE & CO.

HAVE just received a full and choice supply of **Family Groceries**, to which they invite the attention of their friends and the public generally. Call and examine before purchasing elsewhere.

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CORNER PITT AND PRINCE STREETS, HAS constantly on hand, Nos. 1, 2 and 3 **H. Mackerel**, in barrels, half barrels, and kits; **Salmon, Potomac Herring, Smoked Halibut, Smoked Herring, and Smoked Beef.** Also, a choice brand of **Sugar Cured Hams**, for family use; **Shoulders and Breasts**, and a general assortment of goods for family supplies. Call and examine. dec 2

**FURS! FURS!! FURS!!!**—Just received, a large and well-assorted stock of **LADY'S FURS**, which will be sold low for cash. Ladies Capes and Muffs made and repaired at the shortest notice.

Also, a large assortment of Gentlemen's **SOFT HATS, CAPS, &c.**, constantly on hand. JOHN T. EVANS. dec 1—1m No. 80 King street.

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