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MORRIS ISLAND ITEMS.

Advices from Charleston indicate that the siege is progressing favorably.

The public need not anticipate a rapid fall of the city, but they may rest assured that the siege will be vigorously prosecuted until the desired end be obtained. The nature of the defences to overcome requires time and a superior weight of metal.

To this latter end the departments are devoting themselves, and it is safe to say that within a few days an armament will be brought to bear upon the forts and batteries in Charleston Harbor such as was never before known. The steady determination and energies of the Government will, in the end, amply repay the patience of the country.

The new rebel batteries on James Island, which have either been built within the past fortnight or have long been masked, now occasion us at times a little annoyance, but do not interrupt the steady advance and progress of our works. They have several large sea coast mortars in position and they manage to explode their shells high in the air over our trenches, now and then, but very rarely, inflict injuries on our gallant troops who wield the spade and pick as well as they have the musket. Fort Wagner, when not kept silent by the iron-clads and our mortar and rifle batteries, directs a sharp fire of canister and grape on our working parties, making the air above them vocal with the nondescript missiles they favor us with. The rebels seem to have a peculiar relish for broken bottles and glassware, old bits of crockery, rusty nails, fragments of cooking utensils and all sorts of odds and ends which may inflict wounds, and these missiles they pour into our lines with an intense zest and no little spite. Some of our men have been wounded by these novel projectiles, and in a few instances quite seriously. The rebel stock of iron is quite limited, we must infer from the above facts, or they have chosen to use substitutes for the ordinary missile which render wounds more serious and more apt to occasion death eventually. In either case the show is not at all favorable to the rebels.

In the trenches, as in every department, the cupidity and unprincipled character of some of the sutlers have, on Morris Island, occasioned not a little trouble among the troops. Recently the sutlers, regardless of regulations and only desirous to increase their ill-gotten stores, have sold wines and liquors to the soldiers and occasioned insubordination among them. Several have been arrested by Lieutenant Colonel Hall, Provost Marshal General, and proofs of their guilt not being hard to procure, they were sent to the front to work in the trenches; and to relieve them of any inclination to shirk work or escape, orders were given to shoot them down if they did not obey orders. Some of them were in the advance wielding the shovel for forty-eight hours, and subsisting on soldier's fare, and incurring soldier's liabilities to be blown to pieces by the enemy's shells. They worked well, and most of them have been relieved from arrest; but their stocks of wines and liquors have been confiscated, and they themselves ordered from the department. Hereafter but little liquor will be sold to soldiers, as twenty-four hours in the trenches under a hot fire and still hotter sun, is a consummation not much desired by the noble army of sutlers and extortioners. Fear overcomes the desire for gain occasionally, and in no class more completely, under the new order of things, than in the vendors of bad whiskey and execrable preserved milk.

I am happy to announce the promotion of Quartermaster John L. Kelly, of the Fourth New Hampshire, to the position of Assistant Quartermaster of Volunteers, with the rank of captain. He has been for several months acting as Brigade Quartermaster with the late Colonel Putnam, and more recently on the staff of

General Vogdes, where he has performed his duties in the most satisfactory manner.

Lieutenant Colonel Leggett, Tenth Connecticut, is now out of danger and recovering rapidly. He received a wound from a shell while in the trenches a few days since, which necessitated amputation. He is now doing as well as could be desired, with every prospect of an early recovery.

Colonel M. S. Littlefield, of the Fourth South Carolina, has been placed temporarily in command of the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts, in consequence of the lack of officers in that regiment, a majority having been killed, wounded or made prisoners in the recent fights, where the regiment behaved most gallantly.

STAFF OF BRIGADIER GENERAL T. G. STEVENSON.
Captain WILLIAM PRATT, Acting Adjutant General.
Captain WM. V. HUTCHINGS, Acting Quartermaster.
Captain ROBERT F. CLERK, Asst. Inspector General.
Lieutenant FRED. A. SAWYER, Acting Commissary of Subsistence.
Lieutenant GEO. N. MALLORY, Aid-de-Camp.

Any statements in correspondence from here derogatory to the character of the Seventy-sixth Pennsylvania, either for courage or discipline, are wholly unfounded. There is not a braver or better disciplined regiment on the island. If my account of their conduct in the fight of July 11th, has been construed into a direct or implied charge of cowardice or demoralization, I wish to correct the impression. Time has shown that there was not a straggler from the seventy-sixth on that morning. Colonel Strawbridge is still quite ill.

Major J. I. Plympton, formerly of Gen. Strong's staff, and who being the senior officer of that brigade of those who were not killed, wounded or missing, after the fight of the 18th, and consequently had command of the brigade till a new Brigadier was assigned, was subsequently transferred to General Seymour's staff, and is now on General Terry's, as Division Inspector. In the absence of Lieut. Col. Jackson at Hilton Head he is now chief inspector here.

In warfare, of the kind we are now engaged in, those who are enlisted or commissioned as combatants are not alone subject to the dangers of the field. Servants, surgeons, hospital nurses and civilians often had themselves under a hot fire. Our wagon trains, under charge of Mr. John Nevill, of New York, chief wagon master, and Mr. Clark, his assistant, are often fired on in going to and returning from the front—oftener even than bodies of troops, because a better mark. A few days since two horses were badly wounded the pole of the wagon splintered, and one or two teamsters narrowly escaped death. This corps is a plucky one, however, and their trains pass and repass without interruption.

Colonel Pond, of the 62d Ohio has returned from a brief absence at the North, and was received with joy by his regiment, which lost fifteen officers out of twenty-three in the recent fight, and from their ranks added many names to the roll of honor. This regiment, so far from home, have hardly received the credit they deserve. They have fought most gallantly in Virginia and here, and have sustained the reputation of their State most nobly.

The Sixty-seventh Ohio were also prominent in the late fights, where they showed themselves worthy of being in "Putnam's brigade."

I give herewith a partial list of the casualties of the command since the assault on Fort Wagner, on the 18th instant.—As the tri-monthly reports are not in, it will be impossible to make the list fuller for this mail.

NEW YORK VOLUNTEER ENGINEERS.
July 27—Sergeant Madecville, Co. E, killed.
July 29—Lieut. James M. Baxter, Co. K, wounded in two places by fragments of shell, not dangerous. Several others have been wounded, but the names have not been reported.

SEVENTY-SIXTH PENNSYLVANIA VOL.
July 29—Thomas Diefenbach, Co. C, wounded in hip by spent canister shot.

NINTH MAINE VOLUNTEERS.
July 26—Musician Amos Hanson, Co. K, killed.
July 24th—Moses Goodwin, Co. I, killed.

SEVENTH NEW HAMPSHIRE REGIMENT.
July 27—George W. Thompson, Co. F, killed.
July 30—Edward Lewis, Co. C, killed.

FOURTH NEW HAMPSHIRE REGIMENT.
July 26—Bryon Howard, Co. H, killed.
July 26—John Mullin, Co. G, wounded, slightly.

—New York Herald Correspondence.

Our Relations with Japan.

In the month of November last, the American bark *Chevalie*, of New York, while on her voyage from Hakodadi to Shanghai, China, struck a sand-knoll, stranded, and became a total wreck, about 100 miles northeast of Kanagawa. Information of the occurrence was promptly communicated to the United States Consul at that port, and a steam gunboat was placed at his disposal by the Japanese Government, to enable him to proceed to the wreck for the relief and rescue of the crew. On arriving at the scene of disaster, the officers and crew of the *Chevalie* were found on shore having been rescued from the breakers by the natives, who treated them with great kindness. They were lodged in the temple, furnished with an abundance of food, and an ample guard to protect them. On receiving intelligence of this demonstration on the part of the Japanese, of their intention to fulfill every treaty obligation, as well as the obligations of the most enlightened humanity, the President directed presents to be sent to the principal officers of the gunboat who carried our Consul to the wreck of the *Chevalie*, and to the authorities of the province in which the disaster took place. These testimonials will shortly be sent to Mr. Pruyn, our Minister resident in Japan, for distribution. They consist of a solid silver speaking trumpet, elegantly and elaborately chased with marine and other nautical emblems, with the inscription, "From the President of the United States of America, in appreciation of courage and humanity;" two gold chronometers, with Japanese figures, and a double-tube marine glass of the best quality, all bearing the inscription similar to that of the trumpet.

Major Noah said a hazel eye inspires at first sight a Platonic sentiment, as securely founded as the rock of Gibraltar. A woman with a hazel eye never elopes with her husband, never chats scandal, never sacrifices her husband's comfort to her own, never talks too little, always is an intellectual, agreeable and lovely creature. We never knew, says a brother editor, of but one hazel eyed woman who was uninteresting or unamiable, and she had a nose that looked, as we Yankees say, like the little end of nothing, whittled down to a point.

The grey is a sign of shrewdness and talent. Great thinkers and captains have it. In women it indicates a better head than heart. The dark hazel is noble in its significance, as well as its beauty. The blue is amiable, but may be feeble. The black—take care! there is thunder and lightning there.

Here is an amusing little anecdote of the Emperor: The other day, there was a review of the Imperial Guard at Long-champs. Riding through the Bois de Boulogne, surrounded by his staff, the Emperor chanced to observe a wedding party. Approaching the carriage containing the bride and groom, his Majesty gallantly presented his compliments to the lady and wished her many years of happiness. The blushing damsel was at first quite overcome by the unexpected honor thus conferred upon her, but nevertheless had sufficient presence of mind to reply that her happiness would be assured if the Emperor would interest himself in her behalf. "Very well," returned his Majesty, "I cheerfully consent. When the time comes, I invite you to visit me at the Tuileries, and I will be the godfather."

The Grand Rapids (Mich.) *Democrat*, relates a story of two oxen feeding from a cart, who upset their owners dinner pail and devoured it along with \$205 in greenbacks, which he had carefully stowed away with it. He immediately despatched one of them and in his stomach found the missing treasure little injured.

A poor boy applying for refuge at a police station house, reported his case thus: First, my father died, and then my mother married again, and then my mother died, and my father married again, and somehow or other I don't seem to have no parents at all nor no home, nor no nothing.

Miscellaneous Items.

Women can keep a secret, but it generally takes a good many of them to do it. Why is a sanguinary epistle like a Surgeon? It is a letter of blood.

Why is a flirting wife like a wheel? Because she goes round with the fellows.

When is a woman like a dome? When she is fretted.

Where was Adam going when he was in thirty-ninth year? Into his fortieth.

Never take a nap in the railroad carriage. 'Cause why? the train always runs over sleepers.

The girl who allures and deceives with a kiss is convicted of hypocrisy out of her own mouth.

Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful, we must carry it with us, or we find it not.

When did Sir Isaac Newton cut up shines? When he divided the rays of light.

How many foreigners does it take to corrupt one's manners? It takes forty Poles to make one Rood.

Why are horses in cold weather like meddling gossips? Because they are the bearers of idle tails.

Vice is more revolting among the high than among the low, as filth disgusts one more in the parlor than in the stable.

What five names in the bible represent a child going to get a whipping? Adam, Seth, Eve, Cain, Abel.

Why cannot the Emperor Napoleon insure his life? Because nobody can make out his policy.

Some women think that virtue was given them as claws were given to cats—to do nothing but scratch with.

Military buttons are very attractive to a woman, especially if they are also bachelor's buttons.

"Katy, have you laid the table-cloth and plates, yet?" "An sure I hev, mem, everything but the eggs, an isn't that Biddy's work, surely?"

Mrs. Partington say's she don't wonder at it, that there is so much stealing in Congress, when they always lay their bills right on the table.

Some rich men keep cross dogs around their houses, so that the hungry poor who stop to "get a bite" may get it outside of the door.

"Sam, why don't you talk to massa and tell him to lay up treasures in heaven?" "What for? What de use ub layin' up treasures dar, whar he neber see um agin?"

As we grow old, we should grow reverent. Nature keeps our heads covered in our youth, but uncovers them in our old age.

The sweetest music is not in the oratorio, but in the human voice when it speaks from its instant life tones of tenderness, truth or courage.

Woman must remember that she brought more sin and misery into the world by her eating than ever man has by his drinking.

The Boston *Herald* has been specially favored in the draft. Two editors, brothers, two clerks, four composers, and four pressmen have been drafted.

A piece of bread soaked in vinegar and applied to a corn on the foot, on going to bed at night, and bound with a piece of oil cloth, will remove the corn in two or three applications.

"That's a fine strain," said one gentleman to another, alluding to the tones of a singer at a concert the other evening. "Yes," said a countryman who sat near, "but if he strains much more, he'll bust." LOVE—The sun of life: most beautiful in morning and evening, but warmest and steadiest at noon.

A keeper of a saloon, advertising his establishment, concludes thus: "Those of my patrons who may desire it, can be sent home on a wheelbarrow gratis."

"Is anybody waiting on you?" said a polite dry goods clerk to a girl from the country.

"Yes, sir," said the blushing damsel, "that's my feller outside."