THE OREGON ARGUS.

BY D. W. CRAIG.

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Reaction in England.

It was an unavoidable misfortune that all criticism of the conflict in America should at first be directed to its deplorable consequences rather than to the nature of the conflict itself. These consequences were flagrant, overwhelming, and touching our own interests so nearly, that a calm review of the causes which had brought them about was hardly at first to be expected. Every serious effort to understand the nature and purpose of the gigantic struggle brings with it new reasons for modifying most of those opinions which were hastily advocated by the popular organs of English opinion at its first outbreak. The daily press cannot aspire to do more than give expression to the prevailing opinions of the time; it spreads, but cannot, consistently with the very conditions of its existence, aspire to lead them. The symptoms of reaction in English opinion are now, as might be expected, becoming every day more decided, the time which has elapsed has allowed of study, the requisite information has been acquired, and before long, in spite of exasperated feeling, a more full measure of justice will be meted out to the North than it has yet received at English hands. The first indication of the reaction came from a quarter which authoritatively called upon all thinking men to pause before they joined in the popular outcry; and Mr. Mill's protest in *Fraser's Magazine*, coming as it did in the heat of our exasperation at the *Trent* affair, could not, in spite of its masterly clearance of all extraneous matters, at once produce its legitimate effect. But every succeeding day brings thinking men to his side, while the courage he then displayed encourages others to come forward with the results of their investigations. No subject more requires patient inquiry. The complaint of the Americans that the nature of their struggle with the South was not understood in England, though laughed at and evaded, is found to be just and true. The first detailed attempt to master the elements of the subject has been made by Mr. Cairnes, to whose scientific review of the History of Slavery in the States we have devoted a separate article, and therefore only allude to it here. With Mr. Cairnes may be associated the Count Agenor de Gasparin, who takes up the political side of the question, and subjects the whole progress of events, both in America and Europe, since the first secession of the Southern States, to a detailed criticism of which they stood greatly in need. He meets the advocates of the South at every point. The pretension of the Southern party that their only object is to relieve themselves from Northern oppression, and to protect themselves from unconstitutional attack, he reduces to its true value by pointing out, what ought to be the notorious fact, that they have in every point adopted the very constitution from which they have seceded, that they have altered nothing, but simply added fresh and oppressive clauses on the subject of slavery. The simple fact that the only motive of secession was to secure an outlet for their system of agriculture in the south and west, is brought out by both these writers with a clearness of evidence that cuts at the very roots of the controversy. The unreasonable reply that the North is no more abolitionist than the South is shown to be only trouble by those who do not understand the immense importance of the resolution of the Republican party that slavery shall at least spread no farther. This resolution, if not immediately abolitionist, is as ultimately fatal to slavery as the most revolutionary interference with the established rights of property in America. The resolution of the Republican party to make a legal stand against that system with which America has been so long reproached by Europe, instead of awakening those sympathies which might justly have been expected, has been branded as a half measure, and a cordial recognition, which would have been of more value than an army, has been denied to a party who certainly had every reason to believe they could not fail to receive it. We are glad to see that Count Gasparin's work is about to be translated, and feel sure that it will have a great effect in aiding that change in English opinion which we look upon as inevitable. The advocates of friendly separation and European intervention, to bring it about, are singularly silent upon the terms they would propose, and the bases on which they imagine such a termination of the war possible. Europe could not for very shame intervene to give an extension to slavery in America, which the North has resolved shall no more be allowed to it; and is it supposed that the South would quietly submit to accept terms at the hands of Europe which they have taken up arms to resist, when merely declared desirable by their fellow-countrymen in the North? There is, however, from this very cause, very little real fear of intervention. Before any interference on the part of European governments is to be practically dreaded, some formula must be arrived at in which it could be offered to the States. The principles on which Europe, even if it had the power, which may be questioned, could assume to settle the great question at stake, are still to seek; for such bald cynicism as would be implied in putting a stop to the quarrel without entering on its merits, would be too disgraceful to be avowed. If our only grounds of interference are a desire to escape from the disagreeable consequences which the continuance of the conflict entails upon ourselves, we should have no just cause of complaint if the antagonists were to conclude a truce for the purpose of resisting so purely selfish a proceeding. In fact, there is no possible ground of compromise; these the Americans themselves have long since exhausted. The principles at stake have now come face to face; they do not admit of mediation. The South have taken to the sword, and have but hastened the inevitable doom of that institution in whose defense they have drawn it.

The limits of Federal and State rights have been a subject of controversy in America from its first existence as a nation; but there is little difficulty in showing that the legality of secession would have been energetically repudiated by all the great men who framed the Constitution, and still less that it is in flagrant disharmony with the Constitution itself.—Whatever may be said in favor of the inherent and inalienable right of revolt against any government which oppresses its subjects, every particular case must stand on its own merits. Revolt is not laudable, but becomes so by the purposes it sets before itself. These purposes, in the present revolt of the Southern States, are simply revolting to every humane mind, and threaten to throw back the civilization of the world by a system of government alike at variance with humanity and progress.—*Westminster Review, Oct. 1862.*

Letter from Salem.

SALEM, Jan. 3, 1863.

ED. ARGUS: There has been quite a stirring time at the capital since the *Argus* took 'Chickopee' by the collar and gave the thing a few lessons on 'loyalty' and Government currency. The honest farmers and laboring men generally applaud your course, and yield to your unanswerable criticisms. They consider the *Argus* to be the fast friend of the poor man's interest. 'Chick' and other soulless money-lenders, shavers, and sharpers, thought they had their plans all arranged to run down the currency and keep it out of the country, or create the impression that it was 'dishonest' to pay debts in currency. They hoped in the mean time to hurry up the 'mortgages' and securities to a speedy payment in *coin*, or to extort a promise so strong that it would be equal to the solemnity of an oath that the debts should be paid in coin.

"Alas! the plans of men and mice
Gang aft awry."—

Poor 'Chick' has strained his eyeballs in vain in looking out on the approaches to town, hoping to descry in the distance some *mortgagee* rattling the pewter in his saddle-bags that is to form a broker's bank to *buy* 'greenbacks' with. Nary mortgagee has come with the '*chick-aren*'—'George' is slow and stubborn. The offer of a 'certificate of honesty' from "the Agent" doesn't seem to coax George out of the 'hazel-patch.' The 'latest news' from the 'hazel-patch' is that George has been ciphering, and has figured out the problem by stating it about this way—"*Greenbacks is to coin, what Chick's certificate of honesty* would be to a *passport vised by a contraband.*" The result is, that George thinks his next crop of *hazel-nuts* will command enough greenbacks to *lift* the mortgage. George being rather '*honest*' by nature, and more of a patriot than the *mortgagee*, thinks it is his *duty* to bring greenbacks, as the more *coin* there is put in "the Agent's" pocket, the more he will *cry down the currency*, so as to speculate in buying it up—whereas, if he pays him in greenbacks, he will change his tune and try to cry *up* the currency, by shouting "*Greenbacks is rising* in New York"—a conclusion which seems to have been *generally* reached by those who, like George, have ciphered.

I deem it but justice to state that *Chick is now taking greenbacks* (with a wry face), and the probabilities are that he will *continue to take them at par*, for all "debts, dues, and demands," (I quote the law,) not excepting *medicine*. This doughface Yankee has always had the reputation of being what Paul calls a "*liar, evil beast, and slow belly*," with the additional prefix 'blue' attached to the abdomen—(I won't say 'belly,' as it might be thought by some 'Cornwall saint' to be '*v-u-l-g-a-r*.') Late indications seem to favor the opinion of some that, in addition to his 'blue' *front*, he will soon have a '*green back*.'—The disease has already broken out "all over in spots," and, in the absence of his "family physician" [in San Francisco], an 'Hon' doctor has been called in, who, after a *post a tergo** examination, decides that he has been poisoned by legal tenders forced down him by an instrument which *he* thinks has been ground on a "petit-larceny" stone. (The 'Hon.' doctor is said to have *contracted* the same disease.)

I will occasionally drop you a line, and keep you posted. By the way, haven't we had a beautiful winter so far? How it makes my heart bleed to think that this wicked rebellion is forcing our friends in the land of our nativity into the snows and frosts of rebeldom, to suffer, bleed, and die, far, far from home and friends, while *we* are comfortably housed at home, enjoying the comforts and even luxuries of life in a mild climate and on hospitable soil.

CANTO.

*A quotation from Virgil, a *chaste* poet, we believe.

THE TELEGRAPH.—A portion of the wire for the telegraph line through this State to Yreka, was lost on the ship "Noonday," which was wrecked on a sunken rock off the Northwest Farallones, near the entrance of San Francisco Bay. This loss will probably delay the completion of the line several months.

Proclamation of Freedom!

By the President of the United States, etc.

WHEREAS, On the 22d day of September, 1862, a proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing among other things the following, to wit: That on the 1st day of January, 1863, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall be in rebellion against the United States, shall, henceforth and forever, be free, and the Executive Government of the United States, including the Military and Naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such person, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any effort they may make for their actual freedom; and that the Executive will, on the 1st day of January, aforesaid, issue a proclamation designating the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people therein respectively shall be in rebellion against the United States, and the fact that any State or people thereof shall on that day be in good faith represented in Congress by members chosen thereto by a majority of the qualified voters in such States, shall, in the absence of strong countervailing testimony, be deemed conclusive evidence that such State or the people thereof are not in rebellion against the United States;—

Now, THEREFORE, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, in time of actual rebellion against the Government of the United States, as a fit and necessary war measure for suppressing said rebellion, do, on this first day of January, 1863, and in accordance with my purpose to publish my proclamation after a period of one hundred days from the date of the first above-mentioned order, designate the States and parts of States therein, the people whereof respectively are at this day in rebellion against the United States, to be the following, to wit: Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana (excepting the parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemine, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, Ascension, Assumption, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and New Orleans, including the city of New Orleans), Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia (except 48 counties, designated as "Western Virginia," and the other counties of Berkeley, Accomac, Northampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Anne, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth), which excepted parts are for the present left precisely as if this proclamation were not issued.

And by virtue of the power and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within these designated States, are, and henceforth shall be, FREE; and that the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons.

And I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free, to abstain from all violence, unless in necessary self-defense; and I recommend to them that in all cases, when allowed, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages.

And I further declare and make known, that such persons of suitable condition will be received into the armed service of the United States, to garrison the forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts, in said service.

Upon this, which is sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgment of mankind and the gracious favor of Almighty God.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, on the 1st day of January, A. D. 1863, and of the Independence of the United States of America the 87th year.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President.
WM. H. SEWARD, Sec'y of State.

Details of Eastern News.

Cairo, Dec. 29.—Van Dorn is believed to be between Bolivar, Miss., and the river. On the 20th he attacked the Federals, numbering 250, at Davies' Mills, six miles below Grand Junction, but was repulsed, with a loss of 20 killed and 30 wounded. He left on the field a number of wounded, who were not carried off. A number of prisoners were taken. The Federal loss was trifling.

Gen. Grant's falling back across the Tallahatchie is confirmed. The main body of the army has been at Holly Springs some days. It is supposed Grant will now open the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, and remove his base of supplies from Cairo to Memphis.

Port Hudson (below Vicksburg) has been attacked and completely demolished by our gunboats; 60 guns were captured. At latest accounts Admiral Farragut had reached a point 20 miles below Vicksburg. Gen. Sherman's expedition from Memphis has also probably reached the vicinity of that city. His expedition is said to be composed of 114 transports, carrying 50,000 men, and 7 gunboats.

In a skirmish near Helena, on the 22d, 20 Federals were captured and 4 killed, besides a number wounded.

New York, Jan. 5.—The Times' special dispatch says that there is nothing in recent advices from our Ministers in Europe indicating a change in the policy of non-intervention.

A Falmouth, Va., dispatch of the 3d gives an account of a reconnoissance in force recently made to Morrisville on this side of the Rappahannock; 48 miles were made in 30 hours. One of the regiments crossed the Rappahannock and penetrated seven miles into the interior, but found no rebels in force.

Great Battle at Murfreesboro!

DECISIVE UNION VICTORY!

The following is a brief review of the movements of Gen. Rosecrans' army, which is necessary to a proper understanding of affairs in the vicinity of Murfreesboro: On Friday morning, the 26th of December, our entire force was in motion from Nashville, sweeping down on the Wilson, Nolinsville, and Murfreesboro turnpikes. During the day Col. Carlin's brigade of McCook's corps had some wily skirmishing, and one gun and caison were captured from a Georgia battery, and the enemy were driven back at all points. Gen. Thomas' corps moved down the Franklin and Wilson turnpikes and intermediate points—Gen. McCook's corps down the Nolinsville turnpike, and Gen. Crittenden's down the Murfreesboro turnpike. At dark we occupied Nolinsville. On Saturday, Gen. McCook was directed to press Hardee's second division at Triune, and the whole corps moved forward. Hardee fell back rapidly before McCook's eager advance, and Crittenden on the left drove the rebels all day, carrying the bridge on the Jefferson and Murfreesboro turnpike in gallant style. At nightfall the two armies faced each other on opposite sides of Stewart's creek, 20 miles from Nashville. Nothing was done on Sunday. Gen. Rosecrans declined to attack that day. On Monday morning, at daylight, the army was in motion, and a battle was expected, but with the exception of a duel between Parson's 4th U. S. Artillery and a rebel battery, nothing was done. To the right of the Murfreesboro turnpike there was no engagement. This was the only opposition made to our crossing the creek. At 1 o'clock we were within six miles of Murfreesboro on the direct turnpike, and at 5 o'clock Gen. Crittenden reported the enemy drawn up in line of battle on the east side of Stone river, and he was ordered to form in line of battle, with two divisions in front and reserve. Gen. McCook also reported his command seven miles from Murfreesboro, with the enemy in line of battle on Stone river. From Murfreesboro to the Franklin turnpike, a similar disposition of the forces was ordered in Crittenden's line. This will enable all to understand the position of Rosecrans' army.

Murfreesboro, Jan. 1.—A terrible battle was fought yesterday.

Latest from the Battle-field, up to Noon.—The rebel centre has been broken, and things look favorable for us.

The following is the substance of intelligence from Murfreesboro, received at Nashville, Tenn.: The Federals encountered the rebels on the 30th, ult., and after heavy skirmishing, the rebels were driven back. We captured 100 prisoners, and killed and wounded a large number of rebels. Our loss was 70 killed and wounded. At daybreak of the 31st the fight was renewed with great fury. Gen. McCook's corps was opposed to Hardee, and after desperate fighting with heavy loss, McCook retreated two miles. He soon rallied, but was again driven back at night. One report says he was four miles on this side of the ground he occupied in the morning, and another report says the fight lasted until 10 o'clock in the morning, at which time we maintained our position. The Federal loss is heavy. Among the killed are Gens. Sill, Willich, and Chaffer; Cols. Kell, Farmer, and Jones; Lieut.-Cols. Garesche, and Jonas.

Nashville, Jan. 1st.—Gen. Rosecrans' army, numbering 45,000 effective men and 100 pieces of artillery, skirmished all the way to the battle-field, the enemy resisting bitterly. The whole of Tuesday was spent by our forces reconnoitering. The enemy was found strongly posted on a bend of Stone river, on the west side, his flank resting on Murfreesboro. His centre, also, had the advantage of high ground, with a dense growth of cedar, masking completely their position, which gave them the advantage of a cross fire. During the night dispositions were made to attack the enemy in the morning. After dark the enemy were reported moving on McCook, obviously to attack our right. This corresponded with the wishes of Rosecrans, who instructed McCook to hold the enemy in check, while the left wing would be thrown into Murfreesboro behind the enemy.

At daybreak, on the 31st, everything appeared working well. The battle opened on the right, and by 7 o'clock ominous sounds indicated that their fire was approaching our left. The fight raged furiously for some time, and the fire continued to approach on the right with alarming rapidity, extending to the centre, and it was clear that the right was doubling upon the left. The enemy had compelled us to make a complete change of front of that wing, and were pressing the centre. At this moment six batteries opened on the rebels, who began to give way, and were driven back a mile. Our whole line advanced, and the enemy again made formidable demonstrations upon our left, while they prepared for another onslaught on the right. Meanwhile orders had been issued to move our left on the enemy before he had time to execute them. The enemy again burst upon our centre, and it began to break. Rosecrans' division was thrown into the breach, and the enemy again retreated hastily into a dense thicket. Again they assailed our right, and again were driven back. By this time the number of stragglers was formidable, and the prospects were rather discouraging, but there was no panic. The commanding General visited every part of the field, and seemed confident of success.

Early in the day we were severely embarrassed by the enterprise of the rebel cavalry, who made serious dashes upon McCook's ammunition and subsistance train, capturing a number of wagons. Artillery ammunition was very scarce at one time, as it was announced that not a wagon load could be found. Our batteries were quiet on that account. This misfortune was caused by the capture of McCook's train. About 2 o'clock the battle had shifted from the right to the left. The enemy discovering the impossibility of succeeding in their main design, had suddenly massed his forces on the left, crossing the river or moving under cover of high bluffs from his right, and the fight raged unremittingly for a length of time, when they were checked by our murderous fire, both of musketry and artillery.

The scene at this period was magnificently terrible. The whole battle was in full view; the enemy deploying right and left, bringing up their batteries in fine style—our own vomiting smoke and iron missiles upon them with awful fury, and our gallant fellows moving to the front with unflinching courage, or lying flat upon their faces to escape the rebel fire until the moment for action. Solid shot, shells and Minnie balls rattled around like hail. Rosecrans himself was incessantly exposed. His chief of staff, Lieut.-Col. Garesche, had his head taken off by a round shot, and the blood spattered the General and some of the staff. Three orderlies were killed and not ten feet from the General. Five or six horses in his staff and escort were struck. Between four and five o'clock the enemy were apparently exhausted by the rapid and incessant assaults, and took up a position not assailable without abundant artillery, and the fire on both sides slacked and finally ceased at dark, the battle having raged 11 hours.

The loss of life on our side, considering the terrific nature of the firing, was comparatively limited in wounded. The casualty list, including captures, does not exceed perhaps 1,500, not one-fourth of whom were killed. This is attributed to the care taken to make our men lie down. The enemy's loss must have been more severe. Among our losses we have to mourn that of several of our finest officers.

When the battle closed, the enemy occupied the ground which was ours in the morning, and the advantage was therefore in their favor.

Rosecrans determined to renew the battle this morning, and opened furiously with our left at the dawn. The enemy however, would not retire from our right, and the battle worked that way. At 11 o'clock matters were not very flattering on that side. At 12, our artillery received new supplies of ammunition, and a terrible fire was opened. The enemy then began to give way, Gen. Thomas pressing on their centre and Crittenden on their left.

Nashville, Jan. 2.—The battle of Stone River is not yet decided. It has been continued for three days, with intermissions. Yesterday and to-day, after the battle of Wednesday, the enemy persisted in moving upon our right, to cut us off from Nashville; but finding that wing too strong, on Thursday morning they suddenly rushed upon the centre, but were utterly repulsed by the left of the corps commanded by Thomas and the right of Crittenden's corps. Later in the day they fiercely assailed the right and centre again, but were repulsed. Both sides spent the remainder of the day in sharp skirmishing and maneuvering for positions. During the night the enemy appeared to be concentrating again upon the right. Their commands were distinctly heard in our camps; but suspecting a *ruse*, Rosecrans threw Bently's brigade of Van Cleve's division across the river on our left, with supports, where they rested. About 10 this morning the enemy made another centre attack, but were handsomely repulsed. Between 3 and 4 o'clock this afternoon, a tremendous mass of the enemy suddenly were precipitated upon Bently's brigade, and drove it, after a gallant struggle, clear back across the river. Negley's division, which had already immortalized itself, and the division of Jeff. C. Davis, were thrown forward successively. The most desperate contest ensued, as both sides in the battle seemed furiously determined to win the victory. Both threw in their artillery, until nearly all the batteries and both armies were at work. The uproar of musketry and artillery was of the most furious description, and the whole field was soon shrouded in a pall of smoke. Our brave fellows were sadly cut up, but marched to the assault with unflinching determination. Negley at last ordered his division to charge. The men pushed forward without faltering, and the enemy suddenly gave way. The 30th Pennsylvania charged on the 26th Tennessee, captured its colors, and rushed upon a battery and drove away the gunners, and secured it for a trophy. Gen. Rosecrans, in the midst of the fierce carnage, ordered the advance of the whole line, and at dark our line was sweeping forward with wild enthusiasm. Darkness made it impossible to press our advantage to a conclusion. Nevertheless, the left was fairly established on the east bank of the river, the centre advanced to the position heretofore held by the enemy, and the right again advanced almost to the line from which it was driven on Wednesday. Thus a decisive advantage is with us. To-morrow morning, however, the battle will be resumed, and we feel sure of our ultimate victory.

Our losses since Wednesday morning may amount to about 4,000 killed and wounded. We have also lost a large number of prisoners.

Camp near Murfreesboro, Jan. 4.—To Gen. Halleck:—I have to announce that the enemy is in full retreat. They left last night. The river having risen, and the bridge across it between the left wing and the centre being incomplete, I deemed it prudent to withdraw that wing during the night. The rebels occupied that time until 4 o'clock this morning in their retreat. The announcement of their retreat was made known to me at 7.

Our ammunition train arrived during the night. To-day was occupied in distributing the ammunition, burying the dead and collecting the wounded from the field of battle.

A pursuit has been commenced by the centre, two leading brigades having arrived at the west side of Stone river. This evening we shall occupy the town and push pursuit to-morrow. Our Medical Director estimates the wounded in the hospital at 5,500, and our dead at 1,000.

ROSECRANS.

Nashville, Jan. 5.—From persons arriving from the battle field we learn that on Saturday night, during the storm, the rebels attacked our men in the rifle pits along the whole line. There was heavy fighting in the centre. We finally succeeded in driving the rebels across Stone river. The 7th Pennsylvania, 3d Ohio and 8th Indiana first carried their defenses. On Sunday morning Stanley's brigade entered Murfreesboro. The town is considerably injured by shells.

Headquarters, Department of the Cumberland, Jan. 5.—To Gen. Halleck: We have fought one of the greatest battles of the war, and are victorious. Our entire success on the 31st was prevented by the surprise of our right flank. We have, nevertheless, beaten them after a three days' fight. They fled in great confusion on Saturday night last, and their cavalry column left this morning. Their loss was very heavy. Gens. Rains and Hanson were killed, and Gens. Adams, Breckinridge, and Gladson wounded.

ROSECRANS.

Murfreesboro, Jan 5.—The enemy is evacuating. Left no property behind. Gen. Negley pursued them with infantry and cavalry, and is still following to-day.—Sheir's 1st Tennessee brigade attacked and dispersed the enemy's rear guard yesterday. Their loss on Wednesday was 5,000; on Thursday, several hundred; on Friday, over 1,200; and in Saturday night's attack 100. We have several hundred prisoners, including two colonels and several majors. The famous 1st Louisiana regiment was cut to pieces. Our losses in the engagement were 1,100 killed, 6,000 wounded, and several thousand taken prisoners. One-third of the wounded will soon be able to resume duty. The army was considerably depleted by stragglers, including a number of officers. Some have been dismissed in disgrace. A review of the battlefield since the evacuation shows that the enemy was much more formidably posted than we had developed even by terrific fighting.

Bragg's army left without burying their dead; the Union army is now doing it.—Search over the battlefield reveals terrible slaughter in the rebel ranks—it is double ours.

Rosecrans' army is in splendid spirits, and eager to follow after the enemy. Most of the resident secessionists of this place and their families have fled. Notwithstanding the rain, our troops were engaged on Saturday and part of Sunday in throwing up intrenchments. We were gradually getting nearer the town, cannonading as we approached, until at last we were able to throw shells into the very heart of the place.

At 11 o'clock on Sunday night General Rosecrans and staff entered Murfreesboro.

New York, Jan. 6.—The Nashville correspondence of the Times places our loss in the battles of Stone river at 9,500 killed and wounded, and 5,000 taken prisoners. 19 colonels were killed.

Nashville, Jan. 6—Over 600 prisoners, including 19 commissioned officers, arrived to-night. Unofficial reports say that cannonading was heard to-day 10 miles beyond Murfreesboro. Bragg may make a stand at Tullahoma.

Our whole loss will not exceed 10,000. The rebel loss is double ours. A number of the best buildings at Nashville have been taken for hospitals.

Louisville, Jan. 7.—Advices from headquarters say that orders have been issued for the arrest of a number of deserters of the army at Murfreesboro; their return to be to Nashville, in irons. Dispatches say that some rebel prisoners captured on Thursday, and paroled, had been at Murfreesboro only four hours, having belonged to regiments direct from Richmond.

Terrible Fighting at Vicksburg!

Memphis, Jan. 1.—Dispatches from Gen Sherman on the battle-field of Vicksburg were received at Helena, Ark., on the 29th. Gen. Sherman landed his force on the left bank of the Yazoo, 10 miles above its mouth, and, forming in line of battle, he advanced toward Vicksburg. After passing a point within reach of the fire of the gunboats, he encountered the enemy in force. A terrific conflict ensued. The enemy were driven back beyond two bayous that girt the rear of Vicksburg, and from their entrenched works and one hill by shells.

On Saturday night the two armies lay on their arms, with the two bayous intervening. During the night pontoons were constructed, notwithstanding a terrific fire from the enemy under cover of the undergrowth.

At daylight, on Sunday, a concerted advance was made by Sherman's whole force. At sunrise the whole line was engaged.—At 10 o'clock the enemy's works on the right were carried by storm.

The gunboats did not co-operate, but the *Benton* made a demonstration against the battery on Haron's Bluff. Several of her crew were killed, and her commander, Capt. Given, mortally wounded. Gen. Banks and Admiral Farragut were expected to aid in the attack on Vicksburg from below, but had not arrived.

Cairo, Jan. 4.—The Memphis Bulletin just received says the steamer Rattler, direct from the fleet at Vicksburg, has arrived. Fighting had been going on for five days. Up to Monday morning, Gen. Sherman had captured three lines of the enemy's works, and was firing on the fourth and last line. The defense on the Jackson and Vicksburg road had ceased. This line is just two miles from Vicksburg. There