

THE FREE SOUTH.



BEAUFORT, S. C., JULY 25, 1863.

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

Agents wanted in the different Regiments of this Department, for the FREE SOUTH.

General Gillmore.

The appointment of Gen. Gillmore to this department, and his subsequent success from his long expressed willingness to proceed against Charleston with the force already here. Long continued complaints of inadequate numbers for offensive operations, and finally the utter failure of the attack in April had forced upon the Administration the alternative of giving up indefinitely a movement against that city, or of largely increasing the 10th Army corps. The necessity of concentrating troops to meet the offensive movements of Lee, and to reinforce Rosecrans, Grant and Banks, had almost decided the point in favor of giving Charleston an undeserved immunity. At the same time the difficulties arising from the frequent evasion of the blockade made it very important that the port should speedily be closed against a contraband trade and opened once more to a legitimate commerce by bringing it under the flag of the Union.

This, to say nothing of the moral triumph we should win in humbling the city which has pre-eminently stood forward as the nursing place of rebellion was sufficient to induce the government to listen with favor to a man who asked only to be allowed to try, without further assistance, to take the city.

Then, too, the proposal came from one whose past achievements gave an earnest of future success. Everybody knows he took Fort Pulaski, but not everybody knows in the face of what obstacles he succeeded. Pulaski was deemed impregnable, and the proposed attempt to reduce it by land batteries on Tybee island was scouted by the highest engineering authority in America. General Wright, then commanding a brigade at Port Royal, for three years Chief of the Engineer Bureau in Washington, after a very careful survey and reconnoissance pronounced positively against the effort. "There is not old iron enough in America to take that fort," said the General. It was the strongest but two in the United States. Russell of the *London Times*, went over it very carefully and sent home long accounts and plans in detail, pronouncing it a model of engineering strength. Gen. Robt. E. Lee wrote to Colonel Olmstead, its commandant: "The enemy may fill your fort with shot and shell, but they cannot breach its walls. I expect you to defend it to the last." And to crown all, Gen. Totten, then and now at the head of the Engineer Corps, when the project of reducing Pulaski was suggested to him, declared, "You might as well undertake to bombard the Rocky Mountains from Tybee as Fort Pulaski. It was in the face of such opinions as this that General, then Captain Gillmore, resolved to take this fort, and took it. The credit is due to him solely. In eighteen and a half hours of cannonading—thirty from the time the first gun was fired—Pulaski surrendered, and from that moment Gen. Gillmore has been the best hated officer in the Engineer Corps. Success in defiance of opinion and tradition is seldom forgiven. When the Corps was recently reorganized, Gen. Gillmore was kept still a captain in the engineer service, and his remarkable ability and success have been in no way recognized or rewarded in connection with his position in the regular army.

The Court of Inquiry at St. Louis having finished its business, General McDowell has arrived in Washington. He is to proceed to New York to organize an important Board for the retiring of army officers.

Sunday last was a sad day in Beaufort. The arrival of the *Cosmopolitan* with the wounded from Morris island, bringing also the intelligence that our brave troops had been repulsed in the assault upon Fort Wagner, cast a gloom upon the community greater than any it has experienced since the affair at Pocatigo, and the death of the noble Mitchell. As the vessel neared the wharf with its freight of suffering, a silent, mournful concourse gathered around the landing, eager to lend a helping hand in removing the wounded to the hospital. As those who were able to walk filed off the boat and wended their slow way through the crowd, the scene was truly pathetic. The emotional nature of the negro broke forth in sobs and moans of compassion, while the sympathy and commiseration of the white man was shown only in the pale face and trembling lips. The wounded of the 54th Massachusetts came off the boat first, and as these sad evidences of the bravery and patriotism of the colored man passed through the lines of spectators every heart seemed to be touched, and we will vouch for it that no word of scorn or contempt for negro soldiers will ever be heard from any who witnessed the sight. In that moment our volunteers saw suffering comrades in the black men, and the tender hand and strong shoulder was extended as readily to them as to their fairer compatriots. All day and far into the night did the sad procession pass toward the hospital, and every man and woman at the post who could do anything to alleviate the sufferings of our brave fellows was soon busily at work.

Gen. Saxton and the officers of his staff were untiring in their exertions to provide accommodations for all. Fortunately the post quartermaster, Capt. J. P. Lowe, had kept his carpenters at work for the past month or two in getting out hospital cots, so there was no lack of comfortable beds. The hospitals, too, had been kept in perfect order, ready at any moment to respond to the most sudden emergency. The consequences of this good management and foresight were apparent. Before midnight the sufferers were lying in cool rooms, their soiled clothes changed for clean garments, and the surgeons were busily employed in alleviating their wounds.

The cheerful resignation with which the soldiers, white and black, bore the terrible mutilations, and the sufferings inevitable in moving them, was worthy of all praise. No one but those who have witnessed this and similar scenes can tell how much of heroism lies dormant in the American soldier. As we looked upon some youthful form, lying upon a stretcher, with a cloth covering a torn and shattered limb, and watched the struggle to bear up with fortitude and patience, we bowed in spirit to a hero as great as any whose fame has employed the pen of the historian or the muse of the poet.

And the dead. As one by one they were named, some endeared as the companions of many a pleasant hour, some known only as gallant officers or men, cut short in the prime of manhood by the foul spirit engendered by slavery and treason, it seems as if we must one and all renew our vows of hatred to the rebellion and its hellish cause.

The *Philadelphia Bulletin* rebukes those people who are particularly sanguinary in their wishes concerning the army, speaking from their fire-sides:—"It is curious to see how fond peaceable folks are of brisk military movements. There is nothing a quiet, timid sort of man loves at breakfast so much as a good hot despatch; a bayonet charge sends him to his toast with a relish, and he swallows his last cup of tea with great satisfaction over a pretty cruel return of killed and wounded."

General Banks has ordered that hereafter none but negroes shall be employed as government teamsters in the Department of the Gulf.

Congratulatory Order.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
MORRIS ISLAND, S. C., JULY 12th, 1863.

ORDER.—The Brigadier General Commanding presents his congratulations and thanks to the army which he has the honor to command, for the brilliant victory on the 10th instant, which places them three miles nearer the rebel stronghold of Sumter, the first among all our country's defenses against foreign foes that felt the polluting tread of traitors. Our labors, however, are not over; they are just begun; and while the spires of the rebel city still loom up in the dim distance, hardships and privations must be endured before our hopes and expectations can find their full fruition in victory. Let us emulate the heroic deeds of our brothers in arms at Gettysburg and Vicksburg, and add to that roll of fame which will be transmitted to a grateful posterity. Special thanks are due to Brigadier General J. Vogdes and his command, for the untiring energy and patient endurance displayed by them in erecting the batteries on Folly Island, under almost every conceivable disadvantage, and to Brigadier General George L. Strong and his command, for the heroic gallantry with which they carried the enemy's batteries on Morris Island; this being the first instance during the war in which powerful batteries have been successfully assaulted by a column, disembarked under a heavy artillery fire.

Q. A. GILLMORE,

Brigadier General, Commanding.

General Order No. 51.

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,
PORT ROYAL ISLAND, BEAUFORT, S. C. JULY 23, 1863.

In view of the number of wounded troops now at this Post and the necessity that all possible attention should be paid to their wants, all citizens residing at the Post will be required to serve at the Hospitals, on the requisition of the Chief Medical Officer, through the Provost Marshall, at least three days in each week, should such services be deemed necessary.

The Chief Medical Officer is authorized to demand the services of citizens as above and the Provost Marshall will cause such requests to be complied with.

By command of

Brig. Gen. R. SAXTON.

The officers of the U. S. Sanitary Commission have won for themselves a splendid reputation in this Department. They have by their discretion and zeal saved many valuable lives. Under the guns of Wagner, in the hottest of the fire, their trained corps picked up and carried off the wounded almost as they fell. As many of our men were struck while ascending the parapet and then rolled into the moat, which at high tide contains six feet of water they must inevitably have perished had they been suffered to remain. But the men who were detailed for service with Dr. Marsh, went about their work with intrepidity and coolness worthy of all praise. The skill and experience of the members of the commission has, since the battle, been unremittingly employed to render comfortable the sick and wounded.

The Richmond editors disbelieve the accounts of Union success, and look for no less than the utter annihilation of the Army of the Potomac. The capture of Brashear City is called the most important rebel success in the South-West since the beginning of the war, and it is presumed (by the rebels) that New Orleans has also been retaken. Not much is said of Vicksburg; if the editors knew of the surrender they concealed the fact from the public. The papers give some details of Gen. Dix's progress in breaking communications between Richmond and the North.

A man who will not stand by his Government is a coward and a traitor, said Ex-Governor Hill, of New Hampshire. Let the wretched men at the north, who give aid and comfort to the rebels make a note of this truth.

Among the officers captured at Vicksburg was one lieutenant-general, Pemberton; four major-generals, Smith, Stevenson, Forney, and Bowen, and some fifteen or twenty brigadier-generals. Admiral Porter, in his official report to the Navy Department, refers to the part the navy took in the capture of the place. The gunboats had been constantly engaged below Vicksburg in shelling the works with success, co-operating heartily with the left wing of the army. The mortar boats had been at work for forty-two days, without intermission, throwing shells into all parts of the city, even reaching the works in the rear of Vicksburg, and in front of our troops—a distance of three miles. Gunboats were also stationed to keep the Mississippi clear of guerrillas. The mortars fired 7,000 mortar shells, and the gunboats 4,500. Four thousand five hundred shots were fired from naval guns on shore, and the navy supplied over 6,000 to the different army corps.

Captain Cutts, of the 11th Infantry (regulars) who is a member of Gen. Burnside's staff, has got into trouble by insulting a brother officer on the staff. It appears that on the 11th of April, while occupying a room in the Burnet House, Cincinnati, Ohio, he took a valise from his room, and placing it against the door of another room occupied by Capt. Hutton, looked over the door while the wife of the latter was undressing. Capt. Hutton saw him from the stairs, and sent him a challenge, which he remitted to Gen. Burnside. The result of this is, that Capt. Cutts is to be tried by court-martial, for his indecent conduct; Capt. Hutton, for sending a challenge; and Maj. Cutting, for carrying the challenge.

The cooperation of Gen. Kelly with General Meade, is indicated in the following paragraph from the *Wheeling Intelligencer*, of Thursday: We are informed by despatches from Gen. Kelly's headquarters to-day, that he made the march of forty miles to Hancock in one day, and that a small detachment of his cavalry, under Capt. Greenfield and Lieut. Kelly, captured a train of fifteen wagons, sixty mules, two officers, twenty men and twenty horses, yesterday, within four miles of Williamsport. He had four men wounded, none killed. Several of the enemy were killed and wounded."

Medical-Inspector Nollum reports to Surgeon-General Hammond that there are now in our hands at Gettysburg, 10,000 rebel wounded. This number will be increased rather than diminished, and the former estimate of 4,000 is now known to have been the merest guess work. The rebel losses, during the three battles of Gettysburg, are, to say unofficially, footed up at the Surgeon-General's as follows:

Left on the field and in our hands, wounded.....	10,000
Slightly wounded, taken away by the rebels.....	4,000
Killed on the field, and buried by our forces.....	3,500
Taken prisoners by our forces.....	12,000
Deserters and stragglers brought in by our cavalry.....	4,000
Total.....	33,500

The editor of the *Gettysburg Compiler*, Copperhead, when the rebels were there, made himself conspicuous by his officiousness in giving them information, and was even so mean as to point out the hiding-place of several Union soldiers who happened to be concealed in a private house. But the tables have turned. The rebels have been driven out of the town, and the editor of *The Compiler*, without ceremony—without even the benefit of the writ of habeas corpus—has been carried off to Fort McHenry, where he is now imprisoned. A clear case of arbitrary arrest.

The guerrillas in North Carolina do picket duty in carts, their guns lying by their sides. They ride slowly toward our pickets, who, of course, imagine that some farmer wishes to procure a pass through our lines, or perhaps desires to go to mill. After approaching near enough to have a good view, the rebel suddenly wheels around his cart, and is off on the run. Some have thus been caught.

Mr. C. G. Robbins, the agent of the American Watch Company, has a stock of these unequaled time beepers on hand. The world-wide reputation which has been obtained already is augmented by every watch sold. Robbins has also a fine stock of miscellaneous goods always on hand at the lowest prices.

The *Montreal Advertiser*, after announcing Vallandigham's arrival at Halifax, states that he will soon go to Niagara Falls, where he will remain for the present, taking care to keep on the Canada side.