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## The Fight in Charleston Harbor.

The N. Y. Times publishes an extra edition containing accounts relative to the engagement in Charleston harbor.

Its correspondent says the trial, which was a decisive ordeal of two hours, served to prove that the defensive powers of the iron fleet was sufficient to withstand the terrible force of the offensive engineering of the works it had to assail while the limitations of the offensive powers belonging to the iron-clads took away all their advantages. The result of the reconnoissance proves the utter insufficiency of the iron-clad fleet to take Charleston alone.

The Nahant received thirty wounds, several being bad fractures of her deck and sides above and below the water line. The most fatal blow was by a heavy rifled shot, which struck the pilot-house and dislodged several bolts, wounding the inmates.

The Passaic received twenty-five or thirty rounds. The most extraordinary shot was from a ten inch rifled projectile, which struck the turret scoping out a large portion of the iron, and breaking all of eleven plates of an inch thickness each, and spending its force on the pilot-house on top of the turret, in which it made a crater three inches deep, and raised the pilot-house three inches. Another shot hit the turret, forcing a place which struck inward, disabling the carriage of a eleven-inch gun by the shock while a portion of the interior iron casing fell, lodging in the groove of the turret, stopping its revolution.

The Nantucket had its turret so jarred that the cover port could not be opened, and consequently its fifteen-inch gun could not be used. The other Monitors received more or less shots but were not disabled.

It appears that Fort Moultrie first opened fire upon the Federal fleet, and was soon followed by the other forts and batteries, when the action became general and terrific. The iron-clads advanced, replying vigorously, and passed the northeast face of Fort Sumter, when three lines of obstructions were discovered. Finding it impossible to remove or pass them, they turned about and steamed down the harbor. In the mean time the Keokuck had been struck and perforated by large shot from the effect of which she sunk the next morning. The monitor Patapsco's large gun had become disabled and the turret of the Nahant so bent that the vessel was practically out of use. Other boats also passed up the northeast face of Fort Sumter till they were also stopped by the obstructions and turned back. After being under fire for three-quarters of an hour, the monitors were ordered to withdraw, and at five o'clock the entire fleet was out of range and the action ceased. One statement says that the fight clearly demonstrates that the iron-clads alone cannot take Charleston. The firing of the fleet is supposed to have damaged Fort Sumter considerably, as several large holes were seen on the eastern wall. The "Devil" broke loose from her consort, the Wehawken, the day after the fight, and floated ashore and was captured by the Confederates. No official dispatches had been received from Admiral Dupont by the Navy Department up to noon yesterday.

Small-pox has for the past three or four months, been raging in Reading, Pa. Old and young have alike been the victims of the disease.

## WAR NEWS.

It appears that there is soon to be active operations in the vicinity of Norfolk. Gen. Keys has issued an order notifying all non-combatants residing in any of the towns within the department likely to be threatened by the Confederates, to leave for a place of safety.—Both armies have been reinforced recently, and each is now advantageously posted on the Blackwater river, the Federals on the north and the Confederates on the south side, and it is said that there are indications that a general engagement will soon be fought. On Saturday some skirmishing occurred, but the casualties were of a trifling character. At Suffolk on Sunday there were collisions between the outposts, but losses are not reported.

The tenor of the reports from General Foster at Washington, North Carolina, is to the effect that on the 9th his provisions were nigh exhausted, and there would seem no alternative for him but to surrender. The reinforcements and provisions sent by both land and water had been driven back. Gen. Foster's forces it is now said consist of twelve hundred men.

An arrival from New Orleans reports some skirmishing, and that it was believed that a strong movement up the Atchafalaya was contemplated. The Confederate sympathisers in New Orleans claim to have information that Admiral Farragut is up the Red River, between two batteries, out of range of either, but unable to pass them.

Gen. Hunter, on the 8th inst., sent Admiral Dupont a letter, in which he said:—"A mere spectator, I could do nothing but pray for you, which, believe me, I did most heartily, for you and for all the gallant men under your command, who sailed so calmly and fearlessly into and under and through a concentric fire which has never heretofore had a parallel in the history of warfare." Admiral Dupont replied, thanking him for his letter, and stating that it should be read in the vessels of the fleet.

A letter from Fairfax Court House in the Washington Star says, that on Sunday night, the Confederates tried to pass the pickets in several places between Chantilly and Hunter's Mill in small squads. Several parties on foot were seen—one of six and another of fifteen—also several other such parties. All of them were, however, fired into, and driven back.—At Hunter's Mill the demonstration was with a squad of cavalry.

A letter from the U. S. steamer Tahoma, lying off Tampa, Florida, states that the bark Pursuit, on the blockade at Gadsen's Point, sent a boat ashore to communicate with a flag of truce. On landing, the boat was told to surrender. Acting Master Lapham, however, indignantly refused, and he was immediately fired at, and, with four of the boat's crew, was wounded. Firing was immediately commenced on Tampa.

By Gen Granger's official report, forwarded to the War office by Gen. Rosecrans, it appears that Van Dorn with a force estimated at 15,000, made the attack at one o'clock on Friday, and the fight lasted all the afternoon. Owing to a dense smoke and heavy atmosphere, the Confederates approached close to the Federal lines before they were discovered, but the Federal artillery then did great execution. A diversion at the same time was made by the cavalry under Gen. Stanley, who succeeded in capturing six pieces of artillery, and in taking some two hundred prisoners, but owing to the nature of the country, and the superior numbers of the Confederates, he was forced to relinquish a greater part of the latter. The Confederates were repulsed with a loss of about

three hundred killed and wounded, and were followed until dark. The Federal loss in killed, wounded, and prisoners, was less than one hundred.

**PRISONERS EN ROUTE.**—It having been announced that a large number of Confederates would arrive in this city, yesterday afternoon, a large concourse of people assembled in the vicinity of the Refreshment Saloons, to view them. The train containing them had but fairly arrived when the rain commenced to descend in torrents. So great was the curiosity of both women and men, that the cooling drops of the refreshing shower did not deter them from running down the street to the end of the wharf where the steamer Major Raybold was stationed to receive the passengers for Fort Delaware.

Two companies of the Eighty-eighth Ohio, that had accompanied them from Camp Chase, acted as a guard.

The ladies and gentlemen of the refreshment saloons came forward with baskets full of delicious viands, and distributed to the soldiers of the Union, who filled their stomachs, while the Confederates merely feasted their eyes. Among their number was Brig.-General Churchill.

Nearly all of the prisoners were officers of high grades, who were captured by Rosecrans, at Murfreesboro, and Arkansas Post. There were 480 of them in the party, and, as the Raybold moved slowly down the stream, a small assemblage of "Young America" saluted the ears of the Confederates with groans. [Phil. Inquirer.]

Mr. B. Everett Smith, editor of the Worcester County Shield, who was arrested a few days since at the instance of General Lockwood on the charge of publishing treasonable articles in his paper, underwent an examination before Colonel Fish, the result of which was that he was honorably discharged.

In accordance with orders from the War Department, the following officers will be mustered out of the United States service:—Brigadier General Louis Blenker, United States Volunteers. Brigadier General Geo. A. McCall, United States Volunteers. Charles F. Havelock, additional Aide-de-Camp United States Volunteers. Col. Thomas M. Key, additional Aid-de-Camp, U. S. Volunteers. Col. Edward H. Wright, Additional Aide-de-Camp, United States Volunteers, and Major 6th U. S. Cavalry.

The defaulting Brigade Quartermaster, Howell, who absconded on the 15th ult., with a large amount of Government funds, has been arrested, and \$16,000 of the money recovered. He drew the funds on the day specified above, and at once started for Canada, where he was finally arrested. Howell hails from Pittsfield, Mass., and was originally attached to the 10th Massachusetts regiment.

James Snowden Pleasants, a resident of Montgomery county, Md. was yesterday committed to the Old Capitol prison. He was tried by a military court for harboring and aiding the Confederates and was sentenced to be hung. The proceedings in the case were referred to the President for his approval and by him the sentence was commuted to imprisonment in Fort Delaware during the war.

The Empress Eugenie's household are visiting the Catacombs by way of amusement. The galleries are illuminated by electric light.