

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 25, 1862.

The Close of 1862.

Multitudes wait for time, but time waits for none. Its years hasten on with rapid flight, and pass away as a dream of the night, or as a tale that is told.

As the days of 1862 have sped their course, what wondrous records have been made in heaven, earth, and hell. The pen of the recording angel has moved with unerring precision as it has recorded the decisions and acts of the year soon to terminate.

What changes have the days of the year so soon to close, wrought in individuals, in families, in churches, and in nations! Precious friendships have been formed, and suddenly snapped asunder.

The neighbouring Republic is still torn and bleeding with internal discord and unholy strife. They speak the same language and worship the same God that we Provincials do, and, therefore, especially claim our sympathy and our prayers.

We have been preserved mercifully as a people, from the horrors of a bloody war; but let us not be high minded, but fear, lest a worse thing shall come upon us for our sins.

As ministers and churches of Jesus Christ, have we not much cause of humiliation, penitence, and prayer, as we review the past? Had we all been faithful to the mighty trust committed to our care, Zion's gates, in all human probability, would have been crowded with rejoicing converts, and we should have grown up personally into Christ, our living head.

Let us, christian brethren, cast off the unfruitful works of darkness, and put on the armour of light. As this year is being numbered with the mighty past, let us try to realize the solemn fact, that we have one year less to work for God in this world, and that we are one year nearer our eternal home.

The unconverted should feel that they have the sins of another year to account for at the bar of eternal justice. What sins of unbelief, of ingratitude, of impitence, of blasphemy, of dissipation, and of lust, have been written by the recording angel. Fellow sinner, the disclosure must be made, the judgment set, and the books opened. How will those escape who neglect the great salvation? Now is the accepted time. Turn ye, turn ye, why will ye die?

Words of Commendation.

Our numerous correspondents speak in the most encouraging style of the reception of our specimen copy.

Rev. William Chipman, of Pleasant Valley, N. S., under date of the 11th December, says:

On the 9th inst. I received your specimen copy of the Christian Visitor for 1863, for which I thank you. I have read it through with much care and interest, and now say, with much pleasure, that in my estimation, it bids fair for extensive usefulness, and therefore ought, in justice to yourself, in such a laborious and responsible undertaking, to be fully patronized by the Baptist denomination, especially in New Brunswick.

I may further add, that the size and form of the specimen copy is highly respectable, and fully justifies you in placing its price at two dollars per annum. May the Lord be pleased to smile upon your undertaking, and so cheer your heart, that at the close of 1863, you may be thereby encouraged to continue this important work.

Yours truly, WILLIAM CHIPMAN.

Most highly do we value the testimony of our venerable brother Chipman. He was the friend and counsellor of our widowed mother; the instructor and guide of our early religious life; our companion in travel, and fellow laborer in the Gospel during the first years of our ministerial work; and the more we have known of him, the more profound has been our veneration for his character as a faithful and devoted servant of the most high God.

Rev. John Hughes, of Hillsboro', under date of 17th instant, writes as follows:—

MY DEAR BROTHER BILL—I received the first number of the new series of the Christian Visitor, and have given it a thorough and careful reading. I am much pleased with its appearance and matter. As for its price, I am satisfied that it cannot be published at less than two dollars per annum in advance, unless you had from three to four thousand subscribers, and even then no Baptist should begrudge two dollars a year for a paper that is so worthy of being our denominational organ.

Yours in the best of bonds, JOHN T. HUGHES.

Our valued Brother G. E. Day of Sheffield, under date of the 15th instant, thus writes:—

I am very much pleased with the appearance of the specimen copy of the new series of the Visitor. It is a credit to the denomination, and compares favorably with any religious newspaper in British North America. I really hope the denomination will rally to its support.

Douglas Harbour, Dec. 15, 1862.

MA. EDITOR—Your new series of the Christian

Visitor is highly appreciated by all in this section. Some, however, say they are not able to take it; but even those who thus plead poverty can manage to expend six dollars a year in the use of tobacco. Would it not be for their own personal benefit, and greatly for the intellectual and religious advantage of their families if they would expend two dollars out of the six for FIFTY TWO COPIES of the Christian Visitor? Let them answer. "A word to the wise is sufficient."

A SUBSCRIBER.

The Closing Number.

The present issue closes the fifteenth volume of the Christian Visitor. In the days of the lamented Very, and largely through his means, it was brought into existence. In its childhood it was cradled in a tempest, and since that time it has passed through many a storm, and fought many a hard battle; but it still lives, and, we believe, has a large place in the affections and confidence of the people of this country, old and young.

A letter just received from Rev. W. S. Howe, informs us that he has removed to Veazie, Maine, about four miles from Bangor, where he has a large field, kind friends, and a good Church. He wishes to be remembered to his old friends and brethren in the Provinces, and hopes, at some future day, to return to his native land.

It is immensely important that we hear from our ministers and agents as soon as possible, regarding the number required for our next issue. Now is the time to fill up the list for the year. We have not travelling agents in the field, and therefore must leave the matter wholly in the hands of our friends in the respective districts.

We send this week's issue to all new subscribers for the new series.

Many thanks to Rev. W. Coleman for fourteen new subscribers, with payment in advance.

Rev. J. C. Blakney is securing a good paying list for the Visitor in Carleton. His wish is to place a copy of the paper in every family belonging to his Church and congregation. We trust this desire will be gratified in due time. Many thanks for his efforts.

Rev. E. C. Cady is still increasing his Visitor list in Portland. We hope to make the new series so interesting, that not only brother Cady, but every man who takes the paper, will become an earnest advocate for its extension.

Our next issue will be an extra sheet on Thursday, the 1st January. The specimen copy, it will be remembered, is dated Thursday, the 1st January. We have adopted this method to prevent confusion, and to do justice, as far as possible, to all concerned.

A Charity Sermon will be preached in Brussels Street Baptist Church on Christmas evening (Thursday) next, commencing at 6 o'clock. At the close a collection will be taken up for the poor. The public are invited to attend. Seats free on the occasion.

The annual Charity Sermon in Germain St. Baptist Church will be preached on New Year's evening (D. V.), by Rev. Henry Vaughn, A. M. Service will commence at half past 7 P. M. Seats free. The public are respectfully invited to attend. A collection at the close for the poor.

Remember, the future success of the Visitor depends, under God, upon the energetic action of our Ministers in its favor, and the prompt payment of its subscribers.

We regret to say that our specimen copy is exhausted, and therefore we can only supply subscribers to the new series with this week's issue. It is the best we can do.

The Visitor feels much pleasure in greeting its numerous readers with the compliments of the season. May happiness, peace and prosperity attend them all—socially and religiously—for this world and the world to come.

Educational.

The following was the order of the exercises at the Baptist Seminary, on Thursday, 18th December:

- Music—"Isle of beauty, fare thee well." The Ancient Britons—An Essay. Ebenezer England. The old man and the mossy stone. G. Steadman. Tea Kettle Concert. B. Harvey. The Battle, from the German of Schiller. W. Armstrong. The Battle of Blenheim. John Sparden. The Soldier of Bingen. C. Goodspeed.

- Music—"Rule Britannia." Destruction of Jerusalem. Albert McLeod. Bernardo and King Alphonso. James Wallace. Ode to a departed child. W. Smith. The wreck of the Hesperus. W. Armstrong. Donatist of Pombal. Arthur Freese. The Prince's departure from Portland. E. Phillips. Ode to the Queen. Elias England.

- Music—"Away with melancholy." The charms of Home—original. Dorothea Estabrooks. Casablanca. William Biggs. The fractious Man. A. Yerxa and G. Corrie. What is Life—Longfellow. W. Armstrong. Description of Byron—(Pollock). Joseph Gill.

- Music—"Over the mountain wave." Merry Christmas—original. Mary Russell. Death of DeBoune. James Armstrong. The shooting of young ideas. G. Steadman and J. Wallace. Contentment the Elixir of life—original. C. Goodspeed. Columbia's Distress—original. Mary A. Sewell.

Dr. Hurd and Rev. J. England moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Weeks and choir. The Principal distributed the certificates to those who had merited them, and the proceedings terminated with the national anthem.

It was announced that the first term, 1863, will open on Monday, 5th January.

The above exercises, which were very interesting indeed, and reflected much credit on the teachers, as well as the lads who took part in them, were performed in the presence of a very large and respectable audience. The room was densely crowded—many remained standing during the whole of the exercises, and a considerable number left, being unable to gain admittance.

An appropriate and earnest address was delivered by the Principal, which showed an extensive acquaintance with the habits and disposition of youth, and that his long experience in the art of teaching has given him great advantage in the important and responsible sphere to which he has devoted his life.

The interest was admirably sustained throughout the exercises, which occupied about three hours. All seemed highly gratified with what they saw and heard. It is hoped that a new interest may be awakened in behalf of the Institution throughout the Province, and that the respected Principal may receive something like the encouragement he requires, and richly deserves.

ONE PRESENT.

Fredericton, Dec. 22, 1862.

School Examinations.

The High School of this City, under the direction of Mr. Hartt, passed an excellent examination on Friday, the 19th inst. The male and female departments of the school number between seventy and eighty pupils. Mr. Hartt's mode of instruction is of the most modern type, and is distinguished for its thoroughness. His long experience in teaching the young, admirably qualify him for the important post he occupies.

Mrs. Hunt's Seminary for young ladies, in Peters street, is in a flourishing state, and is adapted to exert a most healthful influence over the pupils committed to her care. On Friday evening last, the parents of the young ladies, and other friends, had the privilege of witnessing the progress of the pupils in recitations, conversations, and calisthenic exercises. Mrs. Hunt combines the culture of the physical faculties, with the improvement of the mind. This is highly important to a proper development of bodily and mental vigor. The performances were very satisfactory to the visitors in attendance.

Miss Estey teaches a very excellent school in the brick house on the corner of Waterloo and Peters streets. The examination of her scholars came off on Tuesday last, and reflected much credit upon the capabilities of the teacher, and the assiduity and application of her pupils.

For the Christian Visitor.

MR. EDITOR—Will you oblige me by inserting the following in your paper, for the benefit of the common cause of true religion.

DAILY PRAYER MEETINGS.

"Pray without ceasing."

The period of the year is approaching when it is customary to hold a week's Religious Services for prayer and exhortation; and as I have witnessed many blessed seasons of refreshing attending daily prayer meetings, I have thought that similar exercises might be accompanied with a great blessing in St. John, if continued not only for one week, but throughout the year. I had the privilege of organizing such a meeting in Halifax, three years ago, which has been sustained to this period without intermission. One was also organized in Charlottetown, P. E. I., which was attended with much spiritual influence; an impulse was given to the cause of religion which communicated itself to all classes and denominations, and the interest manifested in Halifax was truly surprising. The account of the origin of these prayer meetings may be interesting. They commenced in New York five years ago, at the Fulton Street Dutch Reformed Church. A brother Lammier, member of that body of Christians, felt moved in his heart to commence a daily meeting for prayer. Due notice was given, but as there was not much faith in the movement, only five persons were present at the first meeting. For the first half hour the good man was alone, but he continued in prayer; another was heard coming up the long flight of stairs leading to the vestry—then another and another solitary man, until at the close of the meeting five praying men were there. Three months after that day, four thousand were accustomed to meet in Jayne's Hall, Philadelphia, embracing all classes of Christians. New York was filled with the praying element, and such was the extent of the movement, that daily prayer meetings existed from Maine to New Orleans, and it was supposed that half a million of persons joined in their respective churches during this period. An account of the way in which they are conducted may be interesting. They are sustained under the auspices of the Church of Christ, represented by different religious bodies. They last only one hour. The prayers are short, only five minutes are allowed for this exercise; the singing is simple and animating. The chairman, who is a layman, is allowed ten minutes to open the meeting. Every Monday morning a clergyman leads the devotions. Applications for prayer are received from every part of the world. Would not such a meeting, sustained by the Church through all her sections, be a great blessing to this city, meeting from day to day where Christian men and women would meet for prayer. I have confidence in all meetings purely religious which are sustained by the Church of God; any other organization, however useful, does not supply her place, and all meetings purely religious should emanate from that source, and that source alone.

Yours in Christ Jesus, WM. HALL.

Notice.

The next yearly meeting of Albert and Westmorland Counties will be held with the Baptist Church in Hopewell, at the Hill meeting house, commencing on Thursday evening, at 6 o'clock, January 1, 1863.

JOHN H. HUGHES.

Secular Department.

ENGLISH AND CONTINENTAL.

Mr. Gladstone, in a letter to Professor Newman denies that he has expressed any sympathy with the Southern cause, or passed an eulogium on Jeff Davis. He thinks it out of his province to praise or blame in such a complicated question, and claims to be a much better friend to the Northern Americans than those who encourage them to persevere in a hopeless and destructive enterprise.

Interesting and very encouraging statements have been submitted to the Atlantic Telegraph Company by Capt. Doskyns, who took soundings on the steamer Porcupine, and from Mr. Varley, the electrician.

The English Government has ordered to be delivered as soon as possible 1200 miles of cable to complete the telegraphic connection with India.

The French Government has concluded contracts for the supply of the army in Mexico for two years. A prolonged occupation is inferred from this.

The cotton famine and distress in France were increasing in severity.

There is a ministerial crisis at Turin. Ratazzi has resigned; Signor Parolini tried to form a new ministry, but had not succeeded up to the latest date.

The recent revolution in Greece is one of the most remarkable recorded in history. It was begun, carried on, and completed almost without bloodshed. A special interest is taken in the event by the effort which is now being made by the Greeks to elect Prince Alfred as their King.

On the 22d of October last, however, whilst the King and Queen were making a voyage of pleasure along the southern coast of the kingdom, the revolution broke out at Bonizza, away in the northwest, and soon spread far and wide.

When the steamer arrived at the Piræus with their "Majesties" the people would not suffer them to land. The vessel then went up to a part in the Island of Salamis, near by, and then the men on board deranged the machinery to such a degree that the English steamer the "Scylla" had to be engaged to take their "Majesties" to Venice, whence they went on their way to Munich.

In this revolution the students and professors of the university, of the gymnasium at Athens, of the naval school at the Piræus took a very prominent part. The professors of the University have given up the fourth part of their salaries to aid the government in this critical moment. The professors and editors are directing, in a great degree, the popular mind.

An election of members for the Convention which is to modify the Constitution and choose a monarch, if it shall be decided to have a monarchy and not a republic, has been ordered for the four days from the 6th to the 10th of this month of December. It is possible that Prince Alfred, the second son of Queen Victoria, may be elected. But we shall know in a few weeks. Take it all in all, this revolution in Greece has, thus far, been a sort of model revolution. We sincerely hope that this event may conduce greatly to the welfare and happiness of this little kingdom of a million and a quarter of people, so dear to the heart of the scholar and the Christian.

THE SEAT OF WAR.

Knowing the interest which our readers feel in the progress of the war, we occupy our columns, to the exclusion of other matter, with full intelligence from the scene of conflict, as furnished by correspondence from the battle field to the American press. The suffering and carnage on both sides are sufficient to awaken in all hearts an anxious desire that this awful conflict may be brought to a speedy close.

The best account of the engagement is given by a correspondent of the New York Times, and reads thus:—

Immediately behind the town of Fredericksburg, the land forms a plateau, or smooth field, running back for about a third of a mile. It then rises for forty or fifty yards, forming a ridge of ground, which runs along to the left for about a quarter of a mile, where it abuts at Hazel Dell, a ravine formed by the Hazel River, which empties into the Rappahannock, west of the town. At the foot of the ridge runs the telegraph road, flanked by a stone wall. This eminence was studded with rebel batteries. To the right, along up the river, the ridge prolongs itself to opposite Falmouth, and beyond; and here, too, batteries were planted on every advantageous position. Back of the first ridge, is another plateau, and then a second terrace of wooded hills, where a second line of fortifications were placed. Between the rear of the town and the first ridge, a canal runs right and left, and empties into the river some distance above Falmouth.

This plain, of a third of a mile deep, between the suburbs of Fredericksburg and the first ridge of hills, was the theatre of operations of the Right Grand Division of the army, under Major General Sumner. On this narrow theatre, our brave troops surged and swept, forward and backward, in the tide of battle, for ten long hours.

A word now on the scene of operations of the Left Grand Division.

From the lower part of the town the ridge on which it is built, slopes abruptly down to a comparatively level or undulating country, which stretches for some miles down the Rappahannock. About a couple of miles back of the river, it rises into a wooded slope. At a point a mile and a half below Fredericksburg, two pontoons had been thrown across on Thursday morning; and on Friday, the whole of the Left Grand Division, under the command of Major General Franklin, had marched over the river. Daylight on Saturday found the force drawn up in battle array on this broad plain skirting the Rappahannock.

The line of battle, as it appeared in the morning, was as follows:—The Sixth Army Corps, under Gen. Smith (Franklin's old force), on the right, composed of three divisions, namely—General Newton, on extreme right and rear; General Burke, on the centre, and General Howe, on the left.

The First Army Corps, General Reynolds', extending still further to the left, drawn up in the following order: General Gibbons' Division on the right, connecting with General Howe's; General Meade's, centre, and General Doubleday, left, fronting to the southward, and resting on the river. This constituted the order in which our forces were drawn up, there being three distinct lines of battle.

Opposite to our right, under Gen. Sumner, was the rebel left, under command of Gen. Longstreet. Opposed to our left, under Gen. Franklin, was the rebel right, under Gen. Jackson. Gen. Lee, Generalissimo of the Southern army, was in person in command of the Confederate forces during the whole day.

The plan of Gen. Burnside, agreed upon in Council of War, was to endeavor to pierce the rebel centre. Early on the morning of Saturday, the order was given that Sumner's left, composed of the Ninth Army Corps, under command of Gen. Wilcox, should be extended until it reached Franklin's right, thus forming a continuous line of battle along the river for two miles, the left resting on the river at the point where the lower pontoons cross, and the right on Fredericksburg. The left wing, comprising the whole of Franklin's command (fifty thousand men), should then be swung round, as on a pivot formed by Sumner's extreme right, resting on Fredericksburg. If successful in this manoeuvre, Franklin would divide the rebel line, take possession of the railroad (the line of retreat), and come in on the flank of the rebel works, back of Fredericksburg. While this movement was being developed, a division was to be sent up from Gen. Sumner's command, by the plank road, to storm the ridge. If there should be any failure in this, it was hoped the co-operation of Franklin would presently make success certain. Hooker's corps was destined to act as a reserve.

The dawn of Saturday found the forces distributed as thus indicated. It was a fine Virginia morning—mild and balmy as a September day, though the mist and fog of a late Indian summer hung over the field of battle. About 8 o'clock, the Phillips House (the headquarters of Gen. Sumner, about a mile from the river on the north side, and where, by the kind hospitality of the large-hearted old soldier, I had been staying for some time during a spell of camp-fever) was the scene of a numerous assemblage of officers. Gen. Burnside and Gen. Hooker joined Gen. Sumner here, and the balcony and grounds in front were presently filled with officers and Aides.

It was with alarm and pain I found a general want of confidence and gloomy forebodings among some men whose sound judgment I had learned to trust. The plan of attacking the rebel stronghold directly in front would, it was feared, prove a most hazardous enterprise, and one of which there is no successful example in military history. It was doubted that the co-operation of the right and left, according to the programme, would admit of practical executions, and things were generally at loose ends. "The chess-board," said Napoleon at Wagram, "is dreadfully confused; there is but I that see through it." We all felt that the first part of the remark was applicable to our own case. But did we all feel equally confident that there was in our case an "I" that saw through it?

About 11 o'clock I crossed the Rappahannock on the upper pontoon bridge, and passed through the town of Fredericksburg, along the main street. At this time brisk skirmishing was going on in the outskirts of the town, the rebel sharpshooters stubbornly contesting every inch of the ground as our skirmishers

advanced, Carlisle, or Malpstreet, was occupied by Gen. Kimball's, Gen. Ferrero's, and Gen. Zook's Brigades, with portions of Hancock's Division; the latter, with his artillery, lined the bank of the river in the neighborhood of the middle crossing, which is just below the railroad bridge. Other troops from the corps of Gens. Wilcox and Couch occupied the other streets of the town nearer the line of advance. Our batteries replied across the river, covering the advance of our forces.

In the meantime Franklin had been for a couple of hours briskly engaged with the enemy on the left. The force in Fredericksburg had driven the rebels out of the suburbs of the town, and rested their column on the canal. The time had now come to attempt an advance on the rebel position.

The orders were to move rapidly; charge up the hill, and take the batteries at the point of the bayonet. Orders easy to give, but ah! how hard of execution!

Look at the position to be stormed. There is a bare plateau of a third of a mile, which the storming party will have to cross. In doing so they will be exposed to the fire, first, of the enemy's sharpshooters, posted behind a stone wall running along the base of the ridge—a double row of rifle-pits on the rise of the crest—the heavy batteries behind the strong field works that stand the top of the hill—of a powerful infantry force now lying concealed behind these—a plunging fire from the batteries on the lower range—of a double enfilading fire from "cannon to the right of them, cannon to the left of them." Sebastopol was not half as strong.

The line of battle was formed by Couch's corps (the Second), composed of the Divisions of French, Hancock, and Howard, the left of the line abutting on Sturgis' Division of Wilcox's Corps (the Ninth.) The first advanced was French's, composed of the brigades of Kimball, Morris, Weber, supported by Hancock's Division, consisting of the Brigades of Caldwell, Zook, and Meagher.

Forming his men under cover of a small knoll in the rear of the town, skirmishers were deployed to the left toward Hazel Dell; Sturgis, supporting at the same time, moved up, and rested on a point on the railroad.

The moment they exposed themselves on the railroad, forth burst the deadly hail. From the rifle-pits came the murderously aimed missiles; from the batteries, tier above tier, on the terraces, shot planes of fire; from the enfilading cannon, distributed on the arc of a circle two miles in extent, came cross showers of shot and shell.

Imagine, if you can, for my resources are unequal to the task of telling you, the situation of that gallant but doomed division.

Across the plain for a while they swept under this fatal fire. They were literally mowed down. The bursting shells made great gaps in their ranks; but these are presently filled by the "closing up" of the line. For fifteen immortal minutes at least they remain under this fiery surge. Onward they press, though their ranks grow fearfully thin. They have passed over a greater part of the interval and have almost reached the base of the hill, when brigade after brigade of rebels rise up on the crest and pour in fresh volleys of musketry at short range. To those who, through the glass, looked on, it was a perilous sight indeed. Flesh and blood could not endure it. They fell back shattered and broken, amid shouts and yells from the enemy.

Gen. French's Division went into the fight 6000 strong; late at night he told me he could count but fifteen hundred!

The fire of the rebel batteries was not the only thing from which our men had to suffer. Thinking to silence the enemy's guns, our batteries planted on the bluff, on the north side of the river, embracing the 4½ siege guns, some batteries of 20-pounder Parrotts, and the artillery of the left and centre, opened fire. The intervening space is between twenty-seven hundred and three thousand yards—too great a distance to calculate on the projectiles carrying with accuracy—particularly contractors' ammunition. If shell should fall short, or take an oblique direction, and explode among our troops, it was difficult to see how a panic could be prevented. Promptly seeing this danger, Gen. Hunt, Chief of Artillery, instantly despatched orders to cease from firing. It was well he did so, for immediately afterward an Aide came galloping from Gen. Couch, from the other side of the river, begging that our batteries should cease, as they were actually firing into his command!

While the broken column retires to its original position in the outskirts of the town, to re-form for a new encounter, let us see what goes on to the left.

At daylight, the forces comprising the left Grand Division of the army appeared drawn up in battle array on the broad plain below Fredericksburg and skirting the Rappahannock.

At early morning the Thirtieth Massachusetts, Pennsylvania Bucktails, and two or three other regiments, were deployed in front as skirmishers, between whom and the rebel skirmishers considerable firing took place. No sooner, however, had the heavy mist cleared away, than Capt. Hall's Battery (Second Maine), planted at the right of Gibbons' Division, opened fire upon the rebels. Artillery firing now became general along the whole line, which was returned by the rebels. Heavy siege guns in our rear, the First Maryland, First Massachusetts Batteries, and Battery D Fifth Artillery, on the right; Capt. Ransom's, and Capt. Walker's in front, and Cowan's New York, and Lieut. Harn's Third New York Independent on the left, and other batteries, kept up a terrific fire on the rebels. Orders now came to advance, and about 9 o'clock Gibbons' and Meade's Divisions commenced moving slowly forward.

Gen. Meade's command, consisting of the Pennsylvania Reserves, arranged in the following order: First Brigade, embracing the First, Second, one Hundred and Twenty-first, and Sixth Regiments at the left; Second Brigade—Third, Fourth, Seventh and Eighth, centre; and Third Brigade (Jackson's), Fifth, Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth, at the right.

The advance resulted in almost straightening our lines, which were before somewhat of a crescent.

Considerable resistance was met with, yet the forces continued to move forward, until at mid-day the line of battle was three-quarters of a mile in advance of where it had been at the outset. But now came the reserve fire of the enemy with terrific force. Shot, shell and canister were poured into our men from various points, while the rebel infantry appearing, fired with rapidity. Still they continued to press on. Several batteries moved forward at the same time. As our troops saw the enemy giving way, cheer after cheer rent the air.

About 1 o'clock, Gen. Meade ordered a charge, which was well executed—the men pressing on the edge of the very crest, and skillfully penetrating by a movement on the flank, an opening which happened, to occur between the Division of A. P. Hill and Early's Brigade, captured several hundred prisoners belonging to the Sixty-first Georgia and Thirty-first North Carolina.

While the fight was progressing at this point, the enemy sent four heavy columns down on our left, near the river. They were handsomely repulsed and driven back, however, by Gen. Doubleday's Division, Cowan's New York and Lieut. Harn's Fourth Artillery, and Third New York Batteries, aiding very materially in the discomfiture of the enemy. Owing to the lack of reinforcements, Gen. Meade's command was obliged to fall back a quarter of a mile, where they remained—three-quarters of a mile beyond the ground first occupied.

Very heavy musketry firing continued along the line, neither side gaining any material advantage. About 1½ o'clock the first line of battle in Gen. Gibbons' Division was relieved by the second, when Tower's Brigade, now commanded by Col. Root, charged over an open field beyond the railroad, and