

BUYER AND PORTER.

A Champion Arises to Defend the Conduct of the Admiral.

THAT LITTLE FLEET OF MORTARS

Played an Important Part in the Capture of New Orleans.

ANY AMOUNT OF STRONG EVIDENCES

In your issue of May 5 I was very much surprised to find General Ben Butler accusing Admiral David D. Porter of cowardice and turning tail to the enemy.

Now, I have the honor of a command in the navy under Porter, and know that he has not a cowardly bone in his body.

I have the official reports, to the Secretary of Navy Farragut, Porter, and all the other navy commanders engaged in that celebrated conflict, and think it seems very much to me that a General who cannot truthfully claim a single military success.

Now for the record. March 16, 1862, in a letter from Farragut to Secretary Welles he says: "Captain Porter has arrived with his mortar fleet. I shall push things forward with all possible dispatch."

April 2 he says: "On the first day of the fire they shot through one of the mortar vessels and killed one man; the second day they sunk one with a rifle shot. They have sent down five more. I sent Commander Bell last evening to destroy the mortar fleet across the river, but he could accomplish but little in consequence of one of his gunboats getting on shore, and he was only saved by great exertion, and he was only saved by them all the time. Commander Porter, however, kept up such a tremendous fire on them from the mortars that he was obliged to discontinue his operations, and the cable was separated and their connection broken sufficiently to pass through on the left bank."

MORE PROOFS.

At anchor off New Orleans, April 25, he says: "About 3.30 A. M. I attacked Fort St. Phillip and Fort Jackson with my little fleet, while Commander Porter most gallantly bombarded them from the river, and then in flank with his steamers. I have not heard what became of the gunboats Kennebec, Itasca and Wisconsin. I then sent two gunboats to aid General Butler in landing at the quarantine, and sent him a communication by Commander Porter, requesting him to come at once. I shall now send down with this letter Commander Smith in the Mississippi to look after General Butler."

On the 29th he says: "I am taking every means to secure the occupation by General Butler of all the forts along the coast. On the evening of the 29th, the fleet arrived from below with the gratifying intelligence that the forts had surrendered to the navy, and that the forts had been taken and the public property and were being paroled, and that the navy had been made to surrender unconditionally, and that had conducted themselves with the faith, bearing and sinking their vessels while a flag of truce was flying."

On the evening of May 7, 1862, Captain Bailey, in a letter to the Secretary of the Navy, says: "Both forts surrendered to Commander Porter, who was in command of the vessels of his fleet. As I left the river General Butler had garrisoned Forts St. Phillip and Jackson."

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I advised that the accounts were having a such made at the Department for the rank of the Harriet Lane, Porter's flag ship at the time, to be given to the admiral to the enemy. I am under the impression that he will have to go to Galveston, and that he will be there in the month of January 1, 1863, and Commander Walworth and her executive officer, Lieutenant Commander Lea, were killed, with several of her crew.

In conclusion I will only give you an extract of a congratulatory letter from the Secretary of the Navy:

"The important part which you have borne in the capture of the forts and the movement on New Orleans has identified your name with one of the most"

on record, and to your able assistance with the fleet is Flag Officer Farragut much indebted for the successful results he has accomplished. To yourself and to the appearance of the mortar fleet the department extends its congratulations. I am respectfully, etc."

THE MORTAR FLEET OF NEW ORLEANS. To Commander D. D. Porter, commanding U. S. sloop of war Portsmouth, New Orleans, La. I could give you more detailed and satisfactory account, but I think I have proved that the accounts are true, and that you know of Butler's vindictive disposition and that he never forgave Porter and Terry for their capture of Fort Jackson, and that he denounced the enemy who was turned tail to the enemy on that occasion? J. R. certain it was not Porter.

SISTER SUE'S BUDGET.

A Resume of the Week in Local Religious and Charitable Circles.

A PRESBYTERIAN ministers' club is among the interesting items talked of in clerical circles. Nothing will be decided upon until after the next meeting.

The coming of Miss Johnston from the Plymouth Church, Church Street, will be gratifying to lovers of the cause of the colored people. She is expected to arrive on the 25th of June.

CHILDREN'S DAY occurs on the 25th of June in almost all Protestant denominations. As a rule special care has been given to the appearance of the church; in some instances the floral decorations are more elaborate than usual. The morning service is, as a rule, given up to the children.

It is in every way a season of picnics upon us, and the different churches are busy closing their contracts for a "picnic day" at one of the many beautiful spots in the city. The picnic is held on our own city, and the average small child comes to Sunday school with a look of anticipation that will break no denial.

A PROPERTY has at last been decided upon for a children's hospital in the East End. It is located at a point on the shore of the city, and is the property of the late Mrs. M. C. Smith, and is now being sold by the executors of her estate.

THE ladies managers of the Home for Aged Men, located at Wilkesburg, will hold their annual fair and lunch May 30. Lunch will be served from 12 o'clock to 2 o'clock. Great pains have been taken to make the affair a success, and the fair will be a very interesting one.

THE missionary circles of the Fourth Presbyterian Church give their annual entertainment next Friday evening, the 25th of May. The special feature of the evening will be a "dag-gone" wedding. The sum expended for the entertainment is \$1000, and the sum expended for the "dag-gone" wedding is \$500.

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NATIONAL GUARD NOTES.

MAJOR WALTER GREENLAND, Quartermaster of the Second Brigade, was in the city during the week on business.

NEXT Saturday the State Fencibles of Philadelphia will celebrate the seventh-anniversary of the organization of the corps.

MAJOR HAYMAN's first instructions in the military art was an active member of the Washington Infantry previous to the war.

THE usual order for Memorial Day has been issued by Captain Shannon of the Washington Infantry. This company will go to the East this year as escort to Fort Pitt.

RETIRES of the local regiments will turn out on Decoration Day with the Grand Army, although both have received invitations. Several companies, however, will parade indifferently.

This inspection of Battery B takes place next Wednesday evening, after which an election will be held for Senior First Lieutenant and Captain, the commissions of Captain Hart and Lieutenant Shepherd expiring by limitation on the same date.

CAPTAIN E. MORGAN McCOMBS, who has been connected with the guard in this city for many years, is under the treatment of a physician, having almost entirely lost the use of his vocal organs. Captain McCOMBS speaks of retiring from military life permanently.

FENCIBLES' ALIENISTS of the 2nd Brigade of the 60th Regiment of the Pennsylvania State Militia are \$28,878. The regulations provide that requisitions for militia supplies must be made to the Quartermaster, State and Territories direct to the Secretary of War.

THE total number of men in line from Pennsylvania during the Centennial parade was 7,064. The First Brigade furnished 2,338 men, the Second Brigade 2,372, and the Third Brigade 2,354.

MAJOR FRANK PATTERSON, Inspecting Officer of the Second Brigade, is having re-enrolled sufficiently from his fall in New York City to continue the spring inspections, Captain Porter, Hamilton, of Warren, has been detailed to inspect the 2nd Brigade, and Captain J. R. Murdoch, of the Second Brigade.

GOVERNOR REAVEL has not as yet signed the bill appropriating \$200,000 for the militia. While it was generally understood at first he was going to veto the measure, it is now believed that he will sign it.

A PETITION signed by the commanders of the different organizations has been forwarded to the Governor, asking that the date of the coming summer encampments from July to August. The country regiments will be greatly benefited by the change, as many of their men are engaged in the city, and do not leave their private interests so early in the summer.

THE formation of a battalion of colored companies is being very strongly agitated in the eastern portion of the State. There are 8,000 colored men in the militia, and the National Guard by one company of 60 men, the Gray Invincibles, of Philadelphia. As several of the companies are organized, among them the 1st and 2nd of this city, the organization of the militia is being very strongly agitated.

THE Fourteenth Regiment has about decided on Salisbury as the location for the next encampment. The Regiment is to be held at Salisbury, and the location is being very strongly agitated.

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STILL IN GOOD FORM.

Local Business Moving Along Very Nicely for Torrid Weather.

A NEW IDEA CONCERNING PARKS.

Prominent Men Keeping an Eye on the Diamond Street Railway Scheme.

ALLEGHENSE PEOPLE ORGANIZE A KICK

The business situation last week was featured so far as new developments were concerned. There was a fair movement in most of the staples, and prices were well maintained.

Iron was an exception, being both dull and weaker. Oil was traded in on a generally lower level, but it rallied yesterday and closed steady to firm. Stocks were dull and neglected, with no material change in prices.

The number of real estate transfers recorded during the week was 216, representing \$400,524. Business in mortgages was light.

The agitation in favor of public parks—breathing places for the people—bids fair to result in something tangible, sooner or later. On this subject a business gentleman said yesterday: "I am in favor of parks, the more of them the better. I would like to see one in every ward of the city, if that were possible. Right here I want to make a suggestion. You may remember that eight or nine years ago what was called the marginal railroad scheme attracted considerable attention, the scheme being to build a road around the city, and to run a street car on it. It was killed in this water front by a hot fire. Now why couldn't this water front be taken from Smithfield street on the Monongahela, and around the point and up the Allegheny to Sixth street, be converted into a boulevard? Piles could be driven and the space filled up to almost a level with the city. It is a comparatively small cost. The ground is almost worthless as it is. It is not needed for business purposes and the city, to which it belongs, could well spare it for the purpose. It would be a grand idea, and it would be a grand ornament to the city and it would be a grand benefit to the entire population. I think the idea is entirely practical and I am certain it could be carried out at a less cost than most of the other schemes that have suggested."

The building trade was a lively element in local business affairs last week, the number of permits taken out for 74 against 65 the previous week. The total cost of these buildings is estimated at \$1,383,700. Dwellings were in the majority, but there was a larger number of public buildings, and a number of houses were taken out by Mr. Magee, for a residence to cost \$25,000. The next largest was for the Hines school building, to cost \$24,000, and the third largest was for a building to cost \$18,000. The present quarters being too small and inconvenient to meet all requirements. Pittsburg is growing.

There was considerable talk among business men yesterday concerning the possibility of a street car line from the Diamond street car line to the city. It was suggested that a street car line be run from the Diamond street car line to the city. It was suggested that a street car line be run from the Diamond street car line to the city.

It is quite probable that the three troops of cavalry and the three batteries of artillery in the State will go into camp next summer at Mr. Gretna. The location is being very strongly agitated.

THE report of the Adjutant General for the year 1888 was placed in the hands of the printer yesterday. The report is a very interesting one, and it is being very strongly agitated.

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SOMETHING GOING ON.

Local Clearing's Home Figures Show Large Gains Over Last Year.

Business at the banks was of the usual routine character yesterday, the aggregate of the transactions being satisfactory for the season and the weather. The clearings for the week are over \$2,000,000 larger than those for the corresponding period of 1888, showing that something new is going on. The following figures show the result:

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