THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.

WILMINGTON, N. C., THURSDAY, DEC. 15, 1864.

A REPORT obtained credence here Monday afternoon, that Sherman was shelling Savannah, or if not Savannah, at least the railroad approaches to that city. We are disposed to doubt this, but not to deny it entirely. We hardly think that Sherman could carry a sufficient ordnance train to enable him to maintain any protracted siege at any well-defended point, or even to fight any number of tolerably well contested fights. But as Sherman has turned off from the fortified points, and has generally been allowed to pass along without molestation, most of his ammunition is probably unexpended, and he may think himself entitled to make a splurge at Savannah. If he seriously tries that game, he will be likely to make a serious mistake, we think. As things appear to us, it is the very course we should like him to adopt.

A REPORT was brought here Tuesday by the cars to the effect that the main body of Sherman's army had crossed or was crossing over the Savannah River at Sisters' Ferry, to the South Carolina side, aiming probably to reach Pocotaligo, and there form a junction with Foster's corps.

The same report says that one corps of Sherman's army,—that commanded by Gen. Slocum,—had been engaged with our forces on the Georgia side, near Savannah, and had been very badly used up, losing four thousand prisoners. The loss on both sides is said to have been heavy. It is also reported that a courier from Sherman to Foster had been captured, and that his despatches urged Foster to come to his assistance, as his army was starving, and without assistance could not reach the coast.

We give these reports as we get them. We can only say that they reached Charleston on Monday before the Northeastern cars left, and were brought up by them to Florence. Those who gave them to us reported them correctly as they heard them. They are probably not without some foundation.

FROM THE SOUTH.

We wrote the above head in the hope of being able to bear something from Georgia or beyond, either South or West.

We begin to fear that our search will turn out labor in vain. We hear reports of the enemy having lost five or six thousand men taken prisoners near Savannah, also of a portion of our force having been surprised near Pocataligo, &c., &c., all of which we most potently do not believe more than suits us, and that at present is very little. Some faint suspicion of truth there may be in both reports, although we think the capture of Yankee prisoners ought to be credited to Hood's army, and the Pocataligo business is simply this—that at first the enemy rather got the better of an encounter on Friday or Saturday, but that our folks rallied and subsequently repulsed them.

After searching the Savannah papers of Friday and the Augusta papers of Sunday, we are compelled to say that we have been able to find nothing whatever calculated to throw any additional light upon the situation of things in Georgia. There is not a ray—not a glimpse—not a gleam.

Soldiers' Dinner—Young Contributors.

On Saturday a bright-faced and bright-eyed boy of nine years of age came into our office with $40 for the Soldiers' Dinner, being a contribution to that object by himself and sister, a little older, children of Mr. JAMES MCCOMBER, of the Express.

We acknowledge them thus:—

NORMAN, 9 years.....$20
MOLLIE, 11 years.....20

And we take pleasure in so doing. Our little friends belong to the next generation, and in all human probability will live to enjoy the fruits of the struggle in which the present is now engaged.

For Soldiers' Dinner.

OUR YOUNG FRIENDS.—We received Monday from two promising and patriotic little boys, sons of Mr. JOSEPH MCLAURIN, the following contributions for the Soldiers' Dinner:—

NEILL S.....$15
LOCKLIN W.....10
—
$25

For Soldiers' Dinner.

Monday Dec. 13th:

MR. SUNDHEIMER.....$50
DR. J. T. SCHUNWALD.....100
MISS THERESA MARSHALL.....60

For Soldiers' Dinner.

Tuesday, Dec. 13th:

MRS. W. B. FLANNER.....$100

Commissioners' Election.

Judging from the number of tickets already brought forward, we should judge that the pending election for Commissioners of the Town of Wilmington is attracting more attention than it has for some years back.

The government of the Town never required more prudence and firmness combined. The events of the war have in a measure torn things loose from their moorings, whilst the peculiar character of the trade here—that of blockade-running—brings in a large floating population, not the most amenable to the usual restraints of society. The same precautions that would have been sufficient to guarantee the peace of town and the safety of property in usual, quiet times, will be found totally inadequate to secure these ends under existing circumstances.

We have pointed out but some of the difficulties to be encountered. Breaches of the peace and crimes by violence may be due to a floating white population, such as we have alluded to, but we think that offences against property, such as thefts from dwellings, breaking into and robbing fowl-houses and smoke-house, and the like, are mainly the work of negroes, and of them there would appear to be a gang, or gangs.

Drunkenness is bad enough in itself, but it may be aggravated by attendant circumstances, as for instance, if it leads to theft, robbery and other dishonesty, which it is bound to do in the case of negroes. It is unfortunately too certain that drunkenness is getting very common among the colored population. It has been remarked to us by a great many people whose avocations give them far better opportunities of judging than we possess.

Let us say plainly—the coming year is likely to be a year of trial harder than any we have yet gone through with. It will indeed try men's souls and all that is in them, and Wilmington cannot in any event hope to escape her share of the trial. In the whirlwind of war, should that envelope us, mere municipal authority may for a time be paralized, but even then judicious firmness on the part of the "city fathers" may not be altogether barren of good results, while in the meantime very important interests will be committed to their charge.

It is perhaps well that there should be a full latitude of choice, and that citizens should exercise it carefully and thoughtfully. They have the one and will no doubt exercise the other.

HAMPTON AND HILL.

We are officially informed that the Yankees were on Saturday last driven from Belfield, on the Weldon and Petersburg Rail Road, by HAMPTON'S cavalry and A. P. HILL'S infantry forces. The last known of the situation was that the enemy had been driven back some 15 miles, and our cavalry were still in pursuit of them.

"P. W. A," in a recent letter from Richmond, say that Congress will not probably interfere with printers, because printing is an art or mystery which requires time to learn, and of those who have learned it the supply is already inadequate, whereas everybody is supposed capable of being an editor, that requiring neither aptitude, training, nor experience.

Perhaps Congress is right. Everybody *thinks* he or she could manage a newspaper much better than ever a newspaper was managed before; but we would warn "P. W. A," and Congress too, that as a general thing they will fail to teach the great body of the editors unless they take the printers. Few papers ever could be successfully carried on at the South without the presence of a practical printer in the management. Still fewer will be sustained under the terrible screw pressure that is now closing around the papers of the Confederacy.—That pressure, we think, will ere long do all the weeding out that may be necessary.

AMONG the objects intended to be effected by the advance of a portion of GRANT'S force in the direction of Weldon, we may fairly assume that the creation of a diversion in favour of SHERMAN holds a prominent place.

The enemy knows as well as we do that SHERMAN'S position is what might be called "ticklish." Unexpected forces have appeared wherever he has turned his face, and have compelled him to swerve aside from Macon, from Augusta, and from every other fortified point, with the single exception of Milledgeville, which, we suppose, could hardly be regarded as fortified. He hoped to be able to sweep down upon Millen and other points, and to liberate and arm the Yankee prisoners confined there. He did reach Millen, but the birds had flown. He has not reached, and he cannot reach any other point where such prisoners are.—The New York *Times* said that SHERMAN'S object was not to take cities or hold territory, but that what that object was would duly appear. It was undoubtedly the liberation of the Millen, Andersonville, Columbia, Florence, and other prisoners. That object has not been accomplished.

But the enemy has been forced to turn aside from prizes apparently within his grasp,—the great powder mills of Augusta—the shops and depots of Macon are still safe. The forces that compelled this course are gathering, if not already gathered to envelope him as he nears the coast. One way or another the enemy know this. They wish to prevent SHERMAN'S peril from being increased by the addition of any men to the hostile force that already environs him. Hence this expedition towards Weldon, calculated and intended to prevent any further reinforcements being sent from North Carolina to Georgia. This we think is one explanation of Grant's move. He could hardly hope to reach any important point in this State. The utmost he could reasonably expect to accomplish would be the destruction of the Weldon bridge. No army equal to the occasion could march to Wilmington with its base on the James River, or even on the Roanoke. The country is not either sufficiently populous or sufficiently rich in provisions. The same, we think, would apply to a march towards Raleigh.

FROM THE SOUTH.

We extract from the Georgia and South Carolina papers whatever seems to us calculated to throw any light upon the situation:

The first extract we shall make will be

From the Augusta Constitutionalist, 9th inst.

There was some slight skirmishing near Coosawhatchee, on the Charles on and Savannah railroad yesterday.

Sherman's columns are very much scattered. At last account, Hardee was skirmishing with the enemy's advance in Effingham county, while Wheeler was backing and pegging away at the rear guard no less than forty miles this side. A corps of the enemy is foraging on the west side of the Ogechee. From this disposition of forces, it will be seen that the hostile corps are sprawling over a large space, and not a little demoralized.

We take it, that now is the golden opportunity for Hardee to strike. If he should delay much longer, Sherman will have ample time to combine his fragmentary divisions and deal us a solid blow.

The impression prevails that an attempt to cross the Savannah river, at or below Sister's Ferry, will be made.—Precautions of a novel and formidable character have been taken to prevent the execution of such a design.

The end is rapidly culminating. By the first of next week, Sherman will have terminated his eventful march.—Whether successful or not, the future alone can demonstrate.

MILLEDGEVILLE.—We have received a copy of the Confederate Union dated December 6th. It has a graphic account of the Yankee invasion, not differing materially from our published correspondence. A great political and religious transmogrification has taken place at the State capital. All the reconstructionists and tepid war men have become the hot advocates of an everlasting strife rather than submission or compromise, and, *mirabile dictu*, all the Universalists believe in hell fire.

FROM HOOD'S ARMY.—A gentleman who arrived in the city yesterday afternoon, from Macon, states that an official dispatch had been received there from General Hood, saying he had engaged the enemy in the neighborhood of Nashville, gaining a victory and capturing five thousand prisoners.

The Savannah *Republican*, of the 8th, denies that there is any foundation for the report in the *News* of the day previous, copied into the Journal of Saturday, about a fight at an outpost of Savannah. It says:—

THAT FIGHT.—After diligent enquiry, we have been unable to find the slightest authority for the alleged fight "at the front," reported by the Morning News of yesterday, in which "a strong force of cavalry and infantry" were repulsed by Col. Fiser, on Tuesday. The Colonel is ready to whip double his weight whenever it may present itself, but we have reason to believe that the opportunity has not been offered in the present campaign.

We take the following in relation to matters at or near the line of the Charleston and Savannah Railroad from the Charleston *Courier*, of the 9th:—

FROM POCOTALIGO.—We learn that on Tuesday a force of the enemy advanced towards Coosawhatchie, burning Tulifinny bridge. They were attacked by Gen. Gartrell's command and driven back. On Wednesday morning a portion of our forces, among which was a company of cadet Cadets, under Captain Thomson, and part of the Georgia 47th Regiment, the whole under Major J. B. White, had a sharp fight with a heavy force of the enemy near Tulifinny bridge, about five miles below Pocotaligo. They advanced towards the Rail Road, but were driven back.—The Cadets, who were thus employed as skirmishers, fought them about one to six, and behaved like veterans. We regret to learn that Cadet W. J. F. Patterson, of Charleston, was seriously wounded, having been shot in two places, through the left lung and thigh. He was brought to the city on Wednesday night. Cadet A. J. Green, of Columbia, was slightly wounded in the face; Lieut. A. Coffin, of Aiken, has a severe wound in the head; Cadet Jos. Barnwell was shot through the thigh; Cadet E. C. Moriarty through the left shoulder, but not dangerously wounded; Cadet A. R. Hayward wounded in the left hand. There were one or two other trifling casualties in the Cadet company. Among the Georgians one was killed and several wounded, but we did not learn how many. The enemy have landed a large force at Mackey's Point, and were reported advancing towards Old Pocotaligo. They will be taken care of. The force which landed last week at Boyd's landing has disappeared. That which fought the Cadets on Tuesday was about a mile from the Rail Road, and is reported as entrenching. Our condition in that locality will be more satisfactory at next accounts.

The Savannah "News," of Thursday, says: "Day before yesterday the enemy again made an attempt to take the Charleston and Savannah Rail Road, but were repulsed and driven back. Yesterday morning fighting continued nearly all day, and had not ceased at dark. Our forces had driven back every assault, and the enemy had made no progress whatever."

OTHER WAR NEWS.

It would appear from the Richmond papers that Grant has been reinforced by two corps from the Valley, believed to be the 5th and 6th. The telegraph says that the 5th formed part of the raiding force that started from Grant's army last week, taking the route of the Jerusalem Plank Road, and there struck across through Sussex, so as to come upon the Petersburg and Weldon Road at Jarratt's station, the next north of Bellfield and Hicks' Ford. The Petersburg *Express* says that Grant's army in that neighborhood has not been reinforced by troops from the Valley. It would, seem however, as though things were working around Richmond and Petersburg, rendering the occurrence of decisive movements likely at any moment.

It is said that Steele's forces from the trans-Mississippi, to the number of fifteen thousand, have been brought over and are to be sent to reinforce Thomas at Nashville.

The following from the Charleston Courier is all we received yesterday relative to military operations in Georgia and on the Savannah Railroad. The Augusta papers of Saturday contain nothing relative to Sherman's whereabout, and no Savannah papers came to hand:

Sherman's army is reported still moving towards Savannah. We learn that the affair at Station No. 2, on Thursday, was simply some slight skirmishing. The opinion seems to prevail that Sherman intends to attack Savannah, but that if he attempts it he will be badly defeated. A report was in circulation yesterday that, on the arrival of his forces at No. 2, he had turned off in the direction of Sister's Ferry, which would indicate an intention to cross into South Carolina. The enemy near Pocotaligo were reported shelling the road Friday. About one hundred prisoners from Sherman's army arrived in the city yesterday.

THE NEWS FROM SAVANNAH.

The Charleston *Mercury* of the 12th inst., says:

The interruption of the ordinary means of communication with Savannah, and the absence—or, what amounts to the same thing, the suppression—of all official despatches reaching this city, leaves us very much in the dark as to the progress of the important and interesting campaign, now culminating at Savannah.—We give, however, such news as we have been able to glean.

On Friday afternoon, about 4 p. m., the enemy attacked our position at Coosawhatchie. The assault was kept up with vigor and determination, for more than two hours, when the enemy was finally and decisively repulsed, with heavy loss, and retreated in hot haste. Since then all has been quiet, we believe, along that part of the Savannah Railroad hitherto menaced, except that the shelling of the track at long range has been occasionally resumed.

Meantime Sherman has been pressing steadily towards the city. Our forces had fallen back to the junction of the Georgia Central and Charleston and Savannah Railroads, about three miles from the city. At this important point, which commands both roads, Gen. Hardee took his stand.

It was confidently reported yesterday, and we think correctly, that Sherman's forces were in Hardee's front, and that a demand for the surrender of the city having been refused, heavy fighting ensued, and was going on yesterday. Of the results, however, if any, no news whatever has reached us. We may hear something today.

The community of Savannah seem firm and quiet.—For the present, the trains will cease to run through between the two cities.

The Charleston *Courier* of the 12th inst., has the following

NEWS FROM THE COAST.

The enemy on Friday afternoon made an attack on our lines at Coosawatchie, and were again badly repulsed. The fight took place between the Tulifinny trestle work and the Coosawhatchie bridge. The heaviest fighting was between the enemy's troops, consisting of a brigade of infantry and artillery, estimated at about three thousand, commanded by Gen. Hatch, and the Georgia troops under the command of Genl. L. H. Gartrell, on our right, resting on Tulifinny Creek. All accounts concur in stating that the fight was hotly contested. Our force was estimated at not over nine hundred, consisting of detachments of the 5th and 47th Georgia, and the 1st and 3d Georgia Reserves.

Skirmishing commenced early in the morning and was kept up with more or less vigor until 4 o'clock in the afternoon, when the engagement became general.—The enemy attempted to gain possession of the Tulifinny Cut and trestle work, an important position commanding the line of railroad at Coosawhatchie. Our troops, on the enemy's approach, gave a cheer, and before they could come up charged them with great gallantry. The fight lasted about two hours and a half, the enemy being finally driven back to their entrenchments. The enemy's loss is said to have been heavy, while ours will not exceed one hundred killed and wounded. Gen Gartrell was painfully wounded by a fragment of a shell in the arm and side. Capt. Sheffield, a brave and gallant officer of the 47th Georgia, was killed on the field; Captains Heartsett and Wood, of the First Georgia Reserves, were wounded.

The Reserves have received the highest encomiums for their distinguished bravery. The color bearer of the First Georgia having been wounded, a Lieutenant whose name we could not learn, took hold and rushing forward was killed within thirty yards of the enemy's line of battle.

From prisoners taken in this fight as well as from some of our own men who were captured and afterwards escaped, we learn that the enemy estimate their loss in last Thursday's engagement at between seven and eight hundred killed and wounded. Our loss in this action was seven killed and fifty wounded.

The enemy have evacuated Boyd's Landing and established their base at Bee's Creek, from which there is a direct road to the Coosawhatchie rail road bridge.—Their gunboats in Bee's Creek command the battery in their present position near the line of railroad. A dispatch from Major General Jones, received last evening, reports all quiet at Coosawhatchie and Pocotaligo.

Of Sherman's movements we hear plenty of rumors. Our latest and most reliable intelligence states that he is moving cautiously towards the coast below Savannah, probably for Genesis Point. Fighting was reported Saturday at Monteith, about ten miles from Savannah. The Savannah Rail Road was reported torn up from the former point to the junction of the Central and Savannah Rail Road. A day or two will develope Sherman's intentions. Our preparations to defeat him are believed to be ample.

Siege Matters.

FIVE HUNDRED AND TWENTY FIRST DAY.

The exchange of prisoners progresses rapidly. Our truce steamers carried down and delivered 996 privates on Saturday. On Sunday, 1117 privates and 22 officers were delivered. Another installment will be sent down this morning.—*Mercury.*

Legislature of North Carolina.

On Thursday HON. THOMAS S. ASHE of Anson, was elected Confederate States Senator for six years, from February 1866, in place of Hon. W. T. DORTCH, whose term will then expire.

C. RANDOLPH THOMAS Esq., (moderate Holdenite) of Carteret was elected Secretary of State. He obtained a majority over Mr. FARIBAULT, his competitor.

The following is the final vote for Confederate States Senator:

IN THE SENATE.

For Hon. T. S. Ashe—Mr. Speaker and Messrs. Aycock, Bryson, Courts, Crump, Ellis, Grier, Hall, Harris, Kirby, Leitch, Lindsay, M. Corkey, McKethan, Miller, Patton, Pitchford, Powell, Smith, Speight, Straughan, Taylor, Ward, Whitford, Wiggins, Wright, Wynne—27.

For Hon. E. G. Reade—Messrs. Adams, Arendell, Bagley, Berry, Blount, Dick, Jones, Lassiter, Long, Moore, Mathews, Odom, Pool, Sanders, Stead, Warren and Winstead—13.

For Hon. Jno. A. Gilmer—Messrs. Horton, Marsh and Patterson—3.

IN THE HOUSE.

For Hon. T. S. Ashe—Messrs. Alston, Austin, Baxter, Beam, Banbury, Boyd, Brown of Madison, Brown, of Mecklenburg, Bryan, Cabe, Carson, Cobb, Costner, Crawford, of Rowan, Crawford, of Wayne, Davis, of Halifax, Davis, of Franklin, Enloe, Erwin, Faison, Farmer, Gaskins, Gidney, Grier, Grissom, Harris, Hassel, Hawes, Headen, W. J. Joyner, Judkins, Lane, Latham, Lewis, Little, Love, McLean, Murphy, Outterbridge, Patton, Polk, Powell, Reibhardt, Russ, Shepherd, Shipp, Smith, of Cabarrus, Smith, of Duplin, Stancil, Strong, Vann, Wheeler, Wooten—53.

For Hon. E. G. Reade—Mr. Speaker and Messrs. Allison, Alford, Amis, Asheworth, Banks, Best, Blair, Bondd of Settle, Caldwell, Collaway, Carson of Alexander, Carter, Clapp, Cowles, Craige, Cunningham, Flynt, Fowle, Gibbs, Hadley, Hanes, Harrington, Harrison, Headen, J. H. Henry, Herbert, Hooton, Horton of Watauga, Horton of Wilkes, Isbell, Jordan, Lyle, Mann, McAden, McCormick, McGehee, McMillan, Morisey, Murrill, Paterson, Peace, Perkins, Philips, Riddick, Rogers, Russell, Sharpe, Simmons, Smith of Johnston, Stipe, Waugh, Wheeler—53.

For Mr. Smith—Messrs. Bond of Gates, Duke, Lowe and Pool—4.

For Mr. Gilmer—Mr. Shober—1.

So Hon. T. S. ASHE, having a majority on joint ballot, was declared elected.

In the House on the same day resolutions in favor of Powell, Lowe & Co., and bills to repeal the prohibition of fish traps in the Big swamp, to allow bounty to citizens of North Carolina in the C. S. naval service, for the relief of Hugh B. Guthrie, and to incorporate the *Confederate* Joint Stock Publishing Company, the Linville Iron and Steel Works (capital stock $5 000,000) and the Cranberry Iron Works, (capital stock $2,000,000) were severally read a third time and passed.

WE had tangible proof Monday morning of the fact that there had been freezing weather around. The puddles in the street were frozen and the wet sand was hardened into ridges and crunched sharply under the tread. Water buckets ceased to be receptacles of fluid, and it is even said that some of the "new dip" had a scum of ice upon it. It was cold and it is so now.

IT sleeted and snowed in Salisbury on Friday and Saturday.

CONFEDERATE COTTON.—During the month of October there were imported into Liverpool, 14,534 bales of Confederate cotton, and 495 boxes of Confederate tobacco. Of the cotton the greater portion was shipped to Liverpool from Nassau, Bermuda or Matamoros. Some little went by way of Havana.

ON the 10th of October, the seventy-fourth anniversary of the birth of the Very Reverend THEOBOLD MATHEW, the Apostle of Temperance, a statue raised to his honour by the citizens of Cork, Ireland, was unveiled. Father MATHEW is represented in the act of blessing the multitude to whom he has just administered the pledge.

The statue is of bronze and cost 1,000*l*. It was executed by Prince of London.

IF the Wilmington Gas Company would give us a regular light during the evening, from the time it is necessary to use gas, it would be a great improvement upon present arrangements.

COUNTY COURT.—The Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for this county, commenced its sessions here yesterday. Owing to the peculiar circumstances of the country, the attendance is quite small.

For the Journal.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—As the election for commissioners occurs on Thursday next, and the 1st of January will soon be here, it is proper to call attention to an evil which, if permitted to continue, will soon be beyond remedy. I allude to the way in which negroes are allowed to hire their own time. At the present rates of labor, a smart negro can easily make from one hundred to two hundred dollars per week—not counting his profits by speculation, &c. He pays his master, say thirty dollars; often less. I do not object to the price of labor, believing that like everything else it is controlled by the *immutable law of trade "supply and demand,"* but I do object to the negroes having such large command of money; the evils resulting are numerous; the negro is injured morally and physically; discontent is caused among the negroes who are hired by the year, who have not the opportunity of making as much money, and hence cannot *live as high*; our negroes come in competition with our white population for *every* article in the market, thus enhancing prices; insubordination, thieving and dissipation is the natural result, for it is well known that the African cannot stand prosperity, and are thriftless. I have worked twenty-five hired hands in town for the last three years, and have had more trouble with them during the last six months than all the previous time. Evils are easily pointed out, the trouble being to find the remedy, I think in this case it is easily found; *we must have transient labor.* There are many here who for a fair compensation would become agents for the owners of negroes. The owner who prefers to have his negroes work by the day can place him or her in charge of his agent; the parties wanting labor for a few days can go to this agent, agree for price, &c., paying the agent the amount of hire; the owner can instruct the agent what he desires paid to the negro; when the negro is not at work he should be at the office of the agent subject to call; in this way the owner will receive full market value for his labor and the *equality among the negroes* be maintained.

The slave owners and the Town Commissioners are clearly responsible for the present state of things; the first for disobeying the law, and the latter for not enforcing it.

ORDER.

WAY HOSPITAL No. 5.
WILMINGTON, N. C.
Dec 13th, 1864.

Mr. Fulton—

Sir: Please allow me to correct a mistake in your issue of the 1st inst., concerning Miss E. A. Bute's donations to this Hospital. Some friend there states that the sick of this Hospital have been sustained by nutriments bestowed upon them by Miss Bute. Now, in justice to my government, Miss Bute and myself, I feel constrained to say that the assertion of our friend is by no means correct. I am satisfied, however, Mr. Editor, that if it were necessary, Miss Bute would render us every assistance in her power to make our sick comfortable.

E. S. HALSEY,
Surgeon in Charge.

From the Augusta Register, Dec. 11.

SHERMAN'S RETREAT—HOOD'S ADVANCE.

In the eager suspense with which we await the result of Sherman's retreat to a new base on our coast, we shall not lose sight of the advantages which are likely to grow out of the grand strategic movements which forced him to evacuate Atlanta, and to look coastward for the security of his army. The mist which has so long obscured the movements of General Hood is at length breaking, and the golden bow of victory arches the horizon in that direction. The march of Hood's army from the borders of Alabama to the heart of Tennessee, has been signally successful; the raw recruits left to impede his march, have melted before him; the fortified posts of the enemy have one after another capitulated; and Huntsville, Chattanooga, Bridgeport and historic Murfreesboro', are ours; he has been routed, horse, foot and dragoon, from his last desperate stand at Franklin, and our victorious legions flaunt their proud banners around the entrenchments of Nashville, into which the retreating vandals have fled for security. If our latest advices are true, they have suffered one of the most crushing defeats of the war; and their own accounts admit the retreat on Nashville, and the immense destruction of the property of our loyal citizens to prevent it from being used to supply our army. Whatever Hood's future movements may be—whether to press on to the Ohio, or co-operate with Breckenridge in relieving East Tennessee, and reopening the upper route to Richmond, he has accomplished results which demonstrate the wisdom of his plans, and mark his last campaign as one of the most brilliant of the war. He has not only driven Sherman from Atlanta—which he never could have done by confronting him—but he has recovered the strongholds which marked the advance of the enemy into our State, and redeemed upper Georgia and most of Tennessee. He has recovered territory whose temporary occupancy cost the enemy millions of dollars, and thousands of lives; and given to the enemy and the world the most convincing evidence of our capacity to defeat all schemes for our subjugation. To day he invites the thousands of refugees from Cherokee-Georgia and the volunteer State, to come back to their homes, and thousands of hearts are swelling with a joyous and grateful response to the summons.

So much for the victorious advance of the dashing Texan. He has accomplished these gratifying results with very trifling loss. It is said that he has received accessions to his forces much in excess of the loss sustained. He has inflicted serious damage upon the enemy, capturing their garrisons, and destroying immense quantities of stores, not to include the thousands reported *hors de combat* from the victory at Franklin.

The withdrawal of Hood from Sherman's front left open the road to the ocean unobstructed, and he soon found that he must take this route for a water-base, or make a humiliating or dangerous retreat over the mountains. It was in this desperate strait that he boastfully announced that *his* course was to the South. He was afraid and ashamed to acknowledge his incapacity to hold Atlanta by an unequivocal retreat. So he goes forward, but with all his boasting he cannot conceal the fact that he is flying from an untenable position—that Hood has forced him to give up the dear bought fruits of a long campaign, and abandon his boasted hold upon the heart of the rebellion. True his course is marked by those acts of cruelty, and waste, and plunder, which have disgraced the enemy throughout the war—women and children, and other helpless non-combatants have been made to suffer, and homes once the abode of peace and plenty, have been sacked and despoiled; but all this does not weigh a feather toward accomplishing the hellish work of subjugation. The spirit of resistance grows brighter than ever in the hearts of the people, who have renewed cause to hate the remorseless vandals. These personal trials to a portion of our people, constitute the chief result of Sherman's retreat, admitting that he reaches a secure base on the coast; an admission that we do not yet deem probable. A base on the coast affords him no new advantages, except the single one of obtaining supplies for his army, from which Hood cut him off in Atlanta. The enemy has held for years Port Royal, Brunswick and numerous other ports affording all the advantages which Sherman will secure, as bases for operations against the interior, unless he shall go to Savannah. As he has shunned every city and town having any means of defense on his route, it is not likely that he will attempt to reach that city. It will perhaps be fortunate for us if he does.

In this hurried glance at the progress of the two armies under notice, do we not find much more cause for congratulation than anxiety and gloom? A month ago Sherman was in the heart of our State, which he had reached in spite of our best means of defence. His raids harrassed every portion of the interior, and all our cities were apprehensive of an advance. To day he is floundering in the marshes of the Coosawatchee praying for the advent of some of his "masters' water craft, which are said to penetrate "wherever it is a little moist."

CITY OF THEBES.

BY A TRAVELLER IN EGYPT.

Thebes must have been the greatest and most magnificent city in Egypt. Almost as old as the flood, situated in a fertile valley, where it expanded to a vast and splendid amphitheatre, and adorning both banks of the Nile; it was in extent, wealth and architectural glory, the flower and crown of ancient civilization.—Nearly a thousand years before Christ, Homer sang of its hundred gates, and some of the sacred prophets speak of it as being "populous," or containing a "multitude." No one can visit its present unparalleled ruins or linger among the gorgeous mausoleums of its kings and princes, without being deeply impressed with a sense of its former vastness and grandeur, and the contrast suggested by the present tribes, a miserable representation of Arab filth and squalidness is overwhelmingly powerful, and the imagination is continually struggling to restore and re-people the city, and look upon its splendor ere it was devastated by the Persian conqueror. But these mournful relics and its utter desolation teach most impressive lessons.

Thousands of years have rolled along,
And beheld empires in pride;
And witnessed scenes of crime and wrong,
Till men by nations died.

Thousands of summer suns have shone,
Till earth grew bright beneath their sway,
Since then, untenanted and lone,
Wert rendered to decay.

Some of the mud cabins in the present village of Thebes are built among and upon the grand old ruins of the temple of Luxor. Magnificent columns, covered with hieroglyphics, and still standing in their original positions, are filled around and half-covered with the accumulated dust and filth of ages, while some are entirely obscured by the wretched hovels that cluster about them, and can be seen only by entering these repulsive abodes, amid yelping curs, braying donkeys, cackling fowls and dirty Arabs. But as you look up on these old pillars of stone, exquisitely chiseled, wander through the halls, that yet remain, and survey their vast gateways and colossal statutes, you feel that they who built them were men of genius and power. One of the most beautiful objects here is an obelisk of red granite, more than three thousand years old, and yet its appearance and its hieroglyphics are still fresh and unimpaired.

A mile and a half north of Luxor are the ruins of the grandest temple in Egypt, if not in the world. It is impossible to describe it. It is the temple of Karnak. One must see it, or he will have no adequate idea of its astonishing magnitude and beauty. Such an array of gates, towers, columns, obelisks and statues, is a perfect marvel. Think of a temple, including its various halls and apartments, twelve hundred feet long, and about five hundred feet wide, its massive walls rising like palisades, and its immense pillars like forests with avenues leading to it from each point of the compass along which in some instances for miles were ranged double rows of colossal sphinxes of gray, red and black granite.

The edifice is said to have occupied about 75 acres, it having been enlarged from time to time. In the grand hall there are still standing over 100 columns nine feet in diameter, and many of them 60 feet high. All are covered with various hieroglyphical sculptures and paintings, whose colors are still bright, after the lapse of nearly forty centuries. In one place you see a group of Jews led captive by an Egyptian King. The characters interpreted agree with the Bible account of Shishak's victory over the King of Judah, a verification of the sacred record. Profound and various are one's reflections as he wanders amidst these sublime relics, fallen columns, broken obelisks and shattered sphinxes. What immense processions of people once marched along these avenues, gathered in these halls, and worshiped at the shrine of Ammon! What treasures have the votaries lavished upon their gods.

Grand are the temples of Luxor and Kernak, there were others on the opposite or west side of the river, well worthy of belonging to the city of a hundred gates. Passing some two miles over a fertile plain, once a part of Thebes, and you come first to the temple of Koornch; farther on is the famous Memnonium; and still beyond is a cluster of temples called Medenet Haboo. I group all these together, though each deserves a separate description, for they are certainly grand old structures rich in immense columns and various sculptures and paintings—buildings, "of which the very ruins are tremendous." In the last is a hall which was remodeled and used as a church by the early Christians. Here was a room set apart in a heathen temple for the worship of the true God. Here the disciples of Jesus once offered prayers in His name, and sang hymns to his praise.

On the border of the green vale of plain not far from the temples last alluded to, are two colossal statues, in a sitting posture, about sixty feet high: one of which, that on the right as you approach from the river, is the renowned Vocal Memnon. It is an immense figure of Remeses, and was reputed to give forth a musical sound at the rising of the sun. "It was visited by emperors, philosophers and poets from all distance, being attracted by its fame. One of our Arab guides climed up to a secluded spot near his head, where he struck a stone that had a faint and peculiar jingle. This may explain the old and wonderful vocal phenomenon. The statue by its side is nameless. Together they form striking objects on being approached from the river.

At the Memnonium there is still a larger statue of Remeses, once a single block of granite, but now thrown down and broken into several pieces. If one marvels, as well as he may, at the human power that made, transported, and set up such stupendous monuments, it is scarcely less a matter of wonder how those early invaders could so thoroughly shatter them.

JOSH BILLINGS ANSWERS HIS CORRESPONDENTS.

AMERIKUS—Your contribushun is at hand. We like its flavorness. It is like onto a sandhill. Natur has did a good thing for yu, and yu odght tu be willing tew dew a good thing for natur. This line in your producshun strikes us as very butiful and original: "And larn the luxury of dewing good." Goldsmith hisself mite hav bin proud ov sich a line. And again: "Oh, would sum power the gifty giv us ov seeing ourself an uthers see us; your idee ov introducsing the Skotch ackseent into your stile, is very happie. If yu never hav red Robert Burnes, yu will be surprised tew larn that his stile very much resembles yurs. Onse more yu say: "If ignoranse iz bliss, 'tis folly tew be wise." This sentiment iz jist az tru as tiz common. Pope, it think, haz sumthing similar; but all grate minds sumtim sex prress their self alike. Yure contribushun will appear in our iscu, with a wood cut piktur ov a saw buk at the top ov it.

FLORA—Yu sa that "Yure Adolphus has proved untru, and yu must die." I never advise deth under enny circumstances, altho it properly is cheaper jist now tew die than it is tew live. Bear up like a man under yure dispensashuns. Take sum pills; but if yu find that yu are so bound up in Adolphus that fissick wunt work, hire out to teach a districk skule, and it won't be 3 months before yu can exklaim, with the Patriark of old, Adolphus de'd—d!

BEA—I think sumly as yu do, "this wurld is awl a fleetin curkse, for man's illushun given," but that ain't no rezon for not pitchin in and being illushuned onse in a while. I wouldn't give a cent for a man who hadn't been illushuned, and who didn't expect to be several times agin.

MATTHEW.—I see bi yure letter that yu have determined tew studdy ministry. Yu sa yu hav doubts about yure talents being enuffly tew make a minister; i don't think that ought tew bluff yu oph, for i hav saw meny men ov almiy mean talents, who got tu be first rate ministers.

PHILANDER.—Yu ask which iz the most best, the married or the single condishun? Most evry boddy, at sumetime in their life, haz tride the single state; also, most every boddy has hankered after the double state or marrid condishun. I have tried both states, and am reddy to sware, that if a man kan git a woman who kan fri pankakes on both sides without burnin em, and don't hanker tew be a wimmin's kommity, the marrid state iz a Heaven and arth awl tew onst. But after awl, the marrid state iz a good deal like falling out of a cherry tree, if a person don't happen tew git hurt, it iz a good reason for not trieing it agin.

A French paper in one of the departmental cities makes the following singular announcement.

Napoleon III has just received from the Pope the lance from the tomb of Charlemagne." As a great Christian relic this object is of incontestible value and it is said that the Emperor whose faith in his own destiny is no secret considers this gift as a presage that he is called to fill the role of Charlemagne in the restoration of the Church.

TELEGRAPHIC

Reports of the Press Association.

Entered according to the Act of Congress, in the year 1863, by J. S. THRASHER, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Confederate States for the Northern District of Georgia.

FROM THE VIRGINIA VALLEY.

NEW MARKET, Dec. 9th, 1864.

Lieut. Baylor, of the 12th Virginia cavalry, attacked two companies of the 21st New York cavalry near Millwood, Clark county, on the 4th inst., and killed and captured forty Yankees, and captured 39 horses.

FROM PETERSBURG.

PETERSBURG, VA., Dec. 9th, 1864.

The main body of the enemy's raiding column is in the vicinity of Jarratt's, thirty miles south of this city. Fighting has been going on there to-day, but the result has not been ascertained. Our forces hold Belfield, and the bridge is strongly guarded. The enemy destroyed Sussex Court House on the route, and seized horses and cattle everywhere.

BAD WEATHER ABOUT RICHMOND.

RICHMOND, Dec. 10th, 1864.

The evening's Whig says, in spite of the snow, rain and mud, there were strong indications this morning of active hostilities on the lines below Richmond. Our forces were in line of battle. The enemy were driven from their exterior works on our left this morning.

FROM RICHMOND.

RICHMOND, Dec. 11th, 1864.

Affairs on the lines below Richmond yesterday were only a reconnoissance by Grant and Longstreet. The results are unimportant.

FROM THE UNITED STATES.

RICHMOND, Dec. 10th, 1864.

United States papers, of the 8th inst. have been received.

The Herald's news summary says that the armies under Thomas and Hood still confront each other in the vicinity of Nashville.

On Tuesday there was skirmishing and heavy cannonading. Both sides are strengthening their respective positions.

On Monday Gen. Hood sent a flag of truce to General Thomas, proposing an exchange of prisoners. The letter replied that the men he had captured had been sent Northward, and were beyond his control.

Hood's headquarters, on Tuesday, were six miles South of Nashville. Rousseau and Milroy held Murfreesboro.'

A body of rebels assaulted a block house near that place on Monday, but were driven off with a loss of six pieces of artillery and a number of prisoners.

Detroit is again greatly excited by the anticipation of a raid from Canada.

Lincoln made a short speech on Wednesday night to a serenading party. He had no good news to tell them; yet he had no bad news. The most interesting news now is from Sherman. We all know where he went in at but we can't tell where he will come out. He proposed three cheers for Sherman.

The New York gold market was excited by a bill introduced into Congress prohibiting speculation in gold, and by the tone of Lincoln's Message. The latest quotations were 242.

On Tuesday guerrillas captured and burned a