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EDGAR SNOWDEN, JR.

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## GRANT'S CHANGE OF BASE.

[From the Richmond Examiner, May 24th.]

When General Lee moves his army after a lost battle, for the purpose of getting away from his antagonist, because he finds himself unable to maintain a struggle of brute force with him, he will have retreated. But if either party has done that, it is certainly Grant—Lee followed him from the Wilderness; he is now the last to move and is pursuer, not pursued from Spottsylvania. It is true that by both movements these armies have been brought nearer to Richmond; but for Lee it was rendered necessary by the configuration of the soil and the lines of those rivers which he had resolved to defend. They have their sources remote from the city, approach it in their course, and empty their waters in the neighboring York. But for Grant it was choice. He is where he now is because he could not pass over the road of his first and second choice. He might have come to Spottsylvania by travelling along the straight road from Washington to Fredericksburg through Stafford without firing a shot or losing a man. He might have arrived at Milford or Bowling Green from Port Royal or Tappahannock without the slaughter of his troops in the Wilderness or at the Court House. He might have come still nearer. He might have come to the Plough Tree, within eleven miles of Richmond, without an engagement with General Lee. He might have come up the Peninsula, perhaps to Fair Oaks, and joined hands with Butler on the south side, as some still expect him to do and this he will doubtless proclaim in the end, to have been the object of all his circuitous route. By each of these ways of advance he would have brought General Lee from the Rapidan nearer to Richmond. He did not take them because there were dangers and defects. He preferred the first and the second before the third, and this before the fourth.—That he abandoned after trial, the two first is due to two clear defeats in battle.

So far from losing ground Lee has gained manifest advantages by each change of the lines. It is easier to defend that portion of his line which is near to Richmond than that which was far removed from it. He is far better situated now than at Spottsylvania Court House, and that was better than the Wilderness. In either place his supplies, stores and reinforcements had to come up from Richmond. The country has been long since scared and beaten into a desert by the duns and trappings of three invasions.—From the railroads to his camp weary miles of red mud were always interposed by every shower. His cavalry is notoriously defective and has always proven inefficient to protect his communications at those moments when most needed. While operating on the lower rivers all of these troubles are over. A few hours give him his supplies. The roads can no longer be severed with impunity. The difficulties under which he has labored are transferred to the score of the enemy. Perhaps a conviction that it would be so was the reason which made Grant prefer to encounter Lee in the Wilderness, instead of coming straight to Milford.

Considering the whole facts we think the time has come when Confederates may exchange congratulations. No reflecting man can doubt that the general situation is very much improved since the day when Grant crossed the Rapidan and Butler landed at Bermuda Hundred. That was indeed a critical moment.—The Confederate Government had been well warned of the concentration against Richmond. It was half convinced of its reality. But it was only half belief; an idea rather theoretical than practical. It was just enough moved to render it active in recruiting the divisions which Lee had with him on the Rapidan. It was not satisfied of the truth as to collect all the divisions of Lee's army in the place, or even in the State. It made no unusual collection in Virginia. But throughout the winter the enemy marched up his men from every quarter of the United States to the outer lines of Virginia. Fully determined to make the blow decisive he spared no cost or means—acted without regard to future campaigns. Uninterrupted by any disturbing cause, he placed his armies in positions whence they could be brought upon vital points of attack in a few hours of movement.

When all was quite ready, and the roads entirely dry, the signal was given, and the two masses of destructive material struck us, warned, but still ill prepared, at the same instant. That was indeed a critical moment.—But the ship had an original strength, sufficient to stand the shock. Lee's thin army beat the chief force of the enemy in the Wilderness; the second blow was deadened by the fortifications near Drury. Every moment since elapsed has been gain to us. Time was all we wanted to bring up Beauregard, and we got time. When he forced the enemy from his entrenchments and reopened communications, and when Lee had given the final answer to the question whether he was able to stand up against the full weight of Grant, the chief danger, the danger of being crushed under the rush of an avalanche, ceased to exist. It is true that the chance of battle may yet, some day, fall against us; but it is certainly far less probable now than then; and, therefore, we think there is convincing, solid reason to believe that the military situation at this moment is much more favorable to us than when Grant crossed the Rapidan.

It is stated that Gen. John Pope, who has, since his campaign in Virginia, been in command of the Department of the Northwest, and engaged in conducting the war against the Sioux Indians, has been ordered to join Gen. Grant with his corps. He has reached Springfield, Illinois, with six thousand of his troops, and will probably concentrate the rest of his forces and move into the Shenandoah Valley.

A decree of the Peruvian Government has been transmitted to the U. S. State Department, in which it is stated that the Peruvian Government does not recognize the authority which is exercised over the Chincha Islands by the Spanish squadron.

A heavy battle is said to have taken place between the French and Mexicans at San Luis, in which the French were defeated. The statement is doubted.

General Philip St. George Cooke has been appointed General Superintendent of Recruiting for United States armies, headquarters at New York.

**THE WOUNDED.**—The Washington Chronicle says: "It appears from the rolls of the Medical Director that 28,000 men have been sent to the hospitals from the battle fields in the present campaign. About 2,000 of the number are not wounded but sick. The steamer City of Albany arrived at Alexandria from Port Royal with seven hundred men on board, who were wounded on Tuesday and Wednesday last in fighting on the North Anna." The State of Maine passed up to Washington yesterday morning, with a large number of wounded on board.

**ADVANCE IN GOLD.**—Gold reached 190 yesterday, the highest figure it has yet touched. It will go up to 200, and beyond, unless something is done, and that right speedily, to reduce the volume of the currency. Military successes cannot reach the root of the disease, which is the redundancy of paper currency.—Congress must adopt some measures, and at once to curtail the enormous paper issues of the country.—[Wash. Chronicle of yesterday.]

The Washington Chronicle of yesterday says:—"We learn from a refugee, who left Danville Virginia, in April last that the railroad connection from that point to Greensborough, on the North Carolina Central had been completed before he left, and that the cars were running through."

Edward A. Pollard, esq., one of the editors of the Richmond Examiner who was captured on board the Greyhound, and who has been on his parole in Boston, was on Saturday sent to Fort Warren in accordance with orders from Washington. Miss Belle Boyd, captured at the same time has been released.

James Judd, a wealthy farmer of St. Charles county, Missouri, who had taken the oath of allegiance to the U. S. has been sentenced to pay \$10,000 and be imprisoned during the war for saying that he hoped the Confederacy would be recognized, as the only hope of salvation for the country. Other persons who have committed similar offenses in that region have been also punished.

A Montreal dispatch gives some particulars of the death of Hon. Joshua R. Giddings. He was engaged in a game of billiards at the St. Lawrence Hall when he suddenly complained of weakness, and sat down on a sofa, but at once became insensible, and expired in a few minutes.

The gold medal presented to Washington by Congress, on the evacuation of Boston by the British—the only gold one ever presented to him, has been purchased by a few gentlemen of Delaware, and, it is said, will be presented to Lieutenant General Grant. The sum paid for the medal is over \$5,000.

The Old School Presbyterian Convention in session at Newark, New Jersey, on Friday unanimously adopted an anti-slavery report.