

BY D. W. CRAIG.
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The Oregon Argus.

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The following communication was sent to us by the writer, Mrs. McKean, an old lady of some sixty years. She is a true patriot and despises rebels heartily. We commend her scriptural quotations to the prayerful consideration of Cornwall.

For the Argus.
The South will rue the day she roused the sons of Liberty, in North America. For the Union was built up by truth, on the rock of firmness, and "The gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." Some one has sown tares in our Nation amongst the wheat. The Union must be preserved, for that is the wheat. But I am afraid the wheat was fully ripe; for when this rebellion first showed its snaky head, the very earth appeared to quake and tremble, to arouse the people from their deadly slumbers. The people were not watching and so the terrible serpent of secession crept upon them. It is written "The seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head." Then how can any one say they will not take up arms to bruise the head of this monster; for they would thus be aiding treason in trampling freedom under foot as worthless dross. Why do they wish to destroy this glorious Union? Preserve the Union it is life; destroy the Union and it is death. Tarn, why will ye die? Why will ye not possess yourselves with wisdom and knowledge, while it is in store for you? Seek and ye shall find. Take the New Testament for your guide, and not the old one, for the old things are done away and all things are become new. There was to be a new Heaven and a new earth. Now what is the new Heaven, but the Union? And what is the new earth but America? For it was not until some time after the settlement of America, the people threw off the yoke and became a free and independent people. But the adversary deceived the world. Satan who goes about as a roaring Lion, thought he might devour the Union. Why did they not submit quietly to their defeat in failing to elect Breckinridge? It was too hard to give up the reins, after having held them so long. They thought that they must be monarch, and another Administration like the last would have completed the work. They had so nearly accomplished. John Brown and his companions must be hung, but those traitors who pull down the American flag, and trample it in the dust, they must be let alone. I can sympathize with those people in the South, who are over awed by ruffian violence, and dare not say they are for the Union. But not those usurpers, gentlemen, knights of the golden circle, some of them hypocritically wearing a cloak of religion to conceal their base selfish purposes. They are like the old rulers of the Jews; they will not "have this man to rule over them." Away with him! is their cry. They know not what they do.

Mrs. MCKEAN.

We acknowledge the receipt from the American publishers, Leonard Scott & Co. of Blackwood's Magazine, with the Westminster, the London Quarterly, and the Edinburgh, and North British Reviews. These five Magazines are leading organs of public opinion in Great Britain. By a perusal of their articles which are the fruit of some of the best intellect in England, the different processes of logic by which conclusions are reached on religious and political questions, by John Bull and Brother Jonathan becomes apparent, and the various phases which civilization assumes in the two countries may be explained.

Though our feelings have been outraged by the contemptuous tone with which these magazines have predicted the failure of Republican Institutions in America, the magnificent self conceit displayed in their comparison between American and British Institutions, with their sublime ignorance of our affairs, upon which they exhibit a surprising degree of sapience, have almost if not quite restored our good humor.

Our kinship by origin, and oneness both of language and literature, make a study of mutual characteristics and tendencies a profitable exercise. The republication of these, which are regarded across the water as their standard publications, should be encouraged, and every American whose means and leisure permit, should indulge a taste for general literature, by an occasional glance at these magazines. So we cheerfully commend Blackwood and the British Reviews to our readers.

New volumes of the four British Reviews the Westminster, the North British, the London and the Edinburgh, and also Blackwood's Magazine, republished by L. Scott & Co. N. Y. City, commence with the Jan. numbers. The terms per annum for any one of the four Reviews or Blackwood are \$3, any two of the number may be obtained for \$5, and the five for \$10.

Too True.—The following brief extract from a work by Theodore Winthrop, a young Massachusetts man killed at Big Bethel, is an over-true picture of the corruption and demoralization in high and low places, but the artist points to an influence, destined we may hope to work a radical change. Public Opinion suddenly roused to scrutinize carefully what concerns the public weal so vitally, but which had been passed by or glossed over before, is now beginning to transfix with its piercing gaze all men of every degree whether their operation has been to swindle the Government or their neighbors, and as each one

is recognized, he is branded rogue and thief. "It is one of those epochs when mankind is in a slough of despond, and must have a lift from Hercules. It is a time when society, that drowsy Diogenes, is beginning to bestir itself after a long and careless slumber, and holding up the lantern of public opinion to find honest men, suddenly reveals a mighty army of rogues. Rogues everywhere; scabby rogues in mean places, showy rogues in high places; rogues cheating for cents in cheap shops, rogues defrauding for millions in splendid bank parlors; princely rogues claiming princely salaries for unprofitable services, and puny rogues corrupted by such example, stealing the last profits to eke out their puny pay and give them their base pleasures; potent rogues buttoning up a million's worth of steamships or locomotives in their fob, and rogues as potent for ill on a smaller scale, keeping back the widow's mite, and storing the orphan's scanty portion with the usurer. Rogues everywhere! And the great stern steady eye of public opinion, at last fully open, and detecting each rogue in the place he had crept or strode into, marking him there in his dastard shame or haughty bravado, and branding him thief and scoundrel, so that all the world could know him after."

PICKETING.—While on my lonely beat, a light tread attracted my attention, and on looking up I beheld one of Secesh's pickets standing before me. "Stranger," says he, "you remind me of my grandmother, who expired before I was born; but this unnatural war has made us enemies, and I must shoot you. Give me a chew tobacco." He was a young man my boy, in the prime of life, and descended from the First Families of Virginia. I looked at him, and says I, in the language of Judge Wait— "Let's compromise, my brother." "Never!" says he, "the South is fighting for her liberty, her firesides, and the pursuit of happiness, and desire most respectfully to welcome you with bloody hands to a hospitable grave."

"Stand off ten paces," says I, and let's see whose name shall come before the corner first." He took his place and we fired simultaneously. I heard his ball go whistling by a hair about a quarter of a mile on my right, and when the smoke cleared away, I saw the Secesh picket approach me with an awful expression of woe on his otherwise dirty countenance. "Soldier," says he, "was there anything in my head before you fired?" "Nothing," says I, "save a few harmless insects." "I speak not of them," says he. "Was there anything inside of my head?" "Nothing!" says I. "Well just listen now." "That," said he, "is your bullet which has penetrated my skull, and is rolling around in my brain. I die happy, and with an empty stomach; but there is one thing I should like to see before I die for my country. Have you a quarter about you?"

Too much affected to speak, I drew the coin from my pocket and handed it to him. The dying man clutched it convulsively, and fixing his bleared eyes upon it proceeded to soliloquize—"This is the first quarter I have seen since the fall of Sumter, and if I had wounded you I should have been totally unable to give you any quarter. Ah! how beautiful it is, how bright, how exquisite, highest bliss of all, good for four drinks. But I have no time to say all I feel."

The expiring soldier then laid down his gun, hung his cap and overcoat on a branch of a tree, and blew his nose. He then died.

And there I stood, my boy, on that solitary beat, looking mournfully down upon that fallen type of manhood, and thinking how singular it was he had forgotten to give me back my quarter.—The sight, and thinking about my quarter, so affected me that I was obliged to turn my back on the corpse, and walk sadly away. When I returned to the spot the body had disappeared! Had it gone to heaven? Perhaps so my boy, perhaps; but I haven't seen my quarter since.

According to our way of thinking, the Government, considering how short a time was allowed it for preparation, has accomplished wonders, having gotten together within little over a twelvemonth, an army which in point of discipline, enthusiasm, muscle, and pluck, as well as even in equipments, (despite swindling army contractors,) will compare favorably with any of the trained standing armies of Europe. Let such an army be pitted against the forces of a rival power, in a cause with which the sympathy of our whole undivided country is in unison, and history will have a series of deeds to record beside which some of the most brilliant achievements of modern times, will be considerably reduced in lustre. The man, or party who can pause at this stage of our national difficulties to condemn the Federal Government on grounds of a purely political nature, must be an enemy to our Country. We shall have ample room and verge enough for political discussion when the war is ended—a result which must now be near at hand.—S. F. Herald and Mirror.

ITEMS.—Oregon apples sell by the invoice in San Francisco at 8 1/2 to 10 1/2 c a lb. The Times says two miners have come from Salmon River having between them 187 pounds of gold, the result of less than three months' work in an "outside" claim. Bishop Simpson will preside at the Conference of the M. E. Church in this State this year. There are six inmates at the Insane Asylum in Portland, under the care of Drs. Hawthorne and Loryea. There is a poor lunatic wandering about Oregon City who should be taken care of.

ASPECTS OF THE WAR.—Victory follows the nation's march, and her moral and material strength accumulates amid the storm of civil war. While it is deplorable to contemplate the bloodshed, desolation and miseries that have been the necessary accompaniments of this unfortunate war, and that must still accompany it to the end of the chapter there is still a relief to the dark picture. The Government of the country, while prosecuting hostilities with energy, appears to obey the dictates of an inflexible though unhappy duty, into which no rancorous or vindictive spirit seems to enter. We do not believe a parallel case exists in history, where an assailed Government, in a time of civil war, has exhibited such an absence of the spirit we have alluded to, and which course, if consistently followed out, will be the best means of restoring peace to the nation at an early time. On this point we must not confound the Government with those semi-insane factions that would have this war not waged to conquer peace and restore the Union to its previous integrity, but pressed forward forthso to carry out some fanatic theories or social absurdities of their own. These people—the Abolitionists, whose evil influences have drenched the country, with blood—while most loud mouthed and blatant about their loyalty, are really the greatest embarrassment to the Government, which, if they had their way, they would reduce from being the conservator of the nation to the fatal position of head of a one idea faction. If the Abolitionists are capable of learning anything, they must, by this time, be aware that the Government neither exists nor acts, in peace or in war, for any section, party or faction, but for the restoration of the Union as it has been, and for the future progress, security and greatness of the country at large.—San Francisco Monitor.

FEATURES OF THE NEWS.—The great armor clad nondescript, the old Merrimac, or new Virginia, has gone the way of all rebel craft at last, to the chagrin no doubt, of some peace men North, as well as war men South, who fancied that she was to alter the course of the war, and drive our navy from the sea. The plating being an afterthought, and clumsily done, the vessel which on her first launching as an iron plated war steamer, rolled off the stocks and began sinking, was compelled to confine her operations to quiet water. The Monitor, insignificant in appearance, beside her big antagonist, yet carrying an armament sufficient to batter down a citadel, seems to have frightened the officers and men of the rebel battery, as they deserted and blew her up, to prevent her from falling into the hands of her owners. Norfolk surrendered through a deputation of her citizens, and thus two leading objects of the war in that section are accomplished. The rebels are now hemmed in on every side, and although the way of retreat is yet open for them a little further south, the game is up. Foreign powers see this, and are now setting their faces most decidedly against the rebellion. The war is evidently nearly at an end, and nothing but American obstinacy prolongs it. The confederates have long since abandoned hope, and are now fighting merely because they hate to give in, except on compulsion.

NOT ON THE TRACK.—We notice that W. W. Page declines to run for Judge of this District. As his acceptance of an appointment to this place proves that his objection is not to the *Posish*, we suppose it is more particularly to the idea of "running in vain."

The Oregon Farmer after scolding a little, declares itself no longer a candidate for State Printer.

The Pacific Railroad and Telegraph Bill has passed the House. It will doubtless pass the Senate, and receive the President's signature. Should it succeed this session, work may be commenced on it at three or more points simultaneously. This is of great importance to people on this coast.

EASTERN MAILS.—All mails for the East, now go by weekly steamer via Panama. This arrangement will continue until the Overland mail route is put in an efficient state. The proprietors of the latter mail route will notify the Department when they are ready to resume the discharge of their duties under the amended contract. The letter mail will then be transferred to their carriage—but all printed matter will go by ocean as now.

Washington, May 7th.—The N. Y. Times dispatch says the French Minister has gone to Richmond to assure the rebel Government that the Emperor does not recognize them as a power among nations.—England and France, by recognizing them as belligerents, did all that could be expected on the part of neutral Governments. Continued hostilities and the threatened destruction of cotton and tobacco crops would be wonton injury to the commerce of the world—injuring France and England even more than the United States, and that a resort to guerrilla warfare, as proposed when their armists were destroyed, would demoralize society, and be simply a return to barbarism. The rebels have been admonished, therefore, that the cessation of hostilities is a duty they owe to themselves and to the world, which all civilized nations will unite in requiring of them.

Details of Eastern News.

Battle of Williamsburg. Baltimore, May 8th.—The following is from the American's account of the battle of Williamsburg: "The battle of Monday was a most warmly contested engagement. Owing to the roughness of the country and the bad condition of the roads, but a small portion of our troops could be brought into action. Gen. Sickles' Brigade, of Gen. Hooker's Division, bore the brunt of the battle, and fought most valiantly throughout, though greatly outnumbered by the enemy, who also had a superior position. The approaches to their earthworks were through ravines and swamps, while the rain fell in torrents throughout the day. The men had also been lying on their arms all the previous night, and were soaked with rain and chilled with cold. The battle raged from early in the morning until three o'clock, P. M., when McClellan arrived with fresh troops, and relieved Hooker's division, who were nearly prostrate from fatigue. The Third Regiment of Sickles' Brigade had their ranks terribly thinned by the enemy's batteries. They are represented to have fought with such bravery that not less than two hundred of them were killed or wounded. After the arrival of McClellan, the enemy were fiercely charged on by Hancock's Brigade, and were driven within their works before daylight—nearly seven hundred of their dead being left on the field, with many wounded, though most of the latter were carried into Williamsburg. Our loss was nearly three hundred killed and seven hundred wounded. Night having come on, our forces lay on their arms on the battlefield, prepared to storm the works in the morning."

"On Tuesday morning, McClellan sent out scouts, whilst preparing to move on the enemy's works. The scouts soon returned and reported that the rebels had again taken flight during the night, and their works and Williamsburg were then occupied by the national troops. Ft. Magrader was a most extensive work, capable of a prolonged defense. The enemy were reported, by the few negroes and women found in the town, to have fled in great confusion.—Large numbers of wagons and manitons, and a considerable store of provisions were found in the town. The road in the vicinity was strewn with arms and accouterments. A number of deserters also made their escape and came within our lines, who stated that they had intelligence of a large number of Federal troops landing on the shore of York river, about Williamsburg, to flank them."

Gen. McClellan was struck by a fragment of shell, but not injured. Yorktown, May 7.—The latest intelligence from the field of battle says: McClellan came up with the rebels eight miles beyond Williamsburg. After a severe skirmish with the rear guard he put them to flight across the Chickahominy. A large additional number of deserters, who had nothing to eat for forty-eight hours but a few hard biscuits, when brought in fell down exhausted."

Heavy cannonading was heard at an early hour this morning by the boats coming down the river. The result is not known. There is no doubt that the whole rebel army is in a state of disorganization, under the pursuit of McClellan, and fleeing with great precipitation, without any intention of making a stand anywhere. Unless they can reach Richmond by boats via James river, they will certainly be intercepted by forces landed at West Point.—Not less than fifty steamers are engaged in transporting the balance of the army to that point.

On Monday last the enemy took one Pennsylvania battery, having first killed all the horses. The battery had but a small infantry support, who were overpowered and compelled to surrender. Before the close of the day, this battery, with one of the enemy's, was recaptured. We have just learned that the enemy have destroyed all the bridges across the Chickahominy. McClellan is resting his army this side of the river. The Chickahominy runs parallel with the James river, into which it flows.

New York, May 9.—The forces engaged at Williamsburg were 30,000 Federals and 50,000 rebels.—Gen. Jo Johnston led the latter in person. They have lost several of their best officers. Our men fought valiantly and used the bayonet freely. The following account of Gen. Hancock's bayonet charge is published in the Herald to-day: There was scarcely 100 yards between the rebels and our men when our skirmish fire ceased. The 5th Wisconsin and 43d New York formed in close order; at long range, musket barrels came to level and one terrible volley tore through the rebel ranks; some long range guns came to second level, and on order "Charge bayonets," away went the two regiments, amidst loud cheers. Gallant as the foe were, they could not stand this, and for a space, generally estimated at three-quarters of a mile, they advance under a fire splendidly served from a battery, with a cloud of skirmishers stretched across their front. The whole fire was very destructive. The rebels had not the nerve, broke, and fled in a complete panic.

The Washington correspondent of the N. Y. Tribune states that large dealers, who are pleading on behalf of the whiskey interest with the Committee of Ways and Means, make the most incredible assertion that the total product of all the distilleries in the United States is not less than 600,000,000 gallons. If so, a tax of ten per cent, will net a very pretty sum for the national treasury. Probably a still larger tax will be imposed on this commodity.

See in another column the advertisement of Redington & Co's. Yeast Powders, an infallible guarantee for light sweet bread.



BATTLE AT WEST POINT, VA.—The Rebels Defeated! NORFOLK SURRENDERED! THE MERRIMAC BLOWN UP!

Naval Engagement on the Mississippi, at Fort Wright—Three Rebel Gunboats Destroyed—Affairs at Corinth, &c. Pittsburg Landing, May 4th.—In the affair at Farmington, Gen. Pope took two or three hundred prisoners, four pieces of artillery, and several hundred muskets.—The fight lasted three or four hours, and was sharply contested on both sides; threatened to bring on a general engagement.—Divisions and brigades were formed in line, and there was a general call to arms. The rebels finally broke and fled in confusion.

Cameron, Minister to Russia, and Bayard Taylor, Secretary of Legation, sailed on the Persia May 7th. Adirces from Burnside's division state that a regiment of North Carolinians has been organized; Capt. Potter, of Gen. Foster's staff, has been appointed Colonel. A large number of Union men voluntarily came forward and took the oath of allegiance. They will be armed and equipped by Burnside, to defend their homes against rebels.

Washington, May 8.—The bill establishing the Bureau of Agriculture passed the Senate to-day. The bill organizing the Territory of Arizona, which passed the House, instead of the Senate as telegraphed last night, repeals all laws, Congressional or Territorial, establishing and maintaining the relation of master and slave, and provides for the entire abolition of slavery therein, and in all Territories now organized.

Information from Fredericksburg says that the merchants there are largely indebted at the North, and are selling out their property with the avowed intention of defrauding their Northern creditors. Anonymous letters have been received by Union men at Fredericksburg, threatening their lives and property when our army leaves.

Newmarket, Va., May 8.—Yesterday the rebel pickets above the Columbia to the bridge on the east side of the Shenandoah were driven back by a detachment under Col. Foster, who was ambuscaded by two rebel regiments. The action lasted an hour. Foster withdrew in good order, and did not pursue. Our company of Vermont cavalry was surrounded, but escaped by swimming the river. The enemy's loss was not ascertained. Foster captured six prisoners. It was reported here to-day that a skirmish occurred yesterday near Staunton between Milroy's advance and Edward Johnson's command. The latter were repulsed.

A boat from Pittsburg Landing arrived at Cairo on the 8th and reported our army within two miles of Corinth.

Chicago, May 9.—The Memphis Avalanche, of the 5th inst., contains the following from Vicksburg: We learn that the authorities are rapidly strengthening the fortifications there, which are reported to be of such formidable character as to preclude the possibility of the enemy's fleet coming up the river.

The same paper acknowledges the loss of 20 killed and 100 wounded, at Farmington, last Saturday, and deprecates the adoption of the system of persecuting Union men. It says such action is calculated to lead to disastrous results.

A gentleman who left New Orleans on the 1st May, charges the men in Ft. St. Philip and Jackson with receiving bribes from the Federals, and were then induced to spike the guns and surrender. The commander of the French frigate Molator, before the surrender of the city, gave notice that he required six days in order to remove French citizens. The cotton at New Orleans and Baton Rouge, amounting to 32,000 bales, had been destroyed.

Jeff Davis had issued a proclamation, requesting the people to assemble at their places of worship, on the 16th May, to ask the blessing of God on the Confederate arms.

A dispatch from Augusta, Ga., May 3d, states that prisoners who have escaped from Key West, report 5,000 Federals in the hospitals with the small-pox.

New York, May 10.—The steamer Oriental, from Port Royal, 6th May, has arrived.

The pirate steamer Nashville has got into Wilmington. The sailing sloop-of-war Jamestown was the only blockading ship there, and the pirate slipped by.

The Ocean Queen, has arrived from Yorktown, with 1,000 sick and wounded. Capt. Boggs, the commander of the Verona, in his official report of the fight with the rebel boat Morgan, at New Orleans, says that over fifty of her crew were wounded, and she was set on fire by her commander, who burned his wounded with the vessel.

Nassau (New Providence) papers of 30th April, contains later news from Charleston. The citizens there were expecting an attack soon, and considerable excitement prevailed. Business was almost entirely suspended. Ft. Sumter and Moultrie were being furnished with heavy guns. Five schooners, loaded with turpentine, had arrived at Nassau, having run the blockade. The Charleston, steamship, with arms, had arrived from Liverpool. The schooner Melora, from Ft. Pickens 24th April, has arrived. The rebels still hold possession of Pensacola, having a force of 11,000. Gen. Arnold was awaiting reinforcements before commencing an attack. Washington, May 9th.—A bearer of dispatches from Com. Farragut at New Orleans has arrived with dates to the 29th of April. At that time the Commodore was taking every means to secure the occupa-

tion of the Forts along the coast by Gen. Butler's forces.

A bill to educate the black children in the District of Columbia, and to abolish the black code, has passed the Senate by a vote of 28 to 7.

Mr. Adams, U. S. Minister at the Court of St. James, has made a demand upon the English Government for a return of all British ships which have eluded the blockade.

The Ship Emile St. Pierre, captured whilst attempting to run the blockade, was afterwards retaken by her crew while on her way to Philadelphia, and taken to Liverpool.

Monterey, Tenn., May 8th.—A reconnaissance to within a mile of the enemy's entrenchments has fully established the fact that the rebels there are in force, and furthermore, they intended to fight inside their entrenchments. The weather is good and the roads improving.

Refugees, who left Memphis on the 4th of May, report the rebel troops gradually evacuating Ft. Wright, and going to Corinth. Beauregard was gathering together all the forces he could for the impending battle.

A letter from Burnsville, Texas, to the Memphis Appeal, says that Vidaurre has imposed a duty of 14 cents on every pound of cotton shipped into Mexico, and a duty of 25 per cent, on all goods from Mexico into Texas.

BATTLE AT WEST POINT. Washington, 9th.—The War Department has received the following: Gen. Franklin's and Gen. Sedgwick's division, numbering 20,000 men, landed at West Point; Gen. —'s division embarking for the same place, together with several batteries. The river, from Yorktown up, is lined with steamers and transports, and no doubt is entertained but we will intercept and cut off the rebels, unless they escape across the James river.

FORTRESS MONROE, 9th.—The Yorktown steamer brings information of Gen. McClellan having advanced twelve miles beyond Williamsburg. He had several skirmishes with the enemy routing them with heavy loss.

The embarkation of troops for West Point is progressing with great rapidity. A heavy battle took place there on Wednesday afternoon, May 7th, between Gen. Sedgwick's and Franklin's Divisions, and the rebels under Gen. Lee who were endeavoring to make their way to Richmond. It is said to have been the severest battle on the peninsula. The rebels were totally defeated and driven towards the Chickahominy. The whole number of Federals killed and wounded was 300. The rebels had not less than thirty thousand men engaged; the whole Federal force is said to have not exceeded 12,000. The latter would probably have been defeated had it not been for the gun boats arriving opportunely and driving the enemy back with great slaughter.

St. Louis, 9th.—Gen. Curtis reports from Batesville, Ark., that he had a skirmish with the enemy and took a number of prisoners, also 100 stand of arms. Batesville is on the White River, 100 miles West of the Mississippi river.

Chicago, 10.—News has been received from Batesville, Arkansas, to the 6th.—The Union feeling there was very strong since the arrival of Gen. Curtis's army.—Men from the surrounding towns were daily coming in and taking the oath of allegiance. The day the army arrived, thirty men came a distance of thirty-five miles for that purpose.

It is the opinion of military men that the rebels have made their last stand in Virginia.

Pittsman Ferry, Arkansas, 8th.—Fifteen transports are now at Little Rock, taking in 12,000 troops for Corinth.

FORTRESS MONROE, May 8.—Shortly before noon to-day the Monitor, Naugatuck, Seminole, Susquehanna, Duckah, and San Jacinto, in the order named, steamed towards Sewall's Point, and as soon as within range they opened fire with shot and shell against the battery. Most of the shots were good ones. It was nearly half an hour before a reply was made from the Point. The Rip Raps battery next opened fire; then the Naugatuck fired for the first time. Several shots were fired from the single gun on the extremity of the Point, when one from the Monitor struck in the vicinity, disabling the gun. The position of the Monitor was far in advance of the rest of the fleet. She continued in motion until within a mile or two of the point, when considerable excitement must have been done by the accurate firing. The Naugatuck kept in the back ground, the range of her Parrott gun enabling her to do so. Sewall's Point battery replied briskly. The Rip Raps fired occasionally. A continual fire was kept up from the gunboats, but on account of the distance no details can be given. Nothing of note occurred until 2 o'clock, when the firing became very feeble from the Point. The Monitor about this time, retired from her position and joined the fleet, and at 15 minutes past two, a very heavy black smoke arose rapidly from the Point, caused probably by the burning of the rebel barracks and other buildings. About half past two the fleet retired, with the exception of the Monitor. The Merrimac at five o'clock was off the Point, and the Monitor ready to attack her. The Seminole has retired to the Lower Roads, there being little prospect of a fight. At 5:30 P. M. the Monitor retired, leaving the Merrimac in the same position.

FORTRESS MONROE, 9.—The Merrimac remained off Sewall's Point all last night. The Monitor went up this morning and fired a few shots into the Point. The Rip Raps battery also opened a brisk fire, many shells striking in the woods on the Point.

This morning it is said that Gen. Bar-side, with a large force, is within a few