

COLUMBUS AND ITS VICINITY.

Our telegraphic columns, this morning, contain the report that Columbus has probably been evacuated by the Rebels. Above we give a map showing the position of the fortifications and the town.

Columbus, the capital of Ballard county, Kentucky, is just twenty miles, by railroad, from Cairo, and is nearly opposite Belmont, the scene of the sanguinary battle of the 7th of November.

The exact number of Confederate troops stationed here is supposed to have been from 27,000 to 35,000. Gen. Pillow commanded for some time, but was superseded by Gen. Polk. It has been reported that so important has Jerry Davis

considered this position, that he despatched Braxton to assume the command.

The chief fortifications are on the bluffs, about a mile from the town, and which are highest on the Mississippi banks, but form almost a circle of nearly three miles in circumference, the elevation becoming gradually less as it recedes from the river. To the south of these fortifications there is a winding road which leads to the top. On the south side of this road is another range of hills, which necessarily renders the conflict renewable, should the northern camp be stormed. It is presumed that as the Rebels have no gun-batteries or mortar-batteries capable of reaching our feet under command of Commander Poore, that the western side of the fortifications would be first

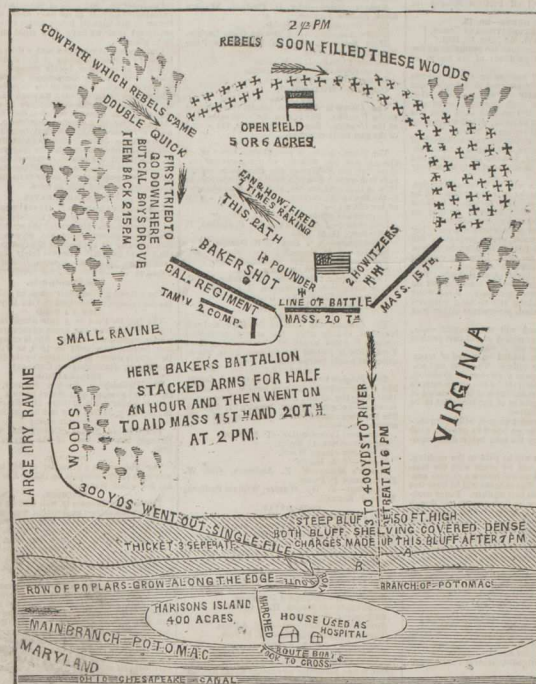
attacked, and the enemy driven out without the desperate expedient of storming those heights from the eastern side.

It appears that the Rebels were content to remain within a radius of less than five miles, which would have enabled Generals Grant and McClellan to surround them by land, while our splendid gun and mortar-batteries could have attacked them from the Mississippi side.

Columbus is, at present, the northern terminus of the Ohio and Mobile Railroad, on which Fort Jefferson is also situated, being about twelve miles north from Columbus, and nearly opposite to Bird's Point, also in our possession.

The distance from Columbus to New Orleans is five hundred and twenty-nine miles.

PHILADELPHIA, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1861.



THE BATTLE FIELD OF BALL'S BLUFF, OCTOBER 21ST.

We present our readers with a rough sketch of the scene of the late engagement, made by our special correspondent who has been at the Ferry for several days—the route of the California Regiment, their position at different hours, the spot where Baker's fell, and the position of the troops at the time.

It will be seen that instead of Colonel Baker "bringing on an engagement contrary to orders," he merely crossed according to orders, halted his men as soon as he could get a spot on which they could stand, and when the Massachusetts Regiment, who had crossed before him, were pursued down through this field, he marched to their rescue only a hundred yards and drove the Rebels back. He opened upon them with the two howitzers and one cannon, and dealt out devastation with every round, but only fired seven charges when all his gunners were shot.

The Rebels then swarmed around to the right and opened on the Massachusetts Fifteenth, and in a few minutes the firing became general all around our heroic band. The Rebel force consisted of the Mississippi Brigade, Louisiana Brigade, Con federate Rifle Regiment, Virginia Eighth, and Tiger Zouaves, under General Evans. We had not sixteen hundred men over the river when the fighting commenced, and four hundred were on picket, protecting the route to the river. After 2 P. M., our men were shot down faster than reinforcements could be brought over. For three hours and a half they held their ground, and repelled every attempt of the Rebels to make a bayonet charge.

After they retreated to the river, three separate charges were made up the bluffs to repel the Rebels, and it was about eleven o'clock, our men, out of ammunition and surrounded by the Rebels, were compelled to surrender to the Rebel crew, because they could not retreat and could no longer fight.

FORNEY'S WAR PRESS.—PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1863.

THE GROUND PLAN OF THE BATTLE OF DRANKSVILLE.—SEE FOURTH PAGE.

