

## THE FREE SOUTH.



BEAUFORT, S. C., AUGUST 1, 1863.

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

By the President of the United States—  
A Proclamation

It has pleased Almighty God to hearken to the supplications and prayers of an afflicted people, and to vouchsafe to the Army and the Navy of the United States, on the land and on the sea, victories so signal and so effective as to furnish reasonable grounds for augmented confidence that the union of these States, will be maintained, their Constitution preserved and their peace and prosperity permanently preserved; but these victories have been accorded not without sacrifice of life, limb, health and liberty, incurred by brave, patriotic and loyal citizens.

Domestic affliction in every part of the country follows in the train of these fearful bereavements. It is meet and right to recognize and confess the presence of the Almighty Father, and the power of His hand equally in these triumphs, and these sorrows.

Now, therefore, be it known that I do set apart Thursday, the sixth day of August next, as a day for National thanksgiving, praise, and prayer, and I invite the people of the United States to assemble on that occasion in their customary places of worship, and, in the forms approved by their own conscience, render the homage due to the Divine Majesty for the wonderful things He has done in the nation's behalf, and invoke the influence of His Holy Spirit to subdue the anger which has produced and so long sustained a needless and cruel rebellion; to change the hearts of the insurgents; to guide the counsels of the Government with wisdom adequate to so great a national emergency, and to visit with tender care and consolation, throughout the length and breadth of our land, all those who through the vicissitudes of marches, voyages, battles and sieges, have been brought to suffer in mind, body or estate, and finally to lead the whole nation through paths of repentance and submission to the Divine Will back to the perfect enjoyment of Union and fraternal peace.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the United States to be affixed, done at the City of Washington this 15th day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the eighty-eighth.

By the President. ABRAHAM LINCOLN.  
WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Secretary of State.

The rebels in North Carolina seem to be in sore distress. The reactionary movement, as it may be called, is passing beyond the control of those who are charged with the management of the confederate affairs. Governor Vance has called a meeting of the legislature to discuss some local matters, but virtually with the idea of reopening negotiations with a view of returning North Carolina to the Union. We shall gladly welcome the old North State into the family of loyal States.

The London Times, which seems to possess a degree of inspiration, and has made a number of prophecies in this war, has favored us with another. Writing in the early part of July, it says, "We may expect in a week or two to hear of President Davis being in Washington." It is only just to say that its last prophecy is as remarkable as any that have preceded it.

From Richmond papers received here it appears that the brutal design of executing two Union officers, chosen by lot from among those in the Libby prison, in retaliation for the rebel spies condemned by court martial and hung at Cleveland, will not now be carried out. The immense excess of rebel prisoners in our possession has doubtless induced this decision.

## Donations from the Freedmen to the Hospitals of Beaufort.

The interest which the freedmen of Beaufort and of the plantations on the adjacent islands have shown to the wounded soldiers of the 54th Mass. Vols., (colored) now in the hospitals here has been marked by all who have visited or been officially connected with them. They have brought them freely, fresh fruit, chicken broth and other suitable delicacies and volunteered to act as nurses, and have done good service when accepted as such. They may be seen carrying their contributions, waiting upon them, fanning them and otherwise promoting their comfort. All this might have been expected. It was natural to minister to those of their own race and color. But the freedmen have not confined their benefactions to these. They have desired to give donations from their own gardens to the white soldiers who, as they understand it, are fighting for them. Messrs. Gannett and Wells brought a load of Melons to Beaufort last week, which the colored contributors desired to have distributed among the wounded white or colored as most needed. Mr. Fairfield brought from St Helena another load of Melons last Monday which the laborers on the plantations had donated, and which, on being told that the hospitals of the white soldiers were probably less supplied, they desired that the white soldiers should have them. The recipients of Hospital No. 9, smiled gratefully when told who were the benefactors. When we consider how small are the private stores of these people owing to the lateness of their receiving the boon of freedom, the delay in paying them since, and other causes, and also the high price of the Melons, which bring fifty and seventy-five cents apiece, these donations will appear to be not merely expressions of a benevolent feeling, but liberal contributions. This is but another of the thousand indications transpiring daily which show that the emancipated slaves are ready to aid as cordially and effectively by arms, information, labor, good will and otherwise whenever they are treated generously and justly.

Since writing the above, other donations of a like character have been reported to us.

Through Rev. Mr. Phillips, ninety melons were sent in on Tuesday by the freedmen for the hospitals of both white and black soldiers.

Through Mr. Folsom, they sent in for the same purpose, twenty-eight melons, twenty-two chickens, and a large quantity of eggs.

On Wednesday, through Mr. Ruggles, they sent in fifty melons, two bushels of sweet potatoes, two dozen ears of green corn, a peck of tomatoes, a quantity of figs, some ochre, twelve chickens, and five dozen eggs.

Through Mr. Allen, whose superintendence is at St. Helena village where the people are mainly the Edisto refugees and have had less means of procuring subsistence, they sent in twenty-five melons, twenty-five dozen ears of green corn, two bushels of sweet potatoes, a bushel of tomatoes and twelve chickens.

Other like gifts have been sent in by the freedmen as their own free offerings.

Rev. Mr. Phillips of the St. Helena Church, baptised, by immersion some 60 converts last Sunday. Among them were some very old people. One old woman was about 90 years, and belonged to the Oaks plantation. She is well known by visitors to the plantation, for her quaintness and originality of speech. She was taken to the church in the carriage of the Superintendent. Another old man on the place, of seventy, was baptised. We are informed that in "secesh times" on many plantations the slaves were forbidden to join the church, as it would involve the leaving of the plantation on Sundays. Many believers have, in this way been denied the customary rites of the christian faith.

## Trip of Steamer Cosmopolitan with a flag of truce from Hilton Head to Charleston.

We are indebted to Purser Fenwick, of the *Cosmopolitan*, for the following:—

The steamer *Cosmopolitan* left Hilton Head at 2 o'clock on the morning of the 24th, with 38 rebel wounded, and arrived off Charleston Bar at 8 A. M., crossed the Bar at 10 A. M. and met the blockade runner Steamer Alice in charge of Col. Anderson, of artillery, C. S. A., together with Major Middleton, A. D. C. to Gen. Beauregard, and Capt. Wagner. Bishop Lynch, of Charleston, was also on board and some 40 civilians, who came down to satisfy curiosity. The *Cosmopolitan* took on board 105 wounded men, including three commissioned officers, and have 140 more left at Charleston, too dangerously wounded to be removed.

Col. Shaw was killed on the ramparts of Fort Wagner, and buried in a pit with 25 negroes.

The negro soldiers were receiving the same care as our wounded at Charleston, and in same hospitals together.

One of the editors of the Charleston *Courier* was on board.

The *Cosmopolitan* took one dead body from the Steamer Alice—a man who died on the passage from Charleston on the Alice.

Everybody seemed social and nothing unpleasant occurred. The civilians told some rather tough stories in regard to the defences of Charleston, and deny that there was any skeddaddling there, and that all is quiet, the citizens remaining in their homes.

INHUMANITY AND POLTROONERY OF THE REBEL SURGEONS.—The infamy and cowardice of the rebel surgeons in deserting the men of their army wounded at the battle of Gettysburg is without parallel in the war. In every battle in which fortune has been adverse to our arms, and our wounded have been temporarily left within the rebel lines, the brave and self-denying surgeons of the regiments have either remained with the fallen, or have immediately applied for passes within the rebel lines, that they might be cared for. But the rebels left lying on the field many thousands of their wounded—Dr. Vellum reports the number at ten thousand—and left with them neither surgeons, stores nor nurses, but literally abandoned them to their fate. These men complained bitterly of the cruelty of their Surgeons in thus forsaking them, but bore up patiently under their sufferings for many days, until they could be attended to by some of our own surgeons, most of whom had at once to hasten forward with their own regiments to other fields. We have published, says the *Tribune*, a thrilling letter from the battle-field, written six days after the close of the contest, which stated that there were hundreds of the rebel wounded not then reached,—that hundreds of them it had been found impossible even to cover, and that they lay in the woods with broken limbs and torn bodies, drenched in the rain, some having even been drowned in the floods which rose around them. Of course everything possible was being done for them, and doctors, wound-dressers and nurses were arriving. We were not prepared for, and could not have foreseen, the flight of all the rebel surgeons. It will long be remembered to their disgrace, both by the unfortunate rebels and by the whole country.

Among the arrivals at Libby prison, published in the Richmond *Dispatch* of the 18th inst., we find the name of L. Thompson, First Lieutenant Second U. S. Cavalry, brother of Mrs. Gen. Saxton.

We are indebted to Thomas McManus, Purser of the steamer *Fulton*, for files of New York, Boston, and London papers, for which he has our thanks.

Why is a drunkard hesitating to sign the pledge, like a skeptical Hindoo? Because he is in doubt whether to give up the worship of Jug-or-not.

## The New York Riot.

The *Tribune* of the 23d inst. says the city has at last resumed its good behavior, and, except the presence of troops in some of the public squares, shows little of the stern aspect of war. Curious crowds gather occasionally around the ruins of buildings destroyed by the rioters, especially at the place where the Colored Orphan Asylum stood. Not much is said, but the deep indignation of the people is manifest in looks more eloquent than words. The police are exploring suspected quarters, and dragging to light great quantities of stolen property; the colored people move about unmolested, yet with considerable apprehension; and those who had been sent away from saloons and other places have, in most instances, returned, and employers mean to keep them in spite of mobs. It is worthy of note that the best patrons of such places not only sustain this very proper restoration, but insist upon its being made. Some important arrests have been made, and the authorities are on the track of the most notorious of those suspected of leading the rioters.

The Mayor has offered a reward of five hundred dollars for the apprehension and conviction of any person who has committed either murder or arson in the course of the recent riots in that city.

The report that the government had ordered the draft to be suspended is utterly unfounded. As soon as a sufficient force is massed in New York the draft will be executed to the letter, and in the event of a renewal of the disturbance the military say that ball cartridges will be plentifully used against the mob.

All of the New York troops which enlisted for service in Pennsylvania have returned home. At present Gen. Sandford's force numbers 8,300 men. That does not include the regiments now on duty in the three years' service. Besides the militia, there are at various points within the city limits about 4,000 regulars, making a total force of 12,000—cavalry, infantry and artillery. Regular troops are constantly arriving, and by the time the draft is recommenced the military force of New York city will be augmented to 16,000.

The journals from the various districts of New York state, from Pennsylvania, from the eastern states, and from all the places where the draft is being enforced, come to us with full accounts of the scenes and incidents, the humors and accidents connected with the conscription. In Philadelphia, in Boston, in Pittsburgh, in the large cities in the western part of New York, it has produced much animation, and there have been many lively scenes, but no rioting. There was a trifling row in Boston, in sympathy with the New York riot, but it amounted to nothing. In Boston they make merry over the conscripts, rejoice in their fortunes or commiserate their misfortunes, as the case may be; while the conscripts bear their honors becomingly. It is the same in Philadelphia. In Elmira, N. Y., says the *Times*, the utmost good feeling prevailed during the drafting, and the conscripts marched around in costume and with bands of music, cheering heroically for the Constitution and the laws; and the same thing has occurred in scores of other places. Thousands of strange and amusing incidents are recorded concerning those who are drawn; but even in hard cases, nobody thinks of a general slaughter and house-burning to enlighten them.

The Philadelphia Press says that now, if ever, is the golden hour of the Republic. If we would reach peace, it must be by a mighty, violent, and overwhelming blow. The rebellion is reeling. See the cries of despair, in another column, that comes from every southern journal. Crush treason at home, unite the north in one mighty army, and then advance along the lines. Victory is as sure as sunlight after the dawn.