THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET.

VOL. I---NO. 133. BALTIMORE, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1862. PRICE TWO CENTS.

SEE FOURTH PAGE.

BOARD OF TRADE.

Committee of Arbitration for month of February.

WM. McKIM, D. WARFIELD, Sr., ENOCH PRATT, JAS. HOOPER, S. G. WYMAN.

Monetary and Commercial Robiets.

BALTIMORE, February 22, 1862.

There was considerable animation in the Stock market to-day, although the day was generally kept as a holiday. The principal sales embrace $1,700 City 6's 1890 at 96⅜; $5,000 do. 1875 at 96⅜; $2,000 Tennessee 6's at 61; $3,000 Northern Central Railway bonds at 72⅜; $2,000 Western Maryland 6's, first mortgage, guaranteed by the city, at 85. In Railroad stocks there was but little animation—10 shares Baltimore and Ohio sold at $58⅜. The only transaction in Bank stock was a sale of 75 shares Citizens' at $9. In Railroad bonds we have no new feature to note. State and City securities were about the same as yesterday. For Maryland 6's 95 was bid; Virginia 6's 63 asked; Missouri 6's 55 asked; North Carolina 6's 71⅜ bid, 71⅜ asked; City 6's 1875 96 bid, 96⅜ asked; do. old and new 1890 96⅜ asked. There continues to be some movement in Mining stocks, the sales being 7,000 shares Baltimore and North Carolina at 25 cts; 500 North State at 23 cts; 150 Springfield at $2.75; 16 do. at $2 80. For Canton $13⅜ was bid, $14 asked.

There was no meeting of the New York and Philadelphia Boards to day, the anniversary of the birth of Washington having been observed in both cities as a general holiday. The bulls and the bears rested from their exciting labors and will doubtless enter the arena with fresh vigor on Monday.

The Teutonia, which left New York on Saturday for Europe, takes out $375,000 in specie, the Edinburg $150,000—making a total of $525,000.

SALES AT THE BALTIMORE STOCK BOARD.

SATURDAY, February 22, 1862.

$1,700 Baltimore 6's '90	96⅜
5,000 do. '75	96⅜
3,000 Northern Central Railroad bonds '85	72⅜
2,000 Western Md. 6's 1st mortgage	85
2,000 Tennessee 6's	61
10 shares Balt. & Ohio Railroad stock	58⅜
75 shares Citizens' Bank	9
7,000 shs. Balto. & N. Car. Mining Co	.25
500 shares North State Mining Co	.20
150 shares Springfield Mining Co	2.75
16 do. do. do. do	2 80

The New York *Post* of Saturday afternoon says:

Notwithstanding the adjournment of the Brokers' Board over till Monday morning, business in stocks opened active to day, and some heavy transactions have taken place in the railroad shares and State stocks. For Government securities there is a strong demand at an advance of ¼@½ per cent. There was an improvement in 7 30 Treasury notes. Sales were made at 99⅜@99¾ for $1,000 notes. Five thousand dollar notes can be had at 99. The State stocks were active and firm. Tennessees sold at 61¼ on sellers' option, and 62 on buyers' option. Missouri's changed hands at 53⅜@53¾, closing at 53⅜. North Carolinas sold at 72, seller thirty days. Michigan 6's at 87. Of New York Central 6's, $7,000 sold at 98 Michigan Central old 8 per cents are 100 bid. Pacific Mail opened weak at 93 but closed at 93⅜@93¾. The market is firm and the tendency of prices upward. New York Central closes with sales at 84⅜, and that bid. Some transactions took place at 84, cash, and 83⅜, seller thirty days. Gold is steady at 103⅜@103⅝; but little has been done to day.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

LATER FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE STEAMER NIAGARA.

AMERICAN AFFAIRS IN PARLIAMENT.

HALIFAX, Feb. 23.—The steamer Niagara has arrived, with Liverpool dates of the 9th instant.

Six sets of Parliamentary papers, concerning the civil war in America, had been laid before Parliament.

Not less than forty-five communications passed about the Tuscarora and Nashville.

Among the interesting official correspondence laid before Parliament, was the declaration of Earl Russell to the Southern Commissioners, that England could not acknowledge the "Confederate States" until the war or further negotiations clearly defined their position.

Mr. Gregory, in the House of Commons, denounced the blockade of the Southern ports as a paper one.

In January, 1861, Lord Russell intimated to Lord Lyons that in case of advice being asked by President Lincoln's Cabinet, to reply that Her Majesty's Government will decline, unless both parties apply for counsel.

The policy of the British Government, in February, 1861, in the event of President Lincoln raising a question with Great Britain, is laid down in the following terms:—"Her Majesty's Government would, in the first place, be very forbearing. They would show, by acts, how highly they valued the relations of peace and comity with the United States; but they would take care to let a Government which multiplied provocations, and sought for quarrels, know that their forbearance sprung from consciousness of strength, not from timidity or weakness."

There is a short note written as late as December 20th, showing that even then the British Ministry believed in the probability of a war with the United States. Lord Lyons is directed to speak with Mr. Seward on the subject of letters of marque, and says: In case of war between the two nations England is willing to abolish privateering if the President will make a similar engagement on the part of the United States.

The *Globe* admits that Parliament is about equally divided, and that the conservatives, if they choose, could bring about serious complications. It intimates that if defeated, Palmerston would dissolve Parliament and appeal to the country.

Earl Carnarvon, in the House of Lords, made an inquiry into the case of a Canadian subject named Shepherd, arrested by order of Mr. Seward, and said to have been made to take an oath of allegiance. Lord Russell said that Mr. Seward then supposed Mr. Shepherd to be an American, and a release was subsequently obtained on condition that he should go into the Southern States. The Federal Government claimed that in an extraordinary emergency like the present, the President must be invested with extraordinary powers, extending to foreign residents as well as American citizens. The British Government entered strong remonstrances, and there was no objection to produce the correspondence.

Lord Canaervon hoped the Government would not be content with remonstrances, but would also demand compensation.

The new Cunard screw-steamer China takes her place in the line for New York, March 1st. Her trial trip showed great speed.

The Bank of France has reduced the rate of discount from 4½ to 4 per cent.

M. Hautefeuille urges a Congress to settle the rights of belligerents at sea, and the formation of a league of armed neutrality to protect the commerce of neutrals in case of a maritime war.

The French Government has contracted a loan of £4,000,000 with English capitalists.

FROM TENNESSEE.

Extra Session of the Legislature Called.

ST. LOUIS, February 21.—Special despatches from Cairo, to the *Republican* and *Democrat*, of this city, say that on Tuesday two Confederate regiments, from Clarksville, came to Fort Donelson and gave themselves up, saying they had been deceived, and were tired of fighting against the old flag.

It is declared that a strong objection will be raised by the Tennesseans against the force which retired from Bowling Green offering battle at Nashville.

The Provost Marshal at Clarksville sent word to General Grant to come up and occupy the town.

The officers of the gunboats now lying there represent the Union feeling as being very strong.

Governor Harris called a meeting of the Legislature next Monday, for the purpose, it is said, of having all the unconstitutional acts passed by them immediately annulled, and Tennessee officers and citizens declare that the State will soon be back in the Union.

Generals Buckner and Johnson are still at Fort Donelson.

General Cullum has sent sixty nurses and ten surgeons to attend the wounded at Mound City.

ST. LOUIS, February 21.—Nearly all the Fort Donelson prisoners have reached here, and are being rapidly forwarded to their destination.—General Buckner is expected to-night, and it is understood that the officers will be sent to Columbus, Ohio.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Another Reconnoissance towards Centreville—Capture of Eleven Rebel Pickets.

WASHINGTON, February 22.—A reconnoissance was made this morning from the division of General Smith, consisting of the Cameron dragoons and three regiments of infantry, all under the command of Colonel Friedman. The infantry separated for several points, viz: Vienna, Flint Hill and Hunter's Mills, to temporarily remain there as a reserve for the cavalry, while the latter proceeded toward Centreville, making a circuit within the lines of the Confederate pickets. The result was the capture of eleven mounted Confederate pickets, two of whom belonged to Stewart's regiment and the others to Ransom's First North Carolina regiment.

There was an exchange of some twelve shots, but the only person wounded was one of the North Carolinians. The prisoners were brought to Washington this afternoon, and are confined in the old Capitol building.

No information either as to the position or strength of the enemy at Centreville was obtained.

The reconnoitering party started at 3 o'clock in the morning, and were absent from their camps about ten hours.

Despatches to the Navy Department from Com. Dupont.

WASHINGTON, Feb 23.—Despatches have been received at the Navy Department from Commodore Dupont, dated Fort Royal, February 18th, inclosing a report from Commander Rogers, in which he says:—While sounding the Savannah river, a short distance above the mouth of Wright river, he discovered several objects floating upon the surface, which appeared to be empty tin cans, and as such were not regarded by him as worthy of notice.—Lieutenant Spretson, of the Seneca, shortly after hailed him, and told him he thought the objects alluded to were buoys attached to infernal machines. Upon a closer examination they saw enough to satisfy them that their suspicions were correct. The buoys, five in number, were placed several yards apart, at right angles to the shore, immediately in the channel leading from Wright river, and [illegible] only at low water, they were connected by a [illegible] wire, the end of the wire entering an orifice [illegible] the upper ends of the buoys.

They were also secured by the wires to what [illegible] presumed to be weights at the bottom, but [illegible] such further examination led them to believe were vessels containing explosive matter. An attempt was subsequently made to produce an explosion by pulling the wires, which failed. The wires were then cut, and the buoy was brought off in one of the expedition boats. In consequence of the delicate nature of the exploding apparatus, the result of the examination of the buoy brought on board, it was deemed more prudent to endeavor to sink the remaining buoys rather than attempt to remove them, so that the enemy should not have the satisfaction of feeling that a single life had been lost by the diabolical invention. The buoys were accordingly sunk by firing rifle shots into them. One had exploded the night previous from some cause unknown, and shortly after a launch had passed over the spot where these buoys were placed, having in tow a heavy lighter with guns. It further appears that the torpedo infernal machine brought on board the Unadilla was afterwards set upon a bank and a rifle ball fired through it, when it exploded.

A Secession Exaggeration.

Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Capt. Fox has received a letter from a friend in New York saying that the statement of a Richmond paper that 15,000 stand of arms had arrived at New Orleans on the steamer Victoria, which recently run the blockade to that port is not true. A reliable passenger who came out from New Orleans to Havana on the Victoria, says that she was able to obtain there only one hundred and fifty guns, and these were all the arms she took back on her return. The people of New Orleans are not yet, therefore, supplied with arms.

Line Officers in the Navy.

WASHINGTON, February 23.—The bill recently unanimously reported from the House Committee on Naval Affairs to establish the grade of line officers of the Navy, proposes important changes, one of which is to create nine flag-officers or Admirals, to be selected not below the grade of commanders, who shall have evidenced courage, skill and genius in preparing for and in actual battle, and received the thanks of Congress as a preliminary to promotion, the leading principle being to select such officers irrespective of seniority. The other features of the bill offer encouragement to merit.

Correction.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—The following paragraph was, as heretofore stated, added to the official report of the first day's proceedings of the late Railroad Convention: "Secretary Stanton paid a high compliment to the young and gallant friend at his side, Major-General McClellan, in whom he had the utmost confidence, and the result of whose military schemes, genius and well matured plans were now exhibited to a rejoicing country."

The officers of the convention having been applied to in various quarters to say whether this language was used by Secretary Stanton, feel bound to state that such was not the case, and these words above quoted were added after the report had been furnished to the agent of Associated Press. This is signed by Erastus Corning, President, Thomas Kimler, Jr., Secretary.

As the article in question occasions much comment, especially among those unacquainted with the few and plain facts in the case, the agent of the Associated Press repeats a former assertion—that the paragraph was by himself added to the official notice of the proceedings. It was based upon a statement from recollection of what was said on that occasion, without pretending to verbal accuracy; and further, that the information was not offered, but furnished on application. It now appears, from the only authentic denial obtainable, namely, of the President and one of the Secretaries, that the impression made on the mind of the informant was erroneous.

Official.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The Departments will be closed to-day, in consideration of the funeral ceremonies at the Executive Mansion.

WM. H. SEWARD,
S. P. CHASE,
EDWIN M. STANTON,
GIDEON WELLES,
CALEB B. SMITH,
M. BLAIR,
EDWARD BATES.

The First Telegraphic Despatch from the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

To the Agent of the Associated Press:

EASTVILLE, Feb. 22.—The natal day of the Father of his Country has been celebrated here by a military display, processions, &c., in which many citizens participated. The indications are that secession in Northampton county is disappearing.

(Signed) THE UNION RELIEF COMMITTEE, of Eastern Shore of Virginia.

Death of An Aged Citizen.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—John Sessford, aged 86 years, and a resident of this city for sixty-six years, died so well and favorably known, died to-day.

FROM ARKANSAS.

Capture of Bentonville.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 20.—General Halleck to-day telegraphed to General McClellan that Gen. Curtis has taken Bentonville, Arkansas, with a considerable quantity of baggage, &c.

Gen. Butler's Command.

BOSTON, February 21.—The Thirty first Massachusetts regiment sailed to-day in the steamer Mississippi for Ship Island.

General Butler has left for Fortress Monroe, thence to proceed to Ship Island to take command.

BOSTON, Feb. 21.—Six companies of the Thirteenth Maine regiment proceeded to New York by Fall River to-day. It is understood that they will be sent to Ship Island direct.

Important Report from Columbus, Ky.—No Preparations for an Evacuation—The Confederates Receiving Reinforcements.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 21.—A Union scout, who was in Columbus on Tuesday night, reports that no preparations were being made by the Confederates for the evacuation of that place. Fourteen steamers with steam up were at the wharf, and a salute was fired, indicating the arrival of a General and reinforcements from the South.

The Case of General Buckner.

LOUISVILLE, Feb. 21.—The *Journal* was misinformed with regard to the warrant issued by Judge Catron for the arrest of General Buckner. He is under indictment; but it is not probable that the civil authorities will demand him from the military authorities.

Gen. Buckner.

CAIRO, Feb. 22.—Gen. Buckner has been delivered to the United States Marshal, on a warrant issued by Justice Catron. He will be taken to Kentucky for trial on a charge of treason.

More Good News from Kentucky—Cumberland Gap and Russellville in Possession of the Federal Forces.

LOUISVILLE, February 22.—Cumberland Gap and Russellville, Ky., (the latter the headquarters of the so-called "Provisional Government,") are in possession of the Federal forces.

How to treat the Rebels.

LOUISVILLE, Feb. 22.—Hon. James Guthrie in a speech delivered here to-day, advocated severe treatment of the leading Confederates, but a general amnesty for subordinates at the close of the war.

Fort Donelson Prisoners.

CHICAGO, Feb. 22.—Four thousand Fort Donelson prisoners have already arrived at Camp Douglas. Two thousand more will reach here to-morrow.

Amusements.

FRONT STREET THEATRE.—Mr. and Mrs. Barney Williams continue to attract crowded houses to the Front Street. To-night is to be produced, for the first time, the grand spectacular drama of the *Lakes of Killarney*, splendid new scenery for which has been painted by Mr. Charles S. Getz, who is well known to have no superior in his peculiar line. Among the prominent scenes we may mention the opening of the water lilly, a view of the lake at the foot of the Eagle's Nest, and a magnificent view of the lower Lake of Killarney. In addition to this splendid play, we are to have to-night the farces of the *Customs of the Country* and *A Thumping Legacy*. The present has been one of the most successful engagements ever filled by these popular artistes in this city. This week is the last of their engagement, and their friends and admirers will doubtless flock to see them before they leave Baltimore. We have heard the *Lakes of Killarney* spoken of in the highest terms by the New York and Philadelphia journals; and, although we have not seen the piece, we feel safe in recommending it as the best piece of the Williamses.

BALTIMORE MUSEUM.—Kunkel's Opera Troupe still continues to appear to large and crowded audiences. The elegant and humorous act entitled the "French Zouaves Outdone" will be introduced to-night for the first time. On to-morrow evening Harry Lehr, the popular Ethiopian comedian will take his annual benefit.

When we got rid of Mr. Simon Cameron from the War Department we hoped that some attention would be paid to the re-opening of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, but we begin to think that he left behind a representative of his interests somewhere in that concern, who is exerting an influence as great as that of his principal. A short time since an attempt was indeed made to repair a portion, but it was again abandoned, and the new-laid rails fell into the enemy's hands, and are serving to open a new communication for him to the South. How much the same influence has operated to keep the Potomac closed we don't know, but we suspect a good deal. Until, however, the Pennsylvania Central shall cease to control the transportation of the army, we shall not expect to see either of the rival routes in operation.—*Chicago Tribune* (*Republican.*)

The men Smith and Nickerson, who have been on trial in Salem, Mass., for some days, on the charge of kidnapping a son of Mr. Rice, of Baltimore, in 1860, have been found guilty.

The Philadelphia papers announce the arrival, in that city, of Brigadier General B. F. Kelley, who is suffering severely from the wound he received at the battle of Phillippi.

The Chicago *Journal* had one reporter killed outright, and another had his leg shot off, at the capture of Fort Henry. A third escaped unharmed.

WAR ITEMS.

THE BATTLE AT FORT DONELSON.

ACCOUNT OF AN EYE-WITNESS.

Correspondence of the N. Y. World.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 12.—The record naturally commences with the movement from the Tennessee river. Early on the morning of the 12th the troops left Fort Henry with two days' rations in their haversacks, without tents or wagons, except such as were necessary to take along a surplus of commissary stores and ammunition, and ambulances for the sick.

The expedition under the command of Brig. U. S. Grant was divided into three columns—the division under Brig. Gen. McClernand taking the road from Fort Henry to Dover, running to the south of the enemy's position; the second division, under command of Brig. Gen. W. C. Smith, U. S. A., taking the direct or telegraph road to the fort; the third division, subsequently placed under the lead of Brig. Gen. L. Wallace, being sent round by Paducah and Smithland, and sailing down the Cumberland under the escort of the gunboats.

Each of these divisions consisted of about ten regiments of infantry, batteries, and cavalry.

FIRST DIVISION—BRIG. GEN. M'CLERNAND.

First Brigade—Col. Oglesby acting.—Eighth Illinois, Lieut.-Col. Rhodes; Eighteenth Illinois, Col. Lawler; Twenty-ninth Illinois, Col. Reardon; Thirtieth Illinois, Col. Dennis; Thirty-first Illinois, Col. J. A. Logan; Schwartz's Battery; Dresser's Battery; four battalions Illinois Cavalry.

Second Brigade—Col. W. H. L. Wallace acting.—Eleventh Illinois, Lieut.-Col Hart; Twentieth Illinois, Col. Marsh; Forty-eighth Illinois, Col. Smith; Forty-ninth Illinois, Col. Rainey; Taylor's Battery; McAllister's Battery; Fourth and Seventh Illinois Cavalry, Cols. Kellogg and Dickey.

SECOND DIVISION—BRIG. GEN. W. C. SMITH.

First Brigade—Colonel Cook acting.—Seventh Illinois; Fiftieth Illinois; Twelfth Iowa; Thirteenth Missouri, Colonel Wright; Fifty-second Indiana; three batteries Missouri First Artillery, Major Cavender commanding; Captains Richardson, Stone, and Walker.

Second Brigade—Col. Lanman acting.—Seventh Iowa; Second Iowa, Colonel Lanman; Fourteenth Iowa, Colonel Shaw; Twenty-fifth Indiana; Fifty-sixth Indiana.

THIRD DIVISION—BRIG. GEN. LEWIS WALLACE.

First Brigade—Colonel Croft acting.—Seventeenth Kentucky; Twenty-fifth Kentucky; Thirty-first Indiana; Forty-fourth Indiana; Eighth Missouri, Colonel Smith.

Second Brigade—Colonel Thayer acting.—First Nebraska, Lieutenant-Colonel McCord; Thirteenth Missouri, Colonel Wright; Forty-eight Ohio, Colonel Sullivan; Fifty-eighth Ohio, Col. Bousenwein; Willet's Chicago Battery.

A cavalry reconnoissance on Sunday, by about one hundred and fifty of our cavalry, resulted in taking one of the enemy's pickets a willing prisoner, and losing one of our men who got strayed from his command. The rebels, so soon as they heard of the proximity of our cavalry, mustered about 1,000 strong, and started in pursuit. They narrowly missed bagging the regular, as they did not proceed by the shortest route, or they must have been taken. General Grant, it is said, took some of their prisoners, who gave a plan of the fort, but this cannot have been of much use.

FROM FORT HENRY TO DOVER—THE ROUTE.

By 9 o'clock on Wednesday morning all the forces were on the march. The division of Gen. McClernand took the upper or Southern road direct to Dover. The division of Gen. Smith proceeded by the Northern or telegraph road, running directly to the fort. The route lays through broken and undulating lands. Small streams of the purest water are crossed at every ravine. The hills are in places covered with green pines, and tall, heavy timber. The weather was mild and spring-like, the men in admirable spirits, marching in regular order, and the surrounding scenery as captivating as the tropics.

Six miles out we passed an iron smelting furnace, long since passed into disuse. Nine miles out General McClernand found a young man, a resident, who was impressed into service as guide. Another mile brought us into a ravine, skirting a ridge of hills on the one side leading to a little creek entering the river just below the fort, and on the other entering just above. The inhabitants inform us that the fort is two miles distant, on a commanding ridge sloping down with a water frontage, surrounded by earthworks of immense size. At about 2 o'clock in the afternoon the advanced skirmishers of the southern portion of our forces came in sight of the enemy's tents stretching between the hill upon which the fort is situated and the next or Dover ridge.

FIRST SIGHT OF THE ENEMY.

The advanced pickets were discovered on the hill facing their tents, when the Eighth Illinois drove them off in gallant style. Three of their wounded fell into our hands; several more were carried off. Two or three rapid volleys were fired at them as they fled, but with little more effect than to drop some of their horses. Four of our men were wounded in the skirmish. Word was passed back to General Grant that the enemy and his camp had been sighted. General Grant at once ordered up the rear of the column. Dresser's battery was posted on an eminence overlooking the tents, and a few shells sent into the camp. There was a general and promiscuous scattering of men from the camps into the earthworks in the right and left. General Grant immediately ordered the division of General Smith into line of battle on the ravine back of the main elevation. A column of men was pushed up on the left of the fort. Scouts returned saying that the breastworks could be discovered on the extreme left. An hour or two was then spent in reconnoitring along the various hills surrounding the enemy's position.

FORT DONELSON.

In order to form any tolerable conception of the method of attack and the incidents of the siege, it will be better to give an outline of the enemy's position as it was subsequently seen. All that could be made out even by the aid of powerful field-glasses was a range of breastworks, stretching from hill to hill, distinguished by a line of light soil thrown up, with here and there a moving figure behind them. Our sharpshooters and scouts, who ventured within a few rods of the lines, reported that tents could be seen on places, and that trees and underbrush had been felled around the works on the outer sides to the distance of half a mile.

On the entrance to the fortifications, however, we realized for the first time their extent and strength. The site of Fort Donelson was selected for its natural advantages. It is about a mile below the little village of Dover, the county seat of Stewart county. The river at this point deviates from its westerly course, making a turn to the northwest. At the lowest point of the bend is a series of jutting hills, on the principal one of which is placed the fort proper, a large irregular earthwork of parapet and ditch, inclosing about five acres. *It is not quite finished*, the earth having been thrown up, and the bastions and embrasures being imperfectly built.

The fort proper has been built to mount twenty guns. *Only four pieces, of small calibre, were in position when we took possession.* The fort covered the crest and the southern slope of the hill, and commands the higher side of the river in one front, and only partially the range of hills inland on the other. *The inconvenience of such a position is evident, when we discover that the surrounding hills within cannon range were actually higher than that on which the fort is situated.*

THE WATER DEFENCES.

For the purpose of resisting the attacks of our gunboats, two water batteries had been constructed on the jutting spurs below the main fort and much nearer the water's edge. These earthworks were made by an excavation from the hillside just clearing the point of hill in front of them, so as to have on one side a natural protection from the shots of the fleet. One of these batteries was admirably suited to its purpose. Eight guns—one heavy 120-pounder columbiad, and seven 32 and 64-pounders—were in the work. One gun was dismounted, and another jumped from its carriage by the recoil. A line of sentry-boxes surrounded the entire fort.

In the other battery, to the left and rear of the first, a similar 120 pound Dahlgren and two eight-inch mortars were mounted. A roomy and safe magazine had been constructed in the ravine formed between the two hills. Ditches in the rear of the guns contained the remnant of the ammunition left unused. It consisted mainly of unfilled shells and round shot, with a small proportion of grape. In form and general appearance it resembled closely that in use in our ordnance service. A third battery, still higher, *had been commenced.* In the fort, on the sheltered side of the hill, were constructed near a hundred large and substantial log quarters. Some of them were pierced by the shot and shell from the gunboats. *A large frame structure, containing the reserve of field ammunition and cartridges, was almost emptied, the empty boxes of canister and shrapnel shell betraying one cause of the surrender—want of ammunition.*

THE INTRENCHMENTS.

In order to prevent a lodgment on the hills just back of the fort, it became necessary to construct a line of defences around the fort, at the distance of a mile, and in some places more than a mile, from the principal work. This outwork extended from a creek on the north side of the works to another which entered a quarter of a mile below. Both of these streams were filled with back-water from the swollen river, for the distance of three-quarters of a mile from their entrance into the Cumberland.

This chain of breastworks and the miry bed of the creeks formed a most complete impediment to the marching of our men within sight of the main fort. Judging from a ride round this line of breastworks, I should say that they are not less than three miles in length. Breast-high, and formed from a ditch on either side of them, so as to answer the purpose of rifle pits and parapet. At intervals on every elevation platforms had been constructed for howitzers and light field pieces. Several of these pieces in position fell into our hands with the surrender; some of which bore evidences of having been much used against us on the previous day.

THE PLACE INVESTED.

The first skirmish being over, and the enemy having fallen back within his intrenchments, the order was given to move along the whole line, so as to surround the place. Gen. McClernand on the right kept pushing on by the Dover road, Colonel Oglesby's brigade taking a position on the hill to the south of the enemy, and overlooking the town of Dover. Gen. Smith took the left, and extended his line to the hill overlooking the creek to the north of the fort. Every few minutes the sharp crack of a rifle told us that our skirmishers were driving in the Confederate pickets. Not a cannon had as yet greeted our arrival. Along this irregular line of hills our men were posted in line, inclosing the enemy in a rim of steel—an enemy at the least calculation as strong as ourselves. During the night Gen. McClernand sent word to Gen. Grant to close up a gap on his left. Gen. Smith had, however, taken the precaution before the order reached him.

As darkness set in the men lighted their camp-fires on the slope of the hills, and pickets were posted at a distance from the lines. The men ate what remained in their haversacks with a relish. Many of them had cast aside their blanket, overcoat, knapsack, and haversack [illegible] the afternoon, a mile back, expecting to go at once into action. Thousands of them were unable to get either that night. But the air was balmy, the temperature mild. The men were weary with the continued marching and countermarching. Notwithstanding the report of an occasional shot from the enemy's riflemen they sank to rest on the carpet of fallen leaves.

NIGHT SORTIE OF THE ENEMY.

During the night of Wednesday or early in the next morning the enemy made a sortie on the extreme right. The purpose was one of three things: to cut their way out, as it was generally supposed, by the camp; to communicate with their friends up the river, as some suggested; but more probably to create alarm, panic, confusion, and flight among our own men. This policy has often proved very effective. Fortunately their object was not entirely successful. Confusion there was for a while—plenty of it. Most of the regiments were composed of men who had never before been under fire, and the consternation produced by the firing of a volley in the darkness, with the whistle of balls, can hardly be described. An eye-witness says there was some precipitate running among the regiments. That they did not fire into each other in the darkness and slay each other by hundreds is a piece of extraordinary good luck.

THURSDAY—THE ATTACK COMMENCED.

The morning sun rose bright on the scene. The men were soon engaged in cooking what provisions could be had; several hogs were killed in the woods had been shot for breakfast, and [illegible] rise the firing of riflemen commenced. The enemy could be described behind his breastworks on all sides. The most available positions were selected for batteries, and by 8 o'clock a regular exchange of shot and shell had commenced across the ravine which separated the combatants. Taylor's battery, if we remember rightly, was on the extreme right, next came Schwartz's further to the left. Further still was a section of an Illinois battery. Across a deep ravine and in the centre of the position was Captain Richardson's First Missouri Light Artillery, on the nose of a ridge provokingly near the enemy's lines. Higher up on the same rise was McAlister's battery of 24-pound howitzers, and on the left could be heard at intervals an Iowa battery.

THE ARTILLERY ENGAGEMENT.

The long established form of opening the fight by a contest of sharp-shooters and artillery was observed. For two hours nothing was to be heard but the loud thuds of cannon, with a relief of sharp volleys of rifles, with an occasional report of a musket, which in the distance could hardly be distinguished from a field piece.

ATTEMPT ON TAYLOR'S BATTERY.

On the extreme right Schwartz and Taylor were blazing away fearlessly. The ground between them and the intrenchments was nearly cleared of trees, and they could observe by the smoke the position of each other with accuracy. The enemy had some rifled pieces, as appeared from the fluttering rush with which some of their projectiles passed over us. The firing from the batteries in McClernand's division was continuous. A brisk interchange of shots was now taking place, when we rode over to see the occasion, and arrived in time to learn that an attempt had been made by the enemy to capture Taylor's battery, which had been gallantly repulsed. The Confederates had gained close upon the battery, and only an incessant shower of canister saved the battery from capture, the infantry not being formed in position to support them effectually. Our loss in the conflict was but slight; that of the enemy must have been considerable. The 20th Illinois came up in time to drive the enemy into their position.

THE REPULSE ON THE LEFT.

During the time that the heavy firing had been heard on the right, Gen. Smith, it appears, had ordered the enemy to be kept engaged on the left. The twenty-fifth Indiana, at the head of a brigade, led the way. They had reached a position on the brow of a hill where the successful assault was afterward made, and were met by the enemy in force, who swarmed behind the works, pouring into them a deadly hail of bullets and grape. The attempt failed. The leading regiments broke in disorder after sustaining a hot fire, and the whole line fell back out of range. The object of the sortie had been accomplished, and the enemy's forces drawn from the other side, but the advantage did not result, as might have been anticipated, in the occupation of the fort on the right by General McClernand.

BERGE'S SHARP SHOOTERS.

Six companies of the famous regiment of riflemen, raised by Col. Berge, accompanied the expedition from Fort Henry, and two companies afterward arrived by the transports. These men deserve a separate mention for the part they took in the siege. This is a corps of picked men, skilled in the use of the rifle, drawn from the Northwest. They present the most picturesque appearance, dressed in gray with blue trimmings, hats surmounted with a black squirrel skin, a cartouche box of buffalo skin, a powder horn, and whistle. They are armed with heavy Dimmick rifles of various calibres, varying from half ounce to the full ounce ball. The bullet is of novel construction; it is not of conical shape, like the regular Minnie, but is blunted at the point and swells by a gradual hollow curve to the base, which is concave, like the ordinary rifle ball. The object of this is to prevent the balls from glancing, a common fault with the lighter conical balls.—These balls, on striking a bone, will shatter rather than glance from it, an object of some moment when it strikes an officer of rank, who may thereby be disabled from the shot.

These hardy pioneers start out in the morning, with a hard biscuit in their pockets and rifles on their shoulder, for the Confederate earthworks, where they remain until relieved by a fresh gang. So adventurous were they, that many of them crawled up within fifty yards of the rifle pits and exchanged words as well as shots with the enemy. From morning till night some of them lay behind logs and trees watching for the appearance of a figure behind the breastworks, when, with rifle carefully poised, he sends the ball with unerring aim to its mark. The Confederates soon took advantage of this, and would stick up old hats to draw the fire, and then return it. The sharpshooters discovered the trick, and were on their guard. "Why don't you come out of your fort?" cried one of them to a Confederate opponent. "Why don't you come in?" answered the Confederate. "You are cowards," was the parting salutation of both. During the first day's firing only four of these men were wounded, though it is estimated that not less than forty of the enemy were killed, and numbers wounded by their fire. One piece in front of Dresser's battery was kept in silence during the morning by the sharpshooters picking off their gunners. At last the shell from our own battery, falling short, drove them away. One valiant Southerner, to show his bravery, jumped upon the rampart to take aim; in an instant he was pierced by three balls, and fell out of the entrenchment, where he lay till nightfall.

REPULSE ON THE RIGHT WING.

Shortly after noon an attempt was made to scale the enemy's position on our right, where, it was supposed, he had a redoubt, which had been exceedingly annoyed during the morning. The Seventeenth, Forty-eighth, and Forty-ninth regiments of Illinois Volunteers, under senior Col. Morrison, of the Forty-ninth, attempted the feat. He led the charge with great gallantry until arrived at the foot of the enemy's line, under a most terrific fire from them. Here Col. Morrison fell, shot in the hip, his horse being killed. The regiment here faltered and fell back. The Seventeenth, under the major, attempted to stem the tide of affairs, but failed also. Again and again the attempt was made to gain the breastworks, and twice were they repulsed. The whole column fell back. The road had been so strewn with logs, trees, and branches as to render it almost certain death to advance, and the attempt was given up. The enemy deluged them with a shower of canister and musketry. Captain ———, of Company A, of the Forty-ninth, was killed. Our loss in this engagement may be put down at about seventy killed and wounded, although the sorry stories and wry faces of the men would have led one to believe it ten times that number.

The firing for the rest of the day was slow, and seemed by general consent to be abandoned. The pause was a decided relief; the din and war of guns had been almost incessant during the day, and it seemed as if there must have been immense loss. There had been heavy fighting, apparently, on the extreme right. Everybody lauded Gen. McClernand—brave and fiery, but wanting experience in the field—had done his utmost to make a lodgment in the enemy's entrepchments. We seemed to have failed in every attempt on either side. The prospect was not bright. Our wounded men were being brought in on stretchers; some limping along, supported by comrades, others with bleeding hands tied in handkerchiefs. The ambulances had brought in the maimed and seriously wounded. In the gray dusk of evening we passed some with spades, digging the grave of a lamented fellow-soldier, whose remains—stiffened in death—were lying at a short distance.

BAD WEATHER—A NIGHT OF HORROR.

Hardly had the camp fires been lit for the night when a drizzling shower set in, which soon turned into a steady fall of rain. The wind veered to the north, and turned suddenly colder. The weather, hitherto so pleasant, was turned in an hour into a wintry blast. Very soon snow began to fall, and the temperature fell below freezing point.

Many of the soldiers who had been separated from their overcoats and blankets during the day could not return to get them. Not a tent, except hospital tents, in the command. Provisions growing very scarce. The muddy, wet clothing freezing upon the chilled forms of the hungry soldiers. Ah, what a night was that in which to bivouac! I have since been told that one of our wounded men crying to be taken in, the pickets (so they say) hallooed to those of ours, requesting them to take him in, or allow them to do so. The thing seems to have been regarded as a ruse, and the poor fellow died, not of wounds, but was frozen to death. Not five houses could be found within as many miles, and these were used as hospitals.—Various expedients were resorted to to ward off the icy foe. Saplings were bent down and twigs interwoven into a shelter; leaves piled up made a kind of roof to keep off the snow. Large fires were kindled, and the men laid with their feet to the fire. The victims to cold and exposure, hunger, and neglect, on this night, will fill up a long page in the record of mortality of this eventful siege.

FRIDAY MORNING—GLOOMY PROSPECT.

The shots of riflemen at the dawn of day awakened such as slept to the fact that they were in the face of the enemy. Few, however, needed such a revellie, as the falling snow had kept most of them from dreaming during the night. The scene was anything but cheering. Three inches of snow on the ground, the mud frozen hard, a weary and half starved army lying scattered along the bleak hill tops. A succession of repulses on the previous day. Much fighting, some losses, but not a foot of ground gained as yet. The question on all minds was, "Where are the gunboats?" We had heard on the previous day the rumbling report of heavy guns on the water, and every man's heart leaped within him for joy at the sound, as if the gunboats were looked upon as a sure support. But after an hour of occasional cannonading the reports ceased and passed away like a distant thunder shower.—Where were the gunboats? At headquarters we could only learn that one gunboat only, the Carondelet, Captain Walke, was to be seen on the river below. What detained the rest?

DELAY IN THE REINFORCEMENTS.

Hitherto the investment had been made by the divisions of Generals McClernand and Smith, of some ten thousand men each, including the cavalry and artillery. A third division had been sent up the Cumberland, and should, by reasonable calculation, have been opposite Fort Henry on Wednesday night. Here was Friday morning and no transports arrived. About 10 o'clock came the joyful intelligence that the gunboat fleet, with the whole fleet of fifteen transports, had landed five miles below the fort. The troops from Fort Henry came pouring in, and close upon them came the troops from the boats.

THE BOMBARDMENT OPENED.

At about half-past 2 the sound as of the nearest thunder, with a long reverberation in the distance, told that the river-dogs had at last opened their mouths, and were paying most grandly their compliments to the Confederate batteries. From an eminence we could see the smoke of their chimneys and the smoke from the guns of the fort. Every little while could be seen in the distance, big up in the air, a sudden puff of white smoke, sprung as if from nothing, and then slowly curl in graceful folds, as a snow-white cloud; a moment more and the report told us it was a bursting shell, instantly followed by the rumble of the gun from which it had been sent. The loud roar of the cannon kept growing thicker and faster. The heavy columbiads and Dahlgrens in the fort were returning the fire. One, two, three, and then half a-dozen at once! The terrible game of death became exciting!

"Nearer, clearer, deadlier than before!
It is, it is the cannon's opening roar."

The gunboats are advancing, the bombardment has fairly begun. The cheers went up in thousands. The death-dealing bolts of Fort Henry were pictured as falling thick and fast into Fort Donelson. Alack, there were few of us knew what protection and defence n