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will be discontinued when the subscription expires.
D. B. SNOW, Editor.

FORT PILLON MASSACRE

REPORT.
The Joint Committee on the Conduct and
Expenditures of the War in which was
referred the resolution of Congress instruct-
ing them to investigate the late massacre
at Fort Pillow, designated two members
of the committee—Messrs. Wade and
Goode—to proceed forthwith to such places
as they might deem necessary and take testi-
mony. That sub-committee having
discharged that duty, returned to this
city, and submitted to the joint committee
a report with accompanying paper
and testimony. The report was read
and adopted by the committee, whose
chairman was instructed to submit the
same with the testimony, to the Senate
and Mr. Goode to the House, and ask that
the same be printed.

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE.
Messrs. Wade and Goode, the sub-com-
mittee appointed by the Joint Committee
on the Conduct and Expenditures of the
War, with instructions to proceed to such
places as they might deem necessary for
the purpose of taking testimony in regard to
the massacre at Fort Pillow, submitted the
following report to the joint committee, to-
gether with the accompanying testimony
and papers:

In obedience to the instructions of this
joint committee adopted on the 18th ultimo,
your committee left Washington on the
morning of the 19th, taking with them a
stenographer of this committee, Mr. Illinois;
Columbus, Kentucky; and Fort Pillow and
Memphis, Tennessee; at each of which
places they proceeded to take testimony.
Although your committee were instructed
to inquire only in reference to the attack,
capture, and massacre of Fort Pillow, they
have deemed it proper to take testimony
in reference to the operations of
Forrest and his command immediately pre-
ceding and subsequent to that horrible
transaction. It will appear from the testi-
mony thus taken that the atrocities com-
mitted at Fort Pillow were not the result of
passions excited by the heat of conflict, but
were the result of a policy deliberately de-
vised upon and unhesitatingly announced.
Even if the uncertainty of the fate of those
officers and men belonging to colored regiments
who have heretofore been taken pris-
oners by the rebels has failed to convince
the authorities of our government of this
fact, the testimony herewith submitted
will convince even the most skeptical that
it is the intention of the rebel authorities
not to recognize the officers and men of our
colored regiments as entitled to the treat-
ment accorded by all civilized nations to
prisoners of war. The declarations of For-
rest and his officers, both before and after
the capture of Fort Pillow, as testified to
by such of our men as have escaped after
being taken by him, the threats contained
in the various demands for surrender made
at Paducah, Columbus, and other places;
the renewal of the massacre the morning
after the capture of Fort Pillow; the state-
ments made by the rebel officers to the
officers of our gunboats who received the
few survivors at Fort Pillow—all this proves
most conclusively the policy they have de-
termined to adopt.

The first operation of any importance
was the attack upon Union City, Tennessee,
by a portion of Forrest's command. The
attack was made on the 24th of March.
The post was occupied by a force of about
500 men under Colonel Hawkins, of the 7th
Tennessee Cavalry. The attacking
force was superior in numbers, but was re-
pulsed several times by our forces. For
the particulars of the attack, and the cir-
cumstances attending the surrender, your
committee would refer to the testimony
herewith submitted. They would state,
however, that the surrender was opposed
by nearly if not quite all the officers of
Colonel Hawkins's command. Your com-
mittee think that the circumstances con-
nected with the surrender are such that
they demand the most searching investiga-
tion by the military authorities, as, at the
time of the surrender, but one man on our
side had been injured.

On the 25th of March, the enemy under
the rebel Generals Forrest, Buford, Harris
and Thompson, estimated at over 6,000
men, made an attack on Paducah, Ken-
tucky, which post was occupied by Colonel
S. G. Hicks, 40th Illinois regiment, with
555 men. Our forces retired into Fort An-
derson and there made their stand—An-
derson being a small island in the river—
successfully repelling the attacks of the enemy.
Failing to make any impression upon our
forces, Forrest then demanded an uncondi-
tional surrender, closing his communication
to Colonel Hicks in these words: "If you
surrender you shall be treated as prisoners
of war, but if I have to storm your works
you may expect no quarter." This demand
and threat was met by a refusal on the part
of Colonel Hicks to surrender, he stating
that he had been placed there by his gov-
ernment to defend that post, and he should
do so. The rebels made three other assaults
that same day, but were repulsed with heavy
loss on both sides. The rebel General Thomp-
son was killed in the last assault. The
enemy retired the next day, having suffered
a loss estimated at three hundred killed,
and from 1,000 to 1,200 wounded. The
loss on our side was 14 killed and 46 wound-
ed.

The operations of the enemy at Paducah
were characterized by the same bad faith
and treachery that seem to have be-
come the settled policy of Forrest and his
command. The flag of truce was taken ad-
vantage of there, as elsewhere, to secure dis-
advantageous positions which the rebels were
unable to obtain by fair and honorable means;
and also to afford opportunities for plundering
private stores as well as government property.
At Paducah the rebels were guilty
of acts more cowardly, if possible, than
any they have practised elsewhere. When
the attack was made the officers of the fort
and the gunboats advised the women and
children to go down to the river for the
purpose of being taken across out of danger.
As they were leaving the town for that
purpose, the rebel sharpshooters mingled
with them, and, shielded by their presence,
advanced and fired upon the gunboats.
Our forces could not return the fire with-
out endangering the lives of the women and
children. The rebels also placed women in
front of their lines as they moved on the
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while the flag of truce was at the fort, in-
order to compel our men to withhold their
fire, out of regard for the lives of the wom-
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attack and the treacherous and cowardly
practices of the rebels there, your committee
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On the 13th of April, the day after the
capture of Fort Pillow, the rebel General
Buford appeared before Columbus, Ken-
tucky, and demanded its unconditional sur-
render. He coupled with that demand a
threat that if the place was not surren-
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it, "no quarter should be shown to the
negro troops." To this Colonel Lawrence,
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and defend the place, and should do so.
No attack was made, but the enemy re-
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to seize some horses of Union citizens which
had been brought in there for security.

It was at Fort Pillow, however, that the
brutality and cruelty of the rebels were
most fearfully exhibited. The garrison
there, according to the last return received
at headquarters, amounted to 19 officers
and 523 enlisted men, of whom 262 were
colored troops, comprising one battalion of
the 6th United States heavy artillery, (for-
merly called the 1st Alabama artillery,) of
colored troops, under command of Major
L. F. Booth, one section of the 2nd United
States light artillery, colored, and one bat-
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commanded by Major W. F. Bradford. Major
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On Tuesday, the 12th of April, (the an-
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were driven in just before sunrise, that be-
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to attack that place. Fighting soon be-
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and other purposes. Within the fort tents
had been erected, with board floors for the
use of the colored troops. There were six
pieces of artillery in the fort, consisting of
two 6 pounders, two 12 pound howitzers,
and two 10 pounder Parrotts.

The rebels continued their attack, but up
to two or three o'clock in the afternoon,
they had not gained any decisive success.
Our troops, both white and black, fought
most bravely, and were in good spirits.
The brave No. 7 (New Era) Captain
Marshall, took part in the conflict, shooting
the enemy as opportunity offered. Signals
had been agreed upon by which the officers
in the fort could indicate where the runs
of the boat could be most effectively. There
being but one gunboat there, no permanent
impression appears to have been produced
upon the enemy; for as they were shelled
out of one ravine, they would make their
appearance in the other. They would
thus appear and retire, as the gunboat
moved from one point to the other. About
one o'clock the fire on both sides slackened
somewhat, and the gunboat moved out into
the river to cool and clean its guns, having
fired 282 rounds of shell and grape and can-
ister, which nearly exhausted its supply of
ammunition.

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