

The Oregon Argus.

VOL. IX.

SALEM, OREGON, MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1863.

NO. 23.

RATES OF ADVERTISING.

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Action at Greenland Gap.

We clip the following thrilling account of one of the most brilliant fights since the outbreak of the rebellion from the *Army and Navy Gazette*. If all our officers and men would display the bravery and determination that this little band did the end of the war would be near at hand:—

GREENLAND GAP, VA., APRIL 28, 1863.

LOVEY, COL. CHESTERBROOK, A. A. G. Just arrived at this point. Jones' reserve left at Moorefield is reported retreating on Franklin. I await here the return of my scout sent to ascertain the fact. The affair at this place on Saturday was one of the most gallant since the opening of the war. Greenland Gap is a pass through the Knott's mountain only wide enough for the road and a small mountain stream. This gap was guarded by Capt. Wallace, (23d Illinois) with a detachment of company G, 23d Illinois regiment, and a small detachment of company A, 14th Virginia infantry, (Captain Smith) in all between 70 and 80 men. Capt. Wallace occupied a large church at the west end of and near the mouth of the gap, and Capt. Smith held a log house about a hundred yards distant—both positions commanding the gap. Jones was compelled to capture or dislodge the little band before he could pass. His troops made three gallant charges, but were each time repulsed with great loss, especially of officers. The fight commenced at 5 p. m., and lasted till after dark. The rebels, availing themselves of the darkness, approached and fired the church, but the gallant Irish boys would not even then surrender till the burning roof fell in. The killed and wounded of the rebels outnumbered our whole force engaged. Five of the officers out of eight commanding the leading battalion which made the first charge were either killed or wounded; among the latter, Col. Dulaney commanding. Captains Wallace and Smith had only two men killed and six wounded. I counted today 18 dead horses within musket range.

I most earnestly request the Major General commanding to apply to the Secretary of War to have every officer, non-commissioned officer, and private engaged in the fight presented with a medal in recognition of the gallantry displayed.

B. F. KELLY, Brig. Gen.

[REPORT OF CAPTAIN WALLACE.]

NEW CREEK, VA., JUNE 11, 1863.

ADJUTANT: In obedience to a regimental order of the 21st of April last, I left camp at New Creek for Greenland Gap, on the evening of the same day, with Lieut. Fletcher and 52 men, and arrived there next morning.

About noon on the 25th of April I was informed by a citizen that the enemy were approaching in a large force, numbering several thousand, and were within a short distance, and advancing on New Creek. I immediately sent out mounted scouts to ascertain the facts.

About 4 o'clock p. m., Captain Smith with 34 men of company A, 14th regiment of Virginia volunteer infantry, arrived, with orders relieving me, and ordering me to rejoin my regiment, which had moved to Granton. At this time my scouts came in rapidly, reporting the enemy advancing in force. A few minutes later they came charging through the gap. I was in the log church about fifty yards south of the road. I immediately ordered Captain Smith to throw his men into two log houses north of and between the church and the road. He immediately left to execute my order. Before this, however, I had had the windows of the church well barricaded, the chinking knocked out between the logs, and had ordered my men to be ready to repel any attack. I immediately ordered them to take the positions previously assigned, to be cool and deliberate. We opened fire on the enemy when within seventy five yards, and continued to fire until the enemy had approached within twenty yards of the church, when so destructive had been our shots, they broke and fled in all directions, leaving men and horses dead and wounded on the field. In about fifteen minutes they rallied and made another attack with the same result.

General Jones, who I then first learned was in command of the enemy, sent a flag of truce demanding my immediate surrender, and stating that he had a force of thousands. I told the bearer, "Go back with the flag; I don't care if he has a million, I will not surrender until compelled." The firing was renewed. In the course of ten minutes the flag returned with a written order from General Jones that he had force enough to take me beyond a doubt, and unless I surrendered within fifteen minutes he would not be responsible for the consequences. I refused, and sent a note to General Jones in which I stated I would not surrender until forced to. About this time a messenger came from Captain Smith asking what he should do. I told him to tell the Captain to "fight on."

While the flag of truce was coming in the second time the enemy, who had dismounted, made a charge within ten yards of the church upon the south side. I repeatedly ordered them to fall back. They did not, and I ordered my men to fire, which dispersed them. Soon after another attack was made from the south side, which continued for a considerable time, the enemy not coming into close range.

A flag of truce was again displayed. I beckoned it to advance. Upon coming up the bearer stated that General Jones would bring his cannon to bear upon the church if I did not surrender. I replied, "Tell him he has none; and if he has to bring them on, we are Mulligan's men, and we'll fight to the last crust and cartridge." He then asked for time to remove his wounded. I gave them half an hour. During that time and while the men were removing their wounded, I sent out a squad to gather up the arms of the killed and wounded. They brought in with them carbines, revolvers, sabres, bugles, etc. After the truce was over for about half an hour the enemy only occasionally fired. Then they commenced firing briskly from a distance. I ordered my men to withhold their fire.

About 8:30 in the evening they made a general charge upon the east and south side of the church. The firing raged incessantly on both sides until 9 o'clock. They then were up to the building and roasting the muzzle of their carbines on the logs from which the chinking had been removed; their pioneers with axes were cutting the barricades from the windows and doors; they had fired the church and, availing themselves of the darkness, had placed a keg of powder under it; the blazing roof was now falling in; I displayed a flag of truce; they would not notice it. I ordered my men to fix bayonets, and said, "If they will not give us quarter we will die like men." I then asked if they would give quarter? One of their officers said yes. The firing ceased, and I surrendered, throwing my arms and all other property into the hands of the enemy.

My force was 83 men, of whom 2 were killed and 6 wounded. The force of the enemy was 3,100, of whom 104 were killed and wounded.

Too much credit cannot be given the men of my company. There was no shrinking among them. Each man held his post unflinchingly. They were ever obedient to orders and prompt to execute them. I strove to imitate Lexington.

I am, sir, your obedient servant.

MARTIN WALLACE,
 Capt. Co. G, Irish Brigade, (23d Ill.)
 JAMES F. CONROY,
 Adjutant Irish Brigade, (23d Ill.)

AN ENGLISH VIEW OF NAPOLEON'S MEXICAN SCHEME.

The London Star of Aug. 10th speaks as follows:—

It does not seem to us that there is anything on which to congratulate Mexico, France or Europe, in the circumstances attending the birth of this new empire. From the beginning of the enterprise we have regarded the Mexican expedition as the grand mistake of the Second Empire. Even the occupation of Rome seems to us less defensible and far less likely to admit of timely and safe abandonment than this ill-judged conquest of Mexico. If any event of our day may safely be regarded pregnant with danger and disturbance to the world, it is this audacious endeavor to attach an offshoot of imperialism to the great American continent. In the confusion caused by the progress of a gigantic American struggle, Europe has almost overlooked the progress of events in Mexico; but we may rest assured that as soon as ever the question of the North and South is settled, we shall see America try the right of France to plant military colonies and found new Empires on the soil which republicanism loves to believe its peculiar home.

THE "DEMOCRATIC" FEELINGS OF LORD LYONS.—Let it never be forgotten that in the darkest hour of this civil war, when the rebels were apparently flushed with triumph, and their foreign friends were exulting over the prospect of the downfall of democratic institutions on this continent, certain leaders of the copperhead party were guilty of the ineffable meanness and treachery of soliciting Lord Lyons, the British Minister, the representative of our bitterest foe abroad, to use his influence in behalf of an intervention designed to secure victory for Jeff Davis. They were willing to gratify their malignant partisan hatred of the Government, to call in the aid of the British enemies of the Republic, and put our beloved country at the mercy of foreign dictation. Lord Lyons, for obvious reasons, does not reveal the names of these infamous traitors, but he says they were "leaders of the Democratic party," and it was in the city of New York that this interview was held. The letter containing this story of copperhead treachery will live in the memory of the patriotic people of this country, and brand the copperheads as the meanest and most anti-American faction that ever cursed this Republic. Every reason that kindles the hatred of the American people against the ruling aristocracy of England should tell with equal force against copperhead sycophants of that power in our midst.—Remember that the men who sought this secret alliance with the avowed enemies of democracy in America were "leaders of the Democratic party," and beware of the wiles of the traitors.—*Sac. Union.*

IMPORTANCE OF CHARLESTON.—Charleston has been the chief port of the rebellion, and when the city falls into our hands the main source of foreign supplies will be dried up. As a base of operations against Savannah, or for raids intended to complete the destruction of the railroad system of the South, its advantages cannot be overrated. Savannah, speedily fallow the destiny of Charleston. As a recruiting point for negro soldiers, it is unsurpassed, as the blacks outnumber the whites, and may be enlisted in such force as to speedily put an end to all economic interaction between Georgia and the insurgent junta at Richmond. By the removal of slaves from the border States and the line of the Mississippi, South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama have become so overcrowded with blacks as to call forth alarming remonstrances from the Governors of these States. As a blow at the slave system, the capture of Charleston would be equal in force to the capture of Vicksburg. The reduction of this stronghold is not merely a point of honor, therefore, nor the capture of a Southern port as a measure of precaution, but another tremendous thrust at a rebellion already staggering and writhing in pain.

HOW REBELS TREAT "ABOLITION" EDITORS.

The editor of the *Foulton Republican* published at McConnellsburg, says that while the rebels occupied that town, his office was pointed out to them by the Copperheads as an Abolition concern.—Several of the officers called upon him and asked to see his files. After examining them, the Lieutenant in command said: "I see, sir, this is a Republican newspaper; you advocate a vigorous prosecution of the war, and are in favor of sustaining your government in everything. I like to see a man one thing or the other." Taking several copies of the paper, they left without molesting anything in the office, to the great indignation of the copperheads of the place.

A FAMOUS INSTITUTION TO LET.

Wish some genuine orthodoxy has made the subject his study, and professes to understand it, would inform us what is the use of Hell? We have never been a church member, and have not investigated such matters very deeply; but we had always been a firm believer in a hell—a literal place of burning and howling as described in Holy Writ. We took a secret pleasure in the thought that there was such a place, for the benefit of villains whose cases could not be sufficiently reached by all the punishment and tortures that could be inflicted in this world. In our younger days we imagined the place was reserved exclusively for Democrats, especially those who did not vote for Henry Clay for President. *—Salem Argus.*

THE REBELLION IN CHINA.

The rebellion in China drags its slow length along, although the imperialists, through their foreign allies, are obtaining many advantages. The rebels are losing ground, but still they maintain their position in the richest portion of China. If they had shown any capacity for Government, the Tartar dynasty would have been overthrown; but the time for their success has passed. A million of lives, more or less, is of small account in China, and consequently the struggle may be a protracted one. Bargevine has not been reinstated in command of Ward's force, and the English do not intend he shall be. They desire to control operations as much as possible, and to have command of the mercenaries, and they will go to doubt be successful.—*Hongkong letter, July 4th.*

THE REBELLION IN CHINA.

Among the recent arrivals at New York from Europe we observe the name of Count AULICH, who comes as Minister Plenipotentiary of Austria, to succeed the late Count Salm.

LAUNCH OF ANOTHER IRON BATTERY.

A new iron battery called the *Canonius* was launched at B-ston on August 1st.—This new monitor is 230 feet long and 46 feet wide. Her length is 30 feet greater than the monitors previously built. Her bows terminate above the water, in a sharp iron ram, 12 feet in length. She was launched with her engine and other machinery on board, and when the turret is adjusted in its place, only 28 inches of her sides will be exposed to view or to an enemy's fire. The *Canonius* is believed to be a thoroughly sea-going vessel, and will make a speed of 12 statute miles per hour.

EMIGRATION.

While the increase of the number of emigrants from Europe to New York, since January 1, 1863, up to the present time, as compared with the same period last year, is 50,338, it appears from the returns made at Quebec that there has been a falling off of the number of emigrants during the same period, as compared with that of 1862, of 1244 persons. This shows that there is no fear among the industrial classes of the old country of the stability of the American republic.

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

The English Government has agreed that the Directors of the Atlantic Telegraph Company may charge for messages through the Atlantic cable between Ireland and Newfoundland such a price not exceeding five shillings per word as would bear the same ratio to the charge authorized by the contract of 1858 that the amount of new capital might bear to the old capital. The price fixed by the contract of 1858 was two shillings and six pence sterling per word.

FREE NEGROES PERMITTED TO VOTE IN NORTH CAROLINA.

Until the amendment of the Constitution in 1835, when a prohibition was adopted. Senator Douglas, in the debate on the admission of Minnesota into the Union, stated, as a historical incident, (which was not contradicted by the North Carolina Senators present), that a distinguished North Carolinian emancipated a large number of his own negroes in order to make them voters to elect him to the Legislature of the State.

COULDN'T SPARE BILL.

The Mexico Citizen tells the following: "A gentleman of strong Southern sympathies, while on a hunt for three black boys who had left him without any just cause, said to a friend that he didn't care so much for Sam and Wes, but I can't do without Bill, I'll give a thousand dollars to get him back." Here he burst into a flood of tears and exclaimed: "Bill is my own son."

THE LATE MASS CONVENTION OF UNION MEN IN MISSOURI.

Declared (as per the St. Louis Democrat), as with one voice and with one heart, that slavery, which has been the cause of all this war and ruin in the land, shall never—never more be tolerated as an institution in a re-established Union, and that as for Missouri, the only remedy which will answer for present evils is immediate emancipation.

THE OPPOSITION LINE TO NEW YORK.

The following are to be the rates of passage to New York by the Opposition Line, per Nicaragua, per steamship Moses Taylor, which leaves San Francisco on October 3d: upper deck saloon, \$160; main saloon, \$135; steer cabin, \$90; steerage, \$60.—The Moses Taylor, after the thorough overhauling she has undergone, will be, according to the S. F. Ledger, as good as new, and the arrangements for the speedy and comfortable transmission of passengers over the transit route are also of such a perfect nature that a quick voyage, and one partaking altogether of the nature of a pleasure trip, is reasonably anticipated. We are much pleased to be in a position to speak thus favorably of the prospects of the Opposition Line.

WHAT'S THE QUERIES.

The Express asks: "Shall the country be represented by Democrats whose feet are planted on the Constitution?" We say, not but by patriots who bear the Constitution reverently before them as a shield of protection to their country. The "Democrats" who plant their feet on the Constitution" are those who follow Jeff Davis and Lee in making war upon the Union, and those who join Vallandigham, Robinson & Co. in resolving that Davis, Lee & Co. ought to be recognized as an independent Government. Does the Constitution anywhere confer power upon the Government to give to rebels months of the area of the States, and to recognize a foreign power within the limits of a State, which would mean the surrender of the State to the perpetual? The country shall be represented and divided by Democrats who answer "yes."—*Appeal.*

BUTLER'S IDEA.

General Butler wrote to the Springfield (Ill.) Union Mass Convention:—

Compromises are impossible, save between equals in right. Re-organization or reconstruction is alone useful to the victors and is to be left out. Anonities are for individuals, not for organized communities; therefore, prosecute the war, bring every part of the country into submission to the laws of the United States, then there will be no place for rebellion, no parties for compromise, no occasion for reconstruction, and emergency may be shown and anomalies offered to individual citizens who desire them. Is there any other way to restore the Union?

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THE SIEGE OF CHARLESTON.

Why the shelling was discontinued.—A gentleman of much intelligence, recently from Morris Island, where he had unusual facilities for observation and gathering information, has communicated to us a variety of interesting facts connected with the siege of Charleston, which throw much light on the state of affairs there.—He informs us that the reason why Gen. Gilmore did not continue his bombardment of Charleston with the "Greek fire" shells, was because the shells sent were ignited on the percussion principle, and being discharged from a gun elevated at an angle of thirty-eight degrees took their flight at the same angle, and fell upon the percussion point, and exploded. Only two are known to have exploded—one which fell into a warehouse, and another which fell in a street.

THE SIEGE OF CHARLESTON.

This peculiar motion and descent of the shell was a new discovery in artillery practice, then for the first time made, and the ordnance department was not furnished with a remedy for the unlooked-for contingency. To this fact alone Charleston owes the delay of the hour of its doom. Time fuses, which will set matters all right, were at once sent for, and have doubtless arrived at Morris Island before this, and very likely Charleston is at this moment experiencing the dreadful effects of a shower of "Greek fire" shells, fifteen hundred of which have been ordered for the bombardment of that nest of treason. The gun from which the shells were first fired was a 200 pounder Parrott, which can throw a shell no less than seven miles, when aimed at an angle of forty-five degrees.

The first shells went over Charleston, the gun being aimed at too sharp an angle. Gen. Gilmore has no less than thirty Parrott guns mounted that will throw shells plump into Charleston. Also, that the use of Greek fire shells to bombard the rebel stronghold was personally ordered by President Lincoln. The fire burns for twenty minutes. It will burn on the water as well as on land, and each shell covers a surface of one hundred square feet with flame. The shell bursts into about one hundred and twenty pieces, or ten times as many as the ordinary shell. Of course, the effect of these shells will be to set Charleston in flames, which nothing can subdue.

In addition to the Greek Fire shells, a large quantity of improved shrapnel shells, made by the inventor of the Greek Fire shell, and containing from five hundred to one thousand bullets each, have been sent to Morris Island, to be transferred thence to the rebellious city in a manner not very obvious to the enemy. These shells are of the same size, and are very destructive. The celebrated three hundred-pound Parrott gun which Gilmore has weighs twenty-seven thousand pounds. It took two thousand men nine nights to get the monster into position, the drag beams breaking down seven nights in succession, the enemy shelling the party all the while, and men being killed nightly. Nothing was done with it by day, the gun being covered with bushes to conceal it from the enemy's fire.

The diameter of the bore is ten inches, the charge of powder twenty-five pounds, and the shell that goes out of it is as high as a flour barrel, weighs three hundred pounds, and contains seventeen pounds of mortar powder. The execution of one of these shells or Sumter is considered equal to three 200-pound shells. But two of these immense rifled guns have been made, although twenty more have been ordered for the navy. Gen. Gilmore at first had only one, but another has just been sent to him. The 300-pounder when it exploded was in charge of an infantry captain, who had never fired a cannon before in his life. He was cautioned that some accident would happen if he was not very careful.

On the 25th round, the shell, containing seventeen pounds powder, was filled, the percussion fuse was screwed half way down, and could not be got any farther, when the captain said, "Let it go at that." The consequence was, that when discharged the fire was communicated down the thread to the shell, causing the latter to explode before it left the gun, and breaking off twenty inches of the nozzle. The gun was repaired and got ready for use again in two days. It burst on Friday at 12 o'clock, and was firing again on Sunday as well as ever. These guns have been fired with forty pounds of powder, and sent a ball through nine inches of wrought iron plates and two feet of oak timber, by which the iron was backed. It has also sent a ball through twenty-six feet of earth.

UNION MARTYRS IN TEXAS.

The persecutions of Union men in Western Texas still continue. A letter from Prechas Negras—a small town opposite Fort Duncan, on the Rio Grande—says:—

A few men reached here to-day from San Antonio. They report passing on the roadside near that town, three men hanging—two Germans and one American. At another place on the road one of this party says he saw an American hanging. He was a fine looking man and well dressed." Persons from San Antonio state that there are still a large number of Union men left in Western Texas. They are relying much upon the energies of General A. J. Hamilton, and hope that soon, through him, a force will be sent to their assistance.

THE REBELS BOAST OF THEIR CHIVALRY.

Do they flout warrant it! Davis is a repudiator. Floyd a thief, Van Dorn a profligate, Holmes a dead drunkard, Morgan a horse-thief, Quantrel a murderer, Polk a drunken Bishop, Richardson a butcher, and Mosby a plunderer of the dead. The latter is proven by a copy of a pass found upon Mosby's servant, who was captured, ordering "pickets and guards to pass him to the front, for the purpose of searching the dead and wounded," and signed by Mosby himself.

GOVERNOR PIERPONT, OF VIRGINIA.

Has established himself at Alexandria, and for the present the affairs of the State will be administered in that city.

EASTERN NEWS.

Tuesday's Dispatch.

Louisville, 8th.—Nashville rumors prevail that rebel cavalry captured and entirely destroyed Shelbyville, Tenn., taking our forces there prisoners. Truth of the report questionable. Gen. Mitchell with a large cavalry force was pursuing rebels, but no report that he had got within striking distance. A large force is re-laying the railroad track which was recently torn up. Cavalry force of rebels seem to have dispersed, part going north to Ky, to harass Burnside's line of supply, and part going southward again to Tenn.

New York, 9th.—The Washington Herald says that the Government will not allow Bragg's army to be reinforced since the battle of Chickamauga by one division only. Early, one from Western Va. under Sam Jones, one from Petersburg and Weldon under Catts; in addition Bragg has his original army consisting of Hill's and — corps, besides four divisions from Miss., one from Charleston, and Georgia State troops under Walker, one from East Tenn., seven divisions from Lee's army 15,000, 5,000 cavalry under cavalry under Pillow, 15,000 cavalry under Wheeler, and 1,000 pieces of artillery. His whole command amounts to 175,000 men, and report says Joe Johnston is at Rome with 55,000 reserves. [Good many rebels this year.]

Fortress Monroe, 9th.—The Richmond Examiner has the following:—

Missionary Ridge, 5th.—We opened on Chattanooga at 1 a. m., from top of Look-out Mountain. Our shells exploded in the enemy's camp. The enemy replied briskly.

Missionary Ridge, 6th.—We commenced firing rapidly this morning, and swept away the lower pontoon bridge. The enemy submerged the trestle bridge. No firing on either side at 11 o'clock.

Charleston, 6th.—An attack was made by us [the rebels] to-day on the Ironsides, damaging her, and frightening the enemy. There has been but little firing on the enemy's Morris Island works to-day.

San Francisco, 9th.—The Pirate Chapman case will be submitted to the jury to-night.

Wednesday's Dispatch.

New York, 9th.—Money easy at 6 1/2; Sterling dull at 101; Government stocks less active and scarcely so firm; gold firm at 147.

The transport Curlew has arrived from Charleston bar on the morning of the 6th. The monitors Patuxent and Passaic are at Port Royal. Gen. Gilmore was hard at work but the navy was quiet. A correspondent of the Baltimore American writing from the fleet says all quiet, except occasional firing from the enemy's forts. Gilmore's preparations are nearly completed.

The Washington correspondent of the Commercial states that the recent rebel advance in Rosecrans' rear proves to have been an extensive reconnaissance in force to discover what forces were moving to support our army. It did not have in view, or at least such was no the result, any serious intention of destroying our communications, as that, the rebels know, would bring on an engagement which would end in a serious defeat to them.—This fact was fully realized by them before their real object was accomplished—by this time the rebel cavalry is back south of the Tennessee, and from preparations to keep open communications with Chattanooga it is not believed they will run the risk of attacking our lines again.

Chicago, 9th.—Memphis papers of the 6th contain nothing of importance. An expedition from Corinth on the 27th had a sharp engagement with the rebels, chasing them 20 miles, killing 6 and capturing 8 prisoners. Our loss was one killed and two wounded.

The Governor of Georgia has issued a proclamation protesting against the seizure of people's property for the use of the rebel government, except in cases where the authority comes from headquarters. He calls on the State to resist in defense of her property.

Li'l Rock advises recent affairs in that section as satisfactory.

Sodalis, Mo., 9.—Information received to-day contradicts the reports about indiscriminate slaughter of citizens at Warsaw. The number now said to be killed is 12. Many even think this an exaggeration. It is impossible to obtain the truth. Perhaps no lives were lost or property destroyed. The town has always been seceded, therefore it is not probable that a great amount of damage was done. Latest information places the rebels about 12 miles from Syracuse, where it is presumed they will encamp. Their number is estimated at 15,000 with 2 cannon. Major Foster is skirmishing with rear guard to-day, wounding 2, capturing 3. Military authorities are using every means to protect the people.

Yreka, 10th, 6 p. m.—The Operator at Weaverville, Trinity co., told me a few minutes ago that the whole town was on fire. Since then the wire has burned in two, and I cannot get that place. Town probably destroyed.—OPERATOR, YREKA.]

Additional Eastern News.

Louisville, 6th.—A special dispatch from Knoxville says Burnside holds the country south from Knoxville to Calhoun, on the Hawassa river, and the Western and Atlantic railroads, and only 25 miles distant from the Kingston junction of the Western and Atlantic and Home railroads, and east of Knoxville as far as Greenville, on the East Tennessee and Va. railroad. Also that he passes all the passes to N. Carolina. Burnside's right wing is in communication with Rosecrans. His position is all that could be desired, and his army is in the best health and spirits.

The battery on Morris Island designed to throw Greek fire is nearly complete.—Charleston is within easy range. The guns already in position are in such numbers as will insure the destruction of the city when they open. This event will not take place until other plans are complete, and the navy ready to co-operate with the army.

The success of Gen. Thomas, on the left, in the battle of Chickamauga, was much greater than represented in any pub-

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