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THE SIEGE OF VICKSBURG.

CINCINNATI, June 4.—The advices from Vicksburg are to the 30th of May.

For several days previous quiet prevailed along the lines, broken only by occasional cannonading.

The Commercial's a dispatch, dated 30th, says: "Spades are once more trumps. We are erecting earthworks to protect our men, and are mining to blow the face out of one or two of the Confederate forts that are unapproachable otherwise. The idea of carrying the place by storm seems to be abandoned. The safer and surer plan of starving Gen. Pemberton into submission now finds favor everywhere." A deserter came in this morning.—He represents that he was sent by General Pemberton to communicate verbally with Gens. Johnston and Loring. The former is supposed to be between the Big Black River and Jackson. The latter was near Port Gibson. He represents affairs in the city as growing desperate. About eight thousand effective men are there, two-thirds of whom are kept on the fortifications night and day, and not allowed to leave an instant on any pretext. Gens. Pemberton, Lee, Reynolds, Stevenson and others are in the city. Most of the sick left the city before its investment. Those who remain have excavated caves and remain in them night and day. Valuable merchandise in the city is also stored in caves from fear of conflagration. The poor are generally in their houses. Over one hundred women and children have been killed by the bombardment.—The gunboats inflict no injury on the city.—Gen. Pemberton believed that his rations would hold out thirty days, but urged Johnston to come to his relief within ten days at the furthest. Cavalry horses have been turned loose and driven towards the lines, owing to the lack of forage. There was ammunition enough to last sixty days, with the single exception of gur-caps. These were scarce.—All confidently expected superhuman efforts to be made by those outside to raise the siege.—They consider Vicksburg the strongest place in the Confederacy. Gen. Blair has met no Confederates in force, and the reports of Johnston being near is disbelieved. A cavalry reconnoissance three days ago discovered a small force, and had one man killed and four wounded. Gen. Banks, with reinforcements, is reported near there, but like many other rumors, it may have little foundation in fact.—This morning the heaviest cannonading of the siege was kept up without intermission for nearly three hours. New batteries have lately been put in position, and one hundred and fifty guns are now playing on the city. At daylight this morning the firing was rapid beyond belief. The reports of the guns along the whole line averaged one per second for minutes together. The roar of the heavy siege guns was awful, and the earth was shaken by the concussion. The roads and camps are uncommonly dusty. The wounded are removed to hospital boats in large numbers and transported to Memphis.

CHICAGO, June 5.—A special dispatch from the rear of Vicksburg, dated May 31, says the bombardment continues.

All the guns in position opened fire at midnight, and continued the fire until daylight.—The rapidity of the firing was unparalleled. It is believed great damage was inflicted. Twelve Confederates were captured at daylight yesterday morning endeavoring to run the Feder-

al pickets and get into the city. Two hundred thousand percussion caps were found in their possession.

One boy, came out of the city ten days ago. He took the oath of allegiance, and was allowed to go to his home, five miles back.—He will probably be condemned as a spy.

Gen. Johnston was reported on Monday moving towards Jackson, but not in force sufficient to attack us.

CAIRO, June 5.—The dispatch boat General Lyon, from Vicksburg on Monday night, has arrived.

Firing was kept up all of Monday. General Sherman's troops, on the right wing, could be seen in motion.

When the General Lyon left at midnight, a conflagration was going on in the city. Some supposed that the shells had set the buildings on fire, while others were conjecturing that the Confederate were destroying supplies preparatory to surrendering. General Grant's numbers and position will be absolutely impregnable in a few days. The steamers Chancellor and Atlantic, loaded with troops, when near Island No. 52, on Wednesday, were fired on by guerrillas from the Mississippi shore. One captain and two privates were killed and several wounded.

The Election in Virginia.

[From the Richmond Dispatch, May 30.]

The State elections will probably, many of them, remain in doubt for some time. The choice of Governor, from the returns received, lies between Messrs. Smith and Flournoy. The result must be settled by the army vote, and it will be some time before it can be received. So it is with reference to the Lieutenant-Governor, for which Messrs. Price and Imboden are the leading candidates. Several of the Congressional Districts are left in the same situation. The army has the casting vote.—For Congress, Messrs. Wickham, in the Richmond District, and Collier, in the Petersburg District, have such majorities as to settle the question and fix them as the Representatives elect. Mr. Bocoek had no opposition in the Buckingham District, and Mr. Rives none in the Albemarle District. In the Augusta District the contest between General Baldwin and Gov. Letcher has been very animated; perhaps the most excited in the election. This may be kept in doubt, also by the army vote.

In the Montgomery District the contest is also likely to be close. Mr. Edmondson, for so many years the representative in the Federal Congress opposes Mr. Staples the member of the last Confederate Congress. Walter Preston, member from the Abingdon District is opposed by the famous Fayette McMullen, who has been canvassing industriously for the position. In the district composed of Caroline &c., which now includes Culpeper, Messrs. James Barbour Jr. and Dejarnette are the candidates. The other districts are entirely in the hands of refugees and soldiers in the army. In the Winchester District, Mr. Boteler, the present representative, was opposed by Col. Halliday. Shenandoah and Hardy counties are the only counties in the district in which polls could be held.

Mr. J. Disturnell, of New York, is preparing for publication a new and valuable work on the Great Lakes, or Inland Seas of North America.

The Democrats of Illinois will meet in mass convention at Springfield, on the 17th instant, "for the purpose of deliberating upon the state of the country."

Reports from the Army of the Potomac.

[From the Baltimore American.]

"We learn from a gentleman who left Aquia Creek yesterday afternoon that it was reported there by parties who came down from Fal-mouth that the Confederates had evacuated Fredericksburg, and it was supposed were moving towards Gordonsville. The story, as it reached our informant, upon whom we can rely as repeating truly what he heard, is as follows:

"The first train which came down to the Creek yesterday morning from headquarters, brought a report that it was believed that the Confederates had left Fredericksburg, and a pontoon bridge was being thrown across the river by General Hooker, in order to make a reconnoissance. Passengers by the second train stated that the Federal Cavalry had advanced across the river, found the heights above Fredericksburg entirely abandoned, and that when they left the U. S. colors were floating over Fredericksburg. The passengers by a later train confirmed the story, and said that Gen. Hooker had thrown a considerable force across the river. The general impression was that the Confederates had moved towards Gordonsville, as for some days past they have massed considerable forces at the United States and other fords higher up the river. Our informant on his way up in the boat, conversed with a number of persons who had come immediately from the front, all of whom agreed substantially in the statement that the Confederates had gone somewhere, bag and baggage, and that Fredericksburg and the heights beyond were in Federal possession.

"We give the story simply as it reaches us, with the remark that while it seems well substantiated there is still a possibility that it may be either wholly incorrect or an exaggeration of some minor movements on the part of the Federals or that of the Confederates. The gentleman who brings the information is well known to us as one who would not knowingly spread a false report."

The Baltimore Sun says:—Information was received in Washington yesterday that Gen. Lee was massing his forces at United States Ford on the Rappahannock, apparently either to attempt a crossing there or to make a feint for a crossing elsewhere.

It appears from scientific investigation that the salt deposit at New Iberia, Louisiana, is of the most extensive and wonderful description. For vastness and purity it is unequalled on the globe.

Additional charges have been filed against the New York Police Commissioners, and Gov. Seymour has given them until the 13th instant to make written answers to the same.—He will then order their trial.

The Adjutant General of Kentucky has issued an appeal to the people of the State to fill up the twenty regiments for home defence authorized by act of the U. S. Congress.

The number of contrabands brought off by Col. Kilpatrick in his late raid, has been exaggerated in the newspaper reports, there being but about four hundred instead of a thousand as stated. Most of the men were stopped at Aquia Creek, where they were set to work in the commissaries' and quartermaster's department, while the women and children were sent to the contraband camp.