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WAR NEWS.

Officers recently arrived in Washington from the front report that no movement whatever has taken place in either Gen. Meade's or Gen. Lee's army, beyond the occasional skirmishing in which the cavalry are daily engaged. The position of both armies is unchanged.

The various regiments of the Army of the Potomac are said to be fast filling up with recruits. Three deserters were shot a few days since. Gen. Lee is reported to be receiving large reinforcements.

In accordance with an order from General Heintzleman, Col. Swain, of "Scott's 900," on Friday night, sent a detachment of three cavalry companies to reconnoitre on the line of the Chesapeake and Ohio canal. By Saturday noon they had made a circuit of forty miles and captured seventeen Confederate soldiers, with their horses and equipments.—These compose the party that recently took from the canal company its best horses, burned the boats, &c. The prisoners have been brought to Washington.

On Saturday last, Col. Baker placed a detachment of his men in ambush, at Seneca Falls, and soon after a party of Confederates made their appearance there. The Federals rose and fired rapidly, when the Confederates quickly withdrew, but soon returned and a second time retreated. Lieut. Clagett, of the Confederates, was killed by a rifle ball, at a distance of near a thousand yards. Some prisoners, it is said, were taken by Col. Baker's detachment.

Eleven recruits yesterday leaped from the cars while the latter were moving toward Warrenton and succeeded for a time at least in making their escape. A party was subsequently despatched in pursuit of them. Comparatively few of this class of soldiers manage to get beyond the military lines, as scouts are out in all directions to intercept them.

The Bombardment at Charleston.

[Correspondence of the New York Herald.]

MORRIS ISLAND, August 20.—From one end of the lines to the other the guns are pouring their fire against the devoted gorge wall.—But, though the effect of the projectiles is all that could be desired or expected, the gorge wall obstinately stands. Enough of the masonry yet remains to keep it persistently upright. It refuses to come down till eaten piece by piece away. That the Confederates who constitute its garrison mean to maintain their tenure to the last moment, is evident from the manner in which they are piling sand bags into the aperture; from their spiteful fire against our iron-clads whenever they approach; from the steady flow of shot and shell from Fort Johnston and the James Island batteries; from the angry volleys of grape and canister and

spherical case which Wagner vomits forth, and from the defiant flaunting of the blood-red battle flag of the "Confederate States Army" from every flag staff visible in their lines. We have no task of an hour before us, and the public must not be impatient yet to learn of the reduction of Fort Sumter.

Undoubtedly advantage will be taken by certain parties here of the first opportunity to send North the most highly colored and exaggerated reports of the operations since the beginning of the attack upon Fort Sumter.—There are not wanting among us those who think a practicable breach effected in its walls, and who grumble because it is not carried by assault. They are of the same party who imagine that, because the beauty of Fort Wagner is destroyed, the regularity of its parapet broken and its sharp angles obliterated, the work is no longer formidable as an obstacle to our advance.

Fort Sumter enjoys as much immunity from assault as if her fair outlines had never been disturbed. Wagner is to-day as strong as when this end of Morris Island was occupied by the Federal forces—stronger, perhaps; for its garrison has been increased, and whenever a gun has been disabled another has been mounted. To military minds, the idea of assaulting Fort Sumter, after a three days' bombardment at a distance of thirty-five hundred to four thousand yards, is simply ridiculous. The possession of Wagner and Gregg is essential to our occupation of Sumter. Operations looking to their possession have not been lost sight of, nor for a moment suspended. We will have them and Fort Sumter with them in due time.

The iron-clads moved up abreast of Fort Sumter last evening, but retired without firing a shot. The heavy ocean swell washed into their port holes as they were opened, and destroyed all accuracy in the elevation of their guns.

The furious wind of the past three days has partially subsided, though, as I write, the Monitors are doing nothing. Perhaps they will be able during the day to get a few shots into Gregg and Wagner.

Large fatigue parties were at work at the front last night, mounting more guns. The heaviest pieces, though in position and trained up on the fort, have, up to the present hour, reserved their fire. Why this delay in opening from them I hardly know, unless it is intended only to make them available after the gorge shall have fallen, when the heaviest work is to be done.

The transport steamer New Brunswick lies stranded upon the bar, driven on by the gale. It is scarcely probable that she will be got off again. Her stores will be taken out of her by lighters.

Three Confederate prisoners, who escaped from Fort Delaware, were arrested in Harford County, and sent to Fort McHenry.

The State of Massachusetts now employs a Commissioner to pass over the route from Washington to New York daily, to accompany New England soldiers, discharged or furloughed, and protect them from extortioners.

The order of the War Department is imperative that passes cannot be given to females to visit the Army of the Potomac.

The receipts for internal revenue for nine months are about forty-four millions.

FROM TENNESSEE.

STEVENSON, Ala., Aug. 23.—The advance of the army of the Cumberland appeared in front of Chattanooga on the 21st, and opened fire on the city.

The Confederates replied from nineteen guns, mostly small ones, and did little damage, but also with one 33 pounder, which swept the opposite shore.

The Federal fire was very destructive, and every battery which opened on them was disabled.

Col. Sibley threw shells with great precision into the embrasures of the Confederate works.

The works of the Confederates on the river are reported as being very strong, the parapets being not less than fifteen feet wide. Several water batteries on a level with the river have been discovered.

Moored at the wharf in the city were ten steamers, and opposite the city a pontoon bridge of forty-seven boats. The largest steamer was sunk by the Federal fire, and the smallest one disabled. An attempt to destroy the pontoon bridge was frustrated by the sharpshooters.

Forty Confederate prisoners were taken, two killed and several wounded. A train of wagons and the mules of one battery grazing on the sides of the river were captured.

The advance reports two divisions at Chattanooga, and Hul's (late Hardee's) corps along the railroad in the direction of Bridgeport.

Contrabands report that Johnston arrived with troops on the 20th inst., superseding Bragg, who has retired to Atlanta. This last statement is corroborated by citizens.

No Confederate infantry is north of the river. Storm's brigade of cavalry is in the vicinity of Smith's Cross Roads. Forest is at Kingston, preparing for a raid.

Eleven deserters from the First Louisiana Cavalry came into Gen. Negley's lines last night. They report A. P. Hill and Polk's corps at Chattanooga. They say the demoralization of the Confederate army is complete, 3,000 deserters being on Lookout mountain, waiting for the advance.

The furloughed men of Pemberton's army are coming into the lines, and say that army can never be got together again. Seven deserters from one company came in in a body on the 20th inst.

Bragg's army will go to pieces if again attacked.

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 24.—The following information has been received here:

STEVENSON, Ala., Aug. 23.—Wilder crossed the Tennessee last night, and burned the small railroad bridge near Shelbourn; thus severing the communication between the Confederate right and left. In view of the impracticability of a common road, this is an important affair.

The Federal force secured the ferry-boat and two barges and brought them to the city. It was the burning of this bridge which was thought to be the destruction of the steamer Point Rock, which boat escaped, reaching Chattanooga on Thursday.

Important event must soon transpire in the vicinity of Chattanooga and Harrison's.

There are now at Cape May, it is stated, about six thousand visitors.