

The Weekly Colonist

Tuesday, April 18 1865

THE NEWS

The news received yesterday brings the American civil war nearer and nearer its final close. The "hero of a hundred fights" has at length succumbed—the general whose genius has shed a military lustre around the Confederacy has surrendered with his defeated army to the victorious North.

Now that we have an account, even though imperfect, of the battles that preceded the surrender of the Confederate capital, we are able to form some idea of the fighting that took place on those momentous days which ended on the 2d of April, and which will become as celebrated in future history as the memorable days which embraced Ligny, Quatre Bras and Waterloo.

With the surrender of Lee virtually terminates the war. In our last editorial on the "situation," we alluded to the probability of the Confederate commander, in the event of Sheridan being unable to bring him to a contest, pushing forward to North Carolina and forming a junction with Johnston.

be only too glad to lay down their arms and succumb to the force of events. That those events will bring immediate peace there cannot be the shadow of a doubt. Lincoln is losing no time in trying to bring about this desirable result, and it speaks well for his humanity and patriotism that he should have gone to Richmond, while the fires of defeated rebellion were yet burning, to lay his lenient terms before the Southern people.

[From the Oregonian.]

THE BATTLES AROUND RICHMOND.

Sheridan's Exploits.

SURRENDER OF LEE.

PEACE MOVEMENTS.

Attack on Mobile.

GRANT AND FINAL BATTLE BEFORE RICHMOND ON SUNDAY, APRIL 2.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, April 2.—The outer line of works, which we have been trying in vain for months to overcome, have at last yielded to our valorous army. The struggle by the enemy to retain possession of these works has been of the most desperate character.

The 8th corps struck the enemy in front of Fort Welch, near the celebrated works, and carried them with very slight loss, and at once pushed forward to the South Side railroad which they reached at 9 o'clock. In a very short time several miles of it was torn up and destroyed.

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NEW YORK TRIBUNE'S ACCOUNT.

New York, April 5.—The Tribune's correspondent thus accounts for the operations on our left: At 4.30 a.m., on Sunday morning, April 2d, the 6th corps left its lines to attack the enemy's centre. It moved so as to enable the corps to throw its left flank upon the works of the enemy one after another.

As these works fell into our hands a loud cheer rent the air, and the enemy were seen hastily retreating to their second line, which opened a sharp fire in the effort to stay our advance. While the above fighting was taking place, the Fifth Corps and the cavalry under Sheridan turned the right wing of the rebel army, taking 5,000 prisoners.

The rebels fled in confusion, and the 2d corps connecting with the right of the Fifth, was also victorious, notwithstanding they had much rough ground to fight over, and a brave and determined foe in the rebels' 3d Corps.

SHERIDAN'S GENERALSHIP.

New York, April 4.—The World's account of Sheridan's generalship will take rank with any on record. It seems that Grant was not satisfied with Friday's work and placed Grant in supreme command of the Fifth Army Corps and all the cavalry.

CAPTURE OF PETERSBURG—SURRENDER OF THE CITY.

PETERSBURG, April 3.—The army of the Potomac has been in and out of Petersburg this morning, making flying visits. The rebels commenced evacuating last night at 10 o'clock, and by three o'clock this morning were across the river, having burned about a million dollars worth of tobacco, the South Side Railroad Depot, and the bridge across the Appomattox.

PROTECTION WAS PROMISED ON THE PART OF THE TROOPS.

Protection was promised on the part of the troops, and the citizens have no cause of complaint. There is no instance on record, where an army after laying siege to a place of so much importance and losing so many men in efforts to capture it, have entered a city with less disorder and doing less damage to private property than in this case.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DEFENCES OF RICHMOND.

The works in front of Richmond consist of three strong lines wholly enveloping the city. The outer ones are continuous, and the inner ones consisting of a series of strong redoubts and abatis forts. All of these mount upwards of three hundred guns, and would, had they been properly garrisoned, formed an almost impregnable series of defence. Torpedoes were thickly strewn all over the ground, with little flags for the safety of the rebels, which they forgot to move in their hasty flight.

The negro troops were treated by the population in the most extravagant manner. The Richmond Whig was issued on April 4th—the former editor having given pledges of hearty support to the Union cause.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Davis took on the train in which he escaped horses and carriages, so as to take to the country in case the road was interrupted. He expressed himself as being yet determined not to give up, although it was certain that he had but little to hope for.

THE LEGISLATURE WAS IN SESSION AS LATE AS 9 O'CLOCK ON SUNDAY NIGHT.

The Legislature was in session as late as 9 o'clock on Sunday night, when they left for Columbus by canal and the James river.

REBELS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE QUIETLY LOOSED FOR THE TIME BETWEEN SMITHFIELD AND RALEIGH.

Both Raleigh and Weldon were being fortified by the rebels, but they are in doubt as to which place Sherman will move upon.

NEW YORK, APRIL 6.—THE HERALD'S DISPATCH DATED RASSELVILLE, ALA., MARCH 24.

The Herald's dispatch dated Russellville, Ala., March 24, with the cavalry column of Thomas' army, under General Nelson, says: Our forces consist of three divisions, and was soon to be joined by the 4th. Its destination was Selma, Montgomery and Mobile.

LATER.

SURRENDER OF LEE.

WASHINGTON, April 8.—To Major General Dix, New York: This department has an official report of the surrender of Gen. Lee and his army to Lieutenant General Grant, on the terms proposed by General Grant.

PEACE MAKING.

The Herald has information direct from Richmond, that Lincoln is there actively engaged in the business of peace; that yesterday evening he had a private conference with Judge Campbell, who, with the advice and consent of Jeff Davis, remained behind to see what could be done in behalf of his desponding associates.

ATTACK ON MOBILE.

NEW ORLEANS, March 21.—The Times Delta says: Headquarters have received information that Canby's army was within a few miles of Mobile. Guns were in position and shells could be thrown into the suburbs of the city.

NEW YORK, APRIL 5.—THE ETNA, FROM LIVERPOOL MARCH 22d AND QUEENSTOWN 23d.

London papers warn the House of Commons of the importance of the vote to be taken on the 23d on the subject of the Canadian fortifications.

THE MORAVIAN'S NEWS CAUSED AN IMPROVEMENT IN 5-20s.

The London Morning Star in an article on the question of possible repudiation by the United States, asserts that the Washington Government is as incapable of repudiating its obligations as the Government of England.

FURTHER FROM RICHMOND.

WASHINGTON, April 7.—Richmond letters say that previous to the surrender of the city the Mayor ordered all liquors to be destroyed, and as a consequence the rebel rear guard became entirely unprovoked.

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