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MORNING EDITION.

JACKSON, MISS.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, APRIL 22.

SOLDIERS' LUNCH HOUSE.

Among the many efforts of the ladies of the South to contribute to the comfort of their brave defenders in the field, few, perhaps, have been more successful in accomplishing their original purpose than the enterprise of establishing a lunch house for the passing soldier at Jackson. The association has quietly pursued its generous work, until after contributing to the comfort of thousands from every State in the Confederacy, it has become an institution favorably known in every corps that has had individual members detained in our city. Modestly pursuing the purpose of their organization, the leading spirits in the good work have gone on with great energy and perseverance, until they have placed at the disposal of the soldier a home. True, it is plain and simple, still it is a retreat that has proven a benefit to thousands who would otherwise have suffered.

In this praiseworthy movement we are pleased to learn a number of ladies from all parts of the State have participated, and all of these can rest assured that every day their enterprise is fill ng its mission of relieving the distressed and t.i.l-worn soldiers, whose blessings upon the kindness and thoughtfulness of women are constantly ascending. The monthly report recently published shows that the hearts of the noble women of the State are enlisted in the work they have undertaken. The institution, to the honor of its supporters be it said, is not a local one, any more than are the benefits it confers confined to the soldier from any particular locality. And so far as the latter is concerned we know a soldier of the Confederacy is always welcome.

We commend to the ladies at other important points in the State, the example furnished by the ladies engaged in this work. There are many places where a few vigilant workers can accomplish the same beneficial results we have witnessed here. At Meridian, Grenada, Vicksburg and elsewhere, we have seen our soldiery suffer, when they might, by similar efforts, have been relieved. Let the women reflect and act—the men will aid and assist. The burden will not fall upon the weaker sex alone.

We refer to the lunch house at Jackson, fully appreciating the good that has been accomplished by its establishment. And, because we believe it is accomplishing so much, we bespeak for the ladies connected with it every assistance that the charitable can possibly afford them. Of course its continued success depends upon the liberality of the public, and to this we would appeal. No matter how small the contribution, or what its nature, if of any value whatever, prudent managers will turn it to account. Nothing can come amiss. We hope the public will continue to respond to the call of the ladies, as heretofore, in order that there may be no intermission in their good works.

IMPORTANT FROM MEXICO—THE FRENCH SUCCESSFUL.

By the arrival of the steamship Creole at New Orleans, the *Picayune* has the Havana *Diario* of the 14th, which contained intelligence of the defeat of Gen. COMONFORT on his way to the assistance of Gen. ORTEGA, who, at last accounts, was closely besieged, and had offered to capitulate under conditions.

The *Diario* says: An English steamship of war arrived here yesterday from Vera Cruz, which place she left on the 5th, and brings the following information:

The news heretofore communicated to us by a private correspondent, by English steamer, of the defeat of Gen. COMONFORT is confirmed. He had started to Puebla to reinforce Gen. ORTEGA, when Gen. BERTHIER gave him battle.

General ORTEGA had sent a communication to General FOREY, offering to capitulate upon terms. The French commander-in-chief had refused to accede to any capitulation whatever, demanding an unconditional surrender.

The authorities of the city of Puebla had sent a dispatch off to General FOREY to ask him not to destroy the city, and another had been sent by the ladies. It is said that Gen. FOREY had stopped all further connonading, preferring to rely on other means to compel a surrender.

Gen. Ortega had made a sally at the head of 15,000 men, with a view of opening a passage in the direction of the capital, but found the obstacles so serious that he was forced to return, having suffered considerable loss.

Such was the supply of provisions in Vera Cruz, and so cheaply were they sold to private buyers, that large quantities had been re-exported to France.

FERNANDO WOOD'S SPEECH.

We give the speech of Hon. FERNANDO WOOD, delivered before a peace meeting held in New York City on the 7th inst., complete as we find it in the *Times* of the 8th. Of course the report is biased as far as the *Times* dared to stretch its reputation for veracity, yet we presume it is sufficiently correct to give an idea of the sentiments and purposes of the speaker. We have the resolutions of the meeting, which will appear in our afternoon edition. They came too late for insertion this morning.

BOMBARDMENT OF FORT SUMTER.—We publish this morning the Northern accounts of the late conflict in front of Charleston. It will be seen they admit their injuries to have been even greater than was claimed by the reports from Charleston, and the insufficiency of the iron-clads to overcome our defenses is acknowledged.

VICKSBURG.—The enemy's battery was silent yesterday all day, and nothing of interest occurred later than the reports given by our regular correspondent and the extracts from the *Whig*.

LET THEM BE REMEMBERED.—The following are the names of the men who went across the river last Thursday night and set fire to Arnold's building, to light up the river that our men might have a good view of the Yankee boats. John Hearn and —— Burton, of the 1st Tennessee regiment heavy artillery, and Charles Brown, of the 231 Louisiana. Let some evidence be given them of an appreciation of such meritorious conduct.

FROM THE BAR.—Only eight vessels remained outside the bar yesterday. The wind from the northeast amounted at times almost to a hurricane, and must have rendered their position anything but agreeable. The gale lasted several hours, and we should not be surprised to hear, before long, of some wrecks along the coast. We learn that the sights of the guns and several additional articles from the Keokuk have been secured.—*Charleston Courier, 15th.*

LETTER FROM VICKSBURG.

Special Correspondence of the Memphis Appeal.]

VICKSBURG, April 20, 1863.

The batteries from which the enemy has been playing upon the city since Friday, are still left unmolested, and not a gun has yet answered from our side. This unaccountable silence is attributed to the peremptory orders of General Pemberton, who refuses permission to open fire, for what reason, is perhaps only known to himself. It is certainly very provoking to our artillerists to be compelled to stand in battery as a target for the enemy, without the privilege of making a reply; as well as to the citizens who are witnessing the destruction of their property under the muzzles of our guns. What military strategy there is in not firing a gun at the enemy, when on a former occasion it required only two shots from our guns to drive him away, is beyond the comprehension of the unscientific and unmilitary observer.

Early on Monday morning the pickets and signal men reported that the enemy had been at work all night, and that some of the boats had been down to the neighborhood of the battery. The presumption was that more guns had been put up, or perhaps their places supplied by mortars—and expectation was on tiptoe to learn what divilment had been going on among the Yankees. Every one was prepared for the opening of a new programme during the day, and they did not have long to wait, as the enemy opened somewhat sooner than usual, no doubt being anxious to note the range of the guns in a new direction, for which they had prepared themselves during the night.

About half-past eight o'clock A. M., the first shot was fired at the city, and came nearer reaching it than any previous effort. They now directed their fire toward that part of the town between the Washington hotel and the courthouse. The shells did not, as formerly, fall or burst in the river, but now they reached into the city, and, I believe, pieces of the first one struck the Washington hotel. Soon after this another one fell immediately in front of that building, and exploding, whirled its fragments into a Jew's store opposite, and set fire to the goods. One man was standing in the door of the store when the shell exploded, and it seemed as if the pieces passed by him by hundreds without touching him. His escape is almost miraculous.

The length of range of the enemy's guns kept on increasing, as shell after shell came whirling and screeching through the air. Soon they reached a square beyond Washington street, and several buildings on Walnut street were struck, and their distance kept on increasing until they reached the street in front of the custom-house. On the hill upon which the latter building stands, a number of persons had congregated to witness the shooting, but when the shells began to fall in the street and on the side of the hill, the crowd of spectators very suddenly diminished, and the place was thereafter not considered so agreeable for observations. I hear of several soldiers wounded by fragments of shell and one or two killed.

It appears to me to be a matter rather requiring censure than praise, in regard to the inexcusable recklessness of some of the ladies about Vicksburg, whose desire for seeing the shelling prompts them to reek very exposed places, regardless of the danger. Now, imagine a shell to explode in the midst of a bevy of ladies, and kill a dozen or two of the dear creatures. There could be no censure put upon the Yankees for such an act, because their four days shelling previous had given all fair warning to get out of harm's reach. The order of Gen. Pemberton, for the removal of the women and children, is not enforced and not obeyed, and the town is entirely too full of the non-combatant element.

I do not think that the firing yesterday proceeded from the same guns that did the shelling on the previous days. They are of longer range, but not of such heavy caliber, and they seem to shoot with more accuracy than the former ones. Their fire is in a direct line with the courthouse, and if practice has any virtue, they will yet strike that building. Pieces of shell went several squares beyond that place. Of course it may be imagined that a stampede occurred yesterday—but this is a mistake, and but few people were seen either to move or leave the city. They have made up their minds to stay, and seem to pay but little attention to the shelling.

There are various reports in regard to the battery from which the Yankees are shelling. Some accounts have it that it is casemated and iron-clad, and that the guns are fired from portholes. Others have it that it is nothing but a simple battery behind the levee, and that the levee itself answers as a parapet and embankment, while the supposed port-holes are merely ditches cut through the levee as peep holes from which to take their observations. I have not yet had an opportunity of examining the work with a glass, and cannot venture an opinion of its character, further than what I learn at Gen. Stephenson's headquarters, that the battery is very much exposed, and liable to be silenced any minute by our guns.

What the next order of the day will be is hard to conjecture, and will be regulated according to the movements of the enemy.

The Hewbraw element has all disappeared from our midst, and but few business houses are now open at which to transact business; and the town is in fact untenable at the present time; the daily expectation of an assault in force, will cause a stagnation in the trading line. There is not a large amount of sugar here, or that might open a chance for speculation. I do not think that there is anything wanting in the way of full and perfect preparations for the expected assault, and everybody is willing to abide the issue with the utmost confidence.

NESTOR.

LETTER FROM RICHMOND.

Special Correspondence of the Memphis Appeal.]

RICHMOND, April 15, 1863.

Rumors of all kinds have been in livelier circulation for three or four days past than at any previous time since last summer. That Gen. Longstreet had driven the Yankees out of Suffolk has been repeated again and again, with no better authority for the statement, so far as I can learn, than that very heavy firing was heard in that direction Sunday night and Monday. Operations on the Blackwater have been confidently expected any time since Saturday—indeed the ambulance committee of this city received orders to held themselves in readiness to leave town at a moment's warning for the battle-field, but the dispatch for their immediate departure has not arrived up to the present writing.

Then there was another rumor of gigantic proportions and absurdity to the effect that Gen. Wise, who had certainly driven the enemy out of Williamsburg, was pursuing them pell mell beyond Yorktown, and was hopeful of taking Fortress Monroe with his little brigade, which would of course bring the war to an end at once.

Then rumors of recognition. Yes, the Confederate States had undeniably been recognized by a foreign power, some said Belgium, others said Spain, and these latter declared that the Spanish minister was in town, (Monsieur Tonson come again,) while to-day it is voiced loudly in the streets that the recognition has come from Great Britain—nothing less than the complete change of front of the Russell ministry. The Lincoln government, we are told, has made propositions for peace and a reconstruction of the Union on the basis of Mr. Calhoun's idea of a Dual Executive, by which Jefferson Davis and Abraham Lincoln are both to be recognized as Presidents, and we are to have two Dromios—"two Kings of Brentford smelling at the same nosegay." One sanguine gentleman says we are to have peace on the 1st of May, another yet more enthusiastic says it is to be declared on Thursday week, the 23d inst. I am unable to learn what has given rise to all these reports, which seem to me in the highest degree wild and improbable concerning England; but the nearest guess I can make is that they have their origin in the fact that some clerk of the Confederate senate said that news of the most gratifying sort had been made known in secret session last Saturday, and that Mr. Lawley, the amiable and friendly correspondent of the London *Times* is in a glee of spirits concerning the termination of the war.

Lastly, we have a rumor, said to come from the office of the signal corps, that a general engagement was fought beyond Fredericksburg yesterday between three or four Divisions of the army of Fighting Joe Hooker, in which the Yankees laid each other dead upon the field in numbers. The statement is that to suppress a mutiny, a regiment was ordered to fire upon a mass of disaffected troops, that their companies sprang to arms and returned the volley, whereupon the fight became indiscriminate, the greater part of the army joining in it on one or the other side. This I regard also, as a cock and bull story. If it be true, so much the better.

The *Examiner*, of this morning, in commenting upon the loss of the Stonewall Jackson, off Charleston harbor, charges that there is an understanding between the blockading squadron and the merchant steamers by which they are permitted to pass without molestation, because the traffic in goods and merchandise between Nassau and Charleston, is only an indirect trade between New York and the Confederate States. This explains, according to the *Examiner*, the otherwise unintelligible fact that all steamers laden with munitions of war are captured or sunk, while the regular traders get out and in without injury. This unintelligible fact is realy not fact. The **Kate** was a merchant steamer, engaged in the regular trade, and she was pursued into the Cape Fear river, where she was sunk beyond recovery. So were the Granite City and the Nicolai I, recently captured on their way in to Charleston. The Georgiana, which was run ashore three weeks ago and destroyed, was another of these merchant vessels. There is an easier way of accounting for the loss of the government ships. They are generally taken in their very first attempt to enter a Southern port or forced to run ashore to avoid capture. Their captains are unacquainted with the positions and habits of the blockaders. Their pilots are less skilful than the pilots of Fraser & Co. Sometimes these government vessels come directly from England without stopping at any West India port. Let the government seek the services of the captains and pilots of the regular traders and their ventures will be more certainly received.

Gen. Pegram, whose recent fight with an overpowering force of the enemy near Somerset in Kentucky was proclaimed by the Yankee press as a brilliant Federal victory in a general engagement, is in town. His official report places the affair in another light altogether. It was no general engagement. Pegram went after beef cattle, got them, drove them off, and on his return was assailed by five times his own number of Yankees, who vainly sought to cut off his retreat. His loss is killed, wounded and prisoners was about one hundred and fifty. The enemy lost eighty killed and many more wounded. That's the whole story.

Governor Letcher is a candidate for Congress in the approaching election in the Augusta Congressional district. He opposes the Hon. John B. Baldwin, the sitting member. His course as Governor has met with such universal approval that he would be a formidable candidate for any office.

I regret to announce the death of the Hon. Wm. M. Cook, from Missouri. He died in Petersburg last evening at 6 o'clock, P. M., after a lingering illness, of consumption. He was a gentleman of most amiable character and of very high mental endowments. His death will not be announced in Congress for several days yet.

We have had a pouring rain and high North-East wind to-day.

DIXIE.

FEDERAL REPORTS FROM LOUISIANA.

We are indebted to Lieut. W. M. WORTHINGTON, commanding pickets at Madisonville, for copies of the New Orleans *Era* and the *Picayune*, of the 18th inst. The former is the official Abolition organ, and of course contains the sensation reports of the Federal authorities. We extract copiously, expecting our readers to make due allowance for the disposition of the *Era* to magnify:

ARMAMENT SECURED AND STEAMER CAPTURED

From our (Era's) Extra of yesterday evening.]

The following important information has been officially received here this afternoon. The dispatches are from Colonel Chandler, at Brashear City:

"Our forces have recovered the armaments of the Diana and the Queen of the West, complete and in good order."

The armament of the Queen of the West consisted of four 24-pound howitzers, and two 24-pound rifled guns.

The armament of the Diana consisted of five guns, viz: one Parrot 39-pound rifled gun, 10½ feet long; two Dahlgren 32 pound, smooth bore, and one brass 12-pound rifled howitzer; one brass 12-pound howitzer, smooth bore.

At the time of her capture by the rebels, the *Planters' Banner*, of Franklin, published an extra, which declared that the Diana was "the best gunboat the Yankees had in Berwick's bay."

By a dispatch from Col. Chandler to Captain Shipley, of the quartermaster's department, we learn that our forces have captured the rebel transport steamer Cornie.

The vessel was not injured, and was complete when taken.

Colonel Chandler telegraphed Captain Shipley to send up an engineer and a pilot, for the captured vessel, and these have already been ordered to proceed to a point indicated at once.

Our forces are still moving on, and everything is as promising as ever.

FROM GALVESTON AND SABINE PASS.

The United States steamer Circassian, Commander Eaton, arrived last evening, on her return trip from Galveston. She left here on the 12th, arriving at the blockading fleet off Galveston on the morning of the 14th. Found there the Bienville, Owasco, Irasca, Scioto, the ship A. Hopkins, and a coal brig from New York. The gunboat Katahoin, from New Orleans, arrived the same day, having touched at Sabine pass on her way. The rebels were actively employed in fortifying the harbor.. We could see rail cars busily running from Fort point to the city, taking ordnance stores, etc., for the fortifications. Pelican island is rapidly being placed in a state of defense. The Rachel Seaman is stationed at Aransas pass.

On the morning of the 15th the Circassian proceeded to Sabine Pass, where she found the United States steamers New London and Cayuga. From them we received some prisoners recently captured by those ships. Among them is Commodore Fowler, C. S. N., who commanded the flotilla at Sabine Pass. He was in command of the steamers that captured the Morning Light and Velocity.

CONFEDERATE OFFICERS CAPTURED.

We learn that when Gen. Weitzel's troops were advancing up the Teche, Captain Semmes, of the celebrated Semmes battery, was ordered to take command of the Diana, and cover the rear of the retreating Confederates. In the meantime, a battery had been planted further up by our forces, thus placing an obstruction to the navigation of the Teche by this steamer, finding himself between two fires, and unable to run the gauntlet, Semmes blew up the Diana, and was captured. Captain Semmes is said to be a son of the notable Raphael Semmes, of the rebel steamer Alabama. He is now in a safe place.

ADM[illegible] FARRAGUT HEARD FROM.

More [illegible] felt in the fortunes of Admiral Farra[illegible]ry loyal man in the country, and his assured safety is a source of congratulation among good men everywhere.

Not the least gratifying intelligence in this news, is the fact that the renowned Colonel Ellet of the ram fleet, is in command of the Switzerland, with Admiral Farragut. The rebel papers up the river trumped up a very ingenious theory some time ago, by which the writers proved to their own great satisfaction that Colonel Ellet was lost, with everybody else on board the ram Lancaster, while attempting to pass the batteries at Vicksburg:

Tuesday morning, April 14th, Lieutenants H. B. Skinner, and G. C. Dean, of General Dudley's staff, and Lieutenant Tenney, quartermaster of the 30th Massachusetts volunteers, went up from Baton Rouge to Port Hudson, in the Richmond, they having volunteered to go across to the point opposite Port Hudson, and carry dispatches from below to the admiral, who was to be at the mouth of False river Wednesday morning. Capt. Roe and Lieut Herbert of the signal corps, accompanied the expedition. During the rail up an additional mast was put above the main topmast of the Richmond, with a "crow's nest" in the top, from which it was proposed to signal over the trees covering the point with the admiral, which plan proved entirely successful. On the morning of the 15th, Lieuts. Skinner, Dean, Tenney and Herbert went up the river a couple of miles to reconnoiter. They found that the enemy were crossing cavalry over from Port Hudson. Returning to the Richmond, the welcome signal guns were heard from the Hartford, whose masts were plainly visible from the "crow's nest." They were quickly answered by Capt. Alden, and in a few minutes the expedition started. Besides the officers named, Lieut. Jno. Shaw, acting master of the Richmond, and Mr. Gibaldine, private secretary to Admiral Farragut, who came down last week, and returned to the Richmond from New Orleans, put in force to accompany us over. Also Mr. Graves, purser's clerk of the Albatros, accompanied the expedition. A negro was taken along as a guide. The party was well armed, and started about noon. They struck the woods some two miles below the river, and took two skiffs, and for five miles proceeded through the woods, sometimes with water to the depth ranging from three to thirty feet. It was a novel scene. Silently they paddled through the forest—the only noises heard were the voices of numberless birds and the low rustling of the leaves. Arriving near the False river, the boats were hid in the bushes, and the party waded waist deep through the water a mile farther in, when they struck the old State levee, following which for a short distance, they came out into the open road in full sight of the enemy's batteries, which were no longer to be feared, for right ahead was the welcome sight of the flag-ship. The Albatros, Captain Hart, came quickly down and took us on board. While waiting for her to reach us, the enemy fired a few shell at the party, which went harmlessly over. In a few moments we were alongside the admiral's ship, who gave us a most cordial welcome. The officers vied with each other in making us comfortable, and eagerly asked numberless questions about the news below. After a short night's rest, the party, decreased by the officers belonging above, early next morning started to return, which was a much more dangerous matter than going, for the enemy having divined our intentions, had, during the night, sent a small force over, evidently with the intention of pobbling the party; but we struck a different road from the one we came, and reached our boats in safety, having encountered but one of the enemy's picketts, which we surprised, and quietly left on our firing at him. We got back to the Richmond safe, and thus in twenty-four hours accomplished an object full of importance and danger, and one which Yankee pluck and perseverence alone could accomplish.

The admiral is well, and has seen considerable service since passing the Port. He reports heavy batteries at Grand Gulf, which fired on him in going up and coming down. There are batteries also at Warrenton, just below Vicksburg. The ram Switzerland is with him. He is now blockadling the mouth of Red river, down which a large amount of the enemy's supplies come. He reports that the rebels have only four days provisions at Port Hudson, and is of opinion that there are not more than fifteen thousand troops, and that if invested it must fall in a week's time at most. There is no particular news from Gen. Grant. There is a large force at the canal opposite Vicksburg. The admiral had only one man killed in passing Port Hudson, but has lost several in the numerous attacks he has received from the river batteries.

THE ATTACK UPON CHARLESTON.

Federal Accounts of the Bombardment.

Special to the Chicago Times.]

WASHINGTON, April 13.—Very brief official dispatches of the Charleston naval attack have been received, but are not furnished for publication. From officers who have arrived here, it appears that the rain of shot upon our gunboats from the rebel batteries was most terrible, the Keokuk and Nahant coming in for the heaviest of the battering. The fire from Moultrie seemed the most effective, that fort being mounted with heavy rifled guns. From the rebel batteries every species of shot was used, and some shaped like wedges, pointed with steel, penetrated the casing of the monitors far enough to stick, but did no serious injury. The experiment in this combat bears against the big guns, or, as an officer concerned in it says, "You can force a candle through a plank, but not through a cask of soap."

To the *Associated Press*, North.]

NEW YORK, April 13.—The *Tribune's* special account of the Charleston fight, says:

The squadron arrived off Charleston on the morning of the 5th, and spent the day examining the bars and channels, the wind being too high to cross that evening. The admiral disclosed his plan of attack, which was to sail directly up and attack the northwest face of Fort Sumter at 600 or 800 yards.

At about 7 o'clock Monday morning the signal for the movement was given, and the vessels started slowly. In consequence of a fog, however, they were obliged to postpone the intended attack till next day. During the afternoon one of Gen. Ferry's brigades worked its way up Folly island, and established communication with the fleet, but no portion of the land forces got into the attack at all.

On the 7th, at 4:15, P. M., the fleet got under way, and passed the Morris island batteries without being fired upon, pushing on toward Fort Sumter. The New Ironsides worked badly, and, in consequence of the current, was obliged to anchor two or three times. Fort Moultrie opened first upon the Weehawken, which was within five thousand yards. The Cumming's point battery, Fort Sumter, and Battery Bee, immediately opened, and the action became general and terrific. The monitors still pushed on, replying vigorously, and passed the northeast face of Fort Sumter, when they discovered three lines of obstructions, holding torpedoes, etc., one of which exploded, but did no great damage. Finding it impossible to get across the obstructions, they turned about and steamed down the harbor. The Patapsco's 200-pounder had become disabled, and the turret of the Passaic so bent that the vessel was practically out of use. The other vessels also passed up to the northeast face of Fort Sumter, till they also were stopped by obstructions, and turned back.

After being under fire three-quarters of an hour all the monitors were ordered back, and at five o'clock the entire fleet was out of range, and the action ceased.

Admiral Dupont intended to renew the attack next day, but on ascertaining that the Keokuk and Passaic were entirely disabled, and three others partially so, he concluded to desist, in which he was sustained by all the commanders.

The Monitors were hit from 50 to 60 times each, except the Keokuk, which received about seventy shots, and was penetrated at the watermark no less than ten times. She was kept afloat till the next morning, when she sunk on the bar, her colors flying. All on board were saved. The Ironsides was hit about sixty times, but not damaged.

There are eleven large holes in the side of Fort Sumpter, apparently running through the walls.

The entire firing only amounted to 150 rounds.

When our correspondent left, two of the Monitors had sailed for Port Royal, and others are to follow.

Our entire casualties amount to 13, of whom but two or three were killed.

The *Times'* special gives the following list of casualties:

On the Nahant: Commander Downes, slight contusion in the foot; Pilot Isaac Schodield, severe contusion in the neck and shoulder—doing well; Quartermaster Cobb, compound fracture of the skull, since died; three seamen slightly wounded.

On the Keokuk: Commander A. C. Rhind, contusion in the leg; A. McIntosh, acting ensign, dangerously wounded; R. Nicholson, quartermaster, slightly; three seamen seriously, and seven slightly.

The *Herald's* account says:

There was a rumor in circulation, both at Port Royal and Charleston bar, that our troops were rapidly gaining the rear of the city of Charleston.

The *Times'* correspondent says of the Charleston fight:

The iron ships were exposed to a concentrated fire from five different points, unparalleled in the history of warfare. The fleet found it impossible to pass up beyond Fort Sumter, and assume the appointed place, owing to the obstructions which extended across the entire channel from Fort Sumter to Fort Moultrie, while above these, near the middle ground, were three other rows of piles, and, above these, three rebel iron-clads. The fleet was thus compelled to sustain this terrific fire, and nobly it did so for thirty minutes. During that time, not less than 3,500 shots were fired by the enemy, 160 being counted in a single minute.

BALTIMORE, April 13.—The gunboat Flambeau, arrived at Old Point on Saturday afternoon, bringing the officers of the iron clad Keokuk. The following is made up from the interesting account furnished the Baltimore *American* by an eye-witness who was in the fight:

The Weehawken was assigned the important duty, which was faithfully performed in the midst of the fight, to examine, and, if possible, to fire the obstructions which the rebels have extended across the harbor from Sumter to Moultrie. Protected by a scow, and with the "devil" in front of her, she pushed straight up toward the obstructions. They were found to consist of a net-work of chains and cables stretched clear across the harbor, over which it was impossible for the Weehawken to run without fouling her propeller, and which she found it impossible to force. In this net-work the rebels are supposed to have suspended torpedoes and other submarine explosives. She completed the examination and tested the impossibility of working up the harbor until means can be devised for the removal of the obstructions.

NEW YORK, April 13.—The *Times* publishes an extract containing a detailed account of the fight at Charleston, which says:

The result of the reconnoissance proves the utter insufficiency of the iron clad fleet alone to take Charleston. The Nahant received thirty wounds, several being bad fractures. The Passaic is also wounded severely in the turret and pilot house. The Nantucket's turret is so jarred that the port could not be opened, rendering her 15-inch gun useless. None other of the monitors were disabled.

The Connecticut Elections—More Banality.

The Hartford *Times* furnishes the following letter concerning the operations of the War Department in sending soldiers home to vote:

COMPANY I, FIRST CONNECTICUT ARTILLERY.
FORT SCOTT, VA., March 30, 1863.

DEAR SIR: As the time draws nigh for the annual elections in Connecticut, the excitement of the canvass reaches us even here. We look forward with anxiety to the first Monday of April, for much depends on the result of that day's contest at the ballot-box. We were yesterday thrown into great excitement by the report that two hundred of our regiment were to be sent home to vote at the election; and an order did come "to pick out about twenty good and reliable Republicans out of our company." Our officers told us that the quartermaster-general of Connecticut came to Washington and had an interview with the head of the War Department, Mr. Stanton, and stated to him "Connecticut must and shall go for Seymour unless the soldiers could go home and vote." And they made an agreement that as many as could be spared should go home and vote. Mr. Stanton asked how long it would take for the furloughs to go through the regular channels; and, being told it would take three days, he said:

"Send their names to me, and I will put them through in three hours."

And the men were accordingly picked out—men that were "sure to vote for Buckingham." No matter if they had spent half their time in the guardhouse, if they were sure to "vote right," it was enough.

But, as you may well suppose, we who were not of the same political way of thinking did not like it. We should not care if they would let us go too, and vote for Seymour. But that was not according to *the programme*. So we made some pretty loud talk, the consequence of which was, our commanding officer went to Mr. Stanton and stated that he was afraid he would demoralize the regiment, and had it stopped as far as this regiment is concerned; but I believe it was to extend to all the Connecticut regiments in this vicinity. So look out for a great influx of soldiers on the first Monday of April.

Yours truly,

SENTINEL.

The *Times* comments on this statement as follows:

The result of this large and grossly unfair and dishonest depletion of the army is to put a stop to all movements against the enemy for at least ten days. This keeps the army idle for that time, and costs the nation TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS ($20,000,000)!

How do you like it, freemen?

Cotton Panic in Macon, Georgia.

Cotton caused a terrible fright in the Macon, Ga., market on Saturday week. The speculators had been footballing it back and forth till they had kicked it up to forty cents a pound; but Saturday morning telegrams were received from Augusta to buy no more over a maximum of twenty cents. The Macon *Telegraph* says:

This left a somewhat broad margin between buyers and holders, and the result was—nothing done; nor was there any effort to accommodate the difference. Nobody wanted to buy. From an object of too fond and eager pursuit, cotton suddenly sunk into universal disfavor. The causes of the sudden change were numerous, but the principal ones were, no doubt, first, the Confederate tax on cotton and other products in the hands of speculative holders. The tax is ten per cent., or, say twenty dollars per bale. Another cause was the failure of the one arm bill in the Legislature. The crop of this year, under the three arm law now in force, liberally construed as it will be in practice, will largely swell the volume of this idle product now lying useless and cumbersome in all the market towns of the State.

Thus it will be seen that at that moment the paper makers took fright at the price of cotton, a concatenation of events has come to their relief, and the old staple will probably again subside into sober habits and safer prices. Indeed, we shall not be surprised to see it go very low. Planters will be indisposed to hold it at an annual tax of five per cent., and speculators will not like it much better at ten.

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

THE FEDERAL DEPREDATIONS AT HERNANDO.

Their Loss at the Coldwater.

Special to the Memphis Appeal.]

SENATOBIA, April 21.—In their retreat from Hernando the Federals burned the court house, and the residence of Dr. Temple and Messrs. Hawkins and Johnson.

In their statement of the affair at the Coldwater, on Sunday, they admit a loss of one major, one captain, one lieutenant and seventeen privates killed, and about fifty wounded.

B.

From the New York Times, April 8th.]

THE COPPERHEADS IN COUNCIL.

Speech of Hon. Fernando Wood—His Principles and Plans, his Hopes and Fears, his Wrath and Impotence.

The large hall of the Cooper Institute was densely packed by an audience last evening, who assembled, according to the printed call, to express their opposition to the contempt not, the war for the negro, and the Administration, and to exhibit their favor of the reunion of the States, of the Constitution and of the rights of the poor. The meeting was highly enthusiastic, and the sentiments uttered by the speaker, seemed to be fully and unreservedly indorsed. Amidst the vast concourse, one-hundredth of the Indians, and some eight or nine hundred, including among themselves, indeed some of the New England colonies, as early as 1643, to establish a Confederacy for mutual protection. This Confederacy—a fact which is not generally known, and to which I have not seen referred—the original Confederacy established in 1643, existed forty years on the continent, and comprised Massachusetts, Connecticut, and some territory which now comprises Vermont, Maine and Rhode Island, with a portion of our own State. In that Confederacy, which was a league for exterior protection, no local right was yielded. Again in 1776 another Confederacy or League was established, which comprised all the New England States, and took in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland. That was a league for the repulsion of internal taxation. Subsequently, in 1776, another convention was called in this State for the purpose of forming a league among these States, offensive and defensive. Then we come down to the American revolution—the Declaration of Independence in 1776—the Articles of Confederation formed during the revolutionary war. And let me tell you here, my friends, that during the seven years war of the American revolution, when we were struggling here for our independence—as every city was full of a most reliable and supplies for the British navy, and when nearly all the monetary interests and great commercial interests, except a little, in New York, Boston and Philadelphia, were in the hands of English capitalists, yet the Federal Congress at that time did not find it necessary to pass conscription bills and bills of that character. The wise Congresses that convened during the seven years' war of the Revolution, knew at no time thought of, much less attempted any act as a war measure, that infringed upon the rights of the States or the rights of the people. Now, I say that, if under the then existing circumstances, the whole population being only two millions and a half, with all the wealth, and commerce, and property and interests in the country in the hands of England, and the agents of England—if at that time, with a powerful enemy in arms in the midst of our own population, the American government at that time did not deem it proper to resort to these extraordinary measures, I say that the present for doing it more means to conquer the two North and not to conquer the slave South. We come then down, after the articles of Confederation were tried and found deficient for many purposes—after having been recognized by the mother country, we became a new nation—the nation of the people, and we wanted to have ambassadors accredited to the courts of Europe; we wanted a commerce and a navy, and hence we wanted a government, and a different one from that convention was called—for what? To make a more perfect government. That convention was called in 1787, and met in the city of Philadelphia, to frame the Constitution of the United States. Washington was President of that convention. It was the most august assemblage of men that ever convened for any purpose. It was a convention composed of the patriots of every man a patriot. They sat there with closed doors. They discussed all these great questions, and even the Abolition question itself was discussed, and sated aside, and compromised by that convention, and they finally adopted a Constitution. Well, my friends, what did they do then? Did they adjourn, retiring forth this Constitution as the law of the land? No, fundamental, organic form of government to govern us? No. They submitted it to the people of the several States for their ratification and confirmation. What did the people do? The people received the Constitution. There were certain home rights which were not sufficiently clearly expressed. They were fearful that there might be some construction put upon it that would divert something that would detract from the rights of the States and of the people, and, therefore, they demanded, as a condition precedent, before they would ratify the Constitution, that certain amendments should be incorporated in the instrument and become part and parcel of the Constitution itself. What were those amendments? They were the first ten of the amendments, and our persons should be exempt from seizure. Another amendment was the right of the people to peaceably assemble. Another was that all the powers not directly delegated, not delegated by the Constitution, should be reserved to the States, and to the people thereof. Now, my friends, each of these amendments, which we pass by and which, in the execution, have been shamefully and grossly violated by this Administration. Our persons have been seized; our papers have been seized; we have been taken from our beds and families at dead of night; we have been incarcerated in dungeons; we have been denied to be confronted by our accusers; we have had no charges given us, either public or private, of our crimes; and, finally, after our health were destroyed, our occupations abandoned, and all the injury that man can suffer had been inflicted upon us, we have been dismissed without knowing what the charge was against us, or any chance of redress. And as to the peaceable assemblage of the people, why, but the other day in Kentucky, a convention of men as true to the government as ever lived—of men who made an assembly for the purpose of protecting their interest and expressing their sentiments—is marched as agent of the government, in the person of an officer, which dispersed the assemblage to disperse them as a band of traitors. And I need not detain you by reference to instances of which you are familiar. I need not detain you by reference to the fact that the whole history of this Administration has been more a war of aggression upon the Constitution and the rights of the people of the South than it has been against the people of any injury to the people of the South. Gentlemen, we stand on this instrument—we intend to maintain the instrument. We shall live by the Constitution, for if it be good to live by, it is good to die by. Gentlemen, we are in a war. I was, among others, in my official capacity—as mayor of the city—at the commencement of this war, two years ago. I then stated, as I conceived to be my duty at the time, under the bold declaration of the Administration that an army was necessary to restore the Union and protect the capital, I was in favor of protecting the capital and of restoring the Union. I did not conceive that the South had any moral right to secede under the circumstances. She participated in the Presidential election; every Southern State, including South Carolina, voted for a candidate for the Presidency at the last Presidential election. Now I hold that if the South had determined upon secession, that was not the time to do it. She had ventured to throw her interests and representation into that election and had lost, and she was bound by all the principles of morality and honor not to have seceded until she had given timely notice. I want stop here to discuss the question as to the rights of one, two, or twenty States to secede from the Union. I hold that if ever that she has the right under the Constitution to secede—the South claims that she has the legal right to secede, but I say, admitting that she had, that her right was forfeited in the Presidential election, in which she lost, and we lost, she was in honor bound to stand by the result although that result was the election of Abraham Lincoln. Therefore I say this, because I want to express clearly and distinctly understood. I am speaking here for myself, for no party and no section of a party. The sentiments I utter tonight are the individual sentiments of the speaker, and I ask no man to indorse them if he don't concur in them. I have never, and I do not now—and I desire to be correctly reported and correctly understood—I have never, and do not now, justify the action of the South. I go further—I say that I never have at any time—and I defy a man to produce evidence to the contrary—I have never declared a sentiment in favor of any course toward the South, executing to bring the South back again into the Union. I am opposed to a separation of these States. I am opposed to a recognition of any Southern Confederacy. But I am also opposed to the equally base and opprobrious conduct of an Administration which, in my judgment, is far beneath the dignity of the Southern Confederacy. Well, my friends, the war went on; the whole American people appealed to rush to the support of the Administration at its origin. We gave them money without stint, we gave them all the men they asked for, not once, but over and over again. And we have gone on sustaining the Administration—going it blind in its support. And when we have dared to question its infallibility, when we have dared to exercise those constitutional rights to which I have referred, to criticise the acts of our own servants and agents, into whose nostrils we had breathed the breath of official life, we were called, forsooth, rebels and traitors. And when I, who sent one whole regiment to the war, who paid more dollars than these patriots paid cents; I, in whose veins runs blood of Revolutionary ancestors—to be called traitor because I dared be independent and manly. Ah, my friends, these words have sent me into this fight, and I will never let go of their traitorous throats until they are wi out of office. Now, my friends, I am for peace. I hold that the war under this Administration is a failure in the language of your resolutions, this Administration would not conquer the South if they could, and could not if they would. I repeat here what I have said upon a previous occasion, that on the 12th day of December last propositions were submitted to the President of the United States which would have settled this controversy to the satisfaction of the people North and South before the 1st of April. I said at the same time, and I said subsequently in the newspapers, that I was only precluded from giving the information in my possession by a request of confidential nature by one of the chief officers of the government; and I have been waiting, my friends—my statement was made under my own signature, now six weeks ago, in a leading Republican paper in this city—I have been waiting and looking for some authorized denial of my statement, so that I might produce the document, if they dare deny it. It has not been denied. Why not been denied, because they cannot deny it. Now I hold that speculation and speculation is the function of this Administration is unnecessary. I hold it is unnecessary for me to go over the history of the war, and to show a designed failure here and a