

AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

Advance of Longstreet Across the Tennessee.

DESPERATE HAND-TO-HAND FIGHT.

Special dispatch to the N. Y. Tribune.

Knoxville, Tuesday, Nov. 17, 1863.

Longstreet, after crossing the Tennessee on Saturday morning the 14th inst., was attacked in the afternoon by General Burnside, who drove the advance guard back to within a mile of the river. Longstreet crossed the remainder of his troops during the night, and on Sunday morning advanced in force. General Burnside, finding it impossible to cope with him with the small force at his command, fell back to Leipers, his rear guard skirmishing heavily through the day. Three desperate charges were made upon our positions on Sunday night, but were handsomely repulsed each time.

On Monday morning, General Burnside evacuated Leipers. Owing to the agency with which the Rebels continued the pursuit, he determined to give them a decided check, and accordingly chose a line of battle at Campbell's Station, where a light cannon battle took place in the morning, and the Rebels, after a position commanding the road from both sides. The infantry deployed in front of this and were soon attacked by the enemy, who made several gallant charges, and finally succeeded, by outflanking our men, in driving them to the corner of the batteries, which now opened a terrific and destructive fire. The Rebels retired before it, gave away and eventually fell back to the timber.

It was now 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The Rebels showing a desire to renew the attack, and having brought three batteries to their assistance, General Burnside fell back to a more desirable position, and again gave them battle. The contest continued, closing at midnight, with our troops in possession of their own ground.

The object of the fight having been attained, and as the detention of the Rebels had enabled our trains to get all in advance, our troops fell back in the night, and early on Tuesday morning reached Knoxville, where a great battle is expected to be fought to-morrow.

Yesterday the Rebel advance guard attacked our outposts upon the London and Clinton roads, and heavy skirmishing continued all day. This morning the attack was renewed, and the fog which set in during the night had lifted. The Rebels finding it impossible to drive our men with infantry, brought several guns into position and poured in a shelling fire.

In the afternoon they brought forward a heavy force of infantry once more, and after a brief skirmish, charged our position. A terrific hand-to-hand conflict occurred, both sides and revolvers being used on both sides. Our men fought with the greatest gallantry, but were finally compelled to retire about one-third of a mile to a strong line, which they held to-day.

We have to regret the wounding of General Smith, who commanded the outposts. His condition is critical.

Lieut. Col. Smith of the 20th Michigan was killed at Campbell's Station. Our losses at this fight were between 200 and 300. Our loss to-day was not over 150.

The enemy's loss on Monday, owing to the severe fire of our artillery, could not have been less than a thousand. Their loss to-day is estimated at 400 or 500.

General Sherman had a brisk fight on Sunday with the Rebels, on the other side of the Holston, three miles from here. He left them in check, and at night they disappeared.

MEADE'S ARMY ADVANCING.

A GREAT BATTLE CERTAIN.

LEE WAITING FOR MEADE.

THE REBEL ARMY 50,000 STRONG.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23.

This morning at dawn of day, the Grand Army of the Potomac broke camp near the north bank of the Rapidan, and with ten days' cooked rations in haversacks and waggon, commenced an advanced movement upon the enemy, under orders of Gen. Meade. It is supposed that before noon to-day the whole of our army will be beyond the Rapidan.

Gen. Lee must fight or run. If Lee has resisted the crossing of Gen. Meade's forces, there has been a battle before this. If Lee does not resist our crossing, it is evident he is not strong enough to fight outside fortifications. In the latter event, he will fall back upon Gordonsville or Richmond—most likely the former.

The report that Lee's army is at Hanover Junction, is only speculation. It will soon be known exactly where it is, for Gen. Meade will not stop until he finds it as he has to go to the walls of Richmond.

New York, Nov. 23.—A Morris Island letter of the 19th inst., says:—Nineteen shells were fired into Charleston on the 17th inst, falling into the most populous portions of the city.

On Sunday night a very heavy rebel fire was continuously poured into our batteries from the rebel works.

An army of the Potomac was issued an order has been issued to immediately shoot all guerrillas as soon as captured.

By the *Pall Mall* we learn that the sea wall of Fort Sumter has been entirely destroyed. The rebels are building a bomb proof on the ruins.

The bombardment still continues.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23.—Advises received from the Army of the Potomac are to the effect that the most intelligent and probably well informed estimate Lee's effective strength at from 50,000 to 60,000. A man of high connections in a rebel State, says Lee is in hourly expectation of an attack of General Meade, and is prepared at every point to give him a terrible reception.

The permanent and temporary rebel works on the Rapidan are being strengthened and enlarged to a vast extent.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22.—Dooley having been expressed in regard to the truth of the statement that Gen. Burnside was to be relieved of his command by Gen. Foster, it may be well to state that the order for the change was issued on the 10th, and Gen. Burnside is ordered to report to the Adjutant-General in this city.

LATEST NOVELTIES.

THE VOICE.

NEW YORK (Nov. 23).—A notice from the New York Tribune, dated Nov. 23, says:—

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