

THE CHARLESTON AFFAIR.

Arrival of the Princess Royal at Philadelphia.

OUR SIDE OF THE STORY.

THE FIGHT WITH THE REBEL RAMS.

None of the Blockading Fleet Sunk.

THE KEYSTONE STATE DISABLED.

Twenty-one Killed on Board the Keystone State and Three on Board the Mercedita.

The Reason for the Reported Disappearance of the Blockading Fleet.

Narrow Escape of the Princess Royal.

Philadelphia, Feb. 8, 1863.

The iron steamer Princess Royal, in charge of Acting Master Edward Van Sice, arrived at the Navy Yard to-day. She brings highly important intelligence, both as relating to her capture and the rebel attack on our blockading fleet at Charleston.

It appears from the statement of an intelligent eye witness that the cause of this attack of the rebel rams on our squadron was owing to the capture of the Princess Royal—the captain and pilot of that vessel having escaped ashore during the darkness of the night and communicated intelligence to the enemy.

The Princess Royal endeavored to run the blockade by way of Beach Inlet on the 25th ult., but was discovered by the pilotboat Blunt. On signal being given, the Union ships proceeded towards her and captured the prize.

They attacked the Mercedita first. One ram struck her on the water ridge, killing her crew, and at the same time firing a shot, which entered one of her boilers, causing the death of three persons, including a gunner, by a steam explosion.

The boat which Captain Steilwagen lowered then conveyed his lieutenant (executive officer) to the side of the rebel ram, and the officer asked to be admitted on board.

This was refused. The lieutenant then repeated Captain Steilwagen's statement that "you are in a sinking condition." The rebel officer replied—"You can't sink lower than we are."

The ram then steamed towards the Keystone State, and sent a shot through her steam drum, causing the death of twenty-one persons—twelve by the shot and nine by being scalded by steam. Fifteen were wounded, and are lying at Fort Royal, some in a precarious condition.

In the meantime the United States gunboat Houstonic engaged the other ram, driving her away. At half past six o'clock in the morning both rams left the scene and proceeded up to Charleston.

This attack on our fleet, the Princess Royal, which laid near the Houstonic, and was the chief object of contest on both sides, succeeded in getting off, mainly through the energies of Third Assistant Engineer Thurston, who pelted into her fires all the inflammable material at hand.

Her escape is chiefly owing to his endeavors, as well as her safe arrival at this port, notwithstanding the severe gale which prevailed during her passage from Fort Royal. Although the coal was the antagonist with which our navy is supplied, she made ten knots an hour on her trip with ease in the heaviest storm.

The Mercedita steamed down to Fort Royal, escaping with only one boiler injured. She arrived safely at Fort Royal, and would be repaired in a day. The Keystone State was entirely disabled, and was towed down to Fort Royal by the Memphis.

The rebel steamer that the federal fleet had entirely disappeared from the port of Charleston are entirely unsubstantiated by the facts.

The fleet consisted of the following vessels—The Thaddeus, Houstonic, Augusta, Quaker City, Keystone State and Mercedita, besides the pilotboats Blunt, Memphis and John Butler.

During the daytime our blockading fleet are not particular as to keeping to the station, and on the day of this assault most of the vessels sailed towards the Keystone State to ascertain her condition, and when they returned without any assistance. They may account for their apparent absence at the time of the visit of the foreign consuls, as mentioned by the rebel papers. Our vessels, as usual, resumed their positions at dark.

The United States steam frigate New Ironides, Commander Thomas Turner commanding, arrived the next day to reinforce the blockade. The following is a list of her officers—

- Commander—Thomas Turner.
Lieutenant Commanding and Executive Officer—Geo. E. Beckwith.
Surgeon—Marion Davoll.
Chief Engineer—Carrigan Newell.
Paymaster—A. W. Russell.
Lieutenant—Henry B. Robinson.
Acting Master—Geo. W. Donell, John M. Skilling and John Butler.
Acting Surgeon—Wm. T. Platt, Ed. Kishner.
First Lieutenant of Marines—Henry A. Bartlett.
Second Lieutenant of Marines—James B. Young.
Boatswain—Charles W. Tracy.
Acting Engineer—Henry H. Bull.
First Assistant Engineer—B. L. Lusk, Robert L. Harris.
Third Assistant Engineer—Everett Bull, H. C. Beck.
Wm. S. Wade.
Carpenter—Frederick Mason.
Cannonier—John P. Dixon.
Acting Master's Mate—Charles H. Hand, Benjamin F. Morris, George B. Bradley, Thomas S. Harvey, Robert Sheppard, Charles W. Howard.
Boatswain—Thomas Burnett.
Cannonier—Charles Stuart.
Cannonier—Theodore H. Babop.
Boatswain—John A. Miral.

IMPORTANT FROM THE SOUTH.

Very Late from Vicksburg, Charleston and Richmond.

The Brilliant Run of the Queen of the West Down the Mississippi.

What the Union Troops Are Doing at Vicksburg.

INTERESTING FROM CHARLESTON

The Expedition Against That Place.

The Officers of H. B. M. Ship Cadmus Tell the Rebels What We Intend to Do.

FIGHTING IN TENNESSEE.

The Reported Killing and Wounding of a Hundred Union Troops.

The Richmond Examiner of the 6th and Equiper of the 6th Inst. have been received. They contain some news of importance.

The Expedition to Charleston.

Important from Tennessee.

The Rebel Finances.

The War in Tennessee.

Return of the Union Force Sent in Pursuit of the Retreating Rebels—Capture of Two Members of Forrest's Staff and a Number of Privates, &c.

Our Orizaba Correspondence.

The British Cabinet on the War.

The American Question.

The Army of the Rappahannock.

News from Fortress Monroe.

Departure of Rebel Prisoners—Clothing and Medicines Sent to the Union Soldiers in Richmond, &c.

Non-Arrival of the Europeans.

The Navy.

THE MEDIATION SCHEME.

Interesting Letters from the French Minister of Foreign Affairs.

MR. THOUVENEL TO MR. MERCIER.

PARIS, June 12, 1862.

The conclusion which, in the opinion of the Cabinet at Washington, could not long completely modify its situation, seems as yet as distant as ever.

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THE ARMY OF THE RAPPAHANNOCK.

The Reserve Grand Division Broken Up—General Sigel to Command the Eleventh Corps—The Reorganization of the Army, &c., &c.

NEWS FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

Departure of Rebel Prisoners—Clothing and Medicines Sent to the Union Soldiers in Richmond, &c.

Non-Arrival of the Europeans.

The Navy.

UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

Large Meeting at the Academy of Music.

GENERAL WINFIELD SCOTT PRESIDING.

Speeches of General Scott and General Burnside, &c., &c., &c.

The United States Christian Association held a meeting at the Academy of Music in this city last evening.

The attendance was very large, and it was known that the veteran General Scott was to preside, and that General Burnside, recently in command of the Army of the Rappahannock, would also be present to address the meeting.

The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. D. C. Van Norman, and addresses were severally made by Drs. Tyng and Reed, and Colonel McKean.

General Scott attracted the attention of every person present—the old General looking as hale and hearty as could be expected. On rising to speak he was greeted with loud and continued applause.

General Burnside presided, and was called upon by the audience for some remarks, and responded as follows.

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INTERESTING FROM EUROPE.

THE MAILS OF THE HANSA.

Speech of Milner Gibson, President of the British Board of Trade, on the War.

He Denounces Slavery, Denies Intervention and Warns England Against a War with the Union.

The English Consuls at Charleston and Savannah on the Stock of Cotton.

Consul Bunch Promises Four Millions of Bales when the Southern Ports are Opened.

The Spanish Cabinet Endorses Gen. Prim's Mexican Policy.

British Opinion of Napoleon's Plan for the Latin Race.

Four Hundred Negroes Kidnaped in Egypt and Transported to Mexico.

The Steamship Hana, Captain Van Stanton, which left Southampton on the 22d of January, arrived at this port early yesterday (Sunday) morning, and a copious summary of her news—which is four days later—was published in the Herald immediately after her arrival.

The Paris correspondent of the London Army and Navy Gazette states that the Emperor is reported to have said to Fortey when he was starting that it was "the heaviest affair of his reign." The Emperor is said to have lately made some remarks as to the continuance of the war to the American Minister, to the effect that he should soon be obliged to retire.

Capitaine Ricault, of the Imperial Navy, Aid-de-Camp of the Minister of Marine, is about to leave Paris to convey the ratification of the treaty of peace to Cochin China.

A letter from Rome of the 14th of January says—"Napoleon the Italian, which looks so complacently, and takes a cheerful view of things, as if he were one of his most recent plebeians. 'The Italian war,' he says, 'cost three hundred millions; but the Mexican invasion cost a million more; it is calculated that it will cost a Napoleon.'

La France laments the death of Saïd Pacha, as being a serious check to French policy in Egypt. It says—"Small Pacha, the new viceroy, does not share the deep religious conviction, he passes for being entirely devoted to English influence."

A letter from Paris of the 21st of January says—"It is stated that the Imperial Prince is to be succeeded, not from political government next month, and placed under the control of the Emperor, but to be succeeded in the name of the emperor, and to be succeeded in this reasonable post, but it is positively said that he is not a bishop."

At the weekly meeting of the executive committee of the British Cotton Supply Association, held in London, a grant of cotton seed was made to cultivators in Brazil, Costa Rica and New South Wales. A cotton gin was also granted to an applicant in Queensland. A letter was read advising the purchase of a quantity of New Orleans and St. Louis cotton, seed in New York on account of the Association, the bulk of the New Orleans seed being intended for distribution by the Turkish government in its dominions. A letter was also read from a gentleman in Tobago, suggesting that cotton cultivation should be carried on there on a large scale by the aid of freed negroes from the United States, and giving an estimate of the cost of cultivation, showing a handsome profit to those engaging in the proposed undertaking.

Lord Ferrey, M. P., in a late address to his constituents, in Marlborough, England, in referring to the American question, said he did not believe that the civil war had been brought about by a republican form of government. On the contrary, he said, it was a war under any other than a republican form of government the Union would have broken up years ago.

Mr. Harvey Lewis, M. P., the colleague of Lord Ferrey, said—"The thought it was fortunate that this country (England) had such a man as Lord Palmerston at the head of the government, in the present crisis in America. Though he had already appeared to show his opinion in favor of the Emperor, he had not yet taken any step to join the Emperor, but he had taken an order of mediation, which is a step towards the settlement of the question."

The French government, La France says, is about to take possession of the island of Cuba, a point in the Red Sea in proximity to the State of Bahad Mahal. The steam frigate Hermine has, it is said, been charged to carry this message. Cuba is admirably situated for a coaling station, and the necessary works will shortly be commenced there.

The London Times of the 22d inst., referring to the movement, says—"It may be of course, that the Emperor is not dissatisfied with the gratuity he has made to the manufacturers of the Perin or Aton on those celebrated shores, but the most obvious purpose is to render continuation more easy to him, in which he has been successful. A highly increasing trade through the Rio manufacturing, with the French now passing their provinces, and with India, where they have their old factories and the power of the great manufacturing trade which is springing up in that regenerated country."

The British Cabinet on the War. PRESIDENT OF THE BRITISH BOARD OF TRADE, MILNER GIBSON, M. P., in a speech delivered in the House of Commons on the 27th of January, 1863, addressed his constituents in the Tower Hill, London. The large room was crowded to excess. Mr. Alfred Rayner, in the absence of the Mayor, presided.

Mr. Gibson, after relating the statement that the report of the paper daily would secure the paper makers, and showing that the report was a large increase in the manufacturing power in the country, the honorable gentleman proceeded to say—"I may perhaps be permitted to say a word or two on the general trade of the country, because it is well upon this occasion to take the opportunity of stating what many persons do not seem to be aware of, but perhaps may not be generally known as a result of the late war. It is a fact that during the late year (1862) we exported to our own islands 1,622,000 pounds of foreign wool, and about 100,000 pounds of wool from the United States, against a total of 1,722,000 pounds in 1861. The quantity received from the United States in 1862 was accordingly large, and was probably about one-third of the total imports. The imports in 1862 of previous butter, lard, tallow, and oil, the duties on which were raised in 1861, were 1,000,000 pounds, but in 1862 they were 1,200,000 pounds. Now, these large imports, which were foreign wool and oil, and other articles, were not only received, but they were also sold, and were sold at a profit. It is a fact that the quantity of foreign wool received in 1862 was 1,622,000 pounds, and that the quantity of wool from the United States was 100,000 pounds. The quantity received from the United States in 1862 was accordingly large, and was probably about one-third of the total imports. The imports in 1862 of previous butter, lard, tallow, and oil, the duties on which were raised in 1861, were 1,000,000 pounds, but in 1862 they were 1,200,000 pounds. Now, these large imports, which were foreign wool and oil, and other articles, were not only received, but they were also sold, and were sold at a profit. 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