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Affairs on Morris Island—Activity in Strengthening our Position—An Impregnable Foothold—The Rebel Works on James Island—Good Gunnery—Our Fleet Increasing.

The correspondent of the New York Tribune, writing from Morris Island, S. C., under date of the 1st inst., gives the following account of recent operations in that quarter:

Since the assault of the 18th not little has been done of any special interest to a public craving battles and bloody encounters, the demolition of the most formidable fortress on the Atlantic coast, and the capture of the most accursed of all the cities in the rebel Confederacy.

But although no battles have been fought, and no assaults made, with long and harrowing lists of killed and wounded to scan and scrutinize, the 16th and 18th Army Corps have not been idle, but by day and night, through the hot hours of mid-day and the still watches of night, have been working with unabated energy and determination, and have flagged and faltered only when utter physical exhaustion and disability compelled them to leave the field.

For public encouragement it will not be improper to say that the position we now hold upon this island has been made so strong by skillful engineering that no force the rebels can possibly bring against it can weaken, impair, or by prolonged and obstinate fighting, drive us from. Fifty thousand men might possibly overwhelm us, if they could find room to stand upon; but the strip of territory held by the rebels on this island is so contracted that not one-tenth of that number could be concentrated upon it, and not one-twentieth could be massed for an assault upon the only natural line of approach still left to them.

Admiral Dahlgren seems inclined to pursue a more cautious policy than his predecessors, but whether he will gain anything by it time alone will determine.

He has already consumed an enormous amount of ammunition at a very long range, but with what benefit to the national cause we, upon the land, are at a loss to know. Fewer shots at shorter distances would be much more effective. It is true that at a distance of from one and a half to two miles there is not little danger of the Monitors being hit; but it is also true that Forts Wagner and Sumter are almost in as little danger from destructions. Close fighting by land or by sea with a strong probability that both vessels and men will be more or less smashed and tattered will alone reduce these strongholds.

Admiral Du Pont made the bravest naval fight on record, and if he had prolonged it for two or three hours would undoubtedly have reduced the fort. But he withdrew too soon. Du Pont damaged his monitors, and also damaged Sumter, if we can believe rebel accounts. Dahlgren has not damaged his monitors, and I have yet to learn that he has damaged anything else.

In addition to soldiers and negroes at work in the trenches, we have to-day been re-enforced by a small army of cutlery, whom our watchful Provost-Marshal-General, Lieutenant Colonel Hall, discovered could be more profitably employed under fire, with spade and pickax in hand, than in dispensing poisonous liquors to the troops, in defiance of very rigid general orders to the contrary. Several of these enterprising gentlemen are working sixteen hours a day, and alternately relieving white and negro soldiers in the most fatiguing labors of the campaign.

Colonel Hall deserves the thanks of all lovers of good order and discipline, for thus summarily punishing these army pests. The cutlers in this department as a class are above the average of those in the Northern armies, and generally honest men, and are of value to the army; but a few scoundrels have crept in, and the trenches, with shot and shell from Sumter and Wagner bursting around them, is the best place to teach them to reflect upon their evil deeds.

While standing on the defensive, therefore, our position may be considered impregnable. When ready again to assume the offensive nothing will be able to resist us, and the fall of Wagner, Sumter, and Charleston, in turn, may be, as I have in another letter remarked, considered simply questions of time. But if we are active, and are working by day and night with almost superhuman energy, the rebels in full sight, under the blaze of the same hot sun, and beneath the light of the same night moon, are throwing up intrenchment after intrenchment upon James Island, strengthening the gorge wall of Fort Sumter, and the small tanks of Fort Gregg, and in every conceivable way endeavoring to make their own position impregnable.

Capt. Paine, of the New York Volunteer Engineers, made, alone, a night reconnoissance of the works upon James Island, and reports embrasures for twelve guns already erected, with one gun mounted. This one gun has already been brought to bear upon our batteries on the left, but has, thus far, inflicted no further injury than the frightening of several horses engaged in drawing ammunition. It should be understood, however, that all this ceaseless activity on both sides is under fire more or less hot and dangerous. Yesterday, a puff of smoke rose from the one gun on James Island, the soldiers at work in our own battery on the left ran to their sand-hole to dodge the shot, but unfortunately it struck directly behind the embankment and covered the whole party five feet deep in the sand. They were all dug out in a few moments, uninjured, so far as their bones were concerned, but considerably in want of breath and fresh air.

This shot from the rebel gun having proved so good a one, one of our own artillerists, seeing a soldier standing upon the earthwork of the same rebel battery, wheeled up a small Wiard gun into position, took aim, and in an instant sent his body flying twenty feet into the air. Better firing could not have been made by the most practical sharpshooter.

The Ironsides and Monitors are still over the bar, and lying abreast Fort Wagner. Shots are fired at intervals of half an hour every day, but beyond throwing clouds of sand into the air but little damage is done to this formidable earthwork.

The iron-clad fleet is slowly increasing. We shall soon out-number the original one with which Du Pont attacked Sumter.

THE Cincinnati *Gazette*, of Monday last, says:

Scott, who commanded the raiders in Kentucky, has lost one-fourth of his force in killed, wounded and prisoners; all his plunder; has been disgraced, thrashed and driven to the south side of the Cumberland river, to carry to his rebel masters the story of his troubles. This is the second raid that Vallandigham, in his Clifton House conversation, predicted, would follow Morgan, and aid the latter in retaking the draft in Ohio and Indiana. The result, coupled with the fall of Vicksburg, will destroy his election prospects. These Union victories must be killing the martyr by foot, as Vicksburg alone was performing it by inches.

Terrible Tornado near Poughkeepsie--Barns Blown Down and Trees Torn up by the Roots.

About six o'clock Thursday evening, information reached us that a severe tornado had visited the country about three miles north of Poughkeepsie. The first appearance of the result of the hurricane is visible on the north side of Budd's Hill on the Van Valkenburg property. At this point the tornado seemed to have made its first appearance, coming from a northeasterly direction. Here there are two or three apple trees torn up by their roots and carried some distance from their base. Proceeding down this hill through the hollow, covering in width about three or four hundred feet of the country thereabouts, the tornado struck down a field of twelve acres of corn belonging to Mr. Allen, completely destroying it.

The east side of the tornado then passed the corner of Mr. Allen's dwelling, tearing up his woodhouse and taking it nobody knows where. In this vicinity it also tore up by the roots all the trees in an adjacent apple orchard, numbering nearly seventy. Further along in its course it came in contact with a barn belonging to Mr. Cornelius Jordan, filled with grain and hay, breaking great heavy timbers, hurling them in the air and completely demolishing the structure. At this point the stone wall is blown down in many places, and the telegraph wires tied in a knot.

We are informed that stones weighing over one hundred pounds were picked off the wall and hurled thirty or forty feet. Great heavy boards and timbers from the barn can be seen fifty or one hundred feet from the building.

The tornado then passed along within three or four feet of the white school house, and thence to the outbuildings on Mr. Cornelius Jordan's place, picked up a large corn crib, moving it fifteen or twenty feet.

The roaring sound accompanying it was terrific. Mr. Jordan states that it sounded as though a hundred railroad cars were passing. Nearly one hundred trees have been blown down and torn up by the roots. The corn in the track of the whirlwind has been entirely destroyed. One tree was broken in two in the centre, and the top or bulky part blown nearly seventy feet. The scene is truly terrible. The devastation in the track of the whirlwind cannot be described.—*Poughkeepsie Eagle.*

Titles of Honor in Ireland.

We find the following in an English paper:

"Titles of honor are still borne by the representatives of some of the old Milesian families in Ireland. Some of these titles have become extinct in the course of time, such as the M'Carty More, the White Knight, the O'Sullivan Bear, the O'Moore, &c., and some have been merged in peerages. The O'Brians in the titles of Thomond (now extinct) and Inchiquin, the O'Neills in an Earldom (extinct), the O'Callaghan in Lord Lismore, and the descendant and representative of the O'Byrnes in Lord de Tobley. But the following titles are still preserved and generally acknowledged. These are the O'Donoghue of the Glens, the O'Connor Don, the Knight of Kerry, the Knight of Glen, the O'Grady, the M'Gillicuddy of the Reeks, and the M'Dermot, Prince of Coolvain. The first two of these represent Irish constituencies, and it is believed are the only Irish chieftains who have adhered to the national religion; all the others are Protestants. Indeed, it is a curious circumstance that we see the O'Neills, the O'Brians, the O'Callaghans, the O'Byrnes, indeed almost all the lineal descendants of the old Irish families, staunch Protestants (some of them even Orangemen; the late Lord O'Neill was Grand Master of the Orangemen); we find, on the other hand, that the leading Roman Catholic nobility and gentry in Ireland are mostly of English and Protestant extraction. Thus, the Browns, Earls of Kenmare, came over originally in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and being Protestants obtained large grants of the O'Donoghue property in Kerry, forfeited by Roderick O'Donoghue in the reign of Elizabeth, and by Geoffrey O'Donoghue, 'dead in rebellion,' in the reign of her successor. The Earls of Kenmare are now, as is well known, at the head of the Irish Roman Catholic peerage, and so of the Dillons, Plunkets, Burkes, Nugents, Prestons, and other Irish Roman Catholic families of importance; they are all, with few exceptions, of English and Protestant descent, while we have seen that the descendants of the native Irish are almost all Protestants."

Letter from a Rebel Prisoner to his Friend, North.

The following extract from a letter from a rebel prisoner, to a friend in New York State, is a straw showing the change of feeling at the South lately:

"I was one of the many, who, at the breaking out of the rebellion, was misled by horrid tales and solemn promises to be fulfilled at the close of the war, to go in the army.

"I had a start in the world in Athens, Clark county, Georgia, at the beginning of the war, and everything looked very encouraging, and all thought that the war would not last six months; then I could return with all the honors of a true Southern man, and be regularly installed and set up in business, soon to make a fortune, and enjoy the rest of my life. In this I have been sadly BITTEN.

Instead of the war lasting six months or twelve months, I have served twenty-eight months, and there is no prospect of its coming to a close for twelve months to come, and what I left at home I have spent while in the service, and am now a prisoner of war, with nothing but the prospect of being turned out upon the world without a cent to help myself with.

He who will be deluded to take up arms against his country must suffer the consequences. As for me I have enough of the war, and I am about to take the oath and remain in the Union, and let Rebeldom go to the D—l. They have beat me out of two years' work, and $2,800. I think I will quit and keep quiet for a few days.

Missouri Politics.

The "Charcoal" leaders of Missouri have issued an address to the people of the State upon the political issues of the day. They claim that the State is convulsed with intestine strife, not so much by reason of any internal fog, as because of internal evils and mal-administration of the State Government; that permanent peace cannot be secured until the cause of war and trouble—Slavery—is removed; that the recent State Convention has sought to fasten Slavery upon the people for a long term of years, when the condition of the State imperatively demands speedy relief from it; that the Convention has, without consulting the wishes of the people, imposed upon them a government which has lost the confidence of the people, and continued at the head of affairs men who hold their places in plain contravention of the letter and spirit of the State Constitution, upon a mere pretext of an inability, from existing troubles in the State, to elicit a full and fair vote; and that large numbers of traitors to the Government who have abandoned the State to serve in the armies of the rebellion, are returning to their homes, and, if unrestrained by legislation, will seek to exercise the right of citizenship. They therefore invite the people of the different counties who agree with them, to send delegates to meet in convention Tuesday, September 1st, at the city of Jefferson, to discuss together and decide upon the best mode of giving these views effect.

THE St. Louis *Union* learns from the interior of Missouri that rebel deserters, who have abandoned the rebel army, are returning home in considerable numbers. Few of them are penitent. They are still at heart rebels, and are exerting the most mischievous influence by their presence and conversation. In some cases they return for the sole purpose of taking a bushwhacking and stealing, and in some of the Missouri river counties they are already committing depredations upon peaceable citizens. Union men complain that these dangerous characters are too leniently dealt with, being generally let off upon taking the oath, and giving bond for their good behavior—which amounts to nothing at all.

THE following amusing bull was recently perpetrated at Bristol. A magistrate asked a prisoner if he was married. "No," replied the man. "Then" replied his worship, amid the roars of laughter, "it's a good thing for your wife."

Chickens Come Home.

Mr. C. L. Vallandigham, as Chairman of the Committee on Resolves at a Democratic meeting at Dayton, Ohio, Dec. 18, 1847, reported the following:

Resolved, That whatever opinions might have been entertained of the origin, necessity or justice by the Tories of the Revolutionary War, by the Federalists of the late war with England, or by the Whigs and Abolitionists, of the present war with Mexico, the fact of their country's being engaged in such war ought to have been sufficient for them, and to have precluded debate on that subject till a successful termination of the war; and that in the mean time, the patriot could have experienced no difficulty in recognizing his place on the side of his country, and could never have been induced to yield either physical or moral "aid to the enemy."

THE Buffalo *Courier* has been favored with a business letter which it prints verbatim. It is as follows:

HAMBURGH July 20 63.

Joseph Warren & co

sir have just saw in your paper the Address of Mr Vallandigham to the people of Ohio—and I think the buffalo courier is in real business and it is my opinion that you are sliding down the road with secesh & co as fast as you can—their is not a farmer in this neighborhood but what thinks that your paper is in long with J Davis & co I hav lived in this country thirty one years and have been a strate forward Democrat one of old Jackson stile but your paper has opened my eys—that the Democrat party is not as it once Was and I wish to inform you that if I liv in this country thirty one years more and the Democrat stands on Vallandigham platform I will not vote on that ticket and it is so with over Democrat in this neighborhood I think the Courier is as low a sheet as can be found I hav been in the habit of taking it—a long time but here after I will not allow it in my house.

Hamburgh senior.

—We have been looking carefully for the place "where the laugh comes in," and it certainly is not on the side of the *Courier*. Mr. Smith's spelling may be a little too Democratic, but his heart is sound and true.

EIGHTEEN rebel officers captured at Gettysburg, and since lodged at Fort McHenry, Baltimore, were on Friday sent west, under an escort. Their destination is Johnson's Island, in Sandusky Bay, Lake Erie, where they are to be confined, by order of the Government, until satisfactory assurances are received that Col. Straight's command, now imprisoned in Georgia, and other Union officers, are properly treated.

FOR a long time past the Empress of the French has entertained the idea of going to Jerusalem. That excursion is now decided on, and will take place toward the end of the autumn. The Empress will be accompanied by three of the Ladies of Honor—the Countess de Bayneval, de Lourmel and de ne la Poeze. Her Majesty, it is said, will take with her a supply of articles for presents valued at 2,000,000 francs.

WROUGHT IRON CANNON.—A firm in Bridgewater, Mass., are making a gun from wrought-iron, which will weigh, when completed, about seventeen tons. It is forged solid, in an octagonal form, with the cavity bored out thirteen inches in diameter, and will be hooped with strong bands of iron put on by hydraulic pressure. The lathe on which the metal is being turned is one of the largest in the world.

THE *Nashville Press* states that the Rebels are making all their preparations to transport the entire wheat crop of East Tennessee to the South, if it shall become necessary for them to evacuate that section. Nor will they wait to thresh the grain if they are hard pressed. They are even prepared to carry it off in the straw.

THE rebel papers are trying to find a scapegoat on whom to lay the blame for Gen. Lee's defeat at Gettysburg. Gen. Anderson is the reported offender, he more than once failing to bring his men up when they were needed to sustain the charge on our works, or to support exposed columns.

THE Secession exiles from St. Louis, on arriving at Gen. Grant's headquarters, were informed that they could not be sent East by land from that point, owing to army movements. They were consequently sent down the river to New Orleans, to be transported thence by water to Mobile.

A GREENHORN standing by a sewing machine at which a young lady was at work, and looking attentively at the machine and at the fair operator, he at length gave vent to his admiration with, "By jingo I-it's purty—especially the part covered with calliker."

A YOUNG lady, being asked by a female acquaintance whether she had any original poetry in her album, replied: "No, but some of my friends have favored me with some original spelling."

IT was decided in the Supreme Court of New York, on Saturday, that Judge M'Cunn, as City Judge, has not the authority to issue the writ of habeas corpus.

A FRENCH PHYSICIAN has, it is stated by Galignani, successfully administered fatty substances as an antidote to strychnine.

PIANOS.

PIANOS.

FOURTEEN NEW PIANOS,

Just received from the Factories of

CHICKERING & SONS, Boston.
HALLET, DAVIS & CO., Boston.
GRUPE & KINDT, New York.
W. P. EMERSON, Boston.
J. W. VOSE, Boston.

Prices from $250 to $500.

CHAS. C. MELLOR,
81 WOOD STREET.

STEINWAY'S PIANOS received the *FIRST CLASS PREMIUM MEDAL*, at the WORLD'S FAIR, London, 1862.
☞ Warranted superior to all others in every respect. A new stock of the above just arriving.
☞ Sole Agency for this district for the Steinway Pianos at H. KLEBER & BRO'S, 82 Fifth street.

KNABE & CO.'S PIANOS.—BEST PIANOS IN THE COUNTRY.—The following Pianos have been received this week:
One beautiful 7 octave plain case Piano, with sliding desk, overstrung, Arrafe treble, &c.
One 6½ octave, same as above.
Two 6½ octave, " "
Warranted eight years. For sale only by
CHARLOTTE BLUME, 65 Fifth st.

LIGHTNING FLY KILLER kills flies instantly, without danger to anything else.
For sale by SIMON JOHNSTON,
corner Smithfield and Fourth streets.
BURNETT'S PREPARATIONS still selling at 50 cents; and articles such as BORRHAVE'S BITTERS at something like half their former prices. jy30

EYES AND EAR.
DR. BAHLE
Pays particular attention to the treatment of CHRONIC DISEASES, the EYE and EAR; operates on CATARACT, SQUINT EYES, for ARTIFICIAL PUPIL, inserts ARTIFICIAL EYES, and treats all INF