

them Lieutenant Price and midshipman Minor. Lieutenant Pelot was a native of Charleston, and although only twenty-seven years of age, leaves a wife and three children.

The Water Witch is a fine, side-wheel steamer, fully equipped, and carries four guns. Her officers and crew were taken prisoners to Savannah, Georgia.

THE WAR IN FLORIDA.

The telegraph announced, some days ago, that the enemy had been repulsed at Baldwin, Florida, without giving any additional or explanatory facts. Later information throws the light on the subject which the telegraph failed to supply.

It appears that on the night of the 31st of May, a column of the enemy, consisting of eight regiments of infantry, six pieces of artillery, and a battalion of cavalry, left Jacksonville and advanced in the direction of Baldwin. On the day following they came upon our cavalry in the forenoon, and drove them from Cedar creek and McGirts' creek back upon Baldwin, the enemy outnumbering us so greatly that a successful stand was out of the question. On the next day, June 2, our forces advanced from Baldwin, and met the enemy between that place and McGirts' creek. They were not inclined to risk a fight, and we drove them back into Jacksonville. Our forces then retired, leaving the lines of the two armies as they were before the movement. Our loss was but trifling.

It is supposed that the object of the enemy was to reconnoitre our position, with a view to future operations.

MILITARY PROMOTIONS.

Brigadier-General Ransom, of North Carolina, has been made a Major-General. Lieutenant-Colonel Rufus Barringer, of the First North Carolina cavalry, has been promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General, to command the brigade of cavalry lately commanded by the lamented Gordon. Colonel Stephen Elliott, the defender of Fort Sumter, and lately of the Holcombe Legion infantry, has been promoted as Brigadier, and assigned to the command of Evans' brigade, now vacant from the capture of Brigadier-General W. S. Walker, assigned to it in consequence of General Evans' disability from his severe injury by an accident.

Prisoners, stragglers and deserters still come in, or are brought into our lines, reporting heavy losses and increasing demoralization in both armies of Yankee invasion. A few only of those captured affect defiance and talk grandly of what Grant will do. Most of them seem to be glad to get out of the business of "crushing the rebellion"—a business whose stock is not very high or in much demand in the market just now.

The telegraph, instead of being a public benefit, has become an oppressive nuisance—a new tangled system of extortion. By much intrigue and manipulation, the Provisional Congress was prevented from impressing it for military purposes, and taking possession of it in the interest of the public. At the time it was not supposed that the managers of the institution would render such a step necessary. Experience has, however, demonstrated that Congress committed a great error in not having done so. But it is not too late; the telegraph ought to be under the control of the Government completely, in time of war like the present, and the only way to have it so, is for Congress to lose no time in taking absolute possession of it. The Montgomery Mail says of the same subject:

"The telegraph company shows its high appreciation of the late efforts everywhere to put down prices by raising its rates one hundred per cent. It is a noticeable fact that this company has put up its figures twice, and each time doubled them, since the first of last January. For instance, on the first of January, when gold was twenty five for one, the price of transmitting ten words to Atlanta was one dollar and twenty cents; in two months the tariff was made two dollars and forty cents, and now when gold has fallen to fifteen for one, it has been raised to four dollars and eighty cents. This immense advance of rates is curtly ordered without one word of explanation or apology to the public, and without, as we are advised, a corresponding advance in the wages of its employees."

THE WAR NEWS—A DASH ON PETERSBURG—ALL QUIET WITH GENERAL LEE'S ARMY—PARTICULARS OF THE CAPTURE OF THE WATER WITCH, &c.

The great calm on the chief line continues.—But elsewhere there is movement ominous of approaching storms.

Grant's continued quiet is probably due to the fact that his army is well whipped. Until he can reorganize it, and get some fresh blood in it, he is not likely to be very active.

But his cavalry is in motion. Sheridan, with a force popularly estimated at eighteen thousand strong, but more probably only two divisions, is said to have passed a point on the railroad near Chosterfield station. The following despatch has been received from General Lee:

"HEADQUARTERS ARMY NORTHERN VIRGINIA, }
"June 8, 1864—8, P. M. }

"Hon. Secretary of War:

"The enemy has been unusually quiet to-day along the extent of his lines, and nothing of importance has occurred. Two divisions of his cavalry, under General Sheridan, are reported to have crossed the Pamunkey yesterday at New Castle ferry. Respectfully,

"R. E. LEE, General."

THE PETERSBURG RAID.

The city was startled last evening by the report that the enemy had made a sudden dash on Petersburg. The account we were able to obtain last night at the War Department was that a large body of the enemy's cavalry appeared before the outer fortifications of Petersburg yesterday afternoon, about four o'clock; flanked our forces, which were mostly militia; the militia fell back after a slight brush, in which some three or four were killed, and the outer fortifications were abandoned to the enemy; that the enemy did not pursue, and had not, as far as they were advised, entered within the corporate limits. Such was the version given of the affair last night at the War Department.

OTHER ACCOUNTS.

Private accounts make the affair at Petersburg much more serious. Parties who came over last night say that the enemy certainly entered the corporate limits, and that the most serious part of the fight occurred in the city, near what is known as Poplar Lawn. According to their accounts, the enemy advanced in two columns—one by the City Point road, the other by the Prince George road. As they advanced, they drove in some cavalry, and succeeded in reaching the outer fortifications with but slight resistance. Here they met the militia, who, after a fighting them, fell back in considerable confusion, with the enemy on their heels. In a short while a portion of the garrison was hurried forward with two pieces of artillery, who came upon the enemy near the Park, where a sharp fight ensued, resulting in the repulse of the enemy, who, after being driven back, made off in the direction of the Petersburg and Weldon railroad.

We have, from two or three sources, confirmation of the enemy getting within the corporate limits. The militia offered but slight resistance to their advance, and the enemy was not held in check in his dash into the city until they were met by the army troops and driven out.

In the fight several of the militia were killed.—Among the number we hear of John Frierli, proprietor of the Jarrott hotel, and George W. Jones, druggist. There were some fifteen or eighteen wounded.

FROM THE JAMES.

It still remains quiet on the James. Deserters continue to come in, two having arrived in our lines yesterday—one from the naval branch of the enemy's service; the other a member of an Ohio regiment. These men represent that Butler has lately been reinforced, but to what extent they could not say. They also state that Butler's headquarters are at the Bermuda Hundreds wharf, on board of a steamer, which is known in the army as the "Headquarters Boat."

The gunboats have been more quiet than usual. Along the Appomattox the Yankees are still industriously engaged on the observatory or look out below Fort Clifton. It now overtops the tallest trees in the vicinity, and affords its occupants a good view of all the surrounding country, on both sides of the Appomattox.

THE CAPTURE OF THE WATER WITCH.

We get some particulars of the capture of the United States steamer Water Witch, in the Oasabaw Sound, off the Georgia coast, by the expedition sent out in charge of Lieutenant Pelot. The expedition consisted of one hundred and ten men, in seven barges, and started out about midnight. Boldly pulling up to the steamer, which was lying quietly at anchor, the boats got within thirty steps of the Water Witch before they were hailed. Our men made no response, but ran their boats up against the steamer and commenced clambering up her sides, when the attack was at once made.

A most desperate hand-to-hand fight, of about fifteen minutes duration ensued. Most of the fighting seemed to be done by the officers, with revolvers and sabres, which were used freely over the sides of the vessel and through the ports. Our men heeded it not, but pressed forward, reached the deck, all the while fighting desperately, hand to hand, with the enemy. Not one of the guns was fired, the fuses being all down below and the crew asleep.

Lieutenant Pelot was the first man on board, and received a shot through the heart soon after reaching the deck, and whilst dealing blows thick and heavy all around him. The fight continued some fifteen minutes when the enemy surrendered the ship and the officers and crew—some sixty or seventy in number—were made prisoners.

In the fight several of the officers of the vessel were wounded, among them the lieutenant commanding the vessel, the acting assistant paymaster, two ensigns, seven seaman and one negro. But two men aboard were killed outright—both negroes.

Our loss was Lieutenant Pelot, three seamen, one gunner, and the negro pilot of the expedition.