TWO IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONDUCT OF THE WAR.

General Butler Justified in not Assaulting Fort Fisher.

WHY THE SECOND EXPEDITION PROVED MORE SUCCESSFUL.

THE EFFICIENCY OF HEAVY ORDNANCE FULLY ESTABLISHED.

Report of the Committee on the Conduct of the War on the Two Fort Fisher Expeditions.

In the Senate of the United States, January 12, 1865, on motion of Mr. Wilson—

Resolved, That the Committee on the Conduct of the War be directed to inquire into the causes of the failure of the late expedition against Wilmington, North Carolina, and to report the facts to the Senate.

The Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War, in June, 1865, submitted the following report:

As early as 1862 the Navy Department appears to have been aware of the importance of closing up the Cape Fear River, in order to prevent the introduction of supplies for the rebellion, by means of blockade-running. The military authorities of the Government, however, did not feel themselves in a condition to furnish the necessary land force for this purpose until the close of the summer of 1864. At that time General Grant expressed his readiness to furnish the requisite number of troops, and gave it as his opinion that he could do so by the first of October.

Vice Admiral Farragut was selected by the Navy Department to take charge of the naval force, but was unable to assume that duty on account of ill health. Rear Admiral Porter was then transferred from the command of the Mississippi squadron to the command of the North Atlantic blockading squadron, and assigned to the duty of preparing and taking charge of the naval force to operate against the defences of the Cape Fear river and the town of Wilmington.

Major General Gillmore was designated by the War department to take command of the land forces to accompany the expedition. General Grant objected to this selection, and selected Major General Weitzel for that purpose. Subsequently General Butler announced his intention to accompany the expedition with considerable force, with the