



RICHMOND HAS FALLEN!—The rebel capital; the last rebel stronghold, has surrendered to the matchless heroism of the Army of the Potomac.

Let loyal men rejoice! We have had victories before—the same dauntless courage; equal endurance in the defense of the right; but never has a triumph been achieved so crowning in the measure of its results—so utterly destructive to the country's foes.

It proclaims the safety of the Republic! Centuries hence, when the heroism of the last four years will still be undimmed on the shifting canvass of the past, the victories which culminated in the possession of Richmond, will be pointed to as the fields where the sons of the North baptized their Freedom in their noblest blood, and re-achieved their title to their proud inheritance—the best, the most beneficent government on earth.

All honor to the gallant Army of the Potomac! How nobly it has struggled, undaunted by defeat, against the choicest troops of the foe, let its sacrifices on the Peninsula, at Antietam, at Fredericksburg, at Chancellorsville, at Gettysburg, and from the Wilderness to the South-side road and Richmond, tell.

The Republic is rescued from the murderous grasp of Treason,—thanks to a faithful North and to a just and beneficent God!

THE NIAGARA PEACE EFFORT.

We give in another column of to-day's paper a letter written to the President in July last, by Mr. Greeley, of the Tribune, on the necessity of proposing or receiving terms of adjustment to close the war.

The remarkable letter of the President, borne by Maj. Hay to be delivered to Messrs. Sanders, Clay and Holcomb, prominent rebel civilians then at Niagara.

At the time of this writing we have no definite information of the course taken by Lee when he retreated before Grant; but presume that he is attempting to join Johnston by the Danville railroad.

It is not probable that Lee will go out of his way in his retreat to form a junction with Gen. Early, the commander of the rebel army of the Shenandoah!

We are glad that the letter of Mr. Greeley has found its way into the public prints. How it happened to come to us by way of England—as it first appeared in the Manchester Examiner—is of no consequence.

WASHINGTON. Large Number of Rebel Deserters in Washington—Changes between Washington and City Point—The Old Soldier of the New York Paper—Supplemental Threat in the District—Orders to Return Prisoners, &c., &c.

A stranger arriving in this city at any time during the past week would almost imagine himself in a place occupied by the rebel army.

The government mail-boats between here and City Point charge seven dollars passage fare of all officers passing between these points.

The following order has been issued from the War Department: ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON, March 27, 1865.

ORDERED.—First—That at the hour of noon on the 14th day of April, 1865, Brig. Gen. Anderson will raise and plant the flag of the United States in Charleston Harbor.

Second—That the flag, when raised, be saluted by one hundred guns from Fort Sumter, and by a national salute from every fort and rebel battery that fired upon Fort Sumter.

Third—That suitable ceremonies be had upon the occasion, under the direction of Major General William T. Sherman, whose military operations compelled the rebels to evacuate Charleston, or, in his absence, under the charge of Major General A. G. Slocum, commanding the department.

Fourth—That the naval forces at Charleston, and the Commander on that station, be invited to participate in the ceremonies of the occasion.

A supplementary draft is about to be enforced in this District under the last call. Very few men were obtained from the drawing just completed.

When the entire correspondence shall be published, as we doubt not it will at an early day, it will be seen that the President fully vindicated himself for refusing Mr. Stephens safe conduct to Washington.

It is now due alike to Mr. Greeley, to the President and to the country that the entire correspondence be given to the public, and we hope to see it published in a very few days.

During the month of March 2,500 deserters from Lee's army had the oath of allegiance administered to them in this city.

Rain has been pouring down in torrents the last thirty hours. This snowfall or other is always the case when the Army of the Potomac moves.

Up to this writing the President has not returned from city point, nor does it give now or have an idea of when he is coming back.

The Deserter's Bill—Perplexities of Our Correspondent—The Part in this District—Political Gossip—Jack Heintz and the Auditor General.

The capital has quieted down again: the land-lords have collected their handsome bills from the Sons of the State; the Speculators have come down to civil dimensions; bidders and speculators have vanished like the mists of the morning.

The President during his visit to the front with Gen. Grant, approached to within six miles of Richmond, and also witnessed Sheridan's cavalry crossing the James river.

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multiplied by at least ten, and then not less than ten hundred per cent excess drawn. I have scarcely seen a copy of the paper for several months past that had not a list of the favored ones in some part of your district who had drawn prizes from the government wheel.

—Early has taken a self-imposed pledge to not drink any more until he shall have whipped Sheridan. This is considered by Sheridan's officers as equivalent to the rebel Generals having taken the temperance pledge for life, to the no small damage of the Confederate distillers, and a corresponding fall in the price of corn.

—Maj. Gen. Sherman arrived at City Point, together with some of the officers of his staff, on Monday evening, March 27th, and left to return to his army on the following day.

—Two lads, John B. Ray, aged fifteen years, and John H. Claderbeck, aged sixteen, each four feet five inches high, have arrived in Harrisburg, after traversing a large district of country in their efforts to reach a place of safety.

—Governor Curtin has appointed Major Henry H. Gregg, of Huntingdon county, military secretary, vice Col. Grey, resigned. Major Gregg has been in the war since its commencement, and rising from the ranks, has reached the position of major in the 13th Pennsylvania Cavalry.

—We give in another place sketches of two of the general officers mentioned in the despatches relating to the battle of Fort Steadman.

—John G. Saxe, the witty poet, after a long and severe illness, is convalescing.

—Hon. Wm. Whiting has resigned his position as Solicitor of the War Department.

—A sister of Gen. Grant died at the residence of her father in Covington, Ky., last week.

—Gov. Blair, of Nevada, is said to have attained the respectable height of six feet and four inches.

—P. T. Barnum, the great showman, is one of the Union candidates for member of the Connecticut Legislature in Sandford county.

—Poor Brigham Young is a widower. One of his wives died on the 22d of last month. She was the handsomest of all Brigham's wives, except six.

—General Robert Anderson is en route for Charleston, to carry out the President's order in relation to raising the old flag over Fort Sumter.

—William Cullen Bryant, the veteran editor and poet, has purchased a summer residence in Cummington, Massachusetts, of which place he is a native.

—The property of John Slidell and Judah P. Benjamin has been condemned as forfeited to the United States government in the District Court at New Orleans.

—According to the Pennsylvania School Journal, three hundred and fifty-three children of deceased soldiers have been admitted into the orphan schools of this State.

—Gen. Hooker is to be the recipient of a cane costing \$5,000, the same to be presented to him by Senator Conness, of California, on behalf of friends in California.

—The officers of the Sixth Corps are raising \$10,000 for the purpose of erecting a bronze memorial at West-Point in honor of the late Major-General Sedgwick.

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THE NIAGARA FALLS PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

New-York, July 7, 1864. MY DEAR SIR: I venture to inclose you a letter and telegraphic dispatch that I received yesterday from your irrepresible friend Colorado Jewett, at Niagara Falls.

It is not enough that we anxiously desire a true and lasting peace; we ought to demonstrate and establish the truth beyond cavil. The fact that A. H. Stephens was not permitted a year ago to visit an anti-slavery meeting at Niagara, and a similar refusal to let him speak at the late National Convention at Baltimore is not calculated to counteract.

I treat you, in your own way and manner, as a friend, and I will not be impartial must pronounce frank and generous. If only with a view to the momentous election soon to occur in North Carolina, and of the draft to be enforced in the Free States, this should be done at once.

Gen. Smith's corps reached Dabney's mills, on Fish river, within twenty-six miles of Mobile, on the 23d. Fish river is on the east side of the bay, emptying through Week's bay. Few rebels had been encountered. Canby's move on the west side of the bay is said to be a feint.

Gen. Halleck has decided that 146 rebel prisoners, a portion of those captured on Saturday at Fort Steadman who claimed that they should be allowed to take the oath of allegiance to this government, shall be held for the present, but that they shall not be exchanged against their will.

A number of the North Carolina Legislators have arrived at Morehead City to take the oath of allegiance. He states that Johnston's army only numbers one-half that of Sherman, and that the combined armies of Lee and Johnston will not outnumber those of Sherman and Schofield; that the Legislature admit that the "confederacy" is a failure, and that the people are bringing great pressure to bear upon the State authorities to return to the Union.

The Western mail train for Wheeling, which left Baltimore on Thursday morning at nine o'clock, was captured by a band of Rebel guerrillas at Green Spring, about sixteen miles east of Cumberland, on Friday afternoon. The passengers were robbed of their watches pocket-books, and other valuables, and the train was set on fire and nearly destroyed; but after the robbers left the fire was extinguished and some of the cars were saved.

Gen. Grierson's expedition is said to have been met and driven back from Tupelo, Miss. Thomas and Gillem having united, have reached Knoxville, east Tennessee, half way between Knoxville and Bristol. They are rebuilding the railroads and preserving their communications, intending, the rebels think, to possess southwest Virginia, capture Lynchburg, and then co-operate with Grant. Dalton, Ga., is said to have been burned.

The press, types, files and material of the Charleston Mercury were burned at Columbia having reached that point in charge of the pressman; on their way to a locality out of reach of the Yankees, when Gen. Sherman entered the place. The car in which they were stored is said to have also contained the private and official correspondence of Hon. R. B. Rhetts, from the commencement of the war, with a large amount of money, notes, bonds and other valuable papers, all of which were destroyed.

At the battle of Bentonville the rebels lost ten guns and seven thousand prisoners, besides their killed and wounded, and deserters come in largely. Sherman, reinforced by Schofield and Terry, can sweep everything. He will soon advance with Goldsboro for his base. The wounded are all taken to Newbern. The people welcome the Union armies. Much cotton and other property has been taken. The rebels burned a thousand bales of the former at Goldsboro.

Gen. Lee's official report of the Fort Steadman affair on Saturday is received. He claims the capture of 9 cannon, 2 mortars, and between 500 and 600 prisoners, and that the enemy's (Union) works at Fort Hare were carried. As the "inclosed works in the rear, commanding the enemy's main line," could not be taken without too great sacrifice of life, Gen. Lee withdrew his troops and spiked the captured guns, which could not be brought off. The Rebel loss is stated as "not heavy." Brig-Gen. Terry and St. George Cook were among the wounded.

Sherman's troops lie quietly resting at Goldsboro. The General tells them that the objects of the campaign when they left Savannah have been accomplished. They have caused the evacuation of Charleston and the fall of Wilmington. They have occupied the most important places in South Carolina, including its capital. They have marched over a rough country, abounding in natural disadvantages, so that, when they arrived at Goldsboro large numbers of them were shoeless and trouserless. Their object from the first was the occupation of Goldsboro and a junction with Schofield. This great work they have accomplished, notwithstanding there was "a lion in the path" in the shape of Johnston. This lion has roared without exciting terror, and fought without advantage. His strategy has been at fault, his bravest efforts without fruits of victory.

Gen. Valandigham refuses to be a candidate for Governor of Ohio. Sensible.

G. V. Dorsey, State Treasurer, is mentioned as a candidate for Governor of Ohio, should Gov. Brough decline a re-nomination.

The Knoxville Whig says East Tennessee will present Hon. Horace Maynard to the legislature as her choice for one of the Senators from that State.

The friends in Dauphin Lebanon, Berks and Schuylkill, of Gen. Jas. Nagle, are bringing forward his name in connection with the office of Surveyor General.

The new State government of West Virginia stands as follows: Governor, A. I. Boreman; Secretary of State, G. D. Hall; Auditor, Joseph M. McWhorter; Treasurer, Campbell Tarr; Attorney General, E. P. Hall; Adjutant General, F. R. Pierpont; Quartermaster General, George W. Brown.