

YANKEE ACCOUNT OF THE CHARLESTON FIGHT.

The following account is taken from the New York Tribune of the 16th inst. At 1 p. m. the pilot of the flag-ship at last declared himself ready to move. The signal to get under way was made and at 1 1/2 minutes before 2 o'clock the whole fleet was in motion. At 2 1/2 o'clock the batteries on Morris Island had been passed by the first four Monitors without drawing the fire of the enemy. Shortly before three o'clock the Ironsides showed disobedience to her rudder, her bow swinging to the strong ebb tide and threatening to bring her on the shoals to her right. She was therefore compelled to come to anchor to stay her course. Meantime the first four Monitors had continued on towards the fort. The enemy allowed the Wehawken to come within five hundred yards of Fort Moultrie, when two shots across her bow from this fort opened the action.

The Ironsides had again got under way and approached within 1200 yards of Fort Sumter, when she became once more unmanageable and was again obliged to drop anchor. The Monitors ahead of her had then reached the converging point of the river and were working between Fort Sumter and Moultrieville, known as Battery Bee. A sheet of flame and volumes of smoke, extending from Morris to Sullivan's Islands, inaugurated what has been undoubtedly the most terrific cannonade of the whole war, if, indeed, it was ever equalled in the history of the world. A perfect torrent of shot and shell was poured upon the Monitors, wrapping them sometimes almost entirely in spots of water thrown up by the striking projectiles.

The Monitors continued their way, replying vigorously from their batteries to the enemy. They passed the northeast face of Fort Sumter, but when they came near its angle with the northwestern face, they made out at a short distance three distinct lines of obstructions, consisting of floating logs, with torpedoes attached, and networks of cables, held perpendicularly in the water by weights.

The Patapsco got foul of one of them, and could not make her screw work for some fifteen minutes, but finally got clear. A torpedo exploded close to the bow of the Wehawken, without, however, doing any damage.

The vessels all steering very heavily, the narrow passages through the line of obstructions could not be reached. After several vain attempts, down the harbor, all the while sustaining a heavy fire, and responding with their guns as vigorously as they could.

The Patapsco had her 200-pounder parrot gun disabled by its own recoil early in the action. The turret of the Passaic was bent in, and cramped her 11-inch gun so as to prevent its working. Shortly afterward, her turret stopped revolving, and she lost all offensive power.

The Ironsides had meantime vainly struggled to come closer to Fort Sumter. The rebel gunners finding her a fixed mark plied her freely with shot and shell. Her position was such that she could not bring her broadsides to bear until about four o'clock, when she got an opportunity to deliver her fire at Fort Moultrie. This was the only offensive demonstration made by her during the action.

When Admiral Dupont found that he could not readily move the Ironsides, he signalled to the four iron-clads behind her to pass ahead and go to the support of the four vessels already engaged.

In trying to pass by the Catskill and Nantuxet brushed the Ironsides on the port and starboard sides, but after awhile managed to get away and moved on. They and the Keokuk and Nahant came under the concentric range of the forts and batteries at about the time the other four Monitors were turning back. They nevertheless advanced with their guns at work briskly past the northeast face of Fort Sumter, until their course was likewise impeded by obstructions. The Catskill, Nantuxet and Nahant received the united fire of both Forts Sumter and Moultrie.

The Keokuk had steered a little more to the left and for awhile received the fire of Fort Sumter alone. She fired the gun in her forward turret but three times, when it became disabled. Her after gun could not be brought to bear effectively and was thus rendered useless. After continuing under the united fires of all the forts and batteries for about three-quarters of an hour, all the Monitors and the Whitney Battery came back in obedience to a signal from the flag-ship.

The Ironsides had already dropped back some distance out of range of Fort Sumter. At 5 o'clock the entire fleet was out of range and the action ceased.

The Ericsson raft, known as the Devil, was attached to the bow of the Wehawken, but proved a hindrance instead of a help, by embarrassing the steering of the Wehawken. The monster torpedoes intended to be connected with the raft were not used, as they required delicate handling, and fears were entertained as to their success. The Devil was lost the day after the fight and washed ashore.

The Devil is a large raft of timber, securely bolted together, in width about the same as one of the Monitor batteries, and extending some thirty feet forward of the battery's bow, which fits into it, and is then secured to the rings on the deck. At the extreme forward part of this raft and under water strong iron stanchions point downwards to a few inches below the bottom of the battery. These stanchions are secured by iron braces, which run back at an angle to the after under side of the raft. At the bottom of this network of braces and stanchions are placed two rods on which rest several torpedoes, together containing nearly a thousand pounds of gunpowder. In connection with this are hammers, which, when acted upon, strike percussion caps, exploding the several torpedoes instantly, and, of course, causing a rupture of anything they may come in contact with.

It was the intention of the Admiral to renew the attack on the next day, but when the reports of the commanders of iron-clads were received, showing that two, the Keokuk and Passaic, were fully, and three, the Patapsco, Nantuxet and Nahant, were partially disabled, the Admiral determined to desist from a continuance. In this decision he was sustained by the unanimous opinion of the commanders of all the iron-clads.

The numerical weakness of the land force rendered their direct co-operation in the attack impracticable. Upon the navy devolved the main share of the work and all the fighting was done by it alone.

The New York Times publishes an extra containing their special accounts of the attack on Charleston. Their correspondent says that the trial was a decisive ordeal of two hours, which served to prove that the defensive powers of the iron-clad fleet is sufficient to withstand the terrible force of the offensive engineering of the works it had to assail, while the limitation of the offensive powers of the iron-clads took away all their advantage. The result of the reconnaissance proved the utter insufficiency of the iron-clad fleet to take Charleston alone.

The Nahant received thirty wounds, several being bad fractures of the deck and sides below and above the water line. The most fatal blow was by a heavy rifled cannon shot, which struck the pilot house and dislodged several bolts and all the inmates.

The Passaic received twenty-five or thirty wounds.

THE DARKIES IN COUNCIL.

The Boston Courier publishes an account of a meeting of negroes in New Bedford, Mass., convened by request of Geo. Andrew, for the purpose of encouraging enlistments. "Mr. Crow," the chairman, after delivering the opening address, sat down upon a barrel, when the Secretary read the following resolutions:

- 1. Whereas, how, lookin' back t'rou de vista of dis war, we don't see notin' encouragin'; and lookin' thru de retrospect ahead, things looks w's 'n ever; resolved, somethin' got to be done!
2. Resolved, white folk haint done nothin'.
3. Resolved, it take culleded folks to do sumthin'.
4. Resolved, how's it gwine to be done?
5. Resolved, dat's de question!

The resolutions having been read there was a great rush for the floor, and gentlemen treading upon the elongated heels of each other, there was no little confusion and outcry. Order being at length restored; Pompey Cole, Esq., was recognized by the—barrel.

Mr. Cole remarked: "Mr. Cheerman, I don't know 'bout dis yere thing. 'Fus place, afore we lick the Souf, I want to know what we's got to do 'bout it? I read a story in de Courier todler day 'bout some white fellah askin' a culleded gentleman, says he, 'Look you here, white man, did yab ever see two dogs a fightin' over a bone? Wall, white man 'lowed he had. 'Berry well, says de culleded gentleman, 'did de bone fight?'

Now, den, Misser Cheerman on de barrel yonder, dey tell us dis war's for liberty—for to set dem niggers out Souf free. Well, who axed 'em to do it? Nigger out Souf didn't. He's better off afore den he is now, kicken 'bout atween two armies, a kitchen it all round. Culleded gentlemen dem dirty niggers circled 'round here, a takin business out of our hands? Is we gwine to shave for six cents an' black boots for two cents, like dey can? No, sah, no! My sentiments is, dat if white folks had waitit till culleded people and niggers had axed 'em to fight about den, dere would 'nt been no fightin', no way. Gov. Andrew can't come out over dis chile. If he wants a dinner 'I'll give him one, like Mr. Hayden did, cause I ain't proud; but he ain't gwine to get my shoulder behind a musket if he kiss it all day long. No, sah! an' what's more, white sagers don't want 'no more 'n we want to go. Dis yere country will be safer to let the white folks fight it out an' let de culleded gentlemen stay at home an' mind der own business."

The speech of Mr. Cole had such a convincing effect upon the assembly, that the efforts of President Crow, who was the only darkey in the crowd who had received a five dollar bill from the Governor, were totally ineffectual in the preservation of order. The barrel upon which he had mounted was kicked from under him, but as he fortunately alighted upon his head, he sustained no personal injury, so that he was not prevented from fulfilling his engagement to take tea with his Excellency on the following evening. His report of the proceedings of the meeting will probably be published at the expense of the State, unless it may be deemed inexpedient, not comporting with the public welfare.

High Living.—The Hons.—having been engaged at the enormous prices for board extorted from members of Congress by hard-hearted landlords, determined to withdraw their patronage from their boarding house and board themselves.

Accordingly Dick (Dick always waits on members of Congress,) was ordered to proceed to market and lay in a supply of the raw material, wherewith to commence the responsible undertaking of "keeping house."

Dick returned with baskets well laden with meats and sundry other articles, some of which are not now familiar to the public in general, and particularly the vulgi, but specimens of which are still cherished by that ubiquitous individual, "the oldest inhabitant," as reminiscences of the palmiest days of the old Federal Union. And they are pointed out with pride to the youth of the present generation as what "Pa used to see on the table when he was young."

But the first breakfast. It was a good one. Mocha—genuine Mocha—with sugar and cream, (no one in Richmond knows the meaning of that word. Consult W. U.) boiled eggs; beef-steak, juicy, with condiments; toast, floating in butter, batter cakes, smoking from the griddle, with other articles known only to epicures.

The Hons. congratulated themselves on their successful and agreeable change of fare, and abused the landlord fraternity in general as "extortioners, unjust," &c. Dick received a V for his skill as a caterer, and a hilarity proposed to count the cost of breakfast. Oh, no, said Messrs. B. and C.; "would only spoil the breakfast and it can very readily be done at any other time; but Mr. A. insisted. The calculation was made, and breakfast for the three amounted to \$21. Mr. C. immediately became aware of the fact that he had eaten something which did not agree with him. Mr. B. felt something lie very heavily on his stomach, and Mr. A. proposed to return to old eating quarters, which was unanimously agreed upon.

The following effects are offered for sale at auction: Coffee, 3-4 of a pound; sugar, do; pepper 1-4 of a pound; salt do; vinegar, 1 pint. Terms of sale—one half cash, the remainder on a credit of six months, upon the purchaser giving a note endorsed by good security.

Value of an Explanation.—A certain king, it is said, sent to another king, saying, "send me a blue pig with a black tail, or else—"

The other in high dudgeon at the presumed insult replied, "I have not got one, and if I had—"

On which weighty cause they went to war for many years. After a satiety of glories and miseries they finally bethought them that, as their armies and resources were exhausted, and their kingdoms mutually laid waste, it might be well enough to consult about the preliminaries of peace; but before this could be concluded, a diplomatic explanation was first needed of the insulting language which had formed the ground of the quarrel.

"What could you mean," asked the second king of the first, "by saying—send me a blue pig with a black tail, or else—"

"Why," said the other, "I meant a blue one with a black tail, or else some other color." "But," retorted he, "what could you mean by saying, 'I have not got one, and if I had—'?"

"Why, of course, if I had, I should have sent it." An explanation which was entirely satisfactory, and peace was concluded accordingly.

Very True.—The Charleston Mercury says that "men who, in a crisis like this, hold back grain or provisions from the market, in the hope of hereafter reaping larger money profits, are inflicting upon their country a blow more deadly than any the traitor's hand could give. While the Government is exerting all its energies in the great emergency, the people should see to it that the whole existing resources of the land are brought out."

Yaxoo is an Indian name, and signifies "river of death."

It is often woman than her wrings that needs to be redressed.

COMMUNICATIONS.

FOR THE OBSERVER. Fort Florida, N. C., April 20, 1863. Editors Observer:—Your interesting correspondence "Long Greaves" contains an unintentional error in stating that the vessel "Catskill" was built in New York. We have never had less than two vessels of Fort Fisher, and for the last two or three months we have had a blockading squadron consisting of between six and seven vessels. Why vessels running the blockade happen to be so fortunate in getting in at this time has been through the energy and perseverance of our Colonel, who never allows a blockade to lie closer than five miles, and their usual anchorage is seven miles from the Fort.

Our Commander, Col. Wm. Lamb, is beloved by his whole command, and there is not a man in the garrison who would not fight to the last with him. Kind, generous and noble, he has endeared himself to us by those ties which are not easily broken. He has always done (whenever it was in his power) all that he could for their benefit, and he is well repaid by having in return their love and affection.

The following is a list of the blockaders off New Inlet at present. The armament and tonnage are taken from the Federal Navy Register of Sept. 1862.

Table with columns: Name, Class, Guns, Tonnage. Includes vessels like Decatur, Keokuk, Nahant, etc.

FOR THE OBSERVER. CARE 210 N. C. REG'T, April 9, 1863. At a meeting of Co. C, 231 N. C. Reg't, convened on the 9th April 1863, on motion a committee of three were appointed by the President for the purpose of drafting resolutions expressive of our sympathy, and paying tribute of respect to Lieut. H. J. McNeill, who died on 26th March 1863, of wounds received in the memorable battle of Seven Pines, 31st May 1862. The following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, it has fallen upon the all-wise and all-wise of the Union to remove from our midst one of our most valuable and efficient courages in arms, Lieut. J. N. Nicholson, therefore, be it

Resolved, That while we lament the untimely death of our beloved comrade, yet we humbly bow with submission to the will of His all-wise and all-wise Father, things for the best, and that we cherish with fond remembrance the many virtues and genuine qualities that not only endeared his pure heart around ours, but all those who knew him.

Resolved, That his death the company has lost the society of a generous and amiable comrade, and the Confederacy an efficient officer, who was among the first to rush to his country's call.

Resolved, That we tender our heartfelt sympathies to the family of the deceased, and to the Fayetteville Observer for publication, with a request that the Presbyterian copy, by Capt. E. H. LYON, Chm'n., Lieut. A. F. SAUNDERS, Com. Serg't J. P. LEACH, and TROOP F. POWELL, Sec'y.

FOR THE OBSERVER. At a meeting of Co. H, 30th Reg. N. C. T., held 1st April 1863, Lieut. McNeill was called to the Chair. The Chairman, in a brief and appropriate manner expressed the feelings of the company, and the members of Co. H, G. Cole, D. J. McIntosh and A. B. Brown were appointed a committee to draft resolutions, and A. D. McGill requested to act as Secretary. The committee retired for a short time, returned and reported through their Chairman the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, We have heard of the death of Lieut. L. H. McNeill, Co. H, 30th N. C. Reg't, who died at his home in Moore county, N. C., March 19th, 1863, after long illness; therefore, we the surviving members of his company desire to pay this last affectionate tribute to his memory and offer our sincere sympathies to his wife and five orphan children. He endeared himself to us while he carried a musket for many months; but we learned especially to appreciate him during the two months he held his Lieutenancy. His career as a soldier and officer closed with the close of the fearful conflict around Richmond. Having gone bravely through those fights, disease carried him to his home and finally to his grave.

Resolved, That a copy of the above be sent to the family of the deceased, and to the Fayetteville Observer for publication, with a request that the Presbyterian please copy. Lieut. H. J. McNeill, Chm'n., A. D. McGill, Sec'y.

FOR THE OBSERVER. Died at the residence of his parents, near Rockingham, Richmond County, on 3d ult. after a protracted illness, Hiram H. Bailey, aged 30 years, of this county. A worthy young man is no more. The writer of this brief tribute knew him intimately, and he takes pleasure in testifying here, as he has done elsewhere, to the social and moral worth which secured for him whilst living, the confidence and esteem of all who knew him. Unlike too many of our young men, who, freed from the restraints of kindred and home, fall into the vice and dissipation of camp life, he preserved through his whole term of service a reputation for those high virtues which are the basis of a soldier's honor, not only to his wide circle of relatives and friends, but to his companions in arms, who in common with them mourn his untimely end. Among the first to respond to the call of his country, he entered his service in June 1861. Through a period of about eighteen months he experienced many severe privations and endured many hardships. A member of Co. D, 23d Reg't N. C. T., his first campaign was in the army of the Potomac, which, through rain, sleet and snow, through a long and dreary winter, in the face of the enemy and within sight of his Capital, stood a wall of defence to the South. Subsequently this army falling back he was with it on the Peninsula, and though not actually engaged was exposed to fire at the battle of Williamsburg. Still later he was with the troops who made that long and toilsome march into Maryland, where he participated in several bloody engagements. Shortly after this his health failed and in Jan'y 1863 he reached home. For several long months his family and friends watched by his bedside with alternate hopes and fears, and all that love and friendship could accomplish was done, but in vain. His work was done, and he fell to his reward. His manner of life for the whole period of his service, the patience and resignation he uniformly evinced during his painful and protracted illness, the composure with which he spoke of his approaching end, and above all the rapidity with which he recovered as he looked forward to the future, furnished to his bereaved family and friends the comfortable assurance that the summons that removed him hence proceeded from his Heavenly Father, who spoke in a voice though uttered by others, that was audible to him: "Well done, good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."—Com. A Member of Co. F.

FOR THE OBSERVER. Died, at the Hospital, Greenville, N. C., April the 5th, of the Hospital, Greenville, N. C., private in Co. F, 44th Reg't N. C. T. His integrity and firmness of character had gained for him the love and esteem of his comrades in arms. He participated in the fight at Spring Banks, where he acquitted himself with great coolness and bravery. In camp he was always at his post, obedient to his officers and attentive to his duties. His premature death has been deeply lamented by his kind parents, brothers, sisters and many friends and relatives at home, and by his brave associates in arms. A Member of Co. F.

FOR THE OBSERVER. Died at the residence of his parents, near Rockingham, Richmond County, on 3d ult. after a protracted illness, Hiram H. Bailey, aged 30 years, of this county. A worthy young man is no more. The writer of this brief tribute knew him intimately, and he takes pleasure in testifying here, as he has done elsewhere, to the social and moral worth which secured for him whilst living, the confidence and esteem of all who knew him. Unlike too many of our young men, who, freed from the restraints of kindred and home, fall into the vice and dissipation of camp life, he preserved through his whole term of service a reputation for those high virtues which are the basis of a soldier's honor, not only to his wide circle of relatives and friends, but to his companions in arms, who in common with them mourn his untimely end. Among the first to respond to the call of his country, he entered his service in June 1861. Through a period of about eighteen months he experienced many severe privations and endured many hardships. A member of Co. D, 23d Reg't N. C. T., his first campaign was in the army of the Potomac, which, through rain, sleet and snow, through a long and dreary winter, in the face of the enemy and within sight of his Capital, stood a wall of defence to the South. Subsequently this army falling back he was with it on the Peninsula, and though not actually engaged was exposed to fire at the battle of Williamsburg. Still later he was with the troops who made that long and toilsome march into Maryland, where he participated in several bloody engagements. Shortly after this his health failed and in Jan'y 1863 he reached home. For several long months his family and friends watched by his bedside with alternate hopes and fears, and all that love and friendship could accomplish was done, but in vain. His work was done, and he fell to his reward. His manner of life for the whole period of his service, the patience and resignation he uniformly evinced during his painful and protracted illness, the composure with which he spoke of his approaching end, and above all the rapidity with which he recovered as he looked forward to the future, furnished to his bereaved family and friends the comfortable assurance that the summons that removed him hence proceeded from his Heavenly Father, who spoke in a voice though uttered by others, that was audible to him: "Well done, good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."—Com. A Member of Co. F.

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