



THE NEW SOUTH.

JOS. H. SEARS, Editor and Proprietor.

PORT ROYAL, SATURDAY, DEC. 5, 1863.

THE NEW SOUTH can be obtained of the following persons:

J. C. ALEXANDER, P. M., Beaufort.
J. W. ALLEN, P. M., St. Augustine, Fla.
W. C. MORRILL, P. M.
L. R. BROOKS, 39th Ill. Vols.
E. D. DOOLITTLE, Vol. Engineers.
WM. MASON, 52d Pa. Vols.
Sergt. C. S. GAY, Co. M. 1st Mass. Cavalry.

Regiments will please send in their orders the early part of the week.

Siege Operations Before Charleston.

The people at the North possess a sanguine temperament, and indulge in hopes relative to the suppression of this Rebellion that are very creditable to their natures if not to their military judgment. They have always anticipated too much; always looked for success too early, and always demanded more than is reasonable from the commanders of our different military departments. Every body, (Mrs. Grundy included) expected a very pleasant campaign when McCLELLAN started for the peninsula; everybody, (John Smith besides) counted each new commander of the Army of the Potomac as "the coming man;" and all the world, (including the Tongo islands) believed that Vicksburg would fall as soon as GRANT began his first parallel. In brief our military operations were to be of "the high-pressure order"—we had only to map out campaigns—start formidable expeditions—make a few tactical manoeuvres and the Rebs would skedaddle—the Rebellion

"—melt into thin air.
And like the baseless fabric of a vision
Leave not a rack behind."

We know at this late day exactly how the Peninsula campaign terminated; we know how multitudinous—stretching out almost "to the crack of doom"—have been the commanders of that gallant but ill-fated Army of the Potomac; we know also how long a period it required to capture the Confederate stronghold in the South West. And our friends in the North have yet to learn that all military operations require adequate time for their accomplishment.

The plans of GEN. GILLMORE are now patent to every intelligent military observer. It was first to effect a lodgement on the South East side of Morris Island, where the enemy was already posted and which he was strongly fortifying. Second, to besiege and reduce Fort Wagner, by which all the works on Cummings Point would necessarily and inevitably fall. Third, to reduce Fort Sumter, (from the positions gained,) so that the iron-clad fleet could remove the obstructions in the channel, then go up the harbor and capture or destroy rebellious Charleston. This was the plan of attack—this was what GEN. GILLMORE promised—this was all that the Government asked or expected from our small but heroic besieging army.

Have not the objects of GEN. GILLMORE been successfully and fully accomplished? Has not our gallant army—a mere subsidiary force—done its work and done it well?

We do not profess to be military writers or military critics; we do not "speak by authority" on this matter; nor do we intend to review the brilliant operations on Morris Island; the glorious victory of July 10th, when we obtained a foothold on the extremity of that desolate drift of the ocean; of the day-dawn attack of the 11th, (to

carry Wagner,) lead by the lamented and chivalrous GEN. STRONG; nor of the terrible and sanguinary storming assault of the 18th, in which we were repulsed with severe loss, but which added new fame and imperishable glory to our arms. Then followed the siege of Wagner; the laborious work in trench and parallel; the masterly engineering art; the fifty odd days of bombarding the enemy's works, and his final expulsion on the 6th of September; followed up by three months' continuous pounding of Sumter, with rifled Parrotts and sea-coast mortars, and ending in the demolition of that famous citadel of Rebellion.

When the iron-coated fleet of ADMIRAL DAHLGREN—in which are the proudest and noblest hearts in the American navy—does a duty now incumbent upon it, and which the people of the North have a right to expect and which the Government ought to demand, then will be ample time to criticise the merits or demerits of the besieging land and naval forces "before Charleston." The obstructions in the channel are now understood, and no matter how real or imaginary they may be, it certainly is no duty of the army to remove them—the army has already done its duty; GEN. GILLMORE has accomplished all that he promised, and when the history of this besieging army is written, the world will be astonished at the Herculean labor performed by our troops, as well as the masterly genius that surmounted all obstacles and achieved success when ordinary abilities would have met with inevitable failure.

ALL RIGHT.—Our excellent Provost Marshal General, Lieut.-Col. HALL, has the art of hauling every good thing into his possession; even from the sea, the air, and the earth, and may be from the bowels of the great globe itself. Consequently he has recently detailed Lieut. ALEXANDER F. NEWMAN, of the Engineer Corps, as Assistant Provost Marshal, and a more judicious appointment has never been made in this Department. Lieut. NEWMAN is an accomplished gentleman and an efficient officer; in brief, "a proper man as one shall see in a summer's day." Headquarters on Folly Island, is now "all right."

BRIG.-GEN. T. W. SHERMAN.—The first commander of the "Department of the South," is at his home in Newport, R. I. His leg has so far healed that he will soon be able to wear the artificial one now being made for him in New York. He was at the Metropolitan Hotel when the *Arago* left, and our Mr. S. prevailed on him to set to BRADY for his Photograph—the first one he has had taken for many years.

We hope to have copies of it for sale by the next steamer. We are making an effort to get some pictures of every General who has ever been connected with the Department.

The Steamer *Boston* belonging to this department is on the dry dock at Jersey City undergoing quite extensive repairs. Several of her plank near the keel were completely honey-combed by worms, and it is a wonder she ever lived to get North. Her timber, however, are perfectly sound. She has a frame stronger than many of the ocean steamers. It will take a month to complete repairs on her.

We have in our office a piece taken from her keel, showing the havoc made by those rascally little timber eaters.

—Our press gave out Monday, and we were fearful we should be compelled to suspend the publication for a week or so. Mr. MCGREGOR, Chief of the machinery department; and an artist in mechanical matters, came to our aid promptly, and put it in order, much to our gratification, for which he has our cordial thanks.

"PECULIAR" by Epes Sargent—BROKEN COLUMNS, THE REJECTED WIFE have been received and for sale at our store. ANTHONY & Co., of New York, are printing for us photographs of DU PONT, SHERMAN, SETMOUR, TERRY, HALPINE, and other notables.

TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH.—We have been permitted by Major S. Van Vliet, Chief Quartermaster, N. Y., to copy for publication the following note:

WASHINGTON, D. C.,
October 20th, 1863.

Major S. Van Vliet, Chief Quartermaster, New York:

I told you (see my telegram a few days since in answer to an inquiry from you,) that Gen. Gillmore had the same authority to grant passes to persons to come into the Department of the South, that Gen. Saxton had. No passes however, covering transportation are valid without the special approval in each case of the Secretary of War. The rule of the Department is, not to consider applications for passes to go to the Department of the South or North Carolina, on the government transports, unless previously approved by the depot commanders.

Exceptions must be in extreme cases and very rare.

JAS. A. HARDIE,
Ass't. Adj't. Gen.

The Quartermaster also informed us that all persons in government employ, other than soldiers returning to the Department of the South, after leave of absence, would be charged \$20.00 for transportation. All citizens going on government transports would be charged the same amount unless otherwise stated on their pass from the Secretary of War. S.

The following circumstances occurred in this neighborhood sometime ago, and there are probably many here who recollect it, although the principal has since retired to the shades of private life.

At a certain post in this department, garrisoned at the time by a regiment from the Empire State, who have since made themselves famous by gallant deeds, a soldier was taken ill, and unfortunately died; the commanding officer anxious to impress on his companions in arms the exemplary character of their comrade, issued an eulogistic order, which was read before the regiment at their evening parade. After recounting his various merits, it closed with the following sentence,

"The God of Battles will give him a soldier's rest,"

"By order of

Lt. Col. — N. Y. V.,
Commanding Post."

It is to be hoped that the order was obeyed and, that the deceased soldier secured the desired rest.

[FOR THE NEW SOUTH.]

FORT PULASKI.

All quiet, safe and right. Hope stands cheerfully seeking to see the right wing of the Department "go in" to Charleston, which will be done in due time. Meanwhile the chivalry are having a sweat. Query? Is not the Confederacy in the condition of old Prometheus,—fast bound by the Fates while the vulture of slavery is eating out its vitals?

On the evening of the first instant our sentinel discovered about ten o'clock, a number of strange lights on the islands of the north bank of the river. Soon the gunboat *May Flower* (we suppose) sent up a rocket from her beat in Skull Creek. At once our boys had orders and opened our columbiads in the north water battery. Having flew the compliments over the river and pronounced their challenge in emphatic terms to the night-walking or night skulking traitors. How quickly such "taps" extinguished the lights! The "rebs" choose darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. Whether any "contraband" keel "leaped at stars and fastened in the mud," as yet deponent saith not. Let the chivalry send down their cotton.

SD. B. I. H. ARTILLERY.

Dec. 2, 1863.

—We are under many obligations, to Purser McManus of the *Fulton*, for full files of late New York papers.