

# The Camden Daily Journal.

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NO. 6.

By D. D. HOCOTT.

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## Terrible Explosion at the Washington Arsenal.

WASHINGTON, June 17, 1864.—A terrible explosion occurred at the Washington Arsenal to-day, a few minutes before twelve o'clock. It seems that some red stars for fire-works had been made and set out on black pans to dry. They could not stand a temperature of more than two hundred degrees, and under the hot sun soon reached that. One of the stars ignited, which set the remainder off, exploding the Laboratory. The occupants of the building were all females. Upon the explosion a terrible scene was witnessed. In the yard there were about twelve hundred men and three hundred women at work, a number of whom were burned, and bruised in endeavoring to get away. The alarm was immediately given, and after the fire was extinguished a search for bodies was commenced.

Eighteen bodies have thus far been taken out of the ruins, burned to a crisp. It was impossible to recognize them.

Eight females were taken out in a sad condition and placed in the hospital.

The scene at the yard was of the most heart-rending description.

The parents of many of those at work in the building and the yard rushed to the scene of the disaster to make inquiries after the safety of their children, but the names of all who have perished cannot be ascertained until a call of the roll can be made, and those who have been saved are assembled together.

Major Stebbins, military storekeeper, was in the building at the time with several other gentlemen, and states that after the powder on the benches caught, the fire spread down rapidly, blinding the girls and setting fire to their clothes. Many of them ran to the windows, wrapped in flames, and in this way communicated the fire to the dresses of others.

The nineteen dead bodies taken out were so terribly charred as to be almost beyond identification. Three more are mortally injured, and there are fifteen or twenty severe contusions. Special care was taken to prevent the fire from reaching the large magazine, in which several tons of powder are constantly kept, for had the flames reached this building the loss of life would have been fearful, as several hundred persons were in the immediate vicinity. While the firemen were engaged in pouring their streams upon the building in which the explosion occurred, another explosion took place in the ruins, but which only resulted in throwing up into the air some of the burning timber.

Quite a number were injured in jumping from the windows, but the majority of those who escaped in this way immediately ran off in all directions, which renders it difficult to tell who perished and who escaped. One young woman had an arm broken in jumping from the window. Three boys are missing, and it is feared they perished in the building.

**THE DEFEAT OF STURGIS.**—The Chicago Post publishes the following private letter from an officer who accompanied Sturgis into Mississippi:

MEMPHIS, June 12.—I returned to Memphis last night, and I assure you that I was glad to get back again. We have had a terrible time—have been cut all to pieces. Out of five regiments of infantry and one battery but about three hundred and eighty have been saved, all the rest being killed, wounded or taken prisoners.

It has been a great disaster. We have lost not less than 3,000 men, including 1,200 to 1,500 killed and wounded, upwards of 200 wagons, 16 pieces of artillery and a large quantity of supplies and ammunition, and 5,000 stand of small arms. The fight took place about two miles west of Baldwin, a town on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, forty miles south of Corinth. The prisoners that we took all said that the enemy had about 27,000 or 30,000, while our force did not exceed 7,000. We were completely overwhelmed.

## Latest Northern and European News.

Secretary Chase, having resigned, Lincoln has sent to the Senate the nomination of David Todd, of Ohio, as Secretary of the Treasury. Gold in New York on the 11th 250.

A bill is before Congress, providing for calling on the national forces, with the stipulation that the draft is not to be for less than one nor more than three years; repealing the commutation clause in the enrollment Act, and taxing incomes to provide for bounties.

The news from Grant's army is unimportant, Burnside reviewed the negro troops near Petersburg.

The Louisiana State archives are reported found buried near Baton Rouge, and have been taken to New Orleans.

Liverpool dates to the 10th ult., states that the steamer Alabama reached Cherbourg on the 11th, and landed the crews of two captured vessels. She would be permitted to make extensive repairs.

The Daily News believes that the plot to overthrow the Palmerston Ministry has broken down, and the scheme been abandoned.

The prospect of peace on the Danish question is remote as ever.

The latest news from Peru, is to the effect that the English and French Ministers are trying to effect a reconciliation.

Commodore Semmes publishes a letter in the Times, in justification of his destruction of prizes—the British Government having refused to admit them into their ports for adjudication.

The New York papers furnish the following recent correspondence between Generals Foster and Jones:

LETTER FROM GEN. JONES TO GEN. FOSTER.

HEAD'QRS DEP'T SOUTH CAROLINA, GEORGIA AND FLORIDA, Charleston, June 13, 1864.—General: Five general and forty five field officers of the United States army—all of them prisoners of war—have been sent to this city for safe keeping. They have been turned over to Brig. Gen. Ripley commanding the first military district of this department, who will see that they are provided with commodious quarters in a part of the city occupied by non-combatants, the majority of whom are women and children. It is proper, however, that I should inform you that it is a part of the city which has for many months been exposed, day and night, to the fire of your guns.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant.

SAM. JONES,

Major Gen. Commanding.

Major-Gen. J. G. Foster, commanding United States forces on the coast of South Carolina, Confederate States.

GENERAL FOSTER'S REPLY.

HEAD'QRS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH, }  
HILTON HEAD, S. C., June 16, 1864. }  
Major General Saml. Jones, Commanding Confederate Forces, Department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida:

GENERAL: I have to acknowledge the receipt this day of your communication of the 13th inst., informing me that five Generals and forty-five field officers of the United States army, prisoners of war, have been turned over by you to Brig. General Ripley, with instructions to see that they are provided with quarters in a part of the city occupied by non-combatants—the majority of which latter, you state, are women and children. You add that you deem it proper to inform me that it is a part of the city which has been for many months exposed to the fire of our guns. Many months since Major General Gillmore, United States army, notified General Beauregard, then commanding in Charleston, that the city would be bombarded. This notice was given that non-combatants might be removed, and thus women and children spared from harm. General Beauregard, in communication to Gen. Gillmore, dated August 22, 1863, informed him that the non-combatant population of Charleston would be removed with all possible celerity. That women and children have been since retained by you in a part of the city which has been for many months exposed to fire is a matter decided by your own sense of humanity.

I must, however, protest against your action in thus placing defenceless prisoners of war in a position to constant bombardment. It is an indefensible act of cruelty, and can be designed only to prevent a continuance of our fire upon Charleston. That city is a depot for military supplies. It contains not merely arsenals, but also foundries and factories for the manufacture of munitions of war. In its shipyards several armed iron-clads have already been completed, while others are still upon the stocks in course of construction. Its wharves and the banks of the river on both sides of the city are lined with batteries. To destroy those means of continu-

ing the war is, therefore, our object and duty. You seek to defeat this effort and by means not known to honorable warfare, but by placing unarmed and helpless prisoners under their fire. I have forwarded your communication to the President, with a request that he place in my custody an equal number of prisoners of like grade to be kept by me in positions exposed to the fire of your guns, so long as you continue the course stated in your communication.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
J. FOSTER,  
Major General Commanding.

D. C. Wager, A. A. G.

## CAMDEN DAILY JOURNAL.

FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 8,

The Confederate loan in London on the 16th ult., was quoted at 63 to 66.

What has become of the Columbia Guardian? We have not seen a copy for 101 these many days.

The New York Times thinks, from the latest British advices, a change in the British Cabinet is inevitably imminent.

The Venetian Chamber of Notaries has rejected an invitation made by the Government to admit to that body persons of the Jewish religion.

The Savannah News, of the 5th, has information that the enemy landed a body of troops at King's Creek, some ten miles from Adam's Run, yesterday. It is said that they are advancing slowly and have their baggage wagons along. They are probably making for the railroad.

## A Chance for the Ladies.

It will be seen, by the advertisement of B. SIKES, in another column, that a handsome assortment of English muslins and calicoes, just received from Nassau, will be opened this day for the inspection of the ladies of Camden.

FROM GEN. FORREST'S COMMAND.—Persons who left North Mississippi on Wednesday last, states that the forces of General FORREST were concentrating at Ripley, Miss., in order to meet WASHBURNE, who was at and east of LEBLANCHE, with a force of eighteen thousand men.

The deficiency of reading and editorial matter in our issues of yesterday and to-day was caused by sickness among the compositors. We have not yet completed the reorganization of the personnel of the office, but hope to perfect all our arrangements in the course of a week. In the meantime we must throw ourselves upon the indulgence of our friends. Could't somebody furnish us with a couple of cast-iron compositors?

We publish, in another column, the correspondence, between Gen. JONES and FOSTER, in relation to the Yankee officers in Charleston. It does not appear from Gen. JONES, letter that the prisoners were sent to Charleston as a measure of retaliation, but we still think it was a most unwise step.

The Carolinian has been favored with the following extract of a letter from Richmond. The writer is an officer of the army. A want of supplies being the only thing we had to fear, we may henceforth dismiss all doubt as to the triumph of LEE:

LEE's gallant troops have been supplied with everything that the Government could lavish upon them. Full rations of vegetables, coffee and sugar have been abundantly dealt out to them, and several brigades have experienced such an "embarras de richesses" that they are sending their surplus rations to feed the poor of this city. This is no claptrap or newspaper story; I know the fact. General FRY's brigade was one of the first, if not the first, to inaugurate this novel charity.

It appears that Gen. JOHNSTON has withdrawn to a new position two miles south of that previously occupied. A dispatch to the Chronicle and Sentinel states that this movement was made in accordance with previously contemplated arrangements, and in consequence of a scarcity of water. Another account alleges that it was made to counteract a flank movement of the enemy on our left. Both accounts agree that the army was withdrawn in perfect order and without any loss of men or material. Having ourselves the most unbounded confidence in Gen. JOHNSTON, we feel no uneasiness at this retrograde movement. If the general is not hampered by special orders from Richmond, SHERMAN'S annihilation is a question of time merely.

What shadows we are and what shadows we pursue, saith the poet, or some one else.

Let anybody try to see what sort of shadow he pursues about noon to-day, and he will find it a very short one—a mere spot. The fact is, that in the way of shadow, we may be said to walk on ourselves. Certainly, any lady with expansive erinoline will make a shadow nearly circular, without either head or arms, and can hardly be said to pursue it at all, even when she walks with her back to the sun.

## LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM RICHMOND.

It is reported that 900 Yankees were surprised and captured on Sunday last, near Martinsburg. Four pieces of artillery and stores, including preparations for their 4th of July dinner, were also taken.

FROM PETERSBURG.

PETERSBURG, July 7.—To-day has been unusually quiet. Scarcely any sharp shooting. Little or no shelling. The weather extremely warm, and the roads heavy with dust. The Yankee papers of the 4th announce Wilson's raiding party as having returned to Grant's lines. But admits that he had sustained an immense loss. Though they claim that the results achieved, will compensate for his losses. The country in the rear of Grant's lines is represented as filled with deserters.

FROM THE WEST.

CHATTANOOCHE, July 7.—With the exception of occasional skirmishing this morning by our batteries on the east side of the river, which was replied to by those of the enemy, all is quiet along the lines. Among the prisoners captured to-day, is Col. Sherman, Gen. Howard's Chief-of-staff. He and his party were captured by our pickets, while making a reconnaissance of our lines and works.

Two vessels, loaded with cotton were captured and burned by our troops in Arkansas.

FROM NEW ORLEANS.

All registered enemies remaining in New Orleans are ordered to report to the Provost Marshal, to be sent beyond the lines.

The delegates have left New Orleans for the Chicago Convention. Over one hundred men, deserters from the Yankee army, have been arrested on their way to Mexico.

Canby is organizing a force of 30,000 men, to reinforce Sherman.

The steamer Louisiana Belle, a government transport, was burned on the levee at New Orleans.

Gold is quoted at 235; and Cotton at 160.

The Yankees left Jackson yesterday afternoon. No private property was destroyed.

## Siege of Charleston.

THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY THIRD DAY.

No material change in the position of affairs on James' Island took place Wednesday.—Slight skirmishing was kept up on both sides. Very little heavy firing occurred.

Wednesday morning the enemy were discovered in some force on John's Island, between Legareville and Dr. Townsend's plantation. They threw out their skirmishers about ten o'clock, and were met by the Marion Artillery and a detachment of the 32d Georgia, Colonel Harrison's Regiment. A considerable fight ensued, the enemy taking refuge in Dr. Curtis' residence. The Marion Artillery opened upon them with shot and shell, and drove them from that point towards Legareville. The enemy left two negroes killed and three wounded after them. We did not learn the casualties on our part, but suppose they must have been slight, as the enemy run as soon as our battery got in position and opened upon them.

It was reported last evening that they had left the Island, but nothing definite was known.

No unusual movement was observed in the enemy's fleet; the number of vessels inside the bar including four Monitors, and the number in the Stono with two Monitors, being about the same as previously reported.

Forty five shells have been thrown at the city since last report.

A Good Excuse.—A negro belonging to the 13th Alabama, being jeered by his brother negroes in the regiment for his great fear of balls and shells, corrected their mistaken notions of his courage in the following satisfactory explanation: "Oh, Lor, niggers, I am not afraid of balls and bombs, de reason I runs and dodges so; de fact is, Marster aint able to lose me, and I knows it!"

## DRESS GOODS!!!

THE SUBSCRIBER HAS JUST RECEIVED from Nassau a handsome assortment of Muslins and Prints, which will be sold low for cash. Main Street opposite Dr. Young's.

B. SIKES.

July 8