THE PRESS PUBLISHED DAILY (SUNDAYS EXCEPTED.) BY JOHN W. FORNEY. OFFICE, No. 111 SOUTH FOURTH STREET. WHE DAILY PRESS.

EIGHTHER CERTS PER WEEK, payable to the Carrier. Halled to Subscribers out of the City at Eight Dollars PER ANNUE, FOUR DOLLARS FOR SIX MONTHS, TWO DOL-LARS FOR THREE MONTHS—invaliably in advance for the Advertisements inserted at the usual rates. Six lines constitute a square. THE TRI-WEEKLY PRESS,
Malled to Subscribers out of the City at Four Dollars
Per Annox, in advance.

SPRING MILLINERY.

SPRING MILLINERY. The undersigned has now open a HANDSOME STOCK OF

RIBBONS, SILKS, CRAPES. ILLUSIONS AND LACES. Also, a splendid assortment of

FRENCH FLOWERS. Gensisting of fine ROSES, ROSE BUDS, fine GRAPES, and FRUITS, All of the most fashionable shades and styles.

RIBBONS AND FLOWERS Of last season's importation, will be CLOSED OUT VERY CHEAP. M. BERNHEIM. No. 726 CHESTNUT STREET.

STRAW GOODS, 1863. FRENCH FLOWERS. LACES AND BIBBONS, OF THE LATEST FASHIONS. JUST OPENED

THOS. KENNEDY & BRO.'S, No. 729 CHESTNUT Street, below EIGHTH. mh31-2m

1863SPRING BROOKS & ROSENHEIM, (Late Rosenheim, Brooks, & Co.), No. 431 MARKET STREET, North Side, Have now open, and are daily making additions thereto

A HANDSOME VARIETY OF RIBBONS, BONNETS, MISSES' AND CHILDREN'S HATS, FLOWERS,

MILLINERY GOODS IN GENERAL, to which the attention of the trade is respectfully solimhis-2m

MISSES O'BRYAN, 1107 WAL NUT Street, will open PARIS MILLINERY
FOR THE SPRING, on THURSDAY, April 9th
ap7-lm*

1863. R I B B O N S

MILLINERY GOODS. 4L. DANNENBAUM & CO., No. 57 North SECOND Street, w open a large and admirably-assorted stock MERCHANTS and MILLINERS
Will find inducements in styles and prices unequalled

1863 S P R I N G 1863 WOOD & CARY. No. 725 CHESTNUT STREET,

STRAW AND MILLINERY GOODS,

STRAW HATS AND BONNETS.
MISSES' AND CRILDREN'S STRAW GOODS.
FANCY AND CRAPE BONNETS. FRENCH FLOWERS, RIBBONS, &c. CASH BUYERS will find special advantage in examin-ing this stock before purchasing. fezs-2m

MILLINERY STRAW GOODS.

JOSEPH HAMBURGER

25 SOUTH SECOND Street,
Has now open a large stock of Ribbons, Artificial Flowers
&c., to which he respectfully invites the attention c
Milliners and Merchants. Goods received daily from
New, York auctions.

mh24-2m* CIGHTH-STREET RIBBON STORE No. 107 North EIGETH Street.
We would inform our customers, and the ladies generally, that we open this day a full and uery superior stock of MILDINERY AND STRAW GOODS, for the

Spring and Summer seasons, which we are prepared to offer, wholesale and retail, at the most reasonable prices No. 4 CORD-EDGE RIBBONS, all colors, \$1 per piece, No. 5 CORD-EDGE RIBBONS, all colors, \$1.25 per BLACK VELVET RIBBONS, every width, superior quality.
BEST BLACK VELVET RIBBONS, with white edges, BONNET SILKS of every shade, plain and plaid.
BONNET GRAPES, LACES, ILLUSIONS, BLONDES,
DRNAMENTS, &c.
FRENCH APTIFICIAL FLOWERS, a superb variety,
et than unit prices. at the usual prices.

STRAW BONNETS, the fashionable shape, in braid,
split straw, and hair; white, gray, and black.

INFANTS' HATS'AND CAPS, every new design, all ualities. LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S SHAKER HOODS. THE BEST NEW YORK AND FRENCH BONNET RAMES, lower than they can be bought elsewhere, by

ne dozen or single.

Give us a call.

No. 107 North EIGHTH Street. CARPETS AND OIL-CLOTHS. RCH-ST. CARPET WAREHOUSE. JOS. BLACKWOOD, TWO DOORS BELOW NINTH (South Side), FOR SPRING TRADE,

A rich and extensive assortment of ENGLISH AND AMERICAN CARPETINGS. Of the best makes, Embracing all the new styles, which are offered AT LOW PRICES FOR CASH. JUST RECEIVED.

3,000 ROLLS

CANTON MATTINGS, To which we invite the attention of the trade.

M'CALLUM & CO., NO. 509 CHESTNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA

E M O V A L J. T. DELACROIX, STOCK OF CARPETINGS, From 47 South FOURTH Street, to his NEW STORE,

No.37 SOUTH SECOND STREET. Where he offers to his old customers, and purchasen generally, a LARGE AND DESIRABLE STOCK OF CARPETINGS. of all grades, and best known makes.
OIL CLOTHS; MATTINGS, AND WINDOW SHADES,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.
AT THE LOWEST PRICES. J. T. DELACROIX,

No. 37 SOUTH SECOND STREET, above Chestnut, GLEN ECHO MILLS, GERMANTOWN, PA. M'CALLUM & CO.

MANUFACTURERS, IMPORTERS, AND DEALERS, 509 CHESTNUT STREET, (Opposite Independence Hall,)

OARPETINGS OIL CLOTHS, &c. We have now on hand an extensive stock of CARPET-

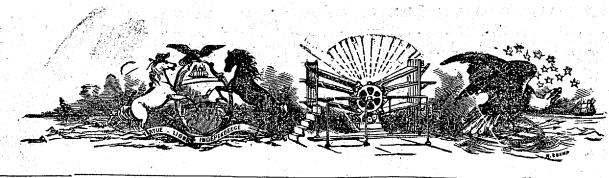
INGS, of our own and other makes, to which we call the attention of each and short-time buyers. fel6-3m SEWING MACHINES. SEWING MACHINES.

THE "SLOAT" MACHINE. WITH GLASS PRESSER FOOT,
NEW STYLE HEMMER, BRAIDER,
and other valuable improvements. THE TAGGART & FARR MACHINES. Agency—N. E. sorner NINTH and CHERRY Streets.

SINGER'S SEWING MACHINES, For Family Sewing and Manufacturing Purposes. 810 OHESTNUT STREET.

MACKEREL, HERRING, SHAD. A. de. de. 2,500 Bbls Mass. Nos. 1, 3, and 8 Mackerel, late-caught tish, in assorted packages. 2,000 Bbls. New Eastport, Fortune Bay, and Hallfax lerring.
2,500 Boxes Lubec, Scaled, and No. 1 Herring.
150 Blus, new Mess Shad.
250 Boxes Herkimer County Chesse, &c. 100 Bbis, new Mess Shad.

200 Boxes Herkimer County Cheese, &c.
In store and for sale by MURPHY & KOONS,
[al44] So. 146 North WHARYES.



VOL. 6.—NO. 217.

COMMISSION HOUSES. CHIPLEY, HAZARD, & HUTCHINSON; No. 112 CHESTNUT STREET, COMMISSION MERCHANTS, FOR THE SALE OF PHILADELPHIA-MADE GOODS.

OUR SPRING STOCK IS NOW AR-

80,000 DOZEN HOSIERY. AT LOWER PRICES THAN PRESENT COST OF IM-PORTATION.

THOS. MELLOR & CO., 40 AND 4% NORTH THIRD STREET, PHILADELPHIA. JOHN T. BAILEY & CO.

BAGS AND BAGGING OF EVERY DESCRIPTION, NO. 113 NORTH FRONT STREET, WOOL BAGS FOR SALE.

GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS. 606. ARCH STREET. 606. FINE SHIRT AND WRAPPER DEPOT. AN ELEGANT ASSORTMENT OF GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS, AT MODERATE PRICES. FOUR PREMIUMS AWARDED FOR

SHIRTS, WRAPPERS, AND STOCKS. G. A. HOFFMANN, Successor to W. W. KNIGHT. 606 ARCH STREET. 606. THE FINE SHIRT EMPORIUM,

Nos. 1 AND 3 NORTH SIXTH STREET. JOHN C. ARRISON;

IMPORTER AND MANUFACTURER OF GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING GOODS IN GREAT VARIETY AND AT MODERATE PRICES. Shirts, Collars, Drawers, &c. FINE SHIRT MANUFACTORY.

The subscriber would invite attention to his IMPROVED CUT OF SHIRTS, ch he makes a specialty in his business. Also, con Which he makes a specialty in his business. Also, stantly receiving.
NOVELTIES FOR GENTLEMEN'S WEAR. J. W. SCOTT,

GENTLEMEN'S FURNISHING STORE,

No. 814 CHESTNUT STREET,

Four doors below the Continental. ja20-tf

CLOTHING.

Fine Clothing, Made up early, for Spring and Summer Sales, now ready, WANAMAKER & BROWN, "OAK HALL," S. E. cor. 6th & Market.

DESIRABLE INVESTMENT. PRICES SURE TO ADVANCE.

MEN'S AND BOYS' WEAR. CASSIMERES.

NEW DIAGONOLS. NEW MIXTURES.

NEW COLORS. NEW 6-4 COATINGS. NEW 6-4 MELTONS.

LADIES' CLOAKINGS. BOYS' CLOTHING READY-MADE. BOYS' AND MEN'S CLOTHING MADE TO ORDER. COOPER & CONARD. S. E. corner NINTH AND MARKET Sts. JOHN KELLY, JR.,

TAILOR, HAS REMOVED FROM 1022 CHESTNUT STREET,

EDWARD P. KELLY'S, 142 South THIRD Street,

Where he presents to former patrons and the public the advantages of a STOCK OF GOODS, equalif not su-perior, to any in the city—the skill and taste of himself ity—at prices much lower than any other first-class esta blishment of the city.



RURNITURE.

A LARGE ASSORTMENT,

W. & J. ALLEN & BROTHER, CABINET FURNITURE AND BIL-

MOORE & CAMPION, No. 261 South SECOND Street, In connection with their extensive Cabinet business, are now manufacturing a superior article of BILLIARD TABLES, nd have now on hand a full supply, finished with the MOORE & CAMPION'S IMPROVED CUSHIONS.

shich are pronounced by all was superior to all others.

To the quality and finish of these Tables, the manufort the quality and finish of these Tables, the manufort pair to their numerous pair one throughout the facturers refer to their numerous pairons throughout the Union, who are familiar with the character of their work.

PAPER HANGINGS. PHILADELPHIA PAPER HANGINGS.

HOWELL & BOURKE, CORNER OF FOURTH AND MARKET STREETS. MANUFACTURERS OF

PAPER HANGINGS AND WINDOW CURTAIN PAPERS, Offer to the Trade 2 LARGE AND ELEGANT ASSORT-MENT OF GOODS, from the cheapest Brown Stock to N. E. COB. FOURTH AND MARKET STREETS. N. B.—Solid Green, Blue, and Buff WINDOW PA-PERS of every grade. fel7-2m NEW GOODS! NEW GOODS!-WE wall preceiving from factory new patterns of wall PAPERS, to which we invite the attention of dealers in Paper Hangings.

In our retail department we have paid special attention to tasteful designs suiting Philadelphia taste. Rooms papered by selected men and warranted to give satisfaction.

JOHN H. LONGSTRETH, ap6-1m*

No. 12 North THIRD Street.

KERR'S FURNISHING, CHINA AND GLASS ESTABLISH-MENT, CHINA HALL, 529 CHESTNUT STREET, RECTLY OPPOSITE INDEPENDENCE HALL, PHILADELPHIA. Hotels, restaurants, and shipping supplied. China and glass packed in a proper manner.

N. B.—China decorated to order; also, initials and erests elegantly engraved on table glass.

Orders by mail promptly attended to. mhi?-im PHILADELPHIA, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 1863.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 1868.

For a week past we had various indications that the rebels contemplated an attack upon this post in force ; perhaps anticipating that all our available uch details of the cmeute as came under my ow observation.

nmense force of the enemy was approaching th town. The excitement which prevailed among the civic portion of our population, for a while, defies description. Women and children ran wildly about, with no apparent purpose but to add to the con usion. Men of ordinary intelligence and large famiies looked as though frightened out of their wits, nd there was unusual bustling, and shouting, and packing up of goods. General Peck hurried forth from his headquarters sprang into his saddle, and dashed off at a tremen-dous pace. Turning the first street corner, his horse tumbled, and the General was thrown to the ound, and considerably injured. In consequence of this most untimely accident, he was compelled to use a carriage, in which he was driven rapidly from point to point, and from which the necessary orders

vere rapidly issued. The rebels were approaching the works by two

Atlength, about dusk, they were compelled to give vay before the brisk shellings to which the gunboats treated them, and retired rather precipitately to s distance of five miles. Their numbers are not defi-nitely known. Numerically they are, perhaps, tronger than us. Colonel Gregg, of the 115th New York Regiment, estimates that they were fifty thousand strong. Previous to their retreat, a notable incident, illustrating the accurate aim of our sharpshoppers, occurred. The rebels had got possession of one of our abandoned signal stations, outside of the town, and one of them mounting to the top of it-a height of about a hundred feet—began to wave a fiag, as moliced, another company of rebel troops, moving though transmitting some message. Captain Arnold, ed to a position about eighty-five rods from the station, where the rebel cavalry could not reach them.
One of the men then "drew a bead" and pulled trigger. As the smoke curled away, we could see the rebel fall from the tower, and whirl downward through the air like a log, the signal-flag fluttering behind him. No more rebels were seen to climb to the top of the station during the day. Before the skirmishing had commenced, General Peck ordered all the women and children to leave the town—an order which it is almost needless

to say most of them had anticipated. oulsed with great slaughter.

the day.

They move very cautiously and slowly, so slowly

hat we can hardly believe they are in motion. The

Weehawken must certainly be within half a mile of

been placed. The problem will be solved definitely

lown heavily on the scene like a pall, and threatens

to interfere with our view of operations, although our

we can readily perceive the smell of burnt powder

None of the batteries on Morris Island have vet

lable guns that human ingenuity ever devised!

udices single-handed.

dozen black spots, which we presume to be the mo-

nitors; and dense clouds of smoke. There is little

else for the keenest eye to see; little else for the

proken silence, although the Weehawken and Pas-

pefore many minutes have passed.

SKETCH OF COLONEL KIMBALL.

Depredations on our Commerce BY PRIVATEER SAVANNAH. -Brig Joseph, Myers, May), sugar. By Steamer Nashville.—Ship Harvey Birch, Nelson,

July 9, missellaneous; brig John Welsh, Fifield, July 6, lumber.

By Privater Alarama—Bark Alert, Church, Oct. 16; brig Alabama, Oct. —; ship Benjamin Tucker, Sept. —; ship Brilliant, Geo. Hager, Oct. 3, missellaneoun schooner Courser, Oct. —; schooner Crenshaw, Meison-Oct. 26; brig Chastelaine, Warren, Jan. 23, brig Dad, kirk Johnson; bark Elisba Dun har, David R Gilffor, Sept. 18; ship Golt en Eagle, Swift; bark Golden Rule Whitebury, Jan. 26; G. B. Halterns, Partidge; ship Levi Starbuck, Mellen, Dec. 12;—bark Lamplighter, Harding; bark Laurette, Wells; ship Lakayette, Small. — Manchester; ship Ocmulgee, Osborn; ship Ocean Rover, Oct. —; bark Olive Jane, Kailock, Feb. 21; bark Parker Cook, Fulton, Nov. 30; schooner Palmetto, O. H. Deland, Feb. 27; schooner Starlight, Oct. —; ship John A. Park; ship Bethial Thayer.

By Privater Flouida—Schooner Wathergaage, Oct. Oct. —; ship John A. Park; ship Bethial Thayer.

By Privater Flouida—Schooner Wathergaage, Oct. Oct. —; ship John A. Park; ship Bethial Thayer.

By Privater Flouida—Schooner Madheran, Hand, March —; brig Corris Ann, Small, Jan. 26; brig Estella, Brown, Jan. 21; ship Jacob Boll, Trisbee, March 2; ship Star of Peace, Hinckley, March —; ship Washington; White, Feb. 20; brig Windward, Roberts, Jan. 26. Arrival of the California Battalion.

NEW YORK, April 14.—The California battalion, three hundred and thirty seven strong, under Major Thomp-son, arrived in the steamer Ocean Queen, and will go to Boston this afternoon, to join the Massachusetts cavalry

O Malik

SOUTH ATLANTIC SQUADRON. CHARLESTON EXPEDITION. A SPIRITED ATTACK ON THE REBEL DEFENCES.

Much Injured.

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA,

The Rebels, Forty Thousand Strong, Advance Against the Federal Position of Suffolk-They are Shelled by the Guirboats and Retreat Five Miles-The Attack Expected to be Renewed—General Keyes in Command of our Forces.

[Special Coveragonal of The Press] Special Correspondence of The Press SUFFOLK, Va., April 12.

troops had been sent to Charleston, and that succes would be easy. How delusive the anticipation roved you have doubtless already learned by tele graph; and it is my purpose now simply to give you About four o'clock yesterday (Saturday) after-noon, the long roll was beaten, and instantly the startling news spread from mouth to mouth that as

ads, and apparently in divisions of equal strength. One of the divisions came forward by the South Key road, and the other came by the Western road. They were about three miles distant, and had merged from the cover of the woods in line of bate. A body of our troops, including cavalry, moved out about half a mile from the works- to meet them and some skirmishing ensued. The casualties on ur side were few, and the enemy, who suffered considerably from the fire of our gunboats on Nansemond river, did not seem inclined to approach much nearer the town, which is encircled with well-contructed lines of breastworks, and has likewise seven

The troops slept upon their arms last night. At two o'clock this afternoon, as I write this, the enemy

are again in sight. It is their purpose, if possible, to attempt the capture of both Norfolk and this nost. If they should be rash enough to attempt to arry the works here by assault, they will be re-Gen. Keyes has arrived here from Norfolk, and is in ommand of the troops. Gen. Peck's injuries are not very severe. He is riding around in a carriage Capt. Bowditch, of Vermont, commissary of subsistence, was killed on Wednesday. He was riding upon a train of cars which in some manner ran off

the drawbridge. COL. KIMBALL ACCIDENTALLY KILLED. OOL. KIMBALL ACCIDENT MEMBEL, of the 9th New, York Volunteers (Hawkins' Zouaves), is dead. He was accidentally shot. Capt. Graham. Acting Colonel Edgar A. Kimball, reported killed as a native of Vermont, and for many years was onnected with the New York *Herald* establishment. mile ahead of us, and about two ships lengths of General Hunter's flagship, Ben de Ford. The shots all fall wide of the mark, and the Bibb does not trouble herself to hoist anchor. and blowing off steam. The rebel ram has again made her appearance, and again retired under the cover of Sumpter's walls. The battery above Breach Inlet still fires with some approach to regularity; but the gunners now seem to be wholly intent upon getting the proper range to salute the fleet when it shall advance 1.30 P. M.—The iron-clads have at last begun t move up the main ship channel, and in the following order, as nearly as we can perceive : Weehawken.

Action pressing out of the Araban war de received a commission as captain in the 9th Regiment United States Infanty (regularin), dating from March S. 1847. He was brevelted major for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battles of Contreras and Churubusco. The brevet was dated from August 20, 1847, and was awarded in August, 1848. He also became distinguished in the battle of Chepultepec Those who knew Major Kimball newhort be told how brave and undanted abattle. It was a splendid to the ment of the control who have a sit did the applause of the country when it heard of it. His regiment was disbanded on the 26th of August, 1848, and Major Kimball left the service and received an appointment in the New York custom bouse.

The breaking out of the rebellion brought from his privacy the subject of our sketch, and on the 13th day of May, 1861, he was commissioned major of the 9th New York State Volunteers, better known as the Hawkins Zouaves. The regiment, which was enlisted for two years' service, was first sent to Fortress Monroe and afterwards to Newport News, where it formed a portion of the late General Mansfelried to Fortress Monroe. When General Mansfelried to Fortress Monroe. When General Burnside organized his North Carolina expedition the 9th New York Solunteers was one of the regiments selected, and was attached to General J. C. Parkes' brigade, the 3d of that division. It will be remembered that at the battle of Roanoke, on February 7, 1862, Major Kimball led the 9th Zouaves along the causeway at a double quiek to storm the rebol works, which were carried at the point of the bayonet. This was one of the most between the part of the pa

From memoranda kept by Captain J. H. Upton we have arranged the following list of captures by

By STEAMER NASHVILLE.—Ship Harvey Birch, Nelson, November 19.

By PRIVATEER SUMPTER.—Brig Albert Adams, Consins, July 3, sugar; brig Benjamin Dunning, Farney, July 3, sugar; brig Guba, J. G. Foster, July 1, sugar; bark Eben Dodge, Hoxie; schooner Golden Rocket, Fendleton, July 4, in ballast; bark Louisa Kilham, White, July 3, sugar; brig Machias, Shoppey, July 3, sugar; brig Naiad, Chase, July 2, sugar; bark West Wind, Saunders, July 4, sugar; bark West Wind, Saunders, July 4, sugar; bark Neapolitan, Burdett, Feb. 5; schooner Baniel Trowbridge, W. H. Morrow.

By PrivATEER CHAIOUN.—Schooner Transit, H. Knowles; schooner Herbert, Martin.

By PRIVATEER CHAIOUN.—Schooner John Adams, C. B. Areral, May — oils; schooner Mermaid, Soper, May — oils; brig Panama, Cook, May 24, oils.

By UNKNOWN PRIVATEER.—Schooner A. B. Thompson, J. M. Small, May, 19, in ballast; brig B. T. Martin, French; brig Hankin Balch, Matthews, sugar, &c.; brig Lydia Frances, Campbell; schooner T—

By Steamer, St. Nicholas.—Schooner Mary Pearce, June—, ice; schooner Maryarett, June—, coal; brig Monticello, Hopkins, June 29, coffee.

By PrivATEER ERF. Davis.—Schooner Enchantress, Devereaux, July S, miscellaneous; schooner J. R. Watson, Eddridge; schooner S. J. Waring, Smith, July 8, miscellaneous.

By Philvateer Ech. o—Schooner Mary Goodell, McGilmiscellaneous. BY Privateer Ech. o—Schooner Mary Goodell, McGil-ey, July 9, sugar; brig Mary E. Thompson, Havener, uly 9, miscellaneous; brig John Welsh, Fifield, July 6, lumber.

depths, and to survive in the memory of men, as ong as history shall live, it was astonishingly tame nd prosy. If the iron-clads had been mere calculating machines, and were simply vieing with Forts Moultrie and Sumpter to work out a problem of

rithmetic, it would have possessed almost as much Two Hours' Sharp Fighting. nterest, except, of course, in the associations connected with it, and the results anticipated to flow from it. Fort Brauregard, for instance, would five five guns, like a country schoolmaster giving out an easy aum to the monitors, that stood ranged in a THE SINKING OF THE KEOKUK. New Ironsides Hard Aground, but not row like pupils. Then the Weehawken or the Passaic would be silent for five or ten minutes, hesitating to speak, as though befogged by the smoke. Having been silent long enough to reckon up the THE CASUALTIES VERY LIGHT natter on their fingers, as it were, they would roar Outan answer, and move forward a bittle nearer to "head." To an unsentamental observer, it must WALLS OF FORT SUMPTER BREACHED. have verged slightly on the confines of tedium; but still it was historical, and consequently it must have been sublime. The Attack Temposarily Postponed.

3.15 P. M.-Our entire fleet has not fixed more than THE RETURN OF ARMY AND NAVE TO three hundred that have come from the enemy. HILTON HEAD. AB! now there is a prospect of novelty in the proramme. A rebel iron-clad is reported to have just THE VALUABLE INFORMATION ACQUIRED. appeared in view south of Sumpter. She is, no loubt, the same craft that appeared to us this for noon. She is not particularly gratified with the ap-Latest Rebel Reports. pearance of our iron-clads, and in a few minutes gracefully retires behind the scenes. Meanwhile-MONITORS REPAIRED AND RETURNING. the Weshawken, still in the advance, has moved up the channel slowly, but irresistibly as fate, without

encountering any of the torpedoes that were supposed to cross from Moultrie to the shoals. The Battle on the Coosaw River-The Gunboat George Washington Destroyed. other ifox-clads follow her at intervals of about a fourth of a mile, and, of course, share in the warm THE FIRST DAY. scention which greets her from nearly two hundred pieces of artillery. And now the Ironsides, On Board the Nantasket, Off Charleston, Tuesday, April 7. having come within close range of Sumpter, one of [Special Correspondence of The Press.] In my last letter I informed your readers that the the southeast barbettes is trained upomber. The shot ichochets, however, and falls short. iron clad fleet about to assault the defences of 3:20 P. M.-Just here on incident of an extremely. Charleston, was yesterday occupied wholly in a se udicrous character occurred. Our steamer, the ries of preliminary manœuvves which had resulted Nantasket, is lying now in the North Channel, and in their getting safely within the bar, where they anchored for the night. Let me now proceed to narrate, in the disjointed form of a diary, which lack of Breach Inlev is over three miles to our right. We Gen. Hunter's flag-ship, De Ford, having a hawser time compels me to adopt, the occurrences of to-day to the latter. We are the only three craft in the vi-cinity, all others having retired to a more respectful At ten o'clock this morning we streamed out to the New Ironsides-ostensibly for the purpose of deliver ing some letters to her officers, but really with a de distance from the scene of operations. Of course, all sign of seeing whatever was to be seen in the shape eyss are turned westwardly to Sumpter. Suddenly of news, and taking note of it to print. The mam . Tribune correspondent, looking north, exclaims moth battery (on hazy mornings, at a distance of a mile, we have several times mistaken her for For from the battery above the Inlet, " a little feather of Sumpter) lay, within a mile of the Morris Island now-white smoke" is curling upward: A second shore. She was ready to go into action, as was the passes—a shot screams overhead—and then a scene f panic and confusion prevails for a moment on the rest of the fleet, as soon as the signal should be given. Her decks were covered with sand-bags, which were being moistened by water romenade desk, to which nothing but the pencil of played from a hose; her iron-plating was coflat upon their faces as though stricken by a sudder vered with a thick coat of tallow; her guns thrust palsy. Our captain disappeared upon the instant, and is not seen for at least an hour after. The tall their grim muzzles at us frowningly through the open ports, and through these ports the gunners' form of the pilot is seen to glide down one of the. gangs to the main-deck like an arrow, while a numcrews could be seen ranged at their quarters. On the bleak, desolate waste of sand that marked the ber of demeated beings are scrambling down the ladcoast, we could plainly perceive, without the aid of der, which upsets itself just in that critical moa spy-glass, hundreds of rebels moving about and ment. It is questionable whether the darkest watching us with a surious interest. Just back days of the French revolution could equal the apiece of the main group, a battery, which was believed to be the battery above Morris Island off the Ben De Ford's hawser; we are steambeacon, was faintly discernible. It was the first ing away to a safer spot at the rate of

thirteen knots an hour, and then a roar of laughter rebel work we had seen, and appeared to be fully manned, while, in addition to the men we had first announces that every one is willing to regard the noticed, another company of rebel troops, moving incident as a joke. In the twinking of an eye, too, with regularity, came marching down towards it. the Do Ford hauls up anchor and follows. The shot This was one of the three or four coast batteries which was intended for us must have miscarried upon which the tenure of Cummings' Point depend- for it had struck her rigging, catting it, grazed her ed, which accounted for the number of troops posted to hold it. They did not deign to fire a single shot our distance from the battery (at least three miles), ments were carefully noted by them, and transmitted last shot they fired, during the day, struck the water to Charleston by means of signals. Having watched just in the spot we had vacated. Some of the De to Charleston by means of signals. Having watched them until we grew blind, and the Ironsides not. Ford folks tried, in a most unchristian spirit, to giving any indications of an intention to begin the create a laugh against us, but a witty correspondent fight, for a little while we proceeded to the mouth turned it off with the remark that we had "silenced of the North channel, to await the developments of the first battery, anyhow!"

3.25.—The Ironsides pours a broadside of seven guns against the northeast face of Sumpter. Shortly opens fire briskly, but certainly not in the expectaafter this she got aground, owing to the great diffition of reaching the iron-clads, which are all out of culty experienced in steering her, but managed range. Still, the firing is continued with much refortunately to get affoat again. The Patapaco has just managed to get within a few hundred yards of the northeast face of Sumpter, and is "blazing away" with comparative impunity. The barbettes seen bursting in mid-air or casting up spouts of water, that bubble up here and there in the channel like so many fountains. In a little while a rebel gunboat nnot reach her, and the fire of Fort Moultrie does is seen moving down the channel between Cum as much damage to Sumpter as it does to the little mings' Point and Sumpter. Her progress is marked wasn. She will not be easily dislodged. with breathless interest, and the prospect of an ex-3.45.-As far as we can see through the curtain of smoke the satire fleet is now in action, firing very slowly, however, in comparison with the enemy, whose guns make one continuous roat, varied with eagerly discussed. But in ten minutes comes disapatment, for the rebel craft has changed her so sharp, cracking report occasionally, as though of Charleston and the flag on Castle Pinckney are their armament embraced some unusually formidable rifled guns. The fire from Sumpter is not as heavy now plainly in sight in our present position; for we have moved up the Sullivan-Island channel, and as it was half an hour ago. Her first shot at the Breach Inlet is somewhat over two miles to our right. Keokuk entered the aft turret of that yessel, and it very soon became evident that she gould not with-About a mile above Breach Inlet, on Sullivan's Island, is a splendidly-constructed sand-battery, mounting several 200-pound rifle guns. They have stand the hot fire to which she was subjected, her great surface rendering her a more const just opened on the iron-clad steamer Bibb, which had been taking soundings in the main channel for three hours past, but is now anchored a quarter of a draw the fire of Sumpter themselves.

than were the monitors. Several of the latter, there ore, interpose themselves to shield her, and thus 4.10 P. M.-The Ironsides, for some inexplicable cause, is coming down the channel again. It is feared that she has been disabled, and yet there ar no signs of injury visible, and from the freedom o otion it is clear that her machinery is all right The fire of Sumpter has slackened very considerably and the principal portion of the work has devolved upon Moultrie, Battery Beauregard, and Battery Bee. The Keokuk lies probably three hundred yards from Sumpter, and has fired two of her guns A tremendous fire is concentrated upon her. The onsides seems to have ceased work for the day. 5 P. M.—The monitors do not respond to any fire but that from Fort Sumpter, and are making the most of what little daylight remains, by trying to batter in the northeast wall. The Ironsides is again aground, and is being partially shielded, as the Keokuk was, by the interposition of a portion of the fleet, which previously, for an hour or more, had been hammering at the southeastern angle of Sump-ter, and, unless our glasses greatly deceive us, had

effected a breach near the parapet. There is a magazine in this corner, so that their purpose was very 5.20 P. M.—The firing has ceased for to-day, and the fleet is coming down in the track of the Tronsides. The Weehawken is loth to leave, and lingers the narrowest portion of the channel, where it is not mpossible that torpedoes or other obstructions have behind until sunset. The Ironsides fires a parting salute to Cummings' Point, but the rebels make no The Keokuk has come out of the struggle in a northeastern barbette guns, and speedily she is enmost dilapidated condition, having suffered worse eloped in a dense volume of smoke that settles than any other vessel in the fleet. She was struck three hundred times, her armor was pierced completely through in four or five places, and in her bow there is a hole big enough to thrust a man's ittle steamer is not three miles from the fort, and head in ; and to make the matter as bad as nossible Besides, the atmosphere, which was clear as crystal it is but a few inches above the water line. Nine of in the forencon, has become most annoyingly hazy, her crew, including Commander Rhind, were wounded. The wounds were all caused by fragand our observations are anything but satisfactory. ments of flying bolts, and none of them, except in saic have passed directly in range of them. What head, will result fatally. The Keokuk cannot g every part of her armor, like so many plums in old rebel system of tactics-apparent inactivity and You recollect the negro, Robert Small, who ran off from Charleston, some months ago, with a rebel schooner and crew, and took them to New York. where he became quite a lion for a time. When his fame had lulled a bit, he came down to Hilton Head, and started an oyster saloon. Well, Robert is pilot of the Keckuk now, and one better acquainted with the vagaries of Charleston harbor would be hard to find. Of course, he was in the pilot-house to-day,

coup? That is the only explanation generally accredited. Ten minutes pass—ten minutes of wonder and strange anxiety, and fruitless speculation—and then the silence is disturbed by the heavy boom of Fort Moultrie's first gun. Then, before the smoke has fairly rolled away, two other guns from the sand batteries just below Moultrle add their mon the Weehawken. Still, unchecked, the callant and of course he enjoyed an excellent opportunity of viewing the fight. He declares positively that they little battery moves up the channel with the dauntless air of conscious impregnability, and with a silence which cannot be provoked into reply. She turns neither to the right hand nor to the left, but ran to within 120 yards of the fort. If he had his way the Keokuk would have been run right up to the wharf. In fact, he was very much excited, and exclaimed: "We'll fight'em muzzle to muzzle, d—n proceeds directly onward in her course with a steadlness that never wavers in the hottest fire. It is a grand spectacle, worthy to be perpetuated on imperishable canvas, to see that little vessel, a mere 'em " Commander Rhind, though quite as earnest of purpose, had more self-control, however, and speck upon the waters, yet freighted with how many halting at a distance of about four hundred yards gallant lives, gliding so calmly through the flery from Fort Sumpter, he flung his vessel round, intemnest, and under the muzzles of the most formitending that the front turret should attend to that stronghold; and the aft turret to Moultrie; but as 2.32.—At last the Weehawken deigns to reply to have said, the very first shot received fr the fire of Sumpter, from which she appears to us to first-mentioned fort knocked the aft turret, metahe about half a mile distant. She is, therefore, diphorically speaking, into "pi," and sealed the muz rectly under the cross fires of Cummings' Point and zle of its gun with silence. It was not many mi-Moultrie now, and several shells have just burst nutes after, that another shot entered the pilotabove her. Attached to her prow is the torpedo house where Robert was taking his observations. raft for blowing up obstructions, which was invented by Captain Ericsson. Captain Rodgers was Of course it startled him a little, as it would have startled the bravest man on earth, but his coolness the only commander in the fleet sufficiently un-prejudiced to be willing to accord it a trial. He did never once deserted him, and his temper was equalized almost at the same moment by noticing a not attach it to his vessel in the manner designed 'cart-load of bricks," as he expressed it, flying by the inventor, but fastened it on with chains. He from the northeast walls. That fact helped much to was unwilling to have the torpedo suspended from the front of the raft; perhaps apprehending that it calm down the aggravating circumstance, that during the entire action the vessel was only able to might damage himself more than the enemy, as it explodes by friction, and an accident might easily I visited the unfortunate craft this afternoon just after she came out of the engagement. Captain Rhind had been struck above the right ankle with a occur in manœuvring in such a narrow channel The general objection urged against the employment of the raft, when the several commanders fragment of bolt, but the wound, although painful, was not of a serious character, and he was giving were applied to some days ago to test it, was the assumption that it would interfere with the steering lirections to his officers with his usual demeanor. He informed us that the rebel fire perof the vessel, which, upon experiment made at Port Royal, was found to be not the case. But the exfectly rained upon their armor. It was one continuous clatter, and about as deafening as the din produced in a boller-shop when eight or ten hundred periment was postponed unnecessarily for twentyfive days, and after it had taken place, it failed to men are hammering away simultaneously. The simplest orders had to be shouted in stentorian tones, silence opposition. It is the misfortune of inventive genius that it must fight against a host of pre-

o that some of the officers became hoarse, and 3.05 P. M.—The contest has fairly begun, and all aggravated. The bolts flew in all directions (as Sumpter belches forth flame and smoke and the they did in the original Monitor when she fought the Merrimac), and consequently the iron-plating leaviest of shot from her southeastern barbettes. The Weehawken does not respond for a full five became strained or loosened, and the vessel began minutes. Both she and the Passaic have contrived to leak before night had set in. From the Keokuk we proceeded to visit the iron-clad steamer Nahant. Upon inquiry it was ascerto get within close range of the fort, and for a time are hidden from our view in smoke. They seem to have got so close that the barbette guns of the fort tained that she had been less unfortunate, but that she had nevertheless sustained damage. One of her cannot be sufficiently depressed to bear upon them, and the lower casemates have accordingly comcrew was killed, and three were wounded. Commenced to thunder away. The Patapaco and Monmander Downes received a slight wound in the foot, but, like the commander of the Keokuk, he was "ir-repressible." His vessel had done good service, until tauk have now taken a hand in the contest, the roar of which has become almost deafening. The very heavens shake with the echoing peals of the artillery, and even the waters of the harbor seem to be upheaving. And yet there are no grand salient features of the seene before us to invite graphic descence or other refused to revolve. The mission of the seene before us to invite graphic descence or other refused to revolve. The mission of the seene before us to invite graphic descence or other refused to revolve. scription. A naval engagement is a totally different affair now-a-days from what it was in 1812, in the chief was easily repaired in a couple of hours tonight, and at this writing she is perfe days of the Constitution and Guerriere.

The tools wherewith men manufacture history join in the engagement to-morrow should it be re-The Montauk fired twenty-eight shots, exceeding have been improved beneath the magic touch of sciin this respect every other monitor. Although exposed for two hours to the concentrated fire of the ence; and now we see nothing of "grim-visaged war" but a massive stone forfress, and some half a heaviest artillery, including, it is believed, several

of the Blakely guns, neither her deck nor turret

was anywhere pierced or shattered. She bears an

else for the most vivid fancy to grasp, or the most not be quite as symmetrical as she was yesterday; graphic pencil to record in striking colors. For an affair destined to stir the heart of the nation to its as ever, and her officers and crew have confidence that she is it vulnerable against any ordnance that can be broug ht to bear upon her by the enemy—a feeling not in spaired in the least by the singular circumstance to lat but one of her crew was killed, being struck by a piece of bolt. His name I have not yet learned. The Catskill was not severely damaged, although struck thirty-two ti mes. No casualties occurred on

board of her; nor w. as there anything novel or exciting in her experies tee. She simply did the work assigned her in a plain business way, and came out of the conflict as neat i n appearance, and as sound in all her vital parts, as when she entered it. Her commander, George Rod, vers, received the signal to retire with anything but satisfaction, and is only anxious that operations n. ay be resumed "the first thing in the morning." The Ironsides reserved one shot in her starboard bow, which was atopped by h er barricades of sand-bags placed on deck. One of ther ports was carried

completely. The numb or two port on her starboard side was struck; on e of the bolts was twelve shots in reply to the two hundred and fifty started, and another carried as vay. Of her other misfortunes—of her getting twice aground, I have already informed you. The diffic ulty lay partly is her steeling gear, and partly in the narrow size o the channel, occupied as it was by the other eigh ron-clads: I regret to have to say it lat she fired but eight guns in the engagement; one bro adside of seve guns into Sumpter, and one gun at Out umings' Point. She at one time approached to within 1,200 yards of to her at that range; although; from her e normous ex tent of surface, she at once became a ta rget for the rebelgunners. At the council of war he ld on board lier last night. Admiral Dupont resolved to go in in advance of the other iron-cladk, and to thtack the porthwest face of the fort, provided it v 7as found practicable to get high enough up the channel, the walls being weaker on the sides nearest Ch arieston as we already too well know. Another ad wantage expected to be gained by this plan lay in the fact est it would render Cumminger Point and Fort Wagoner impotent for harm, while the enemy ould not concentrate an heavy a fire upon us above as below the fort. But it was found that if the Fron be so cramped for room that they could not be cope rated to as much advantage, while the impossibilit of forcing a channel through the first line of ob struction, and thus getting above the fort, wa Weehawken, which attempted the task. Had one of the monster torpedoes containing 800 pounds of powder been attached to her raft and exploded gainst these obstructions, it is possible that a char el might have been cleared. It is even claimed that torpedoes of the same description can clear

hannel fifty feet wide. But the experiment was not tried, and the fleet could not ascend the harboraccordingly, they did the next best thing, and concentrated their principal fire against the northeast The Nantucket did not get off scot free, Her fifteen-inch gun was disabled; and her turret dented in at least a dozen places, but she sustained no more serious injuries. Commander Fairfax is impatient for the morning, that he may avenge these indignities. He declares vehamently that he can reduce Fort Sumpter to briefedust in three hours; and I may say that, making due allowance for metaphor use, there are many officers in the fleet who do not regard the pulvarization of the grim fortress

impossible. There were no casualties on the Nan The Wrehawken asported herself in the coolest, most energetic, and methodical of styles. Leading the fleet, she moved as far up the channel as it was Her officers state that they could see them arranged in three lines. The first lines were not permanently fixed, but floating to some extent. Back of this there appeared to be a row of beer barrels, in connection with heavy chain cables. What other obstructions were to be encountered could not be seen. There were no casualties on board the Weehawken She fired twenty six guns, the majority of which struck the northeast wall of the fort. The Patapsco met with a little adventure that deserves to be recorded among the narrow escapes. While cruising around—in the endeavor, I presume, to slip through the obstructions-she b solicitude of Commander Ammen at this untoward less, he cooly issued the requisite orders to the enineers : they reversed the engines, and, after fiftee ninutes of tugging, the vessel managed to extricate herself from her unpleasant dilemma. The rebeland at once perceived the situation she was in, and

did their best to nenaturate or sink her in both or which views they were thwarted. Not a life was ost nor a wound received on the Patapaco during the day.

CASUALTIES ON THE KEOKUK. Captain Rhind, slight contusion above right Alexander MoIntosh, acting ensign, several ounds in face and forehead, and skull fractured; Charles McLaughlin, seaman, wounded in right W. McDonald, seaman, wounded, slightly in left mee and wrist. David Chaplin, seaman, contusion in left side. James Ryan, seaman, wounded in right thigh; Charles B. Mott, landsman, slight wound in left Henry Snolls, seaman, wounded in scalp; not

Richard Nicholson, quartermaster, slight wound n left sho CASUALTIES ON THE NAHANT. Commander John Downes, wounded slightly in Edw. Cobb, quartermaster, skull fractured, dan-Isaac Sofield, pilot, wounded in neck and shoulder. J. McAllister, seaman, wounded in head by piece of bolt. One or two others received slight wounds

The rebels principally fired the English steel con cal shot. Their most effective batteries were Forts Moultrie and Beauregard, the latter being a small earthwork beyond Moultrie. From these almost a continuous fire was kept up. The fire from Sump ter, on the contrary, was intermittent, sometimes ceasing for three or four minutes together. (hu monitors did not average over fifte taking the whole engagement, as will be seen by the following approximate statement: Weehawken....

The above is made up partly from actual count, and partly from the statements of commanders, so that I am unable to youch for its entire accuracy. The total, however, cannot be far wide of the mark. No return was received of the number of guns fired by the Nantucket. To-night another council of war will be held on thn Ironsides. What the nature of the deliberations will be is of course only known to those who have been summoned to be present. If the question b as I surmise it is, whether the contest shall be renewed to-morrow, I feel confident it will be settled affirmatively; for, with the exception of the Keokuk, the damages inflicted upon the iron-clads, although disabling several of them for the time, are slight, and such as can be speedily rectified. All

that they accomplished to-day was a most daring re-

connoissance; nor, in view of the fact that opera

think that anything more was intended to be account

plished. The real work, the hardest portion of the fighting, yet lies before us. The council held last night was prolonged far into this morning, not breaking up until 1 o'clock. The determination arrived at, after mature consultation was that the engagement should be continued to day; but it has not been. Not a gun has been fired by either belligerent. The roughness of the water and high wind have put a check to operations to-day. The fleet lies at anchor in the inside channel, the vessels maintaining the same relative positions as when they ceased firing yesterday. They do not lie wholly out of range of the land batteries, but the rebels are not disposed to be troublesome while they Vet there is one piece of important news which regret to say, must be recorded here. The Keokuk sunk at twenty minutes past 8 o'clock this morning She now lies in the main ship channel, off Morris Island, just above Lighthouse inlet. All her officers and crew were, fortunately, saved, and were taken off in the navy tug. As I informed you yesterday, she leaked badly when she came out of the action. but her pumps were set to work, and it was thought she could be saved. The large hole in her bow, however, finished her career for her. At low tide her turret, smoke-stack, and flagstaff can be seen. She can no doubt be raised; but whether she can be made serviceable in her former capacity is, in my

opinion, questionable. At any rate, it seems impro-bable that she can be refitted up in time to assist the fleet in the struggle just insugurated.

This morning both cannonading and musketry vere heard in the direction of Folly Island. It is believed that several regiments of our troops have been landed on the island, and that the rebels on the southern extremity of Morris Island have been provoked thereby into making some demonstration against them. Concerning our army movements however, it is best that I should be silent for the present. General Hunter's combinations have not yet been entirely perfected; but, with favorable weather, little delay can occur from this cause. This afternoon the rebels were seen to be busily engaged throwing up earthworks on the lower en of Morris Island. 'Hundreds of them could be seen at work with pick and spade and wheelbarrows and some heavy guns have already been mounted They seem determined that we shall not find them

THE THIRD DAY. THURSDAY EVENING, April 9. Nothing has been done by either party to day, looking to an immediate renewal of hostilities. With the exception of the Patapsco, (which has THREE CENTS

gainst a raid of one of the Savannah rams.) and the Keokuk, the iron-clads have remained at anchor in the main channel, extending over a length of about two miles. Although within range of Fort Wagoner, Battery Bee, Battery Beauregard, Fort Moultrie, and, apparently, not out of range of Sumpter, they have not been molested. Whatever may be th eason, the enemy do not seem at all disposed to precipitate affairs. Perhaps they are now engaged in repairing, as far as possible, the injuries they have received; for we know, to a certainty, that they suffered somewhat, although to what extent, we must denend mainly upon the statements of the Charleston It is known that one of Sumpter's barbettes was

nounted by a shot from the Nahant. One of her officers states that on the northeast face of the fort. which received our severest fire, three of the portholes, viewed through a glass, appeared to be knocked nearly into-one. A portion of the brickwork had evidently been battered away, for the masonry was of a different color. As I reported in Tuesday's letter, a breach appeared to have been he parapet. Then Robert Small's statement that "saw a cart-load of bricks flying," is reiterated by numerous observers, and is entitled to some creence. About half-past three o'clock on Tuesday ifternoon, when the rebeis were firing at the rate of 3 guns perminute, a dense cloud of smoke suddeny rose from Cummings Point, and was instantly lowed by a tremendous report. It is believed by some that one of the enemy's magazines must have exploded. The volume of smoke was so heavy that t was seen a distance of ten miles, and for aught I now, even further. With this exception, I think it will be found that none of the rebel works but Fort Sumpter were materially harmed, for the fleet did not respond to their fire. It is incomprehensible to many that the Keokek. with a greater thickness of armor than the Ironsides, constructed upon the turret' principle, and present ing far less surface to a fire than the flag-ship, should have fared so much worse. The Keokus was pene trated through her armor in four or five places, and in some cases by round shot. The Ironsides was not penetrated through her armor at all; and beyond the fact that one of her ports was carried away, and a round shot was found rolling about her deck when the fight was over, there was little in her external appearance to insicate that she had been exposed for two hours to a terrific bombardment. To Partly, I think, to the fact that the Ironside plating was backed by wood, and was thus, in som degree, yielding; partly to the fact that she did not ppreach closer to Sumpter than 1,200 yards, while he Keokuk ran up to within 400 yards; but mainly to the fact that the rebels adopted the shrewd policy f concentrating a tremendous fire on the Keokuk, with the design, which was accomplished, of placing destroy our fleet in detail, if possible. On the other not so well adopt the same plan of attack against any one of their forts, singly, for our iron-clads, in whatever position they may assume, are at all times ubject to a cross-fire from beavy rifled guns, throw ing steel pointed shot. Of cowies, these difficulties, were seen in the he

ginning. They have not surprised us in the least and yet they seem to have assumed all the force of novelty since Tuesday. I do not mean that we have become disheartened. T believe that Admiral Dupont and General Hunter are just as sanguine of success to-day as they have-ever been. But I beieve further, that they do not expect to reduce this stronghold by two or three-days! bombardment. It ay require two or three weeks of the very hardes fighting. Indeed, General Hunter, vesterday, remarked: "It may take us a month to capture Charleston." So, it is possible that there may be postponement and unaccountable delay—unac ern people, who cannot fully appreciate the magnitude of the task, as compared with the means of ac complishment. They may study their maps, and count up the strength of the land and naval forces gathered here, but still they cannot reduce to figure the chances of success or failure. The most trivial circumstance may upset, all, our calculations—a single storm may scatter this fleet to the thirty-two points of the compass, and render futile the prepara tions of a year. But while there may be anxiety. and impatience, and restlessness to gather in the fruits of victory, there cannot finally be such a thing as failure. I believe that success lies within range of our monitors, gans; but if we can take monitors, we shall have cause for congratulation. It is astonishing how closely Yankee enterprise follows in the track of war. At Stono Inlet, six or

seven miles from here, there are half a dozen sutler's schooners, the sangaine proprietors of which chartered them, freighted them with such goods as of treason," when it should be taken, and followed in the wake of the iron-clads. These meannever for a moment contemplated the possibility of weeks of delay: they imagined that the most exciting portion up. Consequently, some of them have been de pressed in spirits. They will write home dismal let ters, predicting national ruin and foreign intervention; and the letters will be published in Coppe head journals as so many arguments in favor of s norable peace. Meanwhile, those of the sutlers who rashly speculated in provisions will find ways as this that accounts of disasters to our arms came to be disseminated in the North, and implicitly believed in by the credulous. The wounded of the Keokuk and Nahant have been removed to the hospital-boat Cosmopolitan The schooner Recruit, belonging to the Sanitary Commission, was towed up; on Tuesday afternoon, by the hospital boat to a position where she might be of service if required. Four representatives of the Commission were on board: Dr. Page, Dr. Morris, W. B. Roberts, Esq., and Mr. Spaulding. Their services thus far have not been in request.

morrow, if the weather favors, to raise the Keckuk. If she can be raised, and I do not see that there will be much difficulty about it, she may yet be of considerable service as a ram, if not as a gunboat. Her machinery is in good working order, and her armor plating on the larboard side is not pierced anywhere. On the starboard side it will require to be wholly renewed. The shot holes in her smoke stack do not mount to anything. It is a most remarkable fact that, although so many of her men were struck by the flying pieces of bolt, not one of them was killed and it is still more remarkable that but three lives were lost in the whole fleet. How forcible an illus tration of the perfection to which the art of war has attained! The most formidable means of attack the most invulnerable and scientifically defences; a terrible collision of over two hours; tremendous roars of artillery that shake the heavens; tremendous clouds of smoke that veil the sun, and only two or three fatal casualties! How much more deadly has been many a firemen's fight in Philadelphia! Truly Mars is being shorn of his glory, and

THE FOURTH DAY. FRIDAY EVENING, April 10. operations for a little while. It was intended to attempt the raising of the Keokuk this afternoon, at ow tide, but, of course, postponement is necessary The steamer Dirigo, upon which the task devolves, arrived here this forenoon. She is provided with a derrick, from which a massive chain-cable depends and this is in some manner to be attached to the sunken vessel. Judging from her stolid appearance her lifting power must be immense, and no doubt is

entertained that she will succeed in her undertaking.

the ruddy light of his star begins to pale.

So, although fitted for an entirely different purpos (which cannot now be disclosed, but will be when the fight is renewed), she will be usefully employed in the parenthesis of quiet which it seems we are now promised. None of the officers of the Keokuk, singular as it may sound, saved any of their valuables, vet the vessel was leaking so badly at two o'clock on Wednesday morning, that every one on board knew she must go down. They certainly should have had ample time, between two o'clock and twenty minutes nast eight, to pack up their "portable ness that they escaped so well. that it is part of General Hunter's plan of one rations to land a force of troops either on Folly Island or on Morris Island, and thus take the Cum mings' Point Battery, Fort Wagoner, and the other works bearing on the main channel, in the flank and rear. At any rate, as was reported several days ago, they have made extensive preparations to inder such a movement, should it be attempted. Nevertheless, if any portion of General Hunter's army is ordered to take Morris Island, Lifeel certain that the order will be executed; and it seems to me that the Ironsides, with her long-range guns, could pour such a raking fire into the triple line of enrenchments, commanding the southern and as would speedily render them too hot for rebel oc-I know not while I write this letter whether I shall be allowed to send it to you; for the news correspondents have come to a mild type of grief. Hitherto they have had no cause to complain of their

treatment in this department. Gen. Hunter has always treated them courteously, and extended to them such facilities for news-gathering as properly lay within his power. His chief of staff, Genera Seymour, has, however, for reasons only known to himself, chosen to adopt the contrary policy. Or Wednesday he informed the correspondents that they would not be allowed to send North any account of the fight. Thereupon, one of their number waited upon Gen. Hunter, explained to him that private letters had already been sent to Hilton Head to be mailed North, and that the Northern people would be filled with anxiety and gloom by the exag gerated reports of the retirement and discomfiture of gerated reports of the retirement and discompture of our fleet. The general admitted the correctness of this view, and at length consented that the mail should be sent, that the Northern public might know the true state of affairs. Accordingly, the Nantasket proceeded to Hilton Head, with letters for The Press, Herald, Times, Tribune, and Boston Journal, and, having mailed them returned to Charleston. Yesterday, General Seymour, having heard of the strategic movement, honored the Nantasket with a visit, and informed the gentlemen in charge that General Hunter had revoked his consent, and that the Arago, which leaves to-morrow, would not carry a mail. It was likewise intimated, in a general way, that any correspondent surreptitiously sending home a particle of news would subject himself to some anatheme maraantha—perhaps an ignominious ball and chain:

The money must always accompany the order, and in no instances can these terms be deviated from, as they afford very little more than the cost of the paper. Postmasters are requested to act as Agents for To the getter-up of the Club of ten or twenty, an xtra copy of the Paper will be given. duste of West Point, and that the graduates of that varnishing establishment, like the idol of Edmund Sparkler's heart, have "no biggod nonsense" about

> There is no organization doing a more extended work of philanthropy among the soldiers of this department than the Christian Commission. The New York Branch has now three representatives, Rev. Mr. Kimball, late of San Francisco; Rev. Mr. Williams, and Rev. Mr. Emmens, actively at work here distributing books and tracts, and preaching the Word of God on all opportune occasions. Hitherto there has been a great lack of religious reading in this department, and many of the regiments, too, are without chaplains. Nevertheless, considerable religious interest is manifesting itself, and in some egiments a season of revival is in progress. The 97th Pennsylvania Regiment, Colonel Gues, from West Chester and vicinity, and the 115th New York, have been particularly noted for their zeal in the cause. The change which has taken place within a few months, in the character and conduct of the men. s as wholesome as it is remarkable. The labors of the Commission are worthy of all praise, and, wnat is better than praise, substantial encouragement. About three o'clock this afternoon the report of a heavy gun was heard in the direction of Folly Island, followed apparently by the explosion of a shell. Shortly after dense volumes of smoke began to rise apparently from the lower end of the island, and at six o'clock this evening quite an extensive conflagration was raging, presenting a very beautiful spec tacle. At the same hour another fire was observed in the direction of Bird Island. What they indicate I have not yet learned. They were possibly mere fires in the woods, originating by accident; or they may have been lighted as signals. There is very little else in the shape of news that can be commu-nicated at present. To morrow there may be more interesting matter for a letter, as a movement is on foot for to-night, which promises some work. It is understood that the several regiments of troops landed resently on Folly Island will embark on

transports, and proceed up Folly river for the pur-

As I close there are rumors affoat that Admiral

Dupont and General Hunter have sent North fo

aid, and that nothing will be done until additional

the southern defences of Morris Island.

troops and iron-clads arrive. Emprobable.

pose of surprising a rebel battery, forming one of

THE WAR PRESS,

(PUBLISHED WEEKLY.)

Larger Clubs than Twenty will be charged at the same

THE FOURTH DAY.
SATURDAY EVENING, April 11th. How can I tell you the startling and painful news, the truth of which was made manifest to us to-day? The combined land and naval assault upon Charleston has not achieved success, and has, for the present, been abandoned. It would be useless to at tempt to deny, or to gloss over the unwelcome truthit must be told. I can well understand the feelings of mortification and astomishment its publication must occasion the Northern people. For the last six months and more, they have heard continually of the immense preparations being made for the attack on Charleston. They have been led to suppose, from random newspaper statements and from coldiers' letters, that General Hunter's army was between fifty and seventy thousand strong. And very many of them have imagined that an exnsive fiest of iron-clads—say several hundred had been gathered here to co-operate with the land forces. In all these imaginings they have strayed from the facts. By the fight on Tuesday the number of our iron-clads fit for inmediate work has virtually been reduced to five or six. True, they are invulnerable in a sense, and incapable of being greatly harmed; but it would seem, also, that they are incapable of greatly harming the enemy in his guns, they might tell a different story; but, with their present armament, to attempt to batter down the fortifications that line both sides of the harbor, be prudent to mention how many effective troop there are at General Hunter's disposal; it must suffice to state that the number is less, far less, than the Northern papers have represented. The rebels sand men, all under cover of entrenchm would be felly to attack such an army in our present condition. Nothing can be done towards taking Charleston until adequate reinforcements arrive. Liet tham be forwarded, and the city can be taken. The "surprise party," which had been projected for last night, was of course abandoned. All the troops are to return immediately to Hilton Head, and several of the transports are already under way. The monitor-fleet, with the exception of the Montank and Passaic, will now proceed to New Orleans and thence, I learn, up the Mississippi, to the vi-cinity of Vicksburg. The Ericsson, which brought a large cargo of torpeaces for Capt. Ericsson's newly-invented raft, or "devil-fish," will go to Fortress Monroe to-morrow and discharge it. having been fairly tested, of course there was no use for the torpedosa. Yesterday a body of rebels crossed cver-to Folly Island from the main land, captured thirty of our troops, and moved off before they could be inter-

Tuesday's engagement, one cannot but be struck with the apparently remarkable difference in the relative strength of the forces opposed. We brought into the action but thirty-four gurs the Ironsides, mounting eighteen guns, and the other iron-clause each two guns. The enemy had concentrated upon us about one hundred guns; and some haval office estimate the number as high as one hundred and Our monitors can only fire a shot once in ten minutes, and it seemed as though they fired even less frequently. The rebels fired incessantly, and finat have expended between twenty-five hundred and three thousand shot and skell. The Blakely guns, which they had mounted en Moultrie and Battery Beaaregard, are, perhaps, the most formidable-weapons known, and weapons which our naval officers never dreamed they would be compelled to en the usual fashion, and less effective than the ene my's. And yet, not withstanding this disparity of armament, but one of our iron-clads-an experiment -was actually pierced through her armor, and even she can, it is now believed, be restored to some dethe monitors were penetrated through their iron plating by the rebel fire. This a very important fact which should not be lest sight of; for upon this single fact we can ground a reasonable hope of success hereafter, for, rest assured, the assault upon Charleston will be commenced all in good time. I do not say re-commenced, because, in my estimation, the grand attack is yet to come off. It is not conceivable, that after weary months of preparation, and of drilling, and of gathering up supplies, an enterprise of so much magnitude, and upon which so many national interests necessarily attend, would have been abandoned after two hours' fighting. It is not conceivable that Admiral Dupont could be seared away from a feasible project by a little ill-success in the beginning, especially when the likelihood of it was fore seen, as it was in this instance. It is not conceivable that he would not be jealous of the reputation for skill, daring, and experience, which he has built up for himself by years of faithful public service.

Nor is it conceivable, supposing we had seen the

end of the Charleston campaign, that it would have been permitted to close ingloriously with the sink-

ing of one vessel and some dozen casualties to human

life. If the programme was felt to be so near a close, there would have been, at least, another day's hard

cepted. The particulars of the discreditable affair

In reflecting upon the many novel features of

have not transpired out in the channel here.

fighting, for appearance sake; the orchestra, after so much preliminary tuning up and twisting of keys, would not have separated without one glorious And this just precisely brings me to the inference I drew at the close of Tuesday's letter, but which I racter. We have done nothing yet but make an extensive reconnoissance. It was necessary to know whether any torpedoes had been planted in the harbor opposite Forts Wagoner and Beauregard. Our information on this point is now full and satisfactory. It was necessary to ascertain the number of guns the enemy could concentrate upon any one vessel. This. noint has been settled. It was necessary to know This we have determined. It was necessary to know the calibre and range of their guns, which has been pretty conclusively determined. It was necessary to know what species of artillery, and what kind of projectiles they could bring to bear upon us On both of these points we have acquired valuable knowledge. It was necessary to know, whether or not there were obstructions extending across the channel from Sumpter to Moultrie; and if so, what was their character. This information we now pos-sess. It was necessary to know whether or not Fort Sumpter was iron-clad as had been reported, and that question has been settled. In short, a hundred points that were formerly subjects of discussion, pro and con, are transferred to the domain of fact by the reconnoissance of Tuesday, Admiral Dunon now knows precisely what is to be done, and what can be done, and he is not the Admiral Dupont of old, if he does not set to work and do it. Not immedistely—not until he has made his preparations on and which military men will say was cheaply achands, and before the fall months have set in, we may see such a manifestation of it, as will gladden ed, and restore the flag of the Union to the battered

PORT ROYAL. THURSDAY, April 9.
Since the departure of the Charleston expedition

alls of Sumpter !

Since the departure of the Charleston expedition from this port, the rebels in this vicinity have grown considerably bolder, and have already begun to make demonstrations of hostility. Yesterday several bodies of their cavalry approached quite close to our pickets at Beaufort, as though reconnoitring. Last night, discovering that the gunboat George Washington was aground at Port Royal Ferry, which is in the vicinity of Beaufort, they brought down flying artillery to the shore and fired a shell at her, which happening to penetrate the boiler, blew her up. One of her crew was instantly killed, and three or four wounded or scalded by the explosion. The officers all escaped unharmed. The George Washington was a small craft. She had been formerly used as a river tug-boat, then as a cruiser, to drive away the guerillas from the inlets and creeks along the coast, then as a despatch boat for General Terry, and finally as a gunboat. She was armed with one small howitzer, and one twelve-pound rifled gun. Although a small affair, her destruction has created intense excitement in Beaufort, and the inhabitants are in momentary expectation of a rebel raid. Here, at Hilton Head, considerable alarm raid. Here, at Hilton Head, considerable starm marganitha—perhaps an ignominious ball and chain; perhaps a severe lecture on the enormity of his guilt. In explanation of General Seymour's summary method of crushing the "lever of civilization" parapsec yesterday, for the purpose, it is reported. toldest imagination to ground a pleasure in; little infinite number of honorable indentations, and may gone to Hilton Head, so it is reported, to guard under his heel, it may be remarked that he is a grant of guarding against a raid of one of the Savannah