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The Battle of Fredericksburg. Though we published two or three weeks ago a general description of the late great battle of Fredericksburg, the salient more minute details of that terrible and unequal encounter, extracted from the army correspondence of the New York Times, will be found to be both new and interesting.

Immediately behind the town of Fredericksburg the land forms a plateau, or smooth field, running back for about a third of a mile. It then rises for forty or fifty yards, forming a ridge of ground, which runs along to the left for about a quarter of a mile, where it abuts at Hazel Dell, a ravine formed by the Hazel river, which empties into the Rappahannock, west of the town.

At the foot of the ridge runs the telegraph road, flanked by a stone wall. This eminence was studded with rebel batteries. To the right, along up the river, the ridge prolongs itself to opposite Palmyra, and beyond; and here, too, batteries were planted on every advantageous position. Back of the first ridge is another plateau, and then a second terrace of wooded hills, where a second line of fortifications were placed.

At daylight the forces comprising the left grand division of the army appeared drawn up in battle array on the broad plain below Fredericksburg and skirting the Rappahannock. At early morn the 13th Massachusetts, Pennsylvania Buckle's, and two or three other regiments were deployed in front as skirmishers, between whom and the rebel skirmishers considerable firing took place.

Orders now came to advance, and about nine o'clock Gibbon's and Meade's divisions commenced moving slowly forward. Considerable resistance was met with, yet the forces continued to move forward, until at mid-day the line of battle was three quarters of a mile in advance of where it had been at the outset.

But now came the reverse fire of the enemy with terrible force. Shot, shell, and cannon were poured into our men from various points, while the rebel infantry opening fire with rapidity. Still our troops continued to press on. Several batteries moved forward at the same time. As our troops saw the enemy giving way, they advanced clear over the river.

About one o'clock Gen. Meade ordered a charge, which was well executed—the men pressing on the edge of the very crest, and slightly penetrating, by a movement on the flank, an opening which happened to occur between the division of A. P. Hill and Early's brigade, and captured several hundred prisoners belonging to the 61st Georgia and 21st North Carolina.

While the fight was progressing at this point, the enemy sent four heavy columns down on our left, near the river. They were handsomely repulsed and driven back, however, by Gen. Doubleday's division. Cowan's New York and Lieut. Hart's 4th Artillery and 21 New York batteries acting very materially in the discomfiture of the enemy.

Owing to the lack of reinforcements Gen. Meade's command was obliged to fall back a quarter of a mile, where they remained, three quarters of a mile beyond the ground first occupied.

Dell; Sturgis, supporting at the same time, moved up, a rifle fired on a point on the railroad. The moment they exposed themselves on the railroad, forth burst the deadly lead. From the rifle-pits came the thunderously aimed missiles; from the batteries, tier above tier, on the terraces, shot plumed of fire; from the rattling cannon, distributed on the area of a circle two miles in extent, came cross showers of shot and shell.

Across the plain for awhile they swept under this fatal fire. They were literally mowed down. The bursting shells made great gaps in their ranks; but these were presently filled up by the "closing up" of the line. For fifteen minutes, minutes at least they remain under this fiery storm. Oward they press, though their ranks grow leafy thin.

They have passed over a greater part of the interval and have almost reached the base of the hill, when brigade after brigade of rebels rise up on the crest and pour in fresh volleys of musketry at short range. To those who, through the glass, looked on, it was a perilous sight indeed. Flesh and blood could not endure it. They fell back shattered and broken, amid shouts and yells from the enemy.

The General looked anxious and fearful. Things were not going well with his command. For three hours his men had been fighting at several odds. They were much exhausted, and nothing had been accomplished. Their loss was excessive. Indeed, to the best of the eye at the point where they were located it seemed as though they were being badly pressed. The batteries had been brought down and planted at the heads of the streets. The troops were hugging the city closely to escape the fearful fire.

"Where is Franklin?" was the eager inquiry. "Every thing depends on Franklin coming up on the flank." (Franklin's position was plainly observable by the line of smoke and fire a couple of miles to our left below.) It was making no more.

At 3 o'clock an arrow from Gen. Couch to say that his (Couch's) troops were advancing freely; but that when they were not keeping up. "Tell Gen. Wilson," replied Gen. Sumner, "tell him he must make the Ninth army corps keep pace with the Second, if he can."

At 3 o'clock, Sturgis, who had been clinging to the valley and showers of fire, is so badly pressed that he hardly dares to show his own till Griffin comes up. At 4 o'clock French reports that his right flank is held by a brigade (Mason's) which is without ammunition.

Sumner sends a message begging Barnside that Franklin be directed to advance. But Franklin cannot advance. He has enough to do at this moment to hold his own, for Jackson has just thrown in reinforcements, and is pushing hard to turn his left.

Mountain the reserves have not been looked. Hooker's central grand division—fifty thousand fresh men—have not yet been engaged; indeed, are yet widely on the side of the river. "Tell Gen. Barnside that he had better, by all means, throw some of Hooker's in." Barnside replies that he has orders for Hooker to go in, and that every man on this side of the river shall cross.

what a misfortune, equally lamentable, that the approach to the rebel position back of Fredericksburg was an area so restricted that our field batteries were almost equally useless, owing to the impossibility of manœuvring.

Regarding as a position of defence, that which the rebel leaders have taken up on the Rappahannock, and which we have been pleased to assail in the manner just-mentioned, and with the result known, none could possibly be more magnificent or more nearly impregnable. With fifty thousand men they should easily hold it against three times that number of assailants. I take it that they had along the line of the Rappahannock about one hundred thousand men, and that fifty thousand, more or less, were actually engaged in the contest.

During the thick of the bombardment, a fresh attempt had been made to complete the bridge. It failed, and evidently nothing could be done till a party could be thrown over to clean out the rebels and destroy the bridge-head. For this mission Gen. Barnside called for volunteers, and Col. Hall, of Fort Sumter fame, immediately responded that he had a brigade that would do the business. Accordingly, the Seventh Michigan and Nineteenth Massachusetts, two small regiments, numbering in all about four hundred men, were selected for the purpose.

The plan was that they should take the pontoon boats of the first bridge, of which there were two lying on the bank of the river, willing to be added to the half-finished bridge, cross over in them, and landing, drive out the rebels.

Nothing could be more admirable or more gallant than the execution of this daring feat. Reaching down the steep banks of the river, the party found temporary shelter behind the pontoon boats lying scattered on the bank, and behind the piles of planking destined for the covering of the bridge, behind rocks, etc. In this situation they acted some fifteen or twenty minutes as sharpshooters, and the rebels were observing each other. In the mean time new and vigorous artillery firing was commenced on our part, and just as soon as this was fairly developed, the Seventh Michigan rose from their crouching places, rushed for the pontoon boats, and pushing them into the water, rapidly filled them with twenty-five or thirty each.

The first boat crosses off. Now, repeat, is the rebels' opportunity. Crack! crack! crack! from fifty lurking places go rapid rifles at the gallant fellows, who, stooping low in the boat, seek to avoid the fire. The murderous work was well done. Luckily, however, the current and pressure of the wind, having passed the middle of the stream, the boat and its gallant freight come under cover of the opposite bluff.

Another and another boat follows. Now is their opportunity. Nothing could be more amusing in its way than the result. Instantly they see a new turn of affairs. The rebels pop up by the hundred, like so many rats, from every corner, ridge-pole, stone wall, and stump of up the streets of the town. With incredible rapidity the Michigan and Massachusetts boys sweep up the hill, making a race for the lurking-places occupied by the rebels, and gaining them, each man capturing his two or three prisoners. The pontoon boats on their return trip took over more than a hundred of the fellows.

You can imagine with what intense interest the crossing of the first boat-load of our men was watched by the numerous spectators on the shore, and with what enthusiastic shouts their landing on the opposite side was greeted. It was an authentic piece of bonnie heroism, which moves men as nothing else can. The problem was solved. This dash of bravery had done what scores of batteries and tons of metal had failed to accomplish. The country will not forget that little band.

Details of Eastern News. Washington, Jan. 15.—The Senate Judiciary Committee have reported back the Missouri Emancipation bill recommending amendments making the emancipation \$20,000,000 instead of \$10,000,000, and the bonds to bear 5 per cent interest. The maximum allowance for each slave is \$200. The limit for the entire extinction of slavery is July 4th, 1876, with the proviso that an Act of Emancipation be passed by the Legislature for the exclusion of slavery forever thereafter from the State.

Brilliant Victory in Arkansas! Cairo, Jan. 16.—An arrival from below brings the information that the army and navy forces, which were denied success at Vicksburg, achieved a brilliant victory at Arkansas Post, on the Arkansas river, 50 miles above its mouth. That formidable fortification, with all its guns, commissary stores, ammunition and quartermaster's stores, surrendered unconditionally last Sunday afternoon to the forces under Gen. McClernand and Commodore Porter. The victory was complete. We are yet without particulars. The number of prisoners taken is reported at from 5,000, to 7,000.—Our loss was from 300 to 500.

Jan. 16.—The Secretary of the Interior has sent to Congress a letter, accompanying letters from Indian Commissioner Dale, recommending an appropriation of \$50,000 at once for distribution among the Utah Indians, based upon the fact that many of the savages are becoming restive, obstinately believing that the Government has lost the power and ability to protect them on the one hand, and keep them in subjection on the other. He also recommends two temporary special agencies, one to the Clippewa and Utais, and the other for the Upper Missouri tribes.

The Richmond Dispatch says that North Carolina papers indicate that there is manifest uneasiness here for Wilmington and the country east of Raleigh, but for the capital itself. The Richmond Examiner says that the theatre of war on a large scale is to be transferred to North Carolina.

The Surgeon-General states that the sanitary condition of the Army of the Potomac is good.

New York, Jan. 16.—A correspondent of the Times, writing from the Army of the Potomac, says that the rebels were evidently anticipating an attack last night, and threw up rifle pits extending over a half a mile of ground. The new pits are nearly opposite Palmyra, and on the right of our position. The indications show that the army is liable to receive marching orders any moment. A movement must and will take place before the expiration of many days.

Indianapolis, Jan. 16.—Resolutions were introduced into the House yesterday, declaring that the admission of Western Virginia into the Union is unconstitutional, favoring a National Convention of all the States, and armistice during that period; and pledging Indiana to refuse to pay taxes for compensated emancipation. Referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.

Boston, Jan. 15.—The schooner Union, from Port Maria, Jamaica, the 8th, has arrived, having on board the captain and crew of the *Packer*, from Boston for Aux Cayes, captured and burned in the Memo Passage by the Alabama. She subsequently captured the *Union*, but let her go after taking a bond for the vessel.

Singhamppton, N. Y. Jan. 16.—The drowning of several persons reported a few days since as happening at Harpersville, is incorrect so far as the locality of the accident is concerned. The American says that on Friday last, as the scholars attached to a school two miles south of Lansboro, Pa., were on the mill pond skating, the ice gave way and 31 out of 38 were drowned.

St. Louis, Jan. 16.—Full details of the rebel attack on Springfield, Mo., place our loss at 18 killed and 100 wounded; not one-quarter of the wounded are severely hurt. The rebels killed number 30.

Fort Henry, Jan. 16.—The steamer *James Means*, which left here last Friday, loaded with commissary and quartermaster's stores for Gen. Dodge's army at Corinth, has returned, and reports the rebels encamped in the vicinity of Savannah at the number of 250. Early on Sunday morning 1,600 men arrived at the landing from Corinth, as a guard for the trains.

Gen. Means fears that they were attacked and captured before a return to Corinth, as the presence of the rebels in that vicinity was entirely unexpected.

The rebels had sent for and were receiving artillery for the purpose of blockading the river. He thinks that it is only by chance that he got through safe, as the rebels were not expecting an arrival so soon and were not prepared to attack. The rebel *Forest* crossed the river near Clifton on his retreat, swimming his horses and carrying his artillery across on flatboats.

It is believed that no steamer will now be able to go up the river without being conveyed by gunboats.

New York, Jan. 16.—The steamer *Hillocks*, from New Orleans, the 8th, has arrived. The rebels are over-reaching on the Union line in the neighborhood of Donaldsonville; but no danger is apprehended. The affair at Galveston has caused a general gloom among the members of the army and navy. Admiral Farragut had sent the *Brooklyn*, *Scotia*, and half-a-dozen of his best vessels to the capture of the *Harriet Lane* at all hazards, and, if possible, to destroy the rebel gunboats on Bayou Buffalo. Nothing had been heard from this expedition up to the time the *Hillocks* left.

Nothing of Banks' plans had transpired, and most of his troops had gone to Baton Rouge.

Washington, Jan. 16.—The following has been received from headquarters today: To Gen. Halleck.—The statement of the Richmond papers, that Gen. Fryer had repulsed our troops at New Providence, is untrue. The following is a statement of facts: The enemy crossed the Black Water in considerable force, and attempted, on the 9th, to drive in our right wing, but were repulsed. At dusk, the enemy advanced, and was charged upon and driven back upon his supports. At intervals, throughout the night, shells were thrown from the rebel batteries. Jons A. Dix.

In the Senate to-day, the Vice-President presented a communication from the Secretary of the Interior, asking an appropriation of \$5,000,000 for the Capitol extension, and \$200,000 for the new dome.

Mr. Foster offered a resolution directing the Committee on Finance to enquire into the expediency of making an appropriation for the purpose of encouraging emigration from Europe to the United States. It seemed to him that under the present circumstances this was a matter of national concern. The resolution was adopted.

The bills for the enlargement of the Illinois and Michigan Canal; for the passage of gunboats and man-of-war, etc.; also, the enlargement of Erie and Oswego Canals; for special purposes, were considered in the House today. A motion to lay on the table was disagreed to by 42 yeas and 93 nays.

In the Senate, the bill making the appropriation for the deficiencies in the Civil Service of the Government, passed.

St. Louis, Jan. 17.—A dispatch from Gen. Warren, dated Houston, Texas country, 16th inst., says that the enemy are in full retreat toward Arkansas. Marmaduke's rebel force was in the Hartsville fight, between 4,000 and 5,000 strong. Their loss is 300 killed, wounded and captured. The famous guerrilla, McGolden, was killed. The notorious chief, Porter, was badly wounded.

Nashville, Jan. 16.—It is reported that Gen. Longstreet has superseded Bragg. The bridges of the Louisville and Nashville railroad, and three on the Nashville and Chattanooga railroad, have been washed away by high water.

There is no news from Murfreesboro—the telegraph being out of order.

Cincinnati, Jan. 17.—A letter from Flemingsburg, Ky., dated the 12th, says that a gentleman from Abingdon, Va., five days before, reports that 50,000 Confederate troops passed through that place from Richmond, to reinforce the rebel army in Tennessee. This seems to corroborate the telegraphic report from the Army of the Potomac, that 50 regiments had been sent from Lee's army into Tennessee. It is doubtful, however, whether they can get through, as Gen. Carter had destroyed the road in Eastern Tennessee before they could have arrived there.

Secretary Stanton has written a letter to the Military Committee of the House and Senate, urging that immediate steps should be taken for the acceptance of Glass, Elliott & Co's proposition for a submarine cable (from Fortres Moore to New Orleans). The total expense of the project is placed at \$2,500,000.

New York, Jan. 17.—In regard to the appropriation asked by Secretary Fisher for the Utah Indians, it is stated that the Indian Agents believe, unless presents are distributed to those lying between Salt Lake and Nevada, they will be liable to make trouble.

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 17.—Ben Wade was nominated U. S. Senator by the Republican caucus last night. He will probably be elected.

Private dispatches received to-day in this city, and dated last night at New York, say that gold opened yesterday on the New York stock exchange at 48 1/2, ran down to 45, and closed at 46 1/2. The market was very unsettled, owing to the cloud resting on Government securities.

New York, Jan. 17.—The following are the particulars of the land attack on Galveston, just received: On the night of the 31st December a reconnaissance was made by Captain Shreve, with 25 men, which resulted in the discovery of a large rebel cavalry force in the western part of the city. It will be borne in mind that the only Federal force in the city was a detachment of the 42d Massachusetts regiment, which was stationed at the wharf at the eastern end of the city. This information was sent to Col. Barrill, the officer in command, and about the same time the *Harriet Lane* sent up signals announcing the approach of the enemy both by water and land. Col. Barrill immediately turned out his battalion, numbering less than three hundred men, and constructed barricades of barrels, hogheads and whatever else he could find, across the wharf. He also tore up the planks of the wharf, leaving only a narrow passage for the retreat of the pickets. During the day the rebels brought light pieces of artillery into the city, concealed in loads of hay, and planted them in a warehouse about a quarter of a mile from the wharf, and when the *Harriet Lane* was fairly engaged opened fire with these pieces on our land force. These guns had been so placed as to obtain an enfilading range on our men, but a skillful change of position and the barricades defeated the design. While the firing was going on, the rebels advanced from their first position, crossed the bridge, and took position in the rear of the town. Our soldiers fought bravely, and for four hours refused to yield to the overpowering force of the enemy. Twice they were fairly repulsed, notwithstanding their artillery, while our men had none, and notwithstanding their force was ten to our one.

The full light of day came before the fight was at an end. Our little band was standing up against fearful odds, when it was discovered that a white flag was floating from the *Harriet Lane*, and soon after a white flag was displayed from the gunboat *Oswego*. Col. Barrill immediately despatched an adjutant, in this state of affairs, to consult as to the course to pursue. The adjutant proceeded in a small boat, and having completed business was about to return, when the Union troops on the wharf were seen marching off. He saw them go to the streets, where they were immediately surrounded. The rebels, in addition to their prisoners, captured 30,000 rifle cartridges, 50,000 picks and 500 shovels.

Washington, Jan. 6.—In the House, Noell's Emancipation bill was further considered. An amendment excluding from the benefits of the act all who willfully refused to take the oath of allegiance, was adopted—75 to 20. The prospects of the bill in the Senate seem to be fair.