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WILMINGTON, : : APRIL 1.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE SANITARY CONDITION OF THE CITY.—As every one is well aware, the military authorities are exerting themselves to place the city in a proper sanitary condition. General Hawley commanding the district, General Abbott commanding the post, and Colonel Randlett the provost marshal, are all strenuously endeavoring by every means which lies within their respective limits of duty to remove every cause or occasion of complaint on this score. They have already performed gigantic work, but to thoroughly purify the town they must be zealously supported by the citizens. There are many places into which the eye of military authority cannot peer. Kitchens, stables, alleys, cow-sheds, wash-sheds, and other portions of private dwellings are secure from public intrusion. It behoves the people then to do their share of their work. An earnest effort on the part of each is all that is necessary. Remember the streets of Jerusalem were kept clean by every one sweeping in front of his own house.

ALL FOOL'S DAY.—To-day is one of those anniversaries taken advantage of by the fun-loving to play practical jokes on their friends. It has been considered doubtful in some instances whether many actions at other times coming within the scope of judicial punishment are to-day attended with any penalty. Everybody seems to have full leave and licence to-day to do things which on other occasions would be followed by serious consequences. Look out for "grapevine" rumors. We should not be surprised to learn within the next twenty-four hours the most terrible reports which the "grapevine" operators will endeavor to palm off on their listeners. If you are deceived, if the "cat has got a long tail," make it all in good part. It is one of the necessities of the times.

THEATRE.—BENEFIT OF MR. HARRY WATKINS.—The Pioneer Patriot was presented to a very full house last night on the occasion of Mr. Watkins' benefit. The pressure on our columns this morning prohibits an extended critique of the representation but to judge from the applause of the audience the piece is sure of a very successful representation this evening when it is announced for repetition. As a drama illustrating a most important era in our country's history it should be seen by all who feel an interest in the great war for the preservation of that country.

A SOLDIERS' HOME.—The agent of the sanitary commission in Wilmington, Mr. Foster, not satisfied with the good work which he is already doing, intends extending the field of his benevolence by starting a Soldiers' Home after the manner of similar institutions in Baltimore, Philadelphia, Louisville, Nashville and other cities contiguous to the operations of the army. He is now seeking building suitable for the purpose.

TOWN TIME.—Many complaints reach us of the regularity in town time. A bell is rung on the market house at certain hours, but those who have regulated their time-pieces by it complain of its unreliability. It seems to us that the matter is easy of adjustment and we trust the proper authorities will give it their attention.

FINE WEATHER AGAIN.—The clerk of the weather has vouchsafed us another pleasant spell of weather. Yesterday was in most agreeable contrast to its predecessor.

ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.
Visit of the President to General Grant.
FORT MONROE, March 24.
His Excellency Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, accompanied by Mrs. Lincoln and a few government officials, arrived this morning from Washington on the despatch steamer River Queen, and after a brief stay, proceeded up James river to City Point. The President and party will visit Gen. Grant's headquarters, and then proceed to view the various portions of our lines in front of Richmond and Petersburg. The congressional party, embracing a number of eminent senators and representatives, and several prominent merchants and politicians, who sailed hence on the steamer Fulton some days ago on a pleasure trip to Charleston and Savannah, returned to-day and proceeded on the steamer City of Hudson to Washington.

TAKE.—Tom Hood says nothing spoils a holiday like a Sunday coat and a new pair of boots. Have time sit easy, your garments must not be an example.

Another Great Raid.

Ten Thousand Cavalry to Invade Alabama.

Their Destination Supposed to be Mobile.

[Correspondence of the Chicago Tribune.]
NASHVILLE, Friday, March 17, 1865.
The great cavalry expedition, under Major-General J. H. Wilson, has finally started, and all connection between them and Gen. Thomas' headquarters at Nashville is now severed. Fifteen thousand cavalry and mounted infantry were at Eastport, Miss., two weeks ago, waiting till the heavy rains and high water should have subsided. Of these, 10,000 left their place of rendezvous two or three days ago, and are now dashing through Alabama, with a view to the destruction of the railroads, &c., in that state and Mississippi, and to cooperate with several other expeditions by land and water, which started some time ago, with Mobile as their objective point.

The first news we shall hear of them will probably be from the "City on the Gulf." Maj.-Gen. D. S. Stanley commands the Fourth Army Corps, now on its way to Knoxville to participate in the Western Virginia campaign. It is estimated at from 15,000 to 18,000. Six thousand cavalry, under Gen. Stoneman or Gen. Gillem, have left Knoxville, and are already pointing through the mountains for Virginia. The Fourth Division of the Twenty-third Corps, consisting mainly of Kentucky and Tennessee and North Carolina troops, garrison Knoxville, and is quartered in that vicinity. Brig.-Gen. Davis Tilson commands in East Tennessee, headquarters in Knoxville.

Gen. Gillem apprehends no serious opposition on this side of the Salt Springs in Virginia.

Mobile Again Reported Evacuated.
CAIRO, Friday, March 24.

A report was received from Memphis, from Holly Springs, that Mobile was evacuated, and the city, with an immense quantity of war implements, was in our possession.

REBEL REPORTS.

[From the Richmond Dispatch, March 22.]
Recent advices from Tennessee are to the effect that Gillem has been reinforced by Thomas, with cavalry, at Knoxville, Tennessee, preparatory, it is thought, for a move into Southwestern Virginia. Thomas has garrisoned Tunnel Hill and Chattanooga with three regiments at each place. Three small regiments of negroes, Dutch and Irish are at Bridgport, and two regiments at Stevenson. The garrisons are very small from Stevenson to Huntsville. The rest of Thomas' army is at Huntsville, Decatur and Eastport. Rosecrans has five brigades in Middle Tennessee, scouring the country for supplies and recruits. The "rebel" soldiers they catch have the choice of joining the yankees or being shot. Stoke's brigade is the most conspicuous in the work.

FROM WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, March 24, 1865.

MIDDLE DEPARTMENT.

Major General Crook having been exchanged, has resumed his command. Gen. Sheridan being absent, Gen. Crook assumes temporary command of the Middle Department. Gen. Kelly, who was captured with Gen. Crook, has not yet been exchanged. Gen. Stevenson continues in the command formerly held by Gen. Kelly.

RICHMOND.

The most substantial evidence of the design of the rebels to evacuate Richmond is found in the fact that on the late Sheridan raid the files of the Richmond *Whig* and all the surplus material of that office was captured at Scottsville, on the James river, where it had been thrown off to lighten a canal boat.

MOVEMENTS OF GEN. BUTLER.

Gen. Butler and wife arrived here to-day, though rumor may impart to this visit official significance, rest assured it has nothing of that character. The General is there at his own pleasure, and will remain a week or ten days.—The Government has not ordered him hither.

THE PRESIDENT'S EXCURSION.

Persons here who are nervously anxious that the Government should debase itself in order to secure assent of a few leading rebels to terms of peace, are endeavoring to come at the President's visit to City Point with some new plan or conference for ending the war by negotiation. It is hardly necessary to assure the public that there is not the slightest foundation for such reports.

LARGE ARRIVAL OF REBEL DESERTERS.

The largest squad of rebel deserters that have yet reached here at any one time, arrived yesterday evening from City Point. This squad numbered two hundred and fifteen, including one officer, Lieut. J. J. Pillman, of the Fifth Georgia regiment. They all came within the lines of the army of the James, many bringing their muskets, for which they received a liberal price in money.

From the Southwest.

CAIRO, Friday, March 24, 1865.

Six hundred and ninety bales of cotton have passed for St. Louis.

New Orleans dates to the 19th have been received.

The rebels were in large force at Alexandria,

and were strengthening Fort De Russy and the river.

A Matamoras correspondent of the 11th, says: The excitement from the revolution is subsiding. The reported marching of disaffected chiefs on Matamoras is false.

A severe "norther" drove nearly all the vessels from the mouth of the Rio Grande on the 8th, and but few have yet returned. The Prince of Wales, an iron steamer, was blown out of the water, but she may be saved.

Another steamer from New Orleans was beached five miles below Bagdad. Her hull was a total loss. Her machinery may be recovered. Other vessels (names not mentioned) are known to have gone to pieces.

The rebel Gen. Slaughter has prohibited the circulation of our newspapers in Texas.

THE BLOCKADE RUNNERS.

A large number Destroyed by the Gulf Squadron—Official Report of Admiral Thatcher.
WASHINGTON, March 24.

Admiral Thatcher, commanding West Gulf Squadron, reports to the Navy Department the following captures, loss or destruction of blockade runners in the Second Division of the West Gulf Squadron for the last month, ending Feb. 28, 1865:

February 2.—The United States gunboat Panola, Lieutenant commanding Erien, captured schooner Ben Willie, with a cargo of one hundred and seventy-six bales of cotton, under English colors, in latitude 28.15 north, longitude 82.20 west. Ran out of Matamoras January 11th.

February 7th.—Boats of the United States steamer Bienville and Princess Royal cut out of Galveston the schooner Pet, 256 bales of cotton, with a crew of eleven persons; and the schooner Anna Sophia, 220 bales of cotton and a crew of nine souls. Both vessels were ready to run the blockade. Sent to New Orleans in charge of a prize crew.

February 10th.—United States gunboat Penobscot, Lieutenant commander Benham, captured schooner Matilda, with assorted cargo of rope, bagging, &c., under English colors. She ran out of Matamoras, and was said to be bound to Havana. She was off Cabello when discovered, and was fired at several times before heaving to.

February 16th.—United States gunboat Penobscot chased on shore and finally burnt the schooner May Agnes, with an assorted cargo.

February 17th.—Rebel schooner Louisa, with an assorted cargo, chased on shore and burnt by the United States gunboat Penobscot.

February 18th.—A rebel schooner was cut out of Cabello by the United States gunboat Panola, and upon grounding in the pass near a fort, was set on fire and destroyed.

February 10th.—The United States steamer Gertrude captured the brig Echo with a cargo of coffee, rice, rope, &c., under Mexican colors, from Vera Cruz, pretending to be bound to New Orleans, but was found off Galveston. Sent to New Orleans for adjudication.

The steamers Will-o-the-Wisp and Acadia were run in shore, shelled and destroyed. But a portion of their cargoes, bound in, saved by the rebels.

Steamers Granite City, Wren, and Lark, grounded and shelled under the protection of rebel batteries, finally discharged and run in.

The Rebel Negro Soldiers.

[From the Richmond Whig, March 22.]

The "law of the land" provides for the organization and equipment of negro troops; and preliminary measures have been taken in this city for the execution of the law. Whatever is to be done should be done expeditiously and well. With as little delay as possible, the official regulations for recruiting and organizing the negroes should be promulgated. A board of officers specially charged with the supervision of the organization of this service should be appointed at once. Parties who intend to organize companies, battalions or regiments are awaiting the announcement of the regulations under which they can proceed by authority to carry out their purposes. The negroes, too, are generally waiting for some better understanding of the scheme before enlisting.

To secure the success of the proposed enrollment, it will be necessary to deal plainly and fairly with the negroes from the start. The act of congress and any state legislation bearing on the subject, should be explained to them, and ample assurance given of the fulfillment of any promises which may be used as an inducement for them to enlist. The nature of the service which they will be expected to perform, the relations which they will bear to the white troops, and the necessity devolving upon them of aiding in the preservation of their own race from extinction, should be expounded in the clearest manner. Let this be done, and an army of negro troops will soon be raised.

[From the Richmond Dispatch, March 22.]

A visit to the rendezvous for colored troops, under the supervision of Majors Turner and Pegram, yesterday afternoon, showed a healthy progress of the cause, and demonstrated the entire feasibility of the scheme. In the large building known as Smith's factory we found a number of colored volunteers, each of whom seemed as happy as larks, and expressed their determination to fight the yankees. By the direction of Majors Turner and Pegram, these troops have been placed under the drilling management of Lieut. Virginus Boissieux, and manifest, so far, great proficiency in the art (military manual of arms.) As soon as proper equipments can be obtained, it is the purpose of the commanding officers to order a public parade of the troops on the capital square.

FROM CHARLESTON.

The Work of Removing Torpedoes from the Channel.

The Old Flag of Sumter to be Restored to its Place.

New York, March 25.

The steamer Baltic, from Hilton Head on the 23d, has arrived.

On the 17th instant the surveying steamer Bibb, while sounding the channel off battery B, struck a torpedo, which exploded, but she sustained no material damage, and no one was injured. Quite a number of torpedoes have been raised, and the search is progressing. The work of sounding out the channel and fixing the lights is also progressing rapidly.

Secretary Welles and Assistant Secretary Fox, accompanied by Major General Anderson, are expected to visit Charleston and raise again Sumter's old flag on the coming fourth anniversary of the surrender of the fort to the rebels. Captain John Renoke of General Mulleghan's Irish brigade, arrived at Hilton Head on the 17th, having escaped from imprisonment. He left Columbia ten days after Sherman's army left that place and was five times re-captured, but finally escaped.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT FROM CANADA.

Annexation Revived—The Mission of Hon. Rob't J. Walker and his Object—Prominent Canadians Favoring the Project of Annexation to the United States—No Confederation of the Provinces—Important Developments, &c.

[From the Montreal Gazette, March 22.]

THE NEW ANNEXATION SCHEME.

A statement appeared in this journal some time since announcing the presence in this city of a federal commissioner engaged in sounding the views of Canadians relative to union with the United States, and empowered to assist an annexation movement with federal money to the extent of \$100,000,000. This statement was denied and ridiculed by the *Globe*, although its proprietor, as a member of the ministry, was perfectly aware from other sources of information of its entire truthfulness, and the machinations of the commissioner had been the subject of grave debate in the executive council. The person referred to was the Hon. R. J. Walker, who held office under the administration of Presidents Pierce and Buchanan; and during the reign of Lincoln has been employed abroad in a confidential position as adviser to the American ministers to London and Paris, and has by his shrewdness, activity and talent for intrigue succeeded in keeping up between them and the governments to which they were accredited a better understanding than would have resulted from their own efforts, and in extricating these ministers from the most serious difficulties with which their mission were embarrassed.

Mr. Walker's ostensible object in Canada was to confer with confederate gentlemen here on the subject of peace and reconstruction; his real mission was to ascertain the temper and disposition of the Canadian people respecting union with the states—to see what could be done to impede or defeat confederation, and make such use of the liberal means at his disposal as would strengthen the annexation party in Canada and prepare the way for a determined attempt to detach this province from the British empire by force or fraud.

There are signs already that Mr. Walker's diplomatic efforts were not without results. The old annexation organ here, which had communicated to the government its willingness to support confederation and become one of its recognized mouthpieces, has suddenly gone over to the other side, and scarcely conceals the role which it intends to play in the new attempt to dismember the empire. In London, Hamilton, Kingston and other places, journals are making utterances in a similar sense, which justify the conviction of a common concerted policy, and indicate that this policy is to undermine the loyalty of the people and induce them to regard favorably a change of position which will free them from some dangers and relieve them from some disadvantages. Hence the persistent lies that Great Britain is unable to defend Canada; that her government, legislature, and press have declared their inability and unwillingness to do so, and that even in an imperial quarrel the defence of the province must depend on Canadian treasure and blood. It is hardly necessary for us to state that these falsehoods have no more reliable origin than the invention of the willing traitors who utter them; that they are based on no broader foundation than the unwillingness of the imperial government to recommend to Parliament any expenditure for the permanent defence of Canada; so long as the Provincial Legislature refused to take the steps which were deemed necessary by the imperial military authorities for that purpose, and so long as it remained doubtful whether, in case of war with the federal States, Canada might not adopt the suggestion of a wealthy and influential merchant of Montreal, who at the time of the Trent affair publicly proposed in that arena of cowardly treason and sedition, the Merchant's Exchange, to call a public meeting to declare the neutrality of Canada in the conflict supposed to be imminent. But when the imperial government states its unwillingness to assist in the defence of Canada, unless

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