

## THE FREE SOUTH.



BEAUFORT, S. C., SEPT. 26, 1863.

Agents wanted in the different Regiments of this Department, for the FREE SOUTH.

## TO OUR SOLDIER FRIENDS.

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## WEEKLY LETTER.

and will contain all the news of the department, and full lists of the killed and wounded and deaths in hospital. Sent by mail at \$2.00 per year in advance or

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## Our Foreign Relations.

The Hon. Charles Sumner, chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, delivered in New York, on the 10th inst., an elaborate speech on "the perils of our country from Foreign Nations." He reviewed the attitude of Great Britain and France towards the United States since the breaking out of the rebellion, showing it to be one of hostility and ill-will. The granting of belligerent rights; the protests against the suspension of the habeas corpus; the howl over our stone blockade, and the offers of mediation, are shown to be the offsprings of a sympathy with slave-mongers disgraceful to civilized nations, and inconsistent with the previous history of both England and France.

Mr. Sumner shows that if the confederacy should succeed in the war now waging, the great powers of Europe could not recognize the new nation, without being false to themselves. England, the declared protectress of the African race, and France the declared champion of "ideas," must break away from the irresistible logic of their history, and turn their backs upon the past, before acknowledging even a successful slaveholding State. Mr. Sumner argues that a new nation should not only be independent *de facto*, but that it should be fit to be independent. The question would not be whether relations should be maintained with an old nation that permitted the existence of slavery, but whether relations should be begun with a new nation, which not merely permits slavery, but builds its whole intolerable pretension upon that barbarism.

The course of England in giving material aid in ships and munitions to the south is commented on with just severity. The absurdity and wrong of conceding *Ocean Belligerency* to a pretended power, which is without a prize court, is set forth with great force, proving them to be in reality British private vessels, manned by British pirate seamen.

This speech coming from such a source, coupled with rumors of a protest against the sailing of the English-built rebel iron-clads, and a threat that such sailing will be regarded as an act of war by our government, encourages the impression that we are on the eve of a serious foreign complication. The navy department is hurrying forward a new and powerful fleet of monitors and iron-clad frigates, which are to be completed by Christmas; the defences of our seaboard cities are being placed on a war-footing; the public mind is now being accustomed, through such speeches as Mr. Sumner's and through the press, to the idea of a war with England or France or possibly with both. The news from New Orleans, in another column, is still more significant of trouble.

Gen. Gillmore, in view of his eminent services in the operations against Charleston, has been promoted from a Captain to a Major of the regular Engineer Corps and also to be a Major-General of Volunteers.

## Sanitary Commission.

The following General order, No. 73, dated Morris Island, Sept. 9, 1863, relative to the Sanitary Commission, has recently been read to every regiment in the department:

DEPT. OF THE SOUTH, HEADQUARTERS IN THE FIELD,  
MORRIS ISLAND, S. C., Sept. 9th, 1863.

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 73.—The Brigadier General Commanding desires to make this public acknowledgement of the benefits for which his command has been indebted to the U. S. Sanitary Commission, and to express his thanks to the gentlemen, whose humane efforts in procuring and distributing much needed articles of comfort, have so materially alleviated the sufferings of the soldiers.

Special gratitude is due to Mr. M. M. Marsh, Medical Inspector of the Commission, through whose efficiency, energy, and zeal, the wants of the troops have been promptly ascertained, and the resources of the Commission made available for every portion of the army.

By order of

Brig. Gen. Q. A. GILLMORE.

ED. W. SMITH, Asst. Adjt. General.

The representatives of the sanitary commission have deservedly won this marked approbation of the General commanding, by their earnest solicitude for the welfare of the troops, and by the timely and abundant application of the material in their hands to the alleviation of the wants arising from an active campaign on an uninhabited and dreary island.

And yet how few in the army were really aware that they had received any benefit from the sanitary commission, until this graceful order of the general commanding acknowledging it was issued. They had received the benefits of this organization but knew not whence they came, so quickly and unostentatiously are its duties performed. Its approach was not heralded, nor its strength expended in loud preparations, but its work was vigorously performed, its sole object being the welfare of the troops.

When the army first went to Morris Island, Dr. Marsh the officer of the commission in this department observing from unmistakable signs the necessity of an improved form of diet, applied to the New York office of the commission for an abundant supply of vegetables, which was immediately forwarded to him, and a continued supply has been sent by each succeeding steamer.

The private who, as a matter of course, supposes that every article of food issued to him comes from the government, little thinks that the onions, potatoes and curried cabbage which interrupts the dull nature of his ordinary ration has been the gift of the commission. Hundreds of barrels of these vegetables have been issued by the commission since the occupation of Morris Island, and the result has been a marked decrease in the ratio of the sick to the whole force.

Through the kind and watchful care of the commission the cool streams of New England have been turned into the trenches before Wagner. The thirsty soldier sweltering in the hot sun can assuage his thirst in pure water brought from the north, and at a temperature which reminds him of the comforts of home. Water is found anywhere on the island upon digging a few feet, and is cloudy, brackish, unpalatable, of the temperature of the hot soil from which it comes. Ice could be found in the hospitals, or could be procured by officers from sutlers at an exorbitant price. The leachings through the sand was the only drink for the soldier. The commission immediately on becoming informed of this dispatched ice from the north, and for some time past a daily issue of pure New England ice has been made to every regiment. The only ice issued to regiments has been made by the sanitary commission, government furnishing it to general hospitals only.

We have given but these few instances of the working of the sanitary commission. We could multiply them. In supplying an improved diet, in affording the luxury of ice it was not because these articles are comforts or luxuries solely, but because they prevent sickness, sustain our soldiers in the field in the midst of their

arduous labors, and render them more capable to withstand the effects of the climate.

The health of an army is its strength. Whatever tends to sustain the one, sustains the other. Humanity and patriotism then unite in the efforts which the sanitary commission have made and are making for the benefit of the army, for in watching the causes which impair the health of soldiers, and quickly applying the remedy, it is laboring effectively in increasing the power of our arms. In this labor they should be encouraged by all who can lend them their support.

The Memphis-Grenada-Chattanooga-Atlanta-*Appeal*, gives a heart-rending account of the ingratitude of the black slaves of the southern chivalry. A correspondent from Jackson writes:

"A great many negroes, who had been regarded by their owners as faithful and reliable, left with the Yankees, with our fine horses, carriages and other comfortable modes of conveyance. One—Aaron Lemly—has recently sent word to his master that he is now a duly qualified citizen of Vicksburg."

It is painful, says the *Post*, to any constitutional and conservative mind to think of the perfidy and unfaithfulness of these negroes. Surely such conduct proves them to be of a different race from the proslavery politicians of the North. These white slaves have never swerved in their devotion to the interests of their rebel masters and owners. A writer in *Debow's Review* contends that black men do not make the best slaves—that white men with proper training are preferable.—What a compliment may be found lurking in this statement to the Vallandighams, Woods, Seymours of our northern doughface, miscalled democratic, party. How unswerving is their fidelity to their southern masters.

The "Greek fire" seems to have been as greatly dreaded by the old French knights as by the braggart Beauregard. Speaking of its use at the siege of Acre, in the year 1192, an old historian calls it a "diabolical species of flame, which burns the fiercer for the application of water." "Each man," said Gauthier de Cariel, an old and experienced warrior, "should throw himself on his elbows and knees when the fire is thrown, and beseech the Lord, who alone can help him, to avert the dreadful danger." This counsel was followed, and Phillip himself, as often as he heard the Greek fire discharged in the night, raised his body from his bed, and with uplifted hands prayed, "Lord, preserve my people!" Joinville, a gallant officer who was present at the siege, thus describes the Greek fire: "It was as large as a barrel of verjuice, had a flaming tail like a broadsword, and made a report like thunder, and appeared like a dragon flying through the air, giving such a light that in the camp at midnight one might see as well as at noonday."

The President's proclamation which we publish nips in the bud a scheme of the copperheads by which the draft was to be embarrassed by pettifoggery litigation. Every coward and traitor drafted was to be the subject of a habeas corpus and it was deemed certain that amid a multitude of cases some collision would take place between the government and state authorities. Men were enlisted, paid the bounty, and then discharged before some disloyal petty judge; a regular business was made by parents allowing their sons to enlist, receive the money, and then procuring their discharge as minors. The President's *coup d'etat* squelches these sharpers. Of course the "cops" howl over the tyranny of the despot "old Abe," but loyal men rejoice.

The Richmond *Enquirer* suggests that Lee canvass Pennsylvania with his army for the Democratic Ticket in the approaching October election. It is plain that the *Enquirer* knows who are its friends,

## Better Mail Facilities wanted.

There is certainly some fault in the mail arrangements of this department and we have endeavored to find out upon whom the responsibility rests. The duties of a post-master seem to be pretty generally misunderstood by the military authorities of the department, and therefore all the blame is cast on the post-master. It appears that a mail can legally be sent only to a regularly established office, and as there are but four such in the department, viz: at Hilton Head, Beaufort, St. Augustine and Fernandina, all others are sent upon the personal responsibility of the post-master himself. Following the strict letter of the law he would be justified in refusing to send any mail to Morris or Folly Island. He could demand that each regiment should send for its mail to Hilton Head. Of course an office in a military department is obliged to conform to circumstances in the management of its affairs and a certain latitude is allowed on that account. But it must be evident that the army ought to reciprocate by extending every facility to the post-office in the exercise of its functions.

It should therefore be made the duty of the quartermasters in the department to notify the post-master of the departure of vessels in time for him to make up his mail. Within a short period two steamers have left Port Royal for Florida without carrying a mail, and last week a steamer sailed for New York leaving the bags upon the wharf. In each instance we believe the quartermasters failed to notify Mr. Lee in time to get them aboard. In regard to Morris and Folly Islands, we would suggest that the general commanding appoints an officer, say of the rank of captain, whose business it shall be to attend the proper distribution of the mails. He could keep the run of the positions of regiments and receiving all the mail at one place, despatch it to the proper destination. If then there were delays or irregularities the department or persons in fault could be pointed out and the abuse rectified. As it is, the post-masters have no certified lists of regiments or general officers and staffs; they are not informed where a brigade or regiment is transferred and are kept very much in the dark as to the sailing of transports. In the name of our brave soldiers who are exiled from all the comforts of home, and to whom a letter is like the shadow of a great rock in a weary land, we call for a more systematic distribution of the mails.

Judge A. D. Smith, of the United States Tax Commission, arrived in the *Arago*. His health is much improved by his journey north, though it has been by no means a pleasure excursion. In connection with Secretary Chase and Judge Lewis, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, he has perfected a plan for the disposal of the lands bid in at the tax sale last spring by the United States. An abstract of the instructions of the Commissioners will be found in another column.

We would call attention to the advertisement of Mr. C. G. Robbins in another column. Our citizens and soldiers should consult their interests by calling and examining his stock before purchasing elsewhere. Mr. Robbins has earned a reputation for enterprise and fair dealing which makes his store the resort for all who want good and cheap articles. Recollect his store, opposite the Stevens House.

Captain Dunbar ordnance officer on Gen. Saxton's Staff, returned in the *Arago*. During his visit north he received his additional grade, upon which we congratulate him.

It is only necessary to mention the name of Lloyd to feel cool. Where he puts his immense stock of ice is a mystery, and the cry is, "still it comes."

There's no use in your ever taking a lazy man to task. He won't perform it if you do.