

# THE STAR OF THE NORTH.

W. H. JACOBY, Proprietor.

Truth and Right—God and our Country.

[Two Dollars per Annum.]

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## STAR OF THE NORTH.

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## THE WAR NEWS.

### The Great Naval Expedition.—Particulars of the Fleet.—The Victory at Beaufort.

PORTER'S MESSAGE Nov. 12 via Baltimore. The steamer Beaufort just arrived at Old Point from the great expedition. She left Port Royal on Sunday morning, and brings cheering intelligence. She proceeds at once to New York where she will be due to-morrow evening.

Capt. Steadman however left her at this place and proceeds direct to Washington with despatches and trophies of victory—two brass cannon and a rebel flag.

He reports the gale encountered by the fleet to have been very severe. The steamer Union and Oceana went ashore and were lost as previously reported.

The steamer Governor encountered at sea, but the Isaac T. Smith succeeded in saving all her crew, with the exception of a few marines.

The fleet arrived at Port Royal on Monday the 4th inst. On Tuesday the smaller gun boats sailed and buoyed out the channel, under a fire from the forts which did no damage.

On Wednesday the weather prevented active operations, but on Thursday morning, the 6th inst., the men-of-war and gunboats advanced to the attack.

The action commenced at 10 o'clock A. M., and was hotly contested on upon both sides and lasted four hours at the end of which the rebels were compelled by the shower of shells to abandon their works and flee a hasty retreat.

Our loss was only eight men and one officer the chief engineer of the Mohican. About twenty men were wounded.

The rebel loss is unknown. Fifty-two bodies were found by the Union and picked up. All their wounded, except two were carried off.

Two forts were captured—Fort Walker, on Hilton Head mounting 23 guns, and Fort Beauregard, on Bay Point, mounting 19 guns.

The guns were of heavy calibre. They were both new and splendidly constructed of great strength, and constructed in the highest style of military science, and pronounced by our engineers as impregnable against any assault by land forces.

The final retreat of the rebels was a perfect rout. They left everything, arms, equipment of all kinds, even to the officers' swords and commissions. All the letters and papers, both public and private, order books, and documents of all kinds, were left in their hands, and fell into our hands affording our officers much valuable information.

Among the papers was a telegram from Jeff. Davis to the commander of the post, informing him of the sailing of the fleet, and that he knew their destination to be "Port Royal."

Query: Who was the traitor? The whole surrounding country was seized with a perfect panic. The day after the fight the Beaufort and two other gunboats under the command of Lieut. Ammon proceeded up to Beaufort, and found but one man in the town and he was drunk.

All the plantations up the river seemed to be deserted, except by the negroes, who were seen in great numbers, and who as the boats passed, came down to the shore with their bundles in their hands as if expecting to be taken off.

All the letters in the Beaufort post office were seized.

After the capture of the forts, the whole army, about 15,000 strong, were safely established on the "sacred soil" of South Carolina.

The forts were but little injured, but the rebels could not stand the explosion of our shells.

The losses of the enemy, as ascertained by their papers, was from 3,000 to 4,000 men under Gen. Drayton, of South Carolina.

J. S. Bradford, of the Coast Survey, bearer of despatches, and Lieut. R. H. Weyman, commanding the *Panacea*, also arrived at Beaufort, and found but one man in the town and he was drunk.

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In addition to what has been mentioned as found in the forts, the rebels left behind the contents of their magazine, including large quantities of English ammunition and projectiles.

Nowwithstanding the heavy calibre of the guns in the fort, and their abundant supply of ammunition, as the subsequent discoveries proved, not a single vessel of our fleet was either sunk or burnt, and none were seriously injured or even disabled.

General Sherman has hundreds, perhaps thousands, of negro laborers at his command to work on the new entrenchments.

A terrible panic prevails at Savannah, and it is believed that the capture of that city could be easily effected.

The gunboat *Panacea*, which rendered efficient service in the fight, suffered more severely than any of the war vessels engaged, and yet she was not disabled in the slightest degree. A round shot went through her ward-room, and another ball damaged the second lieutenant's room, causing some havoc among the furniture, but doing the ship no material damage.

This ship lost six killed and two others of her crew, and the vessel was wounded.

The *Harriet* escaped with the injury to the main-mast by a round shot.

When our brave fellows landed to take possession of the forts, they found the rebel flag at the fort on Hilton Head still flying, and just as one of our men pulled at the halcyons to draw down the traitorous banner an explosion took place in the house just vacated by the rebel officers, but doing little damage and injuring no one.

It was found, on examination, that the rebels had, before evacuating the place, arranged what they thought would prove a deadly trap to the victors.

But it did not go off, and soon the brave old flag, the stars and stripes, waved in triumph from the rebel flag-staff.

The magazines were found to contain large quantities of powder and a vast quantity of ammunition shot, and shell, and various descriptions of projectiles, the latter chiefly of English manufacture.

The *Strophodonta* had three men wounded.

The town of Beaufort was entirely deserted, except by the negroes. The troops had not occupied it when the steamer left, being better engaged in strengthening their position.

The bombardment lasted between four and five hours, when the rebel flag on Fort Walker came down. The rebel loss is supposed to be 200. Gen. Drayton commanded at Fort Walker, and Col. Elliott at Fort Beauregard.

The rebels retired across Seal creek to a village twenty-five miles in the interior, where it is supposed they intend to make a stand.

The negroes had already begun to pillage and destroy Beaufort, the white population having fled to Charleston, by small steamers, through the inland route.

It is understood that General Sherman will improve the defenses of his position before making any further movements.

Commodore Dupont will immediately survey the harbor, place troops and erect batteries; and the position will be made a permanent base of operations.

Every one entered into the fight with the determination that the forts should be silenced, and that it should cost the entire fleet.

The fleet stood between 800 and 1,000 feet of the forts, and used five second fuses, and potted shells into them at the rate of 2,000 per hour. Not a single shell sent by the rebels burst in a ship.

The *Wabash* was struck several times, as was most of the fleet, but every ship was in fighting position when the rebels took to their heels.

The surgeon of Fort Walker was killed.

At Charleston, the next day, thirteen minnie guns were fired, indicative of the burial of a brigadier.

Captain Steadman reports that the captured forts are magnificent, with covered ways and bomb-proofs. All our troops had to do was to occupy them, and they can be held against any force.

Commodore Drayton, who commanded the *Panacea*, is a brother of General Drayton, who commanded the rebel forts, and Captain Steadman, who brings the despatches, is the son of a former Mayor of Charleston.

A CONFIRMED CASE.—A gentleman of excellent habits and very amiable disposition, was so unfortunate as to have a wife of a very different character; in short, one that would get beastly drunk. Being in company with a few intimates one evening, one of them remarked to him, that if she was his wife—since all other things had failed—he would frighten her in some way, so that she would quit her evil habit, and proposed the following method: that some time when dead drunk, she should be laid in a box shaped like a coffin, and left in that situation until her fit should be over, and consciousness restored.

A few evenings after, the dame being in a proper state, the plan was put into execution; and after the box lid was properly secured, the party before alluded to watched, each in turn, to witness the result. About daylight next morning the watch heard a movement, laid himself down by the box, when her ladyship, after bumping her head a few times, was heard to say:

"Bless me! where am I?" The outsider answered, in a supplicating tone:—"Madam, you are dead and in the other world."

A pause ensued, after which the lady inquired again:—"Where are you?" "Oh! I am dead, too," said she. "Can you tell me how long I have been dead?" "About three weeks," "How long have you been—dead?" "Four months." "Well, you have been here so much longer than I have, can't you tell me where I can get a little gin?"

THE ENFIELD RIFLE.—The old fashioned musket, like the old fashioned ordinance, is out of use now. Rifled cannon are the favorites for artillery, and Enfield rifles are the modern substitute for the musket. These rifles were originally made at Enfield in England, and hence their name. They are admirable specimens of art, and each one is composed of sixty-one different and distinct parts; yet all the similar parts are made so exactly alike, that if a thousand rifles were disassembled, and their furniture intermingled, they could all be put together again at the rate of one rifle in three minutes.

## Choice Poetry.

### THE COUNTERSIGN.

Alas! the weary hours pass slow,  
The night is very dark and still,  
And in the marshes far below  
I hear the beard-d whip poor-will;

I scarce can see a yard ahead,  
My ears are strained to catch each sound,  
I hear the leaves about me shed,  
And the springs bubbling thro' the ground.

Along the beaten path I pace,  
Where white rags mark my sentry's track;  
In torments I seem to trace  
The loaman's form with bending back;

Until my eyes familiar grow,  
I stop and list—I stop and peer,  
Until the neighboring hillocks grow  
To groups of soldiers far and near.

With ready piece I wait and watch,  
Until my eyes familiar grow,  
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table that a very serious mistake had been made, but from what cause, my knowledge of military affairs did not enable me to judge. A dispute arose between some colonel and the engineer-in-chief, in regard to the position and strength of some battery, and the topography of the surrounding country. The colonel said that frequent reconnoissance, of the ground, from the fact of his being encamped near the place in question, led him, even in direct opposition to the chart of the engineer, to protest against its truthfulness, and he would urge upon the general to make himself sure of the condition of affairs before he fully completed his plan. But this would not do; it was necessary that very important and vigorous movement should take place upon that very section of the defence, and without a correct knowledge of the place no action could be carried on with safety or certainty.

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## Matters in Washington.

The Star-spangled correspondent of the New York Mercury has 've learn been engaged in a thrilling skirmish, in which he came off majestically victorious. His beautiful eulogy of his fallen adversary will touch all hearts:

"The star spangled banner my boy in triumph shall wave o'er the land of the free and Jeff. Davis' grave. The march of the Grand Army has commenced, and the roar of excited cannon and the shrieks of every roasting pig and traitorous chicken within reach of our coast-guard pickets. We have taken the upper Potomac, my boy, by a coup de main, and I saw six brigadiers take the oath yesterday by a *hic-cup de brandy*. My head swells with patriotic pride when I casually remark that the Mackerel Brigade occupy the post of honor to the left of Bull Run, which they also left on the day we celebrated. The banner which was presented to us by the women of America and which it took the orator of the day six hours and forty minutes to describe to us we are using in the shape of blazing neckties, and when the hard-up sun of Virginia shines upon the glorious red bands around the sagacious necks of our veterans, they all look as though they had just cut their throats. The effect is gory, my boy—extremely gory and respectable.

At the special request of Secretary Seward, who wrote six letters about it to the Governors of all the States, I have been appointed a picket of the army of the upper Potomac. In your natural ignorance, my boy, you may not know why a man is called a picket. He is called a picket my boy, because if anybody drops a pocket book or watch anywhere, his natural gifts would cause him to pick it up. If he saw a pocket, he would not pick it—oh, no! But pick it—picket.

The picket, my boy, has been an institution ever since war began, and his perils are spoken of by some of the high old poets in these following beautiful lines:

"The chap thy tactics dooms to bleed to-day  
Hail he thy reasons would he poker play?  
Pleased to the last, he does a deal of good,  
And licks the man just sent to shed his blood."

I am weeping, my boy.

While on my lonely bed about an hour ago, a light tread attracted my attention