

STAUNTON SPECTATOR AND GENERAL ADVERTISER.

STRAKER Spectator.
WINSTON, V.A.
TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 1863.

THE CAPTURE OF WINCHESTER.

At the time of going to press last week we had no other reliable intelligence concerning the operations of our forces down the Valley than that contained in the despatch of Gen'l. Ewell, which merely stated that our troops, under the immediate command of Gen'l. Lee, had captured the town of Winchester, and a considerable number of pieces of artillery, &c., without saying anything about the character of the numbers of prisoners taken, in the absence of official information, there has been such a variety of reports that it has been impossible to learn satisfactorily what was the disposition of our forces, the character of the conflict, and the exact results accomplished. It seems, however, that Friday morning, Gen'l. Ewell, much to the surprise of the enemy, reached Mont Royal, Warren county, eighteen miles from Winchester, and at once shot off to the latter place, encountering a force of the enemy when within one mile of the town, with which skirmishing immediately commenced, the enemy retiring and the skirmishing continuing, our forces being in pursuit. It was at the time of this skirmishing that Lieut. Charles Norvell, a gallant Lynchburg, belonging to the 14th regiment, Va. cavalry, commanded by Capt. James Cochran, of this county, was seriously wounded. He was in command of Capt. Paul's company, who was absent, and in conjunction with one other company of his regiment, the whole numbering about 60 men, were chasing a body of the retreating enemy, when they were led into an ambuscade of a battery of artillery masked, and forty of them killed or wounded, among them Lieut. Norvell.

On the morning of Saturday our army renewed the advance, the enemy meeting the ground with some stubbornness, but they were compelled to continue their retreat. About noon of that day our forces reached the confines of the town, when a flag of truce was sent in, demanding a surrender of the place. The officer commanding replied that he would abide the issue of battle, if attacked would burn the town; which Gen'l. Ewell answered, if any man was burned after those fired the bombardment, the black flag would be hoisted and no quarter given. The assault upon the enemy's entrenchments was then commenced, and continued until dark. At an early hour this morning the attack was renewed, and continued throughout the day, causing most of the time being very severe. On Monday morning, the garrison capitulated, and our army took possession of the town, as well as the works from which the enemy had been dislodged.

As to the immediate material fruits of this capture the accounts vary, but as far as we are able to learn at this time, they are as follows:

- Prisoners, from three to four thousand, \$500 wagons, from 100 to 200; horses, from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000; accomplish this, we lost, it is reported, not more than two hundred in killed and wounded. The only "draw" to this brilliant achievement is the fact that the brave, Mirroy, succeeded in making his escape. There are many survivors as to the manner in which he effected his escape, but the final fact is that he succeeded. We think it very probable that he eluded vigilance of our picked by dressing in the garb of a citizen.

This is the main object of the important expedition which our troops entered, is only known to General Lee and his Lieutenants. They did not gain any field of Winchester, the hero of which was but an episode in a grand expedition, too hurried on to the road to Donelson, and the following departure from the greatest Captain of the age shows how soon they made a sweep upon the town of Winchester, on the Baltimore and Ohio

Courier, C. H. June 18th.

Gen'l. Cooper, A. & I. Gen':

"On the afternoon of the 24th, the Rebels took possession of Winchester, having several pieces of artillery, more than two hundred men, and a large quantity of ammunition and supplies. One was killed and two wounded."

H. E. LEE, Gen'l. Lee's Adj't. Gen'l.:

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The Black Flag.—In the recent battle of Port Hudson it is said that the black flag was raised defiantly to the breeze by the Confederates. This was justifiable under the circumstances—Let it be understood that the black flag is now in every battle in which the negroes are made the tools of the cowardly Abolitionists, and let there be no one in command of a black regiment or company taken prisoner, unless it be for the purpose of giving him a more mortified death by hanging.

Gov. Lurleen, in his message, writes that Texas has furnished 27,000 troops for the Confederate army. He recommends a State conscription law, to embrace all between the ages of sixteen and sixty, and this law has been adopted by the Legislature, and is now in force. The Governor states that, according to the latest information, this new world total about 27,000 men to the rebel army.

John C. Breckinridge, of Kentucky, has issued a call for 30,000 men, and the 15th regiment, recently raised 500 Yankees, Frankfort.

A SOLDIER'S OWN CHARGE.

An anonymous writer, to whom we have never referred in the remotest manner, in the last "Vindicator" offers an insult to every soldier in our heroic army by adopting the honored title "A Soldier," as the signature to an article which contains charges against us so evenly compounded of malice and absurdity that it is difficult to tell whether they excite more indignation than ridicule. The palpable absurdity contained in those charges shows that the ignorance of the author is only equalled by the malice which prompted them. The man who can assert that another, who was within the lines of the enemy, where all know the conscription act is of no effect, was "forced back by the conscription act" into the Confederate lines, where alone that act could operate or affect him in the slightest degree, exhibits a degree of stupid ignorance which is truly astounding.

At Port Hudson our forces have repulsed, it is reported, twenty seven assaults of the enemy. Our loss 300—the enemy's loss 5,000. Officers report all safe and in good spirits, with provisions for three months. Gen'l. Magruder is marching to the relief of Port Hudson. He will probably do for Banks what Gen'l. Johnson promised to do for Grant.

General Price, with a reported force of four brigades, has attacked, or is about to attack, the enemy at Helena, Arkansas. We have but little doubt "Old Pap" will "obtain" them.

The attack of our forces upon the enemy entrenched at Milliken's Bend, about 25 miles North of Vicksburg, was not successful. The enemy had three lines of works and were driven out of two but made a desperate stand at the third and with the assistance of gun-boats repelled our forces.

Nothing is known outside of official circles of Kirby Smith's movements. Advice from Memphis state that the wounded in transports are still arriving from Vicksburg.

THE PROGRESS OF DISCONTENT.

The unanimous nomination of Vallandigham by the Democracy of Ohio, for the highest office in the gift of the people of that State, indicates, says the Lynchburg Virginian, the progress of discontent towards the Lincoln Government, which is steadily increasing in the North. It will embolden the opposition everywhere; and one may expect to see still more open utterances respecting the despots enthroned at Washington.

The people of Ohio have dared to question, and to denounce the validity of that by which one of their most prominent citizens was driven into exile. What will Lincoln do? Can he accomplish what Edmund Burke, quite as good a statesman as himself, could not? Can he "frame an indictment against a whole people?" Burke knew not how to do it. Lincoln may. Yet, we believe Vallandigham, who stated it as his conviction that no more prominent men would be exiled. Meanwhile, the opposition will strengthen by the aliments it feeds upon, it will increase, but Lincoln must decrease. Already we see the beginning of the end. The progress of discontent at the North, and the growing clamor for peace, will, after a while, paralyze the energies of the Administration.—

Whilst our armies are energetically engaged in concurring a peace, we shall have the manliness to announce his name, company and regiment in the "Vindicator," we will give to him and his false charges such further notice as we may deem them worthy of receiving.

We are at a loss to know what can be the character of the ideas respecting editorial courtesy entertained by an editor who allows his paper to be made the medium for anonymous writers to illuminate the character of another editor.

We do not mention this in the way of complaint, for we know that we cannot be injured by it, but we mention it as showing a remarkably nice sense of propriety and an unusual degree of good taste. We acknowledge the right of any editor to conduct his paper according to his own taste. "Le plus court n'est disputandum." Every one should consult his own taste, as the fellow who nursed the skunk.

GOOD NEWS FROM THE WEST AND NORTH.

The news from the West and from the North is of the most gratifying character. Port Hudson and Vicksburg still hold out in gallant style, while Grant is fortifying his rear to keep off Johnson and Smith. In the North the invasion of Pennsylvania and Maryland by Lee has stirred up the whole Yankee nation, as the showman stirs up the monkeys with a "long pole." Such scenes of consternation and terror were never before exhibited. Well may that nation of Vandals be alarmed, for we hope the day of fearful retribution for all their vandalism and crimes is at hand.

THE LATEST NEWS.

There has been a cavalry fight in the vicinity of Salem, Fauquier county, but no reliable details have yet been received. Our forces were commanded by Gen'l. Fitzhugh Lee, and it is understood that the enemy were repulsed.

To those who are now vainly endeavoring to injure us by calumny, or influence our conduct as an editor by threats or personal violence, we duly the whole pack, including every "Mugwop," whale and hound.

RETURNING THANKS.

Our readers will be pleased to read the following General Order of General Ewell asking the officers and Chaplains of his command to return thanks to our Heavenly Father for the victory gained at Winchester, for a copy of which we are indebted to a friend:

Headquarters 9th Corps, June 18th, 1863.

General Orders, No. 44.

The Lieut. Gen'l. Commanding, makes the men and officers of the corps, to unite with him in returning thanks to our Heavenly Father for the signal success with which he has crowned the valor of this command.

In acknowledgment of Divine favor, Chaplains will hold religious services in their respective regiments at such times as may be most convenient. With undiminished courage, and in now in force, the Governor states that, according to the latest information, this new world total about 27,000 men to the rebel army.

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Dr. Elmer, the Surgeon of the 1st Regt. of the 15th, reported from

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