

An Expedition to Rappahannock Station.

Indications that the Rebels Intend to Retreat from Winchester.

All the Railroad Rolling Stock South of the Rappahannock.

THE TIMBERS OF THE BRIDGE SAWED OFF

The Rebel Army Receiving Supplies Through Thornton's Gap.

Gen. McClellan's Congratulations to his Army.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Oct. 9.

A reconnoissance was made yesterday by Gen. STALL to Aldie and Middlebury, resulting in the capture of forty or fifty rebel soldiers, several negroes and an ambulance. The prisoners were at once paroled.

An expedition, commanded by Col. DAVIES, consisting of BAYARD'S Cavalry and a battery, started out on Tuesday for the purpose of capturing some rolling stock of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, in the vicinity of Rappahannock Station. It was ascertained that the rebels were evidently preparing to fall back from Winchester to Richmond, and had transferred all the rolling stock lately in use north of the Rappahannock, to the south side, and sawed off the large beams of the bridge across that stream. Supplies for the rebel army at Winchester are sent from Culpepper through Thornton's Gap. A small rebel force is left at Rappahannock Station, composed of cavalry, artillery and infantry, and another, consisting of conscripts, at Culpepper. Only a strong picket force remains north of the Rappahannock, and an occasional expedition is made for forage. The expedition returned to-day.

Our best information leads to the belief that the rebels have sent the artillery captured at Harper's Ferry southward, and are preparing to follow, if not actually on the march, but keep out strong picket guards to deceive our Generals as to their movements.

GEN. McCLELLAN'S CONGRATULATIONS.

McCLELLAN'S HEADQUARTERS,
Thursday, Oct. 9—8½ P. M. }

The following general order has been issued:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
CAMP NEAR SHARPSBURGH, Md., Oct. 3, 1862. }

GENERAL ORDERS No. 160.—The Commanding General extends his congratulations to the army under his command for the victories achieved by their bravery at the Passes of the South Mountain and upon the Antietam Creek.

The brilliant conduct of RENO'S and HOOKER'S Corps, under BURNSIDE at Turner's Gap, and of FRANKLIN'S Corps at Crampton Pass, in which, in the face of an enemy strong in position and resisting with obstinacy, they carried the mountain and prepared the way for the advance of the army, won for them the admiration of their brethren in arms.

In the memorable battle of Antietam we defeated a numerous and powerful army of the enemy in an action desperately fought and remarkable for its duration and for the destruction of life which attended it, the obstinate bravery of the troops of HOOKER, MANSFIELD and SUMNER, the dashing gallantry of those of FRANKLIN on the right, the steady valor of those of BURNSIDE on the left, and the vigorous support of PARKER and PLEASANTON, present a brilliant spectacle to our countrymen, which will swell their hearts with pride and exultation.

Fourteen guns, thirty-nine colors, fifteen thousand five hundred stand of arms, and nearly six thousand prisoners taken from the enemy, are evidences of the completeness of our triumph. A grateful country will thank the noble army for achievements which have rescued the loyal States of the East from the ravages of the invader, and have driven him from their borders.

While rejoicing at the victories, which, under God's blessing, have crowned our exertions, let us cherish the memory of our brave comrades who have laid down their lives upon the battle-field, martyrs in their country's cause. Their names will be enshrined in the hearts of the people.

By command of
Maj.-Gen. McCLELLAN,

S. WILLIAMS, A. A. G.

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