

cisive battle will be fought to-day unless the rebels should bring on an engagement, which is not probable.

Washington, 14.—Gentlemen in high position repeat the assertion as coming from Burnside, that he has men enough, and wants no reinforcements. It is thought here that about 40,000 of our troops were engaged in yesterday's battle. From information received this morning, preparations were making all night for a conflict to-day. Burnside remaining on the field, giving orders and looking after the condition of his men. Additional surgeons, everything which our wounded may require have been dispatched from Washington—Gen. Meagher was wounded in the leg, in yesterday's battle.

New York, 14.—The Herald's Fredericksburg dispatch dated the 13th, says it is advertised, beyond doubt, that the rebels are nearly 200,000 strong. Jackson commands their right, extending from Port Royal to Glendale Station. Longstreet has the centre, from Gooch's Station, to the Telegraph road. Lee and Stuart are on the left.

A dispatch from headquarters, last night, to the Herald, says that Gen. Franklin's line moved forward at sunrise. Shortly afterwards a rebel battery opened on our line, and the 9th N. Y. militia were ordered to charge; but, after a fierce struggle, were compelled to retire. The remainder of that brigade, under Gen. Tyler, then charged on the battery, and the fight became general. On the extreme left the commanding was terrible, but our troops suffered little from it. Gradually the fight extended round to the right. About 10 o'clock Gen. Samner's troops engaged the enemy back of the city. The battle raged furiously until dark; the enemy occupying the woods and hills, had the most advantageous position, but were driven back on their right a mile and a half. Early in the day, several hundred prisoners were taken, who report Lee's whole army in the vicinity.

New York, Dec. 15.—Concerning Saturday's fight, the Herald has the following: The battle raged fiercely throughout the day and evening until dark. The fighting in our immediate front, and on the right and beyond Fredericksburg, was carried on by Sumner's division. Shortly after 9 o'clock, Gen. Couch's corps moved out from the upper part of the city with a strong detachment of skirmishers. The enemy yielded gradually, but contested our progress with great stubbornness, and for some time the rattle of musketry was incessant. At the time this movement commenced, batteries of the division stationed on the bluffs across the river, opened with considerable artillery fire. The weather to-day is clear and warm, and the roads are in very good condition. The position of the armies remains nearly the same. There is but little artillery firing this afternoon, by either party. The enemy, who are in plain view, are engaged in strengthening their posts. About 100 prisoners have been taken since our army crossed the river.

Washington, Dec. 15.—On Wednesday evening our gunboats at Port Royal, 27 miles from Fredericksburg, were fired into by a rebel battery, supposed to number 20 guns. The firing was rapid, and continued till sunset, when the battery was silenced. The next morning the gunboats again opened on the batteries, but received no response. Our loss was 2 killed and 3 wounded.

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Nashville, 12th.—The rebels have a heavy force near Nolanville, another at Murfreesboro' and a considerable force this side of Nolan's creek—the entire number estimated at 70,000.

Chicago, Dec. 13.—The accounts of the surrender of Federal troops at Hartsville, Tennessee, some days ago, are meagre.—Our loss was 81 men killed, 120 wounded, and 1,300 taken prisoners. Three wagon loads of muskets were afterwards recovered from the enemy by a force sent to pursue; but they succeeded in carrying off about 20 wagons and teams. The rebel loss was about 50. The cause of the disaster was the incapacity of the commander

to handle his troops, although personally they acted bravely. Two of the regiments were composed of new troops.

Richmond papers acknowledge the loss of 225 killed and wounded at Hartsville, Tennessee.

At Vicksburg the rebel force is represented to be 7,000 men, a large number of them sick.

Gen. Grant is still at Oxford, and an immediate advance is not expected.

Philadelphia, Dec. 15.—The Press' Washington special dispatch states that Gen. Banks had landed at Winton Head, on the Chowna river, and formed a junction with the troops at Suffolk. It is supposed that he is advancing on Weldon.—Gen. Banks has assumed the chief command of the troops under Gens. Foster, Peck, Angier and Emory.

A letter from Fortress Monroe on Sunday says that Plymouth, N. C., has been destroyed by fire, but by what division of the Federal army is not known. A scouting party from Suffolk had some skirmishing on Friday at Joiner's Ford and captured two rebel captains with 15 privates.

Newbern, N. C., Dec. 10.—The free labor movement which has been extensively but quietly organized in Eastern North Carolina, is now understood to be preparatory to an organization of the Government of the State on a loyal basis so that North Carolina may accept President Lincoln's policy of compensated emancipation.

Fortress Monroe, Dec. 14.—Southern papers say that Gen. Foster's North Carolina force is designed to co-operate with the Yankees at Suffolk against Richmond, either by direct advance upon Petersburg, or by attempting to seize our railroad communications at Weldon.

Headquarters Army of Potomac, Dec. 15.—There was considerable firing yesterday, between the advance of both armies. The rebels showed a disposition to move against Franklin's forces, but did not.—We had some skirmishing this morning, with considerable artillery firing.

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Coriolanus reports having seen a large fleet entering Cape Fear river.

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The military is not to be used except to suppress riots and mob resistance to the laws; all civil authority that can be effected at military posts will be permitted.

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#### FEDERAL FORCES RE CROSS THE RAPPAHANNOCK!

Washington, Dec. 16.—The following dispatch, dated Falmouth, 8:15 this morning, has been just received: "Raining fast; the river is rising rapidly, and all our troops are on this side of the river, and the pontoons up."

Headquarters of the Army of the Potomac—Dec. 16th, 1:30 p.m.—During last night the Army of the Potomac evacuated its positions on the opposite side of the river. The movement was a perilous one, but was conducted in safety. The artillery was the first to cross the river. The last of the infantry brought up the rear shortly after daylight. The enemy never discovered the movement until it was too late to do us any damage. As soon as the last man got safely across the river, the pontoon bridges were removed, cutting off communication between the shores. Our wounded are all safe on this side of the river. A heavy wind prevailed last night, accompanied by considerable rain, which assisted us in our movement to prevent the rebels from learning our intentions.

New York, Dec. 16.—The Washington correspondent of the *Commercial Advertiser* of the 15th says, if our army is crowned with victory before Fredericksburg, it will insure the appointment of Judge Holt as successor to Secretary Smith, but should any mishap occur, it may lead to a reconstruction of the Cabinet and recall of McClellan to command. Already we have speculations and rumors on the subject, but like everything else, the war news is to decide. In the meanwhile, almost every one is excited with feverish impatience.

The Tribune has a special dispatch from Nashville, giving an account of the visitation of a flag of truce on the Murfreesboro Turnpike, by which fifty-eight of the Fourth Michigan were captured.

A scout from Murfreesboro says that Jeff Davis, in a speech there on Friday, said that Tennessee must be held at all hazards. Gen. Polk also made a speech, and said he expected Grant to be defeated at the next battle, and then Nashville is to be assailed. There are about forty thousand rebels between Murfreesboro and Nashville.

Forrest, with three regiments of cavalry, left Manchester on Thursday last, for the purpose of crossing the Cumberland river below Nashville, to cut off the railroad communication.

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