

# The Pittsburgh Post.

Volume XX.

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**Office of Mr. J. P. Barr,**  
No. 117 Fourth Street,  
April 29, 1862.

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## DAILY POST.

### FROM RICHMOND.

#### Col. Corcoran not to be Released

Richmond, Va., May 20.

Col. Corcoran, Wilcox, and forty other prisoners, are still detained, as two valuable to be exchanged. All those were confined at Richmond in the same prison, and their quarters, and on the floor next below them, but Corcoran was a tobacco warehouse, several stories in height.

The floor occupied by the officers was one large room, forty by one hundred feet; this their captors divided into two, by cutting off twenty-two feet from one end for a guard room, and giving the officers the balance. All communication with the men was strictly prohibited; but the boys bored holes through the floor, and in this way managed to exchange messages. The last communication received from Colonel Corcoran and his associates was to the effect that they were expected to be removed at once to Salisbury, North Carolina, where at last accounts, some thirteen hundred of our soldiers were still confined, though a rumor prevailed that some of Burnside's cavalry had made a dash at that point, and liberated them. This rumor was not credited, but it was thought that it might determine the relative authorities to place Colonel Corcoran and the others in one safer place.

At the time preparations were first made for their exchange all these officers were included. As we heard, however, that Col. Corcoran was retained on the ground of having papers about him designed to give us contraband information. These papers were merely sketches, made by different persons, of their various prisons, rooms, and sent home to their friends in Charleston jail, casemates in Castle Pinckney, etc. The rebel authorities were greatly displeased, because the Colonel had friends in Petersburg, who extended to him the hospitalities of their homes, and treated him with the respect due to a brave and true man.

The current opinion at Richmond when these men left was that the rebel army would make a stand near the city of the Chickahominy. There were no troops there of consequence; all were sent to Jeff Davis and left his capital and gone to Tusculum.

On the trip down the James River our men were all sent below, that they might not see the state of the defenses. They were able to discover, however, that the enemy were sinking old canal boats lengthwise across the river to obstruct the channel. In one place only a narrow way left there for a boat to pass. After getting below the Monitor, which the men were again allowed to go on.

**Hancock's Charge at Williamsburg.**

Correspondence of the N. Y. World.

There burst from the woods on our right flank a battalion of rebel cavalry! There, to the right and left of the horse, three regiments of infantry supporting it. A terrible moment! Four thousand infantry, marching in at the same period of the battle, turned and routed our eighteen thousand. But Hancock's charge passed since then. You have learned how and when to fight.

General Hancock was equal to the crisis. Forming his infantry in a square, he repulsed the attack, he held them in magnificent order, while the rebel foot and horse came on, cheering, firing, and charging in gallant and imposing style. Our artillery wheeled and poured hot volleys on them as they came, and over five thousand musket bullets whizzed through and through. But they kept on—never closing up, and sure of their power to sweep us before them.

Thus, swifter than I can write it, until their line, now broken and irregular, was passing within two hundred yards of our front, and our columns, with the exception of the first, were in the act of retreating. Hancock showed himself the coolest and bravest of our country preceptors of the olden time, he said: "Ready, now! Ready, now!" and his whole line swept forward, as the reaper's sickle goes through the corn. Its edge had not yet touched the enemy, when the latter broke simultaneously and fled in confusion to the rear of their stronghold, and the field of Williamsburg was won.

### TO THE PUBLIC.

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## INTERESTING TALES, NARRATIVES, &c.

### From the St. James Magazine.

#### A DAY OF ARCTIC ADVENTURE.

By David Walker, M. D., F. R. S., M. R. I. A., F. R. G. S., &c.

Late Surgeon and Naturalist on board the Fox, in search of Sir John Franklin.

The morning of the 20th May, 1858, was bright and lovely; the sun was reflected from the ice, and snow-capped mountains were visible through the haze. The surface of the water was as smooth as a pond—not a breath of wind—our sails hung loosely in their brails, and we found it necessary to get up steam. Slowly we passed along the coast, threading our way among hundreds of icebergs, whose varied proportions and fantastic shapes added to the beauty of the coast scenery; many of these ice-mountains were aground; others were borne quietly by the current to be drifted through Davis' Strait to the southward. One, very majestic in its appearance, slowly passed our ship; it was three hundred and eighty feet high, square-topped, and its sides, its sides, covered in a crust of ice, and the ice, like the Prometheus of the fable, was constantly gnawed at its vitals. We steamed close to another, which, as we approached, seemed to sink with some internal convulsion; the immense mass, which was sufficient to excite our interest, breaking into vast fragments as it toppled over; very fortunately the steam had made warning us to give it a wider berth, else we might have received damage from some of the numerous pieces. This disruption was caused by the ice having become, as the sailors say, "top-heavy," the water having eaten away and dissolved the base; and the upper portion, gravitating downward, the lower part of the ship was sufficient to excite the latent forces of destruction; the report of this disruption was louder than that of a small rocket of artillery simultaneously discharged.

The coast along which we passed was picturesque in the extreme. The main body of Disco Island is composed of terraced tract of tertiary volcanic origin, its average height being about three thousand feet; the summits are covered with a thick, or the temporary fast ice-mass of the country, which breaks off at intervals of about twelve years. The sun was shining on the sea and the mountains, and the sea, which, with their dark brown masses and indentations of the deepest blue, and might not inappreciably be compared to a massive brick-cape. The upper fifteen hundred feet or so of these mountains seemed almost perpendicular, their surface broken only by the ravines, which were occasionally seen, or by the conical stream of debris which filled the small hollows. Here and there a small stream of water showed where the sun's rays had thawed a miniature cascade, which leaped and bounded down the steep, and, as we approached, the rocks and aiding the elements in their disintegrating action. The lower portion of the coast—that nearest the sea—was composed of sandstone, red and yellow, with an occasional strip of sand running a long way into the bay, the accumulation of ground-ice and stranded icebergs.

All morning we steered our course among the bays, small pieces of floating ice, and a few icebergs, and as we rounded Plakar Point, the surface of the sea was covered with myriads of icebergs, which, as we neared them, rose in clouds to settle down a little further on, again to be disturbed as we approached. Entering the Waigat, we crept along the coast, our purpose being to anchor off that part of the coast where could be best out to the surface, about midway up the coast. The dark lines of ice contrasted well with the blue of the sea, and as they were composed of sandstone, red and yellow, and were either composed of basalt or granite rock. This strait is one of the "Arctic" of the Eskimoes, and is truly, as its name signifies, "a wind-swept bay" for the high land on each side of the narrow strait converts it into a funnel, through which the wind sweeps with dangerous velocity.

[To be continued.]

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