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The Kent News.

CHESTERTOWN:

SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 12, 1862.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

General Burnside has arrived at Fortress Monroe, and a large portion of his army corps is on the way to reinforce Gen. McClellan, who has by this time probably received reinforcements equal in number to his losses during the seven day's fighting before Richmond. The fresh troops are thrown forward and thus those engaged in the trials and fatigue of the movement on the James river have time for rest and reorganizations. Gen. McClellan is pushing forward the work on his intrenchments with great vigor. The troops are rapidly improving in condition, although they have done a great deal of work in the trenches. Our lines extend between four and five miles from the river, in a semi-circle, both flanks resting on the James. The Rebel lines are four miles beyond, circling in a similar shape. On Monday the Rebels fired on the mail boat Juniata, killing two men and wounding six. A subsequent reconnoissance was made with the gunboats, but no batteries were discovered. Nearly all the sick and wounded have been brought away.

The Richmond Examiner admits that the Rebels were out-generalled by McClellan's movement across the Chickahominy, and that "the glory and fruits of our (their) victory" was "seriously diminished" by this "grave mishap or fault."—The same print puts the number of prisoners who had been brought to Richmond at four thousand five hundred.

By the Great Eastern we have late dates from England. Parliament had talked a little more about American affairs, and Lord Palmerston had said that he could see no good at present in offers of "mediation" (not "intervention") but the Government would take advantage of any favorable opening that might occur. The Cotton market was upward and excited, the advance in two days being 1-2d. to 1d. per pound. Breadstuffs firm and steady.

A steamer arrived at Cairo on Tuesday, with news from Vicksburg to the 20th ult., at which time the bombardment was continued, and the town was deserted except by the military. General Curtis, not having received any reinforcements, has left Batesville and crossed Black river, with a view, it is thought, of reaching the Mississippi river near Crowley's ridge. Gen. Hindman has issued an appeal to the people of Arkansas to aid him in annoying the Federal forces in every way possible.

President Lincoln, accompanied by the Secretary of War, left Washington on Tuesday for Fortress Monroe. It is supposed they will consult with General McClellan before returning to Washington.

The Governor's Proclamation.

Governor Bradford, in advance of an order designating Maryland's quota of the three hundred thousand additional troops recently called out by the President, has issued a timely proclamation, breathing sentiments of the purest loyalty and devotion to the Union, urging upon the people of the State the justice and propriety of responding promptly to the call for more troops, and of at once enrolling themselves to the number which it is expected we will be called upon to furnish. The proclamation will be found on our first page. It speaks for itself, and we recommend its appeals to the favorable consideration of all young men whose circumstances are such as to admit of their entering the service of their country.

Let the Slavery Question Alone.

MR. WEBSTER'S SPEECH ENDORSED IN MASSACHUSETTS.

The Boston Post, in some commendatory remarks on Mr. Webster's speech in Congress on the 19th of June, extracts from which we published last week, says:

"Whoever means to labor for humanity and country will insist that members of Congress shall let the negro alone. Every step forward in intermeddling *'fills the secessionists with delight, while it depresses the loyal people.'* So spoke on Thursday Mr. Webster, a Union member of Congress from Maryland, and this tells the whole story. Patriotic citizens of Massachusetts! we pray you to ponder on such sterling words as these."

Then referring to Mr. Webster's appeal to the Republicans, now that they had gone to the full extent of the Chicago platform, to cease the agitation of the question—to let the matter alone, the same paper concludes its entreaty as follows:

"For God's sake, Republicans, heed that manly appeal! There is heart in those words. Write to your members of Congress, and commend them to stop voting for the hellish abolition measures that bode but eternal war for our noble country.

The Late Battles.

Now that the smoke of the late terrible battles has cleared away, and reliable intelligence of the seven days' incessant fighting come to hand; it is apparent that the results were far less damaging to the Union army than our apprehensions had led us to fear. It seems that we have not been beaten at all in any of the engagements during the seven or eight days.—The Richmond papers confess that the results did not meet the expectations of their Generals, and own up to a terrible repulse on the last day. The movement was entirely successful in its object—the transfer of the base of operations, and the change of front—and all the desperate efforts made by the enemy to prevent it were fruitless. So far from furnishing any reason for despondence, these actions furnish ground for increased confidence in the heroism of our soldiers and the ultimate success of the national cause. It is not denied that we have lost severely in these movements, by the slaughter of our men and the abandonment of wounded upon the field; but we have gained much more by the change of position, and by the tremendous loss inflicted upon the enemy.

Our army has been largely reinforced; it is now stronger than ever. Already the movement from the new base toward the Rebel capital has commenced, and the progress will be gradual but sure. Gen. McClellan, in his admirable address to his soldiers since the battles, has declared that his army shall enter the capital of the so-called Confederacy, and we have not the least doubt but that it will. In the meantime General Pope is getting his new command in a position to render important aid in the reduction of the Rebel stronghold. Its fall is simply a matter of time, and the people may rest satisfied that the period is not far hence.

THE CURRENCY.

The inflation of the value of specie is reaching such a point as to demand some active measures to provide a remedy. Gold yesterday went up to sixteen per cent. premium, and even cents are at a premium of three or four per cent. Everybody is cramped so much for small change as to be bothered on all occasions to transact the ordinary purchases of every day life. The movement appears to be a steadily progressive one. Gold was first driven out of circulation by the premium on it, then silver got into demand, grew scarce, and went up until it disappeared from common use, as far as possible, and now even nickels are held at a premium, as though some new and extraordinary value had been found in them.

What causes this premium on nickels? They are not exported. They are only of use at home. They are not of value for hoarding. And yet the panic mongers have driven them up to three or four per cent. premium. There never was a more causeless or ridiculous inflation than this, and yet what can we do to put a stop to it? We exported less specie last year than in any year for a long time past. The balance of trade was in our favor. Our imports were small and our exports large.—People lived economically, and retrenchment for a year had brought things down to a very solid basis.

With the present year business revived, the national finances were in a fine condition, money was superabundant at low rates, and imports and exports alike increased. Where, then, is the justification for all this inflation in the value of specie? People have tried to treat it with indifference, but it has now grown so critical that the issue of shinplasters of the five, ten, twenty-five and fifty cent breed is openly advocated. With this the triumph of the panic mongers will be complete.

We know that it is useless to denounce the machinations of those who have forced this specie crisis. But our purpose now is to call the attention of the leading minds to the necessity of some immediate measures to arrest the progress of the inflation. If the export of specie furnishes any ground for this panic, let the government either prohibit entirely all exportation of specie, or lay such an export duty on specie as will effectually check the movement. The latter has already been proposed and discussed in some of our exchanges. It would increase our national revenues or put a stop to the export of specie.

If shinplasters be issued and the reign of the inflation be firmly established, the values of all kinds of goods must rise, too, and with the increased cost of living, people will strike for higher wages, and thus the entire basis of affairs will be changed. All this must of course act injuriously upon the national finances and credit. We trust that Congress will not adjourn without taking some action in reference to the currency, in order to remedy the existing evils.—*Phil. North American.*

DR. GOLDSBOROUGH.—We are pleased to learn from the Centreville *Citizen* that Dr. Robert Goldsborough of that place has been appointed Hospital Surgeon at Fortress Monroe. Dr. G. is one of the true men of the State—as well as one of the most respected and meritorious on our Shore, and we are gratified at his appointment. We should like to see some of his patriotic and gallant sons promoted.

A GOOD JOKE.—The Richmond Examiner states that, as a result of the late battles, Confederate stocks rose from 93 to 97 cents—*payable in Confederate note currency!* It would have been the same thing had they advanced to 197, for both are equally worthless, and a cart load of them would not command a dollar in hard money nowhere in the world outside of rebeldom!

Local Matters.

MILITARY.—We learn that Gov. A. W. Bradford, of Maryland, has tendered to our fellow-townsman, Geo. Vickers, Esq., a commission as one of his Aids, with rank as Lieutenant Colonel.

CORN.—The long continued wet weather prevented the farmers from giving a full cultivation to corn prior to harvest, the consequence is that corn is smaller than usual. The warm weather of the earlier part of the week improved it considerably, but we think that without an extraordinary season, it cannot reach the crop of last year.

THE HARVEST.—The farmers of Kent have finished their wheat harvest. The crop is more than an average one, and the grain is mature and uninjured, except where the wheat was blown down by the wind, several weeks before it ripened, where it may be a little shrivelled; but in the main the harvest is a good one, and we should feel under renewed obligations to a beneficent Providence.

"RED BUG."—The Oat crop is very materially injured by an unexpected and fatal visitor, in the shape of a red bug.—The fields have a redish hue, the insect covering so much of the chaff. They fasten themselves at the base of the grain, where it is connected with the stem, and extract the juices of the grain, leaving the hull empty and compressible by the fingers. The pulp is in a dough state, which makes it vulnerable to the attacks of the destroyer. Upon shaking them from the head upon white paper they will be seen crawling, displaying a number of legs—some are very small—the smallest are uniformly red; some of the larger ones are dark in color, and one had wings. Their number is legion, and where they make an attack scarcely a sheath is exempt.—They seem to congregate in small companies of half a dozen or more. Oats have generally had an immunity from assaults and injury from the insect tribe, and with a tolerable soil and moist season are sure to produce a fair crop. The Hessian fly does not seem to relish their juices. We shall have to give to this new creature the soubriquet of *"Confederate Afflictor."*

PROF. J. ISAACS.—In consequence of an increase in the number of his patients, we are requested to state that Professor Isaacs will return to Chestertown on Tuesday next and remain until Friday. He is meeting with encouraging success in the treatment of diseases of the eye and ear. Of the number of his patients in this community, some have been already completely cured and others are rapidly improving. The hearing of Gen. Vickers has been entirely restored; that of John N. Usilton, Esq., continues to improve. Mr. S. W. Canady has experienced considerable improvement both in seeing and hearing, and a roaring in his head, which had been a source of constant annoyance, has been entirely removed. Others have been measurably relieved. We advise all persons who are suffering from impaired hearing or defective eyesight, to consult the Professor, as he makes no charge for examinations. His Pantoscopic Lenses are are said to be, by some of our citizens who are using them, the very best they have ever tried, and can be had on very reasonable terms.

THE LATE BENJAMIN C. VICKERS.—We have already announced the decease of Mr. Benjamin C. Vickers, son of Gen. George Vickers, of this place, but were unable, at the time, to give any particulars respecting it. We have now the circumstances attending his death, which may prove interesting to a large and sorrowing circle of friends.

Mr. Vickers was at the battle of Shiloh, and seemed to have a presentiment that he would fall in that battle, for in his pocket was found a paper with his name and company written upon it, as also a request that if he fell in battle his father should be informed of it. He was wounded by a minie ball in the thigh near the joint, which broke the bone, and in its course upwards lacerated the integuments and muscles, and when extracted was found flattened to the size of a quarter dollar. This was on the sixth of April. He was taken to Memphis, to the house of a relative and friend, where he had every care and attention, and where he died on the third of May, in the twenty-sixth year of his age. Two weeks previous to his decease, and when it became apparent that his wound would prove fatal, he was married to Miss Houston, of Tennessee, niece of Gen. Sam. Houston, of Texas, to whom he was engaged previous to entering the army, and who devoted herself to him with that spirit and tenderness which belongs only to woman.

During his whole illness he was perfectly calm and resigned, and expressed the utmost confidence that he had made his peace with God. A few days before his death he partook of the Communion, and after having sent his remembrances to each of his family, and expressing a great desire to see his mother, and that his father should be informed that he was not afraid to die, he passed away calmly and peacefully, and almost without a struggle.

And thus passed away our young friend, whose death thus early was triumphant! By his noble and generous qualities he appears to have attracted a large circle of friends in his new home, who manifested a deep interest in his condition and contributed largely to his comforts in his sickness by their attention and sympathies; and as a soldier, his chivalrous bearing at the battle of Shiloh won for him the tribute due to a brave and gallant man; but all this is naught compared to the everlasting source of consolation which should bear up his immediate family in their unexpected calamity. Amid the gloom and despondency surrounding them, they have a balm for the wounded spirit which must ever be present—*their son "died without fear, and in the blessed hope of a joyful resurrection."*

CHESTERTOWN—*Its recent Improvements—More Houses still Needed.*—Our town will turn out more new buildings this year than in any one year within the recollection of the oldest inhabitant, numbering some ten or twelve in all. Those already erected and in course of completion are as follows: Three on Court street, one for John N. Usilton, and two for James A. Shaw—all occupied as offices and stores; three on Main street, one a neat two-story dwelling, for Richard Smyth, and a fine three-story house, with store and dwelling combined, for Mrs. S. E. Barrett; and the other a store house and bakery for John Waibel. In addition to the above we understand that Messrs. A. W. Sparks & Son purpose erecting soon a fine three-story building, combining store house and dwelling, on the vacant lot adjoining their present store; and other buildings of smaller dimensions are under contract for erection in different parts of the town.

It is rather surprising that a spirit of enterprize and improvement should have seized our citizens in the midst of the present unfortunate condition of the country, but we doubt whether this has affected unfavorably the pecuniary resources of the people of this community. The large crops and good prices realized last year, and the equally abundant harvest of the present season, have maintained the agricultural community in easy circumstances, and as the mercantile and mechanical interests are regulated in no small degree by the prosperity of the agricultural, they have enjoyed a corresponding measure of success. The consequence is that surplus capital is beginning to develop itself in a tangible and commendable shape.

There is yet however great room for *improvement.* More houses are needed. We hear of several families who have but little prospect of procuring dwellings for the coming year. It was estimated that for the present year twenty-five to thirty more comfortable dwellings would have readily commanded responsible tenants, and the demand seems to be on the increase. The enterprize and investment of our people seem unaccountably to have been turned in other directions. There is no prettier spot of earth on the peninsula than that on which Chestertown stands, and none more susceptible of beautifying and improving. There are many of our citizens who possess the ability to build, suitable lots can be obtained, and there is no good reason why a number of dwellings should not be immediately put up and the wants of the community supplied. The population of our town could be easily increased to two thousand, and all that is necessary to advance it to that number, and even beyond it, is a move in the right direction and a spirit of generous emulation on the part of our citizens. There is yet sufficient time between this and the first of the ensuing year to build, and we hope soon to see an additional number of dwellings going up in every direction.

Correspondence of the Kent News

The Fourth of July in Smyrna.

SMYRNA, DEL., July 5th.

Messrs. Editors:—There were two celebrations of the Fourth of July here—one by the citizens representing the *true* Union sentiment of the town; the other by the town commissioners, who were elected as "peace men." These are the men who, one year ago, were bold in expressing the belief that the dissolution of the Union was an accomplished fact, and that "we had no Government." The campaign in this State is now about to open: hence the sudden outbursting of *patriotism* on the part of these men, who only one short year ago threatened to tear down the Stars and Stripes, should any citizen so far forget his obligations to Jeff Davis and his *Rebeldom* as to hoist them in Smyrna.

The Citizens' Celebration surpassed in unanimity of sentiment and genuine patriotic enthusiasm any had in our town for many years, and struck terror to the hearts of the traitors among us. The meeting was attended by one thousand to fifteen hundred persons, and was addressed by Rev. Mr. White, N. B. Smithers, Sam'l M. Harrington, Jr., and H. W. Draper, of Dover, and Rev. William Bishop and Edwin Wilmer, of Smyrna. The Union men, for the first time during this gigantic rebellion, seemed to awake from their lethargy, and determined to show the Secessionists that *much* forbearance had with them ceased to be a virtue. Their courage and determination were well vindicated and sustained. The meeting was all its friends could possibly have desired.

The "National Celebration," as the Commissioners complaisantly styled it, gotten up by petitions from the Secession part of the community, and asked for by not one Union man, came off in due time. Riders were sent out the day before to collect all the faithful from the surrounding country and towns, and when the Fourth came, "the mountains labored and brought forth a *little* mouse!" The speaking was conducted mainly by the larger boys of the town, and ended in a failure as perfect and complete as their own pet Confederacy will soon become. They had no speaking in the morning, and in the afternoon their whole number of speeches consumed but the time occupied by one of the Union speakers. The Citizens' meeting soon took from them their "staple commodity," by drawing off their hearers to listen to the wholesome doctrine promulgated by Jackson and now the motto of every loyal man in the land—"THE UNION MUST AND SHALL BE PRESERVED."

AN EXPLANATION.

One of the correspondents with General McClellan's army thus explains the reasons of his continued falling back, notwithstanding the frequent repulse of the Rebels when a stand was made:

Those persons who are unfamiliar with military movements will perhaps be a little puzzled to reconcile the fact of our repulsing the Rebels so frequently, so universally, with the fact that our army continued its retreat after every contest, and that in such haste as to leave behind, on the field, our dead and such of the wounded as were unable to walk, thus abandoning them to the enemy. The explanation is this:

The Commanding General, finding his brave and heroic army on the field before Richmond overborne by the pure force of numbers, the Rebels constantly pouring in hordes of reinforcements, finding his right flank turned, and being satisfied that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to hold his position, he very naturally determined to change it to one which could be more easily defended. He decided upon the point now occupied by his army, and having so decided, the next thing to be done was to march his army to the point desired in good order.

The Rebels followed and attacked him as a matter of course. But as often as they attacked, the loyal troops repulsed them, not without considerable loss, however. In order to gain his point, viz: to take up his position on James river in order and without stampeding or panic in his ranks, after each repulse of the Rebels he was obliged to hurry on to his destination with the greatest practicable speed, to do which he was compelled to leave the severely wounded on the field. The march or retreat or whatever else you choose to call it, is regarded here as a remarkably successful one, and the present position of the army is entirely free from assault.

Return of the French Princes.

The National Intelligencer of Monday gives the following satisfactory statement in regard to the departure of these gentlemen for home at the present time:

It is known to our readers that the Prince de Joinville, the Duke de Chartres, and the Comte de Paris, of whom the two last named were lately connected with the staff of General McClellan, have withdrawn from the scene of the pending military operations in Virginia, and are about to embark for Europe.

As the announcement of this fact has been accompanied in certain quarters with "explanations" of the most suppositious character, it may be proper to state, as we are able to do in the most positive terms, that this return to Europe of these distinguished guests, who have until lately formed a part of General McClellan's military family, is in pursuance of a purpose formed several weeks ago, and postponed at much inconvenience, only from their anxiety to "assist" at the impending battles before Richmond. All representations which allege that they have withdrawn from the United States contrary to their original intentions, under apprehensions of a foreign intervention, or, as others have feigned, in disgust at the imputed "inefficiency" of General McClellan, are wholly without foundation. On their return to this city from the army of Gen. McClellan they expressed in the warmest terms their admiration of that officer's military conduct, and of the heroic bearing of his devoted troops. They found nothing to deplore in the campaign on the Peninsula except that General McClellan should have been left without the reinforcements which were seen to be necessary in view of the forces massed against him from all parts of the South.

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY.—The following items are taken from the Maryland Citizen of Thursday:

Melancholy Affair.—We regret to learn of the death, by his own hand, of Mr. John Watson, a highly esteemed citizen of our county, on Tuesday last. He left his home at about 11 o'clock, A. M., and his family thought he had gone to some of the neighbors, but not having returned by night-fall, he was immediately sought through the neighborhood, and was discovered, about 10 o'clock at night, in his own barn, where he had hanged himself, having fastened the rope which he used around one of the rafters, and jumped from the steps leading to the loft. He had adjusted the rope so as to allow himself about four feet fall; and, we understand, his neck was broken.

Mr. W. was a kind-hearted and generous man, an estimable neighbor, and his melancholy death is deeply regretted by the entire community. He was a farmer and he possessor of considerable property. He leaves a wife and seven children.

Appointment.—Dr. Robert Goldsborough, of Centreville, has been appointed a hospital surgeon at Fortress Monroe.

FROM RICHMOND.

REBEL VIEW OF THE LATE BATTLES—IMPORTANT STATEMENT OF A REFUGEE.

Dr. D. G. Oliver, formerly of Grant co., Wisconsin, recently of Holly Springs, Mississippi, who was impressed into the Rebel service at the beginning of the war, and since the battle of Bull Run has been acting as Assistant Surgeon in the Rebel army, reached Washington on Sunday.—He had persistently refused to take the oath of allegiance to the Rebel Government, but was compelled to do so on the Tuesday before he escaped. He was detailed in charge of twenty-five ambulances filled with wounded to go to Lynchburg. Being possessed of the countersign, he determined to take advantage of the existing confusion to get away. He bribed a negro in Richmond to swap clothes with him and after passing the pickets by means of the countersign, he tramped to Fredericksburg and got into the lines of the Union army at that point. He has had a good opportunity to observe the condition of affairs in Rebeldom. He states that the entire white male population of the South between the ages of fifteen and forty have been forced into the army. The conscription there is a reality.

Numbers who are in arms are doing duty unwillingly, and would gladly get away from the tyranny of the Davis autocracy. Dr. Oliver has been in Richmond for the last two months. The Rebel force in Virginia is estimated at fully two hundred and fifty thousand. They admit a loss of twenty-five thousand in the recent battles.—They are subsisting on what is termed half rations, by which is meant only the substantials, without any of the small stores. They have an abundance of bacon, rice and corn, but no salt nor coffee, nor other small stores that go to make up a soldier's rations. Since the occupation of the Mississippi by the Federal forces, cutting off communication with Texas, their supplies of beef are brought from Florida, where there is an abundance of wild cattle. The stock of whiskey is pretty well exhausted.

Dr. Oliver says the greatest depression he observed was produced by the intelligence that President Lincoln had called out three hundred thousand additional troops. The opinion prevailed that if these troops should be promptly furnished the Rebel game would be ended. They have exhausted their resources for soldiers and would be unable to contend against a fresh army of that size. Their only hope is that this call will not be promptly responded to by volunteers, but that there will be sufficient delay to afford an opportunity for foreign intervention before they are forced to give up. Dr. Oliver says the Rebel plan of fighting is not with reserves but by retreats in the field, and that in every battle regiments are regularly relieved by fresh troops after having fought for a little while. In this way it was hoped to wear out and tire down the troops under McClellan.

It is seldom the same regiments have been allowed to engage twice in the same battle. The Rebels had concentrated nearly all their available troops at Richmond, except so much of Beauregard's army as stopped at Charleston, and about 35,000 of the same army left in Mississippi. The Rebels are terribly afraid of the gunboats. They reckon one gunboat equal to a whole division on land. They admit that the recent movement of Gen. McClellan was a masterly stroke of policy, and that his present position is infinitely stronger than the one he abandoned. It is his impression that no further attack will be made upon him where he is. The Rebels are sending their wounded and prisoners to the interior. There is no room for them in Richmond, and medical stores are exceedingly scarce. Dr. Oliver was obliged to dress wounds and amputations with only cold water and bandages.

The reported death of Stonewall Jackson is untrue. Dr. Oliver saw him in Richmond on Tuesday night.

FROM VICKSBURG.

CONTINUATION OF THE BOMBARDMENT.

PHILADELPHIA, July 7.—A special despatch from Memphis, dated 6th inst., states that the ram Lioness had arrived there from Vicksburg with dates to 2d inst.

The canal being cut across the point of land opposite Vicksburg was nearly completed. A large number of negroes had been collected to work on the canal from the various plantations in the vicinity, and in all cases Government receipts were given for them. Several thousand more were about to be engaged on the work.—It is supposed that when the ditch is finished the river will cut a wide channel during high water, forever leaving Vicksburg an inland village.

The bombardment has been kept up at regular intervals from both fleets, Com. Davis' having arrived when the Lioness left. The Rebel batteries were replying occasionally. It is stated that the Rebel works were to be stormed on the Fourth of July, and there is every reason to believe that the place has already fallen.

All the non-combatants were removed previous to the bombardment. The Rebel force is said to be 16,000.

ORDER IN NEW ORLEANS.—The following, from a young lady at New Orleans to a friend in New York, shows conclusively that General Butler has brought order out of disorder in the Crescent City. Such testimony from a "Seeesher" is invaluable:

"I have passed the winter here full of anxiety. For two months the town has been possessed by the troops of the United States, and their conduct has been excellect. I have not seen or heard of an offensive act, or word or look. I confess with great pleasure, that in this respect my expectations have been falsified. It is true that General Butler restrains them with firmness, and maintains an exact discipline. In consequence of my position, I have had frequent intercourse with the superior officers, and have always been treated with politeness, but I feel deeply my humiliation. General Butler has been most rigorous in many respects, but now, as his power is unquestioned, I hope and trust he will relax.