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CAPTURE OF CHARLESTON. No event which has occurred during the course of the war will produce more general gratification...

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of march selected by Sherman in his northward advance, he may count upon a battle some days before he can make a junction with Grant.

The present military policy is, on both sides, concentration. We have a great preponderance in numbers and no inferiority in skill.

There is nothing in the narration and letters thus communicated inconsistent with the supposition that the whole affair was an artful maneuver by the friends of the President to hoodwink and deceive the country for his benefit.

The Democratic party asserted their belief in the Presidential canvass, that if they elected their candidate, peace on the basis of reunion would be possible soon after his inauguration.

About 6 o'clock Gen. Schommeling, commander of the Federal forces in that vicinity, moved his forces up and occupied the city and its defenses.

As fast as Gen. Schommeling's forces could be thrown into Charleston they were set to work to put out the fire, which, up to the time our informants left, was raging fiercely in different parts of the city.

We cannot but regard the fall of Charleston and the nearly uninterrupted progress of Sherman's forces through South Carolina as a striking demonstration of the military weakness of the rebels.

Mr. Lincoln enticed the rebel government to send commissioners by holding out to them the idea that simple reunion was the sole condition on which he would insist.

Mr. Lincoln seems to have been surprised and embarrassed at the prompt acceptance of his proposition. Had it been refused, as he expected and counted on, his letter to Mr. Blair and the indorsement he wrote upon it, would have been a damaging bomb to explode, as some fitly opportunity against the Democratic party.

The President was accordingly taken

aback and disconcerted when the rebel commissioners made their appearance at our lines, with an application for safe conduct to Washington.

"The Richmond Examiner, in its account of the late Fort Sumner conference, says: 'Both Lincoln and Seward are denounced as having been, personally, very pleasant in their conversation with the commissioners.'

The National Intelligencer says: 'It is in the presence of such statements, made after the Presidential election, that we can measure the wicked injustice of those representations by which, before the late election, it was common for the Republic press to charge the supporters of Gen. McClellan with dilatory to the cause of the Union.'

Old Abe's Last. At the tenth anniversary of the Massachusetts Sunday School Teachers' Convention, held in Boston on the 18th ult., the following fact was related by one of the speakers, and reported in the New York (Baptist) Chronicle:

The following paragraph appears in the President's message transmitting the proceedings in connection with the Hampton Roads conference. It lends color to our belief that were the Government in the hands of conservative men, we would soon have peace restored on the basis of a perpetuated Union.

The word never is italicized in the President's manuscript, and proves that he does not believe the Union, if simple obedience to the Constitution were required of them.

The conversation, although earnest and free, was calm, courteous and kind on both sides. The Richmond party approached the subject rather indirectly, and at no time did they make categorical demands or tender formal stipulations or absolute refusals; nevertheless, during the conference, which lasted four hours, the several points at issue between the Government and the insurgents were distinctly raised and discussed fairly, intelligently and in an amicable spirit.

Here is an admission that "we might now have immediate peace," with no intimation that it would not have been followed by a return of the disaffected States to their allegiance.

GENERAL McCLELLAN IN EUROPE.—The friends of Gen. McClellan will be glad to learn that that distinguished officer, with his estimable family, has arrived safely in England. The China, in which steamship the General and family sailed from New York, on the 25th of January, arrived at Liverpool on Saturday, Feb. 4. During Sunday, he remained in Liverpool; there he was visited among other persons, by the United States Vice Consul, accompanied by whom he with his family attended divine service. On Monday the distinguished party proceeded to London, en route to Paris and Rome.

A GENTLEMAN of observation, whose position enables him to judge of the popular feeling in Savannah, writes us in a private note: 'Union sentiment here is a humbug. There is none.' We doubt not he is correct. There may be a pretended Union feeling in the South wherever our armies obtain a foothold, but to suppose that the people there have been whipped into any real love for the Union, is about as absurd as to assert that knocking your neighbor down and taking possession of his property will make him your friend for life.

A very day ago Henry Ward Beecher made one of his characteristic rhyal speeches, in Baltimore, in which he denounced any peace on a basis of compromise. He said he was willing to shed his own and his children's blood to carry on the war, but—like most of his class—he takes precious good care not to do so.

Foxey's Press, the organ of the Republican party in this State, declares the passage of the anti-slavery amendment to be 'a triumph for that little party which, thirty years ago, declared the Constitution to be a covenant with Hell!'

The Oil Fever. Erie, February 17, 1865. Editor Observer—Dear Sir: I think I have the oil fever—yes, I am quite certain of it. Last night I was down street, and while there met my dear friend Mr. Boggs. Boggs is a speculative trader—always engaged in some money-making enterprise. He has heretofore been very agreeable, and fluent in conversation, but last night he seemed rather absent-minded.

On reaching home my little boy came running to me, and exclaimed: 'Oh, papa, Mr. D. has struck oil!' Mr. D. is our next door neighbor, and the sanguinity of his success had no good effect upon the well state of my mind.

The latest news about the draft will be found in an official order by Provost Marshal General Fry. He directs all enrolling boards, not active in putting in recruits, to prepare at once for drafting, and requires Provost Marshals to report what districts are not rapidly filling their quotas.

Mr. ROBERT LINCOLN, son of the President, is nominated as Assistant Adjutant General of Volunteers, with the rank of Captain, to serve on the staff of Lieut. Gen. Grant.—Exchange.

FRENCH RECOGNITION.—The New York Daily News asserts editorially that 'the Southern Commissioners crossed our lines armed with the certainty of the recognition of the Confederacy by the Emperor Napoleon, immediately after the South shall have decreed emancipation.'

The Buffalo Express recently published a statement that Mrs. Geo. H. Pondleton, who is a daughter of Francis B. Key, the author of the song 'The Star-spangled Banner,' recently informed a lady in Cincinnati that if there was one thing in the life of her father she regretted, it was that he had written that song.

In the House, at Harrisburg, a few days ago, the Speaker presented a communication from the State Treasurer, in answer to the inquiry what State banks had gone into business under the national law, who replied that they were fifty-eight in number, having a capital of \$2,692,388.30.—Their change leaves a capital of only \$6,930,695.50 invested in banks under the national law, and takes from the Commonwealth a tax that last year amounted to \$433,471.41, which must be made up by taxation from some other source.

This internal revenue for the month of January, 1865, amounted to the enormous sum of \$31,076,902.89—over a million of dollars a day, including Sunday! The depreciation of the currency and the immense amount of paper money in circulation makes this tax a comparatively easy one to pay at present, but after the war closes, and business affairs assume their old level, it will weigh with intense heaviness on all classes of the community.

THE UNDERIGNED HAVE ASSOCIATED to continue the wholesale and retail trade in Groceries, Carriages, and House Furnishings, at No. 115 West Erie, Feb. 7, 1865.—J. W. WARREN & CO.

THE UNDERIGNED OFFERS FOR SALE a fine lot of property in the city of Erie, consisting of a house and lot at the corner of Perry and Tenth streets. The house fronts on Chestnut street, is a two-story brick building, with a full basement, and a full bath, and is in good order generally.

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AYER'S SERRAPARILLA. THE WORLD'S GREAT REMEDY. Broun and Broun's Dispensary, 115 West Erie, Erie, Pa. It has sold large quantities of this medicine, and has received the highest testimonials from all parts of the world. It is a safe and reliable remedy for all diseases of the bowels, and is particularly adapted for the treatment of the following complaints: Constipation, Indigestion, Headache, Neuralgia, Rheumatism, Gout, Gravel, Dropsy, Ascites, Pleurisy, Peritonitis, Typhoid Fever, Cholera, Dysentery, Hemorrhoids, Piles, Stricture, Gonorrhoea, Syphilis, and all diseases of the urinary system.

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