

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR. OFFICE W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS.

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- AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING. HIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—THE ENCHANTERS. WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—THE HUNCHBACK.

New York, Monday, May 19, 1862.

THE SITUATION.

Our despatches from Washington to-day explain the nature of the "repulse" of our iron gunboats on the James river, below Richmond. It appears that for some time past the rebels have been obstructing the river at that point with sunken stone, immediately under the guns of a strong fort upon a bluff so high above the river that the guns of our vessels cannot be elevated enough to reach it.

The news from General McClellan's command is highly interesting and encouraging. His advance forces on the main road to Richmond, by way of Bottom's Bridge, drove the enemy across the Chickahominy at that point on Saturday morning. When the troops arrived within half a mile of the bridge, which is burned, they were opened upon by a brisk fire of artillery from the opposite side of the river. This bridge is fifteen miles from Richmond. At this point, it is said, that our troops will experience considerable difficulty, as the country is low and swampy.

This is only one successful movement of General McClellan's army within a few days; the other he tells himself briefly in the following despatch to the War Department, dated from White House, Va., on Saturday night:—"A combined naval and army expedition under Captain Murray, United States Navy, with troops and artillery under Major Willard and Captain Ayres, of the army, went some twenty-five miles up the Pamunkey river to-day, and forced the rebels to destroy two steamers and some twenty schooners. The expedition was admirably managed, and all concerned deserve great credit."

We give in another column an interesting letter addressed to us from Richmond by Colonel Crocker, of the Ninety-third New York Volunteers, who, together with Major Cassidy, it will be remembered, was captured by the rebels near Yorktown. The statement of Colonel Crocker fully explains the mode of his capture, and sets at rest the reports of his desertion to the enemy.

The meeting being to advocate the restoration of the State to the Union it will only bring peace with it. They acknowledge that they despair of the Southern confederacy, and are anxious to return to their allegiance.

We publish to-day an official account of the gallant conduct of the eight negroes who ran the armed rebel steamer Planter out of Charleston harbor on the 13th inst. and delivered her to Commander Parrott, of our blockading squadron. The first news of this daring affair was given exclusively in our columns yesterday.

The rebel warfare in Tennessee having degenerated into mere raids of guerrilla bands, General Negley has notified the people that the property of all citizens who may be found aiding the marauders will be confiscated, and that every citizen found in arms in connection with these guerrilla bands will be shot.

General Halleck's army has been largely reinforced from General Curtis' command in Arkansas and from the troops that were stationed in Kansas. Colonel Mulligan, the hero of Lexington, has gone from Camp Douglas to Corinth. No fears need be entertained in regard to General Halleck's position. When the proper time arrives to strike there will be a terrible retribution on General Beauregard's rebel army.

The pleasant weather of yesterday tempted a large number of persons to leave their pent-up domiciles and visit the Central Park, where they could breathe the fresh air and wander amid the blossoming trees and shrubs. In the Ramble about the senses of sight and smell were agreeably refreshed; but the sense of feeling was somewhat hurt by the loose coarse gravel that covers the walks. Surely this might be remedied; for if it be painful for men to walk upon it, what must it be for the ladies, with their thin soled gaiters?

Jones' Wood was opened yesterday for the season. Several thousand of our Teutonic friends during the day visited the wood, as there they could, without molestation, ramble about on the grass or join in the many little innocent amusements that are customary to these grounds. The usual number of amateur rifle shooters, scouppers and lager bier drinkers were present, and were accommodated, and the hotel having been newly fitted up, the visitors found everything they required ready to hand.

The circular of Messrs. J. Saco, merchants at the port of Ponce, Porto Rico, given in our paper this morning, contains some important information for merchants and captains of vessels trading to that port. By a regulation, to go into effect on the 12th of August ensuing, masters of vessels will be permitted to add to their manifest any omission made therein, on condition that such change is at once reported to the Custom House or the official visiting the vessel. By the same regulation vessels visiting the island will have to pay, besides the port charges, tonnage dues on the measurement expressed in their registers, and not on Spanish measurement, as is practised at present.

Confederate money is quoted in Richmond at 97, and gold and silver at 80 cents premium. This would make Jeff Davis' Treasury notes worth about seventeen cents on the dollar. All accounts from the West represent the crops as recovering from their backward and apparently stunted growth, and the prospect is now fully as cheering to the farmers as any previous year has presented. From the South we have very little intelligence, beyond the fact that corn has been substituted for cotton; but that the condition of the crops are we are not informed. Corn planting in Kentucky commenced last week.

The War Department has ordered that the company officers of the two regiments of Indians now forming in Kansas shall be full blooded redskins. It is said that there is not an Indian in Kansas who can make out a muster roll or put a company through the manual.

John Barry, who says he is a Catholic priest, educated in Maynooth College, Dublin, and who for some time has been delivering lectures around the country, has been arrested in St. Louis on a charge of vagrancy. He admits that he is a great lover of whiskey.

The Repulse of Our Iron-Clad Gunboats in the James River.

The brief, incomplete, but very suggestive despatch which we published yesterday of the repulse of our gunboats—the Monitor, Galena, Naugatuck, Arrostook and Port Royal—from Fort Darling, on the James river, seven miles below Richmond, passed like the shadow of an ugly cloud over this metropolis. It was well for our stockjobbers and financiers, speculating upon another victory as the next thing in order, that this ominous and sinister looking first report of this repulse was published here on Sunday; for had it come upon them suddenly this morning the bears would doubtless have seized the opportunity for a panic and a raid among the astonished bulls and lame ducks of Wall street.

In the absence of any official details in explanation of this repulse, we think that we may undertake to account for it, and to the satisfaction of our readers. First, the officers of our little squadron were ignorant, until they reached it, of the strength, and perhaps of the existence of Fort Darling. Secondly, while it was doubtless extensively armed with rifled guns of the heaviest calibre, from the Tredegar Works at Richmond, our squadron could hardly bring over thirty pieces to bear against it. In the next place, our gunboats, in the very narrow channel of the narrow river at Fort Darling, were almost in a cul de sac, in which they could neither manoeuvre to assist each other nor get beyond the point blank range of the enemy's batteries without withdrawing from the contest; for we have no doubt that the advance of our ships above the fort was prevented by obstructions in the channel of the stream.

We dare say that this explanation of this unfortunate affair will be sustained by the facts. We speak only from some general knowledge of the lower James river in the neighborhood of Richmond, and from the defensive preparations there which have been recently hinted at by the Richmond newspapers. It is evident that the gallant men of our little fleet did all in their power to silence the enemy's works. If we were disposed to find fault with the conduct of our commanding officer, we should say that, having ascertained the real strength of the enemy's position, and the superior weight and pressure of his artillery, our vessels should have been called off to await the assistance of a co-operative land attack. But we have no complaint to make against any brave officer, soldier or sailor who is slow to be convinced that he is fighting against impossibilities. It was this spirit of unshrinking courage which carried the fleet of Commodore Farragut through impediments supposed to be impassable to the city of New Orleans.

But the stubborn fact is before us that our advance towards Richmond, by way of the river, has met with a decided check, and that, in consequence thereof, the restoration of the "old flag" over that rebellious city depends only to a greater extent upon the army of General McClellan. If we had a dashing, enterprising and vigorous man of war of the present day at the head of the Navy Department we should say without hesitation that this repulse of our iron-clad gunboats in the James river is only the result of a mere reconnaissance to ascertain the position and strength of the enemy's works, and that, having made these discoveries, the necessary means by land and water will be immediately employed to reduce those works. But, as the venerable Mr. Welles belongs to the old slow coach establishment of the last generation, we cannot undertake to promise that he will do anything to restore the prestige of his important branch of the public service at the very point where it has been so seriously shaken, unless President Lincoln shall stir him up to his duty.

In default, however, of any further attempts to run the rebel gauntlet of the James river to Richmond, we are quite easy, under the conviction that the way will be opened by General McClellan, although this repulse of our little naval expedition will doubtless result in encouraging the rebel army to a very stubborn resistance.

European Intervention in Mexico—Napoleon in a Tight Place.

The want of sympathy manifested by the principal European Powers for the American republic since the commencement of its internal troubles, and even the indirect aid afforded to the rebellion, have rendered the American people particularly sensitive about the armed intervention of those Powers in Mexico, in the face of the well known traditional policy of the United States. Little has been said about the matter, because we are engaged in the crushing of an insurrection which absorbs all our attention; but we do not feel the less.

The European Powers have taken advantage of this; for if we were at peace they would not venture to set a hostile foot upon Mexican soil, nor would any of their agents dare to broach the idea of setting up a monarchy on this continent. But the tremendous extent of our land and naval forces, our immense preparations by land and by sea, and the splendid successes achieved by our arms, have alarmed two of these Powers—Spain and England; for they know that half the splendid fleet that captured New Orleans, commanded by Farragut, could take Havana in one day, and give Cuba to our arms; that all the West Indies could be as easily annexed by the same mighty agency, and Canada would fall like a ripe pear at the first gentle shake of the tree. By that instinct of self-preservation, which is the first law of nations, as it is of individuals, England and Spain have drawn their horns within their shells, and left France alone in her glory and in her peril.

Louis Napoleon evidently does not understand the temper of the American people, perceive the approaching dissolution of the rebellion, or feel sensible of the dangerous position in which he has placed himself. In six weeks the insurrection will have been put down, and if by that time Mexico should then call upon our government for aid to repel the high-handed outrage committed upon her independence, we could not refuse her the desired assistance without renouncing all our American ideas. What would be the result? With a portion of the squadron which reduced New Orleans we could capture the French fleet at Vera Cruz, and shut in the French army, which would never return to France. The expedition would speedily become the victim of a second Moscow.

loss of his army and fleet and the loss of his prestige would be more than the loss of territory. If it suits him to play fast and loose with principles, that is not the part which the American republic can play. It must be true to itself, true to its history and traditions, and true to the spirit of the age. Napoleon plays Pope one day and revolution next, two ideas in antagonism with each other. He went as far as he could in Italy without overthrowing the temporal sovereignty of the Pope. In order to atone for that offence he sends an insane interval in his history, and seizes a fleet and an army to Mexico in order to restore the domination of the Church in that country, and to overthrow popular institutions. But we are fast returning to our senses, and if he does not make haste to remove his ships and troops they will never return. And we hereby give notice to the said Emperor of the French, to her Britannic Majesty, and to her most Catholic Majesty, Queen of Spain, and to all other European Powers whom it may concern, to quit the soil and ports of the republic of Mexico on or before the fourth day of July next; otherwise it will then become the bounden duty of the people and government of the United States to employ their magnificent army and navy to clear the American continent of every vestige of foreign sway.

Tactics and Prospects of the Orleans Family.

While the representative of the elder branch of the French Bourbons is wasting his time in some obscure corner of Europe, the younger branch keeps a sharp eye upon the events of the day, and seizes every advantage which could promote its interests or give new hope to its aspirations. Accordingly, in a short time after the breaking out of the civil war in the United States, we find the Prince de Joinville and his two sons proceeding to America and espousing the side of the North, well knowing that it was the strongest side, and that ultimate success could not fail to crown its arms. The young princes are in active service in the war, and are thus made the subject of conversation and newspaper comment in France and in all Europe.

This is borrowing a leaf from Louis Napoleon's history, and it is evident he does not like it. Though the Bonapartes were exiled from France, the present Emperor determined to occupy the attention of the country in some way or other from time to time till his opportunity at last came of seizing the reins of power. Hence his apparently silly exploit at Boulogne—which he knew could not succeed—was merely intended to attract attention. His escape from the fortress of Ham had the same effect. The Orleans princes are imitating his example. They hope for the possession of the throne of France at no distant day; they know that the French are a volatile, fickle people, prone to change, and they calculate that the next revolution may be in their favor, through the aid of the Pope and the Church.

This is their motive for entering the Northern army. Napoleon is greatly annoyed at these tactics, and it has been observed that his hostility to the North and secret friendship for the South date from the accession of the Orleans princes to the cause of the North. From that moment the organs of the Orleans party in France and the Bonapartist organs have taken opposite sides—the former in favor of the Union and the latter in favor of secession. The Emperor desires to establish his own dynasty, and he thinks that it will be a point gained towards that end to prevent the restoration of the American Union—a result from which the Orleans princes would be sure to reap laurels and gain immense *credit*. Hence his schemes of intervention in our affairs, which have been already opened by the diplomacy of Mercier.

At the time of the last revolution in France there were four great parties: the legitimists, who believed in "the divine right of kings," and supported the reigning dynasty of Louis Philippe; the party of constitutional reform, who inaugurated the Revolution; the republicans, who triumphed at first, and the Bonapartists, who superseded them. The constitutional and legitimist parties were extinguished by the Revolution, and the republican party was suppressed for a time, notwithstanding, by the *coup d'etat*. Out of the ruins of the legitimist and constitutional parties has arisen the present Orleans party. There are now, therefore, three parties—the Bonapartists, the Orleansists and the republicans, or democrats. Each of these is seeking to gain or maintain an ascendancy for itself. The devices of Louis Napoleon are nearly played out. The people are tired of him, and want a change—a feeling which is greatly enhanced by the manufacturing distress arising from the American war. There is thus a chance for the Orleans family to regain the throne, or for the democrats to restore the republic; hence the activity of the young princes in America. They are breakers ahead for the Napoleon dynasty.

Summer Comforts for the Army and Navy.

As the warm season approaches the men engaged in the armies and navies, which are now advanced considerably southwards, will need several comforts, especially the two grand essentials—ice and fresh meat. The government should not overlook the fact. To the sick and wounded ice is an absolute necessity, and it should be forwarded in large quantities down the Western rivers and along the Atlantic coast by steamboats. The ice crop is plentiful and cheap. The Northern lakes and rivers—Michigan, Erie, the Upper Mississippi and the Ohio—can furnish abundance of it, gathered last winter. Every steamboat, therefore, going down the Mississippi or Tennessee rivers should take its quota of ice, fresh meats and other indispensable articles of comfort for our soldiers and sailors.

The facilities to supply our army in Virginia with the same articles are equally good, and their wants in this respect should be attended to at once. It will prove not only beneficial to the men, but, in a sanitary point of view, it will be economical to the government to provide them with these comforts.

The Central Park in Summer.

The pressure of the times or the political difficulties of the country do not seem to depress the spirit or love of amusement in our metropolitan population. Central Park, rich as it now is in summer beauty, bears testimony to the fact that the freshness and life which adorn it are in keeping with the beauty and gaiety which every day add new charms to that delightful scene. To judge from the brilliant equipages, happy faces, splendid costumes and joyous crowds of visitors which Central Park displays, one could hardly suppose that there was sor-

row or suffering throughout the land. So much the better. Sad hearts, after all, are but poor companions; and the merrier we are, even in trouble, the more vigorously we can contend against our difficulties. We hope, then, to see, throughout the summer, Central Park still as gay and crowded as it is at the present time.

Distress of the Working Classes Abroad.

We publish elsewhere several extracts from the English journals giving painful accounts of the distress existing among the operatives of Great Britain. At Bethnal Green, in the immediate neighborhood of London, an inquest had been held on a Spitalfields weaver, who had died of starvation sooner than he compelled to submit to the degradation of the workhouse. In Manchester there were upwards of eight thousand operatives working on short time. In one district in Ireland there had been forty deaths from actual want, and in several counties there had been a complete failure of food. All this is very shocking. The relaxation of the poor law regulations, which is being pressed upon the English government, would no doubt alleviate the prevailing distress; but Parliament has always been opposed to interference with them, from the dread of the abuses to which it would open the door. We see that the rebel agents in England have been furnishing large sums of money to some of the old chartist agitators to stir up the factory hands and get them to call upon the government to put an end to the war here. The movement does not appear to have been very successful thus far. Wherever the attempt has been made to introduce the topic it has been immediately put down by the working men themselves. We have no fear that England will be induced to join in any scheme of intervention that Louis Napoleon may be concocting. For the sake of humanity, however, we should use every effort to put an end to a state of things which is causing such deep and widespread distress among the operatives of both countries.

Interesting Letter from Colonel Crocker.

Arrival of Captain Parrish and Lieutenant Dempsey—Release of Federal Officers from Imprisonment.

Captain J. A. Parrish, of the Seventy-ninth regiment, and Lieutenant J. W. Dempsey, of the Second New York Volunteers, who were taken prisoners at Bull Run, and have been since imprisoned in half a dozen different jails, castles and forts of the South, arrived in this city on Saturday evening last, having been released from confinement, as we have already announced in our telegraphic despatches from Washington.

We are indebted to Lieutenant Dempsey for the following interesting letter from Colonel J. S. Crocker, of the Ninety-third New York, who, after his capture in front of Yorktown, in company with Major Cassidy, of the same regiment, became a fellow prisoner of Lieutenant Dempsey. The letter of Colonel Crocker speaks for itself, and removes all doubt concerning the mode of the capture of these gentlemen, placing Colonel Crocker and Major Cassidy *recte in curia*.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK HERALD. DEPT. OF UNION PRISONERS. RICHMOND, VA., May 7, 1862. I, as was Major Cassidy, was very much pained to learn that several Richmond papers contain extracts from the New York Tribune, stating that our capture and imprisonment in a loathsome prison at Richmond, had been, in fact, a desertion to the enemy. I am not sufficient to suffer here, without being misled by so-called friends at home? Allow me to give you, as brief as possible, the facts. It is difficult to furnish communications from here, or our friends should have learned the particulars of our capture ere this. On the 22d of April, our regiment (the Ninety-third) was moved from near Warwick Court House to a position near the enemy's lines below Yorktown, which was reached late in the afternoon. The tents, baggage and portions of the regiment did not arrive until the 23d. The grand guard detached from the regiment for duty on the 23d were sent off without their rations, but with a promise from me that I would send them their rations as soon as they arrived, which I did about two P. M. The location of the regiment was slightly changed again on the 23d, and Major Cassidy and myself, with the Adjutant of the regiment, had been constantly employed in performing the executive business and arranging the camp of the regiment until about five or six P. M. Being unacquainted with the nature of the country and of the ground in the immediate vicinity of our new location, as well as of the location, name, number or character of the troops near us, and also the line of our own pickets, and Major Cassidy having been informed that he would be detained, a Field Officer of the day for the following day, and believing it to be our duty to inform ourselves in regard to these particulars before night, so as to be able to select favorable ground to form regimental line or otherwise manoeuvre the regiment understandingly, should circumstances render it necessary during the night, and to ascertain if the rations sent to our regiment had reached them, and also to enable the Major to post himself as to the line of his duties on the following day—for this purpose we started from our quarters at between five and six P. M. for the first time since our late arrival, and soon after met Captain Norton, of the Seventy-seventh New York, of whom I inquired the direction and distance to our pickets. That officer pointed out to us the direction, and gave the distance as nearly half a mile. The Major and myself proceeded in the direction indicated by Captain Norton a few hundred yards, without coming up with or seeing any of our pickets or guards in any direction, but suddenly found ourselves within a ambush of a scouting party of the enemy's Mississippi regiment, numbering from twenty to thirty, who had been scouting in front of our line, and who, as we have since been informed, had just before captured one of our pickets at or near the point where we were taken. When we first saw them we took them for our own pickets. They were mostly concealed behind trees, bushes and other objects, exhibiting only so much of their persons as was necessary to enable them to aim at us. We soon discovered them to be enemies, and that from twenty to thirty of them, in front and on each side of us, had their rifles at a deadly aim at our own persons, at distances varying from ten to forty yards. To escape was impossible. An attempt at escape must have been attended with instant death. We were thus captured and taken to the quarters of General Griffith, McClaw and Magruder successively, and during the night started on for this place, where we arrived on the 24th, and were immediately after consigned by General Winder to this prison as prisoners of war. Since that time we have been confined, with other Union officers, among whom are Colonels Corcoran and Wilcox, New York, and some forty-five others. Such military papers as I had in my possession when taken prisoner I immediately at up, so that when they were called for by General Magruder I had none to deliver. Neither of us answered a question that was put to us of a military character.

Yours, &c., JOHN S. CROCKER. Colonel Ninety-third regiment N. Y. I learn from Messrs. Parrish and Dempsey that the eight hundred privates of the Sixty-ninth and Seventy-ninth regiments, the First Five Zouaves, the First Michigan and one or two other regiments, who have arrived at Washington, will be paid off to-day and return home immediately.

Those who may have friends and relatives among the prisoners in the South, who have been confined with these officers, will find Captain Parrish at the Farrish House, No. 16 East Houston street, and Lieutenant Dempsey at his residence, 186 Bowery, where they will afford all the information in their power.

Captain Parrish is still pretty stout, though he has lost considerable flesh from his long imprisonment and harsh treatment in the Southern dungeons. Lieutenant Dempsey looks well, but bears the marks of a severe wound on his head which he received in the battle of Bull Run.

BRANDER FIRE CRACKER.—This splendid steamer, built for and under the superintendence of Captain H. W. Johnson, is now on the balance dock receiving her first suit of copper. She is intended for the Yang-Tze river, in China, and is considered the finest steamer that has ever been built in this country. These who are fond of the model would do well to see her.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

Gen. Hunter to be Recalled from the Department of the South.

Annunciation of the Policy of the Government.

Official Account of the Gallant Exploit of Eight Contrabands in Charleston Harbor.

An Armed Rebel Steamer Seized and Delivered to the Union Squadron, &c., &c., &c.

WASHINGTON, May 18, 1862.

GENERAL HUNTER TO BE RE-CALLED.—ANNUNCIATION OF THE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

The recall of General Hunter is fully determined. His proclamation will be made the subject of a communication by the President to Congress, and in that way to the country, unmistakably condemning the course of General Hunter, and clearly announcing the policy of the administration in the conduct of the war.

An effort has been made to have General Benham placed in command of the Department of the South instead of General Hunter. He is a soldier of great ability, and from several years' service as engineer, during the construction of the forts in the Florida waters, is familiar with the military advantages of the whole of that region. It is stated that if he could have induced the consent of General Hunter he would long ago have recaptured Sumter and restored federal authority in Charleston.

THE AUTHENTICITY OF GENERAL HUNTER'S PROCLAMATION.

Yesterday many were still unwilling to believe that the proclamation of General Hunter was genuine. It was doubted even by the President. To-day its authenticity is verified by officers arrived from Fort Royal, and by printed copies of the General Orders No. 11, of the Department of the South, dated May 9, and mailed to members of Congress here, postmarked Fort Royal, May 10. It is ascertained that, in the promulgation of this order, Gen. Hunter consulted with not one of the officers in his department, nor with any of the officers of the government here. It was exclusively his own production. The Secretary of War, as well as the President, express great indignation at it. Probably heretofore army officers of all grades will be required to attend exclusively to military duties, and leave the management of social and political affairs to the civil jurisdiction of the government.

DISSATISFACTION OF THE SOLDIERS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH.

Intelligence received from the Department of the South states that our army there is impatient at the kind of duty assigned to them. They object seriously to be maintained as a sort of apical army corps, merely to facilitate experiments in the mode of development of the negro race, and are anxious to be engaged in more soldierly duties, pertaining to the prosecution of a war for the suppression of rebellion and the restoration of federal authority throughout the rebel States.

REPORTS FROM GEN. McLELLAN'S ARMY.

Accounts from General McClellan's army are, that General Sumner has been released from active service by reason of his refusal to reinforce General Heintzelman at the battle of Williamsburg. Congressmen who have just reached here from the army of General McClellan state that on account of rains the roads on the peninsula are in a wretched condition. A gentleman of much observation and experience, who has just returned from the peninsula and has had an opportunity to observe minutely the condition of General McClellan's army and his preparations, reports that he is not anxious to see the success of the rebel army in a splendid condition, the preparations for the forward movement are complete in every detail, and the occupation of Richmond by General McClellan, in a few days—whatever obstacles the rebels may offer—may be regarded as beyond a shadow of doubt.

THE EXPEDITION UP THE PAMUNKEY RIVER.

The expedition up the Pamunkey river has proved a complete success and has opened the way for an easy supply of the army.

OFFICIAL DISPATCH FROM COMMODORE DUPONT.

The following was received to-day at the Navy Department.

FLAGSHIP WARREN. PORT ROYAL, S. C., May 13, 1862.

Sir—I have the honor to report the capture on the 10th of the schooner Maria Teresa, by the United States Gunboat Under the command of pilot boat No. 10, Lieutenant Commanding Collins sent her to New York for adjudication. I send by United States steamer Massachusetts the following report of the capture, which vessel was captured by the Rebels, and sent to New York for adjudication. The crew had abandoned the schooner and were escaping to the main land with their papers when taken by the boats of the Government. I forward by the Massachusetts the papers, directing them to the United States Prize Commissioners, New York, and also the names of the crew of the schooner General C. C. Pinckney, captured by the Rebels on the 6th inst. also five of the crew of the schooner Albert, captured by the Rebels, together with two passengers who were on board at the time. Very respectfully, your obedient servant.

J. S. DUPONT, Flag Officer Commanding at Port Royal, S. C.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy.

THE GALLANT ACT OF THE CONTRABANDS IN CHARLESTON HARBOR.

The following interesting report from Commander Parrott has been received at the Navy Department, having been forwarded by Commander Dupont.

UNITED STATES STEAMER PLANTER, ACQUA, &c.

Sir—I have the honor to inform you that the rebel armed steamer Planter was brought out to us this morning from Charleston by eight contrabands, who, together with up to the squadron. Five colored women and three children are also on board. She carries one thirty-two pounder and one twenty-four pounder howitzer, and has four iron lance guns, which she was engaged in transporting. I send her to Fort Royal at once, in order to take advantage of the present good weather. I send her to the United States Prize Commissioners, New York, and also the names of the crew of the schooner Albert, captured by the Rebels, together with two passengers who were on board at the time. Very respectfully, your obedient servant.

Commander Dupont, in forwarding this despatch, says in relation to the rebel steamer Planter—"She was the armed despatch boat of the rebel army, and was under the Engineer Department at Charleston, under Brigadier General Ripley, whose bark a short time since was brought to the blockading squadron by several contrabands. The bringing out of the steamer, under all the circumstances, would have done credit to any one. At four o'clock in the morning, in the absence of the captain, who was on board, the rebel crew, close to the government office and headquarters, with the Palmetto and rebel flags flying, passed the successive forts, saluting as usual by blowing the steam whistle. On board the rebel ship of the blockade, the rebel crew, getting beyond the range of the last gun she hoisted down the rebel flag and hoisted a white one. The onward was the made slip of the blockading squadron in the main channel, and was preparing to fire when her commander made out the white flag. The armament of the steamer is a thirty-two pounder or pivot, and a five twenty-four pounder howitzer. She has besides on her deck four other guns—two seven-inch rifled—which were to be taken on the morning of the escape, to the new fort on the middle ground. One of the four belonged to Fort Sumter, and had been struck in the rebel attack on the fort on the muzzle. Robert Small, the intelligent slave and pilot of the boat, who performed the bold feat so skillfully, informed me of this fact, presuming it would be a matter of interest to us to have possession of this gun. This man, Robert Small, is superior to any who have come into our lines, intelligent as many of them have been. His information has been most interesting, and portions of it of the most important nature. The steamer was a valuable acquisition to the squadron by her good machinery and other light draft. The officer in charge brought her through the Helena Sound, and by the inland passage down the Pamunkey river, arriving here at ten o'clock last night. On board the steamer when she left Charleston were eight men, five women and three children. I shall continue to employ Small and his wife on board the Planter for inland waters, with which they appear to be very familiar. I do not know whether, in the views of the government, the vessel will be considered a prize, but if so, I respectfully inform me of this fact, presuming it would be a matter of interest to us to have possession of this gun. This man, Robert Small, is superior to any who have come into our lines, intelligent as many of them have been. His information has been most interesting, and portions of it of the most important nature. The steamer was a valuable acquisition to the squadron by her good machinery and other light draft. 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