is surrounded on three sides by a ditch and other obstacles to the approach of an enemy.

DECEMBER 27—7 A. M.—At length, after many delays, the anxiously looked-for stack upon the defences of Wilmington has been inaugurated, and the main attack by the fleet and land forces is about to commence. The fleet is now at this hour getting under way from its anchorage, twelve miles west of New Inlet, where it has been rendezvousing since Monday last, and whilst the vessels are getting up anchors and moving on I will proceed to speak of the inaugural attack—

Monday last, and whilst the vessels are getting up anchors and moving on I will proceed to speak of the inaugural attack—

THE GUNFOWDER EXPLOSION.

This event came off this morning at 2 o'clock, namely: the explosion of a vessel loaded with 215 tons of gunpowder in front of Fort Fisher. This novel and hazardous experiment was successfully accomplished, that is, so far as the explosion was concerned, about the hour named this morning by the brave officers to whomthe task was assigned, Captain Alexander C. Rhind, of the gunboat Agawam. Lieutenant S. W. Preston of Admiral Porter's staff, assisted by the following officers: A. T. McMullen, engineer of Agawam, with a crew of seven men of the Agawam, with a crew of seven men of the Agawam, with a crew of seven men of the Agawam, with a crew of seven men of the Agawam, and antiality and nurheard-of gunpowder plot. Throughout the fleet there were, doubtless, many expectant eyes and ears watching and listening to see the great blast and hear the dreadful concussion that was anticipated. Though very skeptical as to the advantages anticipated by many from this novel attack upon a fortification, most of us on board the San flags were among the watchers and listeners this morning.

The vessel selected for the purpose was the small gunboat Louislana, a vessel purchased some time ago for operations on the inland waters of North Corolina, and set down in the Naval Register as fourth rate. She was prepared for the purpose by removing her guns and adding another funnel to her (a sham arrangement), and painted white, so as to concent her movements from the enterny in approaching the beach at night, and in order that if proaching the beach at night, and in order that if beerved she might be taken for a blockade-runner, She was stored with 215 tons of powder; 200 tons he powder was arranged in this manner: Upon er, with the heads out; over this were piled up in yers 60-pound bags of powder to the top of the ck, and a house was constructed on the after deck led in the same manner. All was a top the after deck

lied in the same manner. All was connected to-either by fuses concentrating the mass and uniting at many points. Every precaution to insure, if ceable, the instantaneous ignition of the whole nass, was taken. ass, was taken.

A simple method of firing these fuses by clockork, timed as desired, was provided; three being
rovided in case one should fail. As a further preaution, in case the clock fuses should miscarry,
seemes of the fuses were united at another point and
rought beneath a perforated at another point and provided in case one should fail. As a further precaution, in case the clock fuses should miscarry, the ends of the fuses were united at another point and brought beneath a perforated frame work of wood in which were set lighted tapers, the lower end of the wieks penetrating the quick of the fires. Five of these tapers were provided, to insure success if other means failed, and, as a last precaution, it was arranged to fire the ship at a point remote from the powder at the moment of leaving it. These arrangements being known, there seemed to be no reason to apprehend a failure, and our only anxiety was that it should accomplish the result hoped for, and that the officers and crew engaged in the perilous enterprise should escape safely. About one o'clock the sentry announced to Captain Glisson that a light could be seen in shore, due west, and we were all speedily on deck. The light as announced was evidently very distant, and being in the right direction, we felt no doubt as to its meaning. The fire itself was evidently below the horizon, and the lurid glare we saw could only be the refracted light of a burning vessel. For more than one hour we expectantly watched it. Occasionally it would seem to diminish, but in a moment more regain its former appearance, which was doubtless mainly owing to the rising and failing of our ship in the waves. The night was as the day had been, freezing cold, with a smart breeze from the westward. Finally, after gazing till our eyes sched, and we were about to give it up as a failure altogether, about 2 A. M. the grand denouement came. From out the dull, lurid point of light there suddenly shot up a broad, far shaped flame of dazzling crilliancy, easting momentarily a red glare over the heaving ocean, lighting up the fleet, and hiding the mild rays of the stars that studded the heavens above us. The light, as we have said, was but momentary, and then all seemed darker than before. We listened in sume apprehension for the gound of the conousion. Such an unheard of amount of explosi

have been "Shoddy gupowder." One and all were unanimously of the opinion that it had proved a show not worth sitting up until 2 o'clock in the morning to see.

A few moments after the explosion a dense black cloud of smoke rose up rapidly on the horizon and stood out in short, well-defined outline against the clear starlight sky. This cloud was of huge proportions, and as it rose rapidly in the air and came swiftly towards us on the wings of the wind, presented a most remarkable appearance, assuming the shape of a huge water-spout with its tapering base resting seemingly on the sea. In a very few minutes it passed us, silling the atmosphere with its sulphurous odors, as if some evil spirit from the infernal regions had swept by us. Thus passed off and vanished in smoke this anxiously looked for event, which many had so earnestly hoped was to have proved an important auxiliary in the work of subduing the rebel defences at New Inlet. We have no means of determining accurately what effect the explosion may have had, but whatever the result, the gallant men who so nobly risked their lives in the performance of this service merit and must receive the highest praise of their fellow-countrymen.

9 A. M.—The day promises to be all that could be wished for the operations of the fleet. The simosphere is clear of mists and fogs, under the influence of the keen, cold breeze from the west, which gives us a lee shore and a smooth sea. Captain Glisson, a senior officer of one division of the smaller vessels, is now signalling his vessels into line, preparatory to standing in shore with the rest of the fleet. The aimosphere is clear of mists and fogs, under the influence of the keen, cold breeze from the west, which gives us a lee shore and a smooth sea. Captain Glisson, a senior officer of one division of the smaller vessels, is now signalling his vossels into line, preparatory to standing in shore with the rest of the fleet. The aimosphere with the rest of the freet. The admiral regions and the whole fleet moves gradually on

asca. The reserves of the various divisions are also ad-The reserves of the various divisions are also advancing promptly to the anchorage designated outside the line oi battle. As the Minnesota and other vessels tassedibeyond the position assigned for the fron-clads, they each came to anchor in position in an inner circle, about one mile from the fleet, the Minnesota anchoring first, and the rest passing her and anchoring in position, one ahead of the other, as designated in the order. The movement is being executed splendidly, without confusion or collision. 10 30 A. M.—We are now in sight of the stronghold of the enemy. For Fisher, and the outlying works connecting it with Battery Lamb and the mound battery on Federal Point, the extremity of the narrow land spit which forms the northern shore of New Inlet, and which divides the waters of Cape Federal river from the ocean, are plainly dis-

as designated in the order. The movement is being executed splendidly, without confusion or collision. 10 20 A. M.—We are now in sight of the stronghold of the enemy. Fort Fisher, and the outlying works connecting it with Battery Lamb and the mound battery on Federal Point, the extremity of the narrow land apit which forms the northern shore of New Inlet, and which divides the waters of Cape Fear river from the ocean, are plainly distinguishable.

The conformation of this portion of the coast of North Carolina is, doubtless, sufficiently familiar to the reader to render any geographical account of the locality unnecessary. Suffice it to say that the curving sweep which it makes from the southwest to the northest forms a sort of bay, which is well protected by the land from the westerly and northerly winds, and thus, notwithstauding the stiff breeze blowing this morning, sufficient, no doubt, to create a heavy sea cutside Cape Lookout and Cape Fear, we find as we near the shore a remarkably smooth sea. The wind, however, is sufficiently heavy to considerably retard the progress of the first point and in against it.

12 o'olook.—The New Tronsides, the foremost vigorously and and the soft of the advancing grands that fringe the chore, to repel a body of rebel infanther king the reads the first places in the boats. The gunboate above and below the leanding are vigorously shelling the roads that fringe the chore, to repel a body of rebel infanther king the reads of histing are vigorously shelling down the gangways of the transports, eager to take their places in the boats. The gunboate above and below the leanding are vigorously shelling the roads that fringe the chore, to repel a body of rebel infanther held in the first places in the boats. The gunboate held in first places in the boats. The subdisher of the reader to render the hore and shrill scream of hissing and bursting the roads that fringe the chore, to repel a body of rebel infanting the roads that fringe the chore, to repel a body of rebel infanting the r Cape Fear river from the ocean, are plainly distinguishable.

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12 o'clook.—The New Ironsides, the foremost vessel of the advancing armada, has just reached a point within range of the fort.

1.10.—The fort has just opened, tring three or four guns at the fron-glads, all of which, however, fall into the sea. However, the Canonicus, Monadnock, and Mahopac are now engaging the fort; but evidently, they have not yet got the range, as many of the shell fall short, whilst others pass clear over the works, and burst in the got the range, as many of the shell fall short, whilst others pass clear over the works, and burst in the comes more accurate and increases in rapidity.

halfon, as a Christinas gift, the redeemed city of Wilniageon, but all his pians were (rentristed, and while the control of th

Special messenger:

North Atlantic Squadron.

United States Flag-Ship Malvern, at Sea.

Off New Inlet, M. C., Dec. 25, 1864.

Sir: I was in hopes I should have been able to present to the nation fort Flaher and surrounding works as a Christmas effecting, but I am sorry to say it has not been taken yet. I attacked it on the 2th inst. with the Ironsides, Canonicus, Mahopac, Monadnoc, Minnesots, Colorado, Robicen, Tuscators, Wabash, Susquahanns, Brocklyn, Powhatan, Juniata, Seneca, Shenandoah, Pawinzet, Ticonderoga, Mackinaw, Mammes, Yantic, Karsas, Iacco, Guaker City, Monticello, Rhode Island, Karsas, Laco, Guaker City, Monticello, Rhode Island, Karsas, Chippewa, Occols, Tacony, Poatocsuc, Santiags de Cuba, Fort Jackson, and Vanderbitt, having a reserve of small vessels, consisting of the Arles, Howqua, Wilderness, Cherokee, A. D. Vance, Anemone, Solus, Gettysburg, Alabama, Keystone State, Banshee, Emma Lillian, Trietam Shandy, Britannia, Governor, Buckingham, and Nansemond. THE POWDER VESSEL.

Previous to making the attack a torpedo on a large scale, with an amount of powder on board supposed to be sufficient to explode the powder magazine of the fort, was prepared with great care, and placed under the command of Commander A. G. Rhind, who had associated with him on this perilous service Lieutenant S. W. Preston, Second Assistant Engineer A. T. E. Mullan, of the United States steamer Agawam, and Acting Mester's Mate Paul Bayden, with seven menses So much had been said and written about the terrible effects of gunpowder in an explosion that happened lately in Eaglan, of the United States steamer Agawam, and Acting Mester's Mate Paul Bayden, with seven men's So much had been said and written about the terrible effects of gunpowder in an explosion that happened lately in England that great results were expected from this novel mode or making war. Everything that ingensity could devise was adopted to make the experiment a success. The vessel was brought round from Norfolk with great care and without accident, in tow of the United States steamer Eassacus. Lieutenant Commander J. L. Davis, who directed his whole attention to the matter in hand, and, though he experienced some bad weather and lost one of his rudders, he took her safely into Beanfort, where we filled her up with powder, and perfected all the machinery for blowing her up. General Batter had arrived at the rendezvous before us, and I hastened matters all that I could, so that no unnecessary delay might be laid to my charge.

On the 18th inst. I salled from Beanfort with all the monitors, New Ironsides, and small vessels, including the Louisiana disguised as a blockade runner, for the rendezvous, twenty miles east of New Injet, N. C., and found all the larger vessels and transports assembled there, the wind blowing light from the northeast. On the 20th a heavy gale set in from the southwest, and not being able to make a port without scattering all the vessels, idetermined to ride it out, which I did without any accident of any kind except the loss of a few anchors, the monitors and all behaving beautifulty. Only two vessels went to sea to avoid the gate, and fared no better than those at anchor. The transports, being short of water, put into Beaufort, N. C., and were not suitable for riding out at anchor such heavy weather. After the sou' wester the wind chopped around to the westward and gave us a beautiful apel of weather, which I could not afford to lose; and the transports with the troops not making their appearance, I determined to take advantage of it and attack Fort Fisher and its outworks.

On the 23d I ranging within and around it. The showers of bursting shell raining down upon it, whilst the rays of the decilings gun, tinted with ever-varying hues the little fleecy clouds from the bursting shells, and filled the glowing west with as gorgeous a sunsethus as ever met the eye, made up a picture inexpressibly grand, and a scene so impressive that the beholder can hever forget it. Thus ended the first day of the ever-memorable bombardment.

After giving a closing broadside, the veesels, in accordance with a signal from the Admiral, withdrew about two miles for the night. Greatly to our surprise, the troops have as yet made no attempt to effect a landing.

The fleet of transports, including Gen. Butler's flag-ship, the Ben De Ford, have laid quietly off shore all day, spectators simply of the fight, but it is said a landing will certainly take place tomorrow. The evident feebleness and inefficiency of the rebel fire has been a matter of surprise throughout the fleet, and many are of the opinion that the great gunpowder explosion of the morning was not without effect, and that most probably the garrison was so stunned by the concusion as to be unable to work their guns. Others, however, scont the

without effect, and that most probably the garrison was so stunned by the concussion as to be unable to work their guns. Others, however, scout the idea, and regard that enterprise as a thorough failure. It is with pleasure that we are able to record the entire safety of the brave officers who undertook the perilous enterprise.

Sunday and Christmas day—the day of days, the day of rest, of peace, and of good tidings—dawns brightly upon us; but, alas! it is not a day of peace hereabouts. True, Nature is in her calmest mood. The sharp frostiness of the atmosphere of yesterday has given place to almost spring-like temperature. The sea is smooth and unruffled, and all appears in calm and peaceful harmony with the day, save yonder frowning batteries of the enemy and the threatening bearing of our gallant fleet, whose dark outlines now low through the light mists that hang around the horizon, and which will soon be again engaged in fearful combat. Sad that it should be so, but such is the relation brought upon us by rebellion and odvil war.

3. A. M.—A signal from the flag-ship has sumengaged in rearrin compat. Sad that it should be so, but such is the relation brought upon us by rebellion and civil war.

3 A. M.—A signal from the flag-ship has summoned all the commanders of the floet on board, and in a few minutes quite a fleet of cutters are hovering round the flag-ship.

9 A. M.—We have a signal to up anchors and stand in to renew the attack. In a short time the whole fleet is again in motion, the Ironsides taking the lead as on yesterday. The Montgomery stands in again towards the fort to enable the members of the press to view the fight. The monitor Saugus, which was to have joined the fleet at Beautort, but was detained by getting aground in the James river, arrived this morning or during the past night to join in the contest of to-day.

The sun, which rose bright, is now (10.45) partially obscured by light clouds, and there is a chillness in the air, which seems to indicate the coming of uniavorable weather. Still, the sea remains perfectly calm, and there is hardly a breath of air stirring.

The Ironsides and the monitors are just constant.

nothing like so severe as was expected. It shook the vessels some, and broke one or two glasses, but nothing more.

THE LINE OF BATTLE.

At daylight of the 28th the fleet got under way, and in line of hattle. At 11.30 A. M. the signal was made to engage the forts, the Ironsides leading, and the Mondol of the control of ness in the air, which seems to indicate the coming of uniavorable weather. Still, the sea remains perfectly calm, and there is hardly a breath of air stirring.

The Ironsides and the monitors are just opening again on the fort, firing with great deliberation and precision, evincing a determination to make the most of their ponderous batteries. Their execution is splendid. Every shot from the Ironsides and her consorts, the monitors, are striking in or around the fort, or burst in mid-air over the works. Columns of sand and earth are momentarily being thrown up high in the air. Fort Fisher still remains silent. What can be the cause? Are they, indeed, too much damaged by what they have already passed through, or is it that they rely confidently upon the strength of their earthen barriers, that they do not deem it worth while to risk their fires in an attempt to repei the assault of the fiest?

With the aid of a good glass no signs of life can be seen on or about the works. The few shots they have fired so far appear to have mainly come from one or two of their casemates, which are so hidden and masked as to be scarcely discernible. The mound battery and the intervening water batteries are likewise silent. The two great guns, on the mound can be plainly seen from the deel? of our steamer, with a tall fiags staff between them; but whatever garrison may be there, they keep out of view, and rarely show themselves.

About noon the Minnesota, Colorado, Wabash, and Brooklyn, and other large vessels, get into position, and add the weight of their ponderous batteries to the ordeal. The firing is far more accurate than on yesterday; indeed, it could not be better. A perfect tornade of war is sweeping over, into, and around the enemy's works, throwing up columns of dust and sand as they strike the edge of the embrazures or plough up the face and sides of the embrazures or plough up the face and sides of the embrazures or plough up the face and sides of the embrazures or plough up the face and sides of the embrazures or pl

ticel o. Quaker City, and Isaco dropped into position according to order, and the battle became general.

THE BOMBARDMENT.

In one hour and fifteen minutes after the first shot was fired, not a shot came from the fort. Two gargazines had been blown up by our shells, and the fort set on fire in several places, and such a torrent of missiles were failing into and bursting over It that it was impossible for any thing human to stand it.

Finding that the batteries were allenced completely. I cirected the ships to keep up a moderate fire, in hopes of attracting the attention or the transports and bringing them in. At sunset General Butter eams in in his flag-ship, with a few transports, the rest not having arrived from Beaufort. Being too late to do anything more, I signalled the fleet to refire for the night to a safe anchorage, which they did without being molested by the enemy. There were some mistakes made this day when the vessels went in to take position.

My plan of battle being based on accurate calculations, and made from information to be relied on, was placed in the hands of each commander, and it see ned impossible tog astray fit was strictly followed. I required those vessels that had not followed it closely to get under way and resume their proper positions. Which was done promptly and without confusion. The vessels were placed somewhat nearer to the works, and were able to throw in their shell, which were before falling into the water. One or two leading vessels having made the mistake of anchoring too far off, caused those coming after them to commit a like error, but when they all got into place and commenced work in earnest, the shower of shell, one hundred and fifteen par minute, was irresitible.

So quickly were the enemy's gans silenced, that not an officer or man was injured. I regret, however, to have to report some severe casualties by the bursting of each of the vessel where the accidents happened, and gave one and all a great disturbed to report some severe casualties by the bursting of the self.

DEAGGING FOR TORPEDOES.

Presently the gunboat Iasco and several other of the smaller vessels steam gallantly up the channel, passing within three-quarters of a mile of the batteries, delivering their fire in fine style. When just abreast of the fort, and while we are intensely watching their movements, a cutter is observed passing out from the side of the Little Ada, and other small boats are seen leaving the other gunboats now passing out of the channel. The sight inspires the liveliest admiration of every beholder, to see these brave officers and men quietly and calmiy risking their lives in open boats, under the very guns of the fort and going at times within rifle-shot of the enemy, causes the heart to beat with patriotic joy and pride over such heroic epvotion. The boats are engaged under direction of Captain Gnest, of the Iasco in dragging the channel for torpedoes, whilst one, under command of the brave Lieutenant Cushing, commander of the Maivern, is engaged in sounding and marking out the channel over the bar, in order to facilitate the nearer approach of our gunboats to the fort. Whilst engaged in this perilous duty the enemy fire repeatedly at the boats, but without success. Some sixteen or more large transports, with numerous tugs and small boats, but without success. Some sixteen or more large transports, with numerous tugs and small boats, small boats filled with troops, just about to land on the broad-bare beach, whilst soldiers are seen filing down the gangways of the transports, eager to take their places in the boats. The gunboats above and DRAGGING FOR TORPEDOES.

received.

The Yantic was the only vessel that left the line to report damages. Commanier John Guest, at the east end of the line, showed his usual intelligence in selecting his position and directing his position and directing his fire. Twice his guas cut down the flag-staff on the Mound battery, and he silenced the guns there in a very short time, the Keystoze State and Guaker City co-operating effectively. Lientenant Commander J. R. Davis, with both redders disabled, got his vessel, the Sasacons, into close action, and assisted materially in silencing the works; and the Santiago de Guba and Fort Jackson took such positions as they could get, towing other vessels not forming proper lines and throwing them out of place, and fought their guas well. as they could get, towing other veisels not forming proper lines and throwing them out of place, and fought their guns well.

The taking of a new position, while under fire, by the Brooklyn and Colorado, was a beautiful sight, and when they got into place both ships delivered a fire that nothing could withstand. The Brooklyn well sustained her proud name, under her present commander, Captain James Aiden, and the Colorado gave evidence that her commander, Commodore H. K. Thatcher, fully understood the duties of his position. The Susquehana was most effective in her fire, and was fortunate esough to obtain the right position, though much bother and by a vessel near her that had not found her right place. The Mohican went into battle galiavity, and fired rapidly and with effect, and when the Powhatan, Ticonderogs, and Shemandoah got into their positions they did good service. The Pawtuxet fell handsomely into line, and did good service with the rest, and the Vanderbilt took position near the Minnesota, and threw in a splendid fire.

The fring of the monitors was excellent, and when their shells struck great damage was done, and the little gunboats that covered them kept up a fire sufficient to disconcert the enemy's aim.

The rebeis fired no more after the vessels all opened on them, excepting a few shots from the mound and upper batteries, which the Isaco and consoria soon silenced.

Our men were at work at the guns five honrs, and glad to get a little rest. They came out of action with rather a contempt for rebel batteries, and anxious to repaw the battle in the morning. THE SECOND DAY'S ATTACK.

the army landed and assaulted them if possible under our heavy fire. I sent seventeen gunboats, nader command of Captain O. S. Glisson, to cover the troops and assist with their boats in landing the soldiers. Finding the smaller vessels kept too far from the beach, which was quite bold, Leent in the Brooklys to set them an example, which that vessel did, relying, as every commander should, on the information I gave him in relation to the soundings. To this number was added all the small vessels that were covering the coast along, and finally I sent some eight or nine vessels that were setting under Commander Guest, in eadeavoring to find a way across the bar. This gave a hundred small bots to land the troops with, besides those the army were already provided with, about twenty more.

small boats to land the troops with, besides those the army were already provided with, about tweaty more.

At 7A. M., on the 25th, I made signal to get under way and form in line of battle, which was quickly done. The order to attack was gives, and the Iron-eides took vosition in her usual nandsome style, the monitors following close after her. All the versels followed according to orders, and took position without a shot beit gired at them, excepting a few shots after at the four last vessels that got into line. The firing this day was alow-only sufficient to amuse the enemy while the army landed, which they were doing five miles to the east of the fiset.

I suppose about three thousand men had landed, when I was notified that they were re-ambarking. I could see our soldiers near the forts reconnecting and sharpshooting, and was in hopes an assanit was deemed practicable. General Weitzel in person was making observations about six hundred yards off, and the troops were in and around the works.

One gallant officer-whose name I do not know, went on the parapet and brought away the robol fing we had knocked d. wm. A soldier want into the works and led ont a horse, killing the orderry mounted on him, and taking his despatches from the body. Another soldier fired his musket into the bombproof among the rebeil, and eight or ten others, who had ventured near the forts, were wounded by our shells.

As the ammunition gave out, the vessels retired from action, and the iron-elads and Minnesota, Colorado, and Susquehanna were ordered to open rapidly, which they did with such effect that it seemed to tear the works and the provention of the content of the results of the through the night, expecting the troons would attack through the night, expecting the troons would attack they did with such effect that it seemed to tear the works to pieces.

We drow off at sunset, leaving the iron-clads to fire through the night, expecting the troops would attack in the morning, when we would commence again: I received word from General Weitzel informing me that it was impracticable to assault, and herewith enclose a letter from General Butler, assigning his reasons for whild rawing the troops. I also enclose my answer. In the bombardment of the 26th the men were enraged fing also make the copy. I also enclose my answer. In the bombardment of the 26th the men were enraged fing and the upper batteries firing on the vessels, hitting some and the upper batteries firing on the vessels, hitting some are was everal itness, without doing much damage. The was several itness, without doing much damage. The was several itness, without doing much damage at the waster and Powhatan baing within their rapes, the object seemed mainly to disable them, but a rapid fire soon closed them up.

Everything was coolly and systematically done throughout the day, and I witnessed some beautiful protice.

Captain Glisson, in the Santiago de Cuoa, having shelled Flag pond Battery to insure a safe landing, and they commenced to re-embark about free of clock, the weather coming on thick and rainy. About a brigade were left on the beach during the night, covered by the gunboats toops landed sixty fiversels soldiers hoisted

The prisoners numbered skriy-five men and two officers, of Oy Capt. Knatz. The actions recommended of a strongly-constructed lunette, with an embracure containing "a beavy 68-pound gur mounted on an old pivot-earriage of an English man-of-war. The work was provided with a bomb-proof shelter for its garrison, and a bomb-proof magazine. The prisoners, though miserably clad, were well armed with rifles, mostly of the English manufacture, though some were our own Springfields. Our brave cars found the magazine of a battery well stored with powder and fixed ammunition, manufacture, though some were our own Springfields. Our brave cars found the magazine of a battery well stored with powder and fixed ammunition, of the company of the troops was proceeded with rapidly, until probably 3,000 men were landed. The first regiment to reach the beach and form, was the 149d New York, of the last Brigade, 24th Corps. A portion of this force, about nity men, deploy as skirmishers, and at once push on rapidly down the beach.

Meanwhile the bombardment of Fort Fisher is progressing with increased furry, and even without the aid of our glass we can plainly see the skowers of shell falling in the works. The iron-clads are still shelling year within a mile of the fort. The wooden wails are also doing grandly. The sound as terrific. Our brave boys in the advance are still marching down the broad beach. Near the capture of a mile to the rear, marching in divided columns.

3.40.—Our skirmishers are now actually on the glacis of the fort. Still no signs of rabel troops are skill landing unopposed. About two miles further upthe beach. In front of us the troops are skill landing unopposed. About two miles further upthe beach, where there is another small battery, called the Half-Koon Hattery, the rebuls easy in the day attempted to make a show of resistance with a strong of the fire of the fort. Still no signs of rabel troops are skill landing to the fort of the fort is provided the resistance of plant of the fort of the control of the tr west left on the beach during the night, covered by the gunboats.

As our troops landed sixty five rebal toldiers hoisted the court troops landed sixty five rebal toldiers hoisted the court troops landed sixty five rebal toldiers hoisted the court troops and conveyed to the Santiago de Cuba Two hundred and sixteen prisoners by the section 1 was two hundred and sixteen more gaves themselves up to the reconsoliting party, all being destrous to quit the war. I do not pretent to put my opinion in opposition to General Weitzel, who is a thorough solder and an able engineer, and whuse business it is to know more of assaulting than I do, but I cannot help thinking that it was worth while to make the attempt after coming so far.

About twelve o'clock I sent in a detachment of double-enders, under Commander John Guekt, to see if I could effect an entrance through the channel. The great number of wricks in and about the bar has changed the whole formation, and where the original channet was we found a zballow bar. I sent Lieutenant W. B. Cushing into sound and buny out a channel, if he could find one, with orders to Commander Guest to drag for torpedees, and be ready to run in by the buoys when orders does, and be ready to run in by the buoys when orders does, and be ready to run in by the buoys when orders does, and be ready to run in by the buoys when orders does, and be ready to run in by the buoys when orders does, and be ready to run in by the story, was sunk by a shell, and a man hed his leg cut off; still thoy stock to their work until ordered to withdraw for other dury. one noat, seconding to the Tacony, was sunk by a shell, and a man had his leg cut off; still thoy stuck to their work until ordered to withdraw for other duty.

THE DANGERS OF THE POWDER SHIP.

In conclusion allow me to draw your attention to the conduct of Commander Rhind and Lieut. Preston, they engaged in the most perilous adventure that was perhaps ever undertaken, and though no material results have taken place from the effects of the explosion that we know of, still it was not their fault. As an incentive to ethers, I ber-leave to recommend them for promotion; elso, that of Lieut, R. H. Lamson, who entive to ethers, I ber-leave to recommend them for promotion; elso, that of Lieut, R. H. Lamson, who entive to ethers, I ber-leave to recommend them for promotion; elso, that of Lieut, Preston had made an arrangement to sacrifice themselves in case the vessel was loaded, a thing litely to happen.

I enclose herewith the report of Commander Rhind, with the names of the gallant fellows who volunteered for the desperais service. Allow me to mention also the name of Mr. Bradford, of the Coast Survey, who went in and sounded out the place where the Louisiana was to go, and has always patiently performed every duty he has been called on to carry out. My thanks are due to Licentenant Commander H. R. Breeze, fleet capitain, for carrying about my orders to the fleet during the action, and for his general nestiness; to Licetonant Commander H. A. Adams, for his promptness in supplying the fleet with ammunition; lieutenant M. W. Sanders, signal officer, whose whole time was occupied in making, signals, performed his duty well; and my side, Lieutenant S. W. Terry and Lieutenant S. W. Preston, afforded me valuable assistance.

I have not yet received a list of the casualities, but I must not omit to pay a tribute to the officers and open coast, without murmuring or complaining of the want of comfort, which must have been very serious. They have shown a degree of fortitude and persevence seldom witnessed. Equally brave in ba

ander my command:

Commander E. G. Parrott, commanding the Monadlock. ock. Commander E. R. Calhoun, commanding the Saugus. Lient, Commonder Geo. E. Belknap, commanding the

was abandoned.

General Weitzel, we were informed, had made a reconnoissance of the work and concluded it would be impossible to assault the works with success.

ADMIRAL PORTER'S OFFICIAL REPORT.

special messenger:

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—The Secretary of the Navy this afternoon received the following by a

THE POWDER VESSEL.

Lient. Commonder Geo. E. Belknap, commanding the Canonicus.

Lieut. Commander E. E. Potter, commanding the Mahopac.

Matheway and the command men left on shore by the army, who have not been got off yet on account of the surf on the beach. These will be got off in the morning, and the soldiers will then be sent home. I enclose the general order for the attack,

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DAVID D. PORTER, Rear Admiral.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy, Washingtor, D. C. LETTER FROM GENERAL BUTLER. HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA AND NORTH GAROLINA, December 25.

Headquarters Department of Viginia and North (Arollina, December 25.

Admiral: Upon landing the troops and making a thorough reconnoissance of Fort Fisher, both Gen. Westsel and myself are fully of the opinion that the place could not be carried by assault, as it was left substantially uniqued as a defensive work by the navy fire. We found seventeen guns protected by traverses, two only of which were dismantled, bearing upon the baseh and covering a strip of land—the only practicable route, not more than who enough for a top and men in line-of battle. Having captured the flag of the Pond Hill battery, the garrison of which (sixty five men and two sommissioned officers) were taken off by the navy, we sais captured Balf Moon buttery, with seven officers, and two hundred and eighteen men, of the 3d North Carolina Junior Reserves, including its commender, from whom I learned that a portion of Hoke's division. Carolina Junior Reserves, including its commender, from whom I learned that a portion of Hoke's division, consisting of Kirkland's and Haygood's prigader, had been sent from the lines before Hichmond of Thesday last, erriving at Wilmington on Friday night.

Gen. Weltzel advanced his skirmish line within fifty yards of the fort, while the garrison was kept in their bomb proofs by the fire of the navy, and so closely that there or four men of the prought off, killing the capturing a horse, which they brought off, killing the of artillery of Gen. Whiting to bring a light artillery battery within the first, and cate from the parapet the flag of the fort, was falling about the heads of the daring men who entered the work; and it was evident, as soon as the fire of the navy cased, because of the darkness, that the fort was fally manned again, and opened with grape and canalter upon our plakeline. line. Finding that nothing but the operations of a regular siege, which did not come within my instructions, would reduce the fort, and in view of the threatening aspect of the weather, the wind arising from the south west, rendering it impossible to make further landing through the surf, I caused the troops, with their priconters, to re-embark. I see nothing further that could be done by the land forces. I shall therefore sail for Hampton Roads as soon as the transport fleet can be get in order.

in order.

My et gineers and officers report Fort Fisher to me as substantially uninjured as a defensive work.

I have the honor to be very expectable, your obedient servant,

ERY AMIN F. BUTLER.

Reer Admiral PORTER, Commanding. N. A. Biockading. Soundron. REPLY OF ADMIRAL PORTER.

NORTH ATLANTIC EQUADRON, U. S. FLAGHHIP

MALVERN, OFF NEW INLET, Dec. 26.

GENERAL: I beg leave to acknowledge, the receipt of your letter of this date, the substance of which was communicated to me by Gen. Weltzel last night.

I have ordered the largest vessels to proceed off Beaufort and fill up with ammunition, to be ready for another attack in case it is decided to reproceed with this matter by making other arrangements. We have not commenced firirg rapidly yet; and could keep any rebels inside from thowing their heads until an assaulting column was within twenty yards of the works.

I wish some more of your gallast fellows had followed the officer who took the fag from the parabet, and the brave fellow who brought the horrs out of the fort. I think they would have found it an easier conquest than is supposed. I do not, however, pretend to place my opinion in opposition to General Weitzel, whom I know to be an accomplished soldier and engineer, and whose opinion has great weight with me. I will see that the troops are all off in safety. We will have a west wind presently, and a smooth beach about three of clock, when sufficient boats will be sent for them. The prisoners now on board the Santang of Cuba will be delivered to the provost marshal at Fortress Mource, unless you wish to take them on board one of the transports, which would be inconvenient just now. REPLY OF ADMIRAL PORTER.

just now.

I remain, General, respectfully, your obedient ser vant,
DAVID D. POETER, Rear Admiral.
Major General B. F. BUTLER, &c., &c. WILMINGTON. THE ATTACK ON WILMINGTON—STATEMENTS FROM THE "ASSOCIATED PRESS."

The agent of the Associated Press sends the folmoment arrived here in the steamer Bat, which vessel also brings Lieutenant Preston, bearer of despatches from Admiral Porter. I am much surprised to hear the reports prevalent of the abandonment of the expedition against Wilmington. It is not true. When I left the fleet was still bombarding Fort Fisher. The despatches sent yesterday from Fortress Monroe were correct. ANOTHER DESPATCH. WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—The steamer Bat arrived

tere to-day, bringing a bearer of despatches from Admiral Porter. The Bat was aground in the Potomac yesterday morning. When she left the vicinity of Cape Fear Admiral Porter was still combarding Fort Fisher, and expressed himself as confident of being able to take it. ARRIVAL OF PART OF THE WILMINGTON EXPED Special Despatch to The Press,] FORTRESS MORROE, Dec. 28.—The Ben Deford Montauk, Empire City, and one or two other trans

ports belonging to the expedition under General Butler, to operate against Wilmington, have arived here. Others are momentarily expected. WASHINGTON.

SALE OF POSTAGE STAMPS. The Postmaster General has resoluded the in-tructions of the Post Office Department under secion nine of the act of Congress, approved July 1st ilon nine of the act of Congress, approved Sury 200, 1864, authorizing postmasters to sell postage stamps and stamped envelopes at a discount of five per tances, make any abatement from the face valu f such stamped envelopes. ONORS TO THE LATE MINISTER DAYTON

The President has directed that the civil, miliary, and naval officers in the public service at New York shall render due honors and attentions to the emains of the late WM. L. DAYTON on their ar ival in that city. WITHDRAWAL OF TEN-FORTY BONDS. The Secretary of the Treasury has issued the following notice, withdrawing the ten-forty bonds after January 7th, 1865. Sufficient time is thus iven for the banks to obtain gold-bearing bonds for anking purposes : TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Dec. 23, 1864.

Notice is hereby given that the ten forty loan will be withdrawn on the 7th of January next. No sabscriptions, therefore, will be received after that W. P. FESSENDEN, Secretary of the Treasury. Robbery of Quartermasters' Vonchers CINCINNATI, Dec. 29.—A package of quarter masters' vouchers, amounting to nearly \$200,000 approved and issued by Captain J. C. Crane, guar-termaster at Nashville, were taken from the train ternaster at Nashville, were taken from the train which was captured by the rebels on the Louisville and Nashville Railsoad on the 22d inst. They are in favor of parties in Cincinnati, Buffalo, Chicago, Michigan City, Albany, Boston, Philadelphia, and New York. The Adams Express Company notifies the public not to negotiate them.

Volunteers in the West. St. Louis, Dec. 29.—On the subject of volunteers Governor Hall, in his message, says: Up to the 1st-of July last, Misseuri had furnished 16,000 man more than her quots called for, and in the districts which are behind, the deficiency is believed to arise THE SHOOND DAY'S ATTAOK.

On the 28th, Christmas, all the transports had arrived, and General Butler sent General Weltzel to see me, and arrange the programme for the day. It was decided that we should attack the forte again, while militia organized and in the field when required.

The Press. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1864.

THE GRAND BATTLE AT WILMING-

TON. We do not admit the repulse at Wilmington as a defeat, for we believe that the at tack, on Fort Fisher, the monstrous earthwork that defends the city, is not abandoned. But it is well to concede the truth to our foes and confess that, if they did not win a victory, they have prevented one. Wilmington remains the great rebel port of entry, but it is no longer safe to the blockade-runner, for the siege has begun. It is a national disappointment that it was not reduced at once by the mighty navy that a few days since sailed from Hampton Roads, after months of preparation. The plan was excellent. It was known that the garrison was not large, but that the immense strength of the fortifications multiplied the numerical force tenfold. The concentrated fire of six hundred and sixty-seven guns from the fleet, it was thought, would crush the defence, and enable four or five thousand men to storm the works with comparative ease. And the supposition was sound. On Tuesday, the 20th instant, Fort Fisher was garrisoned by two companies of local troops. On the evening of the 24th two divisions from LEE's army were poured into the works. This reinforcement saved the city. The great torpedo-boat exploded; it shook the heavens and sea; the earth trembled, but the walls of the fort were not broken. The fleet, splendidly and bravely manœuvred, silenced the rebel guns with an overwhelming weight of iron, but the fort still defied us. The troops behaved gallantly. They were filled with enthusiasm. A braver assault was never made, and the rebel colors were torn from the parapet. But they could not take the fort, garrisoned with a small army. Adfort, garrisoned with a small army. Adwith 110 cannon, and that on his retreat he only
miral Porter seems to have believed that took 25 across the river. When twelve miles this with more energy in the land assault the entire attack might have been successful. But of this it is now impossible to judge. It is enough that our land forces and the fleet did not co-operate effectively, and it is yet to be decided whether the fault, if there was one, existed in the failure of the fleet to begin the attack on the 18th, or the failure of the army to push the battle on the 25th. We have yet to learn why the attack was not made before the reinforcements from Richmond reached Wilmington; the railroad communication was severed, and the troops of LEE were four days in making

so much as to fight, and, when they were withdrawn from the shore, reluctantly retired to the ships. The announcement that they departed in transports seems an ironic comment on the downfall of hopes so high. Butler drew off his sullen and disappointed men, but Porter remained to renew the bombardment, and the fleet is still before the fort. Alone it can do vast harm.

The golden opportunity is past. Wilmington cannot now be taken by storm. It must be reduced by the slow process of a siege. Harder, with his fifteen thousand men, will reinforce that city and Charleston, and Lee may be able to spare the two divisions he was compelled to send.

But the weakness of the rebellion is con-But the weakness of the rebellion is confessed even in this success. One city was sacrificed to save another: to defend Savannah and Wilmington simultaneously was impossible. And the end is not yet. The fleet can neither be driven away nor combatted. Under its guns we may at any time land an army, and the army is at hand. Sherman's legions are liberated by the capture of Savannah, and it is certain will move northward and it is certain will move northward and take every city that opposes them. We have won so much, triumphed so far beyond our wildest hopes, that we can endure this disappointment with patience, and tranquilly await a victory that has

only been postponed. GENERAL GRANT'S ARMY. -R. H. McBride.-HOW CHRISTMAS WAS CELEBRATED—SUDDEN COLL

WEATHER-CESSATION OF PICKET FIRING-THE BEBBLS REPAIRING THE WELDON BAILBOAD. [Special Correspondence of The Press. 1 BEFORE PETERSBURG. Dec. 26, 1864. Ohristmas has gone. One would scarcely have known that it came but once a year. Some there were who indulged in extra good cheer, but as a general thing the festivities were few, and of the most solemn character. Many of the corps commanders ordered their commissaries to turn in all whisky remaining in their possession. Thus a means of folly and frolle was immediately taken from the men. As a prudential measure it was pro-per, and worked charmingly, for but few drunken soldiors were to be seen. Every one here takes advantage of a holiday. Some think the acme of enjoyment, upon such days, is to have their canteen enjoyment, upon such days, is to have their canteen filled with liquor; others spend the time faithfully in making calls, and receiving liberal potations from the friends whom they honor with a visit. Scarcely a quadruped in the army is spared upon such occasions. Those who have walked all their life long, and tramped from the Rappahannock to Gativeburg and from the litter life. Gettysburg, and from the latter place to Prince George C. H., are the most anxious to go riding to their friend's cabin, situate in the neigh Many of the animals trotted forth on Sunday looked like hypochondriacs. Their riders had gone through the morning inspection, and already the first drink is taken, and mutual wishes about "Merry Christ-mas" exchanged. Near nightfall the individual returns, firmly convinced that his poor, spurred, and extent as searcely to be able to walk. warm temperature has been productive of thousands of "bad colds," To make matters worse, a splash ing sort of rain set in, adding to our gloom and mi-

in the weather. The sudden transition from cold to sery. All day a heavy mist has settled over the ground, like a great wet blanket. The drizzling showers which fall seem on spitefulness intent, for, not satisfied with wetting a man's garments, they instinuate a moltness to the body, as if desirous of turning our very blood to water. Of course, joility is cut of the question. Nothing but continual announcements from Sherman of his wonderful good ortune has any cheering influence. The pickets are dull; seldom are words exchanged. They appear content with gazing moodily at each other, seldom appealing to their guns, which are carried carelessly, like so much useless iron. And the cannon, too.
Not a sound from them have I heard. The rebels used to call our artillerists before Petersburg spite-ful. Surely they have proved themselves possessors

of some amiability.

Through the front line deserters continue to navigate their dangerous way. From the rear comes many a contraband. All show an anxiety to learn low they are to be received, and what way they may expect to be treated. They have their stories, and few who have listened to them often can say Stony Creek, a short time since, and informed us, in serious tones, that the rebels were working with the industry of beavers on the identical road determined for weeks and the rebels were working with the industry of beavers on the identical road determined for weeks and the rebels were working with the industry of beavers on the identical road determined for weeks and the rebels were made by John Jay, Esq., Mr. Parke Godwin, of the Post, Rev. Dr. Osgood, and others. Yesterday the New England Society, of which Mr. stony Creek, a short time since, and informed us. many avenues for supplies are being closed, and they will need one, at least, if only to secure their ecape. Picket-viring Renewed-Increase of Rebel

DESERTIONS—BAD WEATHER.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—A letter from the Army
of the Potomac, dated Dec. 27th, says there was considerable picket-firing along the front, the practice being resumed by the enemy after an almost total discontinuance for several weeks. The resumption is, no doubt, caused by the numerous de sumption is, no doubt, caused by the fundamental de-sertions recently occurring, which reached along this front alone about ninety last week. On the 26th a rebel lieutenant and twenty-one men came over in a body and reported that many others will follow as soon as an opportunity shall offer. The weather is very disagreeable and the roads too muddy to admit of operations for some weeks to

A Family Murdered. CINCINNATI, Dec. 29.—Three members of the family of John M. Rooss, of Derfield, Warren coun ty, were murdered in their beds on Monday night by some unknown parsons. Two others were badly

HOOD'S ARMY ACROSS THE TENNESSEE. HIS SOLDIERS GREATLY DISSATISFIED WITH HIM.

A SUCCESSFUL EXPEDITION IN SOUTH-WESTERN VIRGINIA.

Important Salt and Lead Works Destroyed GEN. BRECKINRIDGE DRIVEN INTO NÓRTH CAROLINA,

Great Destruction of Rebel Property in Florida. A CAVALRY FIGHT IN THE SHENAN-

DOAH VALLEY.

News from New Orleans, Mexico, St. Domingo, &c DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE. OPERATIONS OF OUR NAVY ON HOOD'S COMMUNI-CATIONS OVER THE TENNESSEE-HOOD SAID TO

Washington, Dec. 29.—A despatch to the Navy Department from Rear Admiral Lee, dated flagship Fairy, Chickasaw, Ala., Dec. 27, says he has destroyed a new fort at that point and all the onemy's visible means of crossing the Tennessee below Florence, and on that day blow up two calssons and destroyed two field pieces there, knocking one into pieces and the other into the river. Several transports, with supplies for General Thomas, arrived at Chickasaw on the 27th. It was

found from the General's despatches that Lee's movements had been in good time to meet those of the General.
The Admiral says: "Hood's army is reported." broken up, and its parts cannot cross at or below Florence unless the river falls seriously. It is now falling, which made it impracticable to-day to reach the crossing which the enemy is said to be using, above Little Muscle Shoals, six miles above Florence."

BECAPE OF HOOD'S ARMY ACROSS THE TENNES-SEE-HOOD AT A DISCOUNT AMONG HIS MEN.
NASHVILLE, Dec. 29.—Union prisoners who escaped from Florence, Alabama, arrived at Columbia on the 27th, and state that Hood's advance arrived at the Tennessee river on Wednesday, the 21st. The next day his infantry crossed on poncons, which he had removed above the shoals, out of the reach of our gunboats. One of the prisoners states Hood crossed the Tennessee, on his advance side of the Tennessee they heard heavy cannonad-ing in the direction of Florence, probably Stead-man's force engaged with Forrest. There is inense indignation against Hood in the rebel army.

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA. THE RAID ON AND DESTRUCTION OF THE SALT

WORKS AT WYTHEVILLE-REPORTED DEFEAT OF BRECKINRIDGE. LOUISVILLE, Dec. 29.—A reliable despatch from Guesta's Station, on the 28th inst., represents that Burbridge's command is, in good shape and spirits, returning to Lexington, after a most successful ex-pedition. Burbridge destroyed the railroad for ten miles beyond Wytheville, and the salt and lead works in that vicinity. Breckinridge was badly whipped, and left for North Carolina. The rebel Department of Southwestern Virginia has no longer anv efficiency. BRECKINGIDGE DRIVEN INTO NORTH CAROLINA-

GEN. BURBRIDGE'S REPORT OF THE DESTRUCTION OF THE LEAD AND SALT MILLS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—The following report of of Lee were four days in making the journey. The plan could not have been better, and the Navy Department is not responsible for the failure. That its execution was imperfect is evident, but the delays were very likely not the fault of any officer, but unavoidable accidents. In any case, the army and navy have won new glory. Weitzel's troops (but one regiment of colored troops taking part in the fight) wanted nothing so much as to fight, and, when they were

REBEL NEWS. THE CAVALRY FIGHT IN THE SHENANDOAH—EXPE-DITIONS FROM PENSACOLA — DESTRUCTION OF REBEL PROPERTY—CAPTAIN SEMMES IN MOBILE. WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.-The Richmond Sentinel

following official telegram: HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA, Dec. 24, 1864. Hon. James A. Seddon: General Fitz Lee reports that the force which attacked Lomax yesterday consisted of two divisions of the enemy's cavalry under General Torbert. General Lomax was posted across the Madison turnpike, two and a half miles from Gordonsville. The enemy was handsomely repulsed, and retired about three P. M., leaving some of his dead on the field. He travelled too rapidly last night to engage his rear, having passed Jack's Shop, twelve miles from Gordonsville, one hour after dark. Thirty-two prisoners, who were captured at Liberty Mills, on the 22d, being unable to keep up on their retreat, were liberated. General Lomax's loss was

of the 27th inst., received here to-day, contains the

The Sentinel also contains the following: MOBILE, Dec. 19.-The Yankee raiders from Pensacola to Pollard's destroyed all public and some private buildings, and damaged the road considerably, and the bridge over the Escambia was partly destroyed. Captain Henry Pope, quartermaster, was captured, and a few negroes were stolen. Yesterday our forces pursued them. A portion of their supplies and transportation was captured. The road was strewn with their dead. There was an nfantry force of another raiding party near Good's Mills and Pensacola. On Sunday its advance was met by our cavalry, and driven back several miles. Captain Semmes arrived here yesterday from Europe, via Matamores.

ARRIVAL OF STEAMERS. FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 28.—The steamer Pro-

metheus has arrived from Moreheat City, N. C., bringing the mails and part of the crew of the schooner Robert Carson, wrecked on Hatterss on the 24th, the light at the time bearing W. S. W. Capt. Steward and a sailor named Henry Change The steamer Arago arrived this afternoon from Port Royal. Among her passengers are 47 Union officers, who made their escape from Columbus,

LOUISVILLE.

PASSES FORBIDDEN CITIZENS NORTH OF NASH-VILLE. Louisville, Dec. 29.-By orders from Genera Sherman's headquarters at Nashville, no passes will be issued here to citizens north of that city inless permission is previously obtained from Generais Sherman, Thomas, or the military commandan Lieutenant Colonel W. O. Boyle, son of General T. Boyle, of this city, was killed at Marion, Va., on the 18th instant, while leading his regiment in an engagement with Breckinridge's forces.

Special Correspondence of The Press.

NEW YORK, December 29, 1864. THE LATE WILLIAM CURTIS NOVES.

The Union League Club held a special meeting on_Tuesday evening, for the purpose of passing apposite resolutions and memorializing the decease of this eminent jurist and estimable gentleman Speeches were made by John Jay, Esq., Mr. Parke
Godwin, of the Post, Rev. Dr. Osgood, and others.
Yesterday the New England Society, of which Mr.
Noyes had just been elected president, met for the
sold at 59, and Wyoming at 70. There was less inquiry
Godd Structure of Charles Oakford & Son's, Continents
George Strong & Co.'s Pianos,
sold at 59, and Wyoming at 70. There was less inquiry
Garles Oakford & Son's, Continents
George Strong & Co.'s Pianos,
sold at 59, and Wyoming at 70. There was less inquiry
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George Strong & Co.'s Pianos,
sold at 59, and Wyoming at 70. There was less inquiry
Garles Oakford & Son's, Continents
George Strong & Co.'s Pianos,
sold at 59, and Wyoming at 70. There was less inquiry nent members. The funeral services were held at the Madison-Square Church, presided over by the Rev. Dr. Adams. The ceremony was very largely attended, not only by the judges and members of the bar, but by gentlemen of all the learned profes sions.

MR. JAMES WALLACK.

The remains of this lamented gentleman were in terred at Greenwood Cemetery, on Tuesday. The funeral was accompanied by no estentations display; only the family, personal friends, and leading members of the theatrical fraternity attending. "Wallack's Theatre" now passes, managerially, nto the hands of Mr. J. Lester Wallack. REMARKABLE INSANITY. The residents of Jersey City have recently been

selzed with an insane desire to precure for their somewhat inferior locality the dignity of a United States port of entry. It is designed, of course, to divide commercial interests with New York, which bideous Babylon now quite overshadows aforesaid hideous Babyion now quite creasnatows aloresaid eminently somnolent city. The subject, it is said, will soon be presented before Congress, which, it is hoped, will look with benignant kindness upon the plan, and readily accede to the proposition.

The second insanity is petroleomania, our sombre neighbors having discovered indubitable symptoms of an oily eruption in the vicinity of Hoboken.

None of the precious fluid has yet been detected, but J. C., like Mr. Wilkins Micawber, waits hopefully for something to turn up." DECLINE IN COAL. Twenty-five thousand tons of Scranton coal were

yesterday disposed of at auction, the prices brought being generally lower than those obtained last month. The following statement exhibits the disrepancies : 2,500 tons Stm. Coal.... \$9 57%@9 87% 6,000 do Lump Coal.... \$0 69 90 6,000 do Grate Coal... \$ 00 @9 37% 2,000 do Egg Coal.... \$ 75 @9 00 5,500 do Stove Coal.... \$ 25%@9 75 2,600 do Chestaut Coal \$ 25 @8 60 The leading publishers of New York, Boston, and Philadelphia have met together for the purpose of considering the question of taxes levied upon books, and for procuring such modifications of the existing laws as to equalize the burthen among all who contribute to the production of printed matter. A committee, consisting of the Messrs. Appleton, Harper, and Mason, of New York, Littleton of

Boston, and Lippincott lof Philadelphia, were appointed and empowered to lay the matter before the authorities at Washington. [By Telegraph.]
ABRIVAL OF THE SAXONIA. The steamship Saxonia has arrived. Here adrices have been anticipated. GOLD

1 P. M.—Gold has been as high as 226. It is now quoted at 2221/2.
THE EVENING STOCK BOARD. THE AVENING STOOK BOARD.

10 P. M.—Stocks excited. Gold, 225%; New York Central. 113; Erie, 81; Hudson River, 114%; Reading, 114%; Michigan Southern, 70%; Illinois Central, 124%; Pittsburg and Fort Wayne, 95%; To-ledo, 107%; Rock Island, 103%; Northwestern, 40%; do. preferred, 70%; Fort Wayne, 103%; Ohio and Mississippi Cortificates, 38%; Quicksilver, 100; Maripora, 16%; Canton Co., 35%; Cumberland preferred, 43%.

Public Entertainments. Mr. Forrest's great engagement at the Academy of Music will terminate this evening, when he will appear in his celebrated Roman character of Damon. It is a long time since our citizens have had an opportunity of seeing Mr. Forrest in this role, in which he has achieved so many triumphs. CHRSTNUT STREET, THEATER.—Miss Annie D'Arev. a young lady of this city, will make her first apcearance upon any stage at the Chestnut-stres theatre this evening. She has selected for her debut the character of Julia, in Knowles' play of "The Hunchback." Mr. Mordaunt will enact the part of Master Walter. The farce, "A Kiss in the Dark," will also be performed.

WALNUTSTREET THEATRE -- Miss Lucille Westorn will appear in two widely-different characters, on the occasion of her benefit, this evening. One, the passionate and vindictive Lucretta Borgia, and the other, the gay and careless Don Cæsar de Bazan. ABCH-STREET THEATRE.-Mr. J. S. Clarke announces an attractive programme for his benefit, to night. "Our American Cousin," "Sudden Thoughts," and "P. P., or the Man and the Tiger," certainly give promise of a good evening entertainment. Signor Beitz holds his soirées magiques every evening, at the Assembly Bullding. The Signor is always successful in pleasing his visitors, and those who wish to amuse their little folks should not fall

to take them to see him.

Photographiana.—The last evening performance of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Watkins in this musicodramatic exhibition will take place to night. Their short season in Philadelphia will be closed by a matinee to-morrow.

COINAGE AT THE MINT.

The report of the operations of the Mint and its branches for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1864, exhibits, notwithstanding the disturbed condition of the country, a satisfactory increase over the coinage of 1863.

The amount of bullion received in value at the Mint and its branches during the fiscal year was as follows: Gold, \$23,966,989.92; silver, \$933,818.56; total deposites, \$24,920,808.47. From this total a deduction must be made for the bullion redeposited, or hars made at one branch of the Mint, and deposited at another for coinage. Deducting the redeposites the amount will be \$24.012,741.49.

The coinage for the same, period was as follows: Gold coin, \$21,649.345; unparted and fine gold bars, \$2.283,403.31; sliver coin, \$543,214.10; sliver bars, \$2.283,403.31; sliver coin, \$543,214.10; sliver bars, \$2.283,403.31; unmber of pieces of all denominations coined, 46,838.96.

Since the commencement of coinage in 1797, the value of gold coined has been \$777,421,471; of sliver, \$123,804.937.

FORNEY'S WAR PRESS,

FORNEY'S WAR PRESS,

FORNEY'S WAR PRESS,

FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, DEC. 31, 1864.

I. POETRY—"King Immanuel," by Richard Coe;
"The Quaker Soldier," a tale of three War-Christmases, by George Alfred Townsend.

II. THE BOY THAT WOULDN'T GROW, an original noveletie, by George Steyne—continued.

III. PRESS,

S. T. HOWARD, Deputy 66

Gold opened. at 223, and after rising to Gold opened at 223, and after rising to Gold opened. The following to Gold opened. The follow III. EDITORIALS.The Pall of Se tary Situation—What Next?—The Impending Draft— The Poor of Philadelphia—The Condition of the Rebellion-The Foreign Policy of the United Statesbellom—The Foreign Policy of the United States—
Death's Doings Abroad, &c.

IV. CONGRESSIONAL SUMMARY.

V. WAR NEWS—The Capture of Savannah—Sherman's Christmas Present to the Nation—Account of the
March through Georgia—The Expedition against Wilmington; Detailed Account—Bombardment of Fort
Fisher—Hand's Beheat from Tennesses &c.

Fisher—Hood's Retreat from Tennessee, &c.
VI. CITY INTELLIGENCE—A Statement of Philadelphia Charities—Christmas at the Hospitals—The City Councils and the Draft—Christmas and its Attractions— Skating.
VII. GENERAL NEWS—Opinion of Attorney General er Winter Suit-Indigenous Yankees-Christmas Eve -New England Thrift. IX CHESS DEPARTMENT—Chess News—Problem—

IX. CHESS DEPARTMENT—Uness News—Problem—
Chess in Philadelphia, England, France, and Germany.
X. FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.
AG Specimens of the "WAR FRESS" will be forwarded when requested. The subscription rate for single copies is \$2 per year. A deduction from these terms will be allowed when clubs are formed. Single copies, and unit a wrenness, ready for mailing, may be obtained. put up in wrappers, ready for mailing, may be obtained at the counter. Price five cents. BINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

PHILADELPHIA STOCK EXCHANGE, DEC. 29, 1964. BEFORE BOARDS.

BETWEEN BOARDS.

SECOND BOARD.

200 Walnut Island...si5 2½ 150 GlObe... 11 16

The stock market presented no new feature yesterday; a fair amount of business was transacted at steady prices. Government loans continued in good demand, though prices were weak. The ten-forty bonds declined to 192, it being now generally believed that the issue of that class of securities has not yet been stopped. The IEEI loans sold at 1024; the new reven thirties at 39%, and the five-twenties at 108—no change. State fives fell off %—selling freely at 93. The war loan sixes were also lower, selling at 194. There was a slight decline in the quotation for old city sixes, while the new advanced %, selling at 99. The railway share list was somewhat active at an improvement. Philadelphis and vanced 1/4, selling at 99. The railway share list was somewhat active at an improvement. Philadelphia and Brie rold at 281/2 an advance of 1/4, and Reading at 171/4—an advance of 1/4; Pennsylvania Railroad was steady at 641/2; Northern Central Railroad sold at 651/4, and Camden and Amboy. at 14974. There was a moderate demand for company bonds. North Pennsylvania sixes at 97; Schaylkill Navigation Improvement bonds at 85; Lehigh Valley sixes at 169, and Union Canal sixes at 2224. The coal stocks were more inquired for; there were sales reported of Shanohin at 15; Big Mountain at 61/4; Swatsra Falls at 61/4; Green Mountain at 41/4, and Battle coal at 11. The only thing said in bank stocks were small sales of Union r-railroad sto for the passenger railroad stocks, and the only sales were Fifth and Sixth sireets at 47%, and Green and Coates at 24. There was an active demand for the oils, Coates at 28. There was an active demand for the oils, and prices generally were well systained.

The Board of Directors of the Atlas Oil Company yesterday declared a dividend of three per cant. (Ib cents per share), out of the net earnings of the Company for the menths of November and December, payable clear of State tax. on and after Javaneze 10. of State tax, on and after January 10, 1865.

of State tax, on and alost Jan'uary 10, 1835.
The trustees of the American Life Insurance and Trust Company have declared a dividend of five per cent. out of the profits for the, last six months, payable to the stockholders, clear of all taxes, on and after January with province. The following were the quotations for gold yester day at the hours name id : The max'ret continued very active and excited broughout the day. The advance was owing to the news of the abandonment of the attack on Wilmington The sienial of the fact at the close of business on Wedneyday was followed by a decline, but when the trath of the effair became known the speculators of the mar-

ket seized upon it with avidity, and their efforts to buoy

The following were the closing of Allegheny River. Big Tank. Branden Island. Bruner Oil. Bull Creek..... rescent City. Corn Planter....

up prices, as will be seen by the Lage

Great western..... The intervention of one heliday, and they the close of the year, when there is inlead to the close of the year. incur new obligations, has greatly, much unsettled views of buyers view of the favorable character ttled views of buyers ; ation, attention is being turned to ments at Washington. The following statement shows the of the debt of Philadelphia since made to it since January, 1884, and the templated for the present yea Amount of city debt, January 1 350.... Amount of city debt, January 1 350.... Amount of city debt, January 1 350.... Amount of city debt, January 1 350... Amount of city debt, January I. 1891.
Deficiencies of 1885, as per reported troller
Bounty loan of February 18, 1864.
Two million: appropriated for home

Excess of the appropriations over reven Total authorized indebtedress
Loan of Chestnut st. bridge (reported)
Water loan (reported)
Gas loan (reported)
School loan (reported)
Required for families of volunters
Purchase of ground at Fairmanat
Estimated appropriations from Total city debt at the close of less. Total city debt at the close of it.

A London letter of December 1/22

The Bank of England still malicient, but it is not altogether in the cent, but it is not altogether in the control of the control of the control of the control of the cent, but it is not altogether in the cent of the cent o

The Mercantile Bank at Orange, Ber leclared a semi-annual dividend of Sperg January 3, 1865. January 5, 1865.

The Comptroller of the Currency has its on following circular, denying the privilege to corded, unless in the case of institutionality. corded, unless in the case of institution unfide surplus:

Drak Sir: The Compkroller is of the evid
provision in the act which continuousles ob banks circulating notes equal in amounts of the evid
should be construed as being librated in the institution of the evid of the evid
that have such a surplus as will chance in
the necessary amount of bonds with a
without using in the purchase trered; a
without using in the purchase trered; a
cover when the bonds are worth only put
that its capital in the purchase of out
that extent using other people's money
lation, which clearly was not consenue.

Bonds cannot, therefore, be received a
culation to an smount in excess of the
unless accompanied by satisfactory ev
bank has a surplus sufficients make the
out using funds not in own. Very resbank has a surplus unfficient o make the
out using funds not in own. Very restank has a surplus unfficient o make the
out using funds not in own. Very restank has a surplus unfficient o make the
out using funds not in own. Very res-

United States 52, 1881, coup... 1174; United States 5-20 coup... 1183; United States 5-20 coup... 1083; United States 10-40 coupus... 1014; United States 10-40 coupus... 1014; United States certificates... 663; Reading Railroad... 1144; Pittsburg Railroad... 56

Philadelphia Markets. The demand for Flour is limited, both for home use, and the market is dull at about in Most buyers are holding off for lower price 11 20 for extra; \$11.50@12 for extra family, and?
13 \$\mathbb{B}\$ for fancy brands, according to qualify
Flour is selling in a small way at \$\mathbb{B}\$ \$\mathbb

GROCERIES. —Coffee continues quiet, and w fined in bond, and free at from 02@85c plant quality.

SEED'S —Flaxseed is in fair demand, with said to notice at \$3.85 B bu —Timothy is scare, at at \$6 B bu. Gloverseed comes in slowing sellow, and lots are in good demand at \$14.60(3)5 B 6 lb.

HAY.—Baled is selling at \$29200 B ton.

PROVISIONS.—The market continues which is also are in a small way only at former tellors, is quoted at \$400041 per bbl. Dresselly selling at \$16 60(3)7.00 the 10 bbs.

WHICKY—The demand is limited, but kind firm; about 400 bbls Pennsylvania and the said firm; about 400 bbls Pennsylvania and the said per gallon. firm: about 400 bbls Pennsylvania and the MS per gallon.
The following are the receipts of Flour at 5th this port to-day:
Flour.

ASHES are dull and nominal at \$11.00 in 18 \$12.00 (2012.76 for Pearls.

BREADSTUFFS — The market for State at 18 Flour is quiet, and 6c better Sales 4,00 that \$1.50 for superfine State: \$9.90 (10 for extractive) 7.55 for superfine State: \$9.90 (10 for extractive) 9.00 (20 for choice do; \$8.000 97 for superfine State: \$9.90 (10 for extractive) 19.00 for common to good super up tradical hoop Ohio, sand \$11.10012 for trade brand Southern Flour is firmer. Sales 1,30 brands 19.00 for for common, and \$12.100 for for far for the first superfine su

Chicago Markets, Dec. 27. Wheat opened dull, and No. 1 spring No. 31.63%@1.65, but under a fair speculative dimmarket advanced to \$1.65%@1.63, and continuative the was neglected, and sales were \$1.60 for No. 2 red.
The demand for Flour is very light, and decided fully 25c \$2 bbl. The demand for Flour is very light, and declined fully 25c. B bbl.

There is a good local demand for rejected (This bear is a good local demand for rejected (The market et uled firm and actives afform 55c. according to the location.

Outs are moderately active and easier, with a compared to the location of the locati

CITY ITEMS. TOM THUMB AT COURT.—General Tom L wife, baby, and the diminutive gentlemin were guests of the Emperor of France state degne, on the 7th inst. The offi in connection with the fact, that Tom was still an elegant Court dress that had been made of Rockhill & Wilson, Nos. 605 and 60 C.5 THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR. Those who has subscribed to all of their oil stock have a to finish up, as there will soon be no more as is year. Those who have anything to de ust be up and doing, for, as they say in Now is the best time to visit Chas one-price Clothing Store, under the Co MOST REMARKABLE in its effects, Shift ful in its application, the Fragrant Salais become the most popular dentrities in and 'Tis used and praised by everybody. druggists and perfumers. LADIRS' AND CHILDREN'S HATS-LISTS at Charles Oakford & Son's, Continental his

BURDSALL'S ARNICA LINIMENT, 21 cure for beans, seales, sprains, rheums shot wounds, &c. A single application pain from a burn the instant it is applied GENTLEMEN'S HATS-All the lat-GRORGE STROE & Co.'s Planos, El EYE, EAR, AND CATARRE, SECON by J. Issaes, M. D., Coulist and A. Artificial eyes inserted. No charge, and PURCHASERS May rely upon gelting the at Charles Oakford & Son's, Continue SKATING, SKATING, SKATING ing on the Park, Thirty-first and Walt The ice is strong and fine. SAN'L SINE SKATING.-Elegant skating this Union Skating Park, Fourth and Open daily and illuminated every o 10 o'clock. Take the Third, street cars. M. C. Campbell, LADIES' FUES .- A large assortme

goods, at David H. Solis', 622 Arch street CHERRY RUN OIL PROPERTY FOR SA valuable tract, with this celebrate through its centre. Inquire for a few B. LOVE, 16 South Front street. LADIES' FURS An elegant show the Onkford & Sca's, Continental Hood