

ARMY OPERATIONS IN VIRGINIA.

A Fight Between Gen. Pleasanton's Force and Stuart's Cavalry.

The Rebels Routed in a Handsome Manner.

Salem Occupied by General Bayard's Cavalry.

Brisk Skirmishing in the Extreme Front.

Defeat of Rebel Cavalry from Warrenton.

Reconnaissance by Gen. Sickles to Catlett's Station.

LATEST REPORTS FROM HEADQUARTERS.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,
RICHMOND, Va., Wednesday, Nov. 3,
via Washington, Thursday, Nov. 6.

Gen. PLEASANTON remained over night at Marshall, and this morning moved in toward Burbor's, five miles distant, and near the mouth of Chester Gap. Before reaching the town, he came up with Gen. STUART, with 3,000 men and one battery.

The enemy had their guns posted on a hill, on the left of the road, but were driven off.

Col. GRACE, of the Eighth Pennsylvania, charged on them with a full regiment, completely routing them and taking prisoners.

As the rebels fled, Capt. SAUNDERS, with a squadron of the Sixth Pennsylvania Regiment, charged on their flank, while Capt. PENNINGTON, with another force, assailed them with shells.

The rebels left ten dead on the field. Our loss was one killed and five wounded.

Among the enemy's dead was a Captain. The Adjutant of a Virginia regiment had his leg broke, and is a prisoner.

The conduct of our cavalry in this action was splendid, and it is only necessary for Gen. STUART to meet them in an open field to show our superiority.

Salem was occupied to-day by Gen. BAYARD'S Cavalry, after driving the First Virginia Cavalry from the town and capturing seven prisoners.

IMPORTANT OPERATIONS IN FRONT.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Nov. 6.

Information from the front this morning, is to the effect that Col. WINDHAM, of BAYARD'S Cavalry, had a spirited engagement yesterday, at New-Baltimore, with the cavalry and four pieces of artillery of the rebel force at Warrenton. Their numbers were about equal to his at the time—say 1,500 strong. After a stout resistance, he drove the enemy off in the direction of the main army at the town of Warrenton.

Gen. SICKLES, last evening, returned from making a reconnaissance in force in front, having penetrated as far as Catlett's Station, driving in the scouts and pickets of the rebels back on Warren Junction, where the enemy are not supposed to be in much force.

LATEST REPORTS FROM GAINESVILLE.

GAINESVILLE, Thursday, Nov. 6.

Gen. SIGEL has so far recovered as to be able to visit Thoroughfare Gap to-day.

Cars run on the Manassas road as far as White Plains, beyond the Bull Run range.

The affair of the conflagration at Haymarket is being thoroughly investigated by Provost-Marshal ROBINSON, of Gen. SIGEL'S Corps. Several witnesses were examined today, but no conclusion was arrived at.

All was quiet along the left wing of the Army of the Potomac to-day.

OUR CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ADVANCE.

LETTER FROM UPPERVILLE.

NEAR UPPERVILLE AND ASHBY'S GAP,
FAUQUIER COUNTY, Va., Monday, Nov. 3, 1862.

The Army of the Potomac has achieved another handsome day's march, and are this evening encamped, or rather, are bivouacking, within striking distance of Ashby's Gap, through which is the direct road to Winchester, at a distance of 15 miles. Couch's Corps has marched along the base of the blue ridge by the shortest route to Upperville, which lies at the entrance of Ashby's Gap. The distance marched has been nearly twelve miles, besides forming line of battle at 3 o'clock P. M., and advancing in this line the last two and a half miles, where they bivouacked for the night.

Porter's Corps followed by the road to Bloomfield, where he, probably with Gen. McCLELLAN, made his headquarters for the night. He will probably reach us at this place to-morrow forenoon. Gen. BURNESS, who with his command took the road via Lovettsville, Percepsville and Union, formed a junction with Gen. Couch's troops this evening, and encamped at Upperville. It is sufficient to state that Gen. HANCOCK, who with Gen. FARNES occupied Snicker's Gap, was relieved by STUART'S Division of Porter's Corps this morning, and both these divisions are to-night with the advance. The enemy, if they entertained such a purpose, have thus been stopped from pouring their troops through that pass to annoy our rear. We have not been quite quick enough, however, to prevent him from occupying and using Ashby's Gap; and we have had ocular proof that he has been in large force on this side the Blue Ridge for several days, having come through this pass. Gen. PLEASANTON has been in constant action with STUART'S Cavalry for three days past, driving him over six miles, and completely defeating him in a fair stand-up fight. Our loss has been some fifty men in killed and wounded, while we have inflicted severe loss upon the enemy, among which are five of their officers killed. Their wounded must have been large. As your able correspond-

ent, Mr. SWINTON, has been with Gen. PLEASANTON throughout these engagements, he will furnish fuller particulars than I am able to supply.

Throughout our march to-day, rebel scouts have watched our progress from the crest of the Blue Ridge, and have thus kept themselves fully posted as to the size of our army, and its exact position. This has been unavoidable.

THE CANNONADING IN FRONT—FORMING LINE OF BATTLE.

As our forces were approaching the vicinity of Ashby's Gap, the indications were very strong that the enemy was in force at that place, and that he probably intended to give us battle near Upperville. Gen. PLEASANTON, it seems, has been fighting and driving the rebel cavalry during nearly the whole day, compelling him to retire toward Ashby's Gap, through which he had emerged. About 1 o'clock P. M., Gen. GORMAN, whose brigade was in the advance, proceeded cautiously, throwing out flankers, the old Fifteenth Massachusetts, Col. KIMBALL, being advanced as skirmishers.

About 2½ o'clock P. M., [we had approached an open country, when we came in sight of PLEASANTON'S Battery, and saw scattering groups of mounted rebels dodging about among the woods and on the hills in front. Orders were immediately issued to form line of battle. The cavalry were thrown forward to the right of the main road, who extended their lines as vedettes across the open field to the edge of the wood about half a mile from the base of the mountain. TOMPKINS' Rhode Island Battery wheeled into a field to the left of the road, and removing the stone wall in front of each gun for embrasures, found a commanding position in the enemy's front. Gen. TULLY'S Brigade filed into the field to the right of the road, and in a short time were formed in line of battle in the following order: Fifteenth Massachusetts, as skirmishers; Nineteenth Maine, (a new regiment,) First Minnesota, Thirty-fourth New-York, and the Eighty second New-York. With the mounted troops in the extreme front, firing occasional shots at the enemy's pickets, and the Fifteenth Massachusetts deployed some two hundred yards in their rear in knots of half a dozen, at a distance of fifty yards apart, and the brigade behind in five or six different lines, advancing steadily and in handsome order across the field—the sight was well calculated to inspire admiration. After a temporary pause, the whole line followed the skirmishers, and marched over stone walls and fences a distance of over two miles. The firing continued in front, and all expected an engagement with the enemy by way of closing up the day's work. The sun, however, had far declined, and the North-west wind swept down cold and piercing from the Blue Ridge. Gen. GORMAN and Staff pushed in advance, the pickets carefully reconnoitering a high hill in front, but failing to find the enemy. Thus night closed the scene. The pickets were thrown out on all the roads, and the troops bivouacked for the night. As darkness came on, camp-fires blazed up from all quarters, and gave proof that an immense army had encamped near by. Gen. PLEASANTON, it is reported, has gone to Manassas, to look after the rebel army which has disappeared. To-morrow we shall, possibly, see active operations. Unless attacked here by the Southern army, we shall, no doubt, press on in fulfillment of the plans of the new campaign.

The cold, sharp atmosphere, admonishes us that what is done must be done quickly, as it will be impossible for the troops to march, and bivouack on the frosty ground while ice is forming around them. They cannot carry clothing enough to keep themselves warm.

Tuesday, Nov. 4, 7 A. M.

All was quiet along our lines last night. We had pickets overlapping the rebel lines on the road through Ashby's Gap, and last evening some little firing without serious results.

The morning is cool, but very pleasant—just the weather for marching or fighting. E. S.

FROM PORTER'S CORPS.

Movements of the Army—Excitement in Camp—Gen. Butterfield Presented with a Pair of Spurs—Speeches, &c.

From Our Own Correspondent.

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, PORTER'S CORPS,
Wednesday, Oct. 29, 1862.

It is not proper that I should state where we are or what we are doing in this portion of the army. We think you will hear from us in a satisfactory way very shortly. We are on the move, and every one seems in good spirits and sanguine of success. Yesterday Gen. BUTTERFIELD took leave of his brigade. The troops were turned out by Col. STOCKTON, in command, and were reviewed by the General. The men cheered their old commander with a heartiness and fervor that showed their love for him. After the review, the officers called upon the General and presented him a beautiful pair of spurs, richly mounted in gold. Col. VINCENT made the presentation speech, as follows:

GEN. BUTTERFIELD: I have the honor to present to you, in behalf of the old field officers of the Third Brigade, this slight testimonial of their admiration of your gallantry and skillful generalship on the occasion when your old command came first under fire, at Hanover, as well as in the seven days' fights on the Peninsula. Subsequent hard-fought fields and difficult marches have strengthened and warmed this admiration into devotion. There were many present then who would have rejoiced to participate with us this morning, but who are absent now—some, not the least noble among them, who are sleeping their last sleep, who died the death of brave men; others lie suffering at home from honorable wounds. Were they here, they would gladly say, as we do, that they congratulate you on your accession to a higher command. Yet we fear we must wait long for a commander with merits so rare as to win in an equal degree the confidence of his officers and men, or to add to the efficiency of the old brigade. We wish you safety and success.

The General replied:

COLONEL AND GENTLEMEN: The honor you would confer upon me I am almost afraid to receive.

When I look around me and see the brave men who have made an imperishable record of gallantry and courage, before Yorktown, on the fields of Hanover, Chickahominy, Turkey Bend, Malvern and Groveton, I fear that you award me too much credit.

It is to you, gentlemen—to your unceasing energies and exertions for the discipline and welfare of your men—to your readiness to second every endeavor to improve the command—to your unvarying devotion to duty.

To your men—to their implicit obedience, even when the orders or superiors seemed to carry them into the jaws of death—it is to this true spirit of the soldier, founded upon, inspired by and devoted to a holy, glorious and noble cause—it is to all these that you owe the lasting honor which your brigade has gained for itself.

I should be more than selfish and ungrateful did I receive this token of regard in your command as an evidence that I have accomplished these results.

I can but think of the heroes buried at Hanover, where the skill and bravery of the brigade, united with the same skill and spirit in the First and Second Brigades of your Division, accomplished such a success for our arms; and of the heroes who fell at Gaines' Mill, ten thousand names covered with honor, that they stood the long contest against superior numbers, surrounded by the enemy, never yielding, defying the summons to surrender, never retiring until ordered to withdraw; at Malvern Hills, the gallant response to the bugle signal for "The Charge," by the Eighty-third Pennsylvania and Forty-fourth New-York—the stolid bravery and courage of the Twelfth New-York and Sixteenth Michigan, crowned with victory.

The splendid advance of the brigade led by the Seventeenth and Forty-fourth New-York into the jaws of death, at Groveton, on the 30th of August, under the orders from your superiors to push forward the attack with vigor—only equaled by the similar scene in the First Brigade side by side with you, with the Eighteenth Massachusetts leading. There snarling, graps and canister mowed down whole platoons,

only to find brave and eager hearts rush forward, fill up the gaps, and press on. Where out of 70, 43 of your officers were killed and wounded, and almost a like proportion of men. Where, in the brief space of 35 minutes, 22 standard-bearers fell, and your glorious colors, tattered and torn by the bullets of the foe, never dropped, never faltered, until the impregnable position of the enemy compelled the order for your withdrawal, when they were brought out blood-stained, but not dishonored. The gallant First Brigade side by side with you gains equal honors.

You have allowed to those who are not with us. Some, weakened and enfeebled by wounds and scars; others by disease, and others—a list of heroes—McLane, Naghel, Carr, Fisher of the Sixteenth Michigan, and Fisher of the Twelfth New-York, Bliven, Wilson, Dewares, Reed, Itanson, Gutrick, Ruby, Whitlock, Miller and other officers, every one of whom deserve a monument to their indomitable courage, spirit and devotion. Can I recount these proofs of your honor and fame, and have any other thought than your kindly remembrance that we were one in the day of battle, as in every-day duty? You have endured the marches and the inevitable hardships attending an active campaign in an absence of complaint that reflects honor and credit upon you.

I part from you to assume another command in obedience to orders, from a sense of duty mingled with sincere regret that I am not again to share the honors you are sure to win with your comrades of the First and Second Brigades.

If I have been severe with you, I trust you have long since realized that it was for your benefit and that of your men, and the good of the cause for which all have so freely offered their lives.

I trust that you may go on as heretofore—good soldiers, uncompaining, respectful and obedient to your superiors—with vigorous discipline, and you cannot fail.

I accept your beautiful present, a bright and pleasing memento of our contests and duties. God grant that I may never dishonor your kindness, and that you may continue to win new honor, and credit to yourselves and your country's flag, until this war shall end, and you shall find again the peace and quiet of happy homes and friends, to proudly wear the honors you have so bravely won, and enjoy the fruits of successful labors for the preservation of our Union."

The General rode off, after shaking hands with each of the officers present. He goes to BURNESS'S corps, in command of the division formerly commanded by Gen. STUARTS. There was a universal expression of regret at the loss of their commander by all the officers. His qualities as a soldier, in the field and in camp, have won him hosts of friends and admirers in the army. W.