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The Position of the Army of the Potomac.

General Meade having again arrived at Culpeper, the reader will naturally be anxious to learn the nature of the country which will be the scene of future operations. From the Orange Railroad crossing, the Rappahannock river runs southeast to Fredericksburg. The distance between them is about thirty miles.—Twelve miles above Fredericksburg, the Rapidan falls into the Rappahannock. The course of this latter river is east northeast. The Orange Railroad, after crossing the Rappahannock, runs southwest, ten miles, to Culpeper, and then south, ten miles further, to the Rapidan. Culpeper is the base of future operations, and the end Meade has in view is to push forward along the Orange Railroad, twenty-five miles, to Gordonsville. The Confederates, however, are well posted to resist this. Southwest from Culpeper, fifteen miles, is Madison Court House. General Meade's extreme right will rest on this town; his centre will be in advance of Culpeper a few miles, and his left rest on the Rapidan, east of Culpeper. In front of Madison Court House is a high range of hills, which runs due east till it crosses the Rapidan and approaches Fredericksburg. This is the Confederate stronghold, and Cedar Mountain, the highest of them, is 8 miles south of Culpeper. Gen. Meade, therefore, can permanently occupy Madison Court House and the lower fords of the Rapidan, and still not be able to assail the Confederate's position.—Gen. Pope did this in his day, and even went south of Cedar Mountain with his reconnoissances as far as Orange Court House. Every one who has ever viewed the Confederate's line of defence, represents it as a very strong one. General Pope when he advanced against this river last year, had a force of forty-seven thousand men at his command, and he was supported by such officers as Sigel and Banks.—Yet he failed most miserably in the attack.—General Meade, more cautious and sensible in every way than his predecessor, will find a tough job before him with an army scarcely ten thousand stronger. The most he can do will be to linger at Culpeper or to go to Fredericksburg by a movement to the left.—[N. Y. Express.

Dispatches from Washington State that it has been ascertained that there are now over two thousand Confederate officers prisoners at Johnson's Island, Sandusky Bay, with forty-two others classed as guerillas and spies. In consequence of suspicions being aroused that these prisoners contemplated a combined movement for the purpose of making their escape, precautionary measures have been taken by the U. S. government to defeat the object. Among the measures adopted is the ordering of a gunboat to the vicinity of Sandusky city.

The Richmond papers of Wednesday morning, received yesterday at Fortress Monroe, state that the Confederate steamer Cornubia was captured on the morning of the 8th, by the blockading fleet whilst coming into Wilmington. The steamer Banshee narrowly escaped.

Jefferson and Berkeley counties, Va., have both by act of the Legislature at Wheeling been annexed to West Virginia.

FROM CHARLESTON.

FORTRESS MONROE, Nov. 12.—The Richmond Whig, of November 11, contains the following:

CHARLESTON, Nov. 9.—Slow firing has been going on all day on Fort Sumter. Fifty-eight rifled shot were fired from Battery Gregg last night, all directed at the southwest angle.—Sixty rifled shots were fired to-day, and twenty-five monitor shells, of which seven missed. The whole number of shot and shell fired at Sumter during the bombardment amounts to 9,346, of which 7,700 have struck. One monitor only was in action to-day. No casualties.

CHARLESTON, Nov. 10.—The enemy continues firing slowly. No report from the fort this morning.

CHARLESTON, Nov. 10.—The firing on Fort Sumter from Battery Gregg to-day was at intervals of half an hour. Two monitors came up and fired thirty shots. No new movements.

In Washington, yesterday, a considerable quantity of beef and pork was offered for sale at the scalehouse, Center Market. The quality was very good, and the beef was selling at \$7@7.50 per 100 lbs.; and the pork at \$8.50@\$10, according to the size of the hog.

The report of privateers on Lake Erie turns out to be a hoax. A telegram from Sandusky says that the author of the dispatch to the Philadelphia papers has seen considerably more than any one in that vicinity.

On account of the existence in U. S. vessels of some cases of yellow fever and of other diseases incident to climate in the lower Mississippi, it has been determined to send said vessels up the river for hygienic purposes, and their places are to be temporarily supplied by vessels that have been serving in the healthy latitudes.

The Washington Star of yesterday evening says:—"From information received at the U. S. Postoffice Department, we learn that on the 2d instant the Confederates made a dash on the railroad near Mayfield, Kentucky, and captured the train and destroyed it, together with all the mail matter. The agent giving the information thinks it will be some time before the road will be able to resume operations.

The Baltimore Sun says:—"The next Senate of Maryland will be composed of nineteen Union men and three democrats, and the House of Delegates of fifty-six Union men and eighteen democrats. There is a decided majority in both houses in favor of the call of a Constitutional State Convention. The advocates of emancipation claim twenty majority in the House, and a small majority in the Senate, where it requires twelve votes to pass a bill.

Geo. W. Lane, United States District Judge of Alabama, died in Louisville yesterday of congestion of the lungs.

The St. Louis Republican's Cairo (!) special says a dispatch from Eastport, Mississippi, dated the 7th instant, states that General Lee commands at Chattanooga, that Bragg has been sent to Mobile, and that Longstreet has been left in command of Virginia.

[COMMUNICATED.]

I do not remember quite so far back as sixty years ago, but I do remember the Alexandria Theatre, on Cameron street, when it was "in all its glory." It was described, I think, accurately, in the papers of the "Old Batchelor," which met with so much favor, a year or so ago. Over the stage was a medallion of Washington, with the motto, "He saved all who saved the States." It was the neatest, the most comfortable, and the best arranged Theatre I ever was in. I have seen it filled from "basement to dome," and crowded with the beauty and fashion of Alexandria and the surrounding country, to witness the performances of the best actors in America. The other night I was asked by a friend to accompany him to a place of public amusement now open here, and reluctantly consented to go.—The house was filled. In that large audience there was not one single person, except my friend who sat next to me, whose features I recognized, or who I believe was a citizen of this place three years ago! What a change. "Sic transit gloria," &c., &c. "The places that knew them once know them no more."
T. T.

The Washington Chronicle says that the negroes employed in the anchor shop at the Washington Navy Yard, have struck for higher wages, demanding \$1.75 instead of \$1.50, which they have heretofore been receiving. Their demands were not acceded to, and twenty nine of them were discharged.

The wharf property at the corner of the Canal and Market space, Georgetown, has been sold for \$10,000.

The Washington Star thinks that the number of prostitutes in Washington does not exceed 5,000. But in addition there are a number of females "sailing under false colors, who manage to quarter themselves at respectable hotels and boarding houses."

The official Army Gazette says that the intimation made in several of the daily newspapers that the U. S. Secretary of War has communicated through the Adjutant General a modification of the order in reference to the discharge of minors from military service by the civil courts is founded in error. No such modification has been made or communicated.

Brigadier General Canby, who since about the middle of July, has been in command of the United States troops in the city and harbor of New York, has been relieved, and ordered to Washington. Brigadier General Stannard, who has been in command of Fort Richmond, Sandy Hook, and the defenses on that side of the harbor, succeeded General Canby. The staff of General Canby will be turned over to his successor.

The U. S. War Department has decided not to permit the raising of negro cavalry regiments. Gen. Birney it is said favored the idea strongly.

Brandy City, California, has been nearly destroyed by fire.