

THE WAR NEWS.

The only news of importance we have to announce this morning is

THE FALL OF ATLANTA.

After six weeks command of the army of Tennessee, General Hood abandoned Atlanta on last Thursday night, the 1st instant. An official despatch received from him on Saturday night, the essential portions of which we give below, explains all that is yet known of the affair:

“HEADQUARTERS, September 3, 1864.

“On the evening of the 30th of August the enemy made a lodgment across Flint river, near Jonesboro'. We attacked them there on the evening of the 31st, with two corps, but failed to dislodge them.

“This made it necessary to abandon Atlanta, which was done on the night of the 1st of September.

“Our loss on the evening of the 31st was small.

“On the evening of the 1st September, General Hardee's corps, in position at Jonesboro', was assaulted by a superiour force of the enemy, and being outflanked, was compelled to withdraw during the the night, with the loss of eight guns.

“The enemy's prisoners report their loss very severe. J. B. Hood, General.”

From the above despatch it appears that the army of Tennessee is on the Macon railroad, somewhere south of Jonesboro', probably at Lovejoy's station. Jonesboro' is twenty-two miles south of Atlanta; Lovejoy's twenty-nine. From Lovejoy's to Macon the distance by the Macon road is seventy-four miles.

Though this despatch was not made publick till yesterday morning, the facts set forth in it were the street talk so long ago as Friday morning. It was then also reported that Hood's army had been cut in two. From the despatch it is clear that this was, at one time, the case. When “on the evening of the 1st of September General Hardee's corps, in position at Jonesboro', twenty-two miles south of Atlanta, was assaulted by a superiour force of the enemy” and “outflanked,” the enemy pushed in between him and Hood at Atlanta, and that night Hood, by striking across the country in a southeasterly direction, managed to rejoin him on the railroad south of Jonesboro'.

How it was that after our attacking the enemy “with two corps” near Jonesboro' on Wednesday evening, only Hardee's corps was at Jonesboro' Thursday evening to resist the assault of the enemy, can only be accounted for by supposing that after our attack had failed to dislodge the enemy, Hood withdrew one of the (S. D. Lee's) to Atlanta, leaving Hardee to bear the brunt alone.— This he would hardly have done had he not miscalculated the enemy's designs. He must have believed the main body of Sherman's army to have been in front of Atlanta, when in fact it was on the Flint river, near Jonesboro', twenty odd miles to the south.

As to the losses incurred on either side, General Hood tells us only that “our loss on the evening of the 31st (when we attacked) was small,” and that “the enemy's prisoners report their loss very severe.” He does not inform us whether our loss in men was great or small, when, on the evening of the 1st, Hardee, “being outflanked, was compelled to withdraw during the night, with the loss of eight guns.” We feel pretty sure our loss on this occasion was *not* small.

This abandonment of Atlanta, under the circumstances, is not a good thing, but so far from being dispirited by it our people ought reverently to thank God that it is no worse. There are many persons who have had a great weight of anxiety raised from their souls by this news. They have been fearing for the last month, not only that Atlanta would be abandoned, but that some great and irretrievable disaster would overtake the army of Tennessee. Atlanta is gone, but the army is still a unit and is safe. The loss of Atlanta is nothing; the loss of the army would have been without a remedy.

FROM PETERSBURG.

There is nothing of interest from Petersburg. The Yankee army made the volkin ring Saturday evening with their cheers and huzzas. They had doubtless heard of the fall of Atlanta and were glorying over it.

FROM EAST TENNESSEE.

We hear nothing further from Wheeler's movements in East Tennessee. The general opinion here is that he is making for Nashville. A late Bristol paper says it is all a lie about his having destroyed the great bridge over the Tennessee at Loudon. The same paper says he seems studiously to avoid the enemy's bridges and lines of communication and devotes himself to running about the country picking up small lots of prisoners.