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THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

It is announced in the New York papers that Grant is "sliding" down to, if he has not already reached, the James River, with a view to a demonstration upon Richmond, from that direction; also, that as a co-operative movement, Sheridan has gone on another raid, supposed to have for its principal object the cutting of the Richmond and Danville railroad.

The New York World in its editorial summary say: "There is no longer any reason for keeping a secret which is notorious both in Richmond and New York, that General Grant has changed his base to the James river. The battle of Coal Harbor, which occurred Friday, the 3d inst., was brought on by Grant to get possession of the roads which lead from Gaines's Mills across the Chickahominy to Harrison Landing, but his intentions were thwarted by the result of the engagement.—Speculation is of course rife as to what Gen. Grant's plans are, but it is clearly his object to plant his army on the south bank of the James so as to menace the southern approaches to Richmond. The south bank of the James is the true base of operations against Richmond. A great deal of folly has been exhibited by certain generals in declaring that if Lee, with his army, was forced inside the fortifications of Richmond, he would be invested and forced to capitulate. This is nonsense, because the Federal commander can never have an army large enough to completely invest the rebel capital. The only way to bring about a fall of Richmond is, for the Union army to besiege it on the south side; thus cutting off all supplies. This is probably General Grant's scheme, by this time fully developed. As the possession of the Richmond and Petersburg and the Danville roads is indispensable for the preservation of the rebel capital, it follows that Gen. Lee will be compelled to risk a great battle south of the James river. In this connection, the movements of the combined armies of Hunter, Crook, and Averil are significant to give plausibility to the statements which reach us from Washington, that all the roads leading to the rebel capital will soon be either in possession of, or cut by, the Union force. Gen. Sheridan is on another raid, which is intended to be a long and important one. The necessity which exists for cutting off the rebel communication, with Richmond on the south, indicates the destination of General Sheridan, and he will doubtless endeavor to sweep around the south of the rebel capital, and join the forces of Gen. Butler. Thus he would isolate Richmond entirely, and pave the way for the direct operations of Gen. Grant from the new base on the James river."

The New York Herald says:—"The movement across James River would be a very bold one, and General Grant, who is a very bold man, may make it. But if there is any good reason why such a movement cannot be made, then the next step in the flanking advance is impossible, and the two armies confront one another, with intrenchments between, that one army will not relinquish and the other cannot storm. From such a difficulty the only solution is a siege."

FROM MEXICO.

ARRIVAL OF THE EMPEROR.

NEW YORK, May 14.—Maximilian reached Vera Cruz on the 28th ultimo. He stopped on the way at Martinique, and took with him four prisoners, condemned to hard labor by Gen. Forey; also eight others, and paid their passage to Vera Cruz, distributing 2,000 francs among the remainder, and promising to attend to their fate on his arrival at the city of Mexico.

The Emperor and Empress landed at Vera Cruz on the 29th, amid a salute of 101 guns. The keys of the city were presented to him.—They immediately proceeded inland, and at last accounts had reached Soledad.

General Denac is reported to have won a victory on the 13th ultimo, capturing 100 men, 150 horses, 4 guns, and killing 200. The force of the enemy numbered 300. General Denac's loss was four killed and twenty wounded.

General Mejia reports having defeated Doblado on the 17th ultimo, at Natshvati, and taken 1,115 prisoners, 17 guns, 29 wagons, 200 mules, and a large quantity of arms and ammunition. A skirmish is reported to have taken place at Valparaiso, near Zacatecas, killing 130 men, capturing 300 guns, and 500 small arms.

The resolution of Mr. Garfield, of Ohio, in the U. S. House of Representatives, "that no state declared by President Lincoln's proclamation to be in insurrection should be allowed to vote in the Presidential election, until Congress, in both houses, shall recognize a state government in such state," was laid on the table, by a vote of 104 to 33. Mr. Reverdy Johnson in a debate in the Senate on the same subject said:—

"If we attempt to prohibit slavery as a qualification of restoration of the States to the Union, they would not be on an equality with the States as they originally came into them under the Constitution; and he could not but believe that the Union would be lost, when it was understood that each State was not the equal of the other, to do either right or wrong. He discarded the idea that these States were to return to the United States simply as Territories, with all the State powers derived under the Constitution stopped from them. If Mr. Lincoln's election depends upon the right of these electors, then God knows what we may not come to. It may be assumed that Mr. Lincoln, or any one else, may lack the votes of those States in the condition of Arkansas.—God forbid it should happen that he should be elected by those States that were brought into the Union under his amnesty proclamation. It would be calculated more to excite the blood of the people, when the assertion was made by the honorable Senator here, that the very purpose of the President in bringing back these States was with a view to affect the Presidential election."

The upper end of King street is not crowded with passengers and vehicles as it was a few weeks ago—and, indeed, there seems to be a falling off, lately, of sojourners here, in all quarters of the city.

DISPATCH FROM GEN. LEE.

HQ'S. ARMY NORTHERN VIRGINIA,
June 6, 8.30 P. M.

Honorable Secretary of War:

There has been very little skirmishing on the lines to-day.

It was discovered early this morning that the enemy had withdrawn from the front of General Early on our left, and from the most of the front of General Anderson on the centre.

Respectfully, &c., R. E. LEE, General.

By an arrival at New York, from New Orleans, advices from Louisiana and the Mississippi River to the 6th instant have been received. Several steamers, convoyed by Federal gunboats, are reported to have succeeded in passing the Confederate batteries at Columbia. The gunboats were struck often during the passage. The main force of the Confederates under Marmaduke is represented to be at Bayou Macon; detachments only, under Shelby and Cabell, supporting the batteries at Columbia. General Canby had dispatched a large force for the purpose of driving off the Confederates.

In the Court of General Sessions at New York on Monday, the attention of the Grand Inquest was called by Judge Russell to the seizure of the World and Journal of Commerce establishments for the publication of the Howard bogus proclamation. The Grand Jury were instructed to look into the matter, and to co-operate with the District Attorney, in indicting the offenders for whatever offence they may have committed.

A number of ambulances, with wounded Federal Soldiers, from the Wilderness, arrived at this place yesterday morning, under a cavalry escort.

A Fair for the benefit of the Poor is to be held by a number of Ladies, on King, between St. Asaph and Washington streets, commencing this evening.

The New York Tribune mentions "the attendance of colored ladies and gentlemen, now, in the galleries of both houses of Congress at Washington."

A woman at Poughkeepsie, New York, yesterday, in a fit of insanity, killed two of her children, and attempted to destroy herself.

Mr. Lincoln is to visit the "Sanitary Fair," in Philadelphia, to-day. It is supposed the receipts of the Fair will be more than a million of dollars.

Some of the New York papers are again raising their subscription and advertising prices.

It is stated that the wife of Major General Butler, on her recent visit to the General, was welcomed with the air, "Come where my love lies dreaming."

Spurious vaccine matter has worked serious mischief in Affanoose county, Iowa, producing syphilitic sores extremely difficult to heal.