

THE HERALD OF THE UNION

VOL. 1. NO. 18.

WILMINGTON, N. C. TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 21, 1865.

THE HERALD OF THE UNION.

WILMINGTON, MARCH 21.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

Compositors Wanted.

A few good compositors will obtain steady employment and liberal pay by applying at this office.

Taking the Oath.

Upwards of thirteen hundred males over the age of eighteen years have voluntarily presented themselves at the office of the provost marshal in this city since its occupancy by the national forces and subscribed to the oath of allegiance to the United States. This number includes many prominent men of this town hitherto conspicuous as secessionists. All such are now ready and anxious to bring in their friends and neighbors who may yet be holding back. The town is fairly converted. There is no lingering fondness for rebel rule remaining here. So may it ever be. The experience of the past ought to be ample for any community that has passed so severe an ordeal as Wilmington. Truly between the pestilence of the sword and famine, she has been scourged sufficiently. Her citizens are sincere in seeking a peaceful return to the protection of the United States.

The Refugee Train.

The great caravan of pilgrims approaching this city from Fayetteville have been heard from. They camped last night about thirteen miles from the town and will reach the outskirts probably by to-night. This great caravan numbers about eight thousand whites and blacks, men, women and children. They have a good escort with them and are abundantly provided with provisions for the journey. They have met with no trouble on the way nor is any now anticipated.

THEATRE.—DEBUT OF MR. AND MRS. HARRY WATKINS AND MISS FANNIE BAILEY.

Theatre goers had a rich treat last night in the debut of three persons new to the Wilmington boards. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Watkins, of world wide celebrity as comedians of the first order, opened their engagement in Mr. Watkins' famous dramatization of Mrs. Southworth's Hidden Hand. The announcement drew a full house, in which we were pleased to see a goodly representation of the Wilmington ladies. The performance fully met the high anticipations that had been formed. Mrs. Watkins as Capitola was really a superb production. We have neither time nor space to notice in detail the many fine points of her acting, which throughout was natural, easy and graceful, but must content ourselves with simply saying that her fine voice filled the house with no apparent effort on her part, an excellence that did not detract from her appreciation. Her singing, was of itself worth the cost of the evening's performance. She has a rich, full, melodious voice, admirably adapted for her profession. She is bound to be a great favorite here, as she has ever been both throughout this country and in Europe. Wood in Mr. Watkins' hands was an original, and yet a natural negro, full of fun, provoking roars of laughter at every utterance. Those who failed of seeing this great piece last night should go this evening when it will have its last performance.

Miss Fannie Bailey played Andy Blake in the amusing afterpiece of that name. She is a lively, pretty, vivacious young lady, and a natural rare merit. She received a very flattering reception from the audience, which was well deserved. Now that the season is over, it is time for a liberal dispersal of the theatre. We hope to see the theatre better patronized than it has been of late.

Serious affairs occurred last night in a house of ill-fame in the back part of the town. Two or three soldiers had got into the house and were creating a disturbance, when the provost guard appeared and demanded order. One of the noisy crowd refused to obey in their efforts to quell the disturbance, whereupon a member of the guard leveled his musket and fired killing him instantly. The affair was soon quieted and morning in the regular guard report, and the conduct of the guard was entirely approved. Any straggling soldiers who may be inclined to lawlessness will do well to bear this case in mind.

Highway robbery was committed by a party of men in the uniform of United States soldiers and

dragged down the alley leading to the post office and then robbed. The soldiers who met upon him beat him in a most shameful manner, and probably would not have desisted short of his death but that his cries brought assistance at the approach of which the assailants fled.

DESERTERS.—The city swarms with deserters from the rebel army. Where they all come from it is difficult to tell. Every avenue from the country is lined with them. Many are just crawling from places of concealment where they have lain since the capture of the city. Others come from long distances away, where the clang and din of battle is yet heard. The office of the provost marshal is filled with them. They appear by hundreds to take the oath of allegiance. Nearly two hundred took the oath yesterday. They are sick of fighting in a losing cause. Let them come, and we will accept of an armistice.

PARKS' PAPER.—John McBride, who advertised some lost papers in THE HERALD OF THE UNION, will keep them by calling at this office.

IMPORTANT FROM THE FRONT.

Our Forces Advancing at all Points

GOLDSBORO REPORTED EVACUATED BY THE ENEMY.

Encouraging Intelligence From Every Department.

General Hawley yesterday received important dispatches from the front in indubitable proof somewhere in the centre of the State—which were brought to this city direct. There is no armed body of rebels between here and the Neuse river.

The full purport of the dispatches received would be manifestly improper to make public. Sherman is marching on; still unopposed by any respectable body of rebels.

Schofield's forces are beyond Kinston, and doubtless ere this are in Goldsboro, and Reports of rebel deserters and citizens of the country agree that Goldsboro is evacuated by the rebels.

The body of the rebel army are falling back towards Raleigh, and probably indulge a hope of making a stand there in defence of the state capital and the great trunk line of railroad between Richmond and Charlotte which passes through that city.

The progress we are now making the entire State will be recovered within thirty days.

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

Expedition to Maurice's Station, Return of General's Crook and Kelly, &c.

Another Expedition.

made into Rebeldom, resulting in the destruction of cotton, sugar, railroads and other property. On Friday, March 18, an expedition, composed of several companies of the Thirteenth New York, a detachment of the Second Massachusetts, and a section of the Fifth New York, all under the immediate command of Colonel G. W. Lewis, was sent out by the general for the purpose of determining the status of the adjacent country, and effecting the purpose of a usual raid in this kind of country. Leaving Suffolk their march was unimpeded through to Blackwater, where they discovered about sixty rebels securely posted, and the only ferry boat on the river situated on the opposite side, which occasioned a delay of several hours in crossing in small boats. This delay, however, was not without result. A fight ensued with the company of rebels, who were strongly entrenched, and obstinately disputed the passage. The post one man killed, one wounded, and one missing. The expedition was pushed on and reached Maurice's Station, the terminus of the Seaboard and Roanoke Railroad, about half-past ten o'clock. The force, on reaching this point, commenced the work of destruction, demolishing a warehouse, rebel barracks, and all other out-buildings were destroyed. Fifty bales of cotton followed, the railroad track, turntable, switches and all other material that could possibly be used to any advantage by the rebels, were completely demolished. Col.

Lewis finding no other work, and the country rid of the enemy, ordered the men into line and commanded the return to Suffolk, which was accomplished without either an important or interesting event, on Saturday morning.

RETURN OF GENERALS CROOK AND KELLY. Major Generals Crook and Kelly, who were recently captured in the Shenandoah valley came up on the City Point boat to-day en route to New York.

The rebel General Vance left here for City Point this morning on his way to Virginia Landing for exchange.

SHERIDAN.

PARTICULARS OF HIS BAILLIANT RAID.

His Army Within Twenty Miles of Richmond.

IMMENSE DAMAGE INFLICTED ON THE REBEL COMMUNICATIONS.

Richmond Entirely Cut off from Railroad and River Communications.

Reports from Gen. Grant's Headquarters, City Point, Va., March 13, 1865.

The latest information sent you regarding Gen. Sherman's movements left him at Columbia, only forty miles west of Richmond. He has since been pushing ahead towards the city of this latter fact there is no doubt, though the story of his being at Meadow Bridge, (which is four miles west of Richmond,) early this morning, are not so worthy of credence. If, however, it be not literally true at the present time, it may prove to be so within twenty-four or forty-eight hours. There being no cavalry to impede his progress, or to move from point to point with sufficient celerity to divine his intentions, or jeopardize his safety, Sheridan can select his route of travel and approach without cannon shot or the defenses of the city being immediately threatened.

It is generally supposed that he will circle around the city, menacing its defenses at all points, destroying all public property possible, and probably touch at White House, or some adjacent point to which supplies could reach him by water. As this will be determined long in advance of the receipt of this despatch, there can be no propriety in mentioning its probability and possibility.

There is a report that Sheridan has crossed the James with his pontoon, on account of the high stage of water, has gone north and east of Richmond to the White House, and that Grant has sent a force to meet him, and capture his safe junction with the river of the Potomac and James. No credit is attached to the report as it is believed that Sheridan had crossed the James when this despatch was written.

Grant from Columbia, and had already destroyed the Danville road at Blacksville, and by this route either joined General Grant or proceeded on his way to clear the road for Sherman's advance.

Report of the Return of Soldier Dispatch.

A returned Union prisoner, who reached Annapolis to-day, reports that the rebels communicate some interesting intelligence in relation to the state of affairs at Richmond and Sheridan's movements. He says he was captured at Castle Thunder, and through the friends of Union citizens incarcerated there obtained information relative to the state of things about which Richmond appears so silent.

On Saturday night last Richmond was thrown into a state of intense excitement by the announcement that Sheridan was near the city. The alarm bells were rung, and the militia and every available man that could be spared was hurried out to assemble at the city on the James river, some of the militia were sent to destroy the canal between the city and Richmond.

The excitement continued until midnight, and every man was on the alert. It was not until Monday morning that it was ascertained that Sheridan had succeeded in his march, and that he was still in the Shenandoah valley. It was believed, that Sheridan's purpose was to cross the James, and strike the Danville road near the coal fields, where there is an extensive structure of communication with the city, and then make a junction with General Grant's movements, indicating a general advance and abandonment of Richmond have been in progress for some time. The heavy machinery for manufacturing iron has been removed, also the machinery of their percussion cap manufactory.

large government of the rebels. The high water in the James has so much that the boat which conveyed Sheridan from Richmond could not pass above Rockwell as she had been doing previously. The circumstances it is hoped that Sheridan will find less difficulty in crossing the streams in the latter part of the month.

REBEL ACCOUNTS.

Sheridan in the Vicinity of the Virginia Central Railroad.

(From the Richmond Whig, March 13, 1865.) It is as well known to Grant as to our people that a considerable force of Yankee cavalry is raiding through some of the counties west of Richmond, and in the vicinity of the Virginia Central Railroad, but it is considered inexpedient by the military authorities to publish anything relating to their movements. At least, this was the understanding several days ago, and we have not been apprized of any modification of the request communicated to the press. We mention this fact to explain to our readers the non-appearance in the Whig of intelligence from the country into which the enemy have penetrated.

The Shooting of the Rebel Commodore Hotham and Col. Harman.

(From the Richmond Whig, March 13, 1865.) It is reported, on authority which seems entitled to credit, that Col. Wm. A. Harman, of Augusta, was killed at Waynesboro, after the defeat of General Early at that place. The statement is that he surrendered to two Yankee soldiers who immediately assassinated him.

It was also reported yesterday that Commodore Hotham, of the navy, was killed in Albemarle county by a gang of Yankee cavalry. He was attempting to escape to the woods in company with Mr. Jefferson Randolph, at whose residence he had been stopping, when the rebels overtook them and killed the Commodore. We hope that the report is untrue.

SCHOFIELD.

The Defeat of Gen. Bragg Before Kinston.

BRAGG RETREATS ACROSS THE NEUSE.

The Rebel Ram Neuse Partially Destroyed.

Repulse of Hoke's Division With Terrible Slaughter.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 14—11 A. M.

Major General Sax, New York, has received a despatch from General Schofield, in a despatch dated at Newbern, March 12, states that on the night of the 10th, near South-west creek, Bragg was fairly beaten; that during the night he retreated across the Neuse at Kinston, and now holds the north bank of the river at that place on the 11th. EDWIN M. STANTON, Sec. of War, Washington, March 14, 1865, notifies a letter has been received here from the headquarters of General Schofield, dated March 13, night of the 12th, which says: "We are holding our own before Kinston, though opposed by Bragg with a heavy force. Our battle field is very extensive. We have a very long skirmish line, and a sharp maneuver, all day, a battle since. This morning Hoke attempted to break our lines, but was repulsed with a terrible slaughter. Our own loss is not important, but that of the rebels is very heavy. We have possession of the field, and the rebel dead and wounded are everywhere. Supplies are abundant at the front. General Cox is in command. The Sanitary Commission has sent to Newbern, N. C., one hundred thousand dollars worth of supplies, and is loading several trains for the same destination. Naval stores or to some extent of sanitary supplies for the army in North Carolina."

Some of the news circulating there has been since the corps commander, General Schofield, evidently learned that Gen. Bragg's army was not far off, and would soon be upon the march. He immediately ordered the various regiments to be ready to move, and again upon our work, ten or a dozen separate charges through the day. Generally they spent their busy hours on the left, but some of the time they would charge on the entire line, and many times they would break down the rebel lines, and then retreat to the rear.

Our men, however, stood about, and were not actually as advised by piles of slain rebels, and various directions, upon the rebel camp. It was not worthy of a better case. It was not worthy of a better case.

Friday night and Saturday morning Couch's forces came up from towards Wilmington, and effected a junction with Cox, which gave us an advantage, of course, of which the rebels were

[Continued on the 14th page.]