



WAYNESBURG, PA. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 1865.

DEMOCRATIC MEETING.

There will be a Democratic Meeting at the Court House, on TUESDAY evening, the 21st day of March next, as business of importance are to be attended to. The Democracy are invited to turn out in their strength.

The battle for the Constitution and the Union, yet demands the active efforts of every Democrat, as well as the just protection of personal liberty and private property, from the usurpation of power. Fellow Democrats and all lovers of the prosperity of the country, we may well be proud of our association with the party that has among its lights and standards the author of the Declaration of Independence, and of the Constitution; a party whose wise administration acquired all the additional territory added to the original thirteen States—the policy of whose Statesmen formed, and established the national character at home and abroad, and at whose loss of power and place the country was disintegrated. The American character lost—and the power of the Government to enforce a just obedience to the laws of the land throughout the whole Union impaired—as well as the identity of the States lost in the usurpations of the Federal Administration. Ours is the only party that can save the country from her present imperiled condition.

A. A. PURMAN, Chairman Dis. Co. Com.

Ultraism in Politics.

Ultraism is defined to be the advocacy of extreme measures or the holding of extreme opinions on any subject of political concern. Radicalism and ultraism are convertible terms and their full scope and meaning are generally understood. In politics, as in theology, the truth almost invariably lies between extremes. It is rarely found with either the advocates of great and sweeping social or political changes, or with those who oppose any alteration or modification of superannuated institutions or existing laws, or systems of public policy. We have had examples of ultraism in the two great sections of this Union in the worst sense of the term, on a question of the gravest sort.

Opposition to the institution of domestic slavery as it was in the Southern States, says a contemporary, has long existed at the North. This opposition, however, would have kept its legitimate bounds, perhaps, had it not been for political ambition. Demagogues found it too good a hobby to be left to argument and moral influence.

What could be done politically with and concerning slavery was done in our Federal Constitution. The statesmen of that day, pro-slavery and antislavery, set slavery as they found it, to the States, imposing no responsibility incompatible with the sentiments of any, except in the single case of the return of fugitive slaves. They even protected the slave-trade for twenty years; we say protected, for they provided that it should not be prohibited during that time.

It was not long until an effort to prohibit the introduction of a slave State (Missouri) into the Union was made. Fortunately for the country, this attempt by the free States, to prohibit the introduction of a new slave State into the Union, failed by compromise. But the course of Jefferson, Clay and others shows how the wise and patriotic men of that day depreciated the agitation of this subject in federal politics, and any action of Congress against the institutions, sentiments, or prejudices of any section.

It is idle to discuss the right and wrong of slavery. If slavery were wrong it was wrong in the States, wrong in the British Islands at that time; it is wrong in Africa now and wrong all over the world. But it is not the duty of the Federal Government to use its power to suppress what is morally or politically wrong, where its charter gives no power to do so. It is the duty of a State to suppress what is wrong in its territory. If any man

wants something else peaceably let it resort to the right of revolution, or if a change is to be worked out, the Constitution provides a way to accomplish it. Yet this same anti-slavery party has resorted to every expedient to stir up bad blood on this subject. They have employed State power to thwart the action of the Federal Government, on points plainly constitutional. It seemed obvious that such constant, persevering efforts, offensive to one section of the Union, that assumed the people there to be man-stealers, robbers steeped in the worst of crimes, would, in the end, lead to trouble. All this didn't justify the rebellion, though it did much to provoke it. It only furnished the occasion and pretext for it.

The ultras North claimed that Congress had supreme power over the territories; that it was the right of Congress to legislate for territories in all cases whatsoever, and the duty to prohibit slavery in them all. It would seem a plain case that the Constitution gave to Congress the same grants of power over territories as over States, no more; that all else was reserved to the States or the people.

The South not to be outdone, set up the claim that the Federal Constitution guaranteed the right to property in slaves in every territory. The South, of course, had inexorable logic for this as the extreme North had for their ultraism. Both argued away to prove what each had resolved to maintain without argument. Neither would admit the position of the other if it had been true, and neither had any reason to admit the other's position, for it was not true. Plain enough it was that these ultras were drifting on to the argument of the last resort. The South could never agree that the North should use the power of the Federal Government to prohibit slavery in all the territories; and the North would never admit that the Constitution carried slavery into all the territories by its extension over them. There was no reconciling these extreme theories. Neither could ever become the doctrine of the country by peaceable means.

Is the prospect any better now? The two parties have betaken themselves to the sword to defend and propagate their ultraisms. How differently our fathers acted on this whole subject! How differently all wise statesmen have acted! They knew the danger and folly of attempting to put down convictions, and habits and prejudices by the sword. They lived in peace and prosperity—why can't we? In the language of one of them, must all they have won by their blood and sufferings be thrown away by the ill conduct of their sons? We have no faith in this ultraism on which the Government seems bent. Temporary success does not relieve it from its inherent vice. Its consequences will not be restoration and peace. What they will be man can't foresee; but this contest will not be ended by ultraism. Its advocates must at last be disappointed. The original cause of dispute may disappear, but the deep-seated antagonism will remain, and something less satisfactory will turn up in its place. Revolutions may not go back, but, without wisdom and moderation, that make bad worse.

Radicalism may do a vast deal of mischief if it shall prevail for any length of time in this country. Its great object now is the destruction of slavery. To accomplish this, Constitutions and laws must be broken down. The process is revolutionary. The object is not a restoration of the Union, but a change of Constitutions and laws—a change of habits between the white and black races. This last is the prime object of this radical party. They do not intend to end this war without it, and if they have the power, they will accomplish as much in that line as power can accomplish.

In pursuit of their cherished ideas, they will be perfectly reckless of consequences to the white or black races. They claim infallibly right, and it is treason to question their infallibility. One is either a fool or a knave who doubts, so certain are they of their virtue and wisdom. No amount of blood and treasure is too great to give for so great and holy object, in their estimation. Suppose they have power to go on with the experiment, who is to be the victim of the experiment? The white race will fight it out, and adjust itself to any change that may be made. Emancipate the negro from the master and the master will contrive to emancipate himself from the negro, and the simple question is, can the negro endure the change?

Down in Louisiana a system is in operation; contract slavery takes the place of the old system. That is, the white man makes the contract himself, and compels the negro to abide by it or starve. So far it is plain who suffers. The hapless portion of the negro race must live on charity stungly dealt out, and suffer, starve and die. It may be safely written down that more negroes will perish under excitement than white men in battle before the war is over. And after the destruction of slavery is effected by war, what will grow up in its place? Will the negro race endure the change or perish, as all subordinate races have done in face of a superior race having no interest in preserving the former?

Is Butler a "Gold Robber?" This query propounded by Representative Brooks, in Congress, is not yet settled to the satisfaction of the admirers of the Hero of Big Bethel, nor is it likely to be. Butler's friend Butwell, (a brother renegade, by the way, from the Democratic party,) by a little special pleading a few bold assertions and some adroit quotations, made a plausible case for Butler, in reply to Brooks' charge. He left the impression that Butler had deposited Smith's gold with the government, which used it to pay its troops, when short of funds. This seemed plausible, and sounded well, in the public prints; but it lacked the important element of truth, as is satisfactorily shown by Judge Pierpoint, the counsel of the Smiths, in the attempt to recover their gold from the clutches of Butler, through an action at law. The Judge regards it due to his clients, that their cause should not be injured by the special pleading of Butler and his friends. He demonstrates from his own correspondence with Butler before the suit was brought, (he was a member of the same political party with Butler, and did not wish him to make an unseemly exhibition of himself) and also from his own correspondence with the Government, that although Butler with the adroitness of the practiced criminal lawyer, attempted, repeatedly to get the government to shoulder this plunder of the Smiths and thus to shield him from responsibility, it persistently refused to do so; and that instead of Butler's having paid the money to the government, he has it yet in his own pockets, unless he exchanged, it for greenbacks when a dollar in gold was worth \$2.85 cents in greenbacks, which he surmises was probably the case.

We have no room for this conclusive letter of Judge Pierpoint, and only give its concluding paragraphs:—

The grievances charged in this case are these:— First. That in violation of this proclamation, and without authority of law, General Butler took \$50,000 in gold from Smith & Co., New Orleans. Second. That this gold was the property of Smith & Co., acquired by honest industry. Third. That Smith & Co., was not a rebel, and its business was not extended, their credits in that State of necessity were long. They opposed secession with all their power, and when secession came upon them they tried to gather in their property as best they could; that, being northern men, they were more liable to suspicion, and were, of course, compelled to be very circumspect. That when a safe opportunity offered, they gladly took the oath of allegiance, and the amnesty oath also. That they concealed the gold to keep it from the mob, which it was supposed would pillage the city if Admiral Farragut passed the forts, and this concealment was made a pretext for seizing the gold by Gen. Butler. Fourth. That Gen. Butler has not paid out this gold to his troops, but has retained it. It is quite likely that Gen. Butler left the gold for a time in the safekeeping of a paymaster; but the point is, that the gold was returned to the general and not paid out to the troops. Fifth. That Gen. Butler did not take the gold, nor has he retained the gold, by any order, authority, or direction of the Secretary of the Treasury or of War, and that he did not pay it over to the government as Mr. Smith requested. Sixth. That so gross was the wrong to Smith & Co., and so clearly were they entitled to this money, that even Gen. Butler's own commissioners, sent to the North to get the owners, and who wrote to the General, advising a restoration of the money, which has never yet been restored. Seventh. That Gen. Butler took this gold on the 19th of May, 1862, and did not report it to the War Department until February of the following year; and then reported that Smith & Co. were "active rebels," and "hesitated" to pay it over to the government, lest these "rebels" sue him; to whom, "as a lawyer," he thought he might be liable! These facts cannot be denied, namely:— That without the least authority of law Gen. Butler took this gold and has kept it two years and nine months and still keeps it; That Gen. Butler's own commissioners found that the money belonged to Smith & Co., and desired him to restore it; That Mr. Smith supposing that Gen. Butler had paid the gold to his troops, as indicated by the General's letter, applied to the Treasury and found, to his surprise, that Gen. Butler had the gold; That forthwith Mr. Smith, by his counsel, proposed in writing to Gen. Butler that if he pay the money over to the Treasury or to the War Department and leave Mr. Smith to such remedy as the government might think fit to give him. That the general (to use his own words) "hesitated" to pay it to the government and refused to pay it to the owner, and by various devices has contrived to retain it to this time, and without security either to the government or to Mr. Smith, and with the full use of this \$50,000 of gold during a period of two years and nine months; Upon these facts an honest and intelligent people will pass a judgment.

Gen. Butler still keeps the gold, or the proceeds at 285, if he sold at the highest price. Is it right? That is the question—and I am truly yours, EDWARD B. PIERPOINT, Counsel for Samuel Smith & Co., New York, Feb. 10, 65.

Since the date of our last publication, Charleston has fallen. It was met that the city which fired the first gun, in this terrible civil strife, and first trampled upon the glorious emblem of the Union, should suffer as alone it has suffered. Between the continued bombardment which it has undergone for more than a year past, and the fire which was raging in the city when our troops took possession, it is said to present a sad spectacle of ruin and desolation.

Wilmington has also been added to the conquest of the Union within a few days. With Mobile, which must fall into our possession soon, if it has not already, the South will be left without a port.

The Judicial District Question. We have with great pleasure read the speech of Col. HOPKINS, our vigilant Senator, against the "deep damnation of the taking off of Washington county from this Judicial District." No Legislature but the one now in session, could be guilty of the small spite of attempting to disrupt a Judicial District, which has existed now for nearly three quarters of a century, without objection or complaint from any quarter, merely on the ground of the politics of an anticipated candidate to fill the vacancy, at the next election! This Legislature may be intensely "loyal" but we trust it shall disgrace itself by doing this ineffably mean thing that Gov. Curtin will promptly veto the act, as we think Mr. Attorney General Meridith will inform him he should do, on the ground of its unconstitutionality, referred to in the speech of Col. Hopkins. We expect to lay the speech of Col. Hopkins before our readers next week.

Restoration of the Union.

The sturdy Democrat John L. Dawson, of Pennsylvania, says the New York World, put the Republican majority on record again the other day in a way which will make their own children curse them before many years have passed.

Mr. DAWSON submitted the following resolution, and demanded the previous question on its own adoption:— WHEREAS, The American people have now been engaged in a civil war of gigantic dimensions for nearly four years, which has resulted in frightful destruction of life, property, and treasure, creating an enormous debt, imposing the most oppressive taxes, covering the land with affliction, corrupting the general morals, and putting in peril the liberties of the nation; whereas, on the part of the United States and the people of the States which adhere to this Government, this is, and ought to be, a war solely to vindicate the Constitution and restore the laws to their just supremacy, and to that we are bound by our oaths and by our solemn pledges made in the face of the world when the war commenced; Therefore,

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to use all honorable and just means to bring about a lasting peace and the re-establishment of fraternal relations among all the people by a restoration of the Union upon the simple and just basis of the Constitution and laws, with every proper guarantee to the southern States that they shall be protected in the full enjoyment of their rights, and that undisturbed control of their own local affairs which the Federal Constitution was intended to secure to them and to us.

Mr. THAYER moved that the resolution be laid on the table. Mr. DAWSON demanded the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were ordered. The question was taken; and it was decided in the affirmative—yeas, 73, nays 44, not voting 65.

So the resolutions was laid on the table. Seventy-two Republicans, adds the World, voted to lay these resolutions on the table, voted that the war was not solely to vindicate the Constitution and restore the laws to their just supremacy, voted that we are not bound by our oaths and solemn pledges made when the war began, voted not to request the President to use honorable and just means to effect peace on a basis of a restored Union, with the rights defined and secured by the Constitution to every state. Here are the seventy-two Republicans who cried havoc. Ere ten years are over, we say again, their very children will curse them for their fanaticism, their folly, and their treason.

The Philadelphia Age has the following on the resolutions:— The preamble and resolutions of Mr. Dawson, offered in the House of Representatives on Monday, brought the administration party to the scratch. The unanimous vote of the Abolitionists for laying the resolutions on the table proves that their pretense of willingness to make peace on fair terms was all sham. Interminable war, with direful consequences to us and to our children, is their real policy, and will remain so as long as shoddy can thrive by corruption. To negative this resolution was to say that "lasting peace" is a thing not to be sought even by honorable and just means; and that the re-establishment of fraternal relations with the South is not a desirable object if it be accompanied by a restoration of the Union upon a simple and just basis of the Constitution and laws. As long, therefore as Abolitionism governs the country, it must be understood that civil war is a permanent institution—not for the sake of justice, of the Constitution, or the laws, but for the sake of war itself, which gives the Abolition favorites jobs and contracts, and enables them

To feed on tears, to fatten on distress, And wing their wealth from suffering's last excess. We hope our readers will carefully note the terms of the resolution, and the vote by which it was laid on the table. The Resources of Utah. Fitz Hugh Ludlow, in his overland trip to California, found between Utah and the Humboldt Mountains a large desert composed, as he says, of "sand of snowy alkali." He describes it as one of the most dismal and forbidding spots that was ever traversed by the foot of man; but in view of the extension through it to the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad, he suggests an interesting possibility as to its future use. His says (Atlantic Monthly, p. 616)—"In

the crude state the alkaline earth of the desert is sufficiently pure to make violent effervescence with acids. No elaborate process is required to turn it into commercial soda and potash. Coal has been already found in Utah. Siliceous earths are abundant in all the desert uplifts. Why should not the greatest glass-works in the world be reared along the desert section of the Pacific Road? and why should not the entire market of the Pacific coast be supplied with refined alkalis from the same tract?" This opens up a present prospect. Glass, unlimited glass! A desert of soda and sand with coal underneath! Glass-works of some thousands of miles in extent, the materials ready mixed, and the furnace, as it were, ready to be lighted up!—Scientific American

Another Peace Mission.

NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—A Herald's Washington special says: Gen. Single-ton, of Illinois, a peace Democrat, who, it will be remembered, recently visited the rebel capital, has left Washington again on a second excursion to that place, accompanied by Judge Hughes, late of the Court of Claims, it is supposed on a peace mission.

News.

Capture of Charleston!

Official report of Gen. Gilmore.

Two hundred Pieces of artillery Taken. SEVERAL FORTIFICATIONS UNINJURED. The city Occupied without Opposition. FIRING OF THE CITY BY REBELS. 6,000 BALES OF COTTON BURNED.

Fearful Explosion in the Wilmington Depot.

Several Hundred Citizens Killed. Gen. Schimmelfennig Com'd'g. the City. DESTRUCTION OF TWO REBEL IRON CLADS. The Stars and Stripes Raised on Fort Sumpter.

[Secretary Stanton to Maj. Gen. Dix.]

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, Feb. 18, 1865. Major Gen. Dix, New York: The announcement of the occupation of Columbia, S. C., by Gen. Sherman, and the probable evacuation of Charleston, has been communicated to the department in the following telegram, just received from Lieutenant Gen. Grant. E. M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

[General Grant to Secretary Stanton.]

CITY POINT, Feb. 18—4:45 p. m. Hon. E. M. Stanton, War Department: The Richmond Dispatch of this morning says Sherman entered Columbia yesterday morning, and its fall necessitates, it presumes, the fall of Charleston, which it thinks is already being evacuated. U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant-General. CITY POINT, Va., February 18th, 1865.

Hon. E. M. Stanton, War Department: The following is taken from to-day's Richmond Dispatch:

"THE FALL OF COLUMBIA." "Columbia has" fallen. Sherman marched into and took possession of the city yesterday morning. The intelligence was communicated yesterday by Gen. Beauregard, in an official despatch. "Columbia is situated on the north bank of the Congaree river, just below confluence of the Saluda and Broad rivers. From Gen. Beauregard's dispatch it appears that on Tuesday evening the enemy approached the south bank of the Congaree and threw a number of shells into the city. During the night they moved up the river and yesterday morning they forded the Saluda and Broad rivers. While they were crossing these rivers our troops under Beauregard evacuated Columbia and the enemy soon after took possession.

"Through private sources we learn, that two days ago, when it was decided not to attempt the defence of Columbia, which it was thought was impossible to remove, were destroyed. The female employees of the Treasury Department had been previously sent off to Charlotte, ten miles south of Columbia. We presume that the Treasury lithographic establishment was also removed, although as to this, we have no positive information.

"The fall of Columbia necessitates we presume the evacuation of Charleston, which we think likely is already under process of evacuation. It is impossible to say where Sherman will next direct his columns. The general opinion is that he will next go to Charleston and establish a base there, but we confess that we do not see what need he has of a base. It is to be presumed that he is subsisting on the country, and he has had no battle to exhaust his ammunition. Before leaving Savannah he declared his intention to march to Columbia, thence to Augusta, and thence to Charleston. This was uttered as a boast and to hide designs. We are disposed to believe that he will next strike at Charlotte, which is ten miles south of Columbia on the Charlotte and Columbia railroad, or at Florence, South Carolina, the junction of the Columbia and Wilmington railroads, some ninety miles east of Columbia.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Feb. 18, via New York, Feb. 21, 1865.

To Major Gen. Halleck, Chief of Staff, General.—The city of Charleston and all its defenses came into our possession this morning, with two hundred pieces of good artillery and a supply of fine ammunition. The enemy commenced the evacuation of all the works last night, and Mayor Leitch surrendered

the city to the troops of Gen. Schimmelfennig at 9 o'clock this morning, at which time, it was occupied by our forces. Our advance on the Edisto, from Bull's Bay, hastened the retreat. The cotton warehouses, arsenals, Quartermaster stores, Railroad bridges and two iron-clads were burnt by the enemy. Some vessels in the ship yard were also burned. Nearly all the inhabitants remaining behind belong to the poorer classes. Very respectfully, [Signed] J. Q. GILMORE, General Commanding.

New York, Feb. 21.—The steamship, Fulton, Captain Nolten, from Fort Royal the 18th, at 6 p. m., arrived this morning. The pursuer, Tom. McNams, furnishes us the following memoranda:— Charleston was evacuated by the enemy on the night of the 17th, leaving the several fortifications uninjured, besides two hundred guns which they spiked. The evacuation was first discovered at Fort Moultrie at 10 a. m. Part of the troops stationed at James Island crossed over in boats and took possession of the city without opposition. The upper part of the city is on fire.

SECOND DISPATCH.

Previous to the enemy evacuating, they fired the upper part of the city, by which 6,000 bales of cotton were burned, and it was supposed that before the fire can be subdued two thirds of the city will be destroyed. A fearful explosion occurred in the Wilmington depot, by which several hundred citizens lost their lives. The building was used for commissary purposes and was situated in the upper part of the city. Cause unknown. Admiral Dahlgren was first to run up to the city, where he arrived at about two o'clock. Gen. Gilmore followed soon after and had an interview with Gen. Schimmelfennig, he being the first general officer in the city, and for the present in command. The remains of two iron-clads were found which the enemy had destroyed by blowing them up previous to the evacuation. The blockade runner, Cyrene, just arrived from Nassau, fell into our hands, and two others were expected to arrive on the night of the 18th.

The first flag over Sumter was raised by Captain Henry W. Bragg, A. D. C., on Gen. Gilmore's staff. The city was completely riddled by our shot. The population have deserted the city, and now all that remains are the poorer classes, who are suffering from want of food. A move had been made by the force under Gen. Hatch which resulted in the capture of six pieces of artillery. The Tribune's correspondent, who arrived by the Fulton, gives the following account:— CHARLESTON HARBOR, Feb. 18.—Early last evening Brigadier General Schimmelfennig, commanding, discovered some indications which led him to believe that the rebels were about to evacuate Charleston and its defenses, and he accordingly ordered his pickets and his picket-boats to keep a bright lookout, and report immediately any movement on the part of the enemy.

About half past three o'clock this morning a terrific explosion took place in Charleston, which shook every ship in the harbor and off the bar, and almost simultaneous with the explosion the flames broke out and could be distinctly seen in different parts of the city. It appears that the first explosion took place at the Wilmington depot, the fire from which rapidly communicated with the adjacent buildings, causing a general conflagration of all the dwelling houses in the vicinity, and it was while the unfortunate inhabitants were trying to extinguish this fire that the second explosion took place which resulted so disastrously and caused a large loss of life amongst the women and children who are represented as having been horribly mutilated. About six o'clock this morning, Gen. Schimmelfennig moved his forces and occupied the city and its defenses. The formidable earthworks of James Island were found abandoned and the guns spiked. At 8 o'clock this morning a detachment was sent to take possession of Fort Sumter and raise the flag which Gen. Anderson hauled down nearly four years ago. At 9 o'clock the flag was raised amidst cheers. As fast as the forces could be thrown into the city they were set to work to put out the fire which, up to the time of leaving, was raging furiously in different parts of the city. Old men, women and children were rushing frantically to and fro in agony of despair at the loss of their homes and the killing and mutilating of their friends. It is impossible to estimate the amount of cotton destroyed by the rebels. Several thousand bales were collected in different parts of the city and set on fire almost simultaneously with all the hospitals. There is no doubt the rebels intended to burn the city to the ground despite the misery it would entail on thousands of women, children and old men, of which class the inhabitants of Charleston is now almost entirely composed.

It was the opinion of General Gilmore's staff that in all probability, two thirds of the city would be destroyed before the fire could be extinguished with the imperfect means for subduing it. The last of our rear guard of the rebels left Charleston at four o'clock this afternoon, and there are various rumors and conjectures as to their destination, but the prevalent opinion is, that they intend concentrating in the vicinity of Florence, to which point they have railroad communication from Charleston, unless it has been recently destroyed by the expedition to Bull's Bay. Several hundred rebels who had secreted themselves in different parts of the city when the main body was retreating, have given themselves up, and taken the oath of allegiance, with the story of being tired of war, and half starved, &c. They expressed a desire to be allowed to take the oath of allegiance to our Government and remain in the city.

Capture of Fort Anderson!

OFFICIAL FROM AD'ML PORTER.

THE UNION LOSSES VERY LIGHT!

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22. The Navy Department has received the following from Admiral Porter:— United States Flag Ship Malvern, Cape Fear River, Feb. 19.—Sir: I have the honor to report the surrender and evacuation of Fort Anderson. Gen. Schofield advanced from Smithville with 8,000 troops, on the 17th. At the same time I attacked the works by water, placing the monitor Montauk opposite the works and enfilading with the Pawtucket, Pacific, Unadilla and Pequod, and allowing no more vessels to get under way. The fort fired briskly, but was quieted by sunset. On the 18th, at 8 o'clock I moved up closer, the Montauk leading, followed by the Huron, McMan, Sassauss, Ponotonic, Moratingo, Senafer, Unadilla, Pawtucket, Osceola, Shawmut, Seneca, Wyac, Chippewa and Little Ada, and kept up a heavy fire through the day till late in the afternoon. The enemy's batteries were silenced by three o'clock, though we kept up fire until dark. We also fired through the night. In the meantime Gen. Schofield was working in the rear of the rebels to cut them off. The latter did not wait for the army to surround them, but left in the night, taking five or six pieces of light artillery with them, and everything else of any value. At daylight this morning some of our troops that were near by went in and hoisted the flag on the ramparts, when the firing ceased from the monitors. There were ten heavy guns in Fort Anderson and a quantity of ammunition. We lost but three killed and five wounded. I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

D. D. PORTER, Rear Admiral. Hon. GIBSON WELLS, Sec. of the Navy.

DARING REBEL DASH INTO CUMBERLAND.

GENS. CROOK AND KELLEY CAPTURED.

WHEELING, Feb. 21.—A party of rebel cavalry dashed into Cumberland before daylight this morning, surprised and captured the pickets, and carried off Gens Crook and Kelley. It seems to have been a very daring and well planned affair. Cavalry have been sent in pursuit.

Capture of Wilmington.

Seven Hundred Prisoners and Thirty Guns Captured.

REBELS BURN COTTON AND ROS N.

Terry's Force in Pursuit of the Rebels

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—MIDNIGHT.—To Major General Dix:—The following official report of the capture of Wilmington has been forwarded to this Department by General Grant, signed E. M. Stanton Secretary of War.

FORTRESS MONROE, Feb. 24—10 p. m. To Gen. U. S. Grant, City Point: Our troops entered Wilmington on the morning of the 22d. After the evacuation of Fort Anderson, General Schofield ordered Gen. Cox to follow his garrison towards Wilmington, while Terry followed Hoke. On the east side of the river, the latter took up a new line four miles from Wilmington, but was hotly pressed by Terry, so that he could send no troops to the west side. On that side the rebels made a stand behind Town Creek, but on the 20th, Gen. Cox crossed his troops below them on a flat boat, and attacked them in the rear, routing them and taking two guns and three hundred prisoners. On the 21st General Cox pushed to Brunswick river, opposite Wilmington, where the bridges were or fire. On his arrival the rebels began burning cotton and rosin in the city, and left it that night. Our captives, including Fort Anderson, amounted to about 700 prisoners and 30 guns.

The citizens state that the rebels burned one thousand bales of cotton and fifteen thousand barrels of rosin. The Union feeling showed itself quite strongly in the city. General Terry followed Hoke northward.

How to Rob Bee-Hives.

A soldier arrived from Sherman, who was through with Sherman, tells of the trip, as reported in the Dayton Journal:— "The boys learned how to rob bee hives without the penalty of stinging. The plan was to rapidly approach a hive, take it up suddenly, and hoisting it upon the shoulder, with the open end behind, run like thunder! The bees bustle out, and fly back to the place where the hive stood. The honey belongs to the boys who win it. A cavalry lieutenant, with his squad, rode up to a plantation house one day and were pretty crabbly received by the girls of the house, who desired to know 'why you'un can't let we be un' and hoped the devil would get the Yanks. The lieutenant was not very well pleased with his reception, and seeing some tempting looking hives of honey in the yard, he ordered one of his men to hoist one up to him. The hive was handed up to him in a jiffy, and the lieutenant bidding the girls good-bye, started off with the live on his shoulder. But the bees came out the wrong way, and swarmed upon the lieutenant and his horse, compelling the former to drop the hive, while the taunting rebel-foes on the porch clapped their dainty tiny hands, stamped their little bare feet, and screamed 'good! good! good!' until they died for joy."