

AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN ALMANAC FOR THE YEAR 1865.

Calendar table for 1865 showing months from January to December with days of the week and numbers.

News of the Week.

THE WAR. THE EXPEDITION AGAINST WILMINGTON.

During the last week the public anxiety respecting this enterprise was tantalized by conflicting rumors, coming mainly through rebel sources, and none of them very cheering.

The first attempt upon the fort was a novel effort to demolish it by the concussive power of the explosion of a monster torpedo boat, disguised as a blockade runner, apparently chased by the fleet, and making for the fort.

This was on the morning of the 24th. It was immediately followed by a furious bombardment from the fleet, doing various severe injuries; but at the closing of the night, the strength of the fort was not seriously impaired.

GENERAL BUTLER TO ADMIRAL PORTER.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA AND NORTH CAROLINA, Dec. 25.—Admiral: Upon landing the troops and making a thorough reconnaissance of Fort Fisher, both General Weitzel and myself are fully of the opinion that the place could not be carried by assault, as it was left substantially unimpaired as a defensive work by the navy fire.

General Weitzel advanced his skirmish line within fifty yards of the fort, while the gunboats were kept in their bomb-proofs by the fire of the navy, and so closely that three or four men of the picket line ventured upon the parapet and through the sallopport of the works, capturing a horse, which he brought off, killing the orderly, who was the bearer of a despatch from the chief of artillery of the fort, and also brought away from the parapet the flag of the fort.

My engineers and officers report Fort Fisher to me as substantially unimpaired as a defensive work.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant, BENJAMIN F. BUTLER, Major General Commanding, To Rear Admiral Porter.

ADMIRAL PORTER TO GENERAL BUTLER. NORTH ATLANTIC SQUADRON, UNITED STATES FLAGSHIP MALVERN, OFF NEW INLET, N. C., December 26, 1864.—General:—I beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, the substance of which was communicated to me by General

Weitzel last night. I have ordered the largest vessels to proceed off Beaufort to fill up with ammunition to be ready for another attack in case it is decided to proceed with this matter by making other arrangements.

NEW ORLEANS DATES OF DECEMBER 22, by way Cairo, states that an expedition under General Granger, in considerable force, landed at Pascagoula on the 15th, and pushed rapidly on towards Mobile.

HOOD'S ARMY IS STILL NORTH OF THE TENNESSEE. Gens. Stoneman, Gillem and Burbridge, have returned from their raid into South-west Virginia, having captured 250 prisoners, 13 guns, engines, cars, stores, &c., and destroyed valuable lead and salt works.

DEATH OF GEORGE M. DALLAS.—The announcement of this event, in the papers of Monday morning, took us by surprise, as it was only two or three days since we had noticed him on the street, looking, as we then thought, hale for his years.

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JOHN HUSS; OR, THE BOHEMIAN REFORMATION OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY. By the Rev. E. H. Gillett, D. D. BOSTON: GOULD & LINCOLN.

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A PICTORIAL DOUBLE NUMBER. The Pictorial Journal and Life Illustrated, for January, appears with 32 quarto pages and a beautiful illustrated cover.

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More than 3 per cent. per Month from the start. There is room on the land for several more wells, two of which will be immediately commenced by the company, and in which we shall have the same interest as in the Jersey. The character of this property as oil land is well known; it is only necessary to say that no well on it has ever failed in getting oil, while it has already produced the Maple Shade, the Coquette, and the Jersey.

No. 2. Twenty-five acres in fee on the east side of the Allegheny River, opposite the mouth of Big Sandy. This tract has about forty rods' front on the river, and contains a large amount of boring surface. Oil wells yielding largely are found near this property; among them the Hubbs, the Hoover, &c. The company intend to proceed at once to develop this fine property, and feel sanguine of success.

No. 3. A lease of fifteen years on the Win. B. Wilson Farm, on Slippery Rock Run, in Lawrence county, Pa. Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 are also leased on Slippery Rock Run, containing four hundred acres in all. They were obtained in 1864, by Dr. Egbert, and continue for fifteen years from their date. They secure to the lessees all the oil and other minerals contained in the several tracts, with the right to divide and sublet, with all other rights and privileges connected with the business of mining for oil, coal and other minerals, and reserve a royalty of only one-eighth of said oil or minerals.

The Slippery Rock Territory is a new and only partially developed oil region; but the success already obtained there and on the Mahoning River, a few miles west, together with the large quantities of oil found north, south, east, and west of it, leads us to hope that it will prove a successful oil region.

The company have already an excellent engine, tools, and all necessary fixtures on the ground, with a well partly down, and shall proceed to develop the property as fast as possible.

These lands and leases were all selected for the oil purposes by the President of this company, whose great success in the oil business, sterling integrity, and force of character are too well known to require comment here.

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