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SOUTHERN NEWS.

FROM THE ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA.

The following is the address of General Lee to his troops when expecting an engagement with Gen. Meade:

HQ'RS. ARMY NORTHERN VIRGINIA.
November 26, 1863 }

General Orders, No. 102:

The enemy is again advancing upon our capital, and the country once more looks to this army for its protection. Under the blessings of God your valor has repelled every previous attempt, and, invoking the continuance of His favor, we cheerfully commit to Him the issue of the coming conflict.

A cruel enemy seeks to reduce our fathers and our mothers, our wives and our children, to abject slavery; to strip them of their property and drive them from their homes. Upon you these helpless ones rely to avert the terrible calamities, and secure to them the blessings of liberty and safety. Your past history gives them the assurance that their trust will not be in vain. Let every man remember that all he holds dear depends upon the faithful discharge of his duty, and resolve to fight, and, if need be, to die, in defence of a cause so sacred and worthy—the name won by this army on so many bloody fields.

R. E. LEE, General,

ORANGE COURT HOUSE, December 2.

The enemy retreated during the night.—Pursuit was made this morning, but he had recrossed the Rapidan. A few prisoners were captured.

R. E. LEE, General.

ORANGE COURT HOUSE, December 3.—

The enemy have recrossed the Rapidan to Culpeper by the fords as they came, without a fight. One hundred prisoners go to Richmond to-night.

Nothing was left by the enemy in his retreat. The whole army was on this side of the river. Five hundred prisoners were captured during this raid.

ORANGE COURT HOUSE, December 4.—Two hundred and fifty more prisoners were received last night by our cavalry in pursuit of the enemy, representing five corps of infantry and three divisions of cavalry.

Our scouts report that the enemy's infantry have fallen back to Fauquier, behind the Rapidan, leaving only cavalry in Culpeper. They burned and destroyed everything in the country occupied by them on this side of the river, reducing the inhabitants to beggary.

FROM EAST TENNESSEE.

ATLANTA, Dec. 4.—A special to the Intelligencer, dated Dalton, December 4th, says that General Ledbetter arrived yesterday from Knoxville, which point he left last Sunday.—General Longstreet had, the same day, made an unsuccessful attack on Burnside, and afterwards commenced retreating to Virginia.—Hooker and Sigel's corps are reported advancing on Knoxville and Loudoun, and will probably follow Longstreet or enter North Carolina. Firing was heard yesterday in the direction of Cleveland, which was supposed to be from Wheeler's cavalry. The rumor yesterday that the Confederate cavalry had advanced to Ring-

gold, was without foundation. Lieutenant J. D. Tabb and Captain Barnes, of the Signal corps, deserted and went over to the enemy previous to the late battle. The report that Grant's headquarters are at Ringgold is untrue.

DALTON, Dec. 4.—The latest accounts represent that Longstreet, with a portion of his command, made an unsuccessful attack on Knoxville. His loss was very small. He then raised the siege, marching towards Abingdon, Va. General Bushrod Johnson had succeeded in effecting a junction with Longstreet, without the loss of his supply train, as previously reported.

General Vaughn, with his command, and one of Cheatham's regiments, was at Charleston, Tenn., trying to make his way to North Carolina.

DALTON, Dec. 2.—General Bragg has been relieved by the President at his own request. He was serenaded last night by the band of the 4th Florida brigade, and, being called out, said that he accepted, with grateful and heartfelt thanks, the compliment tendered. The associations long existing between them would cease to-morrow, when he would leave them.

General Bate was called for, and made a most beautiful allusion to the career of General Bragg, ending with the assurance that, with union and harmony, Tennessee would next spring be restored. Both generals were vociferously cheered, and the greatest enthusiasm prevailed.

Generals Breckinridge and Hardee were also serenaded, and made appropriate speeches.

A corps of fifteen thousand Federal troops passed through Cleveland yesterday on their way to Benton.

The report in the Savannah Republican of the desertion of Col. Hollonquist, of Gen. Bragg's staff, is basely false. He acted most gallantly at Chattanooga as chief of artillery.

Nothing official from Gen. Longstreet.

DALTON, TENN., Dec. 2, 1863.—The enemy have fallen back across the Chattanooga, destroying everything on their route, including railroad track and bridges. Their loss was heavy in their attack on our rear-guard under Gen. Cleburn.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, December 3.—There has been no more shelling of the city since Monday.—The mortar shelling of Sumter has been continued all day from Cummings' Point. Our batteries on Jame's Island and Gregg continue to keep up an artillery duel.

CHARLESTON, December 4.—A slow fire has been kept up to-day from Gregg and Cummings' Point, alternately on Sumter, Sullivan, and James Islands. No casualties have been reported. The enemy have not renewed their firing on the city.

General Beauregard and Col. Rhett visited Sumter last night, when the band mounted the parapet and played "Dixie" and other tunes for about an hour. The Yankees ceased firing while the music was going on.

They are mounting more guns on Wagner, bearing on the city, and have also unmasked a new battery.

MISCELLANEOUS.

JACKSON, MISS., Dec. 4.—The enemy's cavalry crossed the Big Black yesterday, moving towards Canton.

MILLEDGEVILLE, Dec. 4.—The Senate has postponed indefinitely, by a large majority, the bill restricting the planting of cotton to one acre. The Legislature will adjourn on the 12th.

The Richmond Enquirer of the 5th says:—'The escape of our gallant raider, Morgan, together with his staff, and their safe arrival

upon neutral ground, will delight every Confederate in the land. The base and cowardly outrages inflicted on that distinguished officer in the Ohio penitentiary ought to be remembered and avenged.

THE ALLEGED FRAUDS AT ALEXANDRIA.

—A correspondent writes from Alexandria:—
"On Friday evening, Captain Todd, by order of the U. S. Secretary of War, visited Alexandria and arrested Captain Stoddard and his chief clerk, Mr. Cary, lodging them in the Old Capitol on Sunday morning about four o'clock. Captain Todd again visited Alexandria and arrested Captain C. B. Ferguson, quartermaster U. S. A., and chief of that department in that city, and also Mr. Roland, his private clerk. A guard has been placed on his department, no one being allowed to enter, the keys, documents &c., having been sent to Washington.—[Wash. Chron.]

The National Intelligencer of this morning says:—"On Friday night Capt. Wm. Stoddard, a quartermaster at Alexandria, was arrested, by order of the Secretary of War, and lodged in the Old Capitol prison. On Saturday night Capt. Ferguson, the chief quartermaster at Alexandria, was also arrested and sent to the Old Capitol. Subsequently another Capt. Stoddard and Capt. Casey, and several subordinate inspectors have been arrested. The charge against these officers is, as we learn, a participation in frauds upon the Government in the furnishing of supplies to the Army of the Potomac. The amount of which the Government has been thus defrauded is stated at a very large sum— from half a million to a million of dollars.— The frauds, it is said, consisted principally in large purchases of "mixed grain"—that is, oats and corn so compounded that the Government is cheated out of twenty cents on every bushel. It is further stated that large frauds in purchases of lumber and of horses for the Army of the Potomac have also been discovered, and that other persons are expected to be arrested."

The New York World, in defence of Gen. Meade, says:—"It is idle to blame General Meade for not taking Richmond by the overland route. It is simply impossible to do so. The James and York rivers are the proper lines of military approach. The country beyond the Rapidan is singularly susceptible of defense, and General Meade found that not only on that river, but beyond it, the Confederates had works constructed, he dared not run the risk of attacking."

The New York Herald has the following Mexican news:—"The French have occupied Queretaro, and are marching on Manquato and San Luis. Juarez has removed to Zacatecas. Uruga has been appointed Mexican commander-in-chief, and is preparing to take the field. The disunion in the councils of the generals, according to the French accounts, betokens a gradual breaking up of the Mexican plans of resistance."

The Heads of the Washington Departments visited the Russian fleet yesterday, and were received with the usual honors, on board the flagship, by the Russian Legation and Admiral Lisovski and the officers of the fleet.

The clamor against Gen. Meade in certain quarters at the North, continues to increase.