

SHERMAN.

Gen. Foster, on Friday last, opened a line of supplies to Sherman's army, on the Ogeechee river. There was but little trouble found in navigating the river, up to a point several miles above Fort McAllister, plenty of water being found for vessels of ordinary draft. Beyond that point, with a skilful pilot, the tortuous nature of the channel seemed to be the only obstacle to its free navigation, and that was readily obviated by competent wheelmen.

No trouble was experienced until the U. S. Revenue Steamer Nemaha, Capt. Warner, Gen. Foster's flag-boat, had reached the bridge of the Savannah and Gulf Railroad, which angles the Ogeechee, about twenty-four miles above Fort McAllister, by the river, and about twelve by land. Here it was discovered that the bridge had been partially destroyed by fire, and the draw through which vessels passed, entirely ruined, and the passage way obstructed by the debris of the draw-bridge.

Gen. Foster immediately ordered the steamer Island City to remove the obstructions, by drawing out the piles in order to enlarge the passage way, and to tow away the piles. This work was accomplished in an hour and-a-half by Capt. Ketchman, of the Island City, who personally superintended the work, and added his own manual aid to carry out the order. His energy, skill and faithful devotion to the work before him soon accomplished the desired object, and the Island City immediately thereafter passed through the draw, followed by the Nemaha, and proceeded up the river to King's bridge, on the Savannah and Darien state turnpike. At King's bridge, the Engineers of Howard's wing, were found constructing extension docks at which the stores to be sent to the army were to be landed. The work has been completed before this, and bountiful supplies have reached Sherman's forces. To Gen. Foster's untiring energy, and the magnetic influence of his presence, which seemed to control all with whom he had to direct, and his ardent zeal in effecting the great work before him, are due the honor of the accomplishment of the great result of opening to Gen. Sherman an easy, secure and short line, through which he could draw all his needful supplies. His efforts received the well-merited tribute of Gen. Sherman's and Gen. Howard's praise and thanks.

Our limited space will not permit us to give a detailed account of Gen. Sherman's magnificent and triumphal march from Atlanta to Savannah. It was so full of strange and interesting incidents, that it would require a hundred columns to relate one-half of them. We shall, therefore, confine ourselves to a narration of a few of them.

The march was practically unobstructed by the enemy. They attempted at various times to check his progress, but without the slightest success. A brigade or two of militia, and a number of Wheeler's cavalry would make a stand behind an intrenchment, and contest our advance. The skirmishers would advance, reinforced by the reserve, a charge would be sounded by the bugles, a rush would follow, and amid the rattle of musketry and the reports of field pieces, the ground would be swept over by our gallant soldiers, with deafening yells, and the work

would be carried, the enemy hastily retreating in confusion. These little fights resulted in no check to our advancing columns. The head of the column would halt to enable it to close up, and before that object was accomplished, the advance guard would have cleared the way, and the column would be in motion again. The resistance was most feeble and absurd. So it was, when fallen trees, or burned bridges, obstructed the road. The pioneers had cleared away the impediments, before the column had closed up, and no stoppage was experienced by any column. They moved, like the sweep of the sea, grandly and irresistibly on.

The Macon fight was the only one entitled to the name of a battle. A brigade from the left wing had been detached to make a diversion on Macon while the main force was passing. It marched up to the defences of the city, made a mock attack, and proposed, after the design had been carried out, to fall back. The enemy supposing our forces had been defeated, sallied out, two divisions of militia strong, to overwhelm our little force. They were met by a stubborn and successful resistance. Three charges were made on our unwavering lines, and completely repulsed; and the enemy, disheartened by defeat, fell back into their intrenchments, and left the field in our possession. Three hundred dead fell into our hands, and a number of wounded. The enemy lost about twelve hundred men in the effort to gobble up a brigade. Our loss was less than three hundred. After the rebels retreated our forces retired, the main force having passed in quiet and safety.

In one other fight between Kilpatrick and the rebel cavalry under Wheeler, the latter was soundly flogged, and went off flying, like a whipped child. His boasts of thrashing Kilpatrick are based on his fertile imagination, and not on anything he accomplished on any field on which he confronted the gallant "Yankee." Slocum's grand wing had not, during the entire march, a single brigade in line of battle, the skirmishers proving strong enough to overcome any force in their front, and not an infantry regiment encountered Wheeler's cavalry, notwithstanding that doughty chieftain asserts in his sensational official reports, that he whipped Kilpatrick's cavalry and Jeff. C. Davis' 14th corps together!

The annihilation of Sherman's army did not come off according to programme, and the Savannah editors will soon learn that all their prophecies were mere leath-er and prunella.

Notwithstanding the long and arduous march, Sherman's brave soldiers came through in the best of spirits. They wanted for nothing on the route, except in the last days, when hard-tack would not have been unacceptable.—Poultry of all kinds turned their fat brown sides up on the wooden platters, to the eyes of the soldiers of the grand army, and sweet potatoes, rich cakes, and corn-bread adorned every table. It was a holiday march, and whetted the appetites of the troops for a bit of a fight with Johnnie Reb, when they should meet him. They feel strong enough to take anything in their route, and we believe they will do it.

Gen. Sherman has taken Argyle Island and King's Island on the Savannah River, three or four miles above the city, and can easily shell the city if necessary. The city is now completely invested, and its fall may be predicted at any moment.

THE LATEST FROM SHERMAN.

We are informed that General Sherman, after having closely invested the

city of Savannah, sent a day or two since to Gen. Hardee a summons for the surrender of the city and the forces therein. Gen. Hardee, according to the report, sent a refusal, stating that the city was not covered by our guns, and that he was in daily communication with his government. The Mayor and municipal authorities of the city had united in a request to Gen. Hardee that the city should be surrendered, in order to save it and spare the effusion of innocent blood. Hardee declined to accede to the request of the civil authorities, and has determined to assume the responsibility for the loss of property and life that must necessarily ensue from a bombardment, or an assault that will finally give us possession of the city. The question of the capture of the town is settled by the investment of the city by Gen. Sherman, and the time is not far off when its possession will fall into our hands. Events are rapidly culminating in every portion of the grand theatre of war, and it takes no seer to predict after a contemplation of the recent victories of Thomas over Hood in Tennessee; of Canby in the Gulf and Mississippi; the successful operations in North Carolina and in Virginia; and the grand contest at Wilmington, together with the successes of Sherman, that the rebellion is receiving its last and finishing blows. God grant that the end may be near, and that the old flag, as the symbol of our government and a free people, may float over every portion of the country.

VISIT OF GEN. SHERMAN TO HILTON HEAD.

On Tuesday morning last Gen. Sherman arrived here in company with Admiral Dahlgren, on the flag ship. He spent the day with Gen. Foster, and in the evening returned to the Ogeechee.

His arrival was noticed by a general display of flags, by cheers from admiring crowds as he passed, and in the evening by a general illumination of stores, houses and offices. These demonstrations were responded to by rockets from the flag ship after the General had gone on board.

AN EXPLOSION.

Last evening, between 9 and 10 o'clock, a tremendous explosion was heard in the direction of Savannah. It was preceded by a brilliant light, which illuminated the whole heavens in that direction. We have not yet the solution of the phenomena.

LATER FROM SHERMAN.

Savannah Captured!

This (Thursday) morning we have the gratifying news that Savannah is ours.

The information comes in an official note from Major Strong, of Gen. Foster's staff, and is consequently reliable.

No particulars accompany the announcement.

We suspend the printing of our regular edition to insert this pleasing intelligence, reserving the full details for our next issue.

THE STEAMER GENERAL SHERMAN, of Whitney & Hathaway's line between New York and Hilton Head, arrived here on Monday, having left New York on the 13th. She is a fine steamer, and brought down quite a number of passengers. The Melville is shortly expected here.

PROMOTION.—Lt.-Col. W. T. Bennett, of the 102d U. S. C. T., has been commissioned Colonel of the 33d U. S. C. T. His many friends will be glad to hear of his well-deserved promotion.

C. SAVILLE & Co., Proprietors of the Palmetto Herald Store, have Harper's for January, and a large assortment of new books, stationery, fancy goods, &c. They have, also, THE PALMETTO HERALD always for sale.

GEN. HATCH'S COMMAND.

We have no additional news of importance from Gen. Hatch's command that we can properly publish. It is believed that trains do occasionally pass over the road, but with great caution and not much regularity. We have a battery of light rifled guns within about 700 yards of the road on our right, another swamp battery on our left which commands a covert on the road, and our 30-pdr. Parrots in a good position.

At last accounts there had been very little firing since the 9th, and we have had but one or two casualties.

The rebel papers have quite bombastic accounts of the fighting, but one or two of them are inquiring how it is if Gen. Hatch was whipped at Honey Hill as badly as represented by Gen. Smith, he succeeded in getting an advanced and better position, nearer the railroad, a day or two after, and holding it.

DINNER TO ESCAPED UNION OFFICERS.

We mentioned last week the escape of the following Union officers from Columbia, and their safe arrival here:

Major O. S. Sanford, 7th Conn. Vols.; Capt. S. S. Elder, 1st U. S. Art.; Capt. J. B. Dennis, 7th Conn. Vols.; Capt. James Belger, 1st R. I. Battery; Capt. C. H. Nichols, 6th Conn. Vols.; Capt. John F. Randolph, 123d Ohio Vols.; Capt. M. W. Wall, 69th N. Y. Vols.; Capt. G. D. Hart, 5th Penn. Cav. Lieut.; Chas. M. Granger, 88th N. Y. Vols.; Lieut. Geo. W. Hendrick, Battery K. 5th Mich. Art.; Lieut. Wm. Caulkins, 104th Ill. Vols.; Lieut. John Eagan, 1st U. S. Art.; Lieut. John Eagan, 1st U. S. Art.; Lieut. Gilmore, 79th N. Y. Vols.; Lieut. Watson.

Capt. Dennis is a brother of Mr. C. W. Dennis and Capt. Oscar A. Dennis, of No. 4 Merchants' Row. On Friday evening last those gentlemen gave a dinner in honor of the escaped officers, at the Palmetto Restaurant, No. 13 1-2 Merchants' Row.

The escaped officers were all present, with some sixty invited guests, including about a dozen ladies.

The dinner was prepared in elegant, substantial style, by Mrs. Higgins.

After justice had been done to it, the escaped officers were introduced to the company by the hosts, and gave an account of their imprisonment and escape. Then toasts were given, songs were sung, witty sentiments called forth brisk repartee, and the season was one of general enjoyment.

It was a noticeable fact that at this dinner six Dennis brothers all met together for the first time in ten years. They have all been in the service, either in the army or navy.

The officers were very much pleased with their entertainment. They went North by the Fulton to join their commands after brief furloughs.

THE 25TH OHIO.

Editor of the Palmetto Herald:

Sir:—In your issue of Dec. 15, in speaking of Gen. Hatch's operations at Deveaux' Neck, S. C., you said the 55th Mass cut a swath through the woods to give our artillery fair play upon the Railroad. This is a mistake, and although the 55th Mass bore its part, and that bravely, when ordered into any engagement, it is nothing more than just that other brave men should receive their due meed of praise for what they have done. By the task of cutting the woods away fell to the lot of the 25th Regt. Ohio Vet. Vol. Inf., and in the action that succeeded, the 25th Ohio was engaged about two hours, and so hot was the fighting that several regiments in reserve took the cartridges from their boxes and sent them to the 25th Ohio, being ordered so to do by General Potter. G.