

THE HERALD OF THE UNION.

WILMINGTON, N. C., SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 4, 1865.

[NO. 5]

VOL. I.]

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WILMINGTON, MARCH 4.
LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

RELIGIOUS NOTICE.—Divine Service will be held in the Front street Baptist Church (Rev. Mr. Young, Pastor,) to-morrow morning at 10½ o'clock. The public are invited to attend. Seats free.

THEATRE.—The management of the theatre made a mistake last night in permitting a deviation from the advertised programme. A very large audience assembled to witness the play of *The Serious Family* as announced in the bills. Why this piece was not presented is not stated. Its absence, and the substitution of a trifling farce, taken up on the spur of the moment with no preparation by any of the people in the cast, together with the non-appearance of the leading actress throughout the evening, was cause for disappointment to the many who went to the theatre on the attractions set forth in the bill. Such arrangements are always provoking to an audience. If repeated they destroy the confidence of the patrons in the management, and lead to empty benches in the end.

To-night a benefit is announced in aid of the paroled soldiers who are dragging their weary forms about our streets. No higher object of benevolence can well be suggested, and it gives us pleasure to note the patriotism and liberality of the management in announcing this benefit. Miss Bridges is sure to be on the boards to-night, when she will play in *Dead Shot*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, and *Paddy Miles' Boy*. This is a big and attractive bill, and with the deserving object which has the benefit of the performance, there is sure to be a full house.

RESUMPTION OF BUSINESS.—Our advertising columns testify to the fact that our community is fast conforming to the military regulations, and preparing to resume business under the very lenient and eminently proper regulations of the national authorities. By the end of another week we hope to be able to chronicle an entire reopening of stores and shops, and a return, on the part of our citizens, to their proper pursuits.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

HOOK AND LADDER COMPANY, Attention!

THERE WILL BE A MEETING of your Company to-night, at 7½ o'clock. All members are expected to be present.

H. H. MUNSON, Sec'y.
March 4th, 1865. 5-1t

A CARD.

DR. JAMES, Surgeon in charge of Hospital No. 4, begs leave, in behalf of his patients, to make his very grateful acknowledgements to those ladies who have so kindly and so materialy contributed to the comfort and welfare of the suffering soldiers in his charge. Be assured ladies, any interest you may take in the welfare of these sufferers, will find the very warmest appreciation from hearts already filled with gratitude.

March 4th, 1865. 4-1t
Hd. Qr's., District of Wilmington,
WILMINGTON, N. C., March 2, 1865.
GENERAL ORDERS,
No. 1.

In obedience to orders received from Maj. Gen. Schofield, Commanding the Department, I hereby assume command of the Dist. of Wilmington. The District will comprise all the territory under military control in rear of the armies operating from Cape Fear River as a base. I am also charged with the duties of Provost Marshal General, within the limits described.

My headquarters are established in Wilmington. Capt. E. Lewis Moore, will serve as Assistant Adjutant General, Lieut. Col. James F. Randlett, 3d New Hampshire, is appointed Provost Marshal of Wilmington. Further staff appointments will be made soon.

JOS. P. HAWLEY,
Brig. Gen. U. S. Vols.

GOLD IN NEW YORK.—The extreme gold quotations in Wall Street, New York, during the week ending Feb. 25th, were as follows:

	Highest.	Lowest.
Monday.....	202	198½
Tuesday.....	200	196½
Wednesday..... (Holiday)		
Thursday.....	201½	198½
Friday.....	200½	198½
Saturday.....	199½	198½

A BAD PREACHER.—A clergyman meeting a particular friend, asked him why he never came to hear him preach. He answered, "I am afraid of disturbing your solitude."

FROM THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

Activity in the Rebel Lines.

THE ANTICIPATED EVACUATION OF RICHMOND.

General Lee gone South to Oppose Sherman.

MORE PEACE COMMISSIONERS EN ROUTE TO RICHMOND.

Reception of the News of the Fall of Wilmington.

&c., &c., &c., &c.

[Army of the Potomac Correspondence of the New York Herald.]
CITY POINT, Feb. 25, 1865.

THE ARMY QUIETLY AWAITS DEVELOPMENTS.—The feverish feeling of anxiety and expectation that has pervaded the Army of the Potomac for a few days past is now dying out. All are settling down into the sensible opinion that as the rebels are in no condition to attack with any hope of success, they are too shrewd and sensible to throw away lives they can ill spare on such a forlorn attempt. The enemy has been in commotion for nearly a week. Troops have been moving from point to point along the line. Deserters declared Lee was intending to attack and surprise us. His growing desperation would be some apology for the venture. There was, then, some reason for the vigilance manifested by us for a week past to thwart the execution of any such purpose were it seriously contemplated.

REBEL TROOPS MOVING FROM PETERSBURG TO RICHMOND.

Yesterday several cars passed from Petersburg to Richmond loaded with troops, which gave life to the old report of rebel evacuation. The popular expectation is astonishingly ardent and widespread. Scarcely an officer or private can be found in the army who does not so firmly believe they will shortly evacuate that he is exceedingly credulous on the question and willing to believe the wildest rumor.

CONTINUED DESERTIONS OF THE REBEL SOLDIERY.

Desertions have really become fearful from the rebel army. Nothing like it was ever known before. Since Sherman's triumphant march into South Carolina and the fall of Charleston, the troops of that State seem for the first time to have grown disheartened, and are now coming to us in as great, if not greater, numbers than any others. One entire company came on the Sixth corps' front yesterday morning, after daylight, bringing their arms and equipments, and individuals straggle in at all hours. We are receiving over a hundred per day regularly.

THE REBEL GEN. LEE GONE SOUTH.—Lee started South a few days ago to join the forces under Beauregard, to take the immediate direction of affairs if necessary, and to determine the general features of operations in that quarter in any event. There is very little doubt of this being true. Heavy operations may certainly be expected within the next few weeks.

ARRIVAL OF GENERAL SINGLETON AND JUDGE HUGHES AT GENERAL GRANT'S HEADQUARTERS.

General Singleton and Judge Hughes arrived at General Grant's headquarters this morning. It is understood that they are en route to Richmond by permission of the President to make one more attempt to bring about an honorable peace. The attempt may be in good faith, but no one possessing the least practical knowledge of the subject, expects anything but mortification and complication to result from such missions. The Confederacy is materially stronger to-day for the recent peace fiasco at Fortress Monroe. So it will be from all successors until other battles have been fought, and other feelings and inclinations born of victory or defeat.

Another correspondent of the same date says:—

It is surmised by many that the increased activity on the part of the rebels for the past few days is to cover some important movement. Reliable information has been received so many times of the evacuation of Petersburg that we are very skeptical on that point, but that some movements is on foot there is hardly room for doubt. We learn from various sources that a large part of the rebel army have been under marching orders for a number of days, and that a portion have already left to reinforce Beauregard. General Lee will very soon, or he will find himself without an army.

Desertions continue to increase instead of decreasing, and the class of men now coming in are superior in intelligence and dress to any I have previously seen. Not less than one hundred have been reported at the headquarters of the Provost Marshal during the last twenty-four hours. Of these a large proportion bring in their arms and equipments, for which they are paid a liberal price in greenbacks. Many of the cavalry bring in horses also. To day fifty-seven of the chivalrous sons of South Carolina came over in a body. They style themselves "peace commissioners," and say that as Jeff.

Davis was unsuccessful in establishing peace for them, they have come over to try it for themselves. Each and all confirm the story that to every one who enters our lines there are ten who desert to the rear. At this rate, without fighting another battle, the rebel army would be dissolved in two months.

PERSONAL.

Brigadier General Patten is in command of the Ninth corps during the absence of General Parker, temporary commander of the Army of the Potomac. General Griffin is in command of General Patten's division.

COMPLETION OF THE RAILROAD TO HATCHER'S RUN.

To-morrow the new branch railroad, from the Yellow House, at Warren station, to the vicinity of Hatcher's run, will be completed and in running order.

The report of the occupation of Wilmington was received in the army to-day. A shotted salute was fired at four P. M. in honor of the event.

THE NEGRO QUESTION WITH THE REBELS.

Opinions of Gen. Lee on the Subject.

Opinions of the Newspapers.

The Negroes Fleeing from the Anticipated Conscription.

&c., &c., &c., &c.

Another Letter from Gen. Lee on the Negro Question.

[From the Richmond Enquirer, Feb. 22.]
General Lee writes as follows to Mr. Miles, of South Carolina:

"We must use the negroes on our side or the enemy will use them against us. They have been so used now for a long time, and with great help to our adversaries, and to our great disadvantage; and as the numbers of soldiers diminish in our ranks and are increased in those of the enemy, he will overrun more territory and accumulate from this black material, a still more overbearing superiority."

The opposition to this measure ought now to cease, and a law should be passed without delay, to arm three hundred thousand slaves, giving to General Lee the power to take as many of them into the field as he may think best.

The day that the North passed their law to fight us with negroes, we should have done likewise. They did not pass the law for want of white soldiers, but to save them. We should try and save our white soldiers, too. I do not want our country left with a few old men and the widows and children of the dead. But, really, it would seem that the opponents to the measure have no regard or thought about saving any of the whites.

Some say that the addition of the negroes to our army will add nothing to our strength. I never ciphered in that sort of arithmetic where addition does not increase the amount. But the case is one which needs no argument. Let us stop making speeches, and we may well believe that General Lee knows best what to do and what he is about.

We should not wait the slow progress of volunteering by the negroes. The reward of freedom before is all sufficient to make them fight faithfully for us and themselves. They have no confidence in Yankees. They want nothing to do with Yankee freedom. And what a glorious thing it would be for history to tell the North was whipped and conquered by the assistance of negroes for whose benefit they falsely pretend the war was waged.

The Negro Bill and its Effects.

[From the Raleigh Conservative, Feb. 25.]
From the statements we see in the Richmond papers we suppose there is no doubt that a bill of some sort for the employment of negroes as soldiers has passed both Houses of Congress, and become the law of the land. Of the provisions of the law we are not yet accurately informed. We suppose, however, that it does not propose to take them, without the consent of either the owners or the negroes themselves. Of the unfortunate effects of all such legislation we have never entertained a doubt; and if we had, we have recently learned facts which would have put all these doubts to rest.

We learn from a perfectly reliable source, that not less than one hundred negroes have gone to the enemy from the lower part of Scotland Neck within the last ten days, caused by the talk of their being put into the army, together with the fact that an officer had just passed through there inquiring into and registering their ages, which they of course construed into a movement toward ordering them to the front.

The Alternative.

[From the Raleigh Conservative, Feb. 25.]
It is a sad and provoking thing to see our slaves set free by the Federal Congress, but it would be infinitely worse to see our lands parcelled out among themselves.

So says the Standard of yesterday, and so say we. Is it for fear that our public men will advise the people against submission upon such

terms, that that journal warns the people to beware of following the leadership of their greatest statesmen? Does it mean to insinuate that the people are ready for peace upon such terms? If not, pray what does it mean? Are the people to be humbugged by the caution not to follow "public men," into deserting the lead of those who have always proved themselves our best statesmen, to follow one who has always shown himself a political gambler, and led in no one direction long at a time? We know that our whole people are anxious for peace; but we tell Mr. Holden that they are not anxious for it upon the terms of having their lands parcelled out among the manumitted slaves. And however it may be insinuated by persons among us, that this is only a punishment reserved for us, if we do not bow the knee now, they know that from the Yankees themselves we have not, and cannot get any assurance that it is not intended for us if we were to bow the knee immediately. Such have been the indications, not only from the North, but from what we learn, there is too much reason to believe that, some of the Yankee officers, in their recent stump speeches to the negroes on the streets, indicated as much.

Negroes Fleeing from the Wrath to Come.

[From the Raleigh Progress, Feb. 25.]

We learn from a gentleman just from Halifax that some 50 to 100 negro men have left that county, within the last few days, for the Yankee lines. The exodus was caused, it is thought, by apprehensions on the part of the negroes that they were to be put in the army. Commence the work of enrollment and they will go by thousands.

IMPORTANT INDICATIONS.

The War in Virginia Ended.

THE MOTHER OF STATES SHAKES THE DUST OF REBELLION OFF HER SHOES.

[From the Richmond Enquirer, Feb. 23d.]

Virginia did not commence this war, nor did Tennessee, Missouri or Kentucky. Its magnitude and losses were perceived by those on whom the brunt would fall. The States further South, protected by those on the border, repelled advice, rejected counsel, and with fancied security, cut the fastenings which bound us together, and cast Virginia and her children on the Western frontier adrift amid terrific and increasing war.

In vain did these States foretell the famine and protest against the ungenerous rashness of those who expected, by the misfortunes of others, to escape the calamities of civil strife. We told them that the storm would indulge its fury on our soil. We pictured to them a devastated country, pillaged fields, burning towns, insurgent slaves, and a hired soldiery, inflamed to crime by the smooth skinned woman on the ottoman, and the silver on the board. Neither did these just appeals, nor the terrific fate which was increasing and advancing, check the selfish impetuosity of those who risked little of disaster to be endured by others. But the tide is now rolling toward those States who made the fight, who affirmed success or universal destruction, and who swore the oath.

This oath has been broken, and they by whom the first blow was stricken, are the first to desert those whose breasts have so far received the fury of the storm raised by others.

After the border States have offered lands and slaves as necessary sacrifices to success, they still declare that wife, child, bride, a free tongue and an unchained neck, are things to be fought for. They say to the States of the Gulf, "Now make the same contributions of lands and slaves that you forced us to make, and sentiments, relations, and people will be secured."

INTERESTING FROM MATAMORAS.

Arrival of the Prince Polignac—The Authorities of Matamoras Refuse to Recognize the United States Consul—A Blockade Running Feat—Arguelles once More, &c.

[Havana Correspondence of N. Y. Herald.]

HAVANA, Feb. 21.
The Evening Star arrived rather unexpectedly about six o'clock last evening, and leaves for New York this forenoon.

The steamer Mexico, from Matamoras, arrived on Sunday, bringing, among other passengers, the Prince de Polignac, who, with two officers of his staff, is on his way to Europe—some say to get married. He wears the uniform of a major general of the rebel army, and looks quite the soldier, as he has shown himself to be.

Trade between Matamoras and United States ports, it appears, is about to stop, in consequence of some difficulty between the imperial authorities and United States Consul at that port, the latter having been accredited to the government of Juarez, and General Mejia refuses to acknowledge the commissions. The Consul has therefore shut up shop and retired. If trade should be stopped between there and the United States, Havana will benefit greatly, and our merchants are not very sorry for what has happened.

Our old acquaintance, Commodore Leon Smith

[Continued on the 4th page.]