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THE RIFLED GUN QUESTION.

It has perhaps been well that the fatal mistakes of the struggle between Northern and Southern nationalities, that from the bombardment of Fort Sumter to the present time, the Federals have had neglected a single triumph, except in one instance, wherein there was an overwhelming parity of strength. This has been so invariable and uniform, as to excite astonishment, and to require explanation. The very first trial of Southern valor was an attack on the battery at Riverville Point, in this port, by the U. S. steamer of war Monticello and Minnesota, both of which were driven off with loss. This followed by rapid succession an attempt by the Yankees to seize Pickens, Courtableau, in which they were repulsed; an engagement at Acquia Creek, in which the enemy's vessels were compelled to withdraw, greatly damaged; the fight at Fig's Point battery, which terminated with the battering and repulse of the Northern boats; and finally, the first serious land meeting at Great Bethel, when 3 regiment of North Carolinians and three Virginia companies gained a splendid victory over five times their number of Federalists, killing and wounding several hundred, and losing but a single gun.

The battle of July was signalized by the overwhelming battle of Manassas, the history of which, if we think in the memory of the South to render unsurpassable testimony. The effect of this triumph was to drive back a disorganized, dispirited and humiliated foe, which, in the playhouse of the nations and newspapers, had opined the city of Washington would be in the possession of the Southern army in a few days. This has been followed by the victory at Wilson's Creek, in Missouri, and last by the victory at Santa Rosa Island, in which the Federals were defeated with the loss of 1,000 soldiers, by a fleet of vessels of war carrying 2000 troops and more than 300 guns of heavy calibre. We do not seek to disparage the comparative importance of this advantage. We freely and fully admit that the enemy are formidable by sea, because they possess a powerful navy and resources of transportation, while the Southern confederacy is almost exclusively only organized for land defence for the protection of seaboard. But even as one of the Southern statesmen admirably thinking unless they could so split mankind importunity of opinion as like, ring to man, and gun for gun, they never could be subdued a Southern force.

We repudiate all disposition to misrepresent the enemy. The peculiarity that neither are [illegible] generally brave; and we doubt the [illegible] the motives and the principles for which they would never fly or they [illegible] shot. Manliness and Yankee Hill [illegible] have been, and will be wanted in the lands of Indian native denizens the enemy. They fight well; they are subjugated by natural [illegible] and by the hope of planting their tyranny with Southern wealth; and strike from of vengeance with indiscriminate rapidity that none are they to stand up against men who combat for life, liberty, and the pursuits of happiness, who know that they must conquer or perish, who are determined to die rather than be enslaved, who are fighting for their own soil, their hearthstones, their altars and firesides, in the name of God, with his blessing on their cause, follow me. He intended to hide them himself on to glorious victory or to a noble soldier's grave. Our information from the seat of war at Richmond, Manassas, and Leesburg, and from the Federal capital, is that the effect of President Davis's speech on perfectly electrical. The light of battle shone in every eye, while the cry of "on to Washington!" went from every lip. Immediately after the conclusion of his address, the President took a special train, and with the Cabinet on the advance of our brave army Richmond, where the people received with the most enthusiastic demonstrations which had greeted him on the occasion.

The enemy, who had advanced their lines on Saturday, and taken possession of the line of hills which command our army, evidently and manifestly alarmed by their hasty movement at Manassas and Alexandria on Monday. This movement was not anticipated by our Generals, and it is reported that it was the result of the [illegible] upon the enemy's position.

ARMY [illegible] Lincolnite—Says the *Richmond* of Monday:

We have through gentlemen who reached the city this morning the most reliable information of the movements of the enemy. It will be remembered that on Saturday, the 5th inst., it will be remembered, a reconnoissance in force was made by a portion of the Lincolnites at Munson's Hill, in front of Alexandria, under Gen. S. P. Heintzelman. The force consisted of about 5,000 men, and the object was to ascertain the strength of our forces in front of Manassas. The reconnoissance was conducted by Gen. Heintzelman in person, and when reported, He was driven in disorderly precipitancy, and thence taken to Centreville, where he remained until the night of the 6th inst., when he returned to Alexandria.

Gen. Heintzelman who have just arrived from Centreville say he knows that an important movement is about being made, but whether the reconnoissance is to extend Fairfax counties to be seen. Probably will be later soon.—*Journal*.

Reinforcement.—The Petersburg *Express* of the 30th inst. has the following:

President Davis reached the Junction on Monday, and was received by a numerous [illegible] of the Senate, Washington, and in response to their address, in the name of the South he said that "many had work before them—work of the most important kind—work on which he had come to work with them. He did not intend to say to them, 'Go, gallant men, that I intended when the hour called he will to share. Come, follow me. He intended to hide them himself on to glorious victory or to a noble soldier's grave." Our information from the seat