

THE FREE SOUTH.

BEAUFORT, S. C., APRIL 25, 1863.

Agents for the Free South.
TAYLOR & CO. Hilton Head, and St. Helena Island.
C. C. LEIGH, No. 1 Mercer street, New York.

The Progress of the Draft.

The doubts that may have existed in the minds of some, as to the wisdom and justice of Order No. 17, must ere this have been dissipated by its practical workings. We have never been of the number who deemed it wise to treat the emancipated blacks as children who were to be brought to the level of white men by coaxing, petting, and humoring. The plan don't work well with children, and will work still more disastrously with negroes. We have always held the opinion that these negroes in many respects were as shrewd as the shrewdest Yankee, and that their apparent stupidity often was a cloak which concealed a wide awake appreciation of the claims of number one. As long as the negro was assured of his freedom, with what force could you urge him to fight for it? What pecuniary inducement could you offer him, when he and his family were rationed by the government, lived on a plantation rent free, with as much land as he chose to cultivate, and good wages assured for other labor? The working population of the northern cities without nearly so many advantages will not enlist, and these negroes are swayed by precisely the same motives.

Such being the case the draft was necessary and just, and we are glad to see by recent dates from the North, that the government has waked up to the fact. The *Tribune* of the 14th says that Adjutant General Thomas has been sent to the West with full authority to arm and organize the negroes for service against the rebels. They are to be employed to protect the navigation of the Mississippi and other rivers against guerrillas, and as garrisons at fortified posts, and are evidently destined for all varieties of military duty. Seven thousand soldiers who listened to this announcement at Fort Curtis received it with satisfaction and applause. Gen. Thomas, heretofore known as opposed to this and all similar measures, urged in his address that the blacks should be treated with kindness, declared his belief in their capacity, and informed the officers of the army that no one would be permitted to oppose or in any way interfere with this policy of the government.

We learn also that General Foster is engaged in completing a census of the negroes in his Department, with a view to draft them into the service of the United States. In this department about six hundred have been drafted into the Second Regiment, and a Third is being started. Although in most instances the negroes attempt to avoid it, they acquiesce cheerfully when it is found inevitable, and the very men who were the most cunning and indefatigable in their efforts to be exempted, when once caught, become active, energetic soldiers, anxious to execute the draft upon all other recusants. In hardly a single instance has a sulky disposition been manifested.

The moral effect upon them fully realizes the expectations expressed by General Hunter in Order No. 17. The servile, cringing, slavish manner soon gives place to the erect, port and manly bearing of the soldier. New ideas of their position animate them, and a higher intelligence lights up the countenance long benumbed by slavery. A consciousness of their own increased importance, a sense of responsibility, of duty—all new, and all delightful to the freedman, give a charm to his new existence. In short he feels himself a man. We are anxious to see every negro in the department capable of bearing arms sharing the same advantages. In a former number we suggested the propriety of drafting all the negroes without excepting those employed by quartermasters or as officers servants. The only objection to this at the time was the increased expense to the government if quartermasters' work was done by detailed soldiers; that objection is now removed. Let companies from the different regiments be detailed for fatigue duty once a month, for ten days at a time. Twenty days would thus be left for drill and camp duty. We have the testimony of the Quartermaster at this post to the superior efficiency of the negro soldiers as workers; the break in the monotony of camp life makes the work pleasing rather than irksome, and the facility with which large or small numbers could be used, as occasion demanded, would be found of value. As to officers' servants, they could be obtained from those exempted by age or physical disability.

With four regiments of blacks under his command, General Saxton could carry the war into Africa indeed. The high hopes inspired by the Jacksonville expedition could be more than realized, and we could before November take Charleston without an iron-clad.

We learn that Brigadier General Seymour has been relieved as chief of General Hunter's staff and ordered to take command of the troops on Folly Island. General Vodge, now in command at that point, will report to Major General Hunter for orders.

Sunday-School Meeting in Beaufort.

Perhaps—nay, undoubtedly—one of the most interesting, instructive, hopeful, and inspiring exhibitions that has been vouchsafed to the enthusiast, came off last Sabbath at the Baptist church in this town. The programme so quietly, so summarily arranged, the execution so exhilarating, the denouement so replete with the demonstrative bases on which have rested the theories and the hopes of the toiling few and the suffering million, seemed to open up a vista to that promised land, with its social organisms, which our fathers so clearly foresaw, but which had been obscured by the degeneracy of their sons.

One short year ago there were crouching around this quaint old town a large number of ragged, half naked, half starved juvenile bipeds, skulking from the direct gaze of civilization, shrinking from proffered kindness, watched by older and maternal children, who knew nothing, and were glad they did not; having some vague sense of escape from a horror of which they knew, to a terror of which they knew nothing. This and these were the direct results of military conquest. Freedom achieved, but disarranged; liberty a fact, but a wild one; chaos without the whip, God without Providence. This state of affairs must be of short duration. It was.

A year has passed. The world would roll on. So would spirit. Port Royal harbor had some twenty feet of water over the bar. The sea islands produced fine cotton. It should go to market. To England. England likes the long staple—slaves raise it; why should she not? She tried to pity the former slave—she bewailed the lost cotton most sincerely. But there were a few noble men and women, forgetting self, braving danger, defying ridicule and sarcasm, to whom was vouchsafed an appreciation of the moral and social desolation laid bare by our arms, and who rushed to the rescue at whatever cost.

Well, let us end a prosy poem. Last Sabbath was a day. The sun shone. The sky was cloudless. The birds would sing in Beaufort. They did—but not the birds only. Joy is free—freedom is joy. God so wills it. He has broken the fetters and the captive, having overleaped his barriers, put his foot upon the solid, open ground of manhood, rejoices in his novel status and swears allegiance to his Divine commission "A LITTLE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS."

Last Sunday, upon very brief notice, were gathered together in the Baptist Church in this town, some three or four hundred colored children, from the adjacent schools. "One year ago," said a high military officer to the writer, "they were all in rags, that is to say those that had rags." Now they were all neatly dressed, walked in regular procession, sat with perfect decorum. The seats on both sides of the aisle were crowded full. The side aisles, and slips were filled by standing soldiers of the colored South Carolina Regiments. The galleries were jammed full. Gen. HUNTER, Gen. SAXTON and lady with members of his staff occupied the space in front of the pulpit. Every nook and corner of the spacious edifice was full. White officers and soldiers crowded gently to such places as afforded them a chance of observation. Father French! he was all over—at least his spirit was over all. But what was all this? Why came here Major General HUNTER, commanding the department of the south? Brigadier General SAXTON, military governor? Others, whose heads were gray, if not weary with current and concurrent thoughts; sent out, yearning, years ago, and years ago—came back, not to plague the invent'or; but perhaps to depress him? Wherefore this congregation? so dissimilar? so defiant of rank? so ignorant of position?

Why, my good friends, it was almost an unwitting testimonial to the truth, to the practical exemplification of the wonderful fact, which mortal endowment cannot overreach or submerge in the mysticisms of sophistry, the simple truth spoken by Jesus: "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise." That was the fact—a little one, but big enough for the congregated wisdom of that day.

There are in this Department of the South fifty females, (all highly cultivated ladies at home, where people can read and write, but females here,) and fifteen males, who have devoted themselves to the work of teaching the colored children, of various growth, numbering about two thousand five hundred. On two or three days' notice, some three hundred or more scholars from the different schools gathered together as before mentioned, last Sunday, in the Baptist church, under the immediate guidance of their respective teachers. I have seen many Sunday school exhibitions at the North, always with a full heart, but never did witness a more perfect order, a better display of acquisition, a more strict discipline, than was demonstrated by the dusky juveniles there congregated.

The order of exercises opened with the hymn, "All hail the power of Jesus' name," sung by the whole congregation, led by the choir of colored singers in the gallery. Then came a prayer: such faith, such hope, such grateful outpourings of the soul, such earnest appeals to the great and good God for the deliverance of those yet in

bondage! what unction! Then came, "There is a happy land," sung by all the children in perfect time and tune, followed by exercises in the "shorter catechism," the children all answering together. The answers were almost uniformly correct. Then came the song, "The Sunday School Army," three hundred little voices, quivering, steady, rising, swelling, pouring forth volumes of sweet, rich melody, making the heart, if not the church roof, quake.

By this time, it may well be imagined that the heart that can feel and the soul that can sympathize had about as much as was prudent to administer through the necessary encasing dignity. But so did not think Father French. After two excellent addresses by members of the South Carolina regiments, (colored,) came that most touching song, which no one but an English cotton worshiper or the owner of twenty slaves could withstand:

"I have a father in the slavery land,
My father calls, and I must go
To bring him from the slavery land.
I'll away, I'll away
To the slavery land;
My father calls, and I must go
To bring him from the slavery land."
"I have a mother," &c., &c.

It would be almost profanity to attempt a description of the effect of this song; humanity has its *sanctum sanctorum*. Oh God! thou must have tuned those young throats to warble that holy recognition of thy first law. Thou unsealedst the fountains of the human soul when, as those young voices rolled their plaintive melody upon the free air, and their sad looks seemed for the moment to invoke the forbearance of the bright sunshine, its beams were diverted or lost in the sheen of the tears which the brave, the wise, the old, the young, could no longer repress! Little ones! your father, your mother, your sister will be brought from the "slavery land." God has willed it. Wait and work. We will work with you.

Then, there was the "Song of Freedom," by Mrs. Rosa Kery, leading. She has suffered terribly from slavery, and what makes it worse, (if hell can be outdone, if the quintessence of damnation can be made more damnable) all, as the slave of her own father. (Does he ever suffer with lumbago?) "We must fight for our liberty." "We're not afraid to die." The whole congregation *noles volens* joined in the chorus, and were roused to the highest pitch of enthusiasm.

But I have spun out this matter too long; and yet have not half done it justice. But it must close here for the present. After the exercises were through, General SAXTON (God bless him!) made a few very practical remarks, and the large assembly dissolved and retired in as perfect order as General HUNTER could disembark a crack regiment on Folly Island. One thing I forgot to mention; on the way home, not one of the large audience was heard to say, "What will you do with the niggers?"—No not one.

"DID YOU EVER?"

For the last ten days, the St. Helena Islanders have been on the look-out for old John Pope, one of the largest of the secessary proprietors on that island. He is reported to have been seen on the island by some of the negroes, and the captain of one of the gunboats sent word to the village that there was reason to believe he was either on the island, or had been there within the week.

It is also reported that three rebels came to the house of a negro on the upper end of this island, and ordered a dinner to be prepared for them. They said they had lost the way, and after making many inquiries about the troops, fortifications, etc., departed. A boat was soon after observed making directly across Broad river, containing three men; doubtless the same party.

There are at this post quite a number of refugees from Florida and Georgia, who have been allowed the utmost liberty of locomotion. From the conversation of some of them, we judge their loyalty to be none of the strongest. They are subsisting upon our government without rendering any service, and we suggest the propriety of sending them across the lines to their friends and relatives. Some limit ought at least to be put to their privileges of obtaining or imparting information.

Speculators and superintendents will do well to read and carefully digest the contents of General Orders, No. 21. Several circumstances have transpired in connection with the drafting of negroes on St. Helena, which make it evident that the order referred to has not been fully understood. It may be found that the prospective profits on cotton will not pay the pains and penalties of discouraging enlistments and counseling resistance to the draft.

S. P. HUBBARD, Co. "C" Fourth New Hampshire Vols., has been appointed a lieutenant in the Second South Carolina Vols. This is one of the best appointments Gen. Saxton has made. Mr. Hubbard's heart is in the cause, and he is no new convert to anti-slavery doctrines. The Second South Carolina regiment has so far a superior set of officers.

ECONOMY.—How to make pantaloons last: make the coat and vest first.

The News.

Our extracts from Southern papers are very interesting. The most important item is the full confirmation of our success over General Van Dorn at Franklin, Tenn. The rebels admit that their loss was heavy, and that they had to retreat after six hours' hard fighting.

Our relations with Great Britain, says a Washington dispatch, are considered by those who are conversant with them extremely delicate. The correspondence between Earl Russell and Minister Adams with relation to the fitting out and sailing of the pirate Alabama, contained in the English Blue Book, but not yet published in this country, and the correspondence still going on touching the construction and equipment in British waters of other piratical craft, have been conducted on the part of John Bull in a tone which is unfriendly if not menacing and provocative of war. Russell plants himself on the strict letter of the statute applicable to the case, refers our Government to that statute, and in effect refuses to take steps to remedy the grievance complained of. The matter has recently been seriously discussed in the Cabinet.

The case of the anglo-rebel steamer *Peterhoff* continues to engage attention in administration as well as diplomatic circles in Washington. It is understood that Lord Lyons has requested that the British mail found on board be returned to him unopened, and that the state department is ready to accede to his wishes, holding with him that the mail should enjoy the same immunity that it would have if found upon a regular mail packet.

The navy department, on the other hand, inclines to the opinion that by the correct principles of international law, the mail in question should be disposed of in the same way as other papers found on board, especially as it is presumable that it contains proofs sufficient to condemn the *Peterhoff* and her cargo, and that it was put on board of the blockade runner in a manner to stamp the whole transaction as one of bad faith.

Secretary Welles is also of the opinion that whatever the abstract rights and wrongs of the question may be, the district court which has the case before it for adjudication can alone decide, the statute being peremptory that all papers and writings found on board a captured vessel shall be transmitted unopened to the court before which such vessel is proceeded against.

Judge Bets last week invited Mr. Archibald, the British consul, to be present while the mail was being opened, but he did not appear. The judge would then have proceeded to open the mail, as we are informed, but for the reception of telegrams from Washington.

We have dates from Liverpool to April 1, and Queenstown to April 2. Lord Palmerston was installed as rector of the Glasgow University on March 30, and made on the occasion two political addresses, in both of which he referred to the American war, justifying the conduct of the English government. The organs of the English government and aristocracy professed to be still in ignorance of the existence of the *Peterhoff*. Admiral Wilkes. A highly important debate took place in the house of commons, on March 27, on the fitting out of a rebel fleet in England. Mr. Forster showed conclusively that England had not acted toward the United States as the latter had a right to expect her to act, and as they had acted in similar cases. The solicitor general and Lord Palmerston defended the conduct of the British government. Mr. Bright, on March 26, made another stirring speech in London on American affairs. Although no new riots of the starving operatives had occurred, matters still looked very threatening. Two more captures of American vessels by the Alabama are reported. Several successes are again claimed for the Polish insurgents, but the latest reports say that the insurgent leaders are disbanding their forces and giving up the contest. Russia has once more declared her willingness to grant extensive reforms. England, France, and Austria have agreed upon an identical note to be addressed to Russia in behalf of Poland. The Archbishop of Warsaw, in a letter to the Russian emperor, advocates the union of all the Russo-Polish provinces into a Polish kingdom. The National Assembly of Greece has elected Prince William of Denmark, son of Prince Christian, and brother of the Princess Alexandra, King of Greece. New outbreaks are apprehended in Turkey against the Christians.

The arrest of a number of traitors at Reading, Pa., known as Knights of the Golden Circle, has created much excitement there and elsewhere, and threats of a rescue were made, but not executed. The parties arrested were Philip Huber, Augustus F. Illig, Gabriel Filbert, and Harrison Oxenieder. There parties were examined by the United States Commissioner at Philadelphia the other day, on a charge of conspiracy. The evidence on the examination before the commissioner shows the facts that the secret society of traitors, under the name of Knights of the Golden Circle, are very extensive throughout the North and in the army—that they are bound to each other by oaths, and that among the objects to be effected by Knights are the abduction of the President of the United States, resisting of the draft by force, and the establishment of the Northwestern Confederacy.

The steamers *Crescent* and *Columbia* brought us bad news from New Orleans last week. The most important item in the intelligence is the capture of the United States steamer *Diana* by the rebels, in the Atchafalaya river, near Pattersonville, on the 28th ultimo. Her commander, Acting Master Peterson was shot dead, and six of the crew were killed. Some twenty-five soldiers of the Twelfth Connecticut and One Hundred and Sixtieth New York were also killed and wounded in the action. The remainder of those on board, numbering one hundred and seventy, were taken prisoners by the enemy.

In our New Orleans news is a story that Admiral Farragut is in the Red River, between the two batteries, out of the range of both, but unable to pass either of them. It is further stated that the Admiral had sent a messenger to inform General Banks of his position, but the messenger was captured and held a prisoner in the hands of the rebels. The story is decidedly improbable. A New Orleans letter says that troops are being got ready on the west side of the Mis-

issippi for the purpose of making a sweep of the Atchafalaya river region.

The latest news concerning the state of affairs around Suffolk, Va., is to the 16th instant. The attempts of the rebel General Longstreet to cross the Nausemond river with the aid of pontoons were defeated by the fire of our artillery. One of our gunboats, the *Mount Washington*, was fired into and disabled by the rebel batteries while coming down the river, on the 14th inst. She was, however, taken in tow and brought safely through the heavy fire of the enemy. The town is invested by 30,000 rebels.

A Cairo dispatch of the 12th inst. says: "The dispatch boat *New National* has arrived from Vicksburg, which place she left Wednesday. She brings the news that the iron-clads *Louisville*, *Mount City*, *Carondelet*, *Benton*, *Lafayette*, and two others, are prepared to run the blockade. They expected to execute the movement on Friday or Saturday night. It was also said, that transports had been prepared with log and cotton burlheads to run the batteries. The reported arrival of Gen. Osterhaus at Carthage, ten miles below Warrenton, on the Louisiana side, with a heavy force is confirmed.

News from Young's Point, near Vicksburg, is to the 2d. On that day several transports laden with troops, Ellett's Marine Brigade, and one gunboat went up the river, destination unknown, probably for another trial at the Yazoo. So far as visible to outsiders, there was little prospect of an immediate movement near Vicksburg. A new canal is being cut three miles above Young's Point to reach the river below Warrenton; the African brigade are at it day and night. Admiral Farragut still rules the river between Vicksburg and Port Hudson. The dispatch states that Porter and Grant are reconnoitering up the Yazoo with a considerable force. Our troops near Clarksville, Tenn., have been punishing the rebels pretty steadily of late. From Cairo the latest news is: at General Steel's Union division has landed at Greenville, Miss., doubtless so as to co-operate in an attack upon Fort Pemberton. Greenville is 145 miles above Vicksburg.

A general order, No. 69 of the War Department, provides that at every United States General Hospital the feeble and wounded men unfit for field duty, but not entirely disabled, instead of being discharged, will be organized and mustered in detachments under the charge of the officers acting as military commanders, who will assign men to them from time to time on the reports of the surgeons in charge of hospitals. From these invalid detachments the military commanders will make details for provost, hospital and other necessary guards; for clerks, hospital attendants, nurses, cooks, and other "extra duty men." Should any of the men become fit for duty with their regiments, they will be immediately sent to join them.

The guerrillas are again at work on the Cumberland river, below Nashville, Tenn. A dispatch from Clarksville states that 1,200 of them, under Woodward, with two pieces of artillery, captured and burned the steamers *Saxonia* and *Lorel* on Wednesday, killing the captain of the latter, and shooting off the arm of the former. The passengers and crews had arrived in Clarksville. From Murfreesboro we learn that an expedition of National troops, under Colonel Wilder has been very successful. He captured twenty-nine rebels, destroyed 5,000 bushels of wheat and much corn and bacon, and brought in 300 negroes. It is understood to be the boast of Johnston and Bragg that they will possess Kentucky before harvest time.

Official returns of the election in St. Louis give Chauncey J. Filley (Radical candidate for Mayor) 2,647 majority over Joseph O'Neil (Copperhead). The combined Radical and Conservative Emancipation vote give a majority of 5,156 votes over the Copperhead or Democratic vote. The entire Radical ticket received about the same majority as Filley.

The Navy Department has received information of the capture of five more blockade runners—the British steamer *Surprise*, by the *Huntsville*, from St. Marks, Fla., bound to Havana; the rebel schooner *Five Brothers*, and the English schooner *John Williams*, by the *Octorom*, and the English schooners *Florence Nightingale* and *Brothers*, by the *Tioga*.

The War Department has decided that the date of muster-out of the two years troops must be two years from the date of the muster into the service of the United States. This decision has been transmitted to the Colonel Phelps, commanding the first brigade, first division, first army corps.

A small mutiny broke out in the Second Massachusetts Cavalry at Boston on the 9th, the men endeavoring to resist the arrest of one of their number. Colonel Lowell warned them of the consequence of their act, and promptly shot the ringleader, which quelled the disturbance.

The steamship *Merion*, from New York to New Orleans, was totally lost on Double-Head-Shot Keys on the 2nd inst., at 4 p. m. She had a valuable cargo and forty passengers, all of whom have arrived at Cardenas and Havana.

Our Government has information that five powerful steam rams are now being built on the Thames and the Mersey. It is to be hoped that these characteristics British works of mercy will be looked after by our cruisers.

By the arrival of the British *Queen* from Nassau, N. P., we learn that fourteen vessels from rebel ports had arrived there from the 16th of March to the 10th of this month, all bringing cargoes of cotton.

The battle of Somerset put a quietus on the grand invasion of Kentucky, so long talked of, and there are believed to be no rebels in Kentucky except near Cumberland Gap, Humphrey Marshall's scattered forces in Carter county, and a few prowling thieves.

At a special election the voters of Massachusetts, by a considerable majority, repealed the Two Years Naturalization Amendment Law.

All the contracts for iron-clads (twelve in all) have been awarded. The prices for these will range from \$380,000 to \$400,000. They are to be finished and added to the navy in about six months.

Governor Curtin of Pennsylvania declines a renomination. It is said that he has accepted a high official position at a foreign court.

Army of the Potomac.

From the army of the Potomac we have rumors of a movement, the precise object of which is concealed. Rebel papers report the occupation of Gordonsville, but it is denied by later dates. A private letter, of April 12, to the editor of the *Free South*, from an officer on the Potomac, contains the following:

"We have just orders to be ready at daylight for a movement. The whole cavalry force is going, about 17,000 men; don't know where, but expect towards James River. Perhaps this trip is the beginning of the entire army's advance. No one knows but Hooker. There is nothing to prevent our going to Richmond, I think. The army is in splendid condition, and I hope and believe Hooker is able to conduct the campaign. We take twelve days' rations on pack mules. I have no baggage but a pair of drawers, socks, and a shirt, except what I have on. If the army of the Potomac had always moved so, it would have done more effective service. President Lincoln reviewed the whole army last week and returned to Washington, highly pleased with the appearance and tone of the army."

The War in North Carolina.

The most important news brought by the *Arago*, is the reported safety of Gen. Foster and his troops at Washington, N. C. We find the following dispatch in the *Times* of the 17th:

FORTRESS MONROE, Thursday, April 16. A dispatch from Gen. Palmer to Maj. Gen. Dix, just received, states that Gen. Foster has been relieved.

A river steamer, with a regiment and supplies of provisions and ammunition, succeeded in running the batteries on Tar river, and reached the wharf at Washington on the 14th.

LETTER FROM AN OFFICER.

A letter from an officer of the Forty-fourth Massachusetts regiment gives a connected account of affairs at Washington, North Carolina, up to the 10th inst. The first intimation of an intended rebel attack was received March 30th, when a negro who had been into the interior reported that he had seen seven thousand rebels with forty pieces of artillery marching upon the place, and that other forces were coming by different routes.

Reconnoissances were at once sent out, and the rebels discovered at various points. On the 31st, a company of loyal North Carolinians holding an advanced position, were attacked and driven in. A gunboat which had dropped down the river was also attacked, and several of her guns disabled. The rebels used Whitworth guns, furnished, of course, by "neutrals" over the water. On the 3d it was ascertained that the rebels had additional guns mounted. Firing continued between the gunboats and the rebel batteries, and one of the guns of the latter was seen to be dismantled.

On the night of the 3d, the gunboat *Ceres* ran the blockade, bringing ammunition for the fort and gunboats. On the 4th, a small battery in front of the fort opened fire, and the fort replied, dismounting one of their guns, when the firing ceased. On the 5th, provender for the horses gave out, and the families of the town were declared to be destitute. On the 7th, the rebels opened fire on the gunboats, and also fired five or six discharges at the town, but without doing any injury. Meanwhile, the intrenchments of our forces were greatly strengthened, the men, though reduced to three-fourths rations, working with unflinching spirit. On the 9th, another vessel ran the blockade with ammunition, and on the 10th the rebels again opened fire upon the fort, and kept it up for half an hour. Two shells struck inside the fort, quite a number of shots struck the intrenchments but no one was injured on our side. A day or two subsequently the garrison was relieved, and are now safe against any force the enemy may bring against them.

A picket from the gunboat *Kingfisher*, Capt. Dutch, recently captured three men on Edisto, who gave their names as Seabrook, Michael, and Townsend. They were looking after their estates on that island. Seabrook is a son of William Seabrook, one of the wealthiest proprietors on the sea islands, and a former governor of South Carolina. A letter was found on his person from old John Pope who said he had just been visiting his farm and indulged the hope that, as the Yankees were in the humor of evacuating, they would evacuate St. Helena and let him have his estate again.

SERVICES OF LOYAL BLACKS.—While the negroes in the Department of the South-west are receiving the worst possible treatment at the hands of the government and its agents, they do not permit their loyalty to be shaken, but constantly render most important services to our commanders. An instance of this is thus reported by a correspondent of a Boston paper, in an account of the late operations in Berwick Bay:

"The rebels have placed all sorts of obstructions in the bay and river, but our forces were not aware that they had resorted to their old practice of placing torpedoes in chains across the rivers, until they were fortunately informed by two intelligent negroes, who jumped from the cotton and swam ashore to warn our troops of their danger. The slaves pointed out the exact location of these dangerous and infernal machines, showing our officers the lines attached to these torpedoes. Our officers removed two of these destructives, and in one of them were five gallons of powder. The contrabands said the rebels have planted many more of larger size further up the river. One of the torpedoes discovered by our troops was enclosed in a square wooden box, and marked 'medical stores.'"

Many schoolmasters entertain no doubt that the tree of knowledge is the birch.