DAILY DISPATCH.

VOLUME XXVIII. RICHMOND, VA., MONDAY MORNING, JANUARY 2, 1865. NUMBER [illegible]

SPECIAL NOTICES.

[illegible] GENERAL NOTICE.

[illegible] and after January 1st, 1865, the steamer [illegible] H. PARKER will, in addition to her [illegible] with Government, continue her daily trips to [illegible]WRY'S AND CHAFFIN'S BLUFFS, [illegible] accommodation of passengers and freight, [illegible] her wharf at Rocketts EVERY MORNING [illegible] half-past 7 o'clock, and EVERY EVENING at [illegible].

[illegible]turning, will leave Chaffin's Bluff EVERY [illegible]NING at half-past 9 o'clock, and EVERY [illegible]NING at 3 o'clock, stopping at all the landings [illegible] river.

Persons traveling by this steamer will pro[illegible] passports or papers.

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BY MAJOR C. H. LEE, OF THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

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NOTICES OF THE PRESS:

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[illegible] AND DOWN IN THE WORLD. By a celebrated English authoress; authoress of "Pride and Piety," etc.

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SPECIAL NOTICES.

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We invite all bibliopoles to call and inspect this magnificent work, another copy of which, it is confidently asserted, is not for sale in the South.

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Richmond Dispatch.

BY J. A. COWARDIN & CO.

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MONDAY MORNING..........JANUARY 2, 1865.

THE PAST YEAR.

The year 1864 has gone with the last year's snow. It has passed away, and is lost in the ocean of eternity. It was a memorable year in the history of this continent—the most memorable, from the gigantic character of the incidents to which it gave rise, that has passed over it since Columbus first "gave a new world to the Kingdoms of Castile and Leon." It may not be uninteresting to our readers to go rapidly over the principal incidents which it witnessed, and which have rendered it forever memorable in the history of mankind.

We begin with the famous raid of Kilpatrick, which took place in the latter part of February and beginning of March, and which had for its object the capture of this city, the release of the prisoners, the total destruction of the town, and the murder of the President and his Cabinet. This part of the undertaking was entrusted to Colonel Dahlgren, who seems to have been formed by nature for the execution of the most atrocious schemes. Kilpatrick's forces divided in the upper country. One portion of them, after having attempted to capture the artillery of General Lee's army at Frederick's Hall, and been driven off, came on direct, and made their appearance on the outskirts of the city, where they had an artillery duel with our batteries, without much damage to either side. The other, under Dahlgren, passed through Goochland, robbing and burning as they went. They approached the city in a dark night, on the Westham road, and within a few miles of town, were met, in a dark night, by the battalion of clerks, who fired not more than two or three volleys at them, when, as was to have been expected from professional house-burners and hen-roost thieves, they faced to the right-about and galloped off. General Bradley Johnson had already met a party of them, numbering about a thousand, with a small force near Old Church, in Hanover, and routed them effectually.—The next night, General Wade Hampton, who had by this time arrived with a body of cavalry, shelled a large body of them, commanded by Kilpatrick himself, and frightened them so badly that they took to their heels and escaped down the Peninsula. Dahlgren was not so fortunate. He crossed the river into King and Queen, and falling into a body of home guards and militia, was surrounded, in a dark night, and furiously attacked. He himself was killed on the spot and the greater part of his men taken prisoners. On his person were found papers which revealed his design to set fire to the city during the night and to inaugurate a general scene of pillage and massacre.—The most ample preparations had been made. Oakum and turpentine had been formed into the most convenient shapes for executing the diabolical purpose.—But death cut short his designs.

The next most notable incident was the defeat of Banks in Western Louisiana by Dick Taylor. This was a most important victory. The enemy lost at least twenty thousand men, and would have lost his whole army and the fleet that operated with it but for the want of vigor in following up the blow.

Next came our successes in North Carolina, especially that at Washington, in which General Hoke so highly distinguished himself that he was made a major-general for his gallantry.

We now come to Grant's great expedition, the object of which was to overwhelm Lee in the upper country and pass on over his body to Richmond, which he expected to enter without further opposition. The Yankee papers had said he was to celebrate the 4th of July in Richmond, and he seems to have entertained that opinion himself. He crossed the Rapid Ann on the 4th of May with an enormous force—reckoned at not less than one hundred and fifty thousand men, in one body. Notwithstanding a great inferiority of numbers, General Lee hastened to attack him. The battle lasted three days, and resulted in our complete success. Grant, whose face was south, and who had proclaimed his determination to fight it out on that line if it took him all summer, was forced to make a [illegible] his former line of march, having been utterly unable to drive Lee out of his way. He lost, according to the Washington *Chronicle*,—the Government paper, edited by Forney,—thirty-five thousand men on this occasion. As the Yankees, of course, do not speak half the truth on such occasions, we may fairly infer that the loss was at least sixty thousand, which estimate is rendered probable by the number of small arms picked up by our men—fifty-seven thousand in all. Grant wrote a lying dispatch, claiming a victory, at the very time that he was retiring before Lee; while the latter, following him up, drove him out of Spotsylvania Courthouse and established himself there. Here he was again assailed by Grant on the 9th and 10th of May. On the latter day, he sustained a sanguinary repulse, in which he lost twenty thousand men. On the 12th, he made a sudden assault upon a portion of our lines which was too far advanced, and, by the suddenness of the onset, routed the division of General Edward Johnson and captured two thousand prisoners (among them the General himself) and all the artillery of the division. The Yankees, however, were soon driven off, and the most tremendous battle of the war ensued. Being behind breastworks, our men suffered little, while the slaughter of the Yankees was without a parallel. We think we may safely put it at thirty thousand men, since they themselves confess to twenty thousand. The armies remained facing each other for several days; but Grant had had enough of it, and would not try a general assault again. Several feeble attempts were made, but his men had lost spirit and could not be brought up to the scratch again. Before he left Spotsylvania, Grant had already lost one hundred thousand men. He had been reinforced by twenty-five thousand veterans, so Stanton said. Finding he could not drive Lee out of his path, he again stole around his left, and endeavored to get before him in the race for Richmond.—He was again unsuccessful; but there was no more heavy fighting until Grant had arrived at Cold Harbor, where he found Lee again facing him. Here he sustained another tremendous slaughter, and here he was reinforced by a portion of Butler's men and forty thousand one-hundred-days' men from Cincinnati.—Finding it utterly impossible to enter Richmond from that quarter, he subsequently crossed over the river and united his forces to those of Butler. He had had, operating immediately with, first, his own original army, one hundred and fifty thousand; second, twenty-five thousand veteran reinforcement; third, forty thousand hundred-days' men; fourth, twenty thousand from Butler—total, two hundred and thirty-five thousand men, under his own eye. Of these he had lost one hundred and twenty-five thousand before he left Cold Harbor. He crossed the river with one hundred and ten thousand men, and there united his operations with those of Butler, who had with him about twenty thousand men, besides those he had sent to Grant. This brings up the notice of Butler's operations. [illegible] should notice, however, that a Yankee force, under General Siegel, having advanced down the Valley as far as New Market, was there met by General Breckinridge and completely routed. It fled up the Valley, burning the bridge over the Shenandoah to prevent pursuit. The forces of General Breckinridge having been withdrawn to reinforce General Lee, the Valley was left comparatively unprotected, except by the small force under General Jones. An enormous body of cavalry, numbering at least twenty thousand, under Sheridan, while Lee was still facing Grant in Spotsylvania, passed around his army, and, after committing unheard-of devastation in the intermediate counties, appeared in the neighborhood of Richmond. Here they were met by General Stuart, who, in the battle that ensued, lost his life. The Department forces and the local troops, under the command of Colonel Custis Lee, displayed, on this occasion, a most commendable alertness and gallantry. In the meantime, Siegel had been removed in the Valley, and Hunter appointed to succeed him. Finding the Valley open, this officer advanced in the direction of Staunton, it being his object to capture Lynchburg, and thus perform a part in the grand operations by which Grant hoped to isolate Richmond. Encounter[illegible] defeated it after a severe battle, in which General Jones was killed. He then proceeded to Staunton, and afterwards to Lexington, burning and destroying as he went. Sheridan, having set out with the intention of joining him through Charlottesville, was met at Trevillian's depot, in Louisa, by General Hampton, and utterly routed. He was driven back to the lower country, and, after sustaining another defeat in Charles City, crossed over the river.

We must go back a little. Simultaneously with Grant's movements in Spotsylvania, a large land and naval force, under Beast Butler, passed up from Old Point, landed at City Point, took possession of Bermuda Hundred, and endeavored to capture Petersburg and the Port Walthall railroad. In these attempts they were thwarted by the skill and gallantry of General Pickett, who, with vastly inferior forces, succeeded not only in holding Petersburg and the railroad until the arrival of General Beauregard with his forces from North Carolina, but in repulsing them and inflicting a severe loss upon them.—General Pickett added greatly to the renown he had already won at Gettysburg and other hotly contested fields by his success on this occasion. Had he been less firm, less determined, or less skillful, it seems certain that Petersburg would have been lost. General Beauregard said Petersburg ought to raise a monument to Colonel David Harris.—There is no doubt that he deserved one at her hands, as did General Beauregard himself. But it may be doubted whether General Pickett's claims to her gratitude are not even greater than those of either of these two great officers.

The arrival of General Beauregard with heavy reinforcements quieted the public mind, which was greatly excited. An attempt to flank Drewry's Bluff brought on a battle, in which the enemy were signally defeated. When Grant found it impossible to enter Richmond, he crossed the river and attempted to carry Petersburg by storm. He was repulsed with enormous slaughter. The Yankees themselves computed their loss at twelve thousand. It was, undoubtedly, at least twenty thousand. Subsequently they sprung a mine under part of our works. The men rushed in and occupied the chasm caused by the explosion.—Our troops attacked them. They could not get out, and an awful slaughter ensued. We have not room to detail the numerous actions around Petersburg, in all of which, with the exception of one, we were victorious. Nor can we enter into the details of Hunter's march to Lynchburg, or his retreat from that place, pursued by Early; nor of the march of the latter up the Valley, through Maryland, to within one mile of Washington; nor of his subsequent return to the Valley, and defeats at Winchester and New Market, on both of which occasions he rose superior to disaster, and still continued to show a bold front to the enemy. All of these movements on the part of the enemy were parts of Grant's grand plan to manœuvre Lee out of his position after he had failed to do it by direct attacks. One grand attack along our whole line he attempted in November, soon after the Presidential election, the success of Lincoln in which the Yankees fondly believed would so terrify the Confederates that they would lay down their arms at their bidding. He failed, and was disastrously repulsed everywhere. Nor need we speak of the capture of Fort Harrison, or the Alms-House, or Darbytown, or of Beast Butler and his grand canal at Dutch gap. It is time to turn our eyes elsewhere.

The campaign of Sherman, early in the spring, from Vicksburg to the Alabama line, with the purpose of taking Mobile and Selma, having failed, that officer was transferred to Chattanooga to take command there. He began to move against General Johnston early in June. That officer fell back from one position to another until he had reached Atlanta, fighting on the retreat several severe battles, in which, while he lost only nine thousand men, he inflicted upon the enemy, according to their own statements, a loss of fifty-five thousand. Here, to the great regret of the whole country, and of none so much as the army he commanded, he was relieved by General Hood. This General, after fighting a bloody and indecisive action, was eventually defeated by Sherman at Jonesboro', and fell back in the direction of Macon. Subsequently, he got in the rear of Sherman and marched into Tennessee, where, after a hard-won victory at Franklin, he was defeated before Nashville by Thomas. We have the results of that defeat only from the Yankees. We shall, therefore, not state them here. In the meantime, Sherman, finding himself unopposed, marched, almost without resistance, through Georgia and took Savannah.

The march of Price and defeat of the great Yankee armada at Wilmington were the last exploits of the year which we shall notice. This summary is, no doubt, very inaccurate; but the events are of such a late date that every man's memory will enable him to correct errors.

A NEW YEAR.

We are not inclined to be ironical at this moment, and therefore refrain from the customary salutation of the season—"A Happy New Year." Such happiness as the season affords can be easily carried in a nutshell, and there are not wanting hammers to crack even the nutshell, and expel therefrom such withered kernels of consolation as it may still contain. It has pleased the excellent and exemplary people who are making war upon us to carry on that war in a way unrecognized by any other people called civilized; not simply fight us, of which we make no complaint, but to fight us in a way which renders ordinary warfare a pastime and recreation. To burn houses and to drive forth their helpless and homeless occupants, the mother and the babe, into the freezing cold; to take their very food away from them, and, by burning mills, prevent them from getting more; to subject women to a fate more horrible than death,—these have become common occurrences and the most reliable instrumentalities of Yankee warfare. Looking abroad upon the multitudes of our unprotected country population, the most virtuous, and once the most happy portion of our community, who are constantly exposed to such visitations, we have no disposition to mock their miseries by empty compliments, nor to feign a hope, which we do not entertain, that the fiends who are let loose upon us will return to the bottomless pit and permit this year to be happier than the one whose dismal accounts have just been rendered up at the bar of Eternal Justice.

And yet these unparalleled trials and sufferings may prove the most efficient means by which the gulf between the two combatants will be [illegible] impassable, and the hatred [illegible] roused to that degree of [illegible] sacrifice which is necessary to its deliverance. If wrongs like these do not thrill every soul [illegible] human nature in this Confederacy must be different from human nature in any other land or age. The mode in which the war is carried on has thrown the original cause of controversy completely out of sight. If the United States had possessed, under the Constitution, an explicit assertion of the supremacy of the General Government over the States and the undoubted right of coercion, the manner and means by which it has maintained its claims would have deprived it of all vantage ground of law and awakened a universal demand from every breast for eternal separation from a people capable of such atrocities against civilization and humanity. They may thank themselves that the issue they have presented is one which the plainest understanding can comprehend and the coldest heart can feel. If we are not able to wish a "Happy New Year" to the people whom they have afflicted, it is required no prophet to predict a year of vengeance upon these tormentors such as only crimes like these demand and deserve. All other questions, slavery included, will soon be lost in the one question of independence of such a people.

Darkly as the last year has closed upon our fortunes in some portions of the widely-extended field of combat, it leaves us with a larger extent of territory delivered from the enemy than the last, and with an army as numerous and formidable as a year ago took the [illegible]. We have, besides, a powerful element of strength in reserve, which can [illegible] any additional accessions to the [illegible] of the enemy. The disasters we have suffered have been the result of [illegible] which we have reason to believe will never occur again. With the [illegible] of that [illegible] Providence which has hitherto interposed in our behalf almost as manifestly as for the people of Israel, and with a provident, [illegible] and energetic employment of the resources at our command, the new year, which has begun in clouds, will [illegible] sunshine, and the bow of [illegible] peace span the dark cloud of war. [illegible] under Heaven, our whole future depends upon ourselves. The people and their representatives must be alike ready to make any and all sacrifices; not only of life, but of prejudices of every kind, of pride, property, and, if need be, of institutions, however cherished, if their surrender will secure the end of [illegible] own deliverance. As the mariner, threatened with shipwreck, commits joyfully to the waves the precious cargo for which he has crossed wide oceans, that he may save his vessel and his life, so must we be prepared to throw overboard everything which can deprive us of the supreme and incomparable boon of liberty and independence.

THE COTTON IN SAVANNAH.—The Petersburg *Express* of Saturday, speaking of the cotton captured in Savannah, says:

"A gentleman now in Petersburg, who left Savannah but a short time before the evacuation, informs us that a large quantity of the cotton found in Savannah by Sherman is owned in Great Britain—some by private individuals and some by the Government. Our informant saw the cotton properly marked and lying under the British flag. Whether the Yankee Government will [illegible] of Great Britain and her [illegible] think a matter of much question."

GOOD SALE.—An auctioneer [illegible] sold at auction in Wilmington [illegible] one Confederate [illegible] condemned. The highest price [illegible] $1,550, and the lowest $1,0[illegible] brought $100. The total [illegible] sales reached $14,04[illegible] per head. He also sold a [illegible] "[illegible]sau" pork for the State of [illegible]lina at $7 and beef at $6 [illegible]

SALE OF NEGROES.—[illegible] prices [illegible] Georgia, [illegible] man and infant, [illegible] and child, $10,000; a [illegible] child, $8,000; [illegible] children, $7,000 [illegible] two children, $6,[illegible] children, $6,[illegible]

[illegible] of Oglethorpe [illegible] killed [illegible]