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The Pittsburgh Gazette.

VERY LATEST NEWS

VIA TELEGRAPH.

FROM FORT FISHER.

Advance of Our Forces Toward Wilmington.

GEN. TERRY HEAVILY REINFORCED.

Wilmington Reported Evacuated.

FALL OF CHARLESTON HOURLY EXPECTED.

Probable Capture of Rory Blockade Runners.

NEW YORK, Jan. 23.—A Philadelphia dispatch to an evening paper says: By the arrival of a steamer we learn that our entire force, under Gen. Terry, advanced towards Wilmington, and were reinforced by a heavy column of veteran troops from the South, believed to be under the command of General Howard.

There was no heavy fighting on the 18th or 19th, and it was thought our troops were meeting with little or no opposition.

An unconfirmed report was in circulation that Wilmington was evacuated, and would be at once occupied by our troops.

Light draft gunboats were moving cautiously toward Wilmington, fishing for torpedoes.

There was no doubt that our troops would soon take Wilmington, and the fall of Charleston was hourly expected.

NEW YORK, Jan. 23.—The *Commercial Advertiser's* Washington special says: Important military news from the South is looked for here hourly. Gen. Terry has force enough to reduce Wilmington, while Sherman, with the additional force placed at his command, can walk through North Carolina.

NEW YORK, Jan. 23.—In addition to the five blockade runners captured at Wilmington, it is said there are twelve or fifteen still due from Nassau and Bermuda, their captains being ignorant of the altered situation.

THE EXPLOSION AT FORT FISHER.

Mr. Blair's Visit to Richmond.

SENATOR FOOTE REFUSES TO BE RELEASED.

COLONEL GREGSON'S RAID THROUGH MISSISSIPPI.

Pirate Semmes in Richmond.

NEW YORK, Jan. 23.—The *Times's* Fort Fisher correspondent says: The explosion of the magazine was caused by the carelessness of our men who were indiscreet enough to go with lighted segars, and lit candles while inside. They were cautioned but paid no heed. The total losses during the fight will not exceed four hundred, and the loss by the explosion about two hundred; more must be added for the navy. Colonel Alden, of the 169th New York, was mortally wounded by the explosion of the magazine, and died the next morning.

New York, Jan. 23.—The Herald's Washington special has various rumors concerning Mr. Blair's visit to Richmond. One is, that Blair brought autographic letters from Davis to Lincoln, saying he was ready to treat for peace, and that a communication from Lirtlob has been taken back to Richmond, expressing a willingness to accept peace upon Washington terms. It will be remembered that Washington took for important results from Blair's second visit to the rebel capital.

A Richmond paper appears on the Richmond side of the question, which says: "After every month that the rebels may fall, and policy and interest would realize the rebels to submit to the Dahlgren rather than to England, or to Maximilian. We feel more military sympathy for Lincoln than for any other sovereign on the world.

On the other hand, the Richmond editors, in view of the fact that they have lost all of the exception of any consequence, make great efforts to prove these disasters a blessing. They say it is better for the South, that the conscription must be vigorously enforced, and that every one who can must fight.

The Richmond *Whig* says that the negroes in the prison of Mr. Wells make better soldiers than white men ever fifty.

Richmond Whig of the 19th says that Gov. Pickens, of South Carolina, says he is out of the service and regrets that he could not serve with the rebel soldiers.

Senator Foote refuses to be released, and insists upon a trial to show the cause of his arrest.

Capt. Semmes has reached Richmond.

The *Herald's* New Orleans despatch gives the particulars of Gregson's late great raid in Mississippi. They confirm previous reports of his great success. They marched 300 miles, captured more than 100 men, captured 600 prisoners and brought in 1,000 contrabands and 1,000 horses, besides destroying 100 miles of railroad.

The *Herald's* American correspondent makes important developments in regard to the intrigue now in progress there to bring about the absorption of the Spanish American Republics by Maximilian's Empire, through French money.

PAYABLE EARLY EXCHANGE OF ALL PRISONERS.

THE MASTER IN GRANT'S HANDS.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—It appears from a communication of the Secretary of War that the entire subject of an exchange of prisoners is now placed in the hands of Lieutenant General Grant, and that although only partial exchanges have been carried on made, there is reason to believe a full exchange will soon be effected.

The Recently Surrender—Increased Pay to Army Officers—The Peace Question.

NEW YORK, Jan. 23.—There is to be an investigation of the surrender at Beverly. It is said that the rebels had as many prisoners there as they had men to guard them.

A special to the *Post*, dated Washington, 23d, says: In the House Military Committee have agreed to report a bill to increase the pay of army officers.

Mr. Blair is expected to return from Richmond tomorrow or Monday. Up to Friday last the leading Republicans scouted the idea that there was any foundation in the current peace rumor. Mr. Blair has not reported interviews with the President and Jeff. Davis upon the subject.

From California.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 21.—The monitor Camanche sailed late yesterday, and has sailed on her trial trip to Mare Island navy-yard, where she will be fitted up for service. Commander Woodworth will probably take charge of her.

The *Honduras* with the Sonoma has arrived from Mariscos ports with $107,000 in gold, and twenty 3000 sacks of silver ore.

The receipts of bullion since the 17th inst. foot up $1,891,000.

Exchange is unsettled, owing to the eastern fluctuations in gold. Currency bills are at 97 per cent. premium; Telegraph transfers 3½ per cent., and coin bills 3½ per cent.

Cavalry Fight near Columbus, Ky.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 23.—The *Commercial's* Cairo dispatch says that Lieut. Wesley, in command of a company of Tennessee Cavalry, left Columbus, Ky., on the 16th, and when ten miles out encountered two hundred rebels. A fierce fight ensued, lasting half an hour. The rebels had two killed, one wounded, and five taken prisoners. No casualty on our side.

It is reported that from five to ten of Forrest's command come and take the oath daily.

Overland Mail Matter Dispatched.

NEW YORK, Jan. 23.—Eighty bags of California mail matter, which had accumulated here, were dispatched by the Isthmus route, in the steamer Queen, to-day. This matter was sent west to Atchison, Kansas, and some of it went to Julesburg, 80 miles farther, but as the railway practically hold 500 miles of the plains, it had to be returned to this city. It is thought regular communication will not be resumed before June.

Gold.

NEW YORK, Jan. 23.—Gold market quiet. The recent speculative movements appear to have closed, and the market awaits the conclusion of the session. The price, at four o'clock this afternoon, was 1.....

Arrival of the Hotel-Ship at Savannah.

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