

CHAPTER SECOND.

ARMY OF THE SOUTH-WEST—MILITARY SITUATION—MARCH OF TROOPS FROM ROLLA AND OTTERVILLE TO LEBANON, MO.—ORGANIZATION OF THE ARMY—PROMINENT ACTORS.

It was the fortune of the writer to occupy an inconspicuous position at the headquarters of the "Army of the South-West" during its entire campaign; a position, however, near the person of the commanding General, which afforded abundant opportunities for obtaining and recording a knowledge of the movements and history of the army. The writer has availed himself of that knowledge, and of subsequent access to official documents, to record in a narrative form, a history of the first Arkansas campaign, by the "Army of the South-West." For the sake of greater accuracy, and where appropriate, official documents have been quoted *verbatim*. Extracts from letters, private and official, showing the precise language of the various writers, newspaper correspondence, and other sources of information, have been used as they have seemed appropriate. It is hoped that this sketch will furnish as many facts and as much official information as may serve the future historian for a correct basis in writing an accurate history of an important campaign of the great American civil war.

To record successfully and completely, free from partisan bias and the dictates of passion an accurate history of any of the several campaigns of the recent war, is an undertaking to which at present few could aspire. The future historian of the rebellion, surveying as past the events so recently occurring around us and forming a part of our lives; uninfluenced by personal feeling in favor of, or against this or that General or leader, or the resentment which every Union soldier is likely in some degree to feel toward a rebel enemy; contrasting facts and campaigns, and the lives and actions of Generals and leaders, may hope for an impartiality and accu-

racy impossible of attainment in the excitement of the present.

That historian, it is believed, will tell of few more difficult undertakings, few greater examples of untiring energy, un-failing endurance, constant activity and devoted patriotism, than were displayed by the Army of the South-West during its campaign in Missouri and Arkansas.

The brilliant victories of Fort Henry, Roanoke Island, Fort Donaldson, Island Ten, Memphis and New Orleans, occurring about the same time, and forming the opening victories of the campaign of 1862, may shine with a greater lustre, as their effects were more immediate and apparent. But not the less should we esteem the victory at Pea Ridge, which avenged the memory of Lyon and Wilson's Creek, struck the rebellion on the west bank of the Mississippi a blow from which it never fully recovered, and drove the rebel army of Price and Van Dorn, defeated and flying, to seek shelter in the more inaccessible regions of the rebellious south.

The Union refugees who, during the previous autumn, shivering and destitute, had been compelled to flee their homes and follow the retreating army lately commanded by Fremont, were enabled once more to seek their own firesides and the society of their families. Missouri, (with the exception of transient raids and guerrilla outrages,) no longer the seat of active war, was restored to comparative safety and quiet, and the rebel flag ceased to wave over her conquered soil and unwilling cities.

"The virgin soil of Arkansas" was, for the first time since the successful inauguration of the rebellion, pressed by the feet of armed federal soldiers. They have ever since maintained a foothold. From Missouri, a State which (not regarding the farce at Neosho,) had never seceded from the Union, the rebellion was driven back into the bosom of the so-styled Confederacy, and the first great federal victory in the South-West, gained upon "Confederate" soil. The federal flag, welcomed by hundreds of oppressed citizens, in a

three days fight, in blood and the smoke of battle, was triumphantly re-established in a State from whence it had been ignominiously expelled, not by the voice of the people, but by a reign of terror and the treason of a convention elected to *sustain* the Union. The solitary member of that Convention, (Judge Isaac Murphy, since elected the first Governor of free Arkansas,) who deserves undying fame, and who amid the terrible excitement of the times, when every other Union member cowardly abandoned his cause and went over to the enemy, amid the threats and execrations of his associates and of the rabble, at the imminent risk, not merely of his life, but of the safety of his family, alone and unsupported by even a friendly look, voted to the last against the final passage of the ordinance of secession, was now greeted and protected in his own home by the soldiers of that nationality which he held dearer and more sacred than life.* Upon ground where loyal Arkansas soldiers in battle afterwards defeated their foes to the rallying hymn of "Old John Brown," the Army of the South-West first established a position and spread terror to the hearthstones and council-chambers of the rebels throughout the entire State.

Previous to the campaign of Curtis, federal operations in south-western Missouri, although brilliant, had not been attended with marked success. The rebellion had found the north almost wholly unprepared. An army had to be created from a nation which knew little or nothing of war. Troops were raised with great rapidity, but the organization of the

* Judge Murphy is, at the present writing, an old grey-headed man, a resident of Huntsville, Ark. His was the only vote cast against the final passage of the ordinance of secession in the Arkansas Convention. Said the Judge to the writer, "When I cast that vote I never expected to get out of the hall alive. The whole room was in a state of the greatest confusion; everywhere arose the cry of kill the old traitor, the abolitionist," &c. The Judge traveled with the army during the entire campaign. With his family he was for a long time a refugee in St. Louis, and subsequently was elected the first Governor of free Arkansas. He met with deep affliction in the death of several members of his family, and was reduced to poverty by the rebellion. His personal appearance, tall and thin, with a sober countenance, an "iron grey" beard, and plain costume, was eminently that of an old-time puritan. He ever favored a vigorous prosecution of the war, using any and all honorable means to crush the rebellion.

army in the field was for a long time necessarily incomplete. Lyon and Sigel's campaign failed principally from the lack of reinforcements and the want of the materials of war. Imperfect organization, together with other and similar causes, delayed and defeated the movements of Fremont. The "Army of the South-West" was the first organization to take the field in south-western Missouri with adequate force, preparations for the campaign and conflict, and efficiently supported by the several auxiliary departments in the rear.

Sterling Price, one of the most able and active of the rebel generals, defeated at Boonville, had fled south, and in a remarkably brief period, raised an army principally composed of the unlettered and ignorant but sincerely rebellious backwoodsmen of Missouri and Arkansas, virtually defeated the federal forces at Wilson's Creek, passing to the west of Rolla the nearest federal post, advanced to the Missouri River and captured Lexington, then, at his leisure, falling back before the slow advances of Fremont, retired to the remote regions of south-western Missouri, until after Fremont had been relieved and his army had fallen back to Rolla, when, again advancing north to a position on Sac River in St. Clair county, during the month of December 1861, he finally fell back and entered the town of Springfield, making it his winter quarters and the extreme left of the rebel line of defense in the southern and western States.

The troops under command of Price were the peculiar organization known as the "Missouri State Guards." They had been raised in accordance with an act of the Missouri Legislature, which the wily schemes of secessionists had procured to be passed long before the war broke out, and which the engineering of C. F. Jackson, the traitor Governor of Missouri, had transformed, contrary to the wishes and understanding of many of the deluded soldiers, into a rebel army.

South of Price, at a long distance, was the command of Ben McCullough and McIntosh, composed of Confederate troops and encamped at Cross Hollows and Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Between McCullough and Price existed a serious jealousy and misunderstanding, such as to interfere to some extent with their co-operation. McCulloch objected to advancing into Missouri to the support of Price, and the latter experienced considerable difficulty in transforming his Missouri State Guards into regular Confederate troops. About the first of February 1862, the term of enlistment of many of these men expired. Some of them left the army and remained quietly at home.

At Rolla was a portion of the late army of Fremont. Other portions were at Sedalia, Otterville, and other points on the Pacific Railroad, together with other troops, garrisoning the posts on the two branches of the road. With the exception of a few cavalry scouting parties at Salem in Dent County and elsewhere, no federal troops were south of Rolla.

Halleck, the successor of Fremont, had planned a vast campaign in the west. The results of that plan, as executed by the armies of "the Ohio," "the Tennessee" and "the Mississippi," east of the Mississippi River, and at New Madrid and Island number Ten, are well known. The rebel line of occupation was driven back throughout the entire west, and the greater portions of the States of Kentucky and Tennessee were redeemed from rebel possession. To Gen. Curtis and the army of the South-West was intrusted the execution of an important part of this great plan, in which four armies, each operating under its own generals, but all under the guidance of Halleck, constituting the effective force of the "Department of the Missouri" in the field, and co-operating with the gunboat flotilla, simultaneously advanced into the enemy's country, and by a series of brilliant and hard won victories, defeated the rebel arms, opened to commerce a large extent of the navigable waters of the Mississippi and its tributaries, and restored to the Union an expanse of territory fully equal to the whole of Great Britain.

On Christmas day 1861, Sterling Price, in command of the Missouri State Guards, entered the town of Springfield, Mo.,

and occupied as his headquarters the residence of Mr. Graves, a fugitive Union merchant, and, on the succeeding day, Brigadier General Curtis left the city of St. Louis and arriving at Rolla, assumed command of the "South-Western District of Missouri." His command included all troops south of the Osage River, and west of Kinsey's Station, on the south-west branch of the Pacific Railroad; and his headquarters, while in Rolla, were in the miserable old two-story log building near the railroad depot which had long been used as Post Headquarters. In one cold and badly furnished room on the second floor, Curtis transacted all his business; the remainder of the building being used as Post Headquarters, Provost Marshal's Office, Telegraph Office, &c.

Rolla, the county seat of Phelps County, and the terminus of the South-West Branch of the Pacific Railroad, was an exceedingly primitive western railroad town, scattered over a bushy and uneven expanse of ground. A few frame houses constituted the town, and around it in the brush and wherever were convenient spots, were the hastily constructed, dark and uncomfortable cabins of the miserable refugees from the south-west. In every quarter were found oyster shops, eating houses, and other traps for the hard-earned wages of the soldier. With remarkably poor hotel facilities, no pretensions to side-walks, and the whole place an ocean of mud, Rolla did a thriving business. The concentration of the army and the presence of a large number of south-western refugees, gave life to the town and increased its commerce. A large brick Court House was used as a hospital for the sick of the army.

At the Post had long been encamped on garrison duty, the 36th Illinois and 4th Iowa infantry regiments. The 36th, a fine large regiment, with two cavalry companies attached, was encamped in tents on a ridge near the depot and enjoyed excellent health. The 4th Iowa had constructed several long log cabins, near the camp of the 36th, which were used as barracks. These cabins were dark and not well ventilated.

They had been constructed of green timber and daubed with mud, and had never been thoroughly dried before being occupied. In consequence, there was a great deal of sickness and mortality in the regiment. So much was this the case, that Col. Dodge requested of Halleck, special authority to give his men sick furloughs, otherwise, he said, they would all die. They were western men from the "Missouri Slope," used to an out-door border life, and had never been accustomed to such confinement. The authority to grant sick furloughs was given to Curtis, and the regiment subsequently became healthy when in the field.

The troops at and near Rolla, and in the district, numbered at this time, about 15,000 men, but the whole of this force never took the field under Curtis. The 1st and 2d regiments "United States Reserve Corps," Missouri Volunteers, were soon sent into the St. Louis District, on account of alleged swindling practiced upon the men in their enlistment and retention in the service, and also because the terms of their enlistment prevented them from leaving the State. The 9th Iowa Infantry was ordered to Rolla in their stead, and there were other changes among the troops.

The greater part of the troops near Rolla were encamped some miles from town. They were called the 3d and 4th Divisions, commanded respectively by Generals Sigel and Asboth. These were the fragmentary division organizations of Fremont's "Army of the West," the 2d division of the same army under Davis, subsequently joining the army at Lebanon, where the whole, together with other troops, were included in the reorganization of the command under the name of the "Army of the South-West." The troops at Rolla were under command of Col. John B. Wyman of the 13th Illinois Infantry, commanding the post.

Upon the arrival of Curtis a serious misunderstanding and difficulty was imminent with Sigel. The latter demanded of Curtis the date of his commission as Brigadier General. Their commissions were of the same date, but Curtis' name

occurring upon the list before that of Sigel, the former ranked the latter and would, by the then positive and still customary rule of the service, be his superior in command. This was distasteful to the quick military spirit and jealousy of Sigel, and he tendered his resignation in consequence, stating that having already served during the several campaigns in the south-west, and having always well and faithfully performed his duty, he now claimed as his appropriate right, the command of the expedition about to be undertaken against an enemy he had so often fought, through a country where he had so long served and with which he was so familiar. Nor did he recognize the propriety of his sudden supersedure in command by one whose commission was of the same date, although his own name did not find place first on the list. Curtis expressed his regret at the prospect of losing the services of so valuable an officer, and exerted himself to preserve quiet and good order. Many of the officers of Sigel's Division talked of resigning.

But Sigel's resignation was not accepted, and matters finally became quiet. Upon the prospect of an active campaign, Sigel remained with the army until after the battle of Pea Ridge, being given the position of second in command, commanding two of the four divisions of the army. During all this difficulty, cordial personal relations existed between the two Generals.

The first move made by Curtis after assuming command at Rolla, was to send out in the direction of Springfield a cavalry reconnoissance under command of Colonel Eugene A. Carr of the 3d Illinois Cavalry. This expedition consisted of the entire immediately available cavalry force at his disposal. It was composed of nine companies 3d Illinois Cavalry, six companies Fremont Hussars, four companies 1st Missouri Cavalry, one company of cavalry attached to the 36th Illinois Infantry, and one company of pioneers, numbering in the aggregate about 1,600 men, and left Rolla December 29th. Carr received written and verbal instructions to approach and

feel the enemy, ascertain his position, but if attacked in force to fall back; to ascertain the amount and locality of supplies and forage in the country, the best roads for an advance, and anything else of importance. Carr proceeded via Waynesville, as far as Lebanon, at which latter place a small band of rebel cavalry was driven out after a slight skirmish in which the rebel Captain Tom Craig was killed. The battalion of Missouri Cavalry under Clark Wright, was ordered from Salem towards Lebanon, and for a time, took a position in advance of Carr, subsequently becoming merged in the command of the latter. Bowen's cavalry was also sent to Carr.

It was ascertained by this reconnoissance that a sufficient amount of forage could be obtained in the country to supply the stock of an army. Fresh meat was plentiful, and by appropriating the mills to military use, flour and corn meal could be produced in abundance. But Carr advised against the recapture of Springfield unless we meant to retain it. He could not see the use of retaking that much contested point if it was again to be abandoned to the enemy.

A force of rebel cavalry, reported at 5,000, was thrown out from Springfield towards Marshfield, about January 15th, probably with the object of manœuvring against Carr, and obtaining supplies and forage. Carr fell back with his command to Waynesville to obtain a position of greater safety.

Meanwhile everything at Rolla was being rapidly prepared for a vigorous winter campaign. The army was encumbered with a vast amount of useless clothing, baggage, and trumpery of all sorts. This was ordered to be stored, and the troops allowed but a change of clothes, and none but the most necessary cooking utensils. Officers and men were prepared for close quarters. Eighteen men to a Fremont tent, fifteen to a Sibley tent, ten to a wall tent, and six to a wedge tent, was the prescribed arrangement for the field; and even this was thought by Halleck not to be a sufficient condensation. Our soldiers had not then become accustomed to shelter tents, or to no tents at all. Brass bands, sutlers, extra servants and

horses were left at Rolla. Nearly every regiment then had a brass band, but most of these were about this time mustered out of service. Ammunition and arms were inspected and all deficiencies made good.

HISTORY OF DAVIS COUNTY, IOWA.

CHAPTER III.

[Continued from page 602.]

ROSCOE TOWNSHIP, the smallest in the county, was originally part of Prairie, and is in the south-east corner of the county. It was first settled by William J. Hawley, John McIntosh, James Gleason, S. L. Hubbard, a Mr. Moudy, R. B. Cochran, and several others along the Missouri border. The late returns of this township show 679 head of neat cattle valued at \$5,304; 181 horses of the value of \$6,525; 13 mules, \$715; 815 sheep, \$1,555, and 971 hogs worth \$1,237. The value of other personal property and real estate swelling the total assessment of the township for 1863, to the sum of \$55,705. Number of dwelling-houses, 75; population, 434; voters, 78; militia, 45; between five and twenty-one, 162. This township is well adapted to agriculture and stock raising—the timber and prairie land being favorably disposed to those ends, and the whole being well watered. Roscoe supports her share of schools, and her citizens are as peaceable and well disposed as those of any section of our county. At one time she had a village within her borders which went to *pot* on a very frivolous cause, which will be referred to in another place. Since the downfall of this village, Hon. Barney Milizer's brick yard has been the most prominent point in the township.

A JUSTICE. One of the earliest settlers of this township was Aaron Cochran, Esq., one of the first Justices of the Peace

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