

FROM FLORIDA.

GENERAL GORDON RELIEVED BY GENERAL BIRNEY.

Capture of Camps Finigan and Milton by Gen. Gordon.

Gen. Gordon has been relieved from the the command of the District of Florida by Gen. Birney, and went North in the Arago on Tuesday, with orders to report at Washington. Gen. Birney has assumed command there, with his headquarters at Jacksonville.

On the 1st inst. Gen. Gordon made an important movement, which resulted in the capture of Camps Finigan and Milton, the enemy retreating precipitately to Baldwin. This was effected by advancing in two parties, one column making a detour, and succeeding in getting in the rear of Camp Milton.

When the second column advanced the rebels retreated in great haste.

Gen. Gordon followed them up close to the entrenchments at Baldwin.

He destroyed both camps, and such articles as were left behind and could not be removed.

At Milton he found a line of entrenchments two miles long, well-built and very strong, with all the characteristics of a first-class fort. The works consisted of rifle-pits, with bastions or block-houses at regular intervals. They were entirely destroyed.

The expedition was a most successful one, and reflects great credit on General Gordon.

FROM FOLLY AND MORRIS ISLANDS.

VISIT OF GEN. FOSTER.

The Fire on the City and Fort Sumter to be Increased.

Maj.-Gen. Foster has recently paid a visit to Folly and Morris Islands, where he found everything in satisfactory condition.

He visited and inspected all the works, and witnessed the fire on Sumter and on the city of Charleston. He gave orders to have the firing on those two points more continuous and rapid than heretofore, and this has been done for several days.

Brig.-Gen. Schiameffinnig, by an efficient system of boat scouting, has nearly cleared all the creeks in the vicinity of his District, of rebels, and has made many captures of prisoners, eliciting important information.

The rebels shell Morris Island quite furiously at times, but seldom do any damage.

BOLD REBEL EXPLOIT.

CAPTURE OF THE GUNBOAT WATER WITCH.

We are pained to chronicle the capture of the U. S. gunboat Water Witch, by the rebels, early on the morning of Friday, the 3d.

The Water Witch was lying at anchor in Warsaw Sound, all the usual precautions having been taken to avoid surprise. The boarding netting was up, a vigilant watch was maintained, and steam kept up as usual.

The night was very dark and hazy. At about 2 o'clock the watch detected barges approaching. They were rowed by muffled oars, and owing to the darkness, were not seen until close upon the gunboat. They hailed, and the response was, "Go to hell, you d--d ---." The alarm was promptly given, but before the men could be called to quarters the boarders were on her, boarding from several points, where the netting was cut away with knives. The boat would

doubtless have avoided the attack by steaming away, but unfortunately she was at anchor.

The surprise was apparently so complete that no resistance could be made, and the Water Witch was made a prize of, with all her officers and crew, her armament, and everything on board.

She is a fine side-wheel steamer of 390 tons; carrying three 38-pounders, besides howitzers. She was commanded by Lieut.-Commander Pendergrast.

One contraband alone escaped from her. He jumped over-board, swam ashore, and afterwards communicated with the South Carolina, where he informed Capt. Kenneson of the affair, and the latter sent a boat to Admiral Dahlgren.

LATER—REBEL ACCOUNT.—Since writing the above we learn that Savannah papers of the 5th, received at Fort Pulaski, say that the Water Witch was captured by a party under Lieut. Pelt, who was the first man aboard, and cut down a sailor with a cutlass. The Lieut. was immediately shot through the head, and died instantly. The rebels lost 7 killed and 12 wounded. Capt. Pendergrast, with 90 men, together with officers, are at Oglethorpe Barracks. The Confederate officer was shot in the back. The deserters say the Water Witch lies under Battery Buelle, on little Ogeechee River. They are taking out her guns and machinery. Deserters say Capt. Pendergrast has two colored men killed, two wounded, and two jumped over-board.

NAVAL MATTERS.

ADMIRAL DAHLGREN has been active since his return from the North, in inspecting the vessels at all the stations of his squadron, making this harbor his chief rendezvous. He is making every effort to put his fleet in the best condition possible—sending home those seamen whose terms of service have expired, (about 3,000 of whom, we learn, have been for some time necessarily detained,) and also sending home for repairs such vessels as most require them.

The Iron-clad steamer Nahant, which has been lying at Station Creek for about three weeks past, undergoing repairs, has returned to her station with the other Monitors, off Charleston. She was in the late engagement with the rebel batteries on Sullivan's Island, in which she received some damages, which, however, have been fully repaired. She is at present commanded by Lieut.-Com. Fillebrown, who recently relieved Lieut.-Com. Miller.

We inadvertently omitted to give the names of the four iron-clads which took the principal part in the engagements with the rebel batteries on Sullivan's Island, on the 13th and 14th ult. They were the Nahant, Nantucket, Sangamon and Passaic. The Passaic received no injury whatever, and the injuries to the Nantucket and Sangamon have already been repaired at their stations, off Charleston.

The Iron-clad Lehigh, off Charleston, has experienced quite a number of changes of officers within a short time. Com. Bryson was sent North on account of ill health. Lieut.-Com. Bunce, his successor, followed him North on leave of absence, and since returning North has been happily married. Lieut.-Com. Gibson, late of the Sonoma, succeeded Lieut.-Com. Bunce, and is still in command. He is an excellent and popular officer, a worthy successor of the gallant Bunce, whose skillful management of the boats which first landed our troops on Morris Island, has secured for him a bright page in the history of the war in this department. Lieut.-Com. Gibson is also favorably known in the literary world, as the author of a volume of poems, entitled "A Vision of Fairy Land and other Poems."

In her medical department, the Lehigh has had, within a few weeks, Assistant Surgeons Longshaw, White and Hamilton, and now has Asst. Surgeon Plant.

Acting Master Price, late of the Sonoma, has been assigned to duty on board the Lehigh.

We hear that Lieut. Blake is about to relieve Lieut. M. Forrest, as executive officer of the Lehigh, but no official announcement of this fact has appeared.

Lieut. Forrest is an excellent officer. He was formerly executive officer of the Koekuk, and afterwards on the staff of Admiral Dahlgren.

Charles Cowley, Esq., the present Paymaster of the Lehigh, has tendered his resignation. We knew Mr. Cowley well as a skilful lawyer in Lowell and Boston, Mass., where we several times saw him pitted successfully against Gen. Butler. Such a lawyer as Mr. Cowley is of the greatest service in this squadron, as judge advocate on naval general courts martial, and as counsel for officers so unfortunate as to be brought before such tribunals for trial; and his retirement from the service is much to be regretted. We have not yet learned that his resignation has been accepted.

The steam frigate New Ironsides, off Charleston, has been ordered North. Com. Rowan is to be relieved by Com. Radford at Philadelphia, on the 1st prox. While temporarily in command of the South Atlantic Squadron, in the absence of Rear Admiral Dahlgren, as well as by his previous brilliant career, Com. Rowan acquired great popularity.

The Ironsides arrived here on Monday. Her departure from off Charleston was the signal for a general bombardment of the fleet by the rebel batteries.

The Commodore's private Secretary, Mr. Charles H. Collum, has been appointed Acting Assistant Paymaster, but will remain with his present gallant chief till the vessel reaches Philadelphia. The appointment of Mr. Collum is an excellent one.

The Keokuk, which sunk off Charleston, April 8, 1863, the day following the first attack on Sumpter, under Rear Admiral Dupont, will shortly be afloat again, the arrangements for raising her being now nearly perfected.

We regret that the project for raising the Iron-clad Weehawken, which went down so suddenly, off Charleston, in December last, is not regarded as likely to succeed, by those most competent to judge.

The Iron-clad Montauk, "the old Montauk," as she is affectionately called, has been lying in Station Creek for three weeks past, undergoing repairs. She goes North in a few days. The brave Com. Davis still has command of her.

The gunboat Winona, which recently came to Station Creek for repairs, is now commanded by Lieut.-Com. Stone, late of the Chippewa, Lieut.-Com. Weaver being relieved, and ordered North.

The New Hampshire is coming to Port Royal, to relieve the Vermont, which goes North for repairs. The Wabash, Seneca, Huron and Chippewa, are also to go North for repairs.

The steamer Geranium, commanded by Acting Master Montell, is now lying at Station Creek for repairs. She has been doing good service as advance picket vessel off Charleston, ever since last November, and has had seventy-six shots fired at her from the rebel batteries on Sullivan's Island, only two of which struck her. Her injuries were trivial, and only one of her crew was hurt, and he not seriously. Capt. Montell has made himself thoroughly known to the rebels, who hate him and his steamer "as the devil hates holy water." His recent promotion from Ensign to Master, conferred on the request of all the Monitor captains, and Com. Rowan was a well merited but tardy recognition of his important services.

Two naval general courts-martial have been sitting in this harbor for some days—one on board the Vermont, the other on board the Canandaigua. We withhold the names of the officers on trial, and the charges preferred against them, as well as the evidence, so far as they have come to our knowledge, for reasons which all naval men we are sure will approve.

It seems to us that much waste of labor might be saved, and many trials quietly got rid of, if the Admiral had with him, on his staff, a lawyer to whom all charges might be referred for examination previous to the appointment of a court-martial. Trials on frivolous charges and failures to convict through informalities in the charges might thus often be prevented. The Admiral's other duties are too onerous to leave him any time for examinations of this kind.

The garrison of Fort Sumter is now commanded by Captain Mitchel, of the

rebel army, son of John Mitchel, "The Irish Patriot," who also has another son in the rebel service.

FOUR DAYS LATER FROM THE NORTH.

New York Dates to the 3d.

GRANT STILL VICTORIOUS, AND ADVANCING.

A SUCCESSFUL IRON-CLAD FIGHT AT BERMUDA HUNDRED,

&c. &c., &c.

By the arrival of the Trade Wind, from Fortress Monroe, on Monday night, we have Northern news to the 3d inst. We are indebted to Inspector Leach, of the Custom House, for the use of a New York Herald of the 3d, brought down by Capt. Babbige. We copy the following important dispatches:

WASHINGTON, June 2—12:15 P. M.—Major General Dix:—A despatch from General Grant's headquarters, dated yesterday, June 1, at ten A. M., has been received by this Department. It states that about five P. M., yesterday, (May 31) General Sheridan perceiving a force of rebel cavalry at Coal Harbor, which proved to be Fitzhugh Lee's division, attacked, and after a hard fight routed it, together with Clingman's brigade of infantry, which came to Lee's support. Sheridan remained in possession of the place. He reported at dark that he had a considerable number of prisoners, and that there were many rebel dead and wounded on the field. He was ordered to hold the position, and at ten P. M. the Sixth Corps set out to occupy it.

We have not yet heard from Wright or General Sheridan this morning, and do not know whether the former got his troops to their destination. Smith must be close upon Wright's column.

This morning the enemy are also moving a heavy column in the same direction. The order has just gone to Warren to fall upon their flank.

Wilson had a fight last evening near Hanover Court House with Young's brigade of cavalry. He routed Young, killing and capturing many; but there has been a good deal of artillery firing in that direction this morning.

Warren reported last night that in the fight of Monday afternoon, near Bethesda church, Col. Tyrrell, Thirteenth Virginia, and Col. Willis, commanding Pegram's brigade, were killed. Colonel Christian, Forty-ninth Pennsylvania, was wounded and captured; so was the Assistant Adjutant General of Ramsey's brigade—name not reported. Ten other commissioned officers were captured and seventy privates. Sixty rebels were buried on the field.

In our center Burnside reports his advance line as being this morning, (1st) within a mile and a half of Mechanicsville.

No other military intelligence has been received by this Department since yesterday. E. M. STANTON, Sec'y of War.

WASHINGTON, June 2—9:30 P. M. To Major-General Dix—A dispatch from General Grant, dated this morning (June 2), at Bethesda church, 7 o'clock A. M., has just been received.

It states that yesterday afternoon an attack was ordered to be made on our left, at Coal Harbor, by the Sixth Corps, and the troops under Smith, Warren, Burnside and Hancock being held in readiness to advance in their respective fronts.

The attack was made with spirit about 5 P. M., continuing until after dark, and resulting in our carrying the enemy's works on the right of the Sixth Corps, where we still hold them, and also the first line in front of Smith. The latter, however, were commanded in the rear, which made those carried untenable.

The enemy made repeated assaults on each of the corps not engaged in the main assault, but were repulsed in every instance.

Several hundred prisoners were taken; but I cannot say what number, nor esti-