

AFFAIRS IN MISSOURI.

The Panic at Lexington—Battle of Lone Jack —Capt. Bawnor's Adventure—Loss of Cannon—Incidents, &c.

Correspondence of the New-York Times.

LEXINGTON, Mo., Monday, Sept. 1, 1862.

The capture of BUELL at Independence, the defeat of FOSTER at Lone Jack, the great force of the guerrillas mustering southwest of this place, gave some cause for apprehending an attack on Lexington. Everybody was on the *qui vive*. Believing that the blow would fall here next, Col. Houston made preparations for an evacuation. The commissary stores were rolled aboard the steamer *H. D. Bacon*, lying at the wharf. The *Sioux*, *Warner*, *Isabella* and *Eagle* were ready to slip cables, and away. At 6 o'clock A. M. on the 18th, the alarm gun was fired. Fire was set to the brick warehouses and hemp factories on the bank. The *Warner*, which is here on Government service, with a guard of militia marine, carried two messengers across the river, dispatched for reinforcements to Gen. LOAN. Armed hosts turned out on the hill sides, which bristled with men armed and equipped for battle, thick as the array that sprang forth at the call of Roderick Dhu. The whole city was stirred to its depths. About 9 o'clock two barrels were noted floating down stream. An officer rode down to warn the steamers against torpedoes. The *Warner* swung into the stream to avoid them, and sent a yawl to capture them. They did, and captured a beer and pork barrel. Thus ended the battle of the kegs. Like the thought of Mr. Foots, nothing came of it, save the destruction of about \$50,000 worth of property, needlessly and foolishly sacrificed. It is said the stores were burned to prevent their falling into the hands of the enemy, and the hemp bales to prevent their being used against us. But why were not the stores appropriated to Government service, and the hemp bales turned into fortifications for ourselves? No line of policy can be perceived in the management of things here that would give the people confidence in their commanders. Col. Houston, commanding, is addicted too much to lager. No step has been taken till to-day to maintain this post against a superior force, if one should come. Like MULLIGAN they are waiting till danger is imminent before commencing work. The earthworks thrown up by MULLIGAN around the College are still in a good state of preservation. A little work would make them impregnable to any force the enemy can bring. MULLIGAN was cooped up then with 2,700 men. There was no water within the intrenchments. More men were killed in going out for water than in the fight. After three days' fighting without water they were conquered by thirst and surrendered. There is an old well filled up. There are cisterns but they are dry. No steps are taken for digging a new well. Only a small trench is opened two feet wide by two feet deep, as a covered way to a spring. The whole ground is covered by cavalry. From 1,500 to 2,000 horses are staked out over the ground, and would be greatly in the way there in the event of an engagement. To-day, the trees, a fine grove of old oaks on the hillside, outside the intrenchment, are falling before the axe. They are felled with butt to the camp and stump cut off close. They alone would prevent any more hemp bale movements.

The steamers here are well guarded, and would be ready to bring over reinforcements. The *John Warner* was fitted out at St. Louis as a gunboat, and manned by volunteers from the young men of the Halleck and Essex Guards. They were mustered in on one day and ordered on the next to embark. The pilot is protected by boiler iron; the guards and boiler deck by bales of hay. Two cannon were planted on the bow; so we bid defiance to all opposition, and conveyed up the *Russel* and *Sioux*, that had been turned back.

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