

situated a small work whose guns throw their missiles across the channel. Next comes Fort Caswell, built by the United States before the war. It is a work with five sides, three of them mounting guns, about sixty all told. This work has been strengthened recently, and is undoubtedly a very formidable affair. Possibly the iron clads may operate against this work. Just above Fort Caswell is a small work, located on Battery Island. On the right hand side of the river coming down, is Fort Johnson, situated at Smithville, and about one and a half miles from Fort Caswell. Above this, at various points on the river, are said to be batteries of various sizes, but mostly small and of little importance.

ON PEACE.—The Washington Chronicle (19th) has a liberal and creditable editorial on the people of the South, entitled "Worthy Thought." After asking the question, if the people of the South are so tired of the war, why do they fight with such tenacity? It answers it by a reference to the social influences and their high sense of honor. It avers that no gentlemen could be more agreeable and no ladies more fascinating. It closes as follows:

Personal honor was the absorbing passion of the Southerner's life. The standard may have been faulty, but was rigidly adhered to. Such men may be heartily sick of a strife, but they will not abandon those engaged in it. They may long for the close of the war, but they will not desert their colors. They may deplore the necessity for the dread onsets of forlorn battle-fields, but once on them they will conquer or die.

As deserters or willing captives, they know they will be ostracised from the homes of the friends they love when the contest is over. Hence the war will be continued and desperate battles be fought, until, by common consent, the struggle is regarded as utterly hopeless, or until such terms are offered as they feel at liberty to accept.

Shall we deal with them as plucky, but erring brethren, whose sense of honor, defective as we may think it, must be respected, and whose pride of character should not be broken down; or shall we undertake to regard them as lawless, defiant rebels, who are to be humbled, if not exterminated? Do we not want these courageous men, these enduring, high spirited men, to unite with us in laying broad and deep the foundations of a democratic society that under the inspiration of free institutions, shall throw all our past prosperity, brilliant as it was, in the shade?

PEACE.—Most of our Georgia exchanges are urging the importance for action on the part of the Confederate Government or by the States to stop the war and secure a peace by negotiation. The Macon Confederacy says:

Shall we continue to fight on, or shall we begin to cast about and ascertain if there is no method or mode by which this cruel and undesirable war can be terminated? Is it policy, is it to our interest, to continue the spilling of blood, the expenditure of treasure and the enfeebling of our Government, without ever asking directly our enemy to stop this war and settle the question otherwise than with the sword? Surely it is not. Then why, in the name of all that is good and just, do we not make the proposition? Let us, either by State or Confederate action, ask a cessation of hostilities, and if that is granted (and it is folly to cry that it will be refused, for no one has any information upon the subject,) an adjustment can be accomplished.

If, however, our independence and separation is refused, no great harm will have been done, and the people of the South will then be in favor of a prosecution of the war until the last Southern man sinks in his own blood. The time for the proposition of this question has arrived, and justice to humanity and our suffering people demands that it should be done.

But perhaps some lover of discord and contention, who is anxious to misrepresent honest men, and to fabricate real hydra-headed monsters out of imaginary ones, will charge us with being too conservative, possibly weak-kneed; but to all such modern Falstaffs, we say, have patience, and perhaps to your astonishment, you will learn that we are truer to the cause than yourself.

New-York papers of the 30th contain a lengthy official report of Admiral Porter about the Wilmington disaster. It opens with an account of the sailing of the fleet, and then goes into the particulars of a great gunpowder plot for the blowing up of Fort Fisher.

Of the bombardment of Fort Fisher after

the failure of the gunpowder plot, the admiral says:

I regret, however, to have to report some severe casualties by the bursting of six one hundred-pounder Parrott cannon. One burst on board the Ticonderoga, killing six of the crew and wounding seven others; another burst on board the Yankee, killing one officer and two men; another on the Juniata, killing two officers, and wounding and killing ten others; another on the Mackinaw, killing one officer and wounding five men; another on the Quaker City, wounding, I believe, two or three; another on the Susquehanna, killing and wounding seven. I think the bursting of the guns (six in all,) much disconcerted the crews of the vessels where the accidents happened, and gave one and all a great distrust of the Parrott one hundred-pounders, and as subsequent events proved, they were unfit for service, and calculated to kill more of our own men than those of the enemy. Some of the vessels were struck once or twice. The Mackinaw had her boiler perforated with a shell, and ten or twelve persons were badly scalded. The Oscola was struck with a shell near the magazine, and was at one time in a sinking condition; but her efficient commander stopped up the leak, while the Mackinaw fought out the battle, notwithstanding the damage she received. The Yankee was the only vessel which left the line to report damages.

The troops were landed in one hundred small boats, and after making a thorough reconnaissance of the Fort both General Weitzel and the Admiral were fully of the opinion that the place could not be carried by assault, as it was left substantially uninjured, as a defensive work, by the navy fire.

The exploits of the land forces may be thus summed up, as recounted by their commander Maj. Gen. Benj. F. Butler in a letter addressed to Admiral Porter. They captured Flag-Pond Battery and its garrison, consisting of sixty-five men and two commissioned officers; and Half Moon battery with a garrison of two hundred and eight men of the 3d N. C. Junior Reserves and seven officers.

The latter adds that Gen. Weitzel advanced his skirmish line within fifty yards of the fort, captured a horse; killed a bearer of dispatches to Gen. Whiting, and brought away a flag from the parapet of the fort. Finding that the fort could only be reduced by regular siege operations, in view of the threatening aspect of the weather, they were ordered to re-embark. Butler's engineers and officers report Fort Fisher as substantially uninjured as a defensive work.

THE FALL OF CLEBURNE.—We take a mournful pleasure in endorsing this brief but handsome tribute from the Montgomery Mail to the gallant heroic Cleburne.

A nobler and braver soldier never breathed the atmosphere of the battle-field than Major General Patrick Cleburne, who fell in the fight at Harpeth Creek. Gen. Cleburne's history, civil and military, is too well known, to require a biographical sketch at our hands. He was an Irishman by birth, and a Southerner by adoption—a soldier from choice and by education. He served when quite a youth, in the British service, where was inculcated those soldierly qualities of discipline and training which have rendered him distinguished in the present war. When he first emigrated to this country he settled in Arkansas, where he studied and practiced law, and in that profession had, previous to the struggle, formed a partnership with the present Maj. Gen. T. C. Hindman.

When the war commenced, he enlisted as a private, was made Captain of his company, was afterwards elected Colonel of his regiment, and from one grade to another gradually rose to the position he held at the time of his fall. Among his contemporaries he was distinguished for his soldierly qualities, and for a correctness of judgment in the council of war and upon the field of action, which gave his opinion great weight and influence. He endeared himself to his devoted troops, and won the admiration and respect of every soldier in the army, by his attention to their general welfare and by his gallant bearing upon the field, and his cool and intrepid behaviour in the hour of battle. The country has not sustained a greater loss since the death of the lamented Jackson. The Army of Tennessee mourns the loss of its right arm, which has twice saved it from disaster. The Confederacy weeps over the heroic form of her adopted son.

Stumps of trees may be destroyed by boring a hole in the centre of the stump in the fall, ten inches deep and filling it with vitriol. It will rot the stump by spring.

Hillsborough Recorder.

HILLSBOROUGH, N. C.

Wednesday, January 11, 1865.

THE NEWS.

The past week has furnished us with very little news of importance. Gen. Lee's lines in Virginia have been quiet for some time. Gen. Early's cavalry forces in upper Virginia have had some skirmishes, but the condition of the roads now prevent operations. The Yankees attacked Saltville some days ago, injured the saltworks and destroyed considerable salt, but did not hold the place. It will take a month to repair damages. Gen. Breckinridge has had some engagements with the enemy in Western Virginia, in which the enemy was worsted.

Since Sherman's entrance into Savannah but little has occurred to develop his intended movements. It is stated that he has thrown a portion of his troops across the Savannah river, and that a strong column was advancing upon Branchville, S. C. The defenses of Charleston are being strengthened, in anticipation of an attack.

Reports have been in circulation of the death of Gen. Hood and of Gen. Forrest, but neither of them have been confirmed.

The death of Gen. Sterling Price has also been announced, and is generally believed to be true. It is said he died suddenly of apoplexy.

It is understood that Gen. Lee has been appointed General in Chief, and will hereafter have direct control of our military affairs at all points.

Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, it is said, has been appointed to the command of the army of Tennessee.

Gen. D. H. Hill passed through Charlotte on the 20th ult., under orders to report to General Beauregard at Charleston.

There is one gratifying result of the failure of the enemy here which may be almost as valuable in its moral effect as the repulse of his vast armada was in its military consequences. If the latter has saved the last remaining seaport of the Confederacy, the first has done much to restore the spirits and confidence of our people. It has been the turning-point to a long succession of disasters. It has shown what can be done, when people are determined that it shall be done. It shows us that we are neither deprived of help from Providence, nor rendered incapable of helping ourselves. The news from Wilmington was immediately felt at Richmond. Pending the attack here gold disappeared as totally in Richmond as it did here. As soon as the repulse of the enemy became known, it began to crawl timidly forth, at gradually declining rates, although fearfully extravagant. Gold went up somewhat in New York. It will probably go up still farther. *Wilmington Journal.*

CONGRATULATORY ORDER FROM GEN. BRAGG.

The following order from Gen. Bragg, congratulating the troops on the successful defence of Fort Fisher, has been published:

Head-Quarters Department N. C.,
Wilmington, Dec. 29, 1864.

GENERAL ORDERS,
No. 174.

The Commanding General desires to congratulate the officers and men engaged in the recent operations near this place on their successful termination. One of the most formidable expeditions yet organized by the enemy—an imposing force of veteran troops supported by a fleet carrying over five hundred guns, has accomplished no other object than a fruitless landing on a barren coast, followed in forty-eight hours by a hasty re-embarkation.

This auspicious result is due, under a merciful Providence, to the skill of Major General Whiting, who planned the defenses at the mouth of the Cape Fear, to the gallantry and endurance of Col. Lamb and the brave garrison of Fort Fisher under his immediate command, worthily seconded by Lieut. Chapman of the Navy and his devoted seamen serving Battery Buchanan, and the steady coolness with which Brigadier General Kirkland, with a part of his brigade, checked the advance of vastly superior numbers of the enemy.

Thus another gigantic effort of a powerful enemy has come to naught, but not without affording us profitable lessons. The successful defence of Fort Fisher, against one of the most formidable naval armaments of modern times, proves that the superiority of land batteries over ships of war, at one time threatened by the improvements in artillery and ship armor, has been re-established by the genius of the engineer; and the weaker party on the defensive may still defy the greater numbers and mechanical resources of an arrogant invader. Let us hope that the check which

the enemy has received at the mouth of the Cape Fear may prove the harbinger of a renewed series of Confederate victories!

By order of General Bragg:
(Signed,) ARCHER ANDERSON,
A. A. General.

It is estimated that over 20,000 shells were thrown into Fort Fisher during the late bombardment. One thing is certain, that the most formidable fleet ever fitted out by any nation, has been discomfited, put to "grief," and its shattered fragments hurled back whence it came; and North Carolina may justly feel proud that her soldiers accomplished the feat, standing upon their own soil. *Progress.*

GOING UP.—The Wilmington Daily Journal has put its subscription to \$10 a month, or \$25 for three months. Advertisements are charged \$5 per square. The Columbia and Charleston papers have advanced their rates to \$80 a year, and their advertising rates to \$5 per square.

FIRE AT CHARLOTTE.—Charlotte, Jan. 7. —A terrible conflagration occurred here this morning about three o'clock, originating in the Paymaster's department, adjoining the North and South Carolina depot shed, which, together with the adjoining warehouses were burned to the ground. A vast amount of stores were consumed. Two men are supposed to have been burned.

FROM CHARLESTON.

Charleston, Jan. 7. —The enemy in unknown forces crossed New River on the road to Grahamville this morning. Our forces have burnt the bridge across New River. The main body is still believed to be in the neighborhood. Wheeler is watching his movements which are not yet fully developed.

FROM GENERAL HOOD.

Richmond, Jan. 8. —Gen. Hood reports from Spring Hill, December 27, that on the morning of the 15th, in front of Nashville, the enemy attacked both flanks of his army. They were repulsed on the right with heavy loss, but towards evening they drove in his infantry outposts on his left flank.

Early on the 16th the enemy made a general attack on his entire line. All their assaults were handsomely repulsed with heavy loss until three and a half p. m., when a portion of our line to left of centre suddenly gave way, causing our lines to give way at all points. Our troops retreating rapidly, fifty pieces of artillery and several ordnance wagons were left by us that way. Our loss in killed and wounded as heretofore, small; in prisoners not ascertained. Major Gen. E. J. Johnson, Brigadier Gens. L. B. Smith and H. K. Jackson were captured.

FROM THE NORTH.

Richmond, Jan. 6. —The Baltimore American (evening edition) of the 4th, has been received.

The two Bisons have returned to Washington, Grant refusing to pass them through his lines without authority from the President or Secretary of War.

A dispatch from Decatur says Steadman, in command of a considerable cavalry force, had crossed the Tennessee in pursuit of Hood, who was rapidly retreating.

Gov. Fenton was inaugurated at Albany to-day. He issued a proclamation in which he says the war for the preservation of the Union must continue until the last enemy to the national support shall be subdued.

The American says a letter from Sherman, dated 26th ult., states that a large portion of his army is in motion. The results of his present operations promise to be very important.

European advices up to the 25th received. The Pope of Rome, in response to the Confederate manifesto, applauds the patriotic sentiments expressed therein, and deplores a further continuance of the bloody struggle. He will not fail, he says, to avail himself of every favorable opportunity to urge peace.

Augusta, Jan. 7. —The Chronicle and Sentinel has received the Federal Savannah Georgian of the 2d, which contains Sherman's general order to the controlling officers at post. It is liberal and conciliatory, and declares that families will not be disturbed, churches, schools, and places of amusement allowed, and mechanics and tradesmen allowed the free use of shops, tools, &c. Unoccupied houses are taken for military uses. The Mayor and Council continue to exercise their functions, and citizens are required to choose at once whether they will stay or depart in peace. Two newspapers are allowed, but forbidden to make comments on the city authorities. The Fire department had a grand re-