

THE
ANNALS OF IOWA,
BY THE
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

VOL. IV. IOWA CITY, OCTOBER, 1866. No. IV.

THE ARMY OF THE SOUTH-WEST, AND THE FIRST CAMPAIGN
IN ARKANSAS.

BY SAM'L PRENTIS CURTIS,

LATE LIEUTENANT AND AID-DE-CAMP TO MAJOR GENERAL CURTIS.

CHAPTER THIRD.

MARCH OF THE ARMY OF THE SOUTH-WEST FROM LEBANON,
MISSOURI, TO CROSS HOLLOW, ARKANSAS. PREPARATIONS
FOR THE BATTLE OF PEA RIDGE.

The work of organization being completed, an immediate and rapid advance was determined, to prevent, if possible, a retreat by the enemy. It was hoped that the bad roads and weather which had hitherto been encountered, might serve to cripple any retrograde movement on the part of Price. In the latter part of January, Halleck had ordered a diversion from Pilot Knob to cover the movements of Curtis. The latter now published the following order, which was enforced throughout the command. The order was cordially approved by Halleck. "It looks like work," he wrote, "and has the ring of the true metal."

"HEADQUARTERS SOUTH-WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI, }
"LEBANON, Mo., Feb. 7th, 1862. }

"*Special Orders*, No. 75.

"The commanding General tenders to the troops in this command his hearty commendation for the energy and endurance manifested on the march to this place. You have moved during the coldest and most stormy period of a cold

winter, and so far, brought your trains and equipments through snow, mud, floods and frosts, without his hearing of a murmur, and without the loss of property or men.

“But the success of this winter campaign now requires a further draft on the patience and fortitude of this army. We must strip for a forced march and final conflict.

“Six days light rations and necessary covering, must be condensed in a special train to be ready for the occasion. This ration must be hard bread, flour, hominy, rice, desiccated potatoes, mixed vegetables, sugar, coffee and salt. Pinoli (ground parched corn and sugar,) ought to be procured.

“The commissary will provide on the way whatever extra rations of fresh beef and pork the soldiers may need, so as to save these transported rations.

“The rations can only be cooked of nights, and some beef should be jerked (dried over a slow fire,) to carry in the haversack, to be eaten with pinoli.

“If officers and men will carry out this order in good faith, they will avoid danger of suffering, and greatly enhance the efficiency of our force. The camp equipments, most of the cooking utensils, changes of clothing, and most of the tents, trunks and boxes, must all be left with the remainder of the regimental wagons, which, with full supplies of provisions, will be pressed forward by the quartermaster as fast as circumstances will allow.

“On the forced march the commanding general will limit himself to these restrictions of food and clothing.

“The teams for this train for the forced march should be selected, and each wagon not loaded over two thousand pounds. Thus arranged the trains will be separated and inspected by regimental officers, and the number for each, properly reported through commanders of divisions to these headquarters as soon as completed.

“By order of Brigadier General S. R. CURTIS.

“T. I. MCKENNY,

“Acting Ass't Adj. Gen.”

On February 10th, leaving a few companies under Colonel George E. Waring as a garrison for the small and primitive village of Lebanon, the army, now properly organized, again moved forward, lightened and prepared for the field in accordance with the provisions of special order seventy-five. The following extracts from the order of march issued on the 9th, will best describe the route and manner of travel:

“The first and second divisions, under the command of Brig. Gen. Sigel, will proceed by the usual road leading to Springfield as far as the forks west of Tindall's farm, one and one-half miles west of Faulkner's Hill, where he will take the left hand road proceeding to Marshfield.”

“The third division, Col. Davis commanding, will proceed from his present camp, intersecting Springfield road at Benton and Hughart's, thence following the Springfield road to St. Luke, diverging from that vicinity so as to arrive at Pleasant Prairie north of Marshfield.”

"The fourth division, Col. Carr commanding, will proceed to the left by way of Jerico, leaving Woodbury to the left, and taking position on the left of Marshfield."

"All the commands will try so to arrange their marches as to arrive in the vicinity of Marshfield Tuesday at four o'clock. The men should have one day's rations in their haversacks, and six days rations as prescribed in my order number seventy-five."

"The quartermaster and commissaries will exert their utmost to procure supplies of forage for their animals at each encampment, especial attention being given to the teams of the batteries. The double ration of fresh beef and pork is also specially directed to be procured by the proper commissary of divisions or regiments, if the arrangements of contractors do not seem certain and adequate."

* * * * *

"Each division will provide proper advance guards and flankers, but being in three parallel lines, instruct their scouts so as to avoid attacks of their own friends."

"Commanders of divisions will report to these headquarters as often as convenient, headquarters being moveable on the central line."

The army thus advanced over a rough bushy country to Marshfield. On the 10th, after a march of about sixteen miles, the troops encamped for the night, starting long before sunrise on the 11th, and marching about ten miles to Marshfield, a beautiful little country village then almost deserted; the evil effects of rebellion. Davis was late in reaching the position assigned him in the order of march.

The headquarters of the commanding general were, for the night, at an octagon two-story frame house on the Springfield road. The news of the capture of Fort Henry was published in orders to the troops, and served to invigorate their ardor for the anticipated conflict. Scouts and spies announced Price still quiet in Springfield.

The order of march as announced for the 12th, was as follows:

"The first, second and fourth divisions of this command will move forward at seven o'clock to-morrow morning by the direct road, and camping near the head of Pierson's Creek, nine miles this side of Springfield."

"The third division, commanded by Gen. Davis, will move forward at six A. M., following the road by Leslie's store and camping near Piper's farm about eight miles following this side of Springfield."

The day, like its predecessors since leaving Lebanon, was bright and sunny. Twenty miles of rough brushy country still lay between the hostile forces. Leaving a small garrison

in Marshfield, the federal army advanced prepared for battle, with proper scouts and flankers. Curtis and Sigel rode together and in the front. It was not long before a rebel foraging party was driven from some hay-stacks near the road, and fled towards Springfield. The rebel pickets were repeatedly seen hovering in the front. They were shelled by the mountain howitzers with the advance, and one of Bowen's cavalry (Curtis's body-guard,) was shot by the enemy near Pierson's Creek.

Within eight miles of Springfield, the army halted at the "Danforth farm" on Pierson's Creek, the valley of the creek affording a fine camping ground. Curtis's headquarters for the night were at the Danforth mansion, an old-fashioned two-story brick farm house, with a fine spring of clear pure water close at hand. The tents of the staff train were scarcely out of the wagons before a rapid firing in front announced that the advance guard, distant about two miles, was attacked. A battery was ordered forward at once, and the cavalry scattered as skirmishers through the woods. Curtis and Sigel both rode to the scene of the skirmish. The attacking party, a regiment of confederate soldiers, after a brief skirmish fell back across an open space of about a quarter of a mile, gaining the shelter of the woods. A few shells soon dispersed them. Our loss in this skirmish was two men wounded and several missing.

In consequence of this attack, Curtis ordered the advance picket forward to the edge of the timber bordering on the open prairie country north of Springfield, where it was anticipated the enemy would give battle. It was impossible, and had not been contemplated, to advance the army and give battle before the succeeding day. Night was at hand and the troops weary from a fatiguing day's march, needed a few hours rest and food. Curtis here reported his force to Halleck, preparatory to engaging in battle, at 12,095 men, 9,585 infantry, 2,510 cavalry, and 50 pieces of artillery.

It was strongly suspected that the attack in force that had just been made on our pickets, was intended to cover a retreat

by the enemy. Halleck had ever asserted that Price would evacuate. Succeeding events revealed the correctness of these opinions.

At two o'clock, A. M., on the 13th, the federal advance commenced, and by day-break, the whole army was in motion. The plan of battle had been arranged and the troops sought their several positions, moving on Springfield in three lines. The morning was cold and foggy, the reverse of the preceding day. A misty veil hung over the woods and open prairie, the anticipated ground for the struggle.

Expectations of a battle were high, but as the army moved forward, no sounds of conflict came from the advance. The rumor gradually spread that Price had evacuated. The news was soon confirmed. Citizens living north of Springfield reported that the drums of the rebel army had been heard in the night, gradually growing fainter and fainter as the troops proceeded south. A company of the 4th Iowa infantry, thrown out as skirmishers to engage the rebels, not receiving an order sent to them to halt, actually reached Springfield and captured the town before the evacuation was generally known. Price had fled in great haste during the night. A large quantity of clothing which had reached him and been unpacked but a short time, was hastily repacked and taken with him in his flight. In a short time the place was occupied in force, amid the cheers of our troops. Women in crowds were on the streets welcoming the federal army. Speeches were made by Cols. Phelps and Boyd, who thus returned in triumph to their own town, each at the head of a regiment of south western men who had been exiled from home since the preceding autumn. In the excitement of the moment some vandalism was displayed by our troops. Several houses were fired and destroyed by parties unknown, among others, probably through ignorance, the residence of Col. Phelps was burned to the ground during the temporary absence of the family.

Springfield, once a beautiful county town with fine mansions generally placed in large well shaded yards, bearing

evidence of a taste and refinement quite rare among southwestern people, was almost entirely deserted. The Court House, a large brick building on the public square, was used as a rebel hospital. The houses of many of the citizens had been converted into barracks for rebel soldiers. Once fine residences were littered with straw, bunks, boards, old clothes, fragments of corn bread, the rebel "staff of life," parched wheat—a substitute for coffee, and other rubbish, the walls defaced with charcoal sketches and rebel rhymes, descriptive of the way in which "Lien dide & sigiel flu," at Wilson's Creek, the prospects of France and England interfering with "Lincon's war," and other kindred subjects delightful to a "secesh" ear. The churches had been converted into military storehouses. On the several sides of the town had been rebel camping grounds, in some places built up with comfortable huts, now strewn with the remains of slaughtered cattle and abandoned rubbish, and always surrounded by vast flocks of crows. In the public square of the town lay a number of old squirrel rifles and shot guns, broken up and abandoned. In various places were found valuable supplies and army stores left by the rebels in their flight.

Curtis established his headquarters in the house which the night before had been occupied by Price, the residence of Mr. Graves, a fugitive Union merchant; a fine place, but sadly revealing the effects of civil war. Here were found many of Price's papers and letters, reports of spies giving warning of the federal approach, arrangements made for the occupation of the lead mines at Granby, for the benefit of the Confederate States, news from the south, Richmond, the popularity of Price in the south, and his enemies "at court," &c. In the room just vacated by Price was found a paper torn in twain, of which the following is a copy *verbatim*. It explains itself:

"H'D Q'RS. M. S. G. }
 "SPRINGFIELD, Feb'y 13th, 1862. }

"General Orders, No. 46.

"The Comdrs of Divns will instanter and without the least delay see that their entire commands are ready for movement at a moment's notice.

"By order of Maj. Gen. S. PRICE,

W. H. BRAND, A. A. G.'

The house was well provisioned, and a large pile of wood at the door showed that the rebel chief had expected to make himself comfortable.

The day had now become extremely cold. Price had retreated southward on the Cassville road, and it was stated by his friends that he would give battle at the old Wilson's Creek battle-ground, distant twelve miles, but this was not fully credited.

It was found impossible to advance beyond Springfield on the 13th. The trains had not all arrived and were slow to come up. Some of the troops, especially the divisions of Asboth and Carr, were suffering from want of food. It was necessary to make some arrangements for subsistence. A cavalry reconnoissance was thrown out after the retreating enemy, and overtook and attacked their rear at Little York, some miles south-west of Springfield, killing three rebels and capturing fifteen wagon loads of supplies. Many prisoners were brought into Springfield, and orders were sent to commanders of divisions for an advance in pursuit early on the 14th. The army had already dispensed with superfluities. Now everything not absolutely necessary was left behind. Tents, extra clothing and rations were afterwards pushed forward in special trains, and with barely enough clothes to shelter from the severe cold, and three days supply of food, the soldiers were to press on in pursuit. Lieut. Col. Jas. K. Mills, of the 24th Missouri Infantry, with a small force, was left in command of the post of Springfield, where Capt. Sheridan also established the quartermaster's department.

On the 14th, a cold wintry day, the advance in pursuit of Price commenced. The third and fourth divisions, under the immediate command of Curtis, moved on the direct or "telegraph" road from Springfield to Cassville, passing over Wilson's Creek battle ground, and taking the advance of Sigel's command near Cassville, so continuing to Sugar Creek, Arkansas. The first and second divisions under Sigel moved west of Curtis on the road via Little York and Verona, on the McDowell road to Cassville, coming into the road

from Springfield to Cassville in the rear of the third and fourth divisions under Curtis, and overtaking the latter on the 17th at Sugar Creek, Arkansas, at which time the third Iowa cavalry also overtook the advancing army. This detour of Sigel to the west, which threw his command to the rear of Curtis, more effectually scoured and cleared the country of straggling rebel bands. It had been intended that Sigel should have come into the telegraph road, so called, at a position in advance of both Price and Curtis, and thus cut off the retreat of the enemy and compel him to fight or surrender. But his movements were too slow and he did not reach his assigned position until after both Price and Curtis had passed.

The third and fourth divisions under Curtis soon came up with the rear of the retreating rebel army, and for three days the flight and pursuit was close and rapid. The country traversed was a wild primitive and thinly populated region; uneven hilly ground with a soil literally covered with flinty stones, with stunted oak or "black jack" timber thinly scattered, or deep ravines with a heavier growth of timber, and pure rapid streams, were the characteristics. The road generally passing along ridges flanked by ravines and thick brush, or down deep valleys among impassable hills, would have rendered all flank movements on the enemy by the troops in his rear, from the slowness of their execution, impracticable. Nothing but a close pursuit on the road itself, in the immediate rear of the rebel army, could be undertaken.

At Crane Creek on the night of the 14th, after a day's march of twenty-five miles, the rebels were attacked and driven from their camp. Here three rebel cannon abandoned by the enemy, were taken. Sundry stragglers from the enemy were also captured, among others, the noted partisan Col. Freeman. He had ridden back for some purpose, and meeting some of our troops inquired the way to Price's headquarters. On being informed that he was a prisoner, he surrendered gracefully, with the remark, "I began to think you

did't look much like our men." Capt. Waldemar, of Sigel's command, and Lieut. Robinson, of Bowen's battalion, were captured by the enemy at this skirmish.

On the 15th, skirmishing commenced and a battle was imminent. The road passed down the winding valley of Flat Creek, surrounded by high hills. At an angle in the road the retreating rebels had turned the panels in a rail fence, forming a protecting shelter. The Union cavalry was checked by the enemy's artillery, and intervening brush gave him some advantage in the range, which was farther heightened by his firing the woods. From a high hill Curtis was enabled to overlook the smoke and brush. Planting his cannon here he threw round shot far into the lines of the enemy. A cavalry charge completed the rout, the rebels escaping with their wounded. Here orders were sent back to Sigel to press on with his command and join our other forces before their arrival at Cassville, where it was supposed the enemy might make a stand.

Commencing at two o'clock A. M. on the 16th, the flight and pursuit continued through Cassville and Keetsville. At Cassville the enemy were deployed in line of battle, but fled without firing a gun. Some skirmishing occurred before reaching Keetsville, and a few on each side were wounded. After leaving Keetsville, the march was through the long ravine of "Cross Timbers." The cavalry and artillery in a night charge led by Col. Jeff. C. Davis and others, drove the enemy through the entire length of the ravine, some seven or eight miles. In this movement Lieut. Golson, of the first Missouri cavalry, was mortally wounded. The Arkansas line was reached and our cavalry camped for the night after a twenty mile march on the soil of the so styled Confederacy.

On the 17th occurred the engagement at Sugar Creek, Arkansas, on almost the same ground where soon afterwards occurred the battle of Pea Ridge. At this point the road crosses a deep and broad ravine about half a mile wide, the valley of Sugar Creek, nearly at right angles. The enemy was reinforced by troops from McCulloch's command at Cross

Hollows, twelve miles in advance. About noon Sigel reported the arrival of his command close in the rear of the other forces, and while talking with Curtis, the action commenced. Curtis hearing firing hastened to the front. The enemy had formed on the south bank of Sugar Creek, and the artillery was already engaged. Our troops came up in double-quick time and deployed under a heavy artillery fire, on the crest of a hill on the north bank. The enemy's position was concealed by underbrush, and the range was too long for small arms. Curtis at the head of all the available cavalry, passed by a winding road down into the valley and below the range of the artillery whose shots were heard howling far overhead. A charge was now ordered and the whole column dashed forward at full speed. It was received with a galling fire, and having to deploy in the thick woods, the enemy's sharpshooters made terrible havoc with men and horses. Hayden's Dubuque Battery and the mountain howitzers arrived in time to assist in this crisis. For half an hour the contest seemed doubtful, but the enemy's centre falling back broken, his wings took to flight, and our victory was complete. Night coming on, the pursuit extended but a few miles. McKenny, aid-de-camp to Curtis, received a severe gunshot wound in the head, and several in the body, while rescuing the life of a fallen cavalryman, and Maj. Bowen was also severely wounded. The Union loss was thirteen killed and fifteen or twenty wounded. The rebel loss is unknown, but was probably as great. The ground was thickly strewn with their dead horses and mules. The Union forces engaged were Wright's battalion, 6th Missouri cavalry, 1st Missouri cavalry, Maj. Bowen's howitzers, Maj. McConnel's battalion, 3d Illinois cavalry, and Hayden's Dubuque battery.

On the 19th the army pressed on to Osage Spring, a position flanking Cross Hollows. At the latter place and at Fayetteville, Ben McCulloch's forces, principally composed of Texan rangers, were encamped. Price's army had taken refuge at Cross Hollows. The place was considered McCulloch's stronghold. It was an extensive canon, crossed

at various angles by minor ravines. Substantial barracks had been erected in the valleys, and the bushy timbered hills commanded the approach. The "telegraph road" from Springfield to Fayetteville, passed through Cross Hollows, and it was now the main object to dislodge the enemy from this position.

Upon the occupation of Osage Spring the rebels evacuated Cross Hollows, burning their barracks and supplies, and fell back to the foot of and beyond the Boston Mountains. The federal army took possession of the position on the 22d. The place, as well as the camp at Osage Spring, was called "Camp Halleck," and orders were issued announcing, for the encouragement of the troops, our victories at Roanoke Island, Fort Donelson, on the Tennessee river, and congratulating them upon their endurance and heroism and the success which had thus far been attained. The following are the orders :

"HEADQUARTERS, SOUTH-WESTERN DISTRICT OF MO., }
"CAMP HALLECK, Ark., Feb. 18, 1862. }

"*Special Orders No. 90.*

"The General commanding, directs me to announce to the soldiers of this command tidings of success, which he has received through Maj. Gen. Halleck, by our comrades elsewhere. Our gunboats have triumphantly penetrated to Florence, Alabama. A great victory has been won by the army and navy, in the taking of Roanoke Island, North Carolina, where three hundred of the enemy were killed, one thousand wounded, and two thousand five hundred taken prisoners. The General also expresses his gratification to the troops of his command, for their courage, fidelity and endurance manifested in this campaign. You have marched in the most inclement weather, over the worst of roads, making extraordinary long marches, subsisting mainly on meat without salt, and for the past six days you have been under the fire of the fleeing enemy. You have driven him out of Missouri, restored the Union flag to the "virgin soil" of Arkansas, and triumphed in two contests, the last with a portion of the combined forces of Price and McCulloch, in their stronghold. You have earned and I trust will receive the grateful thanks of your friends and country. In your rapid pursuit of the foe, and the cravings of actual hunger, the peaceable citizens, through whose country we have passed, should forgive some acts of spoliation which are incident to a war under such pressing circumstances; but the commanding General will again call the attention of his officers and men to his general order number three, and expresses his hope that soldiers that have done themselves much honor will not soil it by acts of folly, cruelty or dissipation. Let us show the people everywhere that our tents and knapsacks are not disgraced with

plunder, and that the old flag of the Union is the only emblem of power, peace and safety to society, and the only flag that deserves their regard and affection.

“And let the people of Arkansas rush to a banner raised by our fathers as the emblem of civil and religious liberty, and restore to our whole country that peace and prosperity which has so long distinguished us among the nations of the earth.

“By order of Brig. Gen. S. R. CURTIS,

“T. I. McKENNY, A. A. A. Gen'l.”

Fayetteville and Bentonville were captured by Sigel's troops. The former by a cavalry and artillery command under Asboth. At the former the retreating rebels had endeavored to burn the town, and at the latter several buildings were fired by our own men. Rebel flags, forty wagon loads of lead, six wagon loads of sappers' and miners' tools, newspapers, rebel correspondence, and many other articles were taken. Mudtown, Pineville and Huntsville were also occupied by our troops. At Mudtown a dastardly attempt was made on the lives of our soldiers by means of poisoned liquor left in a store. Lieut. Col. Von Deutch and about ninety-two others were poisoned. Halleck issued a retaliatory order in consequence, directing that the perpetrators, if captured, be punished with death, but none of them were ever known to have been captured.

Here the army of the South-West halted in its south-western progress. Repeated orders were received from Halleck to go no further south than Fayetteville. “The main force,” he wrote, “should be left at Bentonville, and the various passes should be occupied by detachments in force.” “Reinforcements and additional horses to replace those worn out in the service could not be sent.” “Hunter would soon advance from Kansas on the right with a force of five thousand men; in the meantime our flanks would not be exposed and Price would very soon be turned.” Curtis at Sugar Creek on the 19th had dispatched to Halleck that he desired to take Cross Hollows and Fayetteville. He could see nothing else north of the Arkansas river worth taking, and he had not the means for crossing that stream.

The Boston Mountains presented to our exhausted army an almost impassable barrier. Supplies could not be obtained

in the country, and we were already too remote from our base of operations at Rolla. The small cavalry garrison of Keetsville had been surprised in the night and driven out of town with a loss of several killed and wounded, and all their horses, by a superior force of the enemy. We had not troops to spare for additional post garrisons, and a further advance would have weakened our army and increased the number of points to protect.

Curtis received a communication from the captain of a company of "home guards," stating that the object of their organization was to afford a protection to community from bands of lawless marauders, either federal or rebel, and asking recognition and assistance. As a reply to this communication, and for the purpose of quieting the groundless fears and apprehensions which prevailed among the people, and to induce them to return to loyalty, the following proclamation was issued :

"HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE SOUTH-WEST, }
"CAMP HALLECK, ARK., March 1, 1862. }

"I have received a private communication from an intelligent writer, a citizen of Arkansas, who says: 'We as citizens, have left our homes and firesides for the purpose as we supposed of having to defend ourselves against a brutal soldiery that would lay waste our humble homes, and outrage the chastity of our wives and daughters, and place our own lives in jeopardy. We have organized what is called home guard companies, partly of Union men and partly of southern men, all of whom are anxious to return to their homes. We are happy to find you and your men are not composed of that class of persons commonly called jayhawkers, who do not regard the rights of citizens and property, but confine the war to its legitimate object.'

"The falsehoods circulated concerning us have driven thousands from their homes, and I take the liberty of responding publicly to the sentiments expressed by the writer, because these falsehoods have involved the whole community in the troubles which he seeks to mitigate.

"The only legitimate object of the war is peace, and the writer only does me justice when he says I adhere to this legitimate object. Peaceable citizens shall be protected as far as possible. I act under strict orders of Maj. Gen. Halleck. The flight of our foes from their camps, and the imitation of their conduct by the citizens in fleeing from their homes, leaving their effects abandoned as it were for their victors, has much embarrassed me in my efforts to preserve discipline in my command, as these circumstances offered extraordinary temptations.

"The burning of farms and fields of grain in Missouri, and extensive barracks and valuable mills in Arkansas by the enemy, has induced some resentments on the part of my troops, which I have severely punished. Necessary supplies for

my command could not keep up with my rapid movements; and peaceable citizens not being at home to sell them to my quartermasters, I am compelled to take them without purchase, making settlement difficult and doubtful, occasioning irregularities which I have labored to counteract. If peaceably disposed citizens will stay at home, or return home and check the clandestine stealthy warfare that is carried on under *the cover and cloak* of peaceable citizens, much of the havoc of war will be avoided, and many poor families can be protected from distress and misery. I have followed the war path through the entire State of Missouri, have seen the havoc and devastation surrounding it, and I deplore the prospect of these disasters on the virgin soil of Arkansas.

“Armed men in the garb of citizens are concealed by citizens, and the unfortunate condition of Missouri will be transferred to Arkansas if you allow this complicity of yourselves in the struggle. If you do not discriminate, by requiring soldiers to wear some distinctive badge, you must not complain if we cannot discriminate.

“There is no honor, no glory, no good, that can be gained by taking up arms in this way, to defend your homes; for we do not wish to molest them if you are peaceably disposed. We only wish to put down rebellion, by making war against those in arms, their aiders and abettors. We come to vindicate the constitution, to preserve and perpetuate civil and religious liberty, under a flag that was embalmed in the blood of our revolutionary fathers. Under that flag we have lived in peace and prosperity until the flag of rebellion involved us in the horrors of civil war.

“We have restored the stars and stripes to north-western Arkansas, where I am glad to find many who rejoice to see the emblem of their former glory, and hope for a restoration of the peace and happiness they have enjoyed under its folds. A surrender to such a flag is only a return to your natural allegiance, and is more honorable than to persist in a rebellion that surrenders to the national power at Forts Henry and Donelson, at Nashville and Roanoke, and throughout the most powerful southern states. Why then shall the west be devastated to prolong a struggle which the states of Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina and Tennessee, cannot successfully maintain?

“Disband your companies, surrender your arms, for in all instances where men in arms have voluntarily surrendered and taken the oath of allegiance to our common country, they have been discharged. No prisoners have, to my knowledge, been shot or hung, or cruelly treated by us.

“I know of no instance where my troops have treated females with violence, and I have not heard of a complaint of the kind. I enjoin on the troops, kindness, protection, and support for women and children. I shall to the best of my ability maintain our country's flag in Arkansas, and continue to make relentless war on its foes, but shall rejoice to see the restoration of peace in all the states and territories of our country; that peace which we formerly enjoyed and earnestly desire; and I implore for each and all of us that ultimate, eternal peace, ‘which the world cannot give or take away.’

“I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

“SAMUEL R. CURTIS,

“Brig. Gen. Com'd'g Army of the South-West.”

The precise effect of this proclamation, it is difficult to determine. The army shortly afterwards fought the battle of Pea Ridge, and leaving north-western Arkansas, re-entered the state at another point where the proclamation was republished. It no doubt exerted a salutary influence among the people, but within the rebel lines its influence was slight. The condition of affairs to which it alludes, had been apparent on the march. The retreating rebel army had spread terror through the country. The people were told that the Yankees were coming to devastate the land, ravish the women, and murder the inhabitants. Many fled through terror of an army whose soldiers they had never seen, but who, they had been taught to believe, were all that was bad. Others left their homes from sympathy, and because they were implicated with the rebellion. A few loyal inhabitants remained and welcomed the first federal army advanced south of Dug Springs since the commencement of the rebellion. "We had begun to think we never would get help," said an old Union farmer. Deserted and burnt houses, mills, barns, &c., were frequent on the line of march. Much of this vandalism was the work of our soldiers. Much was also done by the enemy. The thinly settled country in the immediate vicinity of the line of march was laid waste. Strong and constant efforts were made to preserve discipline, but it could not always be done. Havoc, destruction, and desolation, are the inevitable results of all, and especially of civil war. But one case of ravishment by a federal soldier occurred while Gen. Curtis was in command in the South-western District of Missouri, and of the army of the South-West. This was by a soldier of the cavalry expedition near Lebanon, before Curtis took the field. The perpetrator of this outrage was court-martialed.

The official report of Price on his evacuation of Springfield, and retreat into Arkansas, made to the fugitive rebel governor of Missouri, is here inserted, as furnishing the rebel account of that movement :

"HEADQUARTERS M. S. G., }
 "CAMP ON COVE CREEK, ARK., Feb. 25, 1862. }

"To his Excellency C. F. Jackson, Governor of Missouri:

"SIR—I have the honor to lay before you an account of the circumstances surrounding my command within the last two weeks, compelling me to evacuate Springfield, and retreat beyond the state line into the territory of Arkansas, the intelligence of which has no doubt reached you.

"About the latter part of December I left my camp on Sac River, St. Clair county, fell back and took up my quarters at Springfield for the purpose of being within reach of supplies, protecting that portion of the state from both home guard depredation and federal invasion, as well as to secure a most valuable point for military movements. At Springfield I received from Grand Glaze considerable supplies of clothing, camp and garrison equipage, and having built huts, our soldiers were as comfortable as circumstances would permit. I am pleased to say few complaints were either made or heard. Missouri having been admitted as an equal member of the Confederate States, and having my command much augmented by recruits, I was enabled to raise and equip about four thousand men for the Confederate service. A brigade of these, consisting of two regiments of infantry, one regiment of cavalry, and two light batteries of artillery, has been tendered the Confederate government.

"About the latter part of January my scouts reported that the enemy were concentrating in force at Rolla, and shortly thereafter, they occupied Lebanon. Believing that this movement could be for no other purpose than to attack me, and knowing that my command was inadequate for such successful resistance as the interests of my army and the cause demanded, I appealed to the commanders of the Confederate troops in Arkansas to come to my assistance. This from correspondence, I was led confidently to expect, and relying upon it, I held my position to the very last moment, and, as the sequel proved, almost too long, for on Wednesday February 12th, my pickets were driven in, and reported the enemy advancing upon me in force. No resource was now left me except retreat, without hazarding all with greatly unequal numbers upon the result of one engagement. This I deemed it unwise to do. I commenced retreating at once. I reached Cassville with loss unworthy of mention in any respect. Here the enemy in my rear commenced a series of attacks running through four days, retreating and fighting all the way to the Cross Hollows in this state. I am rejoiced to say my command, under the most exhausting fatigue all that time, with but little rest for either man or horse, and no sleep, sustained themselves, and came through, repulsing the enemy upon every occasion with great determination and gallantry. My loss does not exceed four to six killed, and some fifteen or eighteen wounded. That of the enemy we know to be ten times as great.

"Col. Henry Little, commanding the first brigade, with Cols. B. A. Rives and J. Q. Burbridge of the infantry, and Col. E. Gates, of the cavalry, covered this retreat from beyond Cassville, and acted as the rear guard. The Colonel commanding deserves the highest praise for unceasing watchfulness and the good management of his entire command. I heartily commend him to your attention. All these officers merit, and should receive, the thanks of both government and

people. To all the officers and men of my army, I am under obligations. No men or officers were ever more ready and prompt to meet and repel an enemy. Governor, we are confident of the future.

“STERLING PRICE,
“Maj. Gen. Com'd'g M. S. G.”

HISTORY OF DAVIS COUNTY, IOWA.

CHAPTER IV.

[Continued from page 702.]

On Wednesday, the 20th day of June, 1860, the second year's publication of this paper was completed. In that number of the paper, the editors say: “This issue completes two full years of the publication of the “Clarion” in Davis County. Without missing a single number or any delay whatever, we have issued the paper regularly every week for two years. We commenced the “Clarion” here under many discouraging circumstances, at a time of general business depression, which has continued unabated ever since, yet by the practice of rigid economy and untiring industry, we have weathered the storm thus far, and have reason to hope that we have established the paper on a permanent basis.”

On the 31st of October, 1860, the last number of the “Clarion,” in which Mr. Steckel's name appeared as one of the editors, was issued.

On the 19th day of June, 1861, the “Clarion” completed its third year's publication in our town, without a change of proprietors, or any delay in its publication, and with the publication of only one half sheet during the three years. There had been no change in the editors, except the retirement of Mr. Steckel, which took place at the close of the last Presidential campaign. In announcing the end of the third year, the editor says, “We think this ought to give assurance to the people of this county that the paper is established on a basis entitled to confidence. * * * We still live, and the “Clarion” notes are not yet hushed, but are still heard

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