

THE TAKING OF CHARLESTON.

A Detailed and Graphic Account of the Occupation of Charleston—A Description of the Army and Navy—The Surrender of the City—The Reception at the Wilmington Depot—Enthusiastic Reception of our Troops by the Citizens—Appearance of the City, &c.

Our readers are already familiar with the principal facts connected with the occupation of Charleston by our forces. All will, however, be greatly interested in the following very graphic and interesting account of the scenes and incidents of the capture, which we extract from the correspondence of the New York Herald.

Charleston was evacuated by General Hardee's forces on the night of Friday, February 17th, and the morning of Saturday the 18th, the troops withdrawing by the Northeastern railroad.

Shortly after daylight it was discovered that there were no troops in and about Sumner, or Moultrie, or in the works on James Island. Lieutenant Colonel Bennett, of the Twenty-first United States Colored Troops, commanding Major Island, immediately dispatched Major Hennessy, of the Fifty-second Pennsylvania Volunteers, to Fort Sumner, in a small boat, to ascertain whether the rebels had evacuated the place.

Major Hennessy proceeded to Sumner, and soon discovered that the rebels had evacuated the place, and that the works were in the hands of the Union forces.

Major Hennessy returned to Major Island, and reported the success of his mission. The rebels were then driven from the works, and the city was occupied by our forces.

The destruction of Columbia seems almost a work of retributive justice. It is the capital of the most traitorous State of South Carolina, and even more than Charleston itself, has been the hot-bed of secession. The first ordinance of secession ever passed was enacted here.

Mr. Wilson, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill to incorporate a national asylum for the relief of totally disabled officers and men of the volunteer forces.

On landing it was not deemed advisable by Col. Bennett to advance into the city, as he was informed that a rebel brigade was still at the depot taking the cars, and preparing to leave the city.

After a brief interview, in which the Aldeermen informed Colonel Bennett that the city had been fired by the rebels in various places, and that the town was threatened by a total destruction, the General was satisfied in consequence of the operations of the rebel cavalry, who were impressing them and driving them from the city.

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It did not at memorable day. One would suppose that the people had gone mad with joy. It was a universal outbreak of enthusiasm. The streets were filled with the shouts of the people, and the air was filled with the music of the bands.

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