

GEN. LEE'S FAREWELL TO "MY MARYLAND."

Account of Another Captured Herald Correspondent.

WHAT HE SAW AND HEARD.

Opinions of General Stuart and Other Rebels.

Explanations in Regard to the Retreat from Gettysburg.

The Way in which the Retreat Was Conducted, &c., &c., &c.

Mr. Theodore C. Wilson's Despatch.

HAGERSTOWN, Md., July 18, 1863.
It is my purpose to give you a brief account of what I saw and heard while a prisoner in the hands of General Stuart. I will not enter into the details that led to my capture, nor to even the more trivial circumstances connected with that event. Without further prefatory remarks—other than to state that it is not my desire or intention to give my own views of the rebel army, its condition, &c., but simply those of the rebel leaders—I will proceed with what may be termed

THE NARRATIVE.
Major Brown, who commanded the rebel outpost, ordered me to be taken at once to the headquarters of General Stuart, and to him I went. The General was found near the Hagerstown road (this was on Monday last), having his headquarters in the open air, in the rear of a Marylander's cottage. Notwithstanding the owner of this property was a Marylander—even while General S. was there—still his property was much abused.

GENERAL STUART.
I found General Stuart courteous and affable. He was at dinner, feasting on property confiscated from Marylanders or Pennsylvanians. He questioned me very particularly regarding the militia, and particularly the manner of their equipment. In regard to this latter, I asked him why he was so inquisitive? He replied by saying that if attacked by the militia—of which he expressed no fear whatever—he wanted to make some approximation towards the value of the property likely to fall into his hands.

THE UNION MILITIA.
It is my earnest belief that the rebels did not fear the advancing militia forces, and that they would have been only too glad to have attacked them, had it not been for the

MOVEMENTS OF GENERAL MEADE.
Regarding General M.'s forces and movements I could see there was much anxiety, if not some little fear, for the entire success of the rebel plans in the crossing of the Potomac river. But as the afternoon wore away, and the Unionists did not make a general attack, the same merely keeping up a heavy skirmish—the rebel generals—many of whom I saw—became more and more animated in their remarks, until at last they broke out—particularly General Stuart—in laughs and remarks of derision at the easy manner in which, as they styled it, the Yankees could be fooled. "Yes," said General Stuart, in presence of Generals Rhodes and Fitzhugh Lee, "the Yankees, instead of attacking us, are actually throwing up some kind of intrenchments; and they boast that they are not afraid of us, and are pressing on for a fight. Well, they'd better come on, and they'll find out whether your half-starved rebels have not learned Yankee tricks as well as other things." On

MONDAY AFTERNOON.
there were not twenty five thousand rebels this side of the Potomac, nor were there thirty pieces of artillery. In my telegraphic despatch, printed in Wednesday's Herald, I referred to the manner of the rebel crossing. Therefore it is not necessary for me to do so again, my main object now being to give what was excluded from that despatch because of the inability of the telegraphic operators to get it off.
About five o'clock on Monday afternoon General Stuart removed his headquarters to a point two miles this side of Williamsport. Here he continued to conduct the rebel retreat. General Lee was on the Virginia side, conducting matters there. Gen. Lee had gone over, with his staff, the day previous, and to Gen. Stuart was assigned the chief command on this side.

THE REBELS RETREATING.
Every movement in retreat was made in the best of order. Command after command was withdrawn in the quietest possible manner.

AN ATTACK.
Towards evening, as previously stated in the Herald, General Kilpatrick made an attack on the left of the rebel position, the same being protected by commanding fortifications. This attack was well met by the rebels, the latter sustaining a cavalry charge, and making one in return. This attack on the left was met by General Robleson's forces, consisting of one brigade of cavalry and two or three pieces of artillery. The artillery was put in position near the Hagerstown road. Two thirds of Robleson's cavalrymen were dismounted and placed behind the earthworks, to make the Unionists believe that infantry still remained in full force there. At one time it seemed as though the rebels would have to fall back and their retreat be discovered. At this time there was a great deal of excitement along the rebel lines. The led horses were removed towards and on a by-road leading to the Williamsport pike, and what prisoners there were near were taken away in the same direction in some degree of haste. While this was going on the left Johnston's forces and a portion of Stonewall Jackson's old command were in position to the right and left of the Williamsport pike. As the Union cavalry ceased to press Robleson the led horses, &c., were brought back again to the old position.

MONDAY NIGHT.
about eight o'clock, all the prisoners, under a strong guard, were put upon a march, amid torrents of rain, darkness, and over a road worse than any I ever met with in Virginia, to the Williamsport pike, and from there to Williamsburg. On arriving at the latter place I found General Stuart sitting on a rail fence. He called it headquarters. The infantry was passing at the time, and notwithstanding the rain, many of them were slugging gayly, and making absurd and witty remarks. In the distance, towards Hagerstown, burned a long line of well lit camp fires, these illuminating the sky for miles around; yet little did the Unionists know that these camp fires, while they helped to deceive them also helped to light the very path of the retreating rebel army. As I was for the second time conveyed into the presence of General Stuart, I remarked:—"General, you ordered that I should be treated with the most distinguished consideration; and is this treating me with such consideration, marching me through mud and rain over a road almost impassible at this time for man or beast?" "Well," replied the General, "I cannot say that it is; but what I meant by treating you with the most distinguished consideration was, that I am going to send you to Richmond. You ought to think it a great honor to get there, seeing that so many of your countrymen have been trying so long and so hard to reach Richmond, and have never as yet got there only as you are going—as prisoners." After some further remarks in this strain I commenced to complain in language more forcible than elegant. For this the General mildly rebuked me, saying that I should not swear. "All great generals swear, don't they?" asked I. "I," replied General S., "do not swear; and yet I think I am as great a military man as there is in the country." Thereupon his A. A. G. remarked:—"The General does not drink, smoke, chew nor swear, and besides this he is a member of the church." After some further conversation the General ordered that comfortable quarters be provided for me. His wishes were promptly complied with, and I was escorted to a house under strong guard. Here I remained until daylight next morning.

A VISIT AND A LONG CONVERSATION.
During the night I was visited by an aide-de-camp to General S. We had a long conversation. I asked him why the rebel army fell back from the neighborhood of Gettysburg, and many other things, and the whole of his conversation may be briefly set forth as follows—We crossed into Maryland, not with the intention of going to Washington or to Harrisburg, and we were wonderfully surprised to find the easy manner in which the Yankees were deceived, and our plans thereby frustrated.

THE FIGHT AT GETTYSBURG.
was an unexpected event. That is, we had not foreseen that a fight would take place there. We know that there must be a fight as soon as the two forces came in contact, and we had provided for such a battle. This they did at Gettysburg, and hence the fight. That was indeed a hard fought battle. Our men fought with desperate resolution. The Yankees commenced to move from Gettysburg several hours before we did, and it was to find out this movement that annoyed us more than anything else. After three days' fighting we had unexpectedly accumulated a large number of killed and wounded. There we had to attend to. We also had to look out for our ammunition. Being many miles away from our base of supplies, we concluded to fall back. This became also necessary that we might protect our train of wounded; again our train of captured property. It is true we could have sent these trains to the rear; but we could not so far weaken the main army as to send a strong enough guard to protect them on their route to the river, and, if necessary, defend them there. Another thing: We did not know how long before the Potomac would be unfordable, and what would be the state of the weather. General Lee is a very prudent man. It would have been folly for him to have continued his march through an enemy's country, leaving a river at times impassable between him and his base of supplies, with the likelihood of an indefinite number of battles. What do you think would have been the consequences had General Lee penetrated as far as ever he could, fought battle after battle, and then found himself hundreds of miles away and without ammunition? If we could have got ammunition regularly we would have sent whosoever we wanted to. Even as it was we could have done this, but it was not deemed prudent to do so. There is another thing you must take into consideration. As we advanced, so it became necessary to keep a road for communication, as regards supplies, open to the South. To protect this long road, it would have taken a very heavy force; for was it not possible for the Yankee cavalry to make dashes and attack us here and there, perhaps upon important movement details or cut off some of our supplies, or, like an animal, bite us here and there.

and perhaps in some lucky moment gobble up little pieces of the tail. * * General Lee has accomplished his object. You can see for yourself that our men are in the best of spirits. It is true, we have lost heavily; but in our captures and the effect upon our army we have gained far more than we lost. I admit that we had to abandon a few guns and some wagons, but did we not capture over two hundred wagons? and I can't say in many miles, near Rockville, several pieces of artillery; and have not our men been better fed than if we had kept them in camp near Frederickburg, and in hundreds of ways have not we gained by going into Maryland and Pennsylvania?

ANOTHER BIRD IN CONTINGENTATION.
Next year, when we want some more supplies, it is very probable that we will repeat the experiment; but we will do it in another way.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
We had great fun in going to within four miles of Washington. We went so near I really thought the General (General Stuart) was going in. We had with us at the time three brigades of cavalry and a battery of artillery. We went close enough to see Georgetown Heights. On our way we dashed through the towns in the liveliest manner.

GENERAL MEADY.
It is a good thing General Meade did not attack us when we could not get across the river. Our men were anxious for a fight; they would have fought like so many devils. I have not the space afforded me to enter more into detail regarding this conversation, which, if given in full, would take about two pages of the Herald.

GENERAL STUART'S VIEW.
While referring to conversations, I will mention here what I overlooked stating in the foregoing part of my letter. General Stuart and I were criticising and reviewing some "Yankee" movements in the distance, when General Stuart said:—"You see, these Yankees, instead of attacking us, are giving General Lee every opportunity to retreat. I really believe they are afraid to attack us, or else they are moving in some other direction, which of course we will know all about in a day or two."

A SCOUT.
Gen. Stuart had with him a scout, a Mississippian, who said he could assume any disguise; and, judging from his general and peculiar appearance, I gave him credit for speaking the truth. The stories he told about his exploits were of the most amusing character. Some of them I know to be true from past occurrences that came under my notice.

LEE'S FAREWELL TO "MY MARYLAND."
All of Monday night and until daylight on Tuesday morning the rebel column slowly kept on its course down the Williamsport pike and over the river. By six o'clock the rebel rear guard came up to within two miles of Williamsport, gathering up stragglers and drawing in guards and pickets. About this time the last of the rebel artillery—two pieces—passed the point referred to above. I got away from the rebel guard about daylight, and immediately made for Hagerstown. I took a circuitous route, but still had to pass by the line of the rebel fortifications. There I saw were night and gotten up for effect. I paused a moment to look at them. They extended for nearly three miles from beyond the Hagerstown road over to and beyond the Williamsport pike. In leaving these fortifications the rebels placed rails in such a position as to make them appear to an approaching party in the distance the heads of many men in line along the works. On reaching Hagerstown I saw General Kilpatrick, and told him of the rebels' retreat, and he said he would be after them at once. The rest is anticipated by publications in the Herald.