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Daniel Ripley Wing

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WHO'S READY?

[From the Independent.]
BY EDNA DEAN PROCTOR.
"God help us!—Who's ready? There's danger, before!
Who's armed and who's mounted? The foe's at the door!"
The smoke of his cannon hangs black o'er the plain;
His shouts ring, exultant while counting our slain;
And Northward and Northward he presses his line—
Who's ready? O forward!—for yours and for mine!
No halting, no discord, the moments are fates;
To shame or to glory they open the gates!
There's all we hold dearest to lose or to win;
The web of the future to-day we must spin;
And bid the hours follow with knell and with chime—
Who's ready? O forward!—while yet there is time!
Lead armies or councils—be soldier or field—
Alike, so your valor is liberty's shield!
Alike, so you strike when the bugle-notes call,
For country, for freedom, for Freedom to All!
The blows of the bold will carry the day—
Who's ready? O forward!—there's death in delay!
Earth's nobles are praying; at home, and o'er seas,
"God keep the great nation united and free!"
Her tyrants watch, eager to leap at our life;
If once we should falter or faint in the strife;
Our trust is unshaken, though legions assail—
Who's ready? O forward!—and light shall prevail!
Who's ready? "All ready!" answered we cry;
"For Country, for freedom, we'll fight till we die."
No traitor at midnight shall pierce us in rest;
No alien at noonday shall stab us in breast;
The God of our Fathers is guiding us still—
ALL FORWARD! WE'RE READY, AND CONQUER
WE WILL!

A Bayonet Charge.

A newspaper correspondent gives the following description of a bayonet charge by Heintzelman's corps in the battle of Saturday before Washington:
"There was a bayonet charge. Let those who want to know what is the sublime moment in the physical existence of man look at a division when the order is given that is to hurl it silently and stealthily, but sternly and steadily into the jaws of destruction, whence it can escape only by breaking the very teeth of the death which threatens it. It is not mere bull dog daring that is then aroused; it is more that passionate blood which, at the word, leaps through the veins with such hot impetuosity that toughly corded nerve and brawny muscle quiver under the fresh life impulse. It is spirit, soul, that gush up warm and eager from the heart and pour through the old blood channels with vivifying tumult that the dark, dull, venous clots rush along as bright and sparkling as if their foaming were the mantle of new fermented wine; it is the capacity for high and glorious things, for suffering, and daring, and death, which, latent before, and felt as but faint and fragmentary aspirations in the common droning of life, now springs into an omnipotent and full statured existence. You do not know what they are—the capabilities of life—you of the North, who tread your little daily rounds, in and out, and have no ambition beyond the bounds of wealth and ease. You are dreaming, all of you. You think yourselves bowed down when you groan under ponderous unrealities; by a true paradox you may stand erect when the spiritual weight of a real manhood settles on you. Let me strap a knapsack on you instead of a ledger; give you a pistol for a pen, and put a bayonet into your hands which before held a yard stick. Now stand in the ranks and wait for the word. It comes. 'Charge bayonets!' Off! and God be with you! Fight your way stoutly; it is for your life! Fight it unflinchingly; it is for your honor! If you fall, the glory of the nation, and the sublimity of this deed will be yours, and your eyes in spite of the death glare, and hold high your hopes even when life is ebbing; if you struggle through you are a man forever—a man on a large scale of character; a man of intensity and concentration of force; a man who has had more than glimpses into the magnificent possibilities of the spirit within him.
Such are the made men of Heintzelman's entire corps d'armee who escaped the chances of their glorious charge. They have lived ages in moments; they have passed through the most terrible ordeal that can test the stuff of manhood, and they have a recompense beyond gold or emolument—self-asserted honor and a deep insight of life; for it was not bordered closely and heavily with death?
The men were by no means flesh when they were submitted to this trial. They had fought through the greater part of a most fatiguing day. They had been without provision or rest since early morning, and, worse than all, an intolerable thirst consumed them. They were tired to the verge of exhaustion—hungry, thirsty, dusty, everything but dispirited. In the eyes of all the world they would have been justified in treating the order to charge as a mistake, whether intentional or unintentional. They had been forced back by the sheer weight of overwhelming numbers; new forces had been constantly hurled upon them, and it was but madness to refuse the chances of meeting reinforcements in the rear. The awful crash of the battle was still around them. A superior artillery was hurling havoc into the ranks. Musketry was increasing its deadly volleys, and there began to be symptoms of a flanking movement and a cross fire. It was under such circumstances that Heintzelman's corps ceased firing. It made a decided difference in the noise of the field; the diminution of sound was almost a hush; for, though the enemy was blazing away as rapidly as ever, it is the guns immediately about one that fill one's ears. For an instant the great line wavered; this suspense was too horrible; it must be filled with acts of some kind; mortal men cannot stand it; for God's sake let the great gap of inaction be crammed with death, if nothing else. 'Steady, men! A re-emption of the line; but also an increase of the adverse firing. Again a waver. 'Steady, steady, men! Aye, bawl till you are hoarse, brave captains and lieutenants; but these seconds are centuries; you must give these men something to do; you must steady them by action. And here come enough, steady down with orders that bring every musket to its most threatening position. Then the cheering words of commanders as they dash down the lines. Then a wild waving of swords by our shoulder straps as the final word is given, and the column starts forward. Slowly, at first and rather lamely—joints stiff with fatigue. But as the distance to the foe is shortened the pace is quickened; faster and faster moves that steadily-advancing column, till, on a run like a deer's, with leap and shout like more savage creatures, they hurl themselves right into the midst of the expectant foe. What passed there no man can tell. They are not more silent who fell with death sealed lips than are those who came out unharmed. The excitement is too great for memory to hold any ground; all faculties are swept away in the one wild thirst for blood, blood! We can only say, that after a short but desperate struggle, the rebel foe fell back—not orderly and meaningfully, but in such confusion and lawless turmoil as only terror can create. The day was won; the blood and bravery of Heintzelman's stout fellows won it. The plaudits of a grateful country be with them! It was the boldest and grandest charge of the war. The honor of all history must be with them."

The Eastern Mail.

VOL. XVI.

WATERVILLE, MAINE.... THURSDAY, SEPT. 18, 1862.

NO. 11.

The Eastern Mail.

EPH. MAXHAM, DANIEL R. WING, EDITORS.

WATERVILLE... SEPT. 18, 1862.

AGENTS FOR THE MAIL.

S. M. PETTINGILL & CO., Newspaper Agents, No. 10 State Street, Boston, and 119 Nassau Street, New York, are Agents for the Eastern Mail, and are authorized to receive advertisements and subscriptions, at the same rates as required at this office.
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ALL LETTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

Relating either to the business or editorial department of this paper, should be addressed to 'MAXHAM & WING,' or 'EASTERN MAIL OFFICE.'

TAKE CARE!—Yes, take care of the apples, and especially the poor ones, for the good ones you will save without being cautioned.

The crop is large, and the waste is very likely to be in proportion; for many will forget that for some purposes, fattening pork for instance, they are worth as much as last year. See to it that some good use is made of those that fall from the trees about this time; and if those you take to market bring only a low price, remember that many of you farmers have raised potatoes for ten cents a bushel, plowing, dressing, planting, harvesting and marketing, while your apples cost you not a quarter as much labor. Don't count them of no value because so abundant, but pick and choose carefully, eat freely, feed with economy, sell all you don't want, and thank God that your neglected and half starved orchard has favored you so much beyond your deserts.

THE ELECTIONS.—Returns from over 300 towns give Coburn 37,141, Bradbury 25,742, Jameson, 5,765. The republican candidates for congress are elected in all but the 1st district, where Mr. Sweet, a Union democrat, is elected by a small plurality. The legislature will be strongly republican—more than two to one. As far as ascertained the house stands 89 republicans, 11 Jameson democrats, and 22 Bradbury men. The senate is republican—in all but York and Washington counties; the former being democrat and the latter doubtful.

TOMATOES.—Now is your time, ye who love this delicious fruit, to go among the rank and clotted vines and indulge in vain regrets that with such an excess of stalks you have such poverty of ripe fruit. Don't come to us for sympathy, for we "told you so." Too rich a soil, in this climate, is almost sure to produce a growth that drives the ripening process off into the dominions of Jack Frost. Soil that would warrant a fair crop of "pig corn" is rich enough for tomatoes, here in Kennebec. Give the plants an early start in boxes, so arranged that they can be transferred to the garden with no injury to the roots. Water well for a time, if the soil be dry, and pay no attention to those who tell you to "trim off the leaves and branches to make the fruit ripen," unless you know from careful experience how it ought to be done. You might as well stop your horse's nostrils to save waste of strength in the labor of breathing. Try our plan next year, and if it fails to give you good ripe tomatoes in fair season, you may consider us bound to eat them green—pickled.

The Congregational Church was well filled, on Sunday evening last, to listen to Mr. Carsewell, the Canadian Temperance Orator, and so good an impression did he make upon the people that they prevailed upon him to stop another evening and speak at Town Hall. Notwithstanding the unfavorable weather, there was a good attendance on Monday evening, at his second lecture; and if a hearty laugh doth good like a medicine, his audience must have been largely benefited, even if they overlooked the pill in his sugar coating, and failed to apprehend the truths his stories illustrated, which we are confident they did not. The anecdotes with which "the points a moral" are certainly very effectively presented, and never fail to bring down the house.

The wires are up and down Skowhegan is now in telegraphic communication with the world outside.
We were unable to accompany the Ticonderoga on their fishing excursion—more's the pity—and our regret was heightened when we learned what a nice time they had of it. Steward Wendell's chowder was found to be so good that he was compelled to repeat the performance in the evening, after their return, at the E. line house.
"Oh, when they next do ride abroad,
May we be there to see!"
And do our fair share, both with the rod and the spoon. By the way, we hear it whispered that a reputation is promised sometime next week.

AN APPEAL TO THE PATRIOTIC PEOPLE OF THE NORTH.—The want of the United States Sanitary Commission at the present time, is mostly for woolen goods, such as:
Woolen Hospital Sheets,
" Drawers,
" Shirts,
" Socks,
" Suppers.
The demand for lint having been fully supplied, there will be no further call at present.
Geo. R. Davis,
Sanitary Agent for Maine.

Mr. Temple Shorey, charged with an aggravated assault upon Mr. C. H. Davis, of which we had an account in our last paper, was examined before Justice Drummond, on Monday, and bound over for trial at a higher court in five hundred dollar bond.

CAMP E. D. KYES.—About 1500 men are in this camp at Augusta, and eight companies have been organized. The officers of Co. B, mostly composed of recruits from this vicinity, are—Capt. John U. Hubbard, Waterville; 1st Lieut. Andrew Pinkham, Fairfield; 2d Lieut. Benjamin Libby, Waterville. Nathan Stanley, of Vassalboro', is Capt. of Co. D, and Joseph P. Garland, of Winslow, 1st Lieut.; Joseph T. Woodward, of Sidney, is 1st Lieut. of Co. H, and Martin V. B. Chase, of the same town, 2d Lieut. When the other two companies are organized the Colonel will be chosen, and the regiment organized for service. [Lt. Johnson, of Lewiston, formerly of the 6th regiment, has since been chosen Colonel.]

AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS IN MAINE.—1862.—The following is a list of the Agricultural Exhibitions to be held in this State during the coming autumn. There will be no exhibition by the State Society this year.

Androscoggin Agricultural and Horticultural Society, at Lewiston, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, October 7th, 8th and 9th.
Kennebec, at R. adfield, Wednesday and Thursday, October 8th and 9th.
North Waldo, at Unity, Wednesday and Thursday, October 15th and 16th.
Sagadahoc, at Topsham, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, October 7th, 8th and 9th.
West Washington, Jonesboro', Wednesday Thursday, October 1st and 2d.
North Franklin, at Phillips, Wednesday and Thursday, October 8th and 9th.
Waldo, at Belfast, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, October 1st, 2d and 3d.
West Oxford, at Fryeburg, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, October 7th, 8th and 9th.
Hancock, at Ellsworth, Tuesday, Sept. 30th, and Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 1st and 2d.
North Kennebec, at Waterville, Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 7th and 8th.
West Somerset, at Anson, Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 1st and 2d.
West Penobscot, at East Corinth, Tuesday, Sept. 30th, and Wednesday, Oct. 1st.

MAINE REGIMENTS.—The Maine Batteries, and the 5th, 6th, and 7th regiments are with Franklin's Division, and were probably engaged in the fight at Middleton, on Sunday. The 10th, numbering only 200 men, was at Rockville on the 9th inst. The Cavalry and the 16th, under Col. Wildes are in Sumner's division.

A letter from Corporal Heath, in the last Gardiner Home Journal, says that the 16th is under Burnside, who is reported at Harper's Ferry. He says that Col. Wildes, after an ineffectual protest against assigning the regiment to active service so soon, has resigned.

Dr. E. F. SANGER.—From an extract of a letter from New Orleans, published in the Bangor Whig, we learn of the whereabouts and whatabouts of Dr. Sanger, a Waterville boy, and republish for the information of his friends here:—

"Dr. Sanger is in charge of the St. James and General hospitals and is busy day and night, especially since the battle of Baton Rouge. You can understand somewhat of his arduous duties when I tell you there are about four hundred sick and wounded there, and between sixty and seventy employees. Three out of four doctors have been sick for the last three weeks so that the Doctor has to attend to all the wards save one. In addition to being Post Surgeon he fills the office of Medical Purveyor, and all pills, plasters, quinine, &c., delivered to this department, go through his hands. But in spite of all these cares he is in good health, though somewhat worn by his multitudinous cares. The best evidence of the conscientious performance of his duties is the universal attestation of the patients there, who have everything they want."

Geo. Francis Train has arrived in this country, and on Saturday evening made a speech at Tremont Temple in Boston. Mr. Train says many sharp and good things, but with these there is in his speeches so much of bragadocio and extravagance, that we seriously doubt if, on the whole, his talk is of any advantage to the Union cause, even at home; while it certainly must prejudice us abroad when endorsed by the Mayor and people of Boston.

Augustus M. Sawtelle, of Co. G, Maine Third, taken prisoner in the recent battle before Washington, has been released. In a letter, just received, from him, he writes that Mr. George L. Wheeler, who was shot on the evening of the 30th ult., died of his wound the next morning. He was a worthy young man, and held in high esteem by a large circle of friends in this vicinity, to whom this will be sad news.

A collision between two trains, advancing with great speed in opposite directions, occurred on the Eastern Railroad, near Wenhams, Wednesday evening. The shock was terrible and the locomotives, tenders, and cars were jammed into a space not over 50 feet in length. One of the engineers and both firemen were killed, and the other engineer badly scalded. Many passengers were injured, but no list has yet come to hand.

The President's Central American Colonization scheme has not been abandoned, and Senator Pomeroy will start with about 500 colored persons, early in October, to inaugurate the enterprise.

Prof. George L. Goodale, of the Maine Scientific Survey, has discovered gold in Princeton, about 20 miles west of Calais. There is considerable excitement in consequence, and land in that vicinity has gone up to city prices—\$10 a foot.

OUR TABLE.

GODLEY'S LADY'S BOOK for October is rich in illustrations, containing the unprecedented number of seventy-four. The colored fashion plate of six figures is truly elegant; and the steel engraving, "Plotting His Chief," with the story which it illustrates, will find many admirers. Stories of pretty knick-knacks are given, with the Drawing Lessons, Model Cottages, Original music, &c. The coloring in the number is up to the usual mark, and includes some very good stories. Published by L. A. Godley, Philadelphia, at 53 a year.

Peterson's Magazine, "Children Not Gathering,"—the steel engraving in the October number, is very nicely designed and executed. A colored fashion plate is given, as usual, a full page wood engraving,—"The Village Green at Night," and numerous patterns and designs of novelties in dress, and pretty and ingenious devices, both useful and ornamental. Among the stories, which are many and good, is one by the author of "Susy L."—a Diary. Published by Chas. J. Peterson, Philadelphia, at \$2 a year.

THE PAST SEASON.—From a communication in the Gardiner Home Journal, written by Hon. R. H. Gardiner, who keeps a careful record of the weather, we learn that the mean heat during the last four months has been 4 1/2 degrees less than that of the average of the same months for the last twenty years; and that the fall of rain is also less by 4 1/2 inches—so that the past season may be safely set down as remarkably cool and dry.

In a list of soldiers buried at Union Cemetery, near Yorktown, furnished by Col. Plaisted, we find the name of Asa Pollard, of Co. G, 3d Maine Reg't.

"THE COMMONWEALTH"—This is the title of a new paper just started in Boston. It is a large, handsomely printed, well filled sheet—radically right in politics, inasmuch as it takes strong ground in favor of the oppressed colored race. Its literary merit, also, is great; and it is altogether a valuable addition to the weekly press of Boston. It is published by James M. Stone, 22 Bromfield St., at \$2 a year.

Lysander Cutter, formerly extensively engaged in woolen manufactures at Dexter, in this State, but now Colonel of a Wisconsin regiment, was severely wounded in the recent battle at Manassas.

THE DIFFERENCE.—The difference between public feeling North and South is thus noted in the Philadelphia Bulletin:—

"A gentleman from a city in Southern Tennessee, who has just arrived here, states that he was struck with amazement at the aspect of every Northern town or city. He sees no signs that we care about the war at all. Our streets are filled with idle, undrilled people; our money making is going on as usual, and social life is comparatively tranquil. All this is in glaring contrast with every spot of the rebel territory. No able bodied men are seen in Southern cities save those in Government employ, and much of the light labor hitherto in the hands of men is performed by women. He adds that there is a consciousness of strength in the loyal States which will eventually be brought to the service of the country; but until that contingency takes place we will not thoroughly suppress the rebellion."

Charles P. Baldwin, formerly Principal of our High School, has been commissioned a captain in the 11th Regiment.

GOON.—One English ship owner, engaged in running our blockade, has been compelled to suspend—returns not coming in according to his expectations.

SUPPOSED MURDER.—Mr. Wm. H. Hills of Rockland, is supposed to have been murdered in the harbor of St. John, N. B., for refusing to haul down the Union flag hoisted on board the yacht in which he had made a voyage there. The St. John Freeman regards the matter as the result of a quarrel which had no relation to the flag. One John Collins is in custody, charged with the murder.

Rev. Arthur Deering, formerly of West Waterville, is among the nine months men from Richmond, and has been chosen captain of the company raised in that vicinity.

WAR OF REDEMPTION.—On the morning of the 6th inst., the rebels, 1200 strong, attacked our forces at Washington, N. C. Our troops were taken by surprise, but after a desperate fight of two hours the rebels were repulsed and pursued seven miles. The gunboat Louisiana, rendered material aid, on the occasion, but the Pickett was accidentally blown up killing her captain and 19 men, and wounding 6. Our loss on shore was 7 killed and 47 wounded, while the rebels lost 30 killed and 86 taken prisoners. We had only 500 men engaged. A loyal North Carolina regiment participated in the conflict and behaved with great bravery.

Gen. McDowell, understanding that grave charges had been made against him, has written a manly letter to the President, asking for an investigation into his conduct. He says:—

"I have been informed by a Senator that he has seen a note in pencil written by a Colonel of Cavalry, mortally wounded in the recent battle, stating, among other causes, that he was dying a victim to General McDowell's treachery, and that his last request was that this note might be shown to you. That the Colonel believed this charge, and felt that his last act on earth was a great public service, there can be, I think, no question. This solemn accusation from the grave of a gallant officer who died for his country, is entitled to great consideration, and I feel called upon to endeavor to meet it as well as so general a charge from one now no longer able to support it can be met."

I therefore beg you to please call a court to be instituted for its investigation, and in the absence of any knowledge whatever as to the particular act or acts, time or place, or general conduct the deceased may have had in view, I have to ask that the inquiry be without limitation, and be upon any point, and every sub-

ject, which may in any way be supposed to have led to his belief that it be directed to my whole conduct as a general officer, either under another or whilst in a separate command, whether in matters of administration or command, to my correspondence with any of the enemy's commanders or with any one within the enemy's lines, to my conduct and the policy pursued by me toward the inhabitants of the country occupied by our troops, with reference to themselves or their property; and, further, to any imputations of indirect treachery or disloyalty toward the nation or any individual having, like myself, an important trust; whether I have, or have not, been faithful as a subordinate to those placed over me, giving them hearty and to the best of my capacity all the support in my power; and whether I have or have not failed through unworthy personal motives to go to the aid of, or send reinforcements to, my brother commanders, that this subject of my alleged treachery or disloyalty may be inquired into. I beg that all officers, soldiers or civilians who know, or think they know, any act of mine liable to the charge in question, be allowed, and invited to make it known to the court. I also beg that the proceedings of the court may be open and free to the press from day to day.

The rebels made an attack on our forces at Williamsburg, on the morning of the 9th inst., but after a short and brisk engagement they were driven back—the losses being about equal.
Twenty of our gunboats, at last accounts, were lying off Charleston harbor, the Stevens Battery among them, and everything indicated an immediate attack on the city.
Rear Admiral Farragut is off Mobile with his fleet, and designs an attack upon the forts defending that harbor.
A recent letter from an officer upon one of the U. S. Gunboats at Cairo states—that great preparations are being made for an attack upon Vicksburg by the gunboats and land force.

Crossing the Potomac below Harper's Ferry, at several points, the rebels in large force advanced to Frederick, which they held for a short time, but from which and the surrounding country they have been driven by our troops as they advanced northward from Washington. With their rear at Frederick the rebels had pushed their advance through to Hagerstown, threatening Pennsylvania; but it was only a feint, their real design being, probably, to sweep around Harper's Ferry, capturing the force there on their way, and then to retreat across the Potomac with their plunder; after which they might, if circumstances were favorable, again sweep across the Potomac, below, gain McClellan's rear and dash upon Washington or Baltimore. At least, Carleton, of the Boston Journal, thinks this to have been the rebel plan, and he is not often at fault. It has worked tolerably well, too, but has hardly met the expectations of its originators. In the first place their reception in Maryland was a damper. Very few welcomed them, and fewer still joined them. They consumed the substance of the people, and made return in confederate scrip, and even their warmest sympathizers took that only because they dare not refuse. The rising in Pennsylvania warned them of danger in that direction, and McClellan, by his rapid advance hurried them in the fear, and they made for Williamsport, with all speed to secure a safe crossing while they could.

About 15 miles northwest of Frederick, near Middleton, the Federal advance under Gens. Hooker and Reno, encountered the enemy, on the 14th inst., and after a severe battle drove the enemy before them in confusion, taking many prisoners and killing many of the rebels. Our loss was not large, but among the killed was the brave Gen. Reno.

Pressing after the retreating foe, the battle was renewed on Tuesday, near Sharpsburg, and the rebels again defeated with great slaughter. The conflict was continued on Wednesday, and so far as we are able to learn with uniform success on the part of the Union troops, although the rebels have been largely reinforced from the other side of the river. The rebel loss is said to be large, and we have many prisoners. The rebel General Longstreet is reported wounded and a prisoner, and Gen. Hill has also been captured.

One feature of the rebel programme, we regret to say, proved a complete success. They captured Harper's Ferry on Sunday, taking 6000 prisoners, including Gen. White's command from Martinsburg, which place was evacuated on the approach of the enemy. Col. Miles, the officer in command at Harper's Ferry, and who will be remembered in connection with the first battle of Bull Run, was wounded and has since died. Previous to the attack of the enemy, the cavalry force at this post, made their way out, avoiding the enemy, and reached Greencastle, Penn. in safety, capturing an ammunition train of 50 wagons on their march and about 75 prisoners. Col. Miles is said to have made a desperate resistance, but his loss is set down at less than 200, and at the time of his surrender, Franklin was within three hours march for his relief. There are rumors of a recapture of Harper's Ferry by our troops; at any rate, the enemy were panic stricken, and released our prisoners without stopping to parole them.

We add the following late dispatches:—
New York, 18th.

The Herald's Washington dispatch states at 2 o'clock this (Wednesday) afternoon, intelligence was received that since half past 6 o'clock this morning the fiercest and most sanguinary battle of the war has been in progress. All the corps d'armee which Gen. McClellan had taken with him to Frederic were massed at the point indicated, and the engagement is believed to have been between the whole of

the two armies. There is reason to suppose that the losses on each side have been very great, as the requisition for medical stores and the arrangement for wounded men to be sent to Roherville immediately are larger than have been made at any time. Information has been received that Gen. McClellan destroyed the aqueduct at the mouth of the Antietam creek and the bridge across that creek upon the road leading to Sharpsburg, thus cutting off the retreat of the rebels in the direction of Shepherdstown. Later reports from Hagerstown state that this afternoon the rebels were retreating in great disorder; that subsequently heavy and rapid firing was heard in the direction of Williamsport, which induces the belief that Gen. McClellan has pursued the retreating enemy to that point, and that they made a stand there to cover their passage across the Potomac.

The Times Washington dispatch dated 11. 10 last night says very little is positively known here in regard to today's fight in Maryland, except that the contest is still going on. The government has preserved silence in regard to whatever information it possesses, but we learn from official sources that the tenor of the advices is favorable to the Union cause. Private dispatches believed to be correct, inform us that the enemy had destroyed the Turnpike bridge across the Antietam creek and had thrown up rude earthworks to defend the fords of the same stream.

Later.—We learn that they had been driven steadily backwards towards the Potomac, and it was believed that the fighting was mainly by their rear guard which was contesting the advances of our troops and covering the retreat of the rebel main body. A special train with Medical stores and Surgeons leaves here to night at 12 o'clock for Frederick.

Heavy firing has been heard today in the direction of Drainesville, which leads to the not unreasonable belief that one of our columns may have encountered a foe in that neighborhood. If so, knowledge of the force and its leader leaves us in no fear of the result. Reconnoissances made by Col. Davis's Cavalry who made the dash foray toward Hanover Junction, towards Frederick, and who is now under Gen. Heintzelman, show that since Friday last the rebels have evacuated Leesburg, and that a force of 10,000 men with 30 pieces of artillery and a supply train about 2 miles in length, has gone in the direction of Harper's Ferry.

N. York, 18th.

The Times has the following dispatch, from Harrisburg, 17th, 10 o'clock P. M.
McClellan has achieved a glorious victory. The report of the death of Gen. Heintzelman was false. Gen. Mansfield is wounded, and Gen. Hooker has a wound in the foot. The Williamsport bridge has been burned to prevent the retreat of the rebels. Longstreet is wounded and taken prisoner.

N. York, 18th.—Steamer Ocean Queen has arrived with discharged soldiers, also Lt. Col. Keith and other officers. Gunboat Essex arrived at N. Orleans 8th. She reports the shelling of Natchez and its partial destruction, when its citizens hoisted the American flag; also the destruction of Bayou Sara;—after which, while on her way down the river, the Essex engaged a formidable rebel battery at Fort Hudson, at 80 yards distance, completely silencing all its heavy guns, with no loss or damage to the Essex, though showered with solid shot and shell. The Essex chased the rebel ram Webb beyond Vicksburg batteries.

Philadelphia, 18th.

A special dispatch dated Hagerstown, yesterday, says of the fight on Tuesday.—"The battle raged on both sides being very heavy, till near sunset, when the rebels were flanked by Hooker and Porter and severely punished. The fire became desultory, and it was evident their ammunition was giving out. This morning the battle was renewed by the rebels, with increased vigor. They seemed to have been reinforced and supplied with ammunition. The battle lasted till 4 1/2 P. M., when the rebels retreated, leaving Gen. Longstreet's command of his division in our hands as prisoners. The entire rebel army will be captured or killed. There is no chance left for them to cross the Potomac, as the river is rising, and our troops are pushing them continually and sending prisoners to the rear."

It is reported here that Gen. Miles re-enacted his Bull Run scene at Harper's Ferry, which was to surrender to the rebels in a shameful manner.

Six batteries of artillery belonging to Gen. Longstreet's Division were captured yesterday and today and it is said we have taken nearly 15,000 prisoners since Sunday.

New York, 18.

Private dispatches today from points near Harper's Ferry confirm all the particulars of the good news published this morning and leave no reasonable doubt of the recapture of Harper's Ferry by Gen. Burnside and the occupation by strong Union Guards of all the river fords between Harper's Ferry and Williamsport.

Cincinnati.

The rebels commenced falling back yesterday, and at last accounts were between Damascusville and Edmouthe, burning the bridges on the Covington and Lexington R. R.

A scouting party of 53 men, of the 10th Ky. Cavalry, engaged a force of 100 rebels near Florence, last night and killed 5 and wounded 7 and routed the remainder. Our loss was 1 killed and 1 wounded. Gen. Wallace has been relieved of the command of the forces here, and is directed to report for duty at Columbus, Ohio. The command of the troops has been assigned to Gen. A. J. Smith.

St. Louis, 18th.

Sibley's Texan expedition has been broken up, defeated and scattered, near Ft. Fillmore. Nearly half were captured, with all the arms, horses and cannon. Sibley was assassinated by his men, as was Col. Steele. They were caught between the California troops and Gen. Cady's forces.

E. K. Smart failed of being elected representative from Camden. Is anybody sorry?

Appleton Oaksmith, convicted of complicity in the slave trade, escaped from jail in Boston on Thursday last and has not been retaken.

Gen. Jim Lane's recruiting operations in Kansas have been most successful. He has raised five white regiments, and organized 1,200 colored loyalists.

A frightful explosion occurred at the U. S. arsenal at Pittsburg on the 17th inst., by which 75 or eighty lives were lost.

DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH.—General Saxton, Military Governor of the Department of the South, has arrived in New York from Hilton Head. He has been ill with fever, and has come North for the benefit to his health of a sea voyage, and a few days relaxation from his many complicated and onerous duties. He has in charge fifteen thousand people, the culture of the plantations, and the gathering of the crops. The health of the people is good; their labors cheerfully performed; the schools well attended, and to the great majority of them, no sacrifices for liberty are deemed too great.

