THE MARYLAND NEWS SHEET

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WAR AND OTHER NEWS.

In the House of Representatives the entire session was passed in the discussion of matters of no special interest to the general public,

In the Senate of the United States, at the expiration of the morning hour, the debate on the confiscation bill was resumed.

The news from all the chief points of military operations still continues to be meagre in the extreme. The only further particulars in regard to the occupation of New Orleans are that Commodore Farragut has proposed terms to the Mayor of that city, which the latter has consented to accept. At the last accounts, the city was held by a battalion of marines from the squadron, pending the arrival of Butler's troops, which were disembarking from Lake Ponchartrain.

We also learn that Fort Macon surrendered conditionally to General Burnside, on Friday evening last, and that Colonel White and one hundred and fifty men, who composed the garrison of the fort, were released on parole. The loss on the part of the Confederates, during the bombardment, is estimated at seven killed and a great many wounded. There was a rumor at Norfolk that Capt. McIntosh, "the supposed Commander of the Louisiana at New Orleans," was badly wounded, and that Captain Thomas Huger, "the supposed Commander of the McCrea," was wounded dangerously. Neither of these officers could have been on board of the vessels mentioned at the time they were wounded—if they are wounded at all—as it is generally understood that both the Louisiana and McCrea are at or near Fort Pillow on the upper Mississippi.

From Port Royal we have an account of a remarkable movement which has been set on foot by General Hunter, and—if the Washington correspondent of the New York *Tribune* is to be believed—with the full sanction of the War Department. Under instructions from General Hunter, all the male blacks on Hilton Head Island have been convened for the purpose of offering them the means and opportunity of military organization. One hundred and fifty of them were enrolled in the course of a few days, embracing all the able-bodied negroes on that Island. They are to be furnished with arms and equipments; and, according to an editorial article in the New York *Times*, the design is that they shall do garrison duty, not only on the Islands off the Southern coast, but also in the various Southern cities which are either already in possession of, or may yet be taken by the Federal troops. In brief, the Government has decided to arm and equip the fugitive blacks of the South, who are to be furnished with white officers, and instructed forthwith in the military art. The Washington *Republican* states that "arms and equipments are undoubtedly on their way to Port Royal for the use of the 'contrabands,'" and that General Hunter will continue to "reinforce himself with the loyal slaves flocking to the standard of the stars and stripes." We give these facts in the language of the journals we have mentioned, and without gloss or comment.

"There is every reason to believe," says the Washington *Star* of yesterday, "that General McDowell has completed his pontoon bridge over the Rappahannock" and is now occupying Fredericksburg.

The latest news from Pittsburg Landing was received at the War Department yesterday. It is said, somewhat vaguely, to relate "wholly to details of the affairs of the army" at that point, and is entirely silent concerning the current rumors in regard to the evacuation of Corinth by the Confederates. We gather, however, from the special correspondent of the New York *Tribune*, whose letter is dated April 23d, that up to that time reinforcements had been received by General Halleck sufficient to form another *corps d'armee*, and that "the enemy had advanced his pickets two miles nearer to our lines." From this movement it was inferred by many that Beauregard was seeking to cover his retreat; but others believed that he would accept battle at or near Corinth. A general prevalence of diarrhœa is reported through all the divisions of the Federal army, but not in a malignant form. Another correspondent, writing from Pittsburg Landing five days later, states that the Federal pickets were so near Corinth that they could hear the whistle of the locomotive. The troops under Beauregard, whose terms of service had expired, are said to have re-enlisted to a man, and reinforcements were arriving from all parts of the South.

Three thousand Confederates had marched upon Tuscumbia, which was held by Colonel Turchin, who fell back upon Huntsville; but "before he retired he laid the town in ashes."

The most important intelligence relative to matters military and non-military in Baltimore comes to us now by way of New York. The staple of it consists of a happy blending of fact and fiction; with the fiction, however, predominating. In the first place, then, we learn from the correspondent of the New York *Post* that the State of Maryland "is in the market for a loan;" that she now wants a quarter of a million of dollars; that the whole loan authorized is not to exceed two and a-half millions of dollars, but that only one-half of this sum is to be negotiated in open market. "As the prospect," says the writer, "is, that Maryland will speedily become a free State, here is a good chance for the bursting chests of your—New York—capitalists." We have also from the same source an intimation that "Gov. Bradford will convene an extra session of the Legislature at an early day"—his object being to obtain authority to call a Constitutional Convention, "with a view to the question of emancipation in this State." As Governor Bradford took strong ground in his inaugural in opposition to any measures on the part of the Federal Government which might affect the question of slavery in this State, he must have undergone a radical change in his opinions if he now designs to call the Legislature together for the purpose specified. Lastly, we are told that General Dix is to be relieved from the charge of this military department, and assigned to active service in the field; and that Colonel Morris, now commanding at Fort McHenry, is to succeed General Dix, and is to "send a thrill of terror through the flesh of all disloyal persons," just as he sent Judge Giles "howling" last spring. Is it not wonderful how much some persons know?

The intelligence from Yorktown indicates that the great struggle between the opposing armies is at length about to commence. The cannonading yesterday was said to have been begun by the Confederates from the heights of Yorktown, and was replied to by the Federal battery of 200-pounder Parrott guns.

DEATH OF MR. JAMES WILCOX JENKINS.—Information has been received from Richmond that James Wilcox Jenkins, son of Edward Jenkins, Esq., of this city, was killed about the 10th day of April in a skirmish near Yorktown. According to the brief obituary in the *Catholic Mirror*, the Captain of his company reported that "he died gloriously, fighting bravely at his post." At the time of his death Mr. Jenkins was a subordinate officer in a Louisiana regiment. His body now lies buried at Williamsburg, the ancient capital of Colonial Virginia. Mr. Jenkins had filled several positions of honor and trust in the United States navy, and in the performance of the duties which were thus devolved upon him he was held in the highest esteem by superior officers under whom he served. Whilst with Commander Lynch, now of the Confederate navy, in a cruise of three years on the South American coast, Mr. Jenkins held the responsible post of purser, not then being of age. He subsequently filled other offices in a manner which won for himself the highest encomiums from those best qualified to judge of his merits. At the breaking out of the war, Mr. Jenkins was engaged in business in New Orleans, but immediately joined the Confederate army, and served with his company for a long time under General Bragg, at Pensacola. He was afterwards ordered to Yorktown and was present at the memorable skirmish in which Colonel Dreux fell, whose body he assisted in bearing from the field. Mr. Jenkins was a descendant of one of the earliest settlers of Maryland, and was only twenty-six years of age at the time of his death.

PARTHENIGITATORIAL.—The Front Street Theatre last night presented no diminution in the crowd of delighted spectators to witness the truly surprising feats of M. Herrmann. Those who design witnessing his present programme should not fail to secure seats for this afternoon or evening, as on Monday next he promises to produce an entire change of performance. The *matinee* this afternoon commences at half-past 2 o'clock, and the doors of the Theatre will be thrown open one hour previous. The evening performance will commence at 8 o'clock, as usual. The sale of reserved seats for Monday evening commences at McCaffrey's music store this morning.

The Boston ice dealers are already advertising for vessels to convey ice from that city to New Orleans.

LATEST NEWS.

TELEGRAMS.

From the Agent of the Associated Press.

FORT FOLTRESS MONROE

The Capture of Fort Macon—The Fall of New Orleans—General Butler Within a Few Miles of the City—Reported Capture of Wilmington, North Carolina

FORTRESS MONROE, May 1.—A flag of truce from Craney Island this afternoon brought down an English nobleman. Several newspapers also came to hand, giving particulars of the capture of Fort Macon and some additional particulars of the fall of New Orleans, together with other interesting items.

The Norfolk *Day Book* of this (Thursday) morning says that no telegraphic despatches were received last night.

THE SCARCITY OF PROVISIONS AT NORFOLK.

An order from Provost Marshal Parham prohibits all huckstering within the military district of Norfolk, and the privilege of selling poultry, game, fish, fruit, vegetables, &c., is restricted to those who raise or catch the same. Another order extends the privilege of bringing oysters to market from May 1st to June 1st, and allows butchers to buy pork!

THE SURRENDER OF FORT MACON.

The Wilmington (N. C.) *Journal* of Tuesday has the following in confirmation of the report of the fall of Fort Macon, which was telegraphed from here yesterday:

"We have just learned that the fire upon the fort was opened at a quarter before six o'clock on Friday morning, and the engagement between the fort and the Federal batteries was kept up till seven o'clock that evening, when the fort became untenable and surrendered, as stated above. All the guns on the side of the fort opposite to that attacked were dismounted, and all but three of the guns bearing upon the enemy's batteries were dismounted!

"The enemy's central battery of breaching guns was within 1,100 yards. The right and flanking batteries were more distant. It turns out that the report of fifteen of our men having been killed in a scout some days since against the enemy's pickets is untrue. One man only was even wounded, and not more killed until Friday last, the day of the attack."

From other accounts it is gathered that during the bombardment of Fort Macon seven Rebels were killed and a great many wounded. Colonel White and one hundred and fifty men were released on parole by Gen. Burnside.

THE MERRIMAC.

A Suffolk correspondent of the Petersburg *Express* (dated April 30) says: All were expecting to hear something from the Virginia (Merrimac) this morning, but the Norfolk *Day Book* has silent as the grave upon the subject. I forbear to report rumors.

What the rumors referred to in this paragraph are may possibly be inferred from the fact that "a rumor was taken from Norfolk to Petersburg yesterday that a very prominent naval officer had resigned his commission."

EXCITING RUM BY.

The Petersburg *Express* of to-day says that many rumors were in circulation yesterday, among them a report of the evacuation of Memphis and Corinth, and a report of the capture of Wilmington, North Carolina, by Gen. Burnside.

Breckinridge and Hindman have been appointed Major Generals, and Colonel W. A. Bradley, of Arkansas, a Brigadier General by the Rebel authorities.

FOOD PANIC IN RICHMOND.

The Richmond *Dispatch* of to-day says that the panic on the subject of a scarcity of food is one of the most causeless imaginable. The road from Danville to Greensborough is rapidly constructing, and will open North Carolina, Tennessee and even Georgia and South Carolina, for supplies to feed the whole State of Virginia.

How causeless the panic above alluded to may in part be inferred from the fact that an adjoining column of the same paper chronicles a sale of butter at $1.40 per pound in the city markets!

YANKEE AND DOMESTIC TRAITORS.

"Six Yankees and seven domestic traitors and one recusant Confederate soldier" arrived in Richmond yesterday. The former belonged to an Ohio regiment and were captured in Bath county, Va.

REBEL OFFICERS WOUNDED AT NEW ORLEANS.

Information was received in Norfolk yesterday that Captain McIntosh, the supposed commander of the gunboat Louisiana, at New Orleans, had been badly wounded. When or where was not stated.

From the same source it is learned that Captain Thomas Huger, supposed to be the commander of the McRae, was mortally wounded in the same engagement.

A SPY EXECUTED.

The Richmond *Dispatch* of yesterday records the execution, as a spy, on the 29th April, of Timothy Webster. Mrs. W., who was a resident with her husband, is still at Castle Godwin."

Webster is said to be the first spy yet executed by the Rebels. What if the Federal Government should commence hanging spys?

THE CAPTURE OF NEW ORLEANS.

There are no telegraphic despatches in any of the morning papers of to-day.

The following additional items regarding the fall of New Orleans are all that can be gleaned from the papers:

Commodore Farragut had proposed terms of capitulation to Mayor Monroe, of New Orleans, which the latter had accepted, and the city at last accounts was held by a battalion of United States marines from the squadron.

General Butler's forces were within a few miles of the city, having landed on Lake Ponchartrain.

AN INCORRECT REPORT.

A note from Captain Henry A. Gadsden, of the steamship Arago, informs your correspondent that there is no truth in the published communication, signed R. B. Crosby, in reference to an attempt of two boats' crews on that vessel to spike a battery on Sewall's Point a fortnight since. The gentlemen named as in charge of the boats, Messrs. Robinson and Beckett, are officers on board the Arago, but no such person is known on board as R. B. Crosby.

Additional Southern News—Gen. Prentiss and the Federal Prisoners Captured at Pittsburg Landing—Com. Hollins on his Way to Richmond—He is Amazed at the Fall of New Orleans.

NEW YORK, May 2.—A special despatch to the New York *Times*, from Fortress Monroe, dated yesterday, says that three or four Rebel boats had been seen off Sewall's Point, apparently engaged in placing buoys to mark the channel.

Gen. Prentiss and seven hundred Federal prisoners had arrived at Selma, Alabama. The officers would be sent to Tallsdega, and the privates to Montgomery.

Commodore Hollins passed through Columbia on Saturday en route for Richmond. He is said to be amazed at the fall of New Orleans. He stated that there were one hundred heavy guns in position between Fort Jackson and the city; that the Louisiana was ready, with numerous boarding parties organized to take the Federal vessels at all hazards, and that the gunboat Mississippi, though unfinished, could be brought into action.

The Rebel Gen. Gladden had died from wounds received at Shiloh.

FROM GEN. BURNSIDE'S EXPEDITION.

The Official Accounts of the Capture of Fort Macon—The Recent Affair near Elizabeth City.

FORTRESS MONROE, May 2—3 P. M.—The French steamer Gassendi arrived from Washington this afternoon.

The steamer Julia Farren arrived here from Newbern this morning, having left that place on Tuesday. She brings mails and official despatches from General Burnside. All the previously reported particulars of the capture of Fort Macon are confirmed. The fort surrendered on Friday evening, and all the stores and ammunition (the latter in large quantity) were captured. The fort was garrisoned immediately by the Union troops. Everything was quiet when the Julia Farren left, and there was no other news in that vicinity. Only one man was reported killed on our side during the bombardment. The enemy lost seven.

By the same arrival we have Union accounts of the light above Elizabeth City, as previously reported. General Reno was despatched by General Burnside, on the 17th ult., with five regiments and four pieces of artillery, as previously stated, to Elizabeth City, thence to move in the direction of Norfolk.

The special correspondent of the *Tribune* gives the following particulars:

General Reno landed at Elizabeth City and sent Colonel Hawkins, by a circuitous route, to get in front of the enemy, and followed with a part of the remaining forces. After marching twenty miles the enemy was found and entrenched with batteries in a position on the edge of a wood which commanded the approaches over open fields.

Col. Howard, of the Marine Artillery, in the advance, fired upon the enemy, and his pieces being put in position, an artillery duel for some three hours was kept up. Col. Hawkins' advance force got astray, and found themselves four miles in General Reno's rear. Gen. Reno sent his regiments to the right and left to outflank the enemy, the movement being finely executed, and with a prospect of bagging the whole Rebel force. When Hawkins came up, Gen. Reno ordered him to the right, but coming into the open field he charged on the enemy with the bayonet successfully in the clearing, and received the fire of both batteries and all the Rebel infantry. Col. Hawkins was wounded in the arm, and Adjutant Gadsden was killed.

A charge was then made by the other regiments on both flanks of the enemy and they were put to rout and retreated to the canal locks and thence to Norfolk. General Reno pronounces this one of the most brilliant affairs he ever saw. Our loss in commissioned officers was, killed 1; wounded, 7; non commissioned officers, killed, 2; wounded, 13; privates, killed, 6; wounded, 40.

General Burnside positively ordered General Reno not to advance any further toward Norfolk, the object being merely to feel the strength of the enemy in the rear; so after remaining six hours on the field of battle, he returned to Elizabeth City, having not enough wagons, and the men being exhausted by their severe march; seventeen of our wounded were left on the field in charge of a surgeon with a flag of truce. These have, as has already been published, reached Fortress Monroe from Norfolk.

The enemy's loss was larger than ours.

Arrival of Refugees from Norfolk—Important Information Relative to the Merrimac—She is Ordered to Run the Blockade and Reach York River—Commodore Tatnall Resigns.

Three refugees from Norfolk who left there last night in a row boat, arrived here at 7 o'clock this morning. They bring but little news except a repetition of previous reports.

Com. Tatnall, it appears, received sealed orders on Monday and sailed with the Merrimac, but on opening them in Elizabeth river found that he was ordered to run the blockade and proceed to York river. He then upon returned to Norfolk and immediately resigned his commission, together with his chief officers.

There was a general expectation at Norfolk that the Merrimac would come out, for at least three or four days past.

The refugees say that there are several hundred Union men in Norfolk, known to be such, and many others who keep quiet, including many of the soldiers.

There are six or seven hundred troops, under General Huger, between Pig Point and Norfolk.

Three companies of soldiers in Portsmouth rebelled and stacked their arms a few days since. It is also reported that a part of General Magruder's forces had mutinied at Williamsburg.

A torpedo has been constructed at Norfolk—whether recently or not is not stated—calculated to be managed under water by one man, and to be propelled by him under the vessel to be destroyed. It is said to be five or six feet long.

The flag of truce sent out to day has not yet returned.

LATEST FROM YORKTOWN.

Heavy Cannonading—The Enemy's Great Gun on the Heights of Yorktown Burst, Creating Great Havoc—Startling Events to be Looked for soon.

From Army Correspondent Associated Press.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY POTOMAC, Before Yorktown, May 2—3 P. M.

The Rebels opened fire this morning with their rifled dumbbads (68-pounders), placed on the heights of Yorktown, when our No. 1 battery of 100 and 200-pounder Parrott guns was brought to bear upon the only gun which has given us any trouble. Our shells were falling over and around it, with every prospect of its being dismounted very soon, when, on its 23d discharge, the enemy's gun burst into a thousand pieces, tearing up the parapet, and making havoc among the crowd who were collected around it.

At the time of the explosion not less than ten persons were standing on the parapet within six feet of it, besides those who were hid from view by the works. The destruction of life must have been considerable. This was the only gun which the Rebels have shown to be capable of doing No. 1 battery any harm. All firing on the enemy's side now ceased, while our guns were manned with renewed vigor, directing their shots into the town. About one hundred shot were fired by our guns up to 2 o'clock this afternoon, when as though by mutual consent, they all ceased.

About 12 o'clock to-day, a Rebel steamboat came down the river and attempted to land at Yorktown, but was prevented by a few shots from our 100-pounder Parrott's. The Rebels kept up a continuous fire all last night on our men in the trenches, but the only casualties were the wounding of James Eutline and Phillip Rachlicu, of Company C, 13th New York regiment.

The weather is again pleasant, and if it should continue you may look for startling news from this quarter, as the work laid out is approaching completion.

James Docker, of Company G, Berdans' Sharpshooters, was wounded last night on picket duty and taken prisoner.

General Order of Gen. Halleck.

PITTSBURG LANDING, May 2.—A General Order was issued yesterday, transferring Major-General Thomas' division from the army of Ohio to the army of Tennessee; and Major-General Thomas takes command of the army formerly under General Grant, of which the divisions of McClernand and Wallace are to constitute the reserve, under General McClernand.

General Grant will retain command of his district, including the army corps of Tennessee, but in the present movements will act as the second in command under the Major General commanding the Department.

"Those who showed the white feather will do all in their power to remove them from the [illegible]. I had perhaps dozen officers arrested for cowardice on the first day's fight. These men are necessarily my enemies. As to the talk about the surprise here, nothing could be more false. If the enemy had sent us word when and where they would attack, we couldn't have been better prepared."

The Federal Loss at Pittsburg Landing.

CINCINNATI, May 2.—The official statement of the loss at the battle of Pittsburg Landing is as follows: Total killed, 1,735; wounded, 7,882; missing, 3,956.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Appointments Confirmed.

WASHINGTON, May 1.—The Senate in Executive session to-day confirmed the following nominations: Charles L. Lathrop, to be Collector of Customs for the District of New Orleans, Louisiana. (This gentleman formerly resided in New Orleans, but left there on the breaking out of the rebellion.) Wm. T. Sherman, Major General, and Samuel P. Carter, of Tennessee, Brigadier General of volunteers. Artemas Chapel, of Nebraska, and J. Theodore Heard, of Massachusetts, Brigade Surgeons. Charles M. Provost, Cyrus S. Holden, both of Pennsylvania, Assistant Commissaries of Subsistence, with the rank of Captain. D. Willard, of the District of Columbia, Commissary of Subsistence.

The French Steamer Gassendi.

WASHINGTON, May 1.—The French war steamer Gassendi left here this morning.

The Smithsonian Institute.

WASHINGTON, May 2.—At a meeting of the Regents of the Smithsonian Institute yesterday, Professor Henry was selected to write the obituary of his predecessor, Dr. Felton; and Hon. S. S. Cox that of the late Senator Douglas. Measures will be immediately taken to procure, through Minister Adams, the legacy to the institution bequeathed by a niece of Mr. Smithson, amounting to £25,000 sterling.

The Care of Sick and Wounded Soldiers.

WASHINGTON, May 2.—According to a recent order of the War Department, when the care of sick and wounded soldiers is assumed by the States from which they come, the Subsistence Department will commute their rations at 25 cents.

Appointments.

WASHINGTON, May 2.—The Senate to-day confirmed the appointment of Brigadier-Generals Mitchell and Ord to be Major-Generals of Volunteers, and Captain John Gibbons, of the 4th Artillery, to be a Brigadier-General

Southern Trade.

WASHINGTON, May 2.—Vessels that go South, excepting in the employ of the Government, no matter what their cargo, will be seized and confiscated.

The Collector of Customs for New Orleans.

WASHINGTON, May 2.—Mr. Lathrop, recently appointed Collector of Customs at New Orleans, not, as erroneously stated, leave that city on the breaking out of the rebellion, but some years before, and has since that time resided in Philadelphia.

The Massachusetts Legislature.

BOSTON, April 30.—The Massachusetts Legislature closed its session a few minutes before twelve o'clock last night, having lasted one hundred and twenty days, during which the Governor signed two hundred and twenty-five bills and one hundred and seventeen resolutions which were passed.

DEATH OF MR. CAMBRELENG.

From the New York Herald, May 2.

We regret to announce the death of the Hon. Churchill C. Cambreleng, after a long and painful illness, at his residence at West Neck, Long Island, on Wednesday last, in the seventy-sixth year of his age. Mr. Cambreleng was born in North Carolina, in 1786, and was educated at Newburg. He came to New York in 1802, where he has resided ever since, with the exception of about a year as clerk in Providence, R. I. For some time past Mr. Cambreleng has disappeared from the public gaze; but a short time since he was one of the conspicuous men of the nation. He was originally a successful merchant of this city, and subsequently a member of Congress from this State from 1821 to 1839, and acted as chairman of the Committees of Commerce, Ways and Means and Foreign Affairs. As a political thinker and writer he was celebrated, and his reports and pamphlets always received a large share of attention. In 1839, being at that time abroad, he was appointed Minister to Russia by President Van Buren. After his return he retired to private life, a position from which he has never been withdrawn.

One of the noticeable incidents in his Congressional career was his reply to Mr. Everett on the slavery question, in 1836. Mr. Randolph, in his reply, said that he did not envy the head or heart of the Northern man who defended slavery on principle. Mr. Cambreleng followed in denunciation and rebuke of the gentleman from Massachusetts by saying that slavery was "a condition of life to be justified by morality, religion and international law." Mr. Cambreleng, in his latter days, both in and out of Congress, lived to defend the position of Mr. Everett. He was a man of great practical sense and of indisputable honesty, and the city of New York has seldom sent to the national councils a person more worthy of her metropolitan position. He was universally respected by his co-workers in public as well as by his fellow-citizens in private, and his life was one of constant usefulness. Mr. Cambreleng was at one time, we understand, employed by John Jacob Astor, and travelled extensively. He has, during the latter part of his life, been an invalid, and very seldom left the shelter of his own roof. In his death he is greatly regretted by all who knew him, although he died at a good round age. His good actions and humanity will long be remembered by the entire community.

PROPOSED BILLIARD MATCH BETWEEN FOLEY AND KAVANAGH.—It is stated that the third billiard match to be played by Foley and Kavanagh in Buffalo, will not come off for six months yet. A new condition has been agreed upon in the forthcoming match to the effect that neither party is to take advantage of the "push."

The Wheeling *Intelligencer* of the 29th ult. announces that Gen. Fremont was on that day to leave Wheeling for the interior of Western Virginia.

The Commissioners in relation to the detention of prisoners of State adjourned their sittings in New York yesterday, and proceeded to Boston, where they will meet on Tuesday next.

The Cape Ann (Gloucester) *Advertiser* says quite a number of vessels are now being fitted out to prosecute the early mackerel fishery in Southern waters.

The Government on Wednesday released Benj. S. Gross, of Seneca, Montgomery county, Maryland, on his taking an oath of allegiance. He was arrested at his residence some six months ago.

The Philadelphia papers announce the death of the Rev. William H. Brisbane, the faithful and reverend pastor of the Green Street Methodist Episcopal Church, in that city.

HERRMANN IN THE LEXINGTON MARKET.

Those who have read the little pamphlet recounting the marvellous deeds of Herrmann, the magician, have no doubt been constrained to believe that much which is thus written is more funny than reality. If, however, they could have witnessed his performances in the Lexington market on yesterday, all doubts would have been removed, and they would have considered that nothing was impossible with this master of the magic art. Accompanied by a number of gentlemen connected with the press of the city, together with several of his personal friends, M. Herrmann yesterday morning paid a visit to the Lexington market. On entering it the company parted from him, and he walked carelessly from stall to stall, pricing articles and talking with the venders. A number of persons who have, no doubt, been attending his elegant and interesting entertainments recognized him, and paused, anticipating an exhibition of his wonderful powers. The police, seeing the gathering crowd, were on the alert, and were, as usual, anxious to make an important arrest; they followed up closely, and it was only when a member of the press informed them that it was the great magician, that they ceased their surveillance. After moving about for a few minutes, Herrmann stopped in front of a stall on which there was a bushel-and a half basket of eggs, and behind which there was a pleasant faced Irish woman. He looked at the basket for a moment and then remarked:

"What is the price of eggs, this morning?"

"Fifteen cents a dozen. Fresh."

"I want a dozen, and will pay you the price, with this understanding: I desire to break them, and whether I buy or you do it, whatever they contain belongs to me."

"Bless your heart, certainly. Sure I don't want their contents."

Herrmann took an egg from the basket and broke it. He poured the yolk out, and in the shell were four thousand-and-half gold pieces. At sight of the glittering metal the old lady's eyes dilated, she twitched her nose, looked at the crowd who were gathering around her stall, put the index finger of her right hand in her mouth, and with a look of amazement, she exclaimed:

"My conscience!"

"Valuable eggs, madam," said Herrmann.—"Will you please break this one for me?" handing her one.

She took it, at the same time staring Herrmann in the face, and nervously broke it. It was as rich as the first; four gold quarter-eagles were lying in the shell. She involuntarily closed her hand, when the magician remarked:

"Stay, madam; what the eggs contain belongs to me," and, as she handed him the money, he asked: "What will you take for all you have?"

A female in the crowd, who occupied an adjacent stall, cried out, "Don't sell another one. You're as much right to the gold that's in them as any person else."

"They're not for sale, sir," she replied.

The crowd which had gathered around the magician now numbered hundreds. Herrmann broke another egg, and the gold was there; and alternately the woman and he broke eggs, until a dozen were destroyed, and each one contained ten dollars in gold. The crowd had gathered such proportions, and were so eager to witness the scene, that he was compelled to leave. The throng could not be shook off, however. They pressed around him, and wherever he went hundreds followed him. He was the cynosure of all observers," and it was with the greatest difficulty that he could move through the market. Fifteen minutes were spent in walking about, when he paused in front of a coop of chickens. Instantly the crowd pressed around him, and with such eagerness that it was almost impossible for him to maintain his position. Vendors left their stalls, and purchasers carelessly dropped their baskets; boys dropped on their hands and knees and crawled through the dense crowd, which swayed to and fro like a wave.

Herrmann asked the price of a chicken, and then took it in his hand, remarking that "it would be easier to carry it home with its head off than with it on;" at the same time he commenced to wring its head off. Blood spurted out over his hand and over the fowl, and in an instant he threw the chicken's head on the stall and held the body in his hand. It lay there a moment, when he picked it up and remarked that he believed he would put it on again. There was a rub or two of the neck, a quick shake, and he pitched the fowl on the stall alive. The market woman instantly caught it, and took hold of its head, endeavored to pull it off, but it was no go. Herrmann had fixed it on too fast. An expression of the utmost astonishment settled on her face, and she gazed at Herrmann with bewildering wonder. The crowd cheered and Herrmann found it almost impossible to extricate himself from his pressed position.

At this juncture a policeman came up and requested him to leave the market, as the excitement had become so great and was every moment on the increase, it was seriously interfering with the market. He was glad to get away, and hurriedly passed towards Baltimore street, the crowd still following. He was finally compelled to enter the place of a [illegible] to escape from the throng. A member of the press offered to purchase the chicken whose head had been torn off, but the woman refused to sell it, although a dollar was offered for it, remarking that she would carry it home and allow it to die of old age. The woman found no difficulty in disposing of her stock. People flocked around her stall and purchased the eggs, anticipating that each one would prove a placer. The performance of yesterday morning is convincing evidence that there is but one magician—and he is Herrmann.

FROM WASHINGTON.

From the Washington Star, of Yesterday.

OCCUPYING FREDERICKSBURG.

We have every reason to believe that last night General McDowell finished throwing a pontoon bridge over the Rappahannock at Fredericksburg, and that by daybreak to-day his advance had crossed the river and taken full possession of the town.

LATEST FROM GEN. HALLECK'S ARMY.

This forenoon the War Department received a despatch from Major General Halleck, at Pittsburg Landing. It was dated yesterday. It was wholly relative to details of the affairs of his army, and says nothing whatever concerning the current rumors of the evacuation of Corinth by Beauregard.

FROM McDOWELL'S COLUMN.

A letter from Falmouth, under date of 26th ult., says:

Some gunboats, a fleet of canal-boats for bridging purposes, and a ferry-boat, have arrived here from Alexandria. The ferry-boat, of course, had to be supplied with coal, and a good joke was played upon the Mayor by Capt. Robinson, who seized all the coal at the gas works for the purpose, thus shutting off light from the dwellings and countenances of the native, at a time, too, when the town was destitute of candles. The Mayor remonstrated, but our Quartermaster demonstrated very clearly that we ourselves were short of candles, and that their condition would be no worse than ours.

I think it very probable that we shall have a battle in this vicinity very soon after crossing the Rappahannock. Confederate cavalry were seen to-day within two miles of Fredericksburg, and I have it from a very authentic source that the enemy have a force of from 10,000 to 15,000 men within miles of the town. Great apprehension is entertained of a dash into Fredericksburg by the Confederate cavalry to-night. Our General is averse to leaving the Union men of the burgh unprotected, the more especially as it is feared the Confederates will seize the present opportunity to descend and carry off the few Union men that remain.

At last accounts from Fredericksburg, General McDowell had been fully provided with means of crossing the Rappahannock, but no immediate forward movement was anticipated.

"DRUNKEN OFFICERS."—This is the term applied to officers of the army, when, perchance, they lose a battle, or get worsted before the enemy's entrenchments. The other day at Warwick, near Yorktown, on the repulse of the gallant Vermont regiment by the Confederate forces, the telegraph groaned with the tidings that the officer who led the charge, General W. L. Smith, "was drunk." It now turns out by the same authority that poor Smith is one of the most temperate men in the army, and that the telegraph made him a drunkard only for the purpose of excusing the repulse! If that is the best apology which can be offered for a damaging lie on the character of a gallant and sober officer, all we can say is, that the dirty telegraph and his dirty prompters should be kicked by every soldier in the army till he or they learn that men's character is worth something to them, even in times like these. We have too many apologies of this kind for the few reverses which our army has encountered, and it shows loose depravity in those who supervise the news which the public is allowed to see. If the Government will appoint and employ men to dole out our army news to the people, for Heaven's sake let them be persons who have some regard for human character and the honor of our gallant troops.—*Indiana State Sentinel.*

MUNCHAUSEN NOT YET DEAD.—A correspondent of the New York *Tribune*, writing from the column of the army under Gen. Banks, tells the following *wonderful* story:

It is painful to witness the credulity of the inhabitants of the rural districts which we have occupied. The most ridiculous absurdities regarding the appearance and barbarous characteristics of the Yankees find ready believers in otherwise intelligent female circles; for instance it is supposed that our troops wear natural tails, like horses, and gore the wounded on the battle-fields; that we show no quarter, and even burn women and children at the stake, drinking the warm blood. It is unnecessary to add that our presence changes the view to a considerable extent.

BOURBON INSTRUMENTS OF TORTURE.—The *Campana della Gancia*, of Palermo, mentions a discovery which has just been made in the castle of that capital. On digging up the floor of the storehouse of artillery, three horrible instruments of torture, used under the Bourbons, were brought to light. One was the cap of silence, consisting of two copper hoops, one of which used to be screwed tight around the head and the other tight around the face. The other instruments were the burning chair and the foot-burner. The former is also of copper, on which the victim was strapped down, while plates of red-hot iron were let into a cavity in the back. The other is a kind of metal boot resting on an iron box, in which a fire was kept up while the prisoner had his foot in it. It was rumored that these instruments were to be sent to London to be shown to the British Parliament.

ARMING THE NEGROES.

From the Times' alleged Port Royal Correspondence—Editorially Indorsed.

In a letter from Port Royal, written some weeks ago, I stated that a negro preacher at that place named Abram Murchison, possessing great influence among the blacks, had been summoned before Gen. Hunter, who desired to obtain from him some important information. One of the subjects on which he was questioned was the feeling of the blacks in regard to military organization. The conversation was deemed of sufficient importance by Gen. Hunter to warrant further proceedings, and Abram was directed to call a meeting of all the male blacks at Hilton Head, with a view of ascertaining their disposition and desires.

This meeting was held on the evening of Monday, April 7. The object was unknown to the negroes themselves; they were only aware that it was one that closely touched their interest. The call and proceedings were conducted with the utmost secrecy. Only two white men were present—Mr. Lee, Superintendent of the negroes employed at Hilton Head, and Mr. Wilson, head carpenter for the Government. The most rigid guard was instituted to exclude those whose presence was not desired, and to prevent eaves dropping on the part of the over-curious.

The large room used for negro meetings was crowded by the expectant audience. The invitation had been extended only to males—hence, no women were present. Murchison made a short address to his brethren, in which he depicted, with a great deal of clearness and force, their condition and relations to the Government, and the obligations and interests that such relation impel them to its support. At times, his language rose in eloquence, and he was listened to with the most breathless interest, and it was evident that every word found a response in the sympathies of his hearers. After stating that it was in contemplation by the Government to offer them the means and opportunity of military organization, and after candidly explaining the labors, hardships and dangers, as well as the advantages of soldier life, the speaker desired all who were willing to take up arms in defence of the Government and themselves, to rise. Every man sprang to his feet in an instant.

Mr. Lee and Mr. Wilson followed the remarks of Abram, with others designed to enlighten the negroes in regard to the intentions of the Government. It was impressed upon them that they were not in the slightest degree to be coerced into this military measure. All who chose to enroll themselves must do so voluntarily and with a full knowledge of the consequences. Each man who chose was permitted to come forward and have his name entered on the list as a volunteer soldier, in case the Government shall see fit to accept his services. Every man in the room came forward. A few old men and boys were rejected on the ground of age, and the refusal seemed to inspire them with the most genuine regret.

They were then told that Government had promised them arms and equipments, and urged to give the matter the most serious reflection. With a caution against public conversation on the subject, the meeting was dismissed; and each one left, all excited to enthusiasm, and apparently rejoicing in the opportunity that was about to be realized, of exercising the right of defence of himself and his family, and of offering his life in defence of the Government whose protection he has enjoyed.

The number enrolled that evening was one hundred and five. During the next day, many others who had not been present, came forward and gave in their names, swelling the list to above one hundred and thirty. During the next few days, it reached the number of one hundred and fifty. This, I learn, embraces nearly or quite all the able-bodied negroes employed at that point. There has been no reaction—no symptom of regret. The action of the negroes seems based upon feelings as genuine, and convictions as firm as those that instigate white men in similar circumstances. If the black men at Hilton Head are a fair index of the whole population of the plantations, (and I see no reason to doubt it,) history has never furnished an instance of more conspicuous and unanimous patriotism. The Greeks, nor Switzers, nor Highland Scots, nor Yankees ever assumed the responsibilities of arms with more alacrity or cheerfulness.

But will they fight? Volunteering is one thing; standing fire another. Of course, this question can only be answered by the event. Those, however, who have seen them most, and who know them best, are confident of their courage. Instances have been named to me of the most exemplary conduct in action on the part of some of the South Carolina negroes heretofore employed by the Government. The pilot Isaac, who guided C mmander Stevens and the gunboats in the affair at Port Royal Ferry, was under fire, and endured it like a veteran. Both among the Confederates and our own forces, have been opportunities for testing the quality of physical courage in the negro, which have generally resulted in his favor. Certainly, from what we know, we have no right to doubt that he will fight in a cause that impels him to volunteer. To pronounce a man a coward in advance, after he has testified his willingness to incur danger, and before he has been tried, would be ungenerous and unreasonable.

At all events, if the announcement is true concerning the arms and equipments to be sent to him, we see another principle demonstrated—another fact tested—by that sagacious and fearless soldier. And then, if the experiment prove a success, the question how to make South Carolina again loyal will have been answered.

We shall at once find her seat occupied by a friendly people, outnumbering the Rebels, and prepared to hold it for the Government by the strong arm we have armed. Truly, we are to see South Carolina, the seat of disloyalty, garrisoned, and guarded, and defended, by those who so lately were slaves there to the lash and the chain—to see a black police maintaining order where so lately it was a crime for a negro to move but by a white man's command; and to see all this done under the authority of Government—unattended by disorder, unaccompanied by outrage—would be an example of retributive justice unmixed with vengeance, such as history has never yet recorded. And what region so appropriate for the sublime and beneficent experiment as the State of South Carolina?—and what soil so fit for the grave of slavery as that where treason was born, nursed and reared to its dreadful maturity?

THE OTHER SIDE—THE CONTRABANDS AT FORTRESS MONROE.

In the same *Times* is the following from its Fortress Monroe correspondence:

"Speaking of contrabands, I do not remember to have seen that important class of this community referred to recently. I call them important, and am of the opinion that Uncle Sam will do the same before he is through with them. General Wool (I am informed) considers their management as being by far the most irksome and difficult part of his duties here. I can tell whether the class of negroes now at this department are a fair sample of the race in the South, and would not therefore wish to draw a general conclusion from observations made in this particular case, but I am confident