

THE FREE SOUTH.



BEAUFORT, S. C., NOV. 21, 1863.

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

TO OUR SOLDIER FRIENDS.

An excellent plan to secure a copy of the Free South every week is to subscribe for

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WEEKLY LETTER,

and will contain all the news of the department, and full lists of the killed and wounded and deaths in hospital. Sent by mail at \$2.00 per year in advance or

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How we will Punish South Carolina.

There is undeniably a feeling of deeper hatred toward South Carolina in the minds of Union men than exists against any other state in the Confederacy.—She has been termed the "Mother of Traitors;" her chief city is known as "the cradle of rebellion," and her hand was the first to degrade our sacred flag. Thus far she has comparatively escaped the horrors of a war she was so prominent in fomenting. Hardly any state has suffered less. A few islands on her coast are all that have fallen into the hands of the Union armies. Charleston has, it is true, been besieged for nearly a year, but with exception of a few shells thrown in as "feelers," and the unavoidable anxiety of the people she has thus far escaped unscathed. Indeed it is said that many of her citizens have grown rich by the contraband trade, and that the foreign commerce has paid her for all the losses by the blockade.

Knowing all these things the South Carolina chivalry, and especially the Charlestonians look with horror to the day when her soil shall be over-run by Union armies, and her chief cities held under the sway of Union generals. They tell the people that no mercy will be shown, that the fate of New Orleans will be enviable to that reserved for Charleston. We propose to tell them a few of our schemes for their punishment.

Gen. Saxton has inaugurated one which is going into practical operation at once. We mean the division of land. The immense estates of the chivalry are to be given to the children of the soil; the lash-incited labor of the slave is to be replaced by the cheerful toil of the freemen and the land-owner; her valleys are to bloom with free cotton; her hillsides resound with the hum of spindles; her forests are to be levelled by the emigrant from every clime; railroads, canals and steamboats are to open up her most secret places, bringing wealth, comfort and knowledge to her benighted sons and daughters.

She has shut out light and we will furnish her with a flood of it. She has barred her doors against all discussion; she has hunted a stranger with a northern newspaper in his pocket as if he were a thief; she has mobbed post-offices to purge the mails of periodicals daring to have free thoughts. This shall all be changed. When the army goes there goes also the newspaper—pestilent abolition journals all of them. This has been commended already. The *Free South* and the *New South* are already established institutions, and, speaking for ourselves, we expect to continue to exist and do our share toward electing an anti-slavery union Governor in South Carolina. Yes, we will give them newspapers of the freest kind, out-spoken against all wrong, open to the discussion of every subject, and carrying light into the dark places of the land.

And finally as the bitterest of all punishments we will bless her barbarism with the crowning gift of free schools. The music of the school bell shall be heard

through all her borders, and the poorest negro child shall enjoy the blessed privilege of education. Ignorance shall flee away with oppression, for freedom and learning must combine to elevate the degraded and the out-cast. White and black, the "poor white trash" and the "nigger" will then learn that "knowledge is power," and that the lords of the lash who so long ruled over both are only to be feared by the ignorant.

Thus we will punish them with the blessings they despise, and sweeping out the filth of their house, force them to a higher plane of living; force them to see the dignity and blessedness of labor; force them to acknowledge and receive a new civilization, to discard ignorance and barbarism, substitute freedom for bondage, light for darkness, and introduce them to the glory of a permanent prosperity and peace.

A TEST CASE.—The Rev. J. H. Fowler, who was Chaplain of the First South Carolina regiment of colored volunteers, is now suffering in a Richmond prison the penalty of his high-minded devotion to truth. The case has been brought to the notice of the military authorities in Washington, and it now remains to be seen if our government will demand for that individual the fair and equal rights to which as a chaplain and prisoner of war he is plainly entitled. Mr. Fowler's is, in some sort, a test case; the government is pricked in honor to see that justice is done to him; nor can it longer evade or blink the question, "What shall be the status or condition of the colored troops and of those white officers serving with them?"

A dispatch from Washington, authorized by the Secretary of State, announces that the iron-clad vessels now building at Nantes and Bordeaux, it is presumed for the rebels, have been promptly arrested by the French Government, at the intercession of Minister Dayton. Should this decision of the Imperial Government be final it destroys the last lingering hope of the Rebels of obtaining a fleet. Thus one by one their resources fail them, and the complete suppression of the Rebellion becomes more certainly only a question of time.

By reference to our advertising column it will be seen that a large sale of household furniture will take place on Wednesday next. It is now on exhibition at the old Provost Guard House, on Bay street. A visit will repay those interested in antiquities. We were reminded of the house of Mr. Toodles, which he described as a "Hospital for diseased furniture." Nevertheless there will be a spirited competition by those left destitute during the past week or two.

To Correspondents.

SERGEANT NOAH LEWIS.—It is customary for Chaplains to receive pay for delivering money to soldiers families. Sometimes the necessary expenses are paid by the officers of regiment, and in other cases it is provided for by a percentage. In your particular case there appears some hardship but we cannot decide without hearing the other side.

Gen. Saxton reviewed the troops at this post on Tuesday last. Quite a display was made and all the troops looked well. The splendid weather we are now enjoying is favorable to such exercises, and men and officers enjoy an occasional break in the monotony of camp life.

Chief Medical Inspector Wirtz inspected all the Hospitals of the post on the same day.

Brig. Gen. Sprague, Adj. Gen. of the State of New York, arrived in the Fulton, on a visit to look after the interests of New York troops in this department.

Those who possess virtue possess also nobility.

The Navy Department has received from Chief Engineer King an account of experiments recently made with one of the iron-clad vessels completed in the West. She turns out to be a perfect success in every way, having made nine miles an hour. The importance of this success is owing to the fact that this is the first vessel of the number having four propellers. She left St. Louis on the 20th ult., and was operated on 72 consecutive hours, the engines making 67 revolutions per minute, and the propellers 112 revolutions per minute, giving to the ship the speed stated. It is very gratifying to know that the first of a large class of vessels has met with such unexpected success, considerable prophecies having been made against their usefulness.

When the Swamp Fox General, Jeff. Thompson, arrived at Pilot Knob, after his capture, he assured Gen. Fisk that the prospects of the Confederacy were never more brilliant. He expressed himself much dissatisfied with the conduct of the people of southeast Missouri, in not remaining true to the rebel cause. "Two years ago," said Jeff., "they were as plucky as need be. On my way up this time I whispered to them whenever I got a chance, and told them to keep up good courage. I thought they would be all right, but d—n 'em, they had to take out their note-books to see which oath of allegiance they took last."

Another step has been taken in transforming the formerly sleepy town of Beaufort into a busy Yankee city. That necessary adjunct of all places of enterprise—a Fire Department—has been organized. Six hundred feet of hose has been obtained, a carriage built, and on Nov. 4th, 1863, New York Hose, No. 1, organized by the election of the following officers: W. H. HYATT, Foreman; S. S. ROOME, Asst. Foreman; D. BOGERT, Secretary; GEO. W. POND, Treasurer.

The proceeds of the sale of the prize steamer *Victoria* have been ordered for distribution by the Court. The total sum realized from the vessel and cargo was \$330,000. The fees and expenses amounted to \$7,000. Half of the balance goes to the United States, for the Navy Pension Fund; and the remaining half to the captors. Of this the *Santiago de Cuba* received about \$150,000, and the *Octorora* and *Toga* the residue.

The frost of last week has brought the cotton picking to a sudden close. We understand that much cotton planted late has not yielded so well as was anticipated, and this frost has still further interfered with the prospect.

Successes in West Virginia.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9, 1863.

Intelligence has been received here, dated Clarksburg, Va., that Gens. Averill and Duffie, commanding separate forces, after several severe engagements on Friday and Saturday last, succeeded in driving the enemy under "Mudwall Jackson" for several miles down the valley east of Greenbrier Mountains into and through the town of Lewisburg, in Western Virginia.

After the first battle on Friday, fought by Gen. Duffie, the enemy was reinforced, but nevertheless the rebels were totally routed on Saturday under the combined forces of Duffie and Averill. The route was so complete that the enemy abandoned all their supplies, guns, colors, &c., and fled in dismay, leaving their dead and wounded on the field.

Our men behaved splendidly, and the victory was one of the most brilliant of the war. The number of killed and wounded on our side is not stated. We hold Lewisburg.

A CURIOUS FACT.—A wreath of flowers which was laid upon a coffin buried in a Gloucester (Massachusetts) cemetery, eight years ago, was recently disinterred and found in a remarkable state of preservation; the stems of the flowers were found to be green, and had sprouted to a considerable size. They have been carefully planted, and are now in a thriving condition, with the prospect of making healthy plants.

Advance of the Army of the Potomac.

There is no important change in the Army the Potomac. Our troops occupy the old battle field of Cedar Mountain.

Gen. Lee, it is pretty evident, declines to take up the gauntlet of battle which Gen. Meade has urgently pressed upon his acceptance. The rebel Army of Virginia, excepting the rear guard, have again encamped themselves within their strong fortifications on the south bank of the Rapidan.

The following special despatch corroborates the important successes of the advance and we hope are but the premonitory droppings of this storm which is to finally overwhelm the rebel capital: HEADQUARTERS ARMY POTOMAC NEAR RAPPANNOCK STATION, Va., 8:40 p. m., Nov. 8, 1863.

To Maj.-Gen. HALLOCK, General-in-Chief. This morning in advancing from Kelly's Ford it was found the enemy had retreated during the night. The morning was so smoky and hazy, it was found impossible to ascertain at Rappahannock Station the position of the enemy, and it was not till the arrival of the column from Kelly's Ford, it was definitely known the position at the Rappahannock was evacuated. The army was put in motion, and the pursuit continued by the infantry to Brandy Station and by the cavalry beyond. Maj.-Gen. Sedgwick reports officially the capture of four guns, eight battle-flags, and over 1,500 prisoners. Maj.-Gen. French took over 400 prisoners. Sedgwick's loss, about 300 killed and wounded; French's about 70. The conduct of both officers and men in each affair was most admirable.

GEO. G. MEADE, Maj.-Gen.

THE CHARGE ON THE REDOUTS.

The correspondent of the *Washington Chronicle* gives the following graphic account of the heroic charge on the rebel redoubts:

"The 1st Division, 6th Corps, commanded by Gen. Russell, were drawn up in two lines of battle, about one mile from the run. The 1st Division, 5th Corps, formed the left. The ground was open, covered with a heavy growth of dead grass. Immediately in front were the guns of the enemy, the gunners plainly visible. For half a mile over this ground, the 1st Brigade, supported by the 2d, which was under temporary command of Col. Ellmaker of the 119th Pennsylvania, advanced on double quick. Two ditches, wide, deep and muddy, had to be crossed. For a moment there was a slight confusion, but the line was soon dressed, and they continued on, through showers of grape and canister. Not a rifle was discharged till the men got close to the redoubts. When the last cannon was fired at the storming party, they were not ten feet from their muzzles. Sergt. Roberts of the 6th Maine, was the first to leap into the fort. Being alone, he was ordered to surrender, and had just laid his rifle down when in jumped a score or more of his comrades. Quick as lightning he took up his piece, dashed up to a tall color-sergeant, snatched the flag from his hand, and bore it off in triumph. Another man took an officer prisoner, and became so enthusiastic that he felt a disgust for the prisoner he had to guard. At last his anxiety to join in the melee became so great that he caught his prisoner by the collar and kicked and pushed him over the ramparts of the fort. A few rebels fled to the river, and one was shot in the water. Many took refuge in the neighboring fort, but they were soon captured. Seven pieces of steel rifled cannon were here captured, and a brigade of infantry.

"Griffin's battery now got the range of the left hand fort. Shell after shell plunged into the earthen square. The place for a moment was untenable. The Louisiana Tigers withdrew in a moment to breathe the fresh air. The 2d Brigade (1st Division, 5th Corps) dashed through the embrasures and over the parapet of the vacant fortress. The line was encircling the Louisianians, and in five minutes after a deadly volley was heard, a cheer peeled out on the evening air—the fort was captured and the Tigers caged. Four guns were found in the fort, and the men of the Louisiana brigade, commanded by Gen. Hayes, numbered among our captures. We held the line of the Rappahannock that night. The men slept on their arms. The next morning the rebels were not to be seen. Their pontoons were there but they had fled."

The patriots of the revolution are fast passing away, and soon the last will be summoned to his final resting place. The youngest of them now is about ninety-four years of age. On the 1st of July, 1862, there were but sixty-two of them living, since which time over one-third of the number have died.