

## THE FREE SOUTH.



BEAUFORT, S. C., AUGUST 8, 1863.

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

## Fifty Thousand Volunteers offered without Bounty.

The slave population of Maryland, Delaware, Western Virginia, Kentucky, and Missouri is about 500,000. These States are excepted in the Proclamation of the 1st of January, and the slave population are as yet debarred from the privilege of volunteering, and exempt from the conscription. The only reason is that certain persons claim a property interest. A small portion of such claimants may be loyal, the majority are rebels.

Apprentices and minors in the Free States are allowed to volunteer and are not exempt from the conscription. The interest of the master and of the father in their labor is of the same nature, so far as it is recognized by the United States, as that of the slave master in the so-called slave. A population of 500,000 would furnish not less than 50,000 able-bodied men. No man once enlisted in the army of the United States could ever be a slave again.

Let the officers of the United States proclaim this fact in the Border States, and 50,000 of the best soldiers to be found would spring to arms. No law would be violated. No constitutional quibble could be raised. The Government has the right to the service of every volunteer, without regard to color or condition.

The President has called upon the Free States for 300,000 conscripts. Let him call upon the Border States, and this call may be reduced one-sixth.

Fifty thousand enthusiastic volunteers will replace fifty thousand unwilling conscripts. Fifty thousand men, now laboring, if they labor at all, for rebel masters, will be withdrawn from that service, and take their places in the great army of freedom. Fifty thousand men, who, as the conscription now stands, must drop their peaceful pursuits, may remain at home, continuing their productive industry, and paying revenue to the Government.

The New York *Herald*, apprehensive that the mob would miss some of its victims, or overlook some place where government property was stored, volunteered the following information:—

"There is but one quarter where these unfortunates, the Blacks, live, which has remained unharmed—Sullivan street in the Eighth Ward. \* \* \* \* \* There is an United States storehouse in Worth street, where there are upwards of fifty thousand muskets."

The Louisville *Journal* says some of the papers are worrying themselves about the cost of the newly called 300,000 volunteers. Their services would be cheap at one hundred thousand millions of dollars if they can succeed in crushing the rebellion and restoring peace to the country. To talk about the expense of defending the government is as mercenary and craven as the man who implored the footpad to take his life but spare his money.

THE PATRIOT'S DUTY.—"There remains," said Judge Bramlette, Union candidate for Governor of Kentucky, in a recent speech, "but one course for all true, loyal, and patriotic men to pursue, and this is simply to do all in their power to strengthen the Government in its effort to crush the rebellion. After that is done you can set about rectifying all the mistakes of the Administration."

Advices from Havana announce that Mexico was declared an Empire on the 10th ult. Maximilian, of Austria, is to be proclaimed Emperor, if he will accept; if not, Napoleon is to select one. A salute was fired at Vera Cruz in honor of the event.

## Thanksgiving Day in Beaufort.

The old Baptist church was the scene of appropriate services on Thursday, the day appointed by the President for National thanksgiving, praise and prayer. At ten o'clock the white soldiers of the Union now stationed in this vicinity, consisting of the 115th New York and detachments from other regiments, assembled. Before the exercises were concluded the congregation of a sable hue began to collect, and ere long the tap of a drum was heard in the distance, which announced the coming of the Second South Carolina regiment. They were drawn up in military order in front of the church as the first assembly poured out. The young Africans began to pour in, and in a few minutes the lately vacated seats were filled with happy, smiling faces which were full of the important part they were to play.

The Rev. Mr. French, the faithful servitor of the black man's highest interests, called them order, and announced the first thing on the programme to be the singing of "The Sunday School Army," which was given with no little spirit, followed by an appropriate prayer from the Rev. Mr. Richardson. It was followed by the reading of the following stirring circular of General Saxton to the Freedmen of this Department, enjoining on them the religious observance of the day:

To the Freedmen in the Department of the South:—

The President of the United States having appointed the 6th day of August, 1863, as a day of Public Thanksgiving and Praise for the glorious victories of our armies over the enemies of our country, who are fighting to destroy her existence as a united nation, and to return you again into that fearful state of bondage from which you have just been relieved,—you are reminded that it is eminently fitting and proper that you should join in the glad chorus which will on that day ascend from millions of loyal hearts, made joyous by the victories which our brave soldiers have achieved. Although you are still in the wilderness, your prospects for liberty were never brighter than now. The decree has gone forth, and your long expected day of jubilee is slowly but surely approaching. These splendid triumphs of his arms add greatly to the power of your friend, the President, to put in force his glorious Proclamation of Emancipation, which gladdened your hearts on the ever-to-be-remembered first of January, 1863. I hope that you will all refrain from your ordinary avocations on the 6th of August, and meet together at your respective places of worship, and render thanks to the great Author of every blessing, who has vouchsafed these triumphs to the armies of Liberty, with earnest prayers that the days of the bondage of your race may be shortened:

R. SAXTON,

Brigadier-General and Military Governor.

The Rev. Mr. Clemens, Chaplain of the 115th New York, was then introduced. His address was full of encouragement to the emancipated. He had believed that God would abolish this gigantic wrong of slavery, and he rejoiced that it had come. We were slow to learn. He thought at the outset that we could end this rebellion in ninety days, and leave the peculiar institution untouched, but God overruled our plans. The very delays of the war had broken down our prejudices and we had seen first one and then another delusion wrought by slavery destroyed, until we were at last ready to put arms in the hands of the negro. The reverend gentleman was very emphatic in his condemnation of the enormities of an institution that put one man under the absolute control of another.

The children then gave us "O'er the Dark Abodes of Sorrow," but as it was sung for the first time by them only a few days ago, it was, though well sung, hardly given with the usual enthusiastic energy so characteristic of this music-loving race.

The Rev. Mr. Hall, a colored missionary from New York, was then introduced. His speech deserves a full report, as a living, earnest protest against that clamorously proclaimed doctrine of the inferiority of the race. We regret our inability

to give it. He began with a slight sketch of his personal history. Born in Maryland, apprenticed till 21 and kept till 22, when he had to buy himself off for \$400, he was early determined to make his own way upward, and having mastered the English alphabet he felt he had the key to all knowledge, and reminded his young hearers that with that they need put no limit to their aspirations. He didn't believe in the inferiority of the races. God designed all men for freedom, and it was opportunity or the want of it which made such marked differences. When he had removed to Philadelphia he was for six years an agent of the "Underground Railroad," and many were the hungry souls panting for freedom he had helped. Armed with revolvers, horse-pistols and slung shot he had guarded their rear against attack. He could not talk of slavery with any patience. The earth was not big enough for him and any man who would seek to reduce him to slavery. He encouraged the colored troops to establish the reputation of their race for pluck, to prove the black man was worthy of his freedom by his willingness to fight for it, and he dwelt in detail on the various causes of thankfulness which this country, but especially his own people, had over the events of this war, which whatever else it might lead to was certain to ensure the freedom of every slave.

He was followed by the Rev. Mr. Fowler, the chaplain of the 1st South Carolina Volunteers.

The scholars of the schools then gave us "I have a father in the slavery land," the females singing first and the males responding, springing to their feet as they did so. The singing throughout was under the charge of Mr. McCue, who evinces an amount of musical enthusiasm that admirably qualifies him for the position he so well fills.

The Rev. Mr. French made the final address. He read the eloquent appeal of Gen. Saxton in behalf of rearing a monument to the lamented Col. Shaw and urged on them the duty of responding freely. He also exposed the fallacies of which this war was disabusing the public mind and especially that which Col. Shaw's command so proudly stamped as false, that the negro would not fight. At the outset of the war the negro had no one on his side, but God was rapidly educating us; military necessity taught us to use him in the ditch and the entrenchment. The people clamored for his employment. Now the people and the President and the soldiers were all willing to use him in any way that might prove hurtful to the enemy. Their destiny was in their own hands. It was for them to say whether the abolitionists should preach undisturbed in Charleston and Mobile, and whether the great doctrine of the declaration of independence, that all men are born free and equal should become a living truth or a contaminating falsehood. He reminded them of the decree against the Jews put forth at the instance of Haman which left them at the mercy of those who chose to assail them, and of the counter decree that permitted them to arm in their own defence, whereupon they slaughtered 75,000 of their foes. They must stand or fall by their own deeds. If they proved worthy of the world's respect they would not fail to earn it, and redeem the black man from the obloquy so long heaped upon him.

Mrs. Rosa McKevey, an escaped slave, who fled from the plantation of her master, near Georgetown, who is at the same time her father, came forward to led the children in singing the song of liberty.—Her tones were at first low and distinct but when she came to the words "We must fight for our liberty," they were rendered with a magnetic inspiration that thrilled the house and lent additional enthusiasm to the excited tones of the singers. The exercises were concluded with the doxology, and the blessing pronounced by the Rev. Mr. Harris, and we venture the prediction that the day will long be remembered by those who witnessed it and

especially by the younger ones who participated in its impressive observance.

## Death of General Strong.

Brigadier General George C. Strong died at the residence of his father-in-law, Mr. W. A. Budd, in New York City, on the 30th ult., from wounds received in the assault upon Fort Wagner. Gen. Strong was born at Stockbridge, Vermont, and at an early age, his father dying, was adopted by his uncle, A. S. Strong, of Easthampton, Massachusetts. Evincing a taste for military pursuits, he was educated with a view to entering West Point, and joined that institution in 1857. He graduated with honor, and was subsequently placed in charge of important positions—at the outbreak of the rebellion being in command of the Waterviet, N. Y., Arsenal. Making urgent request to be placed on active duty and given a position on Gen. McDowell's staff, he distinguished himself at the battle of Bull Run; subsequently he was with General McClelland, and then as Assistant Adjutant General, was with General Butler at New Orleans. In this Department, on several occasions, he distinguished himself, particularly on the expedition sent up the Yangipaho river. At the time he received his wound he was gallantly leading an assault upon Fort Wagner.

General Strong was a man of intense earnestness of character, of fine intelligence and generous instincts. He was devoted to and accomplished in his profession, and in his death, at the early age of 31 years, is lost a brave and valued officer.

## Death of John Jay Crittenden.

The Hon. John J. Crittenden died at Frankfort, Kentucky, on the 26th ult., at the age of seventy-seven years. His death was painless, and he was in full possession of his faculties.

One of the "High Privates" of the 115th N. Y. was convicted the other day of playing Euchre on Sunday, and "ordered" on the barrel, with the ace of hearts pinned on his back. The officer passing by, asked him how he liked that game. He replied that it was all very nice, but he wished some one would come along with the "Right Bower" and take him off. The captain considered it a good joke, and ordered him to be released.

Deserters from the rebel ranks report that Beauregard has been reinforced from Lee's army, and that a number of the men paroled at Vicksburg are now at Charleston in the ranks once more.

At Jackson, Miss., General Sherman captured a number of rebels who had been paroled at the capitulation of Vicksburg. These he took out and shot on the spot.

General Gillmore's dispatch to Gen. Halleck states that his total loss in killed, wounded and missing during the three days' actions on Morris Island was only nine hundred and eighty-five, of whom three hundred and fifty are missing.

FAITH IN THE GOVERNMENT.—A Democrat of the Jackson school, who recently died in the vicinity of Boston, left a hundred and seventy thousand dollars in United States 7 3 10, 6's, 5's and certificates of indebtedness.

The U. S. Revenue steamer, *Flora*, is about to pay a short visit to New York, for the purpose of having new boilers placed in her and being entirely refitted. She will then return here and resume her usual vocation.

A quiet sort of a fellow being asked the other day what he would drink, replied: A *Vicksburg* Punch, and put a little *Meade* in it." Of course, the request was immediately granted.

Secretary Stanton has given orders for mounting the guns and garrisoning the forts in Portland harbor, and has authorized the Governor of Maine to raise artillery companies for the defence of the coast towns.