

PORT ROYAL, THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 1864.

FROM MORRIS ISLAND.

Destruction of a Blockade-Runner.

The Firing on Fort Sumter.

From Gen. Schimmelfinnig's command we have the news of the sinking of another blockade-runner.

On the morning of the 9th a large pro-peller was discovered aground not far from the pier on Sullivan's Island, near Fort Moultrie. It seemed that she had run in during the night, through this channel, and had got aground at this point, where it is very narrow.

She was lying with her stern towards the beach, and the rebels were very busy carrying her cargo ashore.

Several vessels of the fleet opened on her, but their distance was so great they did not succeed in hitting her. The batteries on Morris Island, as soon as she was perceived, began to fire on her, and with excellent effect. One shot went through her smoke-stack, another struck her in the bow, and injured her so she began to sink, and a third exploded her boiler. She was made a complete wreck of, so that nothing further was saved from her except some floating goods, which were gathered from the shore at considerable risk. It is possible that the steamer was running out instead of in, and that she had been turned about by the tide, after grounding.

The steamer was clipper-shaped, and evidently a valuable one to the blockade-runners. It is judged also that her cargo was important, and that a very large venture resulted most unprofitably to some one, just as a success was nearly achieved.

Since writing the above we have received a Charleston Courier of the 10th, which gives the following account of the sinking of the steamer:

The steamer Prince Albert, Captain Coombs, which left Nassau last Wednesday, 3d inst., in attempting to run into this port Monday night, ran against the wreck of the steamer Minko, and grounded fast nearly opposite Fort Moultrie, Sullivan's Island. Finding it impossible to get her off the officers and crew removed their baggage and a part of the cargo in small boats to Sullivan's Island. About daylight the Yankee batteries opened heavily upon the Prince Albert, completely riddling her with shot and shell, and several times setting the vessel on fire, rapidly reducing her to a total wreck. Only a small portion of the cargo, which consisted chiefly of medicines and other light articles, was saved.

The Prince Albert belonged to the Richmond Importing and Exporting Company, and had made one successful trip to this port from Nassau, and another outward. This was her second trip to this port.—Charleston Courier, Aug. 10.

The firing on Fort Sumter is kept up slowly but with much accuracy. A deserter recently arrived informs us that Gen. Foster's knowledge of the fort, acquired while stationed there, is resulting in great damage to the work, from the selection of the weakest points as the objects of our careful fire. The case-mates are already becoming unsafe, and the rebels apprehend serious damage from the constant weakening of important parts of the structure which they cannot readily repair.

In addition to our batteries at the northern extremity of Morris Island, two more are being built, in which six 11 inch and 9-inch guns furnished by Admiral Dahlgren are to be mounted. They will be manned from the navy, and will make quite an important addition to our offensive strength.

THE REBELS ADMIT that our prisoners are confined in open lots and poorly fed and clothed, but declare this treatment the best they can give, and say the rations to prisoners are the same that our troops have.

A COURT OF INQUIRY is investigating the circumstances of the failure to capture Fort Johnson during the recent expedition, when that project was so nearly accomplished.

600 MORE UNION PRISONERS UNDER FIRE IN CHARLESTON.

GEN. FOSTER TO RETALIATE.

When Gen. Foster brought Gen. Jones to terms in regard to the fifty Union Generals and officers placed under fire in Charleston and effected their exchange, it was supposed that all trouble on that point would cease. But it seems that what the rebels could not accomplish by a *coup de main* they are striving to effect by a *coup d'etat*. At the time of and soon after the exchange we learned by returned prisoners, deserters and refugees that six hundred Union prisoners were in Charleston, exposed to our fire. A communication to the rebel authorities on the subject, resulted in a disavowal of the object attributed in such a disposition of the prisoners, and a declaration that they were merely held there *in transitu*.

The reports that they were still confined continuing, Gen. Foster wrote to Gen. Jones a letter in which he deprecated his conduct, and threatened immediate retaliation.

So it is probable that within a short time we shall have six hundred rebel prisoners here, to be placed under fire in the most exposed portions of Morris Island. The residences erected there being insufficient for the accommodation of so large a number, they will be placed in tents, in a large lot, surrounded by a high fence, well-guarded.

It is doubtful if Gen. Jones has an opportunity to obtain these prisoners until a baptism of fire has been administered, and they are allowed a taste, at least, of the hardships which our prisoners in rebel hands are forced to undergo.

FLAG OF TRUCE.

Supplementary Exchange of Prisoners.

COL. HOYT, SURGEON ROBINSON AND OTHERS RELEASED.

On Tuesday last Major Anderson had charge of a flag-of-truce party which met a rebel one, under command of Major Lay, at Port Royal Ferry. The principal object of the interview was the reception of the balance of prisoners due us under the terms of the recent exchange of generals and field officers off Charleston.

The meeting resulted in the delivery over into our hands of Col. H. M. Hoyt, of the 52d Pennsylvania, Surgeon Robinson, of the 104th Pennsylvania, Assistant Surgeon Terrell, of the 12th Conn., Capt. Robbins, of a Kentucky regiment, Lieut. P. O. Rogers, of the 39th Illinois, and eight enlisted men.

The Surgeons were simply released as non-combatants, without exchange, Gen. Jones having concluded to consent to such an arrangement which he at first disapproved.

Col. Hoyt gives us some additional information in regard to his capture at Fort Johnson on the 3d of July, which is of great interest.

The attacking party had intended to reach the landing place before daylight, but were detained at a bar for an hour. They then proceeded directly up towards a point, about 400 yards from Battery Simpkins. For some distance they had to pass through a narrow channel in single file, but met with no difficulty. Col. Hoyt, with less than one hundred men, promptly landed, and the rebels fled without a show of resistance. Battery Simpkins was occupied, and while proceeding towards Fort Johnson, another battery was stumbled upon, from which the enemy fled, and which was occupied by about twenty-five of Col. Hoyt's force. He then kept on with his column, but on the way encountered two obstacles in the way of marshes, one of which was waded and the other avoided by a detour.

About four hundred yards distant the fort opened with artillery and musketry, doing them but little damage however.

On arriving at Fort Johnson, no resistance was encountered, excepting a scattering musketry fire, but the garrison was found to consist of about two hundred, and Col. Hoyt's little party was too weak to cope with them. So they retired from the work, and being joined by about sixty more who had come up, made an attack at another point.

But it was finally ascertained that the balance of the force so confidently relied on, had not landed at all, and by this time the rebels had been reinforced to four hundred strong. So Col. Hoyt was reluctantly compelled to give the order of surrender, to save the slaughter of his men, all chance of holding the Fort being lost by the failure of the rest of the force to come up.

A rebel force then went down to take the force left in Battery Simpkins, and who were included in the surrender. The occupation of the work was entirely bloodless, but the rebels claimed it as a recapture, and a glorious victory.

The prisoners were taken to Charleston immediately, and as they marched through the streets were treated with perfect civility. They found a stronger Union sentiment prevailing there than they anticipated.

Col. Hoyt has since been a portion of the time at Macon.

Lt. Col. Conyngham is now at Charleston, and will probably soon be exchanged.

The casualties in the 52d in the attack on Fort Johnson numbered only 21.

LATE REBEL PAPERS.

DATES TO AUG. 15th.

LATER NEWS FROM MOBILE.

The Rebel Papers Talking Peace.

By flag of truce, on Tuesday, General Foster received files of rebel papers to Aug. 15, from which we are permitted to make extracts.

Nearly all the papers are discussing the subject of peace, and it is evident that Grant's starving process, Sherman's pressure in Georgia, Farragut's victory at Mobile, and Federal successes everywhere, are gradually bringing them to terms.

The following are extracted from the latest papers:

As a retaliatory measure, for the confinement of Yankee officers in Charleston, Gen. Foster, commanding the enemy's forces, had huts constructed on Morris Island and Cummings' Point, where he intended to imprison our officers, thus subjecting them to the fire of all our batteries. Gen. Sam Jones promptly notified him that in case he put his barbarous threat into execution, every one of the Federal officers then in Charleston would be transferred to Sumter and there exposed on the ramparts to the fire of Gregg and Wagner, and the other works on Morris Island. This had the desired effect. Gen. Foster, unwilling to assume the responsibility, under the circumstances, referred the matter to the Washington authorities, who instructed him to endeavor an exchange. A correspondence ensued between Gen. Foster and Jones, the result of which was that our officers confined in the transports at Hilton Head were brought to Morris Island and exchanged for the Yankee officers in Charleston. Gen. Jones having proven himself such an excellent officer of exchange, we understand that the Government has sent to Charleston five or six hundred Federal officers to be exchanged for the same number of Confederates.—Richmond Paper.

COL. ANDERSON, the officer who figures so infamously in the surrender of Fort Gaines, is said to be a native of South Carolina. He entered West Point from Texas, but remained only two years, and, of course, did not graduate. He was appointed Second Lieutenant in the old army in 1856, and being stationed in the South, joined the Confederate army at the commencement of the war.—Charleston Mercury, Aug. 15.

ATLANTA, August 13.—The enemy yesterday evening advanced his right about one mile, at the same time extending his left a short distance, but hurriedly withdrew both this morning, from a cause unknown, to the original position. Their line officers attempted frequently, at different points along the line, to communicate with ours; in several instances they proposed a cessation of picket firing, which was not entertained, in consequence of not coming through the proper channel. No shells thrown at the city during last night or today, with the exception of slight artillery firing.

Brigadier General John C. Brown, of Tennessee, has been promoted temporarily to the rank of Major General. Lieutenant Colonel James Kennard, C. S. A., has been assigned as Chief of Ordnance of the Army of Tennessee.—Charleston Mercury, Aug. 15.

MOBILE, August 9, 1864.—Hon. S. R. Mallory, Secretary of the Navy: The enemy steamed in through main entrance with four monitors and about sixteen heavy vessels-of-war. The Tennessee, Commander T. A. M. Craven, was sunk with nearly all her crew, and also another gunboat—the Philippi, which I subsequently learned. The Richmond, Hartford and Brooklyn, in line of battle, followed by the remainder of the fleet, pushed by Fort Morgan under full headway, where they were encountered by the Tennessee, Morgan, Gaines and Selma.

The Tennessee and the other vessels steamed in close range of the advancing force, and poured a heavy fire into the leading ships. After a desperate engagement between the fleet the Gaines retired to Fort Morgan in a sinking condition; the Selma, cut off, surrendered, and the Morgan escaped to Fort Morgan. The Tennessee, so far uninjured, steamed towards the whole fleet, and after an obstinate fight, surrendered—her rudder disabled, her smoke-stack carried away, and, as we suppose, her crew in an exhausted and smothering condition. On the Tennessee, Admiral Buchanan severely wounded by a splinter in leg, two killed and several wounded. On the Gaines, two killed and two wounded. On the Morgan, one wounded. On the Selma, eight killed, including her executive officer, Lieut. J. H. Comstock, and seven wounded. The enemy suffered severely, and he requested permission to bury his dead. Respectfully, G. W. HAMBRO, Confederate States Navy.—Charleston Mercury, Aug. 15.

WHILST we deprecate discussions of terms of peace by our Press, and all serious overtures from Government at this present juncture of affairs, we do not mean to say that diplomacy should be wholly set aside in bringing hostilities to a close, or that any overture coming from the enemy with apparent sincerity, should not be met with a corresponding sentiment of accommodation on our part. The Richmond Sentinel, which is supposed to reflect, at least in some degree, the sentiments and policy of the Administration, has recently given publication to several articles of this character, called forth by certain unusually liberal remarks in the Washington Chronicle. The Sentinel makes no direct proposition regarding terms of peace that can be construed as binding either on itself or the government, but simply throws out certain hypotheses as subjects for con-

sideration on the part of both belligerents. The articles were wholly diplomatic, and originated, as any well-balanced mind would see at a glance, in the very best and most patriotic motives. It is believed by many wise men that the war once stopped and negotiations for peace begun, the former can never be revived, even though the terms of settlement demanded by the South may not be wholly acceptable to the present Government at Washington—that the people will compel it to do what is right, or take the matter into their own hands. It is for this reason, possibly, that the Sentinel, and we may add some of our most far-seeing statesmen, are willing to set forth propositions as matters for negotiation, when they would be among the last to make a concession that is dishonorable or injurious to their country.—Savannah Republican, Aug. 14th.

HAGRY CHARGE.—We cordially unite with our contemporary of the Columbus Enquirer in condemning the hasty judgment of "treason and cowardice" that has been entered up so generally by the press and telegraph against Col. Anderson, for the surrender of Fort Gaines. The case has a bad aspect with our limited view of the reasons that led to it, but it is evident that the public knows too little of the circumstances of the capitulation, to enable it to form a just opinion of its real character. Col. Anderson and his men are in the hands of the enemy, and cannot be heard; and so long as their lips shall be closed in their own defence, we protest against all attempts to blacken their character as men, and sully their fame as soldiers. An Alabama canmander of Alabama troops is not the man to disgrace his name and state in a struggle for liberty. It is not in the blood, and we believe that a satisfactory explanation will yet be made of the extraordinary and lamentable occurrence. Let us hear before we strike.—Savannah Republican, Aug. 14th.

Gen. Jones having made so excellent a commissioner of exchange, our Government has sent six hundred Yankee officers to Charleston to be exchanged on the same terms, and under a cartel that is somewhat unusual. Our Commissioner of Exchange in Richmond will have to look to his laurels, or Gen. Jones will eclipse all his achievements in the exchange business.—Richmond Sentinel.

MOBILE.—Charleston has been assailed from the beginning of the war by the most powerful armament that the enemy could bring against it. She has been bombarded nearly four hundred days, and is now as safe as when the enemy first began the siege. In fact no city has yet been taken by the enemy after time and preparation for its defence, with the exception of Vicksburg, which was not taken by force, but started into submission. And why should Mobile fall, after over three years preparation for its defence. Fort Morgan, one of its strongholds, is the most formidable work of the kind, next to Fortress Monroe, on the American continent, besides her other defences are strong and tenable. We can't believe the Yankee flag will ever float over the city of Mobile.—Savannah Republican, Aug. 14th.

MAJ. GEN. CALDWELL, late commander of the 10th Army Corps, U. S. Army, was thrown from his horse, while charging a detachment of Gen. Early's command near Washington, and fractured his ankle. Pity it wasn't his neck.—Savannah Republican.

NAVAL MATTERS.

We have a few naval items in addition to the account of the brilliant exploit in Dobby Sound, given elsewhere. Admiral Dahlgren has recently been on a tour of inspection to the southward. He is now in this harbor, with the flag-ship Philadelphia.

The Admiral has recently published a touching letter, vindicating the character of his son, the gallant Col. Ulric Dahlgren, from the aspersions of his brutal rebel murderers, and proving the document alleged to have been found on his person, and put forth as a justification for his murder and the mutilation of his body, to have been a forgery.

Lieut. Commander L. S. Phyllian, commanding the Commodore McDonough, has been ordered North on court martial duty.

Lieut. Commander J. C. Chaplin, commanding the Dai Ching, has been ordered temporarily to the command of McDonough.

Acting Master A. S. Gardner, has been detached from the barque Ironsides, and ordered to the steamer Patapsco as harbor master.

Act. Asst. Paymaster A. McVey, has been detached from the New Hampshire and ordered to the John Adams.

Act. Ensign A. Hartshorn of the New Hampshire, has been ordered on special duty.

Act. Ensign T. E. Chapin has been promoted to Act. Master, and granted a leave of absence for thirty days.

Acting Master's Mate Chas. H. Hanson has been promoted to Act. Ensign.

The following are recent announcements in the official gazette:

Ordered—Lieut.-Commander Jas. Stillwell, to command the Ottawa.

Detached—Lieut.-Commander S. Livingston Breese, from the command of the Ottawa, and ordered North.

Second Asst. Engineer Jas. J. Noble, and Third Ass't Engineer Henry C. Beck-