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VICKSBURG AND ITS SURROUNDINGS.

Mr Colburn, a correspondent of the New York "World," who has just been released by the Confederate authorities in exchange for Mr Berry, of this journal, gives some description of Vicksburg and its surroundings, where he was kept prisoner for ten days, that are of special interest just now:

VICKSBURG

At Vicksburg we remained two days, being on foot first in the common jail and afterwards in a room over stories of the court house. At Vicksburg some of the to our guards a point of great interest, and give our impressions of it, hoping we may verify such more leisure and liberty shall accompany. We set out without taking the dividing salute, when the rear guard disposed to it as a terrible position. From an elevated lodgment, from walks about town, our entrances and exits, from conversation and testimony of many knowing persons, we believe the strength of Vicksburg in men, guns, works and native position to have been overrated. The site is admirable, especially for river defense. The batteries fronting the river are no more numerous or dangerous as we commonly supposed. Although it is likely that a portion of the heavy guns have been transferred to Grand Gulf, Big Black and Haines' Bluff, we guess the number of guns on the river side to be less than forty and never to have exceeded seventy.

Of these we are informed only three are 10-inch, two 9 and four 8, three rifled, and the 32-pounder. There is but one casemated battery in the vicinity. The earthworks are better, perfect of their kind. Negroes are still at work on bomb-proofs and magazines, probably to guard against mortar shells. A feeling from one front, in our judgment, tend to be thought not happily needless. The removal of fortifications in the streets are simple little pits or shoulders of rampart projecting into the road way. The work back of the city on the military crest is made to overlying the ridge and small earthworks on the ridges. Everything bears the marks of haste and partiality. Judging from the works at their rear point (the Black bridge), the defense at other points is merely only. The country is rough, a succession of small hills, to the banks of the Big Black, but the roads are good and the hills not commanding the other. Unless by some overwhelming attack, the Confederates might resist a large force at every rod, and so prolong the siege.

STRENGTH AND WEAKNESS OF THE PLACE.

The very length of the line, from Warrenton to the shores of the Big Black, and access to the Yazoo, which is the same, the measures of their force to guard it, the great weakness of the position. It would require to keep such a line (twenty-six miles) intact, an army of fifty thousand men and a hundred pieces of light artillery. I have a grounded conviction, based upon current testimony, that at the time of our visit there were not more than fifty thousand troops west of the smaller stream, and not that at least. Could all these be concentrated upon any single point they might, with their superior rapid fire, outnumber that; but a rapid train of such a plan of attack on one they may never hope for again.

The Confederate hopes of Vicksburg are mainly hung upon Gen. J. E. Johnston, who arrived at Jackson on the 13th, and was pursued thence after a destructive fight the next day. His plan appears to be to muster a considerable army in the field and drive the big guns. With this he hopes to get south of Vicksburg, but to leave that point to Pemberton. If he can do this, Grant is, by the double line, front and rear, placed in a critical position.

GEN JOHNSTON AND HIS FORCES.

We make no less of the result; for in the moment matters are of great moment. To the three thousand forces at Jackson, when we passed through, Johnston seems to have added only six thousand additional. Living is cheap at Jackson with his corps, which will leave Grant with fifteen thousand in his front, and twenty-seven thousand in the rear, depending disabled and exposed in the three late engagements, which, from the meager reports received at Richmond, we judge to be considerable. The extent to which Johnston can be reinforced by way of the railroad from the Tombigbee to Mobile fifteen hundred a day. He may be can be supplied by the same route. Vicksburg is well fed for thirty days only. The country offers him perhaps a sufficiency of corn and forage. He communication with the rest of the South is precarious, and if Grant be not idle, may be prevented.

Gen. Martin Luther Smith, commanding a division, is now captain. Major General Pemberton, an Al officer of small reputation, wields one corps, and Gen Loring the other. Lieutenant General Pemberton, a pet of President Davis, is a Pennsylvanian, not towards the north, most. Much and bitter critic is of his competency exists in the South, but I am informed in high quarters that the selection of Mr Davis has so firmly proved to be so good, that his fad must in an public case is not urgently opposed. Full General Johnston is the ranking officer, and has been sent to the scene of action charged with the duty of saving Vicksburg. It is well to say that considerable alarm exists in the Confederacy for his fate, and from my inquiry and I also view of affairs I see nothing to bar the way to victory.

REBEL DISPOSITIONS.

It is astonishing how long and how much the enemy has been at elsewhere, befooled and amused as by an empty show of strength. It is admitted by those who have lived in and defended Vicksburg that it might have been taken any time since the fall of Memphis with less force than we have brought against it. When Farragut first appeared in, in May, 1862, it was almost defenseless. When Davis came to Jackson, the place was all but evacuated. In December, when Grant was marching on Grenada and Sherman attacked from the Yazoo, the Rebels had but thirteen hundred men in the city, while the latter was two days ride not at Middle Bend. By the forenoon of the day of assault, they had received nine regiments from Mobile, Canton and Jackson.

At the time of the assault, when we fell back, the report had spread in the city that the Yankees were coming, and horse and wagon, soldier and civilian, began to scamper out of town. The bombardments have not hurt the city to any great extent. It is acknowledged by the rebels that Grant is an officer that goes at his work, as they say, into a fight and glory. They fear his luck, but pretend to deride his soldierly qualities. If he takes Vicksburg, it seems, and we confidently believe he will, they must acknowledge of the rebellion, are not on their side, or that he is better or equal than Johnston. Judging from the 20 parties already at hand, he has gained from odious advantages over the rebels; Jackson has come in, and will make another and grander Donelson of it, which entitles him a second time to the nation's thanks.

FEDERAL OPERATIONS IN MISSISSIPPI.

Grant's Movements—Services to the Capture of Jackson.

The following letter gives interesting details of the movements of Gen. Grant on his march from Grand Gulf:

[Special Correspondence of the Chicago Times.]
RAYMOND, 15 miles southwest of Jackson, Miss., May 13, 1863.

A combination of circumstances placed it out of my power to send your readers an account of the march of the army from Hankinson's ferry to this place sooner. When I last wrote Gen. McClernand was on the extreme right, with Osterhaus' division advanced to Rocky Springs.

Gen McPherson, at that time, lay with his army corps to the westward, near Hankinson's ferry, on a road running nearly parallel to that occupied by McClernand. Gen. Sherman was on the road between Grand Gulf and Gen. McPherson. On Thursday, the 7th inst., General McPherson moved his corps to Rocky Springs, and his camp was occupied next day by Gen. Sherman. On Saturday, McPherson again moved to the eastward to the village of Utica, crossing the road occupied by McClernand, and leaving the latter on his left. Sunday morning, McClernand marched to Five Mile creek, and encamped on the south bank at noon, on account of broken bridges, which were repaired the same day.

On Monday morning Sherman's corps came up, passed McClernand's, and encamped that night at the village of Auburn, about ten miles south of Edwards's station, on the railroad from Vicksburg to Jackson. As soon as it passed McClernand's corps followed a few miles, and then took a road going obliquely to the left, leading to Hall's ferry, on the Big Black river. Thus, on Monday evening, Gen. McClernand was at Hall's ferry; Gen. Sherman was at Auburn, six or eight miles to the northeast; and General McPherson was about eight miles still further to the northeast, a few miles north of Utica. The whole formed an immense line of battle, Sherman's corps being in the center, with the of McPherson and McClernand forming the right and left wings. It will be observed, also, that a change of front had been effected. From Grand Gulf the army marched eastward, but, by these movements, swung on the left as a pivot, and fronted nearly northward.

Up to this the enemy had not appeared on our line of march. On Tuesday morning Gen. McClernand's advance drove in the enemy's pickets near Hall's ferry, and brisk skirmishing ensued for an hour or two, with little loss to either side. By noon the rebels had disappeared from his front and seven wounded and none killed was the total Union loss. Gen. Sherman put Steele's division in motion early in the morning, and came upon the enemy at the crossing of Fourteen Mile creek, four miles from Auburn. The cavalry advance was fired into from the thickets which skirt the stream, and were unable, owing to the nature of the ground, to make a charge, or clear the rebels from the position. Landgraeber's battery was then on the front, supported by the 17th Missouri and 31st Iowa regiments, and throw a few shell into the bushy undergrowth skirting the stream which gave them cover. Skirmishers were thrown out and advanced to the creek, driving the enemy slowly. A brigade was thrown to the right and left flanks, when the rebel force—mainly cavalry—withdrew toward Raymond. The bridge was burned during the skirmish, but a crossing was constructed in two hours, and the corps was passing before noon.

At the principal opposition to the line of march was in the front of General McPherson. General Logan's division came upon a body of rebel troops, estimated at about ten thousand posted on Pinder's creek, two miles southwest of this, at 10 o'clock Tuesday morning. Rebel skirmishing began at once, and a general engagement was soon brought on. The enemy, as in front of Gen Sherman, was almost wholly concealed at first by the woods bordering the stream behind which their forces were posted. Their artillery was on an eminence that commanded our approach. Our troops had to cross an open field, exposed to a terrible fire. The first and second brigades, commanded by Gens J. E. Smith and Dennis, (both Illinois men) were in the thickest of the fight and suffered most. After three hours' hard fighting the enemy withdrew, sullenly, in two columns, the principal one taking the road to Jackson. The U. S. loss is killed, wounded and missing, will not be far from three hundred.

The rebel loss is much greater. We have seen by buried a twenty five of their dead left on the field. Our own killed will, it is thought, fall below that number. Among those who fell under facing the fire was Colonel Richards, of the 20th Illinois, known to killed. Colonel Ewing, of the 31st Illinois, is badly wounded in the foot, and assisted for home this morning. Lieutenants Barrett and Lach, of the 7th Missouri, were both killed. Captain Stevens of company H, and Lieut. Sayres, of company C, 20th Illinois, are also among the killed. At this writing it is impossible to give a full list of killed or to do more than convey a general account of the result of the battle.

To-night Gen. Grant's headquarters are here. Gen Sherman is six miles from here, on the road to Jackson. Gen. McPherson pushed on, heard the affair on to Clinton (a station on the railroad), and has at length cut the artery that animates the American Gibraltar. Its reduction now is only a question of time. Its surrender is, to my mind, made certain.

From intercepted dispatches, Gen. Grant learns that Gen Pemberton has instructed his forces to fall back on Vicksburg whenever hard pressed, and that the rebels have resolved to establish on their final ability to hold the place. With the railroad in our possession to the eastward the river patrolled by gunboats above and below, and cavalry dashing southward from Memphis, the fate of the doomed and illstarred city of Vicksburg is irrevocably sealed. The escape of the forces now in it seem impossible.

No fears need be felt for the supplies of Gen Grant's army. The soldiers are well fed and well clothed. At a review a few days ago Gen. Grant's appearance on the field was the signal for such an outbreak of universal enthusiasm as rarely ever greeted the heroes of ancient or modern days. The soldiers seemed to be giving vent to a long pent up admiration for their old commander, and woke the echoes of the State with shouts and yells. Nothing like it was ever before observable in this department. Animated with such a spirit, our army is well nigh invincible.

The rebels lost 80 killed, 140 wounded, and 155 taken prisoners, yesterday. Union loss 51 killed and 80 wounded. So say my latest information.

Demonstrations on Hawkinsville and Hall's ferries. Gen. Grant has succeeded in completely deceiving the enemy as to the real point of attack. Gen. Pemberton has been sending troops to both places, while we have quietly marched to this point, and will probably march to Jackson in two days at furthest.

THE CAPTURE OF JACKSON—THE LOSSES LIGHT—OPERATION DIRECTED BY GRANT IN PERSON.

(Correspondence Cincinnati Commercial.)

JACKSON, Miss., May 14, via CAIRO, May 22.—Gen Grant and Staff entered Jackson today. The Rebels have been busy evacuating the last 24 hours. Gen Steele and Gen Crocker's Division were in the advance in Sherman's and McPherson's Corps. The latter encountered the most opposition, but drove all before them, and planted their colors on the State House at three o'clock.

The 20th Illinois lost five killed and twenty wounded; 63d Illinois, two killed and four wounded. Capt. Buck, 59th Indiana, received a slight contusion on the hand. A Lieutenant in the 18th Wisconsin was seriously wounded—name unknown. Loss on both sides light.

Generals J. E. Johnston, Gregg, Walker, and others were here yesterday, and urged the abandonment of the place.

Troops were sent here from Savannah and Mobile last week, but not in sufficient numbers to check our army.

Gen. Grant personally directed the movements, and was under fire. He rode into the city at the head of the column.

The rebels took the road to Canton. It is thought that considerable of the army at Vicksburg is strong in Jackson.

New York Bank Statement.

NEW YORK, May 25—The weekly statement of the city banks shows an increase of $681,279 in loans; a decrease of $11,677 in specie, $121,179 in circulation, and $1,223,491 in deposits.

Affairs on the York River.

[Correspondence of the Philadelphia Inquirer.]

FORTRESS MONROE, May 24—The transport steamer Swan, plying between Yorktown and West Point, was fired upon last evening by the rebels, at about three miles from the last named place. The sec sh had a battery of five guns, throwing three-inch shells, planted on the west bank of the York river. From these guns fifty or sixty rounds were fired, but only one of them struck the Swan, when she immediately blew her whistle most shrilly, and brought the gunboat Morse to her aid. The Morse opened upon the rebels, which caused them to retire very quickly. The gunboat Mystic made her appearance shortly after, and six boats, filled with men were sent ashore. They burned fifteen buildings and destroyed twelve hundred bushels of corn and a warehouse full of bacon. Everything is reported as being quiet as far up as the White House.

EXPEDITION TO NORTH CAROLINA.

On Monday morning last, an expedition, consisting of two companies of infantry and one gun, started from Norfolk, under the command of Major Power, of the 177th Pennsylvania volunteers, on board the steam tug Curritock with a view of making a demonstration upon the guerillas, who, three days before, captured the two small steamers Arrow and Emily.

Steaming down the south bank of the Elizabeth river, into the Albemarle and Chesapeake canal, they entered the North river, from which Currituck Sound was penetrated. Remaining in the Sound all night, early next morning they entered the narrow cut of the North Carolina canal, and passed North river into Indian creek. Here they encountered some obstructions, which had to be removed before the tug could pass successfully through. This caused a detention that was improved by sending out small boats, which went as far as Indiantown.

The country was pretty well scoured. A novel plan was adopted by our men to entrap the guerillas, which would have proved eminently successful had any of the prowling villains ventured. They all had fled before our coming. Carriages and other wheeled vehicles, together with horses, were impressed, and negroes along the route were compelled to drive them, while the soldiers rode cone-back inside. When within a short distance of farm houses, a halt was made and a portion of the men would, after alighting, surround the premises, whilst their comrades searched them. If anything that in their opinion was contraband of war was found upon the premises, it was captured.

About two miles from Indiantown a small schooner was taken. It was not in running trim at the time, but it is a new vessel, worth at least three thousand dollars. It is named the Margaret Gregory, and is supposed to have been engaged in running the blockade with goods for the rebels. It was satisfactorily ascertained that the Emily and Arrow are now running on the Backwater.

On Friday Elizabeth City was visited. It was entirely deserted by the troops. Its inhabitants are in a state of destitution. Delicate ladies, who appeared to have been brought up amid refinement and luxury, were walking the streets barefooted. Until a few weeks ago, there were several stores there, with a moderately fair stock of goods. But the guerillas made a raid, took everything that they could find, and treated the owners in a most shameful manner. Flour is selling there now at fifty dollars per barrel.

On the North Carolina canal, about four miles from the line of North river, in the lower portion of Currituck county, was found a large store, well stocked with miscellaneous articles, consisting principally of plain and printed muslins, light summer goods, for ladies' wear, blankets, boots, shoes, and dingy cotton goods, such as is used for rebel uniforms.

This extensive establishment, in an obscure part of the country, is kept by Mrs Campbell, a young widow. She does an immense business for many miles around, both in Virginia and North Carolina. Many persons came up from Elizabeth City to guide parties to it. When interrogated as to how she came in possession of the goods, she replied that permission had been granted her by our authorities to obtain them, and that they had been forwarded to her from Newbern, North Carolina.

When our men returned to Norfolk yesterday afternoon, they brought a great quantity of those goods with them. When Mrs. Campbell was asked what the purchasers did with the dingy grey cloth they brought of her, she said that the women had it made up into working suits. But this story did not suit the officers and men of the expedition, who have seen too many rebel soldiers clad in garments made of the same material.

Last evening Mrs Campbell came to Norfolk to lay her grievances before the military authorities there. She had upon her person over ten thousand dollars in Confederate money.

Later from Europe.

[To the Associated Press, North.]

PORT AU BASQUE (mouth of the St. Lawrence) May 25—The steamer Hibernia, from Liverpool on the 14th, for Quebec, was intercepted off this point to-day.

It was reported that the merchants and shipowners of London intended to memorialize the British Government to put an end at once to the prosecution of the Federal Government in seizing neutral ships bound to neutral ports.

The London *Times* says that merchants and ship owners appear to be determined to call on the Federal Government to discharge the cargo of the Peterhoff as merely a pretense to gain time and delay.

The London *Shipping Gazette* sees nothing in his evidence of the witnesses in the Peterhoff case to have justified the seizure of that vessel, unless it was the alleged throwing overboard of a bag or parcel of papers.

The London Journals, generally, regard the latest American advices as unfavorable for an early peace. The advices had the effect of sending the Confederate loan to a slight discount.

It was rumored that the rebels had sent another commission to Europe to press mediation in England and France.

The London *Observer* looks on the mission of Mr Evarts to London as an earnest of the good feeling which animates the Washington Government.

The *Times'* city article argues that the protraction of the war or even the subjugation of the South, will involve the Federal finances in ruin. It says these facts are being recognized, and render the possibility of a Federal loan entirely out of the question.

The Polish question is unchanged. France and Russia are negotiating upon a scheme for a European Congress.

More Negro Regiments.

The New York *Herald*, referring to the raising of negro regiments, says:

We are glad to perceive that Gov. Todd, of Ohio, and Gov. Andrew, of Massachusetts, and other individuals are exerting themselves to raise negro troops, to fill the quota of the white men who are now returning home from the South, after two years hard fighting. The universal freedom of the negro race is declared by the radicals to be the main object of the war. It is but meet and right that the free negroes should lend a hand in such a work. The blood of white men has been shed very copiously in the cause of the negroes. Let the negroes now bleed a little, if only for sake of variety. It is very hard to catch them but let them be brought speedily under the constraint of the conscription act, and we shall soon have an ebony army to march Southward. We shall thus get rid of the blacks, and their places will be well supplied by the sturdy and more intelligent labor of healthy Irish and German emigrants who will become good citizens in five years. We have no need of negroes at the North. Let the whole race be sent South, and let some thousands of mean whites of the stamp of Theodore Tilton go with them to take command of these fellows who will not fight; they will do well enough to runaway, but we hope they will be caught by the enemy and never exchanged. The country will have a good riddance of them.

☞ Secretary Seward's "last work" in Washington before leaving for Auburn, are reported to have been to the following effect: That the country would have been the better by three disastrous defeats—but of the Pope campaign, the Burnside slaughter, and Hooker's wilderness fight—if General McClellan had been left in command of the army of the Potomac and let alone.

A Most Daring Case of Garrotting—The Lazaretto at Work.

Within the past few nights several cases of garrotting, of a very desperate and audacious character, have taken place in Richmond, but it remained for one that occurred on Wednesday evening to cap the climax. The party assaulted was not a solitary man, but three of them together—James H. Yancey and Norton Alcott, of Mecklinburg county, Virginia, and Francis L. Goode, of North Carolina.

It appeared that Yancey had employed Goode as a substitute, and all the parties had been out to Camp Lee to consummate the business. On their return, eight o'clock in the evening, about the time the rain storm was coming up, and while it was yet scarcely dark, they were suddenly attacked near the war department by six men, who knocked Yancey down by a blow on the back of the head with a slung shot. Goode, who was but wounded, and walking arm and arm with Yancey, fell with him. The garroters then rifled Goode's pockets of all the money about him—some $1500 or $1600—and, without further molesting the companions, ran off up Franklin street. Goode and his friends shouted "robbers, robbers," and "police," but neither policeman, guard or civilian responded, though they waited some time. The money lost by Goode was that paid him by Yancey as a substitute. Goode's face was considerably scratched, and his clothing torn and saturated with blood from his wounds.

Goode says he could not recognize the garroters again, but noticed that they were all well dressed, and the one that assaulted and robbed him was dressed in a suit of black clothes.

It is very evident from the foregoing and other similar robberies that have taken place recently, that the thieves, garroters, and footpads, who were installed to an exodus from Richmond last winter by a fear of the halter and the chain-gang, have picked up courage and returned to their old business stands. I the authorities fail to make Richmond too hot for them, the citizens should. It can be done, and will be, we hope, for the credit of the capital.—*Richmond Examiner, 5th.*

Incidents of the Yankee Raid in Florence.

The fiends under Corwyn, dared, as usual, the absence of all manly instincts in their depredations on women. For instance:

They robbed a poor old lady of a little coffee and sugar, that she had preserved with sedulous care.

They threatened to burn down the dwelling house of a lady, who proposed to purchase immunity from the outrage, by giving them one thousand dollars. The leader of the squad agreed to her proposition, but, after receiving the money, said, he would burn the smokehouse and other outbuildings. "What" said the lady, "after receiving my money?" The fellow replied: "that was only to save the dwelling house," and intimated that more money would be required to redeem the smokehouse, etc. The lady, indignant at the fellow's bad faith, in spirit, though not in word, told him: "You are a villain to turn my house and all around, give me of my means of living, and refusal to surrender any more black mail. He, then, leveled a pistol at her, but she was resolute and undismayed, and the fellow, abashed by her courage, desisted.

The vandals seized a carriage, occupied by a young lady, and ordered her to get out. She flatly refused, saying, it was her carriage, and she would not give it up. They persisted in their order, telling her if she did not get out, they would take her off, with the carriage. She told them: "Very well; whenever that carriage won't, she would go." Accordingly, they drove off "the booty and beauty" together to the colonel, Corwyn, who, contrary to his antecedents, hearkened to her persistent claim of property and realized the carriage.—*Huntsville Confederate.*

Flexible Consciences.

Unquestionably one of the most demoralizing pursuits of the times is the commercial intercourse kept up by smugglers and blockade runners, with the enemy. It is demoralizing in the first place because it leads to falsehood and deception; and because it is a violation of the law, and more especially because, as too often conducted in the importation of luxuries, it is a positive curse to the country. It is demoralizing for any man to meet on terms of equality and trade with a people who have lowered themselves so low as to bet with the negro, by declaring him entitled to the same rights as the white man; who fight side by side with him for our destruction, and send him forth, by bribery and falsehood, to aid in their devilish designs.

Yet it is common to get a successful blockade runner and smuggler as a smart fellow, and long stolen him on his lucky venture. We have heard of more than one of these mercantile emissaries who have taken the oath of allegiance to this Government and to the United States, in pursuance of a single venture, and who, we doubt not, would take it as often as they could need to do to accomplish their gainful ends.

Who can deny that a pursuit requiring such devices is demoralizing and damaging to the country? There is great need of vigilance on the part of the Government to prevent all illicit commerce, save such as is carried on by regular Government agents, for the supply of articles of immediate necessity for Government or domestic use.—*Augusta Constitutionalist.*

"The Situation.

From the Chattanooga Rebel, 7th.]

A courier came into Wartrace on the morning of the 3d, and reports that twenty two regiments of Rosecrans' army have left for Vicksburg. The impression prevails that the Federals are retreating toward Nashville. At all events we have positive information that our troops are advancing from Wartrace to Shelbyville. From the signs of active preparation, a forward movement in earnest is about commencing. On the other hand, rumors are currently circulated that Rosecrans is advancing himself, instead of falling back upon his earthworks around Nashville. Besides the strongly fortified gaps of the Normandy hills, we have a line of rifle pits, from Shelbyville to Wartrace nearly nine miles in length. We also have an army in good health and spirits, and burning to emulate the glorious actions of Charlottesville, Charleston, Vicksburg and Port Hudson. Once more Tennessee is likely to be shaken by the tread of advancing hosts, and the alleys and streets of the Capital itself may soon resound with the clash of steel, and the city of rocky foundation may yet tremble with the shock of battle.

ASSAULT ON AN OFFICIAL.—Some little excitement was created about the War Department on Tuesday afternoon, in consequence of an assault made upon Col. Withers, assistant adjutant-general of the department, by Lieutenant Colonel Coppen, of the St. Paul Louisiana battalion, now disbanded. The difficulty grew out of a misunderstanding regarding Coppen's application for a furlough to visit Mobile which Col. Withers refused to grant, referring him to the Secretary of War. Coppen commenced the assault by striking Col. Withers a blow on the head, cutting a slight gash, it is supposed with the setting of a gold ring he wore, and not with a pair of brass knuckles, which it was afterwards magnified into. He assailed without provocation his office, Col Withers threw himself upon the offensive, and expelled Coppen from the office, dealing him several blows, and cutting his left arm in a sling. It was said that Coppen drew a knife, but we do not know this to be a fact.

Col. Withers repaired to the office of the surgeon-general in the War Department building, where his wound was dressed, and the traces of the assault removed from his person.

No arrest has followed the unprovoked assault, and we suppose the affair has ended.—*Richmond Examiner 5th.*

GEN. JACKSON'S REPORTS.—By some it has been feared that the reports of General Jackson, of the important part borne by his command since the commencement of the present war, would be lost in consequence of his having been so suddenly removed from the field of his usefulness. Of these reports the army correspondent of the Mobile Tribune writes:

Just previous to the late battles of the Rappahannock all the official reports of General Jackson of the engagements previous to that time, twenty-four in number, were made up by the zeal and industry of his able adjutant general, Colonel Faulkner, which is a source of congratulation to the country, the greatest activity of General Jackson in the field from March, 1862, having before prevented the making up of these reports.

The Collection of Confederate Taxes

From the Augusta Constitutionalist.]

The State are of the Treasury has recently issued the official instructions for the collection of the Confederate taxes. The Richmond *Examiner* copies some parts of the circular, which are also of general interest to our readers:

Immediately after his appointment, each district collector shall give public notice requiring the persons mentioned in the fifth section of the tax act, of April 24 1863 and hereinafter set forth in article ten of these instructions, to attend at such places as he may appoint, on or before the 1st of July, 1863, or at the time of beginning business, and register, in the form to be prescribed by the commissioner of taxes, a true and exact of the name and residence of each person, firm or corporation engaged or interested in the business, with a statement of the time for which, and the place and manner in which the same is to be conducted, and such other facts as may be requisite to ascertain the amount of tax upon such business for the past or future, according to the provisions of said act.

At the time of such registry the district collector shall also issue a specific tax for the year ending 31st December 1863, and the other tax as may be due and shall enclose in such business at the time of such registry, and the collector shall make such registry and give a receipt for the amount in duplicate, specifying therein the separate sums received as specific tax, and tax on sales or receipts, and one receipt he will deliver to the tax payer, and the other he will forward to the State collector, as in case of other receipts for tax.

There shall be no such registry and tax for such business, and for such other or conducting the same. But no tax is required for the mere storage of goods at a place where the registered place of business. Upon some change in the place of business of a registered business, there shall be a new register, but no additional tax, and so also upon the death of any person conducting such business, or upon its transfer to another person, there shall be a new registry in the name of the person to continue the business, but no additional tax shall be required.

The following are the occupations, trades and persons taxed under the provisions of the fifth section of the tax act, and the specific and general tax to be collected at the time of registry:

OCCUPATION.	SPECIFIC TAX.	GENERAL TAX.
Auctioneers	$50	¼ of one per cent. on gross sales of stock or merchandise for money.
Brokers	50	¼ per cent. on gross sales.
Pawnbrokers	50	¼ per cent. on gross sales.
Bankers	100	¼ per cent. on gross sales.
Bowling Alley	5	40 each To be paid by owner.
Billiard Rooms	5	
Commission merchants and commercial brokers	100	¼ per cent. on all sales
Cattle broker	50	¼ per cent. on gross sales
Circus	100 and $10 for each exhibition	¼ to be paid by the owner.
Confectioners	50	¼ per cent. on gross sales.
Grocers	50	
Distillers	200	¼ per ct. on gross sales.
Distillers of fruit for ninety days or less	100 and 50	50 cents per gallon on first ten gallons, and $2 per gallon on all beyond that quantity.
Hotels	200	First class.
Inns	100	Second class.
Taverns	200	Third class.
Eating houses	100	Fourth class.
Jugglers and exhibitors of shows	50	
Lawyers	50	
Livery stable keepers, etc.	50	
Pamphleteers	200	
Peddlers	50	¼ per cent on gross sales
Physicians	50	
Photographers	50	¼ per cent on gross sales
Retail dealers	50	¼ per cent on gross sales
Retail dealers in liquor	100	¼ per cent on gross sales
Surgeons	50	
Theatres	50	¼ per cent on all receipts, to be paid by owners of buildings
Tobacco inspectors	50	¼ per cent on gross sales
Wholesale dealers	100	¼ per cent on gross sales
Wholesale dealers in liquor	200	¼ per cent on gross sales
Surgeons	50	
Theatres	50	¼ per cent on all receipts, to be paid by owners of buildings
Tobacco inspectors	50	¼ per cent on gross sales
Wholesale dealers	100	¼ per cent on gross sales
Wholesale dealers in liquor	200	¼ per cent on gross sales

The several persons mentioned in article 13 who are required under the tax act to make returns of sales, shall be required by the district collector to make further returns to the assessor at the end of every three months, from the 1st of July, 1863, of the gross amount of sales made by them during said quarter, and to pay the amount of tax which is chargeable thereon to said collector. The form for such return will be furnished by the commissioner of taxes.

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If, on the 1st day of July, 1863, a commission merchant has goods in store, on account of producers, or any other person, corporation, or firm, any of the articles enumerated in section one of the tax act, or any of agricultural products of the growth or production of any year preceding the year 1863, he will be required to make full return thereof to the assessor and to pay the tax of 8 per cent upon the value of such articles or products. Persons holding such articles whether as owner, agent, or factor, will be required to make the return and pay the tax. So also, every person who as trustee, guardian, tutor, curator or committee, executor or administrator, or as agent, attorney, or factor, of any person or persons, who her residing in the Confederate States or not, and every receiver in chancery, clerk, register or other officer of any court, shall be answerable for the doing of all such acts, matters and things as shall be required to be done in order to the assessment of the money, property or effects and income under their control, and the payment of taxes thereon, and shall be indemnified against all and every person for all payments made out of the taxes so collected, or paid, and shall be responsible for all taxes due from the estates, income, money or property in their possession and under their control.

General Pemberton.

The Richmond *Examiner*, in answer to a communication written for that paper, telling upon Gen. Pemberton in severe terms, says: "Gen. Pemberton came to Richmond with eight days after she passed the ordinance of secession, and was commissioned a colonel on the 1st April, 1861—the State seceded on the 17th. We quote it in the record. It is not true that this same John C Pemberton was in the service of Abraham Lincoln, (any more than was Generals Lee, Johnston, Cooper, Longstreet, etc.,) and it is not true that he commanded a regiment of the United States Government 'at the battle of Mexico.' He resigned his commission in the United States service immediately on arriving in Washington, and promptly repaired to Virginia; he surrendered the expectation of large fortune from his friends in Pennsylvania, and gave up all for the State whose daughter he had taken to wife, and where he had lived and voted for years before the State seceded; he has faithfully and most ably discharged every duty entrusted to him, and is now closely besieged in Vicksburg, but promptly, and nobly, and manfully fighting for his country's cause. Let us strengthen his arm by our encouragement; let us not impair the confidence of his soldiers by unjust suspicions and false innuendoes upon his loyalty.

"Vicksburg may fall, as fall Genoa, but Massena lost neither the confidence of his government, nor the respect of his countrymen."

A Free American Citizen of African Descent Standing Guard.

A gentleman at Charleston tell an amusing incident that occurred some time since, at Hilton Head Island. Private Gibbs, of Charleston, was captured and sent to Hilton Head, and a negro in uniform, and armed, was placed as a guard over him. A mischievous idea occurred to Gibbs to test the negro's sense of "freedom and equality with the white man." Stopping up to him in an unguarded moment, Gibbs asked him authoritatively, "whom do you belong to?" Taken by surprise the negro answered subsidiously, "To de state of Goddle on de main, sir," meaning an estate on the main land—then recollecting his changed condition, he walled his eyes angrily at Gibbs, and said: "Look 'ere! stand off here. Didn't you hear I put here to guard you? I belong to Major General Hunter and myself now," and strutted forward and took with some as dignity.

☞ The principal fort at Tullahoma has been named "Bragg"—in honor of Gen Bragg, of Tennessee, who fell at Murfreesboro.

Important Suggestion.

Attention was called a short time ago, by the Nassau correspondent of the *Courier*, to the evils resulting from permitting any one and every one to make use of the vessels plying between Nassau and the Confederate ports for the conveyance of letters.

Since that letter appeared there has been a large increase in the number of vessels sailing between those two ports, and the success that has attended attempts to run the blockade justify us in expecting a large addition to the lines of steam packets.

The *Courier* says that the admissions and suggestions of its correspondents are, therefore, more entitled to be heed and acted upon than when first made. No one can read the statements made in the letter below without being convinced that the Government should exercise surveillance both over the persons and letters offering for transportation in the different lines of steamers running between our ports and Nassau:

I tell you there is nothing in the world to prevent a couple's correspondence between spies and the Washington Government being carried on, the way things are now managed. It is perfectly safe and easy for an old party of the same Government to go and come from Charleston and Wilmington, and other parts of the Confederacy. Indeed, I know of people, identical cases, who have been over and returned.

Cargoes of speculators are coming from New York to Nassau. They go round from vessel to vessel, begging for passage, and offering to pay any sum out. Sometimes they represent themselves as rabid Southerners, sorely sick of peace. Northerners. I have known persons refused passage by Mr L, to go to another steamboat agent and procure passage. I know of two very suspicious characters, representing themselves to be Marylanders, who told a dubious story of imprisonment, etc., and who brought no credentials whatever, who really procured passage on a steamer; and was told by the captain, on his return, that he strongly suspected them to be certain curiosities during the passage. Has the Government required passports, these persons could never have procured them of our consul, Mr. Hawkes. There is no point of importance in the Confederacy, from which a hundred letters could not be sent to Nassau and the Confederate ports for the conveyance of letters.

[Correspondence of the Washington Gazette.]

A few evenings since Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, was induced to give a spiritual seance in the crimson room at the White House, to test the wonderful alleged supernatural powers of Mr. Charles E. Shockle. It was my good fortune, as a friend of the medium, to be present; the party consisting of the President, Mrs. Lincoln, Mr. Wallace, Mr. Stanton, Mr L——, of New York, and Mr. F——, of Philadelphia. We took our seats in the circle about eight o'clock, but the President was called away shortly after the manifestations commenced, and the spirits, which had apparently assembled to convince him of the power, gave visible tokens of their displeasure at the President's absence by pinching Mr. Stanton's ears and twitching Mr. Wallace's beard. He soon returned, but it was some time before harmony was restored, for the mishaps to the secretaries caused such bursts of laughter that the influence was very unpromising. For some half hour the demonstrations were of a physical character—the tables were moved, and the picture of Henry Clay which hangs on the wall was swayed more than a foot; two candelabras, presented by the Dey of Algiers to President Adams, were twice raised nearly to the ceiling.

It was nearly 9 o'clock before Shockle was fully under spiritual influence, and as powerful were the subsequent manifestations, that twice during the evening restoratives had to be applied, for he was much weakened, and though I took no notes, I shall endeavor to give you a faithful an account as possible of what took place.

Loud rappings about 9 o'clock were heard directly beneath the President's feet, and Mr. Shockle stated that an Indian desired to communicate.

"Well, sir," said the President, "I should be happy to hear what his Indian majesty has to say. We have no only but a certain form of tribesmen, and it was the only delegation, black, white or blue, which did not volunteer some advice about the conduct of the war."

The medium then called for pencil and paper, and they were laid upon the table; in a few all a handkerchief was then taken from Mr. Stanton, and the materials were carefully concealed from sight. In less space of time than it has required me to write this, knocks were heard and the paper was unrolled. To the surprise of all present it read as follows:

"Haste makes waste, but delays cause vexations. Give vitality by energy. Use every means to subdue. Proclamations are useless; make a bold front and fight the enemy; leave traitors at home to the care of loyal men. Less note of preparation, less parade and policy talk, and more action. HENRY KNOX."

"This is not Indian talk, Mr. Shockle" said the President. "Who is Henry Knox?"

I suggested to the medium to ask who Gen. Knox was, and before the words were from my lips the reed was made to answer in a strange voice: "The first Secretary of War."

"Oh, yes, Gen. Knox," said the President, who, turning to the Secretary, said: "Stanton, that message is for you; it is from your predecessor."

Mr. Stanton made no reply.

"I should like to hear 'Gen. Knox,' said the President, "if it is within the scope of his ability to tell us when this rebellion will be put down."

In the same manner as before his message was received:

"Washington, Lafayette, Franklin, Wilberforce, Napoleon and myself have held frequent consultations upon this point. There is something which our spiritual eyes cannot detect which appears well formed. Evil has come at times by removal of men from high positions, and there are those in retirement whose ability should be made useful to have the end. Napoleon says concentrate your forces upon one point. Let fortune that the rebellion will die of shame as Lafayette saw the end approaching, as the South must give up for want