TELEGRAPHIC

Reports of the Press Association.

Entered according to the Act of Congress, in the year 1863, by J. S. THRASHER, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Confederate States for the Northern District of Georgia.

FROM MOBILE.

MOBILE, January 17, 1865.

A special dispatch to the Register from Senopbia, says the Chicago Times of the 25 h, and Memphis papers dated the 12th, have been received.

Fort Smith was evacuated by the Federals. A Confederate force of artillery and infantry got between Little Rock and that place, compelling the evacuation.

The Blair mission still excites much comment.

Rumors are rife of an intended raid from Memphis — The lines are kept very close.

Late European correspondents say Russell has intimated to Mason that there was no longer any just cause for not recognizing the Confederate Government.

FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, Jan. 19th, 1865.

A Yankee Monitor on picket duty between Forts Moultrie and and Sumter, was sunk last night, Supposed by a torpedo. The smokestack can be seen above water.a

Deserters reports that the force on the line of Salkitchie, consists of the 17th and part of the 15th corps. Their destination is Charleston. A considerable body of the enemy's infantry moved up about noon, within two and a half miles of Corsahhee bridge, but afterwards retired to their entrenchments at Gardner's Corner.

FROM PETERSBURG.

PETERSBURG, January 18, 1865.

A truce has been observed on the lines here to-day, and white flags have been flying at different points, consequently not a gun has been fired.

Several parties going Northward were passed through the lines this morning.

FROM THE UNITED STATES,

JACKSON, January 17, 1865.

Memphis papers of the 10th and Vicksburg papers of the 14th have been received. Large amounts of money have been raised in New York and other cities for the sufferers at Savannah.

Brig. Gen. Gary takes command of Savannah. Sherman is moving upon Branchville. Federal troops are concentrating at Florence and Athens

A large number of troops are passing down the Mississippi. Washburn is in command at Vicksburg.

Thomas says, had it not been for the stubborn resistance of Forrest, Hood's army could not have crossed the Tennessee river.

Gens. Johnston, Jackson and Smith have been sent to Fort Warren.

The *World* says England and France will not permit the Union to be restored, and will recognise the Confederacy on the fourth of March.

Gold 224

RICHMOND, Jan. 18.—Northern papers of the 15th have been received. Edward Everitt died in Boston on Sunday, of apoplexy.

The State Convention of Tennessee passed a resolution abolishing slavery in the State, and abrogating the ordinance of secession. Brownlow was nominated for Governor. He accepted the nomination.

The steamer Clyde sailed from New York on Saturday, deeply laden with provisions for the relief of the citizens of Savannah. She was gaily dressed in colors, and was greeted with cheers and salutes from all sides.

A Cairo telegram says that Thomas and staff were at Paducah a few days ago.

Gold, 219 at the first Board on Monday.

CONGRESS.

RICHMOND, January 18 — In the Senate nothing of importance.

In the House, yesterday, Mr. Marshall moved to recommit the bill to impose a duty on tobacco and an additional duty on cotton, with instructions to report a bill to take all cotton and tobacco in the Confederacy on account of Government, and provide for future payment therefor to owners at the present market value. This proposition was dispensed yesterday and and to-day without result. The House went into secret session at the expiration of the morning hour.

Foote arrived this afternoon from Fredericksburg, and the Secretary of War directed yesterday that he be released. Foote refused to accept his discharge, insisting that it be brought before Judge Halyburton.

FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, Jan. 24th, 1865.

The enemy have made no advance movement since our last report. The Railroad between Salkahatchie bridge and Pocotaligo has been destroyed and the ties burnt, but the iron was taken away. The enemy's pickets extend a short distance this side of Pocataligo.

THE PRESIDENT AND GEN. LEE.

RICHMOND, Jan. 24th, 1865.

The Legislature of Virginia adopted a resolution on the 17th, declaring that the appointment of General Lee to the command of all the armies of the Confederate states would promote their efficiency, and operate powerfully to re animate the spirits of the armies as well as people of the several States, and inspire confidence in the final success of our cause.

This resolution was communicated to the President, who, in reply, says that Virginia cannot have higher regard for General Lee, or greater confidence in his character and ability than is entertained by him. He has always expressed his inability to assume the command of other armies than those now confided to him, unless relieved of the immediate command in the field of that now opposed to Grant.

In conclusion, the President assures the General Assembly, that whenever it shall be found practicable by Gen. Lee to assume command of all the armies of the Confederate states, without withdrawing from the direct command of the Army of Northern Virginia, he will deem it promotive of the public interest to place him in such command.

CONGRESS.

RICHMOND, Jan. 24th, 1865.

In the House, Mr. Clark, from the committee on elections, presented a report reviewing the circumstances of Mr. Foote's effort to leave the Confederacy, closing with the declaration that he has been guilty of conduct incompatible with his duty and station as a member of the Congress of the Confederate States, and that he is therefore and is hereby, expelled from this house.

Mr Gilmer delivered a minority report, justifying the arrest of Mr. Foote, and declaring that his conduct deserves the censure of the House.

The majority report was rejected for the want of a two-thirds vote in favor of its adoption. Yeas 51; nays 24.—The minority report was then adopted.

The House then went into secret session, until it adjourned.

The Senate was in secret session on the currency bill.

NORTHERN NEWS.

RICHMOND, Jan. 24th, 1865.

Northern papers of the 20th inst., have been received

Wall street was excited on the 19th, by the report that Blair had returned to Richmond with a programme from Lincoln in favor of the appointment of commissioners to meet at City Point. Everybody who had anything to sell was selling at a sacrifice, in many cases under the conviction that the war was about over. In a day or two, says the writer, they will probably have occasion to bemoan their credulity.

Gold opened on the 20 h at 199¼.

BLAIR STILL IN RICHMOND.

RICHMOND, Jan. 24th, 1865.

Frank Blair is still here endeavoring to initiate negotiations for peace. Singleton started for Washington to day, but the flag of truce boat was compelled to return.

THE COAL QUESTION.—The following letter to the custom house officer shows the position Lord Russell takes on Northern war steamers coaling in English ports:

SIR:—I am directed to acquaint you for your information and guidance that the Board have received a communication from the Lords of the Treasury, stating that an application had been made to her Majesty's Government requesting permission to ship 40 tons of coals on board the United States ship Sacramento, at Dover, to enable her to proceed to Flushing, and that in reply Earl Russell had informed the United States Minister that, as it appeared that this vessel had been furnished with 87½ tons of coal at Cowes on the 29th of July, and with a further supply of 25 tons at Plymouth on the 17th of August, her Majesty's Government could not consistently with the regulations on this subject, permit the Sacramento to be again coaled at any port in the United Kingdom until the expiration of three months from the last mentioned date.

I am, &c., J. B. HALE.

Whilst the bill to consolidate companies, regiments, &c., was before Congress, Mr. Gilmer, of N. C., spoke against it. He thought it was not a time to try such an experiment, which would produce discontent. He said he had not the shadow of a doubt as to the ultimate triumph of our arms. He saw no reason for any man to be faint-hearted.

Mr. Miles, of S. C., complimented Mr. Gilmer, "whose experience and ability all acknowledge, and whose glowing words of hopeful patriotism must have found an echo in every heart."

THE PORTER BUTLER EXPEDITION.

REPORT OF MAJOR GENERAL BUTLER.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13, 1865.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE U. S., City Point, Va., Jan. 7, 1865.

Hon. E. M. Stanton,
Secretary of War:

Sir—Herewith I have the honor to forward Major General B. F. Butler's and subordinates' report of the expedition against Fort Fisher, North Carolina. As the report of D. D. Porter has been published in the papers, I would respectfully request that General Butler's report, with all the papers accompanying it, be also given to the public.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
U. S. GRANT,
Lieutenant General.

HDQRS OF VA. & N. C.,
ARMY OF THE JAMES, IN THE FIELD,
January 3, 1865.

Lieut. Gen. U. S. Grant,
Commanding Armies of the U. S.:

General—On the 7th of December last, in obedience to your orders, I moved a force of about sixty-five hundred effective men, consisting of General Ames' division of the twenty-fourth corps, and General Paine's division of the twenty-fifth corps, under command of Major General Weitzel, to an encampment near Bermuda. On the 8th the troops embarked for Fortress Monroe. On the 9th, (Friday,) I reported to Rear Admiral Porter that the army portion of the corps joint expedition directed against Wilmington was ready to proceed. We waited there on Saturday, the 10th, Sunday, the 11th, and Monday, the 12 h. On the 12th, Rear Admiral Porter informed me that the naval fleet would sail on the 13th, but would be obliged to put into Beaufort to take on board ammunition for the monitors.

The expedition having become the subject of remark, and fearing lest its destination should get to the enemy, in order to direct from it all attention, on the morning of Tuesday, the 13th, at three o'clock, I ordered the transport fleet to proceed up the Potomac during the day to Mathias Point, so as to be plainly visible to the scouts and signal men of the enemy on the northern neck, and to retrace their course at night, and anchor under the lee of Cape Charles.

Having given the navy thirty-six hours start, at twelve o'clock, noon, of the 14 h, (Wednesday,) I joined the transport fleet off Cape Henry, and put to sea, arriving at the place of rendezvous, off New Inlet, near Fort Fisher, on the evening of the 15th (Thursday.) We there waited for the navy on Friday, the 16th, Saturday, the 17 h, and Sunday, the 18th, during which days we had the finest possible weather and the smoothest sea.

On the evening of the 18 h, Admiral Porter came from Beaufort to the place of rendezvous. That evening the sea became rough, and on Monday, the 19 h, the wind sprang up freshly, so that it was impossible to land the troops, and by the advice of Admiral Porter, communicated to me by letter, I directed the transport fleet to rendezvous at Beaufort. This was a matter of necessity, because the transport fleet being coaled and watered for ten days, had already waited that time, viz: from the 9th, the day on which we were ready to sail, to the 19th.

On the 20th, (Tuesday;) 21st, Wednesday, 22d, Thursday, and 23d, Friday, it blew a gale. I was occupied in coaling and watering the transport fleet at Beaufort. The Bat tic, having a large supply of coal, was enabled to remain at the place of rendezvous, with a brigade on board of twelve hundred men and Gen. Ames report d to Admiral Porter that he would co-operate with him. On the 2d I sent Capt. Clarke, of my staff from Beaufort, on the last sailing armed steamer Chamberlain, to Admiral Porter, to inform him that on the evening of the 24th I would again be at the rendezvous with the transport fleet, for the purpose of commencing the attack, the weather permitting.—At 4 o'clock, on the evening of the 24th I came in sight of Fort Fisher, and found the naval fleet engaged in bombarding it, the powder vessel having been exploded on the morning previous, about one o'clock. Through ten Weitzel I arranged with Admiral Porter to commence the landing under the cover of the gun boats as early as eight o'clock the next morning, if possible. As soon as the fire of the Halfmoon and Flag Pond Hill batteries had been silenced, (th se are up the shore some two or three miles above Fort Fisher) Admiral Porter was quite sanguine that he had silenced the guns of Fort Fisher.

He was then urged, if that was so, to run by the fort into Cape Fear river, and then the troops could land and hold the beach without the liability of being shelled by the enemy's run boats, the Tallahassee being seen in the river.

It is to be remarked that Admiral Farragut, even, had never taken a fort except by running by and cutting it off from all prospect of reinforcement, as at Fort Jackson and Fort Morgan, and that no casemated fort had been silenced by a naval fire during the war; that if the admiral would put his ships in the river the army could supply him stores on the beach, as we had proposed to do Farragut at Fort St. Philip; that at least the blockade at Wilmington would be thus effectual, even if we did not capture the fort. To that the Admiral replied that he should probably lose a boat by torpedoes if he attempted to run by. He was reminded that the army might lose five hundred men by the assault, and that his boat would not weigh in the balance, even in a money point of view, for a moment, with the loss of the men. The Admiral declined going by and the expedition was deprived of that essential element of success.

At 12 o'clock, noon, of the 25th, Sunday, Capt. Gibson, commanding the covering division of the fleet, reported the batteries silenced, and his vessels in position to cover our landing. The transport fleet, following my flag-ship, stood in within eight hundred yards of the beach, and at once commenced debarking. The landing was successfully effected. Finding that the reconnoitering party just landed could hold the shore, I determined to land a force, with which an assault might be attempted. Brevet Brig. Gen. Curtis, who deserves well for his gallantry and conduct, immediately pushed up his brigade within a few hundred yards of Fort Fisher, capturing the Hali Moon battery and its men, who were taken off by the boats of the navy.

This skirmish line advanced to within seventy five yards of the fort, protected by the glacis, which had been thrown up in such a form as to give cover, and the garrison, being completely kept in their bomb proofs by the fire of the navy, which was very rapid and continuous, their shells bursting over the work with very considerable accuracy.

At this time we less ten men wounded on the skirmish line by the shells from the fleet. Quitting my flag-ship, I went on board the Chamberlain and run in within a few hundred yards of the fort, so that it was plainly visible.—It appeared to be a square bastion, of very high relief, say fifteen feet, surrounded by a wet ditch some fifteen feet wide. It was protected from being enveloped by an assaulting force by a stockade which extended from the fort to the sea on the one side, and from the marshes of Cape Fear River to the salient on the other. No material damage to the fort as a defensive work had been done. Seventeen heavy guns bore up the beach protected from the fire of the navy by traverses eight or ten feet high, which were undoubtedly bomb-proof shelters for the garrison.

With the garrison kept within their bomb proofs it was easy to maintain this position, but to shake off the navy which kept the enemy in their bomb-proofs would keep my troops out. When these ceased firing the parapet was fully manned. Lieut. Walling of the 142d New York, pressed up to the edge of the ditch and captured a flag which had been cut down by a shell from the navy. It is a mistake, as was at first reported to me, that any soldier entered the fort. An orderly was killed about a third of a mile from the fort, and his horse taken.

In the meantime the remainder of Ames' division had captured two hundred and eighteen men and ten commissioned officers of the North Carolina Reserves and other prisoners. From them I learned that Kirkland's and Hagood's brigades of Hoke's division had left the front of the army of the James, near Richmond, and were then within two miles of the rear of my forces, and their skirmishers were then actually engaged, and that the remainder of Hoke's division had come the night before to Wilmington, and were then on the march, if they had not already arrived.—I learned also that these troops had left Richmond on Tuesday, the 27 h. Knowing the strength of Hoke's division, I found a force opposed to me outside of the works larger than my own. In the meantime the weather assumed a threatening aspect. The surf began to roll so that the landing became difficult. At this time Gen. Weitzel reported to me that to assault the work, in his judgment, and in that of the experienced officers of his command, would have been on the skirmish line, with any prospect of success, was impossible. This opinion concurred with my own, and much as I regretted the necessity of abandoning the attempt, yet the path of duty was plain.

No so strong a work as Fort Fisher had been taken by assault during this war; and I had no guide me the experience of Port Hudson with its slaughtered thousands in the repulsed assault, and the double assault of Fort Wagner, where thousand were sacrificed in an attempt to take a work less strong than Fort Fisher, after it had been subjected to a more continued and fully as severe a fire, and in either of the instances I have mentioned, had the assaulting force in its rear, as I had, an army of the enemy larger than itself.

I, therefore, ordered that no assault should be made, and that the troops should re-embark. While superintending the preparations for this the fire of the navy ceased. Instantly the guns of the fort were fully manned, and a sharp fire of musketry, grape and canister swept the plain over which the column must have advanced, and the skirmish line was returning. Working with what diligence we could it was in possible to get the troops again on board before the sea ran so high as to render further re embarkation, or even the sending of supplies ashore, impossible.

I lay by the shore until eleven o'clock the next day (Monday,) the 26th, when, having made all proper dispositions for getting on board, I gave orders to the transport fleet as fast as they were ready to sail for Fortress Monroe, in obedience to instructions from the Lieutenant General.

I learned from deserters, and prisoners captured, that the supposition upon which the Lieutenant General directed the expedition that Wilmington had been denuded of troops to oppose General Sherman, was correct. That at the time when the army arrived off Wilmington, there was less than four hundred men in the garrison of Fort Fisher, and less than a thousand within 20 miles, but the delay of three days of good weather, the 16th 17 h and 18th, waiting for the arrival of the navy, and the further delay from the terrible storm of the 21st, 22d and 23d, gave time for troops to be brought from Richmond three divisions of which were either there or on the road.

The instructions of the Lieutenant General to me did not contemplate a siege. I had neither siege trains, nor supplies for such a contingency. The exigency of possible delay, for which the foresight of the commander of the armies had provided, had arisen, to wit, the large reinforcement of the garrisons. This, together with the fact that the navy had exhausted their supply of ammunition in the bombardment, left me with no alternative but to return with my troops to the army of the James. The loss of the opportunity of Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the 16th, 17th and 18th, was the immediate cause of the failure of the expedition.

It is not my province even to suggest blame to the navy or their delay of four days at Beaufort. I know none of the reasons which do or do not justify it. It is to be presumed they are sufficient. I am happy to bring to the attention of the Lieutenant General the excellent behavior of the troops, both officers and men, which was all that could be desired,

[Here follow the usual commendations, &c.]

HDQRS ARMIES OF THE U. S.,
City Point, Va., Jan 7th, 1865.

To avoid publicity of the time of sailing and destination of the expedition against Fort Fisher, my orders to General Butler to prepare it were given verbally, and the instructions to the commanding officer of the expedition were made by him and submitted to me. I append to the report a copy of General Butler's instructions to General Weitzel, together with copies of my written dispatches and instructions to General Butler relating to the expedition.

It will be perceived that it was never contemplated that General Butler should accompany the expedition, but that Major General G. Weitzel was specially named as the commander of it. My hopes of success rested entirely on our ability to capture Fort Fisher, and I had even a hope of getting Wilmington before the enemy could get troops there to oppose us. I knew that the enemy had taken nearly the entire garrison of Wilmington and all dependencies to oppose General Sherman. I am inclined to ascribe the delay, which has cost us so dearly to an experiment.—I refer to the explosion of gunpowder in the open air.

My dispatch to General Butler will show his report to be in error when he states that he returned after having effected a landing, in obedience to my instructions. On the contrary, these instructions contemplated withdrawal or failure after a landing was made.

(Signed) U. S. GRANT,
Lieut General.

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

HEQ'RS DEPT OF VA. & N. C.
ARMY OF THE JAMES, IN THE FIELD
December 6 1864.

Maj Gen. G. WEITZEL,
Commanding Twenty-Fifth Corps:

General—The Major General commanding has intrusted you with the command of the expedition about to sail against the North Carolina coast. It will consist of about six thousand five hundred infantry, two batteries of artillery, and fifty cavalry. The effective men of General Ames' division, of the twenty-fourth corps, and the 2nd Paine's division, of the twenty-fifth corps, will furnish the infantry force. General Ames will be ordered to report to you in person immediately. You will confer with his officers and arrange details. I strongly urge them to select their best men, making your total force six thousand five hundred men.

The chief of artillery, in conference with you will designate the artillery to be taken. The horses of the batteries, except one horse for each officer and chief of piece, will be left. Take one set of wheel harness. Fifty men of the Massachusetts cavalry will be ordered to report to you.—Forty ambulances (two mules) with the necessary medical stores, have been allotted for the expedition, which will be distributed on at least two boats. Take sixty rounds of ammunition on the men; one hundred rounds in boxes, to be distributed through the fleet. Fifty rounds in division to make not further the necessary ammunition, the balance will be ammunition by the chief of ordnance at the point of embarkation. Three hundred rounds of artillery per gun will be taken.

So much of it as is not contained in limber boxes and caissons will be loaded in boxes at the point of embarkation. Let each regiment draw and take with it for the transport five days rations, three days cooked meat. Twenty days additional will be taken on at Fortress Monroe, distributing it through the fleet. Field rations only will be taken. Two pack mules for division and brigade headquarters will be allowed. Mounted officers will take but one horse for personal use. The chief quartermaster has been instructed to furnish one hundred and fifty sets of mule harness. It is expected to get animals from the enemy's country.

The chief Quartermaster will also furnish a party of wheelwrights, and a small amount of material for building, &c. Thirty hatchets will be taken to Fort Fisher. The Chief signal officer has been instructed to order signal officers and men to report to you. Lieutenant Parson, with a company of engineer soldiers, will report to you.—Five hundred hoes, two hundred and fifty axes, and one hundred picks have been prepared. It is expected that the necessary transportation will be ready by to morrow at Deep Bottom. You will report in person to the Major General Commanding for further instructions.

I am, very respectfully
Your obedient servant,
JOHN W. TURNER,
Brig. Gen. and Chief of Staff.

(Signed,) H. C. CLARKE, Capt. A. D. C.

Respectfully forwarded to Lieutenant General Grant, for his information, and with the earnest request that he will make any suggestions that may occur to him in aid of the engagement.

(Signed,) B. F. BUTLER,
Major General Com'dg.

Official:
T. S. BOWERS, A. A. G.

HEADQ'S ARMY OF THE U. S., CITY POINT, VA., Nov. 30, 1864.—Major General Butler—I have files of Savannah and Augusta papers, sent me by Col. Mulford, from which I gather that Bragg has gone to Georgia, taking with him that I judge to be most of the forces from about Wilmington. It is, therefore, important that Weitzel should get off during his absence, and if successful in effecting a landing he may, by a bold dash, also succeed in capturing Wilmington. Make all the arrangements for his departure so that the navy will not be detained one moment for the army. Did you order Palmer to make the move proposed yesterday? It is important that he should do so without delay.

(Signed,) U. S. GRANT,
Lieut Gen.

Official—T. S. BOWERS, A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE U. STATES, CITY POINT, VA., Dec. 4, 1864.—Maj. Gen. Butler:—I feel great anxiety to see the Wilmington expedition off both on account of the present fine weather, which we can expect no great continuance of, and because Gen. Sherman may soon be expected to strike the sea coast any day, leaving Bragg free to return. I think it advisable for you to notify Admiral Porter, and get off without any delay, with or without your powder-boat.

(Signed,) U. S. GRANT,
Lieutenant General.

Official—T. S. BOWERS, A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE U. STATES, CITY POINT, VA., Dec. 6, 1864—To Maj. Gen. B. F. Butler, Commanding Army of the James: I had rest you a cipher dispatch before receiving a copy of your instructions to General Weitzel. I think it advisable that all the embarkation should take place at Bermuda. The number of intrenching tools I think, should be increased three or four times.

(Signed) U. S. GRANT,
Lieutenant General.

Official—T. S. BOWERS, A. A. G.

HEADQ'RS ARMIES OF THE U. S., CITY POINT, VA., Dec. 6, 1864.—To Major Gen. B. F. Butler, commanding the Army of the James—General—The first object of the expedition under General Weitzel is to close to the enemy the port of Wilmington. If success in this, the second will be to capture Wilmington it can. There are reasonable grounds to hope for success if advantage can be taken of the absence of the greater part of the enemy's forces now looking after Sherman in Georgia. The directions you have given for the numbers and equipment of the expedition are all right, except in the important matter of where they embark and the amount of intrenching tools to be taken.

The object of the expedition will be gained by effecting a landing on the main land between Cape Fear River and the Atlantic, north of the north entrance to the river.—Should such a landing be effected, when her the enemy still hold Fort Fisher, or the batteries guarding the entrance to the river there, the troops should intrench themselves, and by co operating with the navy, effect the reduction and capture of those places. These in our hands the navy could enter the harbor, and the port of Wilmington would be sealed. Should Fort Fisher and the point of land on which it is built and into the hands of our troops immediately on landing, then it will be worth the attempt to capture Wilmington by a forced march and surprise.

If time is consumed in gaining the first object of the expedition, the second will become a matter of after consideration. The details for execution are entrusted to you and the officers immediately in command of the troops.—Should the troops be not yet ready, Weitzel to close landing at Fort Fisher, they will be returned to the army operating against Richmond without delay.

(Signed,) U. S. GRANT, Lieut. Gen.

Official—T. S. BOWERS, A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES, CITY POINT, VA., Dec. 7, 1864.—Major General Butler—Let General Weitzel get off as soon as possible. We don't want the navy to wait an hour.

(Signed) U. S. GRANT, Lieut. Gen.

Official—T. S. BOWERS, A. A. G.

HD'QRS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES, CITY POINT, VA., Dec. 11, 1864.—Major General Butler, Fortress Monroe.—Richmond papers of the 10th show that on the 7th General Sherman was east of the Ogeechee, and within twenty five miles of Savannah, having marched eighteen miles the day before. If you do not get off immediately you will lose the chance of surprise and a weak garrison.

(Signed) U. S. GRANT, Lieut. Gen.

Official—T. S. BOWERS, A. A. G.

HD'QRS ARMIES OF THE U. STATES, CITY POINT, VA., Dec. 19 1864.—Major General Butler, Fortress Monroe, Va.—What is the prospect for getting your expedition started? It is a great pity we were not ten or twelve days earlier. I am confident it would then have been successful. Have you heard from Palmer?

The Richmond papers give no account of any Federals on the Roanoke or Weldon road South of Weldon.

(Signed) U. S. GRANT, Lieut. Gen'l.

Official—T. S. BOWERS A. A. G.

A VOICE FROM THE ARMY.—A letter in the Raleigh Conservative from Lane's Brigade, in Lee's Army, thus rebukes the spirit of the croakers at home, which, as we have abundance evidence, has not effected the soldiers, who bear the heat and burden of the day, and brave the dangers from which the croakers take care to screen themselves:

"What are the signs of the times? Are the people at home in dear old North Carolina depressed on account of the late disaster to our arms? Do they think the clouds are thickening? Why, we have seen gloomier hours than these. Immediately after the retreat from Gettysburg the times were darker than they are now. Then, Lee's great army had suffered a reverse, but now it is as defiant and as well organized as it was before Richmond in '62. But some croaker may say, "why, Hood is badly whipped." That may be so, and so is the man who utters it. Well, we lost Vicksburg with an entire army, and that, with the Gettysburg fight, were by far greater blows to us than this Hood has received, and yet we survived both and were better afterwards than before. We all regret General Hood's defeat, but it should nerve our people to still greater efforts. If we lose our cause it will be because our people so will it. It is now a question of pluck and endurance. Do you not remember with what contempt "the Yankee" was held by our people before the war? Is there a man anywhere in these Confederate States who would be willing to succumb to this despised creature? Possibly there are some, but surely the manhood of these States would spurn the idea. To abate our zeal now is to be goverded forever and forever by genuine Yankees. The people should ponder well."

From the Liverpool Albion

AMERICAN PROSPECTS.

Among those that are born of women there beats not a bolder heart than that of Jefferson Davis. We are not ashamed to confess to a large amount of hero worship for the man for whom his Northern foes can find no better name than rebel and slave owner. Never unduly elated by success, never dismayed by adversity, his voice rings out clear as a trumpet call on the darkest day that befalls his country. Not Cato himself spoke to his little Senate at Utica with more dignity and stedfastness than does the Southern President when addressing his suffering fellow countrymen. Four years have passed since the tremendous struggle began with which his name will be forever identified; and, if American figures can be trusted, (a point on which we always feel serious misgivings,) those four years have witnessed a greater amount of bloodshed and a larger loss of human life than any other four consecutive years since the deluge. The loss of ten thousand men on a single day has become quite an common event; and a conscription of one, two or three hundred thousand at a time, no longer excites astonishment. The wave of war has surged from North to South and from East to West. It has been waged by land and sea, on mid ocean and in harbor, and up thousands of miles of rivers—in the midst of forests, on spacious plains, and on the sides of lofty mountains. Professional soldiers and amateur generals have tried their hands upon it; attorneys and politicians have brought their talents to its aid; every invention of modern times has been pressed into its service. New fangled ships, cannon of unknown calibre, rifles of novel construction, new tactics and new tools, all have been used in turn, and yet the end has not come. Such energy, such obstinacy, such determination to win, have been shown on both sides as were hardly ever seen before, and such an amount of money expended as no other country ever spent in a period ten times as long. If, in the early days of this struggle, we were ever disposed to sneer at the efforts of either side, we must now, all of us, confess that we had underrated both their intentions and probable performance.

It is a struggle of terrible proportions on both sides. But, come what may, it is to the weaker party that the highest amount of admiration is justly due; and what is true of one is doubly true of the other. And now, after vicissitudes innumerable, the tide has turned decisively against the South; and, if unless, some disengagement has taken upon many a heart which not long ago was exulting in the sense of victory. It is not, indeed, a great many weeks ago since we were told on what was assumed to be good authority, that disengagement was universal throughout the Northern States, and that the cry for peace—peace at almost any price—was upon every tongue. The result shows how fully grounds for realizing freely from particular instances, and yet only forty-eight hours ago there were many faint-hearted friends of the Southern cause in a state bordering on despair about its future prospects. So many men are ready to rush from one extreme to its opposite! But clear across the waters comes the brave voice of Jefferson Davis; there is no quaver in his tones—he speaks with no uncertain sound. Few as are his words reported to us, we cannot for a moment doubt his resolution; his voice is still for war! Dark as is the present hour, he has passed through hours as dark before, and thro' the gloom he believes he see the coming dawn. When New Orleans was taken, when Vicksburg was surrendered, when Stonewall Jackson fell in the noonday of his glory, a sadness and discouragement spread over all the Southern Confederacy; and as their undaunted President raised anew their spirit then, so we are persuaded he will do now. We shall not of course, think of denying that the exhaustion of men and means has been immense since these events took place; but it must be borne in mind that, whereas the Southern armies are still entirely composed of white men, the Northern army, according to a recent speech of Mr. Lincoln, numbers two hundred thousand blacks amongst its soldiers. And Mr. Lincoln adduced this fact as a reason for maintaining the policy of emancipation. There remains, therefore, to the Southern Government the expedient of resorting to the negro elements for the replenishing of their ranks; and though this will, no doubt, for obvious reasons, be a last resort, we feel no doubt that the operation will, by a long period, precede submission to the Federals. We see no reason to doubt that the negroes will fight for their masters as willingly as they work for them, and we imagine a Southern negro is quite as capable of fighting as his Northern brother. So far, therefore, as the supply of men for their armies is concerned, we do not think that the South is as yet any worse off than the North.

From the Augusta Chronicle and Sentinel, Jan. 15

FROM SAVANNAH.

A large number of refugees have arrived in our city from Savannah. From them we gather the annexed news:

Sherman has taken no slaves from their masters—Those who wish to leave do so. Those who wish to remain do so. Those who leave are taken in hand at once by the military authorities, and put to hard work cutting wood or digging upon the fortifications.

Sherman has several times, we are told, openly said that neither he or his army are fighting to abolish slavery. His leading officers have expressed the same opinion. The soldiers also openly say, that if they thought they were fighting for the negroes they would lay down their arms at once. From the tone of their conversation our informant was led to infer that if the war should cease at once those who hold negro property would remain in undisturbed possession of the same.

After the city was occupied, owners of negroes, who wished to take them from the place, were allowed to do so. The leading Federal officers openly assert that they wished every negro in Savannah was in some other locality.

General Sherman continues his kind treatment towards the inhabitants. The rights of the citizens are respected and protected. Every outrage of the soldiers or infringement upon good order is promptly and severely punished.

A meeting of the negroes was held a few days since. They were addressed by Mr. French from Port Royal—one of the men sent out from the North to take care of "freemen." He plainly told them if they had kind masters that they would be better off to stay with them; that while they were in that position they had no trouble or cares; but if they left their good homes they would have to provide for themselves—a matter which they would find it very difficult to do, under the most unfavorable circumstances.

Gen. Sherman has told, several of the prominent citizens of Savannah that he does not wish to march his army into any portion of Georgia again, and that he will not do so, unless compelled by circumstances. The General further says that he regrets that he was compelled to march through Georgia; that when Atlanta was captured it was not his intention to advance further into the State.

One corps of Sherman's army has been sent to Hilton Head in transports. Large bodies of troops have moved from Savannah into Carolina within the past few days. Our informant thinks a movement on Branchville is intended; and if successful, from thence to Columbia.

Gen. Sherman regrets being obliged to advance into Carolina—as he fears that he will be unable to control his troops.

The negro women and children who have left their masters, are huddled together in a pen outside the town in want of both clothing and food and suffering from cold and exposure. The soldiers appear to have little if any sympathy for them, and tell them they would be better off if they would return where they come from.

Four citizens only have been arrested on the charge of complicity with the Confederate Government, but have since been released.

No person, either white or black, is allowed to pass out of the city without being examined closely.

Provost guards are stationed in every section of the city about a hundred yards apart.

Only one corps of Sherman's army is quartered in the city. The balance are on the outskirts.

Quite a number of the citizens have taken the oath of allegiance. Numerous others have been registered preparatory to being sworn in.

The Churches on Sunday have been well filled.

The "Loyal Georgian" has been discontinued for want of patronage. The Republican is now the only paper issued.

But few people have as yet arrived from the North. Quite a number of the residents have left for New York.

The oath of allegiance is only requested of those persons who wish to go into business. We are told the substance of it is this: "I solemnly swear and affirm that I will obey all laws passed by the Congress of the United States and will also obey all proclamations issued by the President of the United States which are legalized by a decision of the Supreme Court."

Hon. Thaddeus Stevens has declined to have his name used by his friends in Congress for an appointment as Secretary of the Treasury for Mr. Lincoln's second term.

Deserters from Richmond says that forces have been sent from the rebel capital to South Carolina to oppose the onward march of General Sherman.

THE NEW YEAR.

O God, our help in ages past,
Crown with thy smile the present year;
Preserve us by thy favor still,
And fix our hearts on thy sacred will.

Our safety each succeeding hour
Depends on thy supporting power;
Accept our thanks for mercies past,
And bless our guard while life shall last.

Let us not murmur nor complain
At what thy wisdom shall ordain;
Sickness or health may blessings prove,
As ordered by thy sovereign love.

Our moments move with winged haste,
Nor know I which shall be the last;
Dagger and death are ever nigh,
And I, this year, perhaps, may die.

Prepare me for the trying day,
Then call my willing soul away;
From sin and sorrow set me free,
And let me rise to dwell with thee

DON'T BET.

Amasa May was cured of betting! How? Keep quiet and I'll tell you.

Not a thousand miles from Jamaica Plain lived Lem Soaver, Bob Emmons and Amasa May. Lem was fond of shooting, could shoot well and was rather proud of it. It happened on a bright October day that he had been hunting the coverts on the Newton side of the pond, and came on by the old barn where Bob Emmons was at work. After a little talk Lem left his gun and fixings standing outside, and went into the barn to look at the cattle, and finally passed through to the cider mill, which stood just beyond. A half day's tramp in the woods makes a man dry, you'd better believe. While he was gone, Bob Emmons, who was always at the bottom of all the devilry done in the vicinity, dropped an extra charge of shot into each barrel of the gun, and stood by waiting for fun. Presently Amasa came on the road with a new hat on; the ball-formed pain that floated in the brain of Bob was instantly completed and put in action as follows:

Hailing Amasa,

"Come quick," says he, "let's have some fun with Lem. We'll draw out his shot and bet he can't hit your hat."

"Capital good idea, replied Amasa. "Lem thinks he can shoot; we'll open his eyes, boy."

Bob carefully drew out all the shot he had just put in, and put the gun back where he found it.

Lem came back having sucked cider enough to make himself comfortable, and prepared to go.

"Hallo, Lem," says Amasa, "what are you toting that shooting iron about for?"

"Oh it's a way I have," replied Lem; sometimes I get a chance to shoot and then I almost always hit."

"Bet you can't hit me, but six rods, exclaimed Amasa, "bet an oyster supper for the boys to night."

"done," says Lem, "set it up."

Amasa put the hat on a post, and measured the six rods, almost bursting with suppressed laughter at the imaginary idea of Lem's looks when he should find that he couldn't hit a hat at six rods. Bob also chuckling at the success of his plan, and Lem pleased with the idea of winning the hat. He brought the gun up to his face to fire.

"Double your bet and give it both barrels," said Amasa.

"Aye! aye!" replied Lem, and he let drive, right and left, in quick succession.

Before the smoke rolled away, Amasa jumped forward, with a shout and laugh, to show Lem that he couldn't hit a hat in broad daylight. But—where was it? Bits of fur here and there, and a miserable, dilapidated wreck of a hat, that took as much of all the woodcocks in Norfolk county bad luck their bills through it, was the sight to greet his eyes. The sudden and instantaneous change of his countenance told Bob who had lost the wager.

And that was the way Amasa was cured of betting.

Wise Answer of a Child.

Children often put their elders to the blush by the simplicity of their faith, and their quick, insight into the path of great Christian doctrines. Dr. W. L. Breckenridge has given a beautiful illustration of this:

It happened to me, in the good providence of God, years ago—but I shall never forget it—to have under my ministry in the Gospel a child whose heart was won by the Saviour's love. After a while, with becoming diffidence, she made known her desire to profess her faith in Christ, and join herself to his people. But her parents thought she was too young and wished to hold her back for a time.—Finally they allowed her to meet the session, with some other persons who had then decided to take the same step. When the hour came we sat all together in the house of God, a grave but tender-hearted company. As the religious experience of one and another of the applicants for church membership was stated, it came to the turn of this child to relate hers.

"My child," said I, "how old are you?"

"Thirteen," she answered.

"Do you think you are old enough," I asked, "to be bound to love the savior?"

"Yes sir," she said, "I think I am."

"And do you love him, then?" I asked her.

"Yes, sir," she answered, "I do love him."

"Why do you love him, my dear child?" once more I asked her.

She started, as if surprised at the Question, and turning her beautiful and happy face upon me, bathed in tears, but radiant with joy and peace, she quickly answered,—"Why I loved him because he loved me, and gave himself for me!"

I thought within myself, if all the saints on earth, and the general assembly and church of the first born that are written in heaven were asked that question, not one of them could give a plainer or truer answer!

PORTER'S GREAT TORPEDO.—The New York World, in an editorial on Porter's torpedo, gives the following excellent hit at the unhappy trick, so "gunpowderish and pranky," which failed to blow down Fort Fisher:

"Early in the Anglo Chinese war the English were amused by the Chinese army, which met them with the sound of gongs, the braying of trumpets, and a corps of gymnasts, who performed all sorts of acrobatic feats, dressed in hideous costumes. For a time the object of these remarkable exhibitions was not apparent to the European army, and it was supposed to be a custom of the Celestials observed by them in