

Semi-Weekly Sentinel.

From our Volunteers.

WHITE BIRD FERRY, Salmon River, I. T.
June 21st, 1863.

Ed Sentinel—Colonel Maury's expedition marched from Fort Lapwai on the 15th instant and arrived here last night, having marched sixty three miles. Thus far the route has been very good; but from the appearance of the country ahead, and from reports of packers to Placerville in the Boise mines, we have reason to expect a rough trail for our mules between here and Little Salmon, which is distant from here twenty-eight miles by the trail. The mule proceeds up the south side of Little Salmon, to a point about forty miles above its mouth, where there is a bridge; from here the trail passes over a mountain to the head waters of Pinto river and from thence over to the mining streams that put into Boise river. It is reported that there are plenty of Indians on Canas Prairie, near the place where the new Fort Boise will likely be built. The health of the command is excellent, and all hands seem satisfied with the prospect of active service ahead. It appears to be the prevailing wish among the boys to have one good square fight before our term of enlistment expires—for example, such an one as Col. Conner's troops had last winter. One half of our term has already passed, and it is but natural that we should wish an opportunity to try our metal and kindle the latent fire that is supposed to dwell in every soldier's breast.

The strength of the expedition is 176 "fighting men," twenty-five citizen employees in Q. R. Department, and four N.Y. Home guards.

Major Tracy remains in command at Fort Lapwai, which is garrisoned by company "E," 1st C. O. V., and company "E," 1st W. T. Inf't—the same as last winter.

The treaty being completed, Col. Steinberger, with company "B," 1st Cavalry (Captain Caldwell), returned to Fort Walla Walla, to remain during the summer.

It appears to be the prevailing opinion that the new treaty with the Nez Perces will not be ratified by the authorities at Washington; the reason assigned is that it will cost over half a million dollars to carry it out.

There are miners at work along the river bed, making moderate wages. The river is too high, to admit of other than bar boats being worked. In size, the river seems about as large as Rogue River at Darlington, when the water is at moderate or ordinary stages. The hills are high and grotesque looking—mostly bare of timber—with here and there a spot of snow high up, and looking like a stray patch of winter lingering on the borders of summer. They are covered with a fine growth of bunch grass, except where the *balsam* crops out so freely.

TROUT-fishing is the most accomplished sport we have; which is freely indulged in from the time we arrive at camp (generally late at night) until the retreat sounds a summons to evening roll-call. I can but feel a species of sympathy for the scientific and theoretical angler who has never been permitted to drop a line to my favorites the *Mosquitos*. How gracefully they crawl on the *water lily*, then glisten like a flash sunbeams as they come through the air to the shore, and what a magnetic pull comes over the nervous system as the vigorous while comes thrashing along the rod. I intended to have written a long letter, but must quit and go troutting.

SODER BOY.

INCIDENTS OF THE SIEGE.—Under date of Vicksburg, May 30th, a correspondent of the Cincinnati *Times* writes:

McClellan had not been here, Vicksburg would have been ours a week ago.

Perhaps you have some curiosity to know something of the interior of that place? It is garrisoned with 18,000 men. They are not at all sanguine of success. They have but subsistence for two or three weeks.

They have no forage for cattle, and consequently allowed several hundred, some say over a thousand, to pass through their lines. They have dismounted one Kentucky regiment and a battalion of Texas cavalry, and sent the horses out in the night to wander at will over the hills. There are no horses save those necessary for artillery and officers. These graze on the beautiful lawns in front of private residences. The soldier receives a ration of half a pound of corn meal and three quarters of a pound of meat.

Citizens have to do on still less. Fresh meat is out of the question after this. Many of their cattle have been killed by our shells, and are still unburied. Many who have been killed, also, by the fast-traveling snipers. We now have heavy siege guns in position, which may hasten the consummation devoutly to be wished."

Yesterday we gained another work from the enemy. Their loss is our gain—an other step towards Vicksburg. The confidence of the army is remarkable; its health and energy are as much so.

Many of the men stay in the rifle-pits day and night. There is one that extends nearly half a mile, which is only three feet wide, but about ten feet deep. In the side of this they have cut banks like those upon a ship. A man measures himself and makes a recess about his size, spreads his India-rubber blanket in it, and sleeps as quiet as at home. In the fort where the artilleries are at work, I have seen men sleep beside the guns that fairly shook the hills, and sleep as soundly as though peace still spread her kindly mantle o'er us and all reign supreme.

Judge of the Circuit Court.

Attest: GUSTAV WILSON, Clerk.

H. L. PARSONS, Sol'r for Complainant.

Dated: May 19, 1863.

John P. Pittman, Esq.

Attala County, Mississippi.

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