

DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND

Interesting Details of Recent Events.

Gen. Stanley's Engagement with the Rebels at Snow Hill.

General Granger's Defeat of Van Dorn at Franklin.

THE FORTIFICATIONS AT MURFREESBORO.

From Our Own Correspondent.

MURFREESBORO, Tenn., Sunday, April 12, 1863.

It is impossible to predict, with any degree of certainty, what movements and orders in the Army of the Cumberland portend. There was a time when expeditions of formidable forces in every direction meant something; now they generally seem to mean nothing more than a pleasant healthy promenade *à la militaire*, down some pleasant pike early in the morning, and back again in the evening, or a leisurely detour through the country, two or three bivouacs in the woods, the capture of a few rambling rebels, debilitated negroes or a little forage, and an undisturbed return.

Lately, however, there *has* been a little more energy and enterprise infused into these before objectless marches, and in the past few days something worthy the name has been accomplished. Gen. STANLEY seems to deserve the credit of breaking the spell of inactivity, though failing to accomplish all that was expected of him.

In command of a brigade of mounted infantry, a large force of cavalry, and a superb battery, Gen. STANLEY started, a few mornings ago, on the Liberty pike, for Snow Hill, having been advised of the presence at that place of 2,500 cavalry detached from the command of JOHN MORGAN. On his arrival he found the enemy occupying an eminence, naturally of a formidable character, and strengthened by intrenchments that engirdled the hill. Our artillery, though planted in the most eligible position, could not, from the attitude of the enemy, inflict much injury. But the earnest and lively manner in which the guns were worked, and the fear of being surrounded, produced an uneasiness in the rebel intrenchment which very soon developed into a hasty and disorderly retreat. I learn that a portion of our cavalry, to whom was intrusted the work of opposing an attempted retreat of the enemy in that direction, did not stand firm before the outpouring rebel forces, driven back and hard pressed by the other portions of our forces thrown around the hill, thus preventing the capture of the entire force, mounted on splendid horses—the fruits of the late raid into Kentucky—with their arms and equipments. The game having escaped, Gen. STANLEY hurriedly destroyed some of the stores, picked up about thirty prisoners and about sixty splendid horses, and started in pursuit, continuing his course toward Lebanon. Quite a number of prowling Butternuts were found in the woods, with rifles in their hands and returned by the Lebanon pike to Martinsboro.

The same day on which Gen. STANLEY went out on the Liberty pike, Col. WILDER started toward Lebanon with a brigade of mounted infantry, aiming to cooperate with the expedition under Gen. STANLEY. The course of Col. WILDER was through the country and woods, adjacent to the main road, and scouring the whole region through which he passed, capturing horses and prisoners, drew up at Snow Hill, lately captured and hastily evacuated by Gen. STANLEY. The rebels, thinking that they would not again suffer molestation, by a circuitous detour returned to the hill, and were found by Col. WILDER in considerable force holding the works. A brief engagement sufficed to compel a precipitate retreat of the chivalry—not, however, without the capture by our forces of eighty prisoners, and four hundred superb animals, which the enemy, in their haste to decamp, had failed to secure. Gen. STANLEY, in his zeal to pursue on foot the enemy, splendidly mounted, had left unmolested about 5,000 bushels of wheat, which Col. WILDER destroyed. He also brought away one hundred and sixty negroes, who are now working on the fortifications, and two wagon loads of tobacco.

Among the prisoners captured at and near Snow Hill, were two men who wore the National uniform, and who, according to the orders of the War Department, were subject to the penalty of death by shooting. In accordance with the authority vested in him, the Colonel had the two executed. At the same time, he had suspended to the nearest limb, until dead, a prisoner who was represented as having once, as captain of a guerrilla band, ordered the execution of an old man whose two sons are in Stokes' Federal cavalry. The effect of the act was demonstrated a few hours afterward. Col. WILDER had detailed a small party at Reynoldsville, to act as rear-guard. The enemy pounced upon the little company, and succeeded in capturing two soldiers, named VANCE and MONTGOMERY, belonging to the Seventy-eighth Pennsylvania. They carried the prisoners with them, and following Col. WILDER, came up to the place where the three had been executed. Up to this time, no indignity had been offered our men. The particulars of the execution, however, having been elicited from the citizens in the vicinity, the rebels immediately shot their prisoners, killing VANCE instantly, and shooting MONTGOMERY through the neck, destroying the power of speech, and through the jaw, destroying the use of an eye. MONTGOMERY, left for dead, lay all night in the woods, unconscious. Reviving, as morning dawned, and following the directions of a negro, he made his way to the main road and was picked up by a detachment of our cavalry, and brought to Murfreesboro. He is yet alive, and strong hopes are entertained of his ultimate recovery.