

# The Alexandria Gazette.

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## Important from Charleston.

CHARLESTON, Jan. 31.—This morning the gunboats Palmetto State, Capt. Rutledge, and Chicora, Capt. Parker, accompanied by three small steamers, the Gen. Clinch, Ellwan, and Chesterfield, all under the command of Com. Ingraham, made an attack on the blockaders, and succeeded in sinking two and crippling a third. The engagement commenced at 4 o'clock. The Palmetto State, with Commodore Ingraham on board, opened fire upon the Federal gunboat Mercedita, carrying 11 guns and 158 men, which was soon sunk in five fathoms water.

Her commander, Capt. Stettwagon, with a boat's crew, came on board and surrendered.—One shot pierced her boiler, going clear through. Capt. Stettwagon and crew were paroled by Com. Ingraham.

Capt. Tucker, of the Chicora, reports sinking another Federal gunboat, and the disabling of the steamship Quaker City. The latter was set on fire by the Chicora and hauled down her flag to surrender, but afterwards managed to escape, using only one wheel. She was very seriously damaged.

The number of the blockading fleet outside at the time of the attack was thirteen, with two first-class frigates, the Susquehanna and Canandaigua.

The Federal loss is very severe.

It was a complete success on our part, with not a man hurt. Our gunboats were not even struck. All the blockaders have disappeared. There is not one to be seen within five miles with the strongest kind of glasses. Our boats are now returning to Charleston.

The following is the official dispatch:

On Board Gunboat Palmetto State.—“I went on last night. This vessel struck the Heroeditis, when he sent a boat on board and surrendered. The officers and crew were paroled. Captain Tucker thinks he sunk one vessel and set another on fire, when she struck her flag. The blockading fleet had gone to southward and eastward out of sight.

“(Signed,) D. N. INGRAHAM.

“Flag Officer Commanding.”

Ninety-four prisoners, including three negroes, from the Yankee gunboat J. P. Smith, arrived here this morning.

CHARLESTON, Jan. 31.—Our gunboats Palmetto State and Chicora have reached the wharves. They were enthusiastically cheered by an immense concourse of citizens who had assembled to greet them. Salutes were fired from all the forts and batteries. Not a man was hurt on our side, and our gunboats were not struck by the enemy.

Our attack on the fleet was a complete surprise to the blockaders, each one running away without caring for the others. It is supposed that nearly all of the crew of the Mercedita perished, the Palmetto State (which engaged her) having no boats and fighting at the time, could render her no assistance. The Quaker City was struck twice, and one of her side wheels almost torn off.

The Federal gunboat John Smith, captured on the Stono yesterday, had 8 killed and 15 wounded. Her Chief Engineer, Turner, was killed.

A Yankee gunboat came to the mouth of Stono river this afternoon and fired 5 shots, but soon retired. She did no damage, and no one was hurt on our side.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 1.—Yesterday afternoon Gen. Beauregard placed a steamer at the disposal of the foreign consuls to see for themselves that no blockade existed. The French and Spanish Consuls, accompanied by Gen. Ripley, accepted the invitation. The British Consul, with the commander of the British war steamer Petrel, had previously gone five miles beyond the usual anchorage of the blockaders, and could see nothing of them with glasses.

Late in the evening four blockaders reappeared, keeping far out. This evening a large number of blockaders are in sight, but keep up steam, evidently ready to run.

Lieut. Sheldon and Chief Engineer Pribble, of the Yankee gunboat Flambeau, were captured by our scouts on Ball's Island last night.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 1.—OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION.—Headquarters Land and Naval Forces, Charleston, S. C., Jan. 31, 1863.—At about five o'clock this morning the Confederate States naval force to this station attacked the U. S. blockading fleet off the harbor of the city of Charleston, and sunk, dispersed or drove off and out of sight for the time the entire hostile fleet; therefore we, the undersigned, commanders, respectively, of the Confederate States naval and land forces in this quarter, do hereby formally declare the blockade by the United States of the said city of Charleston, S. C., to be raised by a superior force of the Confederate States from and after this 31st day of January, A. D. 1863.

(Signed) G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
General Commanding.  
D. N. INGRAHAM.

Flag Officer Comd'g. Naval Forces in S. C.  
Official:—THOS. JOURDAN, Chief of Staff.

The results of the naval engagements yesterday are, two vessels sunk, four set on fire, and the remainder driven away.

The foreign Consuls here had a meeting last night, and were unanimously of opinion that the blockade had been legally raised.

Twenty blockaders are off the bar to-day.

The gunboat John P. Smith, captured from the Federals in Stono river, is now safely anchored under the guns of Fort Pemberton.—She has one Parrot gun, ten 8-inch guns, and one 34-pounder. She will soon be ready for sea.

## The News in Fredericksburg.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Feb. 3.—Parties who crossed the river yesterday, under flag of truce, state that the Confederates in Fredericksburg were very jubilant over the news from Charleston, among which was the official proclamation of General Beauregard and Commodore Ingraham declaring the blockade at Charleston raised.

Great cheering was heard among the Confederate soldiers in town, and a brass band was playing in the court house. The Federal pickets on this side of the river were hailed by those on the opposite bank and assured that the war would be closed within a month.—“The game is up with you now,” said they.

The King Phillip arrived yesterday bringing up Capt. Magraw, commanding lower Potomac flotilla, and some prisoners—one, Richard Colter, of St. Mary's county, and a Mrs. Solomon, for violating the blockade.

## SOUTHERN NEWS.

[Copied from the Northern Papers.]

CHARLESTON, Jan. 31.—Several days ago Gen. Ripley dispatched a force of artillery, commanded by Lieut. Col. Yates, to James' Island, with the design of attacking the Federal gunboats in Stono river. About eight miles from the city Lieut. Col. Yates posted his guns, twenty-one in number, in a semi-circle, stretching on both sides the river around the gunboat J. P. Smith, and at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon opened a concentrated fire upon her. She replied with broadsides. The engagement lasted one hour, when the gunboat hauled down her flag, surrendering unconditionally, with 180 prisoners. She carries 11 guns. Many of her crew were killed and wounded. Our loss only one man wounded. Other very important movements are in progress here.

MOBILE, Jan. 3.—The Advertiser and Register has a dispatch, dated Vicksburg, 30th ult., which says scouting parties appeared this morning on the river bank opposite Vicksburg, and burned four houses, under the range of our batteries. They are supposed to be erecting batteries opposite the town. There are no new movements among the fleet.

PETERSBURG, Feb. 1.—The enemy attacked Gen. Pryor's command about 4 o'clock Friday morning, at Kelley's, in Nansemond county, eight miles from Suffolk. The fight lasted four hours. The enemy was repulsed at every point. Gen. Pryor's official dispatches say that our loss in killed and wounded was less than fifty. The enemy is reported to have suffered severely. Among the killed is Col. Poage of Pulaski, 4th Va., and Capt. Dubbies, of Floyd county, 27th Va. battalion.

The news from Charleston created great joy here.

CHATTANOOGA, Jan. 20.—Gen. Wheeler's cavalry attacked a fleet of twenty-five Federal transports on the Cumberland river and destroyed five on last Friday. The fleet was accompanied by two gunboats. On coming down from Nashville, on Saturday Wheeler's cavalry destroyed a locomotive and five cars at Lavergne, and captured the guard of fifty-two men.

SAVANNAH, Feb. 1.—The Federal fleet, consisting of one iron-clad turret, four gunboats, and one mortar boat, again attacked Fort McAllister, at Genesis Point, this morning. The firing continued until 2½ this afternoon, when the enemy retired, whipped again.

The bombardment was more furious than the last. The only person killed on our side was Major John B. Galilee, commander of the fort, a shell striking him in the head.

The N. Y. World, speaking of the election of Mr. Morgan, as Senator from N. York, says:—“Mr. Morgan has more ability than his predecessor, and he is a man of much sounder political principles. Trained as a New York merchant, he is well qualified to represent the commercial interests of this metropolis, and his four years' honorable service as governor has brought him intimately acquainted with the general interests of the state. He is a heavy solid man—not flighty, not inventive.” It is thought, however, that Mr. Morgan will be sufficiently radical to satisfy the Republicans.