

Friday Morning, April 26, 1865.

The Last Rumors.

One report along the street yesterday, was to the effect that Gen. Johnston had followed Lee's example, and made a surrender of his army. We have been able to trace this rumor to no definite source. We believe it to be quite groundless. Another report is that a heavy sea engagement has certainly taken place off the port of Georgetown; that heavy cannonading for some hours has been heard; that the debris of battered hulls and the contents of a navy have floated up, with the tide, into Winyaw and other contiguous bays and rivers; and that among the debris were casks and boxes marked "Fortress Monroe." This is all, having any seeming reference to the previous reports of French conflict with the Yankees. In respect to the truce and the reported resumption of the war, we are told that letters have been received in this city, which state that a conference has been had between the Yankee Generals and certain Commissioners of the Confederate States with the view to negotiations—that among those representing the latter power were Mr. Secretary Benjamin, Mr. Secretary Trenholm, and Judge Keys (!)—that the Yankees proposed to us a peace on the following basis, viz: The reconstruction of the Union as before—no confiscation of property, and each State to dispose of the question of slavery; but—the Confederate States to pay their quota of the Yankee war debt. We are told that our commissioners unhesitatingly rejected the terms, though it is said that Mr. Benjamin was not unwilling to entertain them. Upon their rejection, it is farther said that immediate notice was given of the termination of the truce—the war to be resumed in forty-eight hours. If this be true, hostilities were recommenced yesterday, or the day before, at 10 o'clock a. m. So much for these reports. We can only add that, as far as we can learn, our commanding officers on the post, who are said to be in receipt of despatches from Beauregard within the last twelve hours, have had no advices on the subject.

Foreign Opinion.

We note that in all the late European papers we have seen, including the thunderer, the *Times*, the language of the press has become more than ever civil in speaking of the United States. We do not say conciliatory, but civil; not cordial, but particularly polite. So far as appears on the surface, never were Governments more disposed to recognize the right of Brother Jonathan to their profoundest respect and courtesy. Is there anything sinister in this? Is the speech made purposely smooth, in view of the latent disposition to quarrel? Is the courtesy that of two irate gentlemen prepared to measure swords, for a combat *à l'outrance*, by the most refined rules of the Jueloff? The chivalrous are never so dangerous as when they enter the field in court costume.

SINGULAR COINCIDENCE.—Abe Lincoln was killed on the 14th—the anniversary of the fall of Fort Sumter.

Sherman's Last Order.

We copy, in another column, from the *Raleigh Progress*, an order from Sherman. Raleigh has been, for some days, in the hands of the enemy. The order of Gen. Sherman does not hesitate to ascribe the assassination of Lincoln and the attempt on Seward, to the Confederate Government and people. In the absence of any facts, he has no scruple in making them. According to Sherman, our four years of war show us incapable of manly warfare, and as forced to resort to the tools of the assassin. This is all *ad captandam vulgus*. We do not care to answer Gen. Sherman. We leave it to his conscience to answer him. So far as acts are known, the assassins of Lincoln and Seward were persons not of the Confederacy—one is reported as occasionally insane, and the son of an Englishman, if not an Englishman himself; the other is reported as a Marylander. The North will gain, much more than the South, by the transaction.

Staging and Wagoning.

We are inclined to think that a weekly line of stages and wagons between Columbia and Augusta on the one hand, and Columbia and Newberry on the other, would prove fully compensative to any enterprising citizen of either place who should put them in operation. Every day brings in, or carries out, scores of persons, able to pay and not so able to walk, who are yet compelled to foot it, to and from both places, on their own bare pins. We hear continual inquiries as to vehicles and modes of conveyance to Augusta, Newberry, Chester, Camden, Sumter and Orangeburg. We repeat our conviction, that to two, at least, of these points, a line of stages and wagons would be highly profitable, and perhaps to all, for the facilities for travel makes travellers, and opportunity begets the desire in many, who otherwise might prefer to remain in a durance from which they would willingly escape. These conveyances, cannot well originate in this place; so completely stripped, as it is, of any sort of team. We have neither mules nor horses. But surely a beginning might be made from Augusta, and after due announcement made in the papers of that city and our own.

Correspondence of the Phoenix.

CAMPS NEAR CAMDEN, S. C., April 24, 1865.

To the Editor of the *Columbia Phoenix*—SIR: Accompanying you will find a brief synopsis of the movements of Maj. Gen. Young's division, in his operations against the column of the enemy recently operating against Camden and its vicinity, which you may consider interesting on account of the proximity of scene to your battle-scarred and once beautiful city.

The movements of the enemy having become developed upon their arrival at Statesburg, S. C., Gen. Young, who was at that time in Augusta, Ga., with his division, immediately ordered Brig. Gen. Lewis, with his brigade, by forced marches, to reach Camden and gain the enemy's front. This was done; and that splendid command, with its usual gallantry, immediately upon reaching the enemy, became engaged, though against terrible odds. Our forces, however, were slowly driven back, cen-

testing every foot of ground, and ambuscading the enemy at every point, until he became so cautious as to make him extremely prudent. Overwhelming numbers, however, and the exhausted condition of this command, from their forced marches, finally compelled Gen. Lewis to draw off from the enemy's front near Camden; which he did, after having removed all the rolling stock of the railroad to the rear, at Boykin's Mill, some eight miles South of Camden. This left Camden open to them, and they entered the town just as Gen. Young, with the rest of his division, reached the ferry on the Wateree River. Finding that he could not form a junction with Gen. L. by this route, he immediately moved by a forced march to Sumter's Landing, and then, after the fashion of the Swamp Fox himself, succeeded in crossing his command through an interminable morass, and joining Gen. Lewis, who was now again in line of battle, with the enemy just in his front. Soon his line of battle was formed, and, though the disparity of force between himself and the enemy was very great, still he handled his troops with his accustomed familiarity and coolness. Charge after charge of the enemy was here repulsed, and their loss is reported by citizens who conversed with them as heavy—their dead lying at thirty paces from our improvised fortifications. Finally, however, on account of their superior numbers, they were able, by extending their lines, to flank our column and to force us to withdraw. Slowly, and with his accustomed obstinacy, Gen. Young retired, skirmishing as he did so, and making a stand at every point. Finding that he could not save the rolling stock of the railroad, and that nothing could be done more to annoy the enemy, he withdrew towards Providence, and sent one of his brigades, Col. Hannon commanding, to gain the enemy's front at Statesburg. Scarcely had he reached this point, when the enemy appeared, and attempted to force his line. Amazed at this apparition of force, at a point far in front of where they supposed Gen. Young was, the enemy looked upon it as a reinforcement, and took their measures accordingly. Exhorting their men with the announcement that reinforcements had reached the rebels, and that their only chance for escape was in cutting through our lines, they made three desperate charges for this object, and succeeded at last in breaking through our lines. Hastily firing the rolling stock, they passed hurriedly on, and as Gen. Young then moved in their rear, with his own brigade, and attacked them, they concluded that he had joined this new force. Marching day and night, without halting, they could hardly be overtaken. At this time, Gen. Johnston's order for a cessation of hostilities was received, and, though notified, of course, at once, they yet continued their march and made their way to Georgetown. Thus ended their raid. The rolling stock, with the exception of the box cars and two engines, was but little injured. We feel that, as our division was formed in line of battle, and engaging the enemy, upon the reception of Gen. Johnston's order for a cessation of hostilities, that, immediately upon their resumption, we shall be heard of again wherever an enemy of our beloved South can be found, with the firm determination either of succeeding triumphantly or joining the many brave men of our command who already fill the honored resting places of patriot's graves.

USING OUR WIRES.—The work of fraternization goes on, says the *Augusta Constitutionalist*. For several days, Gen. Sherman has been using the telegraphic lines passing through this city, communicating in cipher with the Federal commander in Mexico.