

THE SECOND ATTACK UPON WILMINGTON.

As already stated in Saturday's paper, the enemy suddenly appeared off our coast on Thursday night last and commenced landing on Friday morning at daylight. On Friday they landed a considerable force, fifteen thousand and to be under the command of General Terry. Prisoners differ very much about the number, knowing or professing to know only the force on board the same vessels with themselves, which we think is quite likely. All seem to agree upon the statement that General Terry is in command of the land forces.

On Friday the bombardment of Fort Fisher was heavy, especially so towards nightfall. Up to six o'clock on Friday evening the casualties by the enemy's shelling were some forty-four, four being killed and about forty wounded. In the wounded is included Sergeant Thos. E. King of Scotland's Battery, who was acting as a courier.

Dr. James A. Miller, chief Surgeon, reports fifty-two wounded as being received at Smithville from Fort Fisher on Saturday, also that three were killed, of which the names are given in his dispatch. We cannot say as yet whether these were all killed or wounded on Saturday, or include part of the sufferers on Friday. We learn that on Saturday and yesterday the bombardment continued heavy, although not heard here with any distinctness.

It is pretty certain that the enemy on Saturday had succeeded in extending their lines across to the river which their skirmishers struck at Craig's Landing—the usual landing of steamers to and from Fort Fisher and Wilmington, and there captured the steamer James R. Grist. On Saturday night or Sunday morning the Grist, thus seized by the enemy, was blown up by the Confederate steamer Chickamauga. The Grist was a small Quartermaster's boat, and of no great value.

As we write, about midday on Sunday—in such times there are no Sundays to which at present we can lay claim,—the last report we have heard is that things remain pretty much in statu quo. The enemy are said to be entrenching across the narrow strip of land between Fort Fisher and Sugar Loaf, but had not landed either horse or artillery. Some deserters from the enemy, confined now in the military prison, say that the enemy consists of seven thousand whites and four thousand negroes. This is perhaps correct. Terry commands.

General Bragg telegraphed Sunday forenoon that all was quiet and that there was no cause for excitement or apprehension. The present attempt of the enemy is evidently destined to be more pertinacious and determined than the last.

Information received here through scouts says that the enemy, four thousand strong, started from Newbern on Thursday or Friday, for an advance upon Kinston and a raid upon the Wilmington and Weldon Road, but turned back, not deeming their numbers sufficient. They will probably start again when reinforced.

KILLED AND WOUNDED.

The following dispatch was received here late on Saturday night:

EMERYVILLE, Jan. 14th, 1865.

Fifty-two wounded received from Fort Fisher, including Sergeant Latham and Lieutenant Adams Light Battery, and Carter of Captain Powell's company, killed.

JAS. A. MILLER, Surgeon.

LATER.

At half-past six last evening, (Sunday), the enemy were making a heavy assault by land and sea. The bombardment was going on furiously. Gen. Whiting slightly wounded.

At seven and a half the fighting was still continued at the Fort—the enemy's infantry were far outnumbered. It is reported that the enemy had succeeded in establishing a battery on the river above Fort Fisher and below Sugar Loaf, cutting off communication with the Fort by water. An uneasy feeling pervades the community. The gallant defenders of Fort Fisher are passing through a terrible ordeal. God grant that they may pass through it successfully.

STILL LATER.

The following official dispatch from General Bragg has been kindly handed to us:

SUGAR LOAF, Jan. 16-8 P. M.

The sensational reports about Fisher are entirely unfounded. Official information from Gen. Whiting of late reports enemy's attack unsuccessful. Fresh reports are being sent to him, and we are confident they will hold it.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

P. R.—Jan. 16-8 A. M.—Fisher was captured at 8 P. M. last night.

CAPTURE OF FORT FISHER.

Night before last we went quietly to bed satisfied that all was right at Fort Fisher. Our attention, strained to the utmost for days, flagged and we went immediately to sleep. On yesterday morning we woke to find Fort Fisher captured. As we expected, General Whiting fought like a paladin. Both he and Col. Lamb are seriously wounded and in the hands of the enemy.

It is certain that generally, the Fort was fought with chivalric bravery. To this there were exceptions, to which, at some future time we may allude as a matter of justice to others. We cannot say when that time may occur.

For the present it is enough for us to know that Fort Fisher has fallen; that a division of infantry in the field were in gun-shot and did not fire a gun to save it; that we know of, and that heroic men like Whiting, Lamb, and others are prisoners,—that the last part of the Confederacy is gone, and that it ought to have been saved.

We will not trust ourselves to say more. If we said anything, we might, possibly, give vent to our feelings. We do place the responsibility for our failure, but if we once commenced we might give too wide a vent.—Our port ought not to have fallen. There is a responsibility,—that responsibility will hereafter appear.

So far as we can see, the enemy cannot get to the town. We say—"so far as we can see," for we place no reliance upon what we cannot judge for ourselves.—On Sunday night, awfully tired, we slept quietly, thinking that all was right, depending upon an official dispatch. We found the thing totally different.

It is not our part to give advice to our citizens.—There are so many that, under any circumstances, cannot leave, while there are so many that, under any circumstances, must leave, that no single rule could apply to all. Every man's conscience must be his own judge. We need hardly say what we will do, or try to do.—Our course, we presume, is anticipated. We are Confederates. If we lose, why we lose. But we see no reason why we, more than Mobile, should be taken. God only knows why our outer defence were taken; we do not; we have lost many good and true friends; we may lose many more. We fear that they were sacrificed. Such is the impression we have derived from all we have heard and otherwise learned.

There is no doubt but that there is a strong excitement against Gen. Bragg. There can be no doubt either, that Gen. Bragg has attached to him the prestige of bad luck. Unfortunately he always has had prestige. Permanent bad luck means permanent bad management, somewhere. A man with this prestige ought not to have been sent here.

Some people never learn anything, and never forget anything; as, for instance, the Bourbons and the high old "Conservatives" in this State, who, for once, did not co-operate with the Richmond cliques in maligning Gen. Whiting, and demanding somebody else. They appear to have got their desire gratified. Gen. Whiting is wounded and a prisoner. Is Gov. Vance perfectly satisfied? He, we know, was one of the agents in over-riding, superseding and trying to ruin Gen. Whiting. All right, we suppose, in a party point of view.—Daily Journal, 17th.

No person can have occupied the position of an editor for any length of time without discovering the necessity of carefully reading his exchanges, not so much for what he may be able to obtain from them directly, as for what they are almost certain to suggest. We have had our attention drawn to matters which would otherwise have escaped our notice, by seeing that others had touched upon them, perhaps bringing forward propositions to which we could not at all assent. There are so many ways in which any subject can be viewed that frequently the best view is first indicated by its opposition to some peculiarly erroneous or objectionable one, by which alone, perhaps, your attention is drawn to the subject.

We confess that we do not think our exchanges ever did us as little good as they do now. We read most of them as carefully as the circumstances of the case will permit, and somehow fall back upon ourselves unsatisfied and unsustained by any fresh or vigorous ideas. The Richmond papers too frequently come to us full of propositions which must suggest to the enemy, not to our own people, the idea that our cause is desperate, and is so considered. Some of the Georgia papers, (notably the Chronicle and Sentinel) go even farther. They counsel not even the matching of courage with desperation—they leave little reason to doubt that some submission is the policy to which they are striving to familiarize the public mind. Some papers in our own State are little better, but they do not seem to receive so much censure from the people, and, as a general thing, the press of North Carolina is sound, as indeed is the press of the Confederacy, as a whole; and its firm tone does much for the cause, we think, nay, we feel certain. But with the exception of the wild propositions of the Richmond papers, and the hardly disguised treason of some of the Georgia papers, there is a total lack of anything new or suggestive or calculated to turn the mind out of the dutiful rut in which it has been so long running.

Something did suggest a comforting idea to us this (Saturday) forenoon.—It is known that there have been tremendous freights in nearly all our Southern rivers. The Roanoke has been tearing away farms, breaking dams and washing off bridges, and the Neuse has been following suit. All the rivers in South Carolina have been and are mightily swollen, so much so, we learn, that Sherman has pretty certainly been forced back into Savannah. An immediate movement on his part is said to be improbable.

Now, we feel assured that the attack on Wilmington and the advance of Sherman in South Carolina were intended to be simultaneous, but it would appear as though Providence had again interfered to prevent the success of the enemy. Unless we are very much mistaken we cannot advance for some time to come. God is on our side here, or at least circumstances have occurred and are occurring that look very much like a special intervention on our behalf. The belief is a comforting—a reassuring belief—and we do not wish to permit any scepticism to deprive ourselves or others of the strength and confidence it imparts.

ROCKLEE MISCHEZ.—On Saturday morning Mr. Rikers, residing at the Northwest corner of Orange and Fifth streets, found between thirty and forty feet of the iron railing of his lot on Fifth street, torn from the coping and very much injured.

At any time the loss and inconvenience would be far from inconsiderable; at this time they are almost incalculable. There seems to have been no motive save mere recklessness, as none of the iron was carried off, nor Mr. Rikers's unconscious of having given offence to any parties likely to perpetrate such an outrage from malicious motives. No doubt it was done in what some very mistaken people will probably designate as a "folly"—perhaps look upon as "fun." Now this is no fun at all. Where, may we ask, does the joke come in? Simply by brute force to destroy property and to admit stray cows to destroy more, is neither wise nor witty. It is simply very foolish and very wrong. It is executed by no sort of assignable motive or reason.

Mr. Eilers thinks the thing was done about 11 o'clock on Friday night, or perhaps later. We need hardly add that liquor gets a considerable portion of the credit of this foolish and mischievous transaction. We might say more about some parties going around town for "fun," and perhaps meaning it, but as we trust that these things will not be repeated, we rest the case after offering the hints above given. We do hope that they will be taken.

The Cape Fear River near Elizabethtown, Bladen county, appeared in rather a new character last week, having, in its flow, been the means of taking five Yankee prisoners, who had made their escape from Florence, S. C., and were trying to get over the Cape Fear, with the view of getting down to the enemy's lines at Newbern. The rapid rise of the river caught them while waiting on a point on the bank, after having in vain tried to get ferried over. They were discovered by a negro, to whom they made signs and gave information to some others, who got them on a boat, and then the means of taking five Yankee prisoners, who had made their escape from Florence, S. C., and were trying to get over the Cape Fear, with the view of getting down to the enemy's lines at Newbern. The rapid rise of the river caught them while waiting on a point on the bank, after having in vain tried to get ferried over. 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