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ON GUARD.

[MRS. M. EDWARDS:—As yours is most emphatically the soldiers' paper of the Department, I take the liberty of sending you the enclosed lines, which I think will be admired and appreciated by every one of our brave soldiers who travels the "lonely beat." I came across them upwards of a year ago, in a paper published in a small village in New Hampshire. If you think them worthy a place in your columns please publish and oblige
H 1

On guard to-night! 'tis a lonely place,
And for two long hours I must wearily pace
To and fro 'mid the tall old pines,
Fringed with moss and clinging vines.

Scarce smiles a star through the clouds aloft,
And the ocean breeze is damp and soft
That fans my fevered cheek and brow,
While I think of home and the loved ones now.

On guard to-night! 'tis a lonely beat!
And with heavy heart and weary feet
I slowly travel forth and back,
To guard against a night attack.

Oh! yester morn' how lightly throbb'd
Full many a heart, that death has robbed
Of its pulses warm! and the caskets lie
As cold as the winter's starless sky.

How sad the thought that another day
May find us rushing to the fray!
And ere the close of the morrow's light!
We, too, may sleep, like those to-night!

Past midnight hour! and I long to hear
The step to the sentinel ever dear—
The sound that banishes his grief—
The welcome tread of the "next relief!"

Ah! here they come, and I can keep
My next four hours in the land of sleep,
And dream of home and the loved ones there—
May they never know a soldier's care!

OUR NEW ENGLAND LETTER.

THE PALMETTO HERALD—THE NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTION—FRENCH—DEATH OF REV. T. STARR KING—CHARLESTON NAVY YARD—MAYOR OF PORTLAND—MENHADEN—QUOTA OF N. H.—THE GUNMAKERS OF NORWICH—&c. &c.

BOSTON, MASS., March 19, 1864.

We have received the first two numbers of THE PALMETTO HERALD, and gave them a joyful welcome. May it be a long time before the friendly place the paper already occupies in our hearts shall be made vacant.

The New Hampshire election came off last Tuesday, and resulted in the re-election of the Republican candidate, Hon. Joseph A. Gillmore, by a majority of nearly 5,000. Every man who had a right to cast a vote in New Hampshire, and could possibly get to that State, was there to exercise that privilege. The lame, the halt and the blind, "the man on his last legs," and "the man with one foot in the grave," all took an airing, and a beautiful sunshiny day they had for it. Several regiments of soldiers reached home in season to take part in the election.

Much damage was done in New England by the rain storm of Sunday the 6th. Railroads were washed away in several places, causing a number of acci-

dents, and the amount of property destroyed belonging to private individuals was quite large. The morning train from Boston for Concord, via Lawrence, when near Salem, ran into a culvert, the bridge of which had been washed away during the night, sinking the engine, killing the fireman, Mr. Moore, and injuring the engineer, Mr. Davis, so he has since died. Both belonged in Concord, N. H. Two soldiers engaged a man to carry them from Concord to Manchester on Monday night. When about half way there, by some accident, he drove into deep water which was washing the road away into the Merrimac river, and he and both his horses were drowned. The soldiers succeeded in reaching Manchester in a partly frozen condition.

I am pained to announce the death of Rev. T. Starr King, at San Francisco, March 4, of diphtheria, at the age of 40 years. He was for twelve years pastor of the Hollis-st. Church, Boston. In 1860 he went to San Francisco, where he built up a flourishing society, which had just completed a beautiful church, to which he gave an organ. He was a man of rare genius, originality and eloquence, which he not only displayed in the pulpit but as a lecturer and author. He was buried beneath the pulpit of his church, at San Francisco, Sunday, March 6th, on which day his death was feelingly alluded to by most of the clergy here in Boston.

At a recent trial in Saco, Maine, Judge Kent, while delivering his charge to the jury, said: "The prisoner pleads intoxication, having purchased liquor of Life Jones, of North Berwick. If the liquors vended by the said Jones were so miserable as to cause the prisoner to commit such a heinous offence as the indictment shows, he might not unappropriately be named Death Jones."

Within the past three weeks over 200 aliens have been discharged from the Charleston Navy Yard, because they were not naturalized citizens. From the blacksmith shop, 47 Nova Scotians were discharged in one day. There are plenty of good citizens eager to get employment in the Yard, and the commandant seems determined that they shall have work in preference to aliens. Matthew H. Merriam, master machinist at the Yard, has recently been tried by court-martial for complicity with parties arrested for stealing metal from his shops.

Jacob McClellan, the Union candidate, has been elected mayor of Portland, over John B. Carroll, by a majority of 1,130. Mayor McClellan last year had a majority of 185. All the wards went Union, electing every alderman and councilman.

The citizens of Newport, R. I., and the neighboring towns, caught, last year, not less than 200,000 barrels of menhaden, in Narragansett Bay; from which about 300,000 gallons of oil were produced by the different factories.

The Concord Independent states that a list of all the towns in N. H., with their quotas and credits, has been made out by Gen. Hinks, which list shows that the State, as a whole, has furnished 600 men in excess of all calls; but that there are fifteen towns which severally have not furnished their full quotas—a few men, more or less, being lacking in each—making a total deficiency, as to these

towns, of 80 men. These towns are fast making up the deficiency.

The gunmakers in Norwich got up a row last week. C. H. Williams, superintendent in the Arms Co., was removed, and the workmen were indignant—got a drum, and about 300 of them paraded the streets, cheering their friends and groaning their enemies.

Navigation on the Connecticut has been re-opened.—Business is unusually brisk at Manchester, N. H., the pay-roll of the leading corporations amounting to more than \$100,000 per month.—The statement has been recently published that there were a hundred and fifty liquor shops in Augusta, Me.—There are 511 Penobscot Indians remaining.—Portland proposes a new Custom House.—A crazy woman, who wanted to enlist and get the bounties, was discovered dressed in men's clothes at the soldiers's camp at New Haven on Saturday.

MEDALS OF HONOR.—It will be remembered that after the reduction of Fort Wagner and the demolition of Fort Sumter, last fall, Gen. Gillmore announced that medals of honor would be presented to such enlisted men as had especially distinguished themselves by gallant conduct during the siege. They have been struck, and samples are already here, though the entire number will scarcely be ready for delivery sooner than two or three weeks. There are about five hundred candidates for the honor, each of whom will have his name neatly engraved on the buckle to which the medal is attached. The medal itself is of bronze, about the size of the silver dollar of blessed memory, and bears upon its obverse in bold relief, a very accurate representation of Fort Sumter at the termination of the first bombardment, taken from an original drawing by Mr W. T. Crane, with the legend "Fort Sumter, Aug. 23d, 1863," the whole encircled by a border of stars. Upon the reverse is this inscription, in raised letters, "For gallant and meritorious conduct. Presented by Q. A. Gillmore, Maj.-Gen'l." The name of Gen. Gillmore is a *fac simile* of his autograph. The medals are beautiful in design, and are very neatly and carefully made. They come from the establishment of Ball, Black & Co., New York City.

THE WEEHAWKEN.—Nothing has been done toward raising this ill-fated iron-clad, and we doubt if any measures will ever be taken to rescue her from the shifting sands in which she lies embedded, thirty feet below the water's surface. The task of removing such an enormous weight at so great disadvantages, is one which neither Government nor the contractors will willingly undertake. The varying currents where she sank have fixed her there forever. The Keokuk, which went down on the morning of the 8th of April last, is also on the bottom, and will probably never be brought up.

ALLIGATOR SHOT.—A few days since an alligator, measuring nearly four feet in length, was shot by one of the pickets, in the swamp near the machine shop, at St. Helena. The soldier who shot it killed one eight feet long in the same locality last year, his only weapon being a

club, with which he conquered the monster reptile, after a protracted combat.

UNION REFUGEES FROM CHARLESTON.—Mrs. Margaret Fry and her children are within our lines. This lady has expended a fortune of thirty thousand dollars in the Union cause, and has abundant evidence, in the form of letters from well-known Union officers in the hands of the rebels, that while she was in Charleston she was a ministering angel to the Union prisoners, saving many lives and relieving much suffering. She is now without means, but not without friends. The Commanding General has directed that every facility be given to her in establishing a restaurant for officers. The Post Commandant has ordered that a suitable place be fitted up for her use; and it now remains for the officers of the command, and citizens in the Department, who are reaping benefits from the privileges granted them, to furnish the necessary means for her to commence her business. Subscription papers are to be circulated with this view.

RICHMOND EXAMINER ON RETALIATION.—The Richmond Examiner of a late date has a long article on the subject of Kilpatrick's raid and Yankee atrocities generally, to which it affixes the following recommendations:

"What then would we practically suggest? First, to put to death all crusaders caught in the act; secondly, to limit upon the most scrupulous carrying out of retaliation for murders, robberies and other outrages with the most punctual exactitude: we cannot afford now, if we would recover our rightful position, to abate them one jot or tittle; thirdly, on our next entry into Pennsylvania and the parts adjacent, as enter there we surely must, to remember with jealous accuracy the proceedings of Burnside in Tennessee, of Butler in New Orleans and Norfolk, of Milroy in Virginia. We have no use for any Christian gentlemen who will come short of these requirements. It is true that our kind and religious rulers, so benignant to our enemies, should begin to show mercy to us; and as the first and most urgent work of necessity and mercy, it is right and expedient that the robbers and fire-raisers just apprehended on the Peninsula meet with a quick trial and a dog's death.

"—Mercy but murders.
Pardoning those who kill!"

BACK NUMBERS OF THE PALMETTO HERALD.—By the return of several bundles, mis-sent, we are now enabled to supply a limited number of PALMETTO HERALDS for March 3d, 10th and 17th. They can be procured at this office, or ordered through our agents or by mail to us. Those who keep files of the paper will be remunerated for their trouble in having a complete and correct compendium of news in this Department. The number for March 3d contains the complete official list of casualties at the battle of Olustee.

SUBSCRIBERS.—The greater proportion of our subscribers are those who have THE PALMETTO HERALD mailed to their friends at the North. The paper contains a complete weekly summary of notable events in this Department, and we pay particular attention to forwarding it by the earliest mails, so that soldiers and others can keep their friends constantly posted on affairs here, at small expense, and with great saving of labor.

CAPT. W. V. HUTCHINS, late Post Quartermaster at Morris Island, has been assigned to duty at this Post. He is to have charge of the land transportation.