

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1865.

THE FALL OF CHARLESTON.

The announcement of the evacuation of Charleston is not unexpected. When Sherman occupied Columbia he virtually had Charleston at his mercy, and Beauregard had no other resource than flight.

We regard the abandonment of the chief city of South Carolina as a sad admission that there is no army in the South capable of contending with Sherman. The pride of the Southerners would not permit them to sacrifice Charleston—their representative city—the city of so much investive and devoted, without at least making an effort for its preservation.

Beauregard had abandoned Savannah he fell back to Charleston, and we know that Governor McGehee and General Hardee were scouting the Southern service. Then we were to have so many evidences of devotion—Sherman's path was to be through burning towns, and farm-houses, and deserted houses. We were to have another Russia campaign, and the authorities of Charleston were to give us a second example of Moscow.

The result thus far has shown that the people of South Carolina are as fond of greenbacks for their cotton and quartermasters' certificates for their bacon as the more reluctant rebels of Tennessee and Kentucky. They have gladly given their goods and chattels for the use of the army and navy of the Federals, and we see by an Augusta paper that the proposition to burn all the cotton excites much animosity and enmity.

War is to protect the property of the citizens and not to destroy it, says one of our leaders in a table and chair. Southern. To be sure, cotton is in demand in New York and Liverpool. Cotton will bring money and luxuries. Better money and luxuries than a heap of burning and smouldering ruins in Augusta. This is true Yankee matter-of-fact common sense, and shows that the valiant Carolinians have an appreciation of the true value of cotton and tobacco and turpentine.

In the midst of the general exultation which the fall of Charleston will produce, there is one thought that should not be forgotten. These gentlemen of the South are not quietly abandoning the game of rebellion. They do not mean to throw down the sword and run like the bedeviled swine into the Gulf of Mexico. We must also remember that Beauregard is marching north, and that at the same time the rebel armies heretofore occupying Louisiana, Texas and Alabama, are now moving up to Richmond. This is certainly the policy of a new generalissimo, Lee. He is busy reorganizing, and concentrating the armies of the South. We remember that after the battle of the Seven Pines, when Lee was placed in command of the Southern Army of Virginia, after the wounding of Johnston, he pursued, on a small scale, precisely the policy he seems to be pursuing with the armies of the whole Southern Confederacy. He recalled the armies from the Upper Shenandoah, Western Virginia, and the neighborhood of Suffolk—united, disciplined, nursed his soldiers, and finally threw them upon McClellan with fatal effect. This is what Lee is attempting to do now.

The scattered armies of the South have fought with consummate bravery, and Lee has certainly shown himself to be a consummate commander. If by this concentration Lee can make a successful and enterprising march into the North; if by any separate resource—and he is now driven to desperation—he can in any way turn the tide of battle, the rebellion may even yet induce the recognition of its government by the European Powers, and thus indefinitely prolong the war.

We do not wish to say anything in this hour of general joy which may be regarded as an effort to dampen the enthusiasm of the people. But victories are useless and extravagant unless we profit by them. The mere shedding of blood is the least achievement. In war every victory is only another step towards the general consummation. The last quarter of an hour and the last regiment decide the battle—the last battle decides the campaign. The North and South, in many respects, are evenly matched. It is evident that they are both determined upon war, and while the policy looks only to the sword, let it be determined by the sword. Therefore, we may be proud by these many victories by making an earnest effort to recruit our armies that we may carry on these successes to the end. The time is so swiftly coming when the struggle will be determined on the issue of a single field.

Lee sees this, and is preparing for it. Let us be ready to receive his blow, or better still, to strike the first. Then we may risk balls, and repeat the thundering cry of cannon. But still then we must strive with even more diligence than in the past.

WE KNOW OF NO public man who has been more unflinchingly true to the Government than Benjamin F. Butler. He seems to have been an especial target for the slanders of the enemies of the Government, and so active have these latter been that even loyal journals cannot always protect themselves against circulating falsehoods which his enemies. Without declaring that we approve of all his military conduct while he was commander of the Army of the James, and his failure to capture Wilmington, it stands to reason that a man of his character who has figured conspicuously in this war have contributed more to the civic and military triumphs of the Government. On the 14th of February there appeared a paragraph in a paper reporting upon the integrity of General Butler, which he in a letter to the editor says: "Every word of which as regards myself is false and calumnious." We hasten to make the reputation that is due from an honorable journal, and have made it a point to repeat that we sincerely regret that any article should have ever obtained circulation through our columns.

The following voluntary contributions were received at the Press office: W. P. J. ... \$2.00; J. S. ... \$1.00; W. H. ... \$1.00; W. G. ... \$1.00; Total amount previously acknowledged, \$4,165.25. Total amount received, \$4,165.25.

PROFESSOR SULLIVAN'S LECTURE.—The greatest natural curiosity which has been developed by the explorations in search of petroleum in different parts of the world is the existence of large rivers of oil in California. These rivers, which are found in Santa Barbara county, in that State, and flow into the Pacific, are among the most wonderful products of nature, and have been made the subject of much discussion among the learned. Professor Sullivan, the distinguished professor of Yale College, has recently made, on the spot, an investigation of the causes of this wonderful phenomenon. He has concluded that the oil is not a natural product of the earth, but is the result of a process, by which the vegetable structure of the plants, which are buried in the earth, is decomposed, and the oil is separated from the residue. The process is a slow one, and the oil is found in the same places as the plants which produced it. The discovery is of great importance, and will lead to a better understanding of the nature of the oil, and the methods of its extraction.

VICTORY

EVAUATION OF CHARLESTON.

The Fact Acknowledged by the Rebels.

ADMIRAL HARDEE ON HIS WAY TO THE CITY.

DETAILS OF THE CAPTURE OF COLUMBIA BY SHERMAN.

The Rebel Forces Retiring towards Charleston, North Carolina.

PART OF SHERMAN'S ARMY ON THE MARCH.

ANOTHER PORTION MOVING TOWARDS CHARLESTON.

OPERATIONS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

FURIOUS BOMBARDMENT OF FORT ANDERSON.

FOSTER'S FORCES REPORTED AT NEWBURN.

A STRONG BODY ADVANCING FROM KNOXVILLE.

FIRST OFFICIAL GAZETTE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—10 P. M.—The evacuation of Charleston by the rebels is announced in the following despatch just received from General Grant.

E. M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

Special Agents of the Post Office Department before Richmond.

Approved by command of Lieut. Gen. Grant. T. S. BOWMAN, Assistant Adjutant General.

North Carolina.

EFFECT OF THE RECENT VICTORIES.

REMOVAL OF REBEL PROPERTY FROM WILMINGTON.

IMMENSE AMOUNT OF COTTON IN THE STATE.

NEWBURN, N. C., Feb. 20.—The fall of Fort Fisher is working a revolution in the minds of the rebels in this State, which was last night, July 1, 1864, is so great an improvement on the old plan, that it is expected that the total amount of cotton in the State will be double what it was the last year.

Manufactures and Productions.

In many cases we give a statement of the amount derived on certain articles during the ten months ending June 30, 1864. The large increase of the past year is shown in the following table.

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WEALTH OF PHILADELPHIA.

INTERNAL REVENUE STATISTICS.

WHAT PHILADELPHIA DOES FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

HER COMMONS, MANUFACTURERS—HER TRADE, INDUSTRY, AND ENTERPRISE.

What the Arts of Peace are Doing for War.

The Virtues of the Plough, Loom, and Anvil.

(Special Despatch to the Press.)

WASHINGTON, February 20, 1865.

The Annual Report of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1864, has been in the hands of the printer for some time, and will, we presume, soon be ready for general circulation. It is a most interesting and valuable document, and one which every citizen should read. It shows the amount of revenue collected in each district, and the amount of the various taxes levied. It also shows the amount of the various expenses incurred by the Government, and the amount of the various appropriations made. It is a most comprehensive and accurate statement of the financial condition of the Government, and one which every citizen should read.

It will thus be seen that if the rates governing the system are observed by the remitter, almost perfect justice is done to the remitter. These rates are enforced by a second person by the person in whose favor they are drawn; but more than one collector is appointed in each district.

Further information as to the working of the system will be furnished to the remitter upon application. Officers of the army are requested to give this circular as much publicity as possible.

Special Agents of the Post Office Department before Richmond.

Approved by command of Lieut. Gen. Grant. T. S. BOWMAN, Assistant Adjutant General.

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