

The Press

WILMINGTON.

VICTORY OF THE ARMY AND NAVY. CAPTURE OF FORT FISHER ON SUNDAY LAST.

THE CAPTURE OF WILMINGTON. Wilmington is fully won, the capture of its capital. It is worth the mention of the first repulse, the expense of the great fleet, and (as the value of human life is estimated in war) it is worth the loss of a thousand men. It was, of all the Atlantic ports of the rebellion, the most useful to our enemies. The blockade-runners brought into it stores of immeasurable value—guns, ammunition, clothing, stores of all kinds for the equipment of the rebel armies. It was the open mouth of the rebellion perpetually being fed by Europe. It is useless now to question whether it could have been captured earlier in the war; for its capture by the appearance of Sherman's army upon the coast, and that it could no longer be suffered to remain in the possession of our enemies. We are operating in the rear of Richmond, and the capture of Wilmington will smooth the path of Sherman and be of incalculable use to GRANT. An accident or a blunder caused the first attack to fail. This failure was another reason why Wilmington should be taken. At this time of the war we cannot afford to be defeated. We cannot yield the rebellion even a barren triumph, that might serve to encourage its armies and chill the Union feeling of the Southern people. After a fleet of seventy-seven vessels had unsuccessfully bombarded Fort Fisher, and an army of six thousand men were withdrawn from the assault upon it, the United States were bound in honor to wipe out the failure. It had been done gloriously. We sallied up Cape Fear river, and cannonaded the fort till we silenced all its guns and breached its walls; then we rushed in and swept the garrison to the sea. This was better than a siege. It was cheaper in the end. Though the rebels claimed that Wilmington was safe, and would never again be left unprotected, we have shown that without interrupting our operations in other fields, one blow was enough. The military policy that would have set down an army to invest the works on Federal Point would have been wasted time, and weakened the war, of which the true strategy is now concentration and energy. So suddenly does this capture follow the disappointment of the late repulse, that the public scarcely knew that another expedition had been fitted out before they were started with the glorious announcement of the capture of Wilmington on the rebellion will be tremendous. Loss appreciates the increasing importance of its loss. Now the whole Atlantic coast is virtually in our possession. We have Savannah, the defenses of Wilmington (the mere possession of the city is of secondary importance, and will be accomplished in due time), and Charleston is not only blockaded, but isolated. The ocean wall of the rebellion is levelled with the sands. The pirates Lathrop and the Chickamauga have sailed their last cruise. Burned up the river, they will probably be chased by the rebels. We are only surprised that they were entrapped. There is but one feature of the triumph that takes away from our rejoicing—the disproportionate loss of life. The splendid dash and gallantry of the army could not be surpassed. The savage hand to hand fighting inside of the fort only swells the glory, for it was the greatest glory is inextinguishably obtained with the death of brave men who struggled to the last. But the explosion of the magazine, which suddenly hurled into the air two hundred of our victorious soldiers, is one of those fearful calamities which make war horrible. The garrison was completely vanquished, and the doors of escape were shut. We have taken a force, not very great in itself, but every man that Lax could spare was in Fort Fisher. We must measure the value of our prisoners by this standard, and not by the ordinary estimate of mere numbers. The important defenses of Wilmington are now in our possession, and the tortuous channel of the blockade-runners is discovered, there is nothing to prevent our fleet from steaming up Cape Fear river, and demanding the surrender of the city. This victory is its permanent result than its immediate glory.

THE LAST DOOR SHUT ON REBELLION'S FOREIGN FRIENDS.

The Confederacy directed North, South, East, and West, by the Power of the Union. Lee's Most Important Lines of Supplies waiting for annihilation—An Army in the Front—Two Armies in the Rear. OUR TROOPS CARRY THE FORT BY DIRECT ASSAULT. The Walls Breached for their Entrance by the Navy—The Garrison Driven Back pell-mell to the Landing end of the Peninsula. They are huddled together in a Confused and Painful-stricken Mass on the Borders of the Sea. By the Broad Beach in Front and Flank, and a Triumphant Army in the Rear, they are Forced to Surrender. Our Loss said to be heavy, both in the Army and Navy—That of the Navy mostly in Prisoners. Admiral Porter's announcement of the Victory—The details of the united efforts of the Army and Navy. Boys in Blue to be Invincible. CONGRATULATORY ORDER FROM SECRETARY WALKER.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—10 A. M. The following official dispatches have just been received at the Department of the Navy. HEADQUARTERS U. S. FLEET, Jan. 17, 1865. BRIGADIER GENERAL J. O. RUSSELL: GENERAL: I have the honor to report that the capture of Fort Fisher was effected on Sunday evening, by General Ames' division and the second division of the first division of 24th Army Corps, aided by the Navy. The garrison was killed or captured, and the fort was captured by direct assault. The garrison was killed or captured, and the fort was captured by direct assault. The garrison was killed or captured, and the fort was captured by direct assault.

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VERY LATEST FROM FORT FISHER. Explosion of the Magazine—Two Hundred of our Soldiers Killed and Wounded.

DEFENDER OF THE FORT STUB-BORN AND BLOODY. A HAND-TO-HAND STRUGGLE WITHIN THE WALLS. Our Loss 900—The Rebel 500 Prisoners and 200 Guns. The Fleet Launched and Chickamauga Observed up the River. FORTRESS MORNING, JAN. 17, 1865. (Special to the Baltimore American).—After three days and night bombardment Fort Fisher is ours, with 200 guns, 2000 prisoners, and 2000 tons of stores. The assault was made by the army and the naval brigade at three o'clock on Sunday afternoon. The fort was captured by direct assault.

THE REBELS WHISTLING TO KEEP THEIR COURAGE UP. Official Report of Straggles through Sea. The Richmond Whig, of this morning, contains the following account of the capture of Fort Fisher: The capture of Fort Fisher was effected on Sunday evening, by General Ames' division and the second division of the first division of 24th Army Corps, aided by the Navy.

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REMARKABLE LATE REBEL NEWS. RICHMOND DATES OF YESTERDAY. FIERCE SOUTH A MINISTER TO MISSISSIPPI. Breckinridge Appointed Secretary of War, vice Seddon.

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OFFICIAL GAZETTE. The News Developments and the Cause of Profound Regret. THE REBELS WHISTLING TO KEEP THEIR COURAGE UP.

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