THE SENTINEL.

SUMMARY OF WAR NEWS.

The subjoined summary of War News, for the past week, we extract from the Baltimore *Gazette*:

SATURDAY, May 2.—Concerning the Confederate raid into Western Virginia, there are rumors in abundance, but the facts are few. The actual amount of damage done to the western section of the Baltimore and Ohio Railway is at present unknown; nor may it appear to have been ascertained with any degree of accuracy whether the Confederates ever occurred in force or not. In the fight most important points on the Baltimore to have been repulsed the Confederates are at loss, but eventually several times with, wounding or capturing succeeded in the detachment, numbering between seventy and eighty men. Col. Mulligan, at Fairmont, had also been attacked and with the loss of his artillery. The settlement along the Pennsylvania border was intense, the raid having extended into Fayette county; but for only a few miles into the interior. At the last advices they held Bridgeport and Palatine, on the railroad west of Grafton, and, it is asserted, had seized large quantities of cattle and horses and sent them southward. The extent of the raid, both in the amount of damage done and of spoils taken at various points, is said to exceed that of any previous excursion of a similar kind during the present war. It is, however, the impression of the military authorities that the number of Confederates engaged in it is comparatively small.

Of the six transports that attempted to run the batteries at Vicksburg, we now learn that four are known to have been sunk, and that the other two, if they got by, were badly damaged.

There were serious apprehensions at Washington that the Confederate rams up the Yazoo were about to make their appearance at the raft had been cut to pieces and had floated out. It was supposed that General Grant was about to commence active operations, as orders were issued on Wednesday last for the whole army to march with six days' rations.

At the latest advices from Fort Royal, the troops were embarking on board the transports, to be conveyed to the vicinity of Charleston—or elsewhere. Shipments of ordnance to the gunboats and Monitors had been made, and some of the islands near Charleston had been re-occupied; but notwithstanding these demonstrations it was not generally believed that any attack upon that city was seriously contemplated. The correspondent of the New York *World*, writing from Beaufort, South Carolina, remarks, significantly, of the new expedition, "Before long we shall be on our way to Charleston—or some other place."

General Banks, in his headquarters in the Teche country, appears to have encountered severe losses, whilst the extent of his captures were greatly overrated. The correspondent of the Boston *Courier* states that only three hundred Confederate prisoners had reached New Orleans up to the 18th ultimo; that but three boats were destroyed; and that whilst a large number of Federal wounded occupied houses on the Teche, six hundred others had been brought to New Orleans. "About the killed," he adds, "we are not permitted to know, for all communication with the returned soldiers and prisoners seems to be interdicted."

MONDAY, May 4.—An order from General Hooker was issued on the evening of Thursday last, directing that, hereafter, all newspaper correspondents whose duty or inclination it may be to report the operations of the Army of the Potomac shall be imperatively required to do so over their own signature. If they fail in this, they are to be excluded henceforth from the lines of the army. Commanding officers and Provost Marshals are directed to enforce the order, "and to keep themselves well informed of all the correspondents within the limits of their respective camps."

It appears, by the correspondence of the New York *Times*, from Falmouth, that the rumors heretofore published of the mutiny of the 1st regiment of New York volunteers were well founded. This regiment claimed to be entitled to its discharge about the 20th ult., whilst the War Department insists that their term of service does not close till the 7th of May. They refused to do duty and laid down their arms; but General Sickles appears to have induced them to submit, by a series of stringent measures.

A telegram from Cairo, dated on the 1st instant, reports that on the 28th ult., the troops under General Grant, taking with them six days rations and leaving their tents and baggage behind, took up their line of march across the Peninsula of Young's Point, their destination being, in all probability, the town of New Carthage.

In Tennessee, the Confederate advance under General Breckinridge is reported to lie at Beech Grove and Hooper's Gap, on the Manchester Pike, twelve miles from Murfreesboro'. The entire Confederate force is said to be in position from Beech Gap to Shelbyville; that it is not believed that General Johnston will advance against General Rosecrans in the fortified position occupied by the latter; nor will General Rosecrans move out of his works to force the Confederate commander to an engagement.

We have further news from New Orleans.—General Banks was still in the Teche country. Opelousas, Washington and Butte la Rose were in the occupation of the Federal forces.

From Kentucky, *via* Cincinnati, we learn that General Carter crossed the Cumberland on Saturday last, and attacked the Confederates at Monticello, and, after a severe fight, drove them from the town."

TUESDAY, May 5.—We surrender a good portion of our space this morning, to the reports of the correspondents of the New York *Herald* and the *Times*, concerning the movements of the Army of the Potomac, up to the morning of Saturday last. They certainly have one distinguishing merit—they convey no information by which the enemy might profit.—But this virtuous reticence carries necessarily with it one other consequence—the writers are compelled to deal in "glittering generalities," which may mean much or nothing, and finally wind up with the comforting assurance, that the operations have, thus far, been remarkably successful, and that the prospects of a successful issue to the Federal arms are unusually cheering. Beyond this, and a somewhat confused narrative of the movements of the different corps, preliminary, and subsequent to their crossing the river, we have literally nothing which might tend to enlighten us as to the relative positions of the contending armies. We cannot, therefore, lay before our readers those essential facts which might enable them to obtain a correct view of what is popularly called "the situation," nor would it be prudent, under the system of repression which has been adopted by the Federal authorities, to publish such facts, even if they were known to us. The best, and indeed, the only thing we can do, under the circumstances, is to give as clear a *resume* of the operations of General Hooker as it is possible to obtain from the sources we have already indicated.

Under the belief that General Lee, though screened from observation by intervening woods and hills, still occupied in force the strong earthworks to the south of Fredericksburg, General Hooker commenced a series of movements, by which he hoped to flank the Confederate position, and which it is now claimed, he has successfully accomplished.—The movement below Fredericksburg, though made in some strength, was but a feint to deceive the enemy as to the point where the main body of the troops was actually to cross the river. This was at Kelly's Ford. The cross-ing was effected without much opposition at all the points indicated in the preliminary orders; but, as the troops had established themselves on the southern bank of the Rappahannock simultaneously below Fredericksburg, they were withdrawn, and subsequently the passage of the river at one or more of the upper fords, thus concentrating nearly the whole of the army corps in a position from Fredericksburg, by a prompt advance, they might outflank the Confederates and cut off their retreat to Richmond. On the morning of Saturday last, five of the seven army corps which had crossed the Rappahannock at Kelly's and United States Fords were supposed to be at or near Chancellorsville, an insignificant village, some ten miles west and south of Fredericksburg. Of the other two corps, one—the 1st—was supposed to be below or opposite Fredericksburg, and the other—the 6th—was on the north bank of the river, in the vicinity of the United States Ford. Beyond skirmishing at detached points there does not appear to have been any serious fighting until the afternoon of Friday last, when three several engagements took place, in all of which it is claimed that the Confederates were repulsed.

On Saturday it was supposed that a general engagement commenced at or near Chancellorsville, as heavy firing was heard in that direction, and we have a further confirmation of the fact from the Washington *Star* of last evening, which states that the fighting at Chancellorsville was desperate on both sides, but that the accounts were so contradictory that they were withheld until the arrival of more satisfactory details. Of the death of general Berry, of the second army corps, there is no doubt whatever, as his body was brought to Washington yesterday afternoon. It was also reported that Generals Slocum, Mead, Couch and Sickles had been killed, but the story was not credited. General Sickles, says the *Star*, was certainly alive on Sunday evening. The town of Fredericksburg was, however, occupied by General Sedgwick, who is also said to have carried the heights in the rear. Yesterday it was told that the Confederates made a desperate attempt to retrieve the position at Fredericksburg, but were said to have been repulsed.

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[illegible] the Federal army; but prospectively it is not actually. The reports, moreover, as we publish in an extra, are exceedingly satisfactory, and are which based upon information derived from persons who left the field at 10 o'clock on Sunday morning. Still, we repeat, we have no confirmation. It is quite certain that the battle was actually renewed by Gen. Lee with great vigor and determination; but the result of the last engagement has not yet transpired.

[illegible] Sunday, May 6.—We continue to hear the incessant roar of the engagement that is now raging in the rear of Fredericksburg and in the vicinity of Chancellorsville, which is the left of the Federal army was posted.—[illegible] it moved up to Hooker's right. At this time—if we may credit the reports of Northern correspondents—five army corps were stationed between the Rappahannock and Chancellorsville—a mile distant from the river—as well as the Confederate forces in the rear of Fredericksburg, so seriously menace their communications with Gordonsville. It was also reported, that the two remaining corps—Sedgwick's—was opposite Fredericksburg, whilst the other—the 1st—was on the south bank of the Rappahannock, at the United States Ford. By a [illegible] this report only [illegible] Federal forces, the event [illegible] may be moved [illegible] yesterday that nothing had been heard up to mid day, with certainty, of decisive results. The [illegible] of the cavalry [illegible] of the Army, however, the engagement was resumed with unexpected vigor on the part of the Confederates, who threw themselves with great impetuosity upon the Eleventh Army Corps—Howard's—which constituted a portion of Hooker's right wing, turned it, and put it to utter rout. "A second Bull Run was promised," says the correspondent of the Philadelphia *Inquirer*. "The cavalry which followed up with infantry, artillery, pack-saddles and transportation wagons, mixed up in an indescribable confusion, and all moving in a panic, pressed their way in great disorder to the rear. The infantry, in the meantime, had formed across the road, and, in the language of a spectator, 'raining down upon the retreating column in perfect torrents.' Both officers and men of various commands, officers and the cool of the Army, General, "special order was brought out of camp, and the fugitives, or some of them, could be rallied, were informed in line of battle behind a niche in the road, [illegible] which [illegible] and placed in position. [illegible] what regiments they may have belonged."

The correspondent of the New York *Times*, in writing of the above affair, says that it was the division of Carl Schurz that was thus assailed, and which almost instantly gave way; that threats, entreaties, and orders of commanders were of no avail; that thousands of them threw down their arms and straggled towards headquarters; that General Devens' division, disaffected by the demoralization in front of him, soon followed suit, and that, finally, the brigades of Bushbeck and McLean, after acquitting themselves as long as possible, "gave way, though in good order, before superior numbers." The further advance of the victorious enemy was stayed, at length, by the Second Division of the Third Army Corps, commanded by Major General Perry. Sickles and Slocum, who had been previously thrown forward to make a reconnoissance in heavy force, were recalled. The division of General Williams, also in advance, fell back, only to find a position of their works in possession of the enemy; whilst Sickles' division was temporarily cut off from all communication with the main body; but the connection was restored by a night attack, in which the Confederates were forced back nearly half a mile.

We now come to the operations of Sunday. The disasters of the preceding day rendered another change in the Federal lines imperatively necessary, the object being to make such disposition of the Federal forces as would throw the Confederates from the position they had won in General Hooker's rear and force them to the front again. During the night the latter were heavily reinforced, and early on Sunday morning the attack was recommenced, the design of the enemy being to obtain possession of the plank road near Chancellorsville. This point in the contest, we are told, "was not obtained by him save at our own time, at his severe cost, and after one of the most desperate, tenacious and bloody conflicts, for its short duration, of the whole war."—After holding the position for three hours, the Federal troops fell back to the vicinity of the Chancellor House in good order, where the contest was continued for an hour or more "with great havoc to the enemy and considerable loss to ourselves." General Hooker maintained his headquarters at the Chancellor House until 10 o'clock in the morning, when the dwelling was fired by the enemy's shells. By half-past eleven o'clock the new line was so far established "as to render it safe to withdraw the Federal forces," and a little before noon the firing ceased. The result, as stated by the correspondent of the *Times*, is, that "General Hooker's position is impregnable—if the troops continue to fight as they did on Sunday."

In the meantime, also on Sunday, General Sedgwick, who had been stationed previously opposite Fredericksburg, crossed over the river, and after meeting with but slight resistance, took possession of the heights in the rear of Fredericksburg. He promptly followed up his success by moving out by the plank road towards Chancellorsville, for the purpose of opening communication with the main body under General Hooker. After proceeding some four miles he encountered "a staggering force of the enemy and—did not push further in that direction." During the same afternoon, General Hooker, in anticipation of and in consonance with, this movement on the part of Sedgwick, advanced simultaneously towards Fredericksburg from Chancellorsville; but, meeting with a temporary check, fell back, rallied, and again advanced about half a mile. Up to the close of the day, however, Gibbons' division succeeded in occupying Fredericksburg and most of the heights in the rear.

On Monday morning about daybreak the enemy re-appeared on the heights, and, driving back the Federal troops, without much resistance on the part of the latter, succeeded in retaking all the positions previously occupied by Sedgwick, down to the banks of the river, including the famous stone wall from which the Confederate sharpshooters had so bloody execution against the advancing columns at Bagnolde. Thus matters stood up to three o'clock on the afternoon of Monday.—What has transpired since has not yet been made public; but the fighting in the Several engagements recorded is said to have been terrible in extent and expression, and the losses on both sides correspondingly heavy.

THURSDAY, May 7.—There is no news worth extracting. The Army of the Potomac, on which any reliance can be placed, later than that which was published yesterday. The Washington *Star* of last evening, indeed, professes to have intelligence of the renewal of an attack on a portion of General Hooker's command on Tuesday last, in which the Confederates were repulsed with severe loss, and in the remarkably short space of fifteen minutes. Beyond this, we are told nothing, except that the position at present occupied by the Federal troops is "impregnable." It is admitted by the Washington *Chronicle* that the heights in the rear of Fredericksburg have been recaptured by the Confederates, and from the fact stated by the *Star*, that General Sedgwick had crossed the river, it is evident that the city of Fredericksburg is also been evacuated. In connection with this matter the Philadelphia *Press* has some curiously, two-edged comments. It begins greatly, in the first place, over the capture of Fredericksburg and the defeat in the rear, by the Federal troops, which it regards as one of the most exploits of the war, and as having a most important bearing on subsequent operations. It would enable General Hooker, the *Press* says, to "bring together and strike the rebels a crushing blow." At this time, however, the news seems to have reached the *Press* that Lee, instead of being driven from his heights, had withdrawn from Fredericksburg, when, forthwith the *Press* confesses, with regret, that even if the report be true, "the worst opinion is that it would not be any way serious to our cause. Our soldiers would, doubtless, easily return to the heights on the Rappahannock; and, as our guns command Fredericksburg, the place would soon be made too hot for the enemy."

The Washington *Star* has also, what purports to be an account of General Stoneman's movements in the rear of the Confederate army, with one of the three cavalry corps which have crossed on this expedition, that of General Averell has alone returned. It must be evident, therefore, that the designs of the officers, whatever they may be, are kept close enough. It is reported to General Hooker on Sunday, after an absence of twenty-three days. He had been as far south as the Roanoke Station, on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, which he destroyed, according to the correspondent of the New York *Times*, for twenty miles. According to the *Star*, destroyed the bridges and track of the road. General Averell is said to have taken Lee's train on the Culpeper road, which he captured, with a small supply of stores and baggage, which, it is said, he distributed among the poor of the vicinity. So far the facts are given, may, we think, be accepted as true. The *Times*, however, professes to have learned further, that General Buford, with a cavalry corps, pushed on to Gordonsville, since he cut the Virginia Central Railroad between the latter place and Richmond. Proceeding still further west, he broke up a portion of the same railway between Gordonsville and Charlottesville. A third cavalry corps, under the command of Col. Davis, [illegible] much more deadly work upon the enemy. It is [illegible] the exact truth in regard to the operations of these three cavalry corps, as well as the battles. The correspondence of the New York *Times* is, on which, above we have had to rely—for nothing else has been published—is now shown to have been [illegible] in consequence of its gross inaccuracies in many important particulars. It is more [illegible] that the capture of Fredericksburg and the defeat in the rear, by the Federal troops, are regarded as one of the most exploits of the war, and as having a most important bearing on subsequent operations. It would enable General Hooker, the *Press* says, to "bring together and strike the rebels a crushing blow." At this time, however, the news seems to have reached the *Press* that Lee, instead of being driven from his heights on Fredericksburg, had withdrawn from Fredericksburg, when, forthwith the *Press* confesses, with regret, that even if the report be true, "the worst opinion is that it would not be any way serious to our cause. Our soldiers would, doubtless, easily return to the heights on the Rappahannock; and, as our guns command Fredericksburg, the place would soon be made too hot for the enemy."

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