

FROM FLORIDA.

SUCCESSFUL EXPEDITION BY GENERAL BIRNEY.

CAPTURE OF BALDWIN.

Loss of the Steamer Alice Price, &c., &c., &c.

We are in receipt of important and gratifying intelligence from Florida. Gen. Birney last week went on an expedition from Jacksonville, which resulted in a complete success, the defeat of all the rebels encountered, the destruction of railroad bridges and other works important to the rebels, and the capture of Baldwin, which has been in the enemy's possession since the affair at Olustee.

The forces left Jacksonville on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, and proceeded up the river. The principal landing was at Taylor's Ford, Black Creek.

The principal fighting was at Whitesville, where, after a brisk skirmish, the enemy were completely routed. One column under Lt. Col. Morgan, of the 75th Ohio, was sent out to destroy an important bridge and trestle work, 12 miles from Baldwin. This was accomplished, and the party returned to the main column.

A column, under the command of Col. Harris, of the 75th Ohio, proceeding up the north fork of Black Creek, charged on the enemy at a ford called Clay Hills, defeated them, drove them across, and then crossed over after. This column then joined the main one, which proceeded to Trail Ridge, on the Cedar Keys Railroad, destroyed two trestle-works, and then took the old Alachua Trail to Darby's Still, on the Lake City Railroad, five miles from Baldwin, where another slight skirmish occurred.

A water-tank and trestle-work were destroyed here, and a store house, containing 2,000 barrels of rosin was accidentally set on fire by sparks from the other fire, and was destroyed, with all its contents.

On Tuesday morning the whole force left Darby's Still and marched into Baldwin.

The enemy evacuated the town during the previous night, taking the Brandy Creek Road. Our troops pursued them as far as Brandy Creek, and then returned.

We now hold Baldwin and Camp Milton, where the entrenchments constructed by our troops in the last campaign were found intact.

At Baldwin considerable spoils were obtained, including guns, sabres, forage, and a mail. In the latter was found a letter from which we learn that the rebel force consisted of the 2d Florida Cavalry, Scott's Battalion, four companies of Reserves, Villapines Artillery, and Dunham's Artillery.

The railroad between Jacksonville and Baldwin has been repaired, and is now in decent running order. Trains pass over the road between those two points regularly.

The transport steamer Alice Price—the same which had the narrow escape from torpedoes on the 5th ult.—has been wrecked. She got aground in Nassau Creek one day last week, and as the tide went down broke in two amidships. She was an old steamer, and the time for which she was chartered had nearly expired. No lives were lost.

Within a few days, a locomotive and seven cars have been captured on the railroad between Baldwin and Fernandina.

PRESENTATIONS.—Capt. L. W. Metcalf, Provost Marshal at Beaufort, has been presented with a sword, sash and belt, by the enlisted men of the 56th N. Y. Vols., employed in his department.

The line officers of the 9th U. S. C. T. have presented a Surgeon's sword and

belt to Assistant Surgeon Ira Perry, accompanied by a very complimentary written testimonial.

IMPORTANT CHANGES.

GEN. BIRNEY ORDERED NORTH—GEN. HATCH TO COMMAND THE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA—GEN. POTTER IN COMMAND OF HILTON HEAD DISTRICT.

By the steamer Delaware, which arrived here last Sunday, orders came from Washington for Gen. Birney to report at the North. He has accordingly been relieved from his command in Florida, and Brig.-Gen. J. P. Hatch ordered to the command of that District. Gen. Hatch is succeeded in the command of the District of Hilton Head, by Brig.-Gen. E. E. Potter. The order in which Gen. Potter assumes command will be found in our advertising columns.

Gen. Hatch's departure from here will be deeply regretted by a host of friends formed since he came to the Department, a stranger except by reputation. Their best wishes will follow him.

Gen. Potter announces as Acting Assistant Adjutant General, Lieut. William C. Manning. Gen. Potter also retains command of the post of Beaufort in Gen. Saxton's absence.

NAVAL MATTERS.

The United States Ship Vermont left this harbor for the North on Monday afternoon, in tow of the James Adger. The New Hampshire takes her place here, her officers having been transferred to the Vermont, and the Vermont's to her.

Paymaster Frank C. Crosby, naval storekeeper on the Vermont, went North in her, and his place on the New Hampshire is filled by Paymaster H. R. Douglas.

The naval supply steamer Massachusetts sailed for Philadelphia at noon on Monday, carrying mails.

Capt. Bradford, Fleet Captain, went North in the Massachusetts, on leave of absence. Lieut. M. S. Johnson is acting as Fleet Captain in his absence.

Admiral Dahlgren, with the flag-steamship Philadelphia, has arrived at this station from off Charleston some days since, and as now here.

The supply steamer Admiral arrived here from New Orleans, on Monday night. She left there on the 24th. She brought no news of importance.

From the latest naval bulletin in the Army and Navy Journal we take the following:

Ordered—Lt. Henry F. Picking, to the S. Atlantic Squadron; Lieut.-Com. Wm. H. Dana, to take passage to Charleston, S. C., for the command of the Winona; Acting Master E. M. Baldwin, to the Sonoma, South Atlantic Squadron.

Detached—Lieut.-Com. William K. Mayo, from special duty at New York, and ordered to take passage to Charleston, S. C., for the command of the Nahant; Lieut. John R. Bartlett, from the New Ironsides, and ordered to the Sasquehanna; Commander J. M. Duncan, from the South Atlantic Squadron, and awaiting orders; Acting Ensign D. W. Hodson, from the Currituck, and ordered to take passage to Charleston for duty on the Lehigh; Acting Ensign F. W. Towne, from the Lehigh, and ordered North; Acting Master Samuel Hall, from the South Atlantic Squadron and waiting orders; Acting Ensign Silas Owen, from the South Atlantic Squadron and ordered to the Potomac Flotilla; Acting Master's Mate J. A. H. Willmuth, from the South Atlantic Squadron.

Orders Revoked—Lieut.-Com. Paul Shirley, to command the Mingoe, and ordered to take passage to Charleston, S. C., to command the Paul Jones; Lieut.-Com. A. A. Semmes, to command the Acatney, and ordered to Charleston, S. C., for the command of the Lehigh; Acting Ensign Geo. W. Williams, to the Shamrock, and ordered to take passage to Charleston, S. C., for duty in the South Atlantic Squadron; Acting Assistant Paymaster Frank H. Ames, to the New Hampshire and ordered to duty at Port Royal, S. C., under the direction of Paymaster Douglas.

Appointed—Heber Chandler Wilkins

and Joseph Lythgoe, Acting Third Assistant Engineers, and ordered to the South Atlantic Squadron; John H. Foster, Acting First Assistant Engineer, and ordered to the South Atlantic Squadron; George B. Almy, Acting Ensign, and ordered to the South Atlantic Squadron; Acting Ensign Daniel Lester, and ordered to the Daffodil.

Promoted—Acting Ensign William E. Thomas, of the Nahant, to Acting Master.

LATE FROM REBELDOM.

PAPERS TO AUGUST 3D.

Rebel papers of the 30th have been received here, from which we make the following extracts:

MACON, July 29.—Our latest advices by mail and telegraph inform us that the enemy yesterday attacked our left, extending from the city towards the Chattahoochee, but were repulsed and driven back about a mile.

Late last evening orders were received by telegraph to send on cars to bring our wounded to the rear.

A telegram dated yesterday from officers of high rank in our army to General Johnston says—"Fighting is now going on. We have driven them. Details not known. Generals Stewart, Dearing, and Walthall are reported wounded." A private telegram from Griffin reports General Wheeler also wounded.

A cavalry force of the enemy (strength unknown) struck the Macon and Western Railroad, below Jonesboro, this morning, and are reported tearing up the rails in this direction. The other cavalry force of the enemy is, to-day, reported near Atlanta, and advancing towards this place.

WILMINGTON, July 29.—The returns of the army vote in and around Wilmington are now all in, and give Vance 2,120 and Holden 279. The 4th regiment N. C. troops gave Vance 386 majority.

FIGHTING IN FLORIDA.

Passengers who arrived in Savannah report a fight at Brandy Branch, in Florida. On Sunday morning last the enemy burnt the bridge over St. Mary's River, six miles above Baldwin. A fight took place on Sunday between the enemy and our troops under Major G. W. Scott, who commands a battalion. The result is not known. Our informants learned that on Monday last the Second Florida Cavalry, under Lieutenant Colonel McCormick, engaged the enemy at Brandy Branch, and at last accounts the fight was still progressing.

General Patton Anderson has been relieved from his command in Florida, and ordered to the Army of Tennessee. General John K. Jackson has taken command of the Florida Department, and has arrived at headquarters. We are gratified to learn that our forces in Florida are sufficient to repel any attack the enemy may make. The present advance of the enemy is supposed to be nothing more than a raid in order to destroy bridges and other property. The Lake City Columbian of Wednesday has the following in relation to the raid—

The train on Monday left for Baldwin at its usual hour, but returned very early and brought back the startling news that the trestle across the St. Mary's River was on fire, and that the guard stationed there was missing and their camps burned.—The train again went down in the afternoon with a detachment of troops, and a more thorough examination was had. It was ascertained that both ends of the trestle were burned and the work of destruction was completed with the axe. It is said the work was done by a raiding party who came from Middleburg and crossed the country to the St. Mary's to the rear of Baldwin, where a portion of our forces were stationed.

We understand that five transports came up to Middleburg and landed a force, numbers unknown. They separated into two parties. It is stated one of these parties was engaged by Major G. W. Scott and his command day before yesterday with good success; the particulars we have not ascertained. We will not allude to the thousand and one startling rumors which are afloat. The general impression seems to be that the

road was cut to prevent our forces from overtaking and punishing them. The impression seems in military circles to obtain that we have force sufficient to repel them.

Since the above was written the train has again returned from below, and we learn that the trestle at St. Mary's had been again on fire. A prisoner who was captured stated that the raiding forces consist of four regiments of negroes, five pieces of artillery, and about one hundred and twenty-five white troops. That their intention was not to cross the St. Mary's River, but to cut the road; and that all the Yankee troops had left Jacksonville. Their evident intention is raiding in South Florida.

Since our last report, which closed on Thursday evening at 6 o'clock, the number of shells thrown at the city has been fifty-four.

During Tuesday night and Friday, Battery Gregg fired three hundred and fifty shots at Fort Sumter. Sullivan's Island during the same period fired one hundred and forty-eight shots at Battery Gregg. Battery Wagner reopened fire on Fort Sumter yesterday, firing eleven shots; and the Yankee battery at Light House Inlet threw seven shells at our works on James Island.

Yesterday morning the enemy was noticed at work with a gin in the Middle Battery, either mounting or dismounting guns.

A correspondent of the Griffin Rebel gives the following news from the Georgia front:

The enemy have shortened their lines considerably since the battle of July 22. Our right is fully two miles in advance of the position it occupied previous to that engagement. The enemy at present seem to be acting on the defensive, throwing up fortifications to hold his position preparatory to the inauguration of another flank movement, which we have reason to believe will be less successful than heretofore. Among the Yankee officers captured is Lieutenant Breckinridge, son of Rev. Dr. Breckinridge of Kentucky.

As an evidence of Gen. Hood's determination to increase the strength and efficiency of the army, an order has just been issued, from headquarters, requiring all able bodied men in the different departments to report at once at the front, and requiring, whenever it can possibly be done, the heads of departments to perform their own clerical labor, and, when that is impracticable, the employment of men unfitted for the field. This order is directed, not only to Quartermasters, Commissaries, Commandants of Posts, Provost Marshals and Surgeons, but also to the Generals. Enforced, it will bring several thousand additional men to the field.

The Federals have brought nearly their entire force across the river, and have but few troops to guard their line of communication from Marietta. In the lull of active hostilities they are busily engaged repairing the railroad bridge across the Chattahoochee, and it is supposed their work will be completed by Thursday, as they had nearly finished it on yesterday. General Hood remains quiet while they work at the bridges, for as we learn, he anticipates getting possession of them before they can use them.

HEADQUARTERS, July 25th, 1864.

Hon. James A. Seddon: Gen. Early states that he attacked Major General Crook on the 24th instant, on the old battle-field of Kernstown, completely routing him and pursued him five miles beyond Winchester, when he was compelled to halt from the exhaustion of his men, they having marched twenty-five miles that day.

The pursuit was continued by the cavalry.

Among the prisoners captured was Gen. Mulligan, mortally wounded.

Brig. Gen. Lilly and other officers and men captured on the 20th were recovered.

The strength of the enemy is stated to have been fifteen thousand infantry, besides the cavalry under Averill.

R. E. LEE, General.

LATER.

At the exchange of prisoners, off Charleston, Wednesday, rebel papers of that date were received.

An account of a battle at Petersburg indicates that Grant was victorious.