

THE FREE SOUTH.



BEAUFORT, S. C., DEC. 12, 1863.

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

In the *Herald* of the 22d an article appeared headed: "A Good Market for Philanthropy—Land and Cotton Speculators Down South."

We will not attempt to answer all the lies in it as our "handbill" is hardly large enough; it would require a "poster" at least. The U. S. Direct Tax Commissioners, Gen. Saxton and "Father" French come in for about an equal amount of misrepresentation and abuse.

In regard to the Commissioners we have nothing to say, save that we cannot discern a particle of truth in any statement made against them. When it is known that the lands advertised have been sold without any interference from General Gillmore, save an order issued under a misapprehension and immediately revoked we presume the gratitude of the country will be turned to deep despair. To those who know anything of the operations of the tax commissioners the statements made by the *Herald* are only ridiculous, and the idea of connecting them in any way with Gen. Saxton's department but shows the mendacity and ignorance of the writer. Gen. Hunter's order spoken of in the *Herald's* article was procured through his exertions to head off a contemplated attempt of speculators to monopolize the land and continue the baneful system of large non-resident proprietors. Four-fifths of the land sold was knocked off to the United States. The island referred to is a sand bank with not an acre of arable land upon it, and bid in by its owner for tax and penalty. There does not exist on it ship-timber enough to build a fishing-snaak.

Gen. Saxton needs no vindication at our hands. Whether his talents could be better employed is not for us to judge. He was selected for the office he now fills by the president, and although he would doubtless be glad to have a more active employment and a greater chance for distinction, like a good soldier and a true patriot, he remains at the post assigned him without murmuring. His services to his government and to the cause of humanity have been known and appreciated by the truly loyal men of the country. The prayers of those who were ready to perish, now happily secure, go up as a morning and evening sacrifice to heaven in his behalf. History will accord more importance to the successful working of the experiment of free labor made in his civil department than to the siege of Charleston. He can well afford to wait for his reward.

It is only necessary to reply to two points made by the *Herald*; viz:—His allowing government presses to be used for private purposes and detailing soldiers to work on them. Both statements are alike false. The only paper to which the insinuation could refer is the *Free South*. This paper never belonged either to the tax commissioners or to the government, and General Saxton has had no more control over it than any other military commander in the department. He has never detailed soldiers to work on it; when we have requested to have aid detailed to us, he has invariably refused. We have paid from forty to seventy-five dollars a month to civilians and discharged soldiers for their services, and every man that ever worked for us did so of his own free will and for good wages.

So far from having facilities offered to us in the prosecution of our business we have been hampered in every way. In the Army of the Potomac news dealers have badges and passes and are given transportation on government trains without stint or charge. They are recogniz-

ed as public benefactors, and are favored and encouraged in every way. But here they are denied passes, worried by restrictions and treated as public enemies. We are under no obligations to the military authorities save for the poor privilege of life.

Mr. French who is attacked only by implication—the nearest weapon employed by malice—has been prominent enough in all good works here to warrant the hatred of the *Herald* and its echoes. Coming here at the very beginning of the efforts for the elevation of the Freedmen, he brought a head and heart well fitted for the work. With great tenacity of purpose, skill in using the means at his command, a spirit undaunted by opposition, and a personal character beyond reproach he has stood in the van of those who had the cause of the oppressed at heart, a mark for every fool to fling at and every knave to hate. His report to the Secretary of the Treasury as early as February, 1862, formed the basis, and indeed comprehended almost the whole plan of educational movements. When Mr. Pierce earnestly protested against ladies coming here, Mr. French became responsible for their safety and usefulness, and induced General Sherman and the Secretary of War to admit them.—Upon him devolved, to a greater degree than any other man, although others have reaped the glory, the organization of the efforts for the mental and religious education of the colored people. Fearing neither personal danger, fatigue or the misrepresentation of enemies his hand was ready to execute what his head had planned. He has had the confidence and esteem of every commander of the department. Gen. Hunter, who is lauded in the article referred to was his personal friend. Admiral Dupont was not less cordial in his appreciation of his services as christian teacher. The lamented Mitchell consulted with him in his every effort for the benefit of the colored people. Gen. Gillmore but follows the example of his predecessors in taking advantage of his ability and experience. His relations with the President and his cabinet are well known, and but few men in the country are capable of wielding a wider influence. From such a character and record the shafts of malice shot from the puny bow of a penny-a-liner in the *Herald*, fall harmless to the ground.

The article was probably written by a disappointed and disgraced man; one whose name is synonymous with official rapacity and greed, and who is now endeavoring to cover his own tracks by raising the cry of "stop thief." The dodge is too old to succeed.

About two weeks ago a small boat from the main land, containing several men landed on Morgan Island near the plantation formerly owned by John M. Fripp. It is supposed their object was to obtain some intelligence in regard to the line of signal stations on St. Helena and other islands. They captured a colored man, who had just finished milking; his jacket and pail of milk were found by the fence. They then moved up toward the cotton house but were frightened off by dogs. It is thought that they were gentlemen formerly residing on these islands and doubtless would have liked to burn the well-filled cotton barn of Mr. G. M. Weils, now occupying the premises. A warm welcome will be ready for them should they come again.

The schooner *Queen of the South* arrived at Hilton Head in three days from New York. This is as good time as has been made by our line of steamers. The ship *L. L. Sturges* arrived in four days. By them we were furnished with papers to the 5th inst.

On our first page will be found the instructions issued by the President to the U. S. Direct Tax Commissioners for South Carolina, for their guidance in the disposal of the lands bid in by them last year.

Loss of the Weehawken.

It is our painful office to record the loss on Monday last, of the monitor *Weehawken*. She sunk in Charleston Harbor, during the prevalence of a N. E. gale. It is supposed that she was hove too short and that the rise and fall of the vessel forced the water between her hull and upper decks. Capt. Duncan who had just joined her vice Capt. Calhoun, relieved, was on board the *Paul Jones* at the time of the occurrence, as also was the first lieutenant. A signal of distress was made, but before any assistance could be rendered she sunk in five fathoms of water. Twenty four of the crew and four engineers, who were all below at the time, were lost.

A few days ago, about 10 A. M., two men were seen moving suspiciously along the banks of a creek near St. Helena Village. An aged colored man hastened to report "Rebels" in sight. Two young men, (colored) armed with muskets, started in pursuit. The strangers beat a hasty retreat into the bushes, but were soon discovered and ordered to surrender, which they immediately did. By direction of James Lynch, Missionary at the village, they were marched to the signal station and delivered to the Lieut. in command. The prisoners proved to be conscripts who had deserted from regiments stationed at this post. They were subsequently brought to Beaufort and handed over to the Provost Marshal. The colored men have earned the \$30 reward for deserters, and should receive it.

It is reported that General Butler, in taking his first morning walk at Fortress Monroe, was astonished at seeing a rebel officer leisurely looking on at a parade of our troops. On asking who he was, and being told it was General Fitz Hugh Lee, he immediately ordered him to be taken into custody, and conveyed forthwith to the fastnesses of Fort Lafayette. The General very properly considered that the enjoyment of such privileges by a rebel, while our poor fainting officers and soldiers in confederate hands are being starved to death, was a scandal to our country and its cause. The rebels in Richmond will doubtless be very much incensed at General Butler's brutality in this affair.

A movement has been going on for sometime among the colored people of this Department, to purchase a sword to present to Brig.-Gen. Saxton on the First of January next, on the occasion of the celebration of Freedom's Birth Day in the South, as a testimonial of their gratitude for his noble efforts in their behalf. Several meetings have been held and Mr. Francis G. Shaw, of New York city, chosen, and has consented to procure the testimonial for them. This movement speaks for itself, as it evinces the gratitude of these now happy people.

At Fernandina, recently, a small boat approached a picket station, was hailed and fired at but refused to stop. The alarm gun at the fort was fired. In seven minutes the whole force at the post was in line at headquarters. Although the occasion was a scare the promptitude of officers and men speaks well for the discipline maintained at the post.

An orderly of Col. Barton, named E. Dunlap, deserted by secreting himself on board the *Arago* on her last trip north. He passed the guard by pretending to have dispatches for the captain. A steamer was dispatched to Fortress Monroe, to intercept him by telegraph at New York.

Hon. A. D. Smith, Chairman of the Board of Tax Commissioners, is at his post to give information to the people who through his rooms with inquiries about their future homes.

The original copy of the President's Emancipation Proclamation, has been awarded to T. B. Bryan, Esq., for the sum of \$3,000.

PRICES OF STOCKS AND GO. DS.—In its review of the markets on Nov. 21, the *Richmond Examiner* says:

"Confederate bonds did not sell as freely as at the previous sale, but this heaviness is one of the peculiarities of these sales, as there was neither political nor financial cause for any depression of Confederate bonds; but, on the contrary, so far as news from the army could have had any effect, the influence was favorable. Two or three other offerings dragged somewhat, but in the main full prices were realized. The competition for sterling exchange and specie was particularly brisk, and the highest premium yet obtained for the amounts sold. The rates were far enough above the market prices to create a doubt whether an advance will be thereby established. The amount of exchange and specie in the market, however is so small that brokers and speculators can fix any price they please. The following were the quotations: Sterling Exchange, \$100 and \$285 at \$18 10. The French franc bill advertised was not sold. One thousand dollars in gold, offered in about eight lots, were run up to \$16 3/4 to \$16 1/4 for one."

The following named colored citizens of Beaufort and vicinity have subscribed the sum of sixty dollars for the purpose of purchasing a sword for Col. T. W. Higginson, 1st S. C. Volunteers: Henry Bram, Robert Small, Adam Hanks, Jackson Bram, Mr. Campbell, Stephen Morris, Abram Jenkins, Sharper Washington, R. McTurvey, E. Lawton, Abram Middleton, Clomand Green.

The money has been placed in the hands of Brig.-Gen. Saxton, with a request that he will procure a suitable weapon, and allow the presentation to form a portion of the exercises on the First of January celebration at Camp Shaw. The General has cheerfully acceded to the request.

We have received a copy of Pollard's "History of the War." No one wishing to form a correct judgment of the military operations for the suppression of the rebellion during the first twelve months of the war, should fail to read this work. From a purely southern stand point, Mr. Pollard has written with as much calmness and justice as could be expected. Read in connection with what we know of McClellan's operations it will assist to form an intelligent opinion upon his military genius and success. For sale at the Post-office.

In our advertising column will be seen a series of regulations for the government of traders in South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. It behooves all parties affected by them to carefully study their provisions. We will have something to say on the subject next week.

Mr. TenBroeck is about to return to America to pass the winter, and will sell a large portion of his celebrated stud of race horses, at private contract. We learn that he contemplates returning to England in the spring, to enter into the sports of the season.

Major-General Thomas has issued general orders dishonorably dismissing from the army, one colonel, two majors, fifteen captains, twenty-six lieutenants, and one surgeon for various offenses, such as drunkenness, cowardice, misbehaviour, gross disloyalty, dishonesty, and conduct unbecoming officers and gentlemen.

We are under renewed obligations to Purser Grautegein, Steamer *Arago*, for files of northern papers.

John Morgan Announces His Arrival in Toronto
CINCINNATI, Dec. 1, 1863.

John Morgan telegraphed to Columbus from Toronto yesterday, announcing his arrival there.

TORONTO, Dec. 1, 1863.

Four or five of Morgan's fellow prisoners are reported to have arrived to-night on the Western train.

Our Government now holds 31,000 rebel prisoners. There are 40,000 negroes armed and in the service of the Government.

Roth's child has more tin play things than common children can boast of.