

ground or surface water, good flax cannot be expected.

Some persons have the impression that the richest soil that can be obtained is the most appropriate, and would produce tall heavy flax. But this is not the case, for where the soil is too rich the flax is not of good formation, and the stalks grow woody and coarse; whereas, on dry loam, with clay subsoil, the coating or fibre grows finer, and more in proportion to the woody part, and renders the flax more valuable.

Flax should not be sown in valleys, if other places can be obtained. When sown in valleys, it inclines to grow rapidly, and the stalks lean across each other, and where they come in contact that part becomes rusty and readily gives way when dressing, which renders the flax of little value.

It is of importance not to grow flax, or indeed any crop, too often upon the same space of ground. An excellent crop of flax is generally obtained after wheat, and a regular system of rotation in cropping is strongly recommended, as the surest method of preserving the land in good heart, and of securing abundant crops.

PREPARATION OF THE SOIL.—One of the points of the greatest importance in the culture of flax is, by thorough draining, to place it in the finest, deepest, and cleanest state. After wheat, one ploughing will suffice on light friable soil, but twice more efficient, and on stubborn soils three may be found necessary. The second ploughing should be given late in the autumn, and the soil may be exposed to the ameliorating influence of the winter's frost. As no crop requires a more thorough and minute pulverization of the soil than flax, it is indispensably necessary to have it exposed to the winter frost by which it is crumbled down into fine particles. In spring this fine surface must be harrowed, and in order to consolidate it is of advantage to roll it. When the soil is not a heavy clay, it is better to use the cultivator than the plough in spring, in order to avoid as much as possible the turning down of the fine surface mould, which is so necessary for the flax seeds. After harrowing and before sowing, care should be taken to collect weeds of all kinds.

SOWING.—It is of importance to procure good, clean seed, sifted clean of all weeds which will save a great deal of trouble when the seed is sown. Sow about two bushels of seed to the acre, or even a little more. It is better to sow too thick than too thin, as with thick sowing the stem grows straight, and the fibre is found greatly superior in fineness and length to that produced from thin sowing. Flax, which grows coarse and branches out, producing much seed but a very inferior quality of fibre, and a small weight of straw to the acre, whereas when sown thick a much greater yield will be secured. After sowing, cover with a seed harrow, going twice over it—once up and down, and once across, as it makes it more equally spread, and avoids the small drills made by the teeth of the harrow. Finish with the roller, which will leave the seed covered about an inch—the proper depth. Rolling the ground after sowing, or when the plant is about an inch above ground, is very desirable, care being taken not to roll when the ground is so wet that the earth adheres to the roller.

Flax seed, to insure a good crop, should be sown on a quiet day, and should not be permitted to be blown by the wind, which will not leave the seed equally distributed on the ground.

In this country flax should be sown any time between the 20th of April and the 10th of May. It is recommended to sow if possible, about the 10th of May. For fine fibres early sowing is necessary. Vegetation is more rapid in the latter part of the season, but for fine fibres there is nothing like steady growth.

WIZARDING.—If care has been paid to cleaning the seed and soil, few weeds will appear; but if there be any, they ought to be carefully pulled. As the price to be paid for flax must be regulated by the quality, it will be to the advantage of the farmer to pay particular attention to keeping it clean of weeds.

PULLING.—The time when flax should be pulled is when the seeds are beginning to change from a green to a pale brown color, and the stalk to become yellow for about two-thirds of its height from the ground. It is most essential to take time and care to keep the flax even; like a brush, at the root end. This involves the value to the manufacturer, and of course to the grower, who will be amply repaid by an extra price for his additional trouble. It is of great importance to pull the flax before it is fully ripe. Every day it is allowed to stand after it is ripe, it loses in weight and in value. After the flax is pulled, it should be set in two rows, the seed end up, and laid out to each other, and meeting at the top. When it has stood for three or four days, it should be fully dry (weather being favorable), and may then be put up in small sheaves, and placed out for rotting, either by stepping or exposing to dew.

FIRE.—On Saturday morning last about 4 o'clock the hotel kept by Mr. Wm. Lock, McDonald's Corners, was discovered to be in flames, and to such an extent had it gone before discovery that very little of anything was saved. Indeed the inmates had scarcely time to quit their beds and get out of the way of danger. The fire which spread by some defect in a stove pipe, communicated with the upper apartments. The loss of property not including the house was about five hundred dollars.—*Perth Courier.*

THE SIXTH CONCESSION MYSTERY.—Notwithstanding the most strenuous exertions of the police, assisted by the neighbors, no clue has yet been found to the whereabouts, dead or alive, of the woman McIntosh. It appears, after a careful search of the house, that she did not, supposing the left of her own accord, take any of her best clothes, and even her spectacles were found on the dresser. Telegrams have been sent to Port Huron, where it seems she has friends, but she did not go there. If there has been foul play, we are satisfied that it will yet be discovered, and the perpetrator brought to merited justice. Altogether, it is a most extraordinary case. Donohue was again brought before the Police Magistrate yesterday, and remanded until Monday next.—*Huron Signal.*

A young man, named James Ransome, of Blairville, Pa., while on his way home, fell forty feet down a steep bank, and his foot caught in a bush or a fallen tree top which held him fast—head downward. In this position he remained till next day, but he died in a few hours from inflammation of the brain.—*Kingston Daily News.*

U. S. PRESS.—General Hooker has issued an order requiring all newspaper correspondents from the army to publish communications over their own signatures. This is the French system of censorship.

Two children of a person named Boulard, respectively three years and eleven months, were burned to death at St. Evariste in the county of Bruce, on Wednesday last.

Our hopes are bubbles, born with a breath and broken with a sigh.

AMERICAN NEWS.

Three Days' Fighting on the Rappahannock.

HOOKER SAID TO HAVE SUFFERED SEVERELY.

New York, May 4. Various rumors are about to-day, probably to influence stocks, to the effect that Hooker's right wing had suffered severely on Sunday.

In the absence of anything official from Washington, and owing to the rigid exclusion of all dispatches from that point by the censorship, considerable credence is gained for sensational stories, but no reports of disaster are credited.

It is stated that the president has received despatches from Hooker, that he has several rebel communications between Bowling Green and Hanover Court House, and that he has captured 1,500 rebels, after crossing the Rappahannock, and that our communications with Gen. Stoneman have been cut off by rebel guerrillas, but will soon be reinstated, and that he [Hooker] hopes to capture all the rebels north of the Pamunkey river.

All the news, thus far is very encouraging.

New York, May 4. The Times prints the following, dated two miles below Fredericksburg, Sunday morning, 5:45 o'clock:—

Bartlett's brigade, Newton's division, consisting of the 121st New York, 16th New York, 27th and 5th Maine, and the 19th Pennsylvania, are engaged upon the Rappahannock in front of Burnside House, led by the 9th Pennsylvania. It has fired with considerable precision, annoying us to a considerable extent.

Fredericksburg is occupied by the troops of Corcoran's old brigade, and the troops of Newton's division.

9 a. m.—After a temporary lull, musket firing has again commenced. We are losing some men.

9:10 a. m.—The artillery on both sides has again opened, and is firing rapidly. Banks' division hospital has moved back from the river, owing to one of the rebel shells bursting near it.

Our troops are well protected behind the right bank of the Richmond road.

9:20 a. m.—Our batteries on the left have changed position, and are doing better execution.

9:30 a. m.—A pontoon bridge has been thrown across the Rappahannock at Fredericksburg, and persons are crossing it. The rebels have removed their guns from the earthworks above Fredericksburg. Our single guns on this side are throwing an occasional shell.

New York, May 4. The Times has a very full report from three of its army correspondents who arrived from the field of the great battle of Saturday and Sunday. They were among the hottest and most important of the war. On Friday we suffered considerably, the 11th army corps, under Gen. Howard, behaving badly, and losing an important part of our position. The battle did not close until near midnight. During the night Gen. Hooker changed his line, reformed his army, and was ready for a battle next day.

The fight began at 5 o'clock, and lasted six hours. At the end of that time, Gen. Hooker held a very strong position, and felt perfectly safe. His right rests on the Rappahannock, at Elford, and his left on the Rappahannock. The losses have been very heavy on both sides.

The result thus far is not decisive, but it is believed the rebels can only save themselves by retreating.

Retreat of the Federal Army across the Rappahannock.

THIRTY THOUSAND MEN HORS DU COMBAT.

New York, May 7. The morning papers do not contain a line of news relative to army movements additional to what was telegraphed from their correspondents yesterday. Nothing of war matters was telegraphed from Washington last night to any quarter.

The World says—The following we learn by a special messenger, that a great battle was fought on Tuesday and General Hooker's army was driven back across the Rappahannock. General Lee was heavily reinforced and the last battle exceeded in slaughter those of previous days. Nothing yet has been heard of General Stoneman. It seems impossible to doubt that he and his force will be captured.

New York, May 7. 8:30.—The World has just issued the following extra:—

United States Ford, May 6.—8 a. m. Yesterday morning the trains were all ordered back to camp, and by dark the whole were at Falmouth. The wounded were hastily removed from the hospitals, and sent to Washington, leaving nothing on the outside except infantry and artillery. About one o'clock it commenced raining, deluging the roads and threatening destruction to the pontoons. The river rose with great rapidity. The upper pontoons were taken up, and after several hours of very hard labour the bridges were made ready. Fine barges were spread out on the pontoons.

It is hoped the army will reach this side before the enemy discovers, but cannonading was commenced quite fiercely at the front, and a desperate battle is not an improbable event. We can doubtless retire across the river without serious loss, but if discovered in our attempt the struggle will be fierce. Unmolested our troops can get over at noon. The roads are in a terrible condition, about as bad as when Gen. Burnside foundered here last winter. Our sick are lying on the roads, but ambulances are coming up to relieve them. There was no fighting yesterday of any account. The sharpshooters were quite active, and the artillery opened occasionally but results were unimportant.

The enemy had eventually massed his army on our right, with a view, it is believed, of crossing above. The high water, however, will frustrate that movement. Three pontoon trains are down near Falmouth. Crossing, and some fears have been entertained that this rebel would make a demonstration across the river below Fredericksburg.

A great number of our wounded have fallen into the hands of the enemy. Our dead in the battle of Sunday are still undying in the hands of the rebels. The wounded are undoubtedly in great numbers for want of attention. Gen. Johnson, medical inspector of the army, has volunteered to go over with a corps of surgeons and take charge of our wounded. He will probably be sent over as soon as possible.

Last night Gen. Hooker held a consultation with his commanding Generals, in which it was decided that a longer stay in their present position would be unsafe for the army.

Falmouth, May 6. It is rumored that the enemy's cavalry are advancing cautiously towards the place. A force has been sent down to oppose them. Everything is quiet on the other side.

The river has risen over ten feet and is still rising. Heavy cannonading is heard in the direction of United States Ford.

New York, May 7. The Tribune's extra, dated 6th, says the army of the Potomac crossed the Rappahannock at the United States Ford and at Banks' Ford, and is marching back to the old stand along the Aquia Railroad.

General Sedgwick was overwhelmed by numbers and hardly able to make good his escape near Bank's Ford.

Fredericksburg and heights have been occupied by the rebels.

Sedgwick lost about 5,000 men, but his artillery and trains were safely over on Monday night.

On Tuesday the Sixth corps, recently engaged at Chancellorsville, reentered at the United States Ford, and is marching back to Falmouth.

The retreat of Hooker's army produced a great panic at Aquia Creek, and everything moved in a retrograde motion. The order for retreat was a surprise, as it was believed to be the determination to march out and attack the enemy in front.

On the battle of Sunday, Hooker continued to strengthen his lines, continually harassed by the enemy. Our artillery took a position commanding the United States Ford, and the crossing there was effected without loss.

The crossing commenced at 10 o'clock on Tuesday night. At 3 a. m. on Wednesday the wagon and mule train had crossed, and the infantry was crossing on two bridges at the United States Ford, Couch's corps in advance. The train was covered by Mead's 5th corps. Lee's sharpshooters picked off the artillery horses, and any mounted officers seen. The rebel batteries occupied all advantageous positions, and fired vigorously, but disappeared as soon as our batteries opened on them.

At a consultation of the commanders, it was decided that the enemy was too powerful. Sedgwick failed to join Hooker, and being hard pressed crossed the Rappahannock to prevent annihilation, his experience costing 6,000 men. Sedgwick's repulse added to the weak counsels of Hooker's corps of commanders, shook Hooker's confidence, and in a fatal moment he gave the order to evacuate his strong position, and his fortified camps, and to retreat.

The army was not panic stricken but greatly demoralized, by this inglorious retreat.

There was no time from Friday morning till Monday night, but Hooker could be attacked and defeated. He was covered by the ability to give the order at daylight on Monday.

The rebels shelled our trains at United States Ford, which served to increase Hooker's fears, and the longer he delayed the less was he able to advance.

The Tribune correspondent closes thus: "The army is in a retrograde motion, men in its ranks, and a much larger number unit for duty."

The heavy rains of Tuesday night and Wednesday have seriously impaired the health of the men who were without shelter. Tents were left behind, and many lost knapsacks.

The Late Battles—Details of the Important Operations to Sunday Night.

Correspondence of the N. Y. Times Continued.

On Thursday night we were massed in the vicinity of Chancellorsville, simply covering the approaches.

On Friday morning, Gen. Hooker began the strategic disposition of his force. As the enemy has been driven back, we are all along this line, and as the disposition has, since then, been altered, there can be no objection to state that it formed a line of battle of a triangular or wedge shape, resting with its wings respectively on the Rappahannock between Banks and the United States Ford and Aquia Creek, and having its apex at Chancellorsville.

The day was occupied with operations along the skirmish line, and reconnaissance for the purpose of feeling the enemy.

The night previously, Col. McVicar, of the Sixth New York cavalry, had pushed out on the left flank, and had, having in the order that characterized him, beyond the point indicated by the General, Fitz-Hugh Lee, with two brigades of cavalry and a battery of horse-artillery, got on a cross road between him and us. He had 200 men, and there was but one course for him—to pierce through the enemy's line, leading the assault here in hand, and he fell at the first charge. I knew him well. He was a Scotchman and gallant soldier and he died as he would have wished—cutting his way through the enemy. The intrepid hand left fifty of its number behind.

The enemy's whole corps, reinforced by D. H. Hill's division, numbering all 40,000 men, had precipitated themselves on Howard's corps, forming our extreme right wing. This corps is composed of the division of Schurz, Steinwehr and Devin, and consists in great part of German troops. Without waiting for a volley from the rebels, this corps discharged their rifles and commenced running, panic-stricken, down the road towards headquarters. Our right was thus completely turned, and the rebels in a fair way of doubling us up.

It was a critical situation, and brought out the superb resources of Gen. Hooker. He was in a position to make a stand, and cool—the master of a situation fit to overmaster the most. The first thing was to check the rebel advance, which must be done fatal if allowed to go on much further.

It was a terrible animated scene. The whole open plain presented such a spectacle as the sun might make in the desert. Whirlwind of men and artillery swept over the plain. The shattered, fleeing columns of men were rushing down and over us at headquarters.

Hooker's dispositions were made in a moment. Whom, of all other should he send in at this fearful critical moment, but the darling child of his own creation—his own corps, now commanded by Gen. Berry.

"General!" shouted the Commander, "throw your men into the breach—receive the enemy on your bayonets—don't fire a shot—they can't see you!"

Oh! it was a sight to see that glorious band rush at the double-quick to the rescue. Pressing up in their horrid array of glittering steel, the enemy's advance was quickly cut, and he had to withdraw to the line of breastworks just vacated by the Eleventh corps.

Batteries were immediately sent up in the shattered armor to the front, and Capt. Best, Chief of Artillery in Stoneman's corps, massed twenty pieces on the crest near Gen. Sickles' headquarters, and a terrific fire was opened on the enemy, and kept up far into the night!

Gen. Pleasanton, too, succeeded in turning back a dozen pieces taken from the flying corps and planting them in a favorable position, while he drew up his little brigade of cavalry, consisting of squadrons of the Sixth New York, Eighth Pennsylvania and Seventeenth Pennsylvania with drawn sabres to protect the guns (a novel sight in battle). Directing the pieces to be double shot with canister, he swept the position occupied by the enemy with a murderous fire. The successful check of the advancing

foe is in small degree owing to the indomitable energy of this gallant soldier.

While this is going on, the panic-stricken Dutchmen are sweeping past us and round by headquarters into the road leading to the United States Ford. Many members of the staff of Gen. Hooker and other officers placed themselves in the road with drawn sabres and slashed the cowardly retreating rebels. It was all in vain, however. The road for two or three miles down towards United States Ford is now crowded with their shattered fragments. Gen. Hooker has, however, all ready sent Sykes' regulars after them. As they are not captured, it could not have been great—they ran too fast for that. I have the mortification to add that they allowed twelve pieces of cannon to fall into the hands of the enemy.

What makes the retreat not only disgraceful, but high dishonour, is that order for retreat was a surprise, as it was believed to be the determination to march out and attack the enemy in front.

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"General!" shouted the Commander, "throw your men into the breach—receive the enemy on your bayonets—don't fire a shot—they can't see you!"

The young ladies of Perth have shown their appreciation of the volunteer movement in a very handsome manner, by raising funds for the purchase of a stand of colors for each of the companies in the town.

Their example is highly worthy of imitation in other places, and little trouble would be experienced in raising the money either by means similar to that adopted in Perth or by direct subscription. The juvenile concert in Perth was a great success as will appear by the following article which we copy from the *Family Herald*:—

THE CONCERT ON THURSDAY EVENING.—A young lady, daughter of James Bell, Esq., conceived the beautiful idea of showing the ladies' appreciation of the volunteer cause by presenting the Perth Volunteers with a stand of colors, and to this end and she took steps to get up a juvenile concert. The young lady in question, soon found many friends ready to enter heartily into her cause, and, in order, if possible, that the Volunteers might have the flag on the Queen's Birthday Day, it was resolved that the concert should come off on Thursday evening. The notice was short for an amateur performance, but most certainly the movers in the matter have reason to be proud of the decided success of everything connected with it. Equally proud might well be the gallant young fellows composing the volunteers to see the crowded house on that occasion. It showed them that the ladies of Perth were not only appreciative of their services, even though the Town Council might be lacking in that respect. Many of the singers were quite young ladies and misses, and to dwell at any length on the different parts performed by them would take up more room than we have at command, suffice it to say that the juveniles were in perfect form, and that the concert was a success, even though the Town Council might be lacking in that respect. Many of the singers were quite young ladies and misses, and to dwell at any length on the different parts performed by them would take up more room than we have at command, suffice it to say that the juveniles were in perfect form, and that the concert was a success, even though the Town Council might be lacking in that respect.

THE BATTLE OF SUNDAY.—Another bloody day has been added to the calendar of this rebellion. Another terrible battle has been fought and more fields crimsoned with human blood. Few more such days as this will find an armies left on either side.

Our line of battle was formed with Gen. Berry's gallant division on the right, Gen. Birney next on the left, Gen. Whipple and Gen. Williams supporting. At 5:45 a. m. the advance column engaged in the ravine, just beyond the ridge where Capt. Best's guns had made the terrible onslaught the night before, and where they had thrown upon the enemy and threatened his destruction.

The rattle of musketry soon became a long continued crash, and in a few moments as battalion after battalion engaged the roof surpassed all conception, and indicated that the fight would be one of the most terrible nature. Gen. Berry's division which had checked the enemy's advance the night before, engaged him again, and if it were possible for them to add more laurels to their fame, then they did it three or four times.

The enemy advanced his infantry in overwhelming numbers, and the best judges who have heard Mr. Du Monchel on that instrument that his equals in the Province are but few. The solo on the Baritone by Sig. Corazzi, baritone, and Master Douglas, on the concertina, was everything that could be wished.—The performance of Mons. Du Monchel on a beautiful new piano, kindly loaned by Mrs. C. Rice for the occasion, was an important and pleasing element in the evening's entertainment. It is a generally admitted fact by the best judges who have heard Mr. Du Monchel on that instrument that his equals in the Province are but few. The solo on the Baritone by Sig. Corazzi, baritone, and Master Douglas, on the concertina, was everything that could be wished.—The performance of Mons. Du Monchel on a beautiful new piano, kindly loaned by Mrs. C. Rice for the occasion, was an important and pleasing element in the evening's entertainment. 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