THE NEW-ORLEANS BEE

Office, 73 Chartres street. NEW ORLEANS, MONDAY MORNING, JULY 14, 1862. Vol XVII—New Series Vol XXXV.—Whole No 12,428.

NEW ORLEANS:
MONDAY MORNING, JULY 14, 1862.

Auctions Sales This Day.

By E. T. Montgomery, at 11½ o'clock, at No. 63 Esplanade street, furniture and servants.

By S. M. Jacobs, at 10 o'clock, A. M., at Mechanics, sundry cows, &c.

THE TICKET ABOMINATION.

The existing excitement of indignation at the abominable manner in which the community has been treated in the matter of tickets will not subside, we hope, until some result shall have been obtained, by which further wrong and annoyance will be prevented. This will not be done without determined efforts, however, for the parties interested are of wide and powerful influence, and great business keenness. Many of those who, under civil administration of the laws, would have to be interested with the investigation and decision of questions arising out of the matter, are pecuniarily interested in sustaining the insolence, and would, of course, interpose at least every legitimate obstacle in the way of having them held to rigid accountability.

To what lengths the issuers themselves are prepared to go, to gain their own ends, the community can require no stronger illustration than the plea they make that their tickets were issued for the sole special purpose of fare-paying. That this is an audacious subterfuge is so well known, that it is astounding any one should have the temerity to hazard its proposition. Who is there that does not know that they were supplied to bar-room keepers, grocers and others in quantities of twenty, thirty, forty, fifty, a hundred dollars' worth and more, at a time? Who does not know that not a man, woman or child in the city was not fully aware that they were used as currency? Who, not warped by some unworthy motive, can pretend to believe, that the issuers were ignorant of it? We have ourselves been unable to procure a bundle of tickets actually for fare purposes—because of the ease with which they were demanded and supplied for currency purposes, as we were assured by the employees from whom we sought them: and we have been assured by them, too, that the tickets were used as currency by the issuers themselves to pay all descriptions of liabilities. In proper hands all this is susceptible of as irrefragable proof in a court of law as any question ever submitted to one.

But, though these tickets had been issued for the special purpose of paying fares, it would be a monstrous proposition that in the event of the lines which they represented changing proprietors, being abandoned, altered in character, or destroyed, the issuers should not be held liable for them. No principle of equity could sustain it. If a man makes himself liable for a specific value, and for any cause he is unable to discharge it, under no pretence can he be justly released from the liability to the equivalent. Even if the tickets were issued simply as a convenience for those who preferred to be sure to have means of paying the fare when getting into an omnibus or car, there certainly was no contract, express or implied, that they should not be devoted to any other purpose which might suit the purchaser. So that whether they were issued for a specific purpose or not, there was nothing to release the seller from whatever liabilities he did issue.

We do not say that because the issuer is liable to be compelled to give an equivalent for his tickets, he is in equity obliged to give that equivalent in such shape as the holder may demand. We do not say that if he offers to discharge the contract, as it was understood when it was made, any more can legitimately be demanded of him. If he still consents to take them for fare on the terms on which they were purchased, he does all that holders have a right to expect of him, and all that any one asks of him. That the community has a right to demand this, he himself probably admits; he offers to redeem them of his tickets which he may choose to pronounce not counterfeit.

And here, in truth, is the gist of the question. Is a man liable for those of his shinplasters which he may pronounce counterfeit? We submit that he is in the following cases: first, where he cannot prove that there is a distinction between the genuine and the alleged counterfeit; secondly, where he has not used due diligence to prevent the making and issuing of counterfeits; thirdly, where he does not inform the public how counterfeits can be distinguished from genuine tickets, or this being impossible, does not instantly recall the whole issue; and fourthly, and *a fortiori*, where he does not even take the trouble to announce to the public that they are counterfeited.

All these cases, except, perhaps, the last, have admirably occurred. Ten weeks than other of them has happened. We pronounce it evident on the very face of the case—indisputable—that the most sublimating proficiency has been perpetrated in pronouncing certain shinplasters counterfeit. We believe we may safely say that there is not a single issue to any extent who has not declared that his bills or tickets have been counterfeited, and yet it is notorious by a physical impossibility that this can be so. There are not workmen, presses, type, paper, and skill enough in the city to accomplish it, even now, without rendering detection a matter of course—inevitable. That some have been counterfeited, we do not care to dispute; nor shall we suffer ourselves to be noticed into any argument of hesitation; but we repeat, it is a physical impossibility that so many could have been counterfeited as we have been required to believe. Where the wrong may be, it is none of our business to discover. It is enough that we show it to exist. In several instances bills pronounced counterfeit have been compared with those said to be genuine, and no difference could be pointed out. In some cases tickets have been pronounced counterfeits by the very men from whom they were purchased. In the case of a certain omnibus ticket we were told only on Saturday by a friend that the difference was in the direction which a certain mark on the reverse of it took, that in the one case it went to the right, in the other to the left. But in fact there was no such difference. The stamp was, as far as an ordinary examination showed, identically the same on both tickets. The only difference was that on one it was impressed on the ticket lay in a direction perpendicular to that in which it lay in the other case, a difference, which if it suffice to make the uninitiated believe a proof of forgery, will not serve to do so with the experienced, and ought not to be sufficient to screen the issuer.

Besides this, the oppressive and capricious manner in which one kind of bill or ticket has been refused, and another demanded, has grievously added to the impositions on the community. It is but two or three days since that the people generally refused to take any but one certain description of ticket, which the manager of one of the lines had taken the lead in do, intending to the exclusion of all others; and yesterday we were startled by those very tickets being refused on another line but a few days since promulgated from him to his own, and a demand being made on us to purchase that one's tickets!

In short this whole subject has reached such a height that something ought to be done to put an end to it; and we believe the best basis on which it could be done, would be that of compelling the redemption in current funds of every ticket out, and the prohibiting of their issue in future. As to the details, this is not the place to discuss them.

We are indebted to the officers of the U. S. steamship Mariton for late Northern papers.

LATER FROM VICKSBURG.—Two or twelve of the mortar fleet returned yesterday morning from Vicksburg to their anchorage below the city, they were towed down by three ocean gunboats, with the assistance of the steamer Stephen Polk and tow-boats Fox.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMSHIP MARION.—This vessel arrived in our port yesterday, from New York on the 3d inst. Among her passengers we notice the name of Mr. D. C. Lowber, formerly of this city. Mr. Lowber, if we remember rightly, had been arrested at Cleveland, Ohio, last summer, for expressing sentiments considered disloyal to the United States Government. It will be gratifying to Mr. Lowber's numerous friends to welcome him in our city, after his prolonged absence.

PROFESSIONAL CARD.—In another column we publish the professional card of Mr. R. J. Evans, Architect, Surveyor, etc. From our personal knowledge of Mr. Evans we can speak of him as one skilled in his profession, and having had much experience in its exercise. Mr. Evans was for a long time connected with the United States Coast Survey Department, in the capacity of an Assistant and his co-operation in the last survey of Lake Pontchartrain, and his residence in this city for the last four years, render him quite familiar with the topography of our city and its surroundings. We may remark here that Mr. Evans is a pupil and grandson of the late Robert Mills, of South Carolina, the former Architect of the U. S. Government.

The sale by E. T. Montgomery, of the entire contents of the costly and magnificently furnished dwelling (including house and servants,) No. 63 Esplanade street, near Royal street, on Monday, the 14th instant, at half past 10 o'clock, is worthy the attendance of those wishing furniture of great elegance and durability, or any articles of household use, either of ornaments or art. This residence has been furnished with every article that could add to the convenience and comfort, gratify the taste and please the fancy of the owner, and is only disposed of on account of his departure to Europe. The elegant piano and paintings are worthy of especial attention of artists and amateurs. See advertisement.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Present Court—Judge Bell.—On Saturday it was stated in this court that, in his decision about railroad tickets, Judge Bell said nothing about that color of them, or the liability of issuing them to redeem the *greenback* issues.

Mme Sloss, of the corner of Conti and Bampart streets, was fined $50 for knocking down her hair-dresser in a dispute about the latter's little bill. As the complainant was sick, she was sent to the Charity Hospital.

Quite an interesting scene took place in consequence of a decision by the Court, that the grandmother of a lad named Thos. Alexander Wood should be confided with his possession, in opposition to the claims of his legal tutor, Mr. *Mead*, whom the Court released from all responsibility which the law might attach to him on account of the lad. The old lady and the boy manifested the most unbounded mutual joy at the decision, greatly to the interest of all in Court.

James Flemming, who had been in the Parish Prison for two months on the charge of shooting at a man named Scoggins, was discharged, as there was no one to appear against him.

Wm. Johnson, a caloman, was fined $20 for being in an unlawful assemblage in Poydras street on Friday night. The gentleman was also arrest in elsewhere noticed were also fined a similar amount, except one, who was fined $100 for having drawn a sword case on an officer.

——— Guild, a gas fitter, residing on St. Charles street, was sent to the Parish Prison for a year, for receiving property knowing it to have been stolen. The evidence showed that Mrs. Guild had, with his knowledge, sold and sent, purchased of two boys for $2 50 steam-gauges worth from $30 to $40, and which had been stolen from Orr's machine-shop in May last.

A suit, at the instance of J. P. Walden, to compel the Louisiana State Bank to pay a check was dismissed on the ground that complainant had not taken the oath of allegiance, and had *no locus standi*.

Arrests.—Patrick Ryan was arrested on Girod street, on Friday night, charged by Michael Bradley with having robbed him of $5.

Francis Banks was arrested on Saturday morning on the charge of having exposed a United States flag. He was taken at the corner of Tchoupitoulas and Magazine streets.

Agnes Robertson again! She was arrested on Toulouse street, between 9 and 10 o'clock on Friday night, charged by H. Grube with abusing and assaulting him and tearing his clothes.

Wm. Wilson was arrested in the Third District on Saturday, on the charge of stealing a cow belonging to Jean Rodrigues.

Bitsche, slave of Mr. Villarabe, who had previously been arrested on the charge of having been the perpetrator of the robbery of Mme. Gandin's, reported the other day, and discharged, was again arrested yesterday.

Edward Hanlon, who keeps a groggery at the corner of Urselines and Old Levee streets, and is already reported for having no license, was arrested yesterday for selling liquor to slaves. Justice, of Mr. Fisher, and John, of Mr. Yancey, were arrested at the same time for drinking in his place.

John Searcy, the noted, was arrested yesterday morning as a fugitive from Fort Jackson. It is reported that his worthy companion, Pierre Loiselle, has also made his escape from the fort.

W. H. Nichols, f. m. c., and John Healy were arrested on Claiborne street on Saturday night, on the complaint of Mary Seymour, f. w. c., for low-down and violation of the laws against amalgamation.

Wm. Lyons was arrested on the charge of threatening the life of Mrs. Beauvais.

Bridget Daly was arrested on a charge of *attempting to* steal cash away from Eckard's grocery, at the corner of Magazine and Orange streets.

Michael McGuire, a boy, was arrested on the steamboat landing, at the request of his mother, who desires that he may be sent to the House of Refuge.

John Junco was arrested in the French market yesterday afternoon, charged with assaulting Joseph Tellier.

Geo. Bell was arrested on Ursulines street on Saturday for being drunk, disturbing the peace, and drawing a knife on John D'Orlis.

Brasel Dibelo was arrested on Barracks street, at 5 o'clock on Saturday night, on the charge of having attempted to pass counterfeit Jefferson City railroad tickets.

James Farley was arrested late on Saturday night on the charge of having plundered Giovanni Golina's till in the Fruit market, Second District.

City Taxes.—The City Treasurer on Friday issued a notice requiring all taxes to be paid by this morning. This is a most harassing demand, and one with which compliance is utterly impossible. We hope that at least the respite suggested by the *National Advocate* will be granted. That paper in his issue of Saturday said:

"This is only two days notice, and not cognizant with the times, particularly when there has been something of an interruption in the machinery of finance in and about the City Hall. It is not supposed that the authorities desire to press the debtors to the city. In their behalf we presume to suggest that the time be extended two weeks, or to Saturday, the 26th inst. It is impossible for all tax-payers to meet the demand to-day; moreover, the time granted is the same as in previous years. If we mistake not, the State Legislature at the last session granted an extension till the 1st of February, 1862, on all State dues."

The Public Schools.—We are informed that the authorities have notified the Directors of the Public Schools in the Second District, that all be stopped during the vacation. We presume a similar course will be pursued towards the other Districts. The consequences to the teachers will be very trying. All of them depend entirely on their earnings for their support, and find them barely enough to carry them from month to month, even in ordinary times; and the vast majority have families and relatives entirely dependent on them for daily maintenance, of which they will be deprived, and which it is now on much more difficult to command, even if the Rebs means are forthcoming. What they are to do now Heaven alone knows. It is to be hoped that recourse to private tuition may at least to some extent alleviate the effects of the blow.

Charity Hospital.—Ellen Mahoney is the name of the woman who was taken to the Charity Hospital on Friday morning, and supposed to be drunk. She says she was beaten by the policeman on the beat on Dauphin street, between Toulouse and St. Peter streets. Her face is bruised, and her shoulder was dislocated. The dislocation has been reduced, and she is doing well.

Henry Dejoue, a peddler, on Friday evening went to the too famous establishment of Mother Buchanan, on Treme street, to collect some money due to him, according to his statement, when he was paid with a tremendous blow on the face which knocked him down, the perpetrator being the man who owed him the money. He went to the Charity Hospital, but left again on Saturday morning to go to see the Provost Marshal on the subject.

Important Orders.—Provost Marshal French gives notice, we perceive, that the police have received orders to disperse all assemblages of more than three persons, and to arrest and confine all those who refuse compliance with their directions. The reason alleged for this order is that the assembling together in the streets and public squares of citizens in groups and crowds has become dangerous to the public peace.

Another order is by General Shepley, and decrees that all acts of sale by noteleavers who have not taken the oath of allegiance to the United States, or renewed their leases shall be null and void.

Taken to the Charity Hospital.—Reilly, the man cut, as reported on Saturday, while resisting the officers arresting him, was sent to the Charity Hospital. He is stabbed on the left side of the chest, about the second rib, and has vomited a considerable amount of blood, supposed to be caused by a wound of the stomach. In other respects his general health is good: but he is not out of danger.

Drowned.—Louis Bonffard, a sailor on board the schooner La Jalouse, fell overboard on Saturday, opposite Jefferson City, and was drowned. The deceased was a member of the old Portuguese Benevolent Association. A liberal reward will be given by his bereaved widow for the recovery of his body. She resides at the corner of Ferdinand and Goodchildren streets.

The Fruit Market.—We learn with regret that it is considered that this institution, unless some important changes take place in reference to the obtaining of supplies, will be compelled to stop its benefiscent distributions. We hope, for the sake of humanity, that this will not be allowed to come to pass. The addition to the suffering already existing, which must attend such an event, would be lamentable, indeed.

Arrested.—A number of well-known and respectable citizens were arrested on Friday night, under the order of the Provost Marshal, published on Saturday morning, in reference to assembling in the streets. They were, as usual, enjoying the cool evening breeze, and discussing the news and rumors of the day: and not being aware of the existence of any such order did not promptly enough obey the ordure of the police to escape arrest.

Rings Lost.—A lady reports having lost seven very valuable diamond rings while riding in one of the down-town cars on Friday. They would seem to have been well secured, for the rings were tied up in a handkerchief. A reward of $500 has been offered for their recovery.

Boy Found.—A boy about four years old, with red curly hair, and straw hat, was found on Friday astray, and can be found at 228 Customhouse street.

Runaways.—Michael Conrad was taken to the Charity Hospital on Thursday night, suffering from delirium tremens, which attack he is said to have brought on by excessive drinking of corn whisky while cooling wood in the neighborhood of Carrollton. He recovered sufficiently to leave the hospital on Saturday.

Released.—We learn with gratification that Mrs Phillips and Mr. Andrews, whose sentence to Ship Island we noticed some days since, have been relieved from it, and let at liberty. We have not ascertained what led to this notice by the authorities.

Suspicious.—A slave boy named Simeon was found concealed in the house of Mr. Hammond, corner of Fourth and Pylania streets, at 11 o'clock on Friday night; and on Saturday night, another was found concealed in the Touro Almshouse.

Jefferson City Council.—A military order has been issued, appointing Messrs. Thomas Booth, Henry M. Von Solingen and Wm. R. Greathouse to fill vacancies in the Jefferson City Council.

Another Lady Arrested.—A lady was arrested on Camp street, opposite the *Picayune* office, on Saturday morning, for wearing a small secession badge on her dress.

Fire.—A fire broke out on Saturday in a barn at the corner of Poydras and Penn streets, but it was extinguished before any damage was done.

Getting Well.—Reilly, the man whom we report elsewhere as having been stabbed and taken to the Charity Hospital, was yesterday removed as getting well.

Later from the North.

By the arrival of the *Marion*, yesterday, we have advices from the east of war, through Northern sources, up to the 1st inst. In an extra edition of the *New York Times*, published at half past 9 o'clock in the morning, we have the following particulars of the battle of the 30th ultimo:

Fortress Monroe, Tuesday, July 1.—A gunboat has just arrived from the scene of action yesterday, ten miles above City Point.

That division of our army has been fighting four days, and has retreated about seventeen miles.

The fight of yesterday was most terrible, the enemy having three to our one.

The battle commenced with our land forces and after about four hours' fighting our gunboats got in range, and poured into the rebels a heavy and incessant fire.

While fire the rebels stood about two hours and then retreated.

Our troops have captured, notwithstanding their disadvantages, a large number of artillery pieces and 2000 prisoners.

Among other prisoners captured is the rebel General Magruder.

The place where this last action took place is near Turkey Creek.

The retreat of the rebels last evening was with great disorder, and their loss has been very heavy, much greater it is thought than ours.

There is nothing definite, however, in regard to losses.

In the retreat forced upon Gen. McClellan by the superior numbers of the enemy, I learn that he had to spike his heavy guns and leave them on the field, after having rendered them useless. The nature of the ground rendered it impossible to move them.

In the retreat many of our sick and wounded were necessarily left behind. There are, of course, innumerable reports and rumors here, but I send only what appears to be authentic.

CASUALTIES.

Giving the list of casualties at the battles of the 26th and 27th ult., some 300 killed and wounded, of 18 regiments, composed as follows: 6 from Pennsylvania, 3 from New York, 1 from Michigan, 1 from Massachusetts, and 1 from Maine. The New York *Times* says:

Most of the names were collected at Savage's Station. The killed were left on the battle field and fell into the hands of the enemy. Many of the wounded were also necessarily left at the mercy of the enemy. A considerable number are at Carter's Landing, on James River, awaiting transportation.

The *Times*, under the caption of "News of the Day," gives the following review of its correspondence touching the events before Richmond, covering a period of 6 days from the 25th to the 30th of June. The *Times* says:

The first of these battles was fought on Thursday near Mechanicsville; the second on Friday, near Gaines' Hill; the third on Saturday, in the front of our position; the fourth on Sunday—a continuous skirmish in the rear, as our forces were concentrating across the Chickahominy; and the fifth on Monday, when the enemy, in great numbers, attacked our army in its new position, and were repulsed after a very severe battle, in which several of our gunboats on the James river took efficient part. These battles were all of a most severe character, in which our forces suffered heavily, but in which the losses of the enemy are believed to be much the heaviest. At the close of the battle on Monday evening, the date of our latest advices, there was a prospect that the fighting would be renewed on Tuesday. A wholesome dread of our gunboats, however, may have prompted another attempt of the rebels to harass our troops in their new position.

Particulars of the Battles before Richmond, from the 26th to the 30th ultimo.

We give below the particulars of the battles of Mechanicsville, Gaines Hill and Savage's Station, as related by the correspondents of the New York *Times*. This intelligence does not extend beyond the 30th ult.; and although we are in possession of Northern papers to the 3d inst., we have no advices of the engagements of the 1st and 2d.

ON BOARD THE GUNBOAT STEPPING STONES, *James River*, Monday, June 30, 1862.

The right wing of our army has at length been attacked by the enemy—an event which was not wholly unanticipated by us. For several days previous to the attack, preparations were being made by the right wing to resist, if possible, to some extent, any advance movement of the rebels from the direction of Hanover or Mechanicsville, but the extent of the preparations were not sufficient to justify the belief that a vigorous stand was to be made on the west side of the Chickahominy.

At 10 A. M. on Thursday, the 26th, visitors on the Hanover road came into Mechanicsville with the intelligence that the enemy were approaching the town from the direction of Hanover. Three companies of the 9th Pennsylvania cavalry were immediately moved out to the road a half miles on the road in order to support the pickets already there. The strength of the enemy was not then known, neither could it be ascertained that he intended any thing beyond a reconnoissance.

THE ENEMY'S ADVANCE.

No sooner had the reinforcements reached their destination than the enemy showed that the rebels were advancing in considerable force from the direction of Hanover, they evidently having crossed the river at Meadow Bridge. The design of the rebels to turn our right could not now be doubted, and as it was clear that our small force would be insufficient to meet the attack, Gen. Reynolds sent back to Gen. McCall for reinforcements.

Meantime, and before the reinforcements could arrive, the enemy had pushed steadily onward and was fast closing in upon Major Stone's force. The small command, however, was drawn up in line, ready to receive the rebels, and we determined to do its utmost, even if it lost the life of every man. The cavalry took their position in the rear of the infantry, and remained at their posts until it was evident that the superior number of the rebels would ultimately drive us, when they retired to the rear, but still within supporting distance of the infantry. Onward came the rebel column, and firmly stood our small force to receive them. When the rebels had approached within rifle distance, Major Stone gave the command to fire, and a volley was poured into the enemy's ranks which told with terrific effect. At this fire a rebel Major was seen to fall.

The enemy returned the fire, and pushed his cavalry to our right, in order to surround our men. They at last succeeded in getting round to the rear, which circumstance placed our men in an exceedingly critical position. Major Stone, observing the importance of immediate action, rode up to his men, and shouted, "Shall we fight or surrender?" "*Fight!*" was the response of the Bucktails; and, after giving one more volley to the rebels in front, wheeled, charged through the cavalry in the rear, and gained a place of woods, where they took temporary refuge. Here they were again surrounded, and again they cut their way through the rebel cavalry, and succeeded in a direction toward Gen. McCall's camp.

Company K, and a portion of Company B, who were on the picket duty on the Ashland road, were too far distant to join their comrades in season to make a retreat with them. It is feared that this portion of the Bucktails were captured by the rebels, as nothing has been heard from them since the commencement of the fight.

ADVANCE OF THE FIRST BRIGADE.

The First Brigade (Gen. Martindale) proceeded through a field at the extreme right of the line, in order to repel any demonstration of the rebels that might be made in that quarter. They had not advanced far before the rebel skirmishers were discovered prowling in the woods directly in front, and soon after the enemy began to appear in considerable force advancing the right of the line. Gen. Martindale quickly disposed his forces, and prepared to give the rebels a most severe drubbing should they attempt to turn the right. The artillery soon brought into action, and did good service in shelling the woods. No attempt was made by the enemy at the time to push forward, and Gen. Martindale having become convinced of the much superior force of the enemy, did not consider it prudent to do anything more than hold his position.

It was nearly dark before our line was formed and the battle had commenced in earnest. The battle was principally between the artillery, although late in the evening the rebels attempted to turn our right, and were repulsed with a severe loss. The pieces used on both sides were of 10 and 12 pound calibre, the range being too short for guns carrying heavier metal. When the encagement had really commenced, and all the artillery was in practice, it seemed as though both armies were doomed to immediate annihilation, so terrific and deafening was the sound. The very earth seemed to quiver, and at times the whole heavens would be lighted up with a red glare.

This was the first night encagement of any consequence that had taken place since the army arrived on the Peninsula. The firing continued rapidly and incessantly until about 9 o'clock, without any apparent advantage being gained by either side. The rebels, for the most part, fired over, consequently our men suffered but little from their shots. The shells fired from our guns appeared to explode directly over the heads of the rebels, and we have reason to believe that they did not escape without a heavy loss from that new source.

At about 7 o'clock the enemy attempted to break our centre. To accomplish this he made most vigorous efforts, but was boldly and successfully met by Gen. Griffin, who arranged his men in excellent order and encouraged them by his presence and daring.

At 9.30 P. M. the firing had entirely ceased, the rebels had been repulsed, and we held our ground. Our loss was comparatively small, not exceeding 250 killed and wounded.

THE MORNING.

At 3 o'clock the next day the sleepers were aroused, and a whisper passed from our to our right, at least, and we had no reason to suppose that so important a movement would be attempted by a fight force. The enemy came prepared not only to force us from the stream and the Mechanicsville road, but also to drive us across the *Chickahominy*. Later in the day the rebel forces were estimated *to be not less than seventy-five thousand men.* The force we brought to bear numbered about 30,000. The odds was an impossibility, and the most had to be done.

THE BEST BEST THING.

At daylight, finding the enemy was rapidly closing on our right flank, Gen. Porter *issued orders for the whole force to fall back toward Gaines's Hill.*

The movement was conducted in the most orderly and satisfactory manner, and had I not known the nature of the movement, it would have been impossible for me to decide whether the army was advancing toward or retiring from the enemy.

As the column moved forward toward the Chickahominy, the regiments in the advance wheeled into position, forming the left of the line, and the regiments following took position at the center and right. The ground selected was well adapted to the purpose, it being a range of hills extending from a point near the Chickahominy to Coal Harbor. On the extreme left was the Chickahominy, then came a meadow, adjoining which was a succession of hills reaching to Coal Harbor. The front was fixed at the distance by woods. A ditch, in some places fifteen to twenty feet deep, and from the woods and formed the infantry line of defence. The line of battle was about two miles in length.

THE ENEMY'S POSITION.

On the enemy's right was the Chickahominy and a meadow, the same as on our left. Then came Gaines' Hill, which had been our camping ground, at the left of which was another hill, like that to Coal Harbor separating the two. An elevated plain formed the extreme left.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE BATTLE.

At about 1 o'clock our guns began to respond to those of the enemy. The Chickahominy were already engaged in front of the centre, and soon after they got to work along the whole extent of the lines. The firing became more frequent as the enemy's pickets advanced. The skirmishers were at length called in and took their position in the line.

By far the heaviest battle in which the army of the Potomac had yet been engaged was now progressing. Little did we think as we stood two days previous in the midst of the army that it was to soon to meet with a reverse. The rebels came down from Richmond in tremendous force, and they fought with the desperation of madmen.

We had taken the precaution the preceding night, to remove all the outer guns on the right to the other side of the river, and then destroyed all the bridges above the one which crossed just on the rear of Smith's Division.

On Wednesday Gen. McClelland opened them guns on the enemy, keeping up the fire from 10 A. M. till late in the afternoon. The fire was directed to the rebel batteries on the bluff across the river opposite Gaines' house. This bluff was lined with open and masked batteries, and I believe that to have taken possession of the bluff would have required the united force of the whole army. This was the strong point of the enemy, and he could have held it against terrible odds.

At 2 o'clock P. M., on Thursday, the artillery on both sides were hotly engaged. The infantry in force had not yet got into the fight, but not many minutes elapsed before they were also engaged.

The enemy now advanced in columns toward our centre. Martindale's Brigade stood firmly to receive the charge, as also did the Fifth New York Zouaves, who were on the right of Martindale. The rebels were repulsed, but at the loss of numbers of our brave men. Hitchcock of the rebels were soon to fall, but their places were quickly filled by others.

Failing to break our lines at the first attempt, the rebels sent over a large force to the right, for the purpose of turning our flank. We immediately strengthened that end of the column by a change of position.

The enemy had advanced to within a hundred yards of our batteries, our men with canister and grape. The carnage was terrible, and the rebels were driven back. Not only did the artillery open on this occasion, but also the infantry poured a constant fire.

It was now evident Gaines's Hill six columns deep, and in compact order. This mass of men gave our artillerists on the left a splendid opportunity for practice, and when the proper time arrived, a deadly fire was opened upon the advancing columns. An immense weight of canister and grape was thrown among them, and hundreds of their number were seen to bite the dust. The rebels, however, were not checked by our artillery, and onward they come toward our left.

Every man stood at his post, resolved to do his utmost to repel the enemy. Valley after valley was stripped of its ranks, but neither did it waver. At last the rebels poured a tremendous volley into our ranks, which thinned them out to an alarming extent. After a while, the superior numbers of the rebels also began to tell, and it became evident that our troops would soon be obliged to give way. The troops under command of Gen. McCall were nearly exhausted, having been in the battle of the preceding day, and having passed the night without sleep. Our men fought well, but they could not do impossibilities. One man could not contend against three, and consequently we were the winner. The left wing began to fall back. The centre and right of the column were consequently forced to do the same, and *our entire line commenced retreating toward the river.* The enemy seized upon the opportunity, with furious yells, rushed forward in masses. The horses attached to the batteries on the left were nearly all shot, consequently many of the pieces had to be abandoned. Teamsters and ambulance drivers urged on their horses, and try to get up the hill. Some portions of cavalry were gallantly charged, and confusion reigned. Many would have taken place, had not their pistols, and threatened to shoot those that ran.

But to continue. Our troops were now in full retreat. We had lost our position, and all attempts to rally the men were in vain. *The command for the troops to retire was given in order between the Chickahominy was drawn, and the retreat commenced* in that direction. It was nearly dark when the retreat was ordered, and the army had been desperate, and the enemy did not succeed in pressing us hard.

With the assistance of the reinforcements previously mentioned, another line of battle was formed on a hill a mile in the rear of the first position. The object, however, was more for the purpose of covering the retreat than for renewing the contest. The battle was ended.

A SEPARATE MOVEMENT.

The Seventeenth New York and Eighteenth Massachusetts Regiments, under command of Col. Lansing, were ordered Thursday morning to proceed to Old Church and intercept the retreat of Stonewall Jackson, who, it was reported, was on his way to cut off our communication in the rear. Arriving upon the ground, pickets were posted and scouts sent out to ascertain the location of Jackson, should he be in the vicinity. Scouts soon fell in with the rebel pickets and discovered that the enemy was driving down on the Hanover road with a large force of infantry and artillery.

Col. Lansing immediately ordered his men to form a large quantity of *grand* on the rear, and proceeded to Tunstall's Station, on the railroad.

The next day (Friday) learning that the rebels were still pursuing, he destroyed a large quantity of value at the station, and then went to the White House, where he remained until Saturday morning.

Before leaving the White House, Col Lansing ordered his men to burn a large quantity of sutler's stores, a large commissary store, and a large lot of damaged forage. This was also done under the personal direction of the gentleman whom he opposite the White House.

The men then in order was to burn the White House and all the out-buildings. This having been accomplished, Col. Lansing placed the command on four different gunboats, and proceeded to the rest of the retiring vessels. Arrived at Cumberland, the forces landed and destroyed a small amount of property, and then proceeded to West Point, where another lot of property, of little value was also destroyed. The whole force then moved down to Fortress Monroe, where they arrived Tuesday morning.

Movements of Our Left Wing.

THE RETREAT TO JAMES RIVER—EVENTS OF SATURDAY—CHANGE OF POSITION BY OUR ENTIRE FORCE.

Early in the morning of Saturday our entire force, except the left wing, commenced retreating *toward the river.* The enemy seized upon the movement, and, with furious yells, rushed forward in masses. The horses attached to the batteries on the left were nearly all shot, consequently many of the pieces had to be abandoned. Teamsters and ambulance drivers urged on their horses, and try to get up the hill. Some portions of cavalry were gallantly charged, and confusion reigned. Many would have taken place, had not their pistols, and threatened to shoot those that ran.

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