

has the enterprise and the facilities to keep the whole Department well iced this season.

LETTER FROM NEW YORK.

[From our Special Correspondent.]

LIEUT.-GEN. GRANT—GEN. HALLECK—CHANGE OF DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS—SECRETARY CHASE DECLINES THE PRESIDENCY—MORE ENDORSEMENTS OF MR. LINCOLN—ANOTHER DRAFT OF TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND MEN—ARRIVAL OF DISTINGUISHED UNION PRISONERS—SUPPOSED LOSS OF AN ITALIAN FRIGATE—PASSAGE OF THE GOLD BILL—WAR MATTERS—&c., &c., &c.

NEW YORK CITY, March 17, 1864.

As was anticipated would be the case, Lieut.-General Grant has been assigned to the command of all the armies of the United States, by an order of the President. It appears that his visit to Washington was merely to consult with the authorities there. He made a flying visit to the front of the Potomac Army, and then left for Nashville with plenary powers for the organization of the armies of the West and South. It is believed that he contemplates a vigorous campaign by the united armies this spring, and particularly in the Southwest.

Gen. Halleck, out-ranked by General Grant's promotion, is made Chief of Staff of the Army, under the direction of the Secretary of War and Lieutenant-General Commanding. Gen. W. T. Sherman is assigned to the command of the military Division of the Mississippi, composed of the Departments of the Cumberland, the Ohio, the Tennessee and the Arkansas. Gen. McPherson is assigned to the command of the army of the Tennessee.

The President-makers are considerably confused by a letter of Mr. Secretary Chase, to Hon. J. C. Hall, declining to be a candidate for the Presidential nomination, on the ground that the Ohio Legislature has manifested a preference for Mr. Lincoln. The declaration is generally considered *bona fide*, but those who rely on a Republican split insist that it is only a feint. Mr. Lincoln's chances for the nomination improve daily; he has recently been endorsed by several additional Legislatures and State Conventions, and the result of the New Hampshire election is considered a great administration victory.

The President has ordered another draft of two hundred thousand men, in addition to the five hundred thousand ordered Feb. 1st, for the military service, army, navy and marine corps of the United States, the draft to occur on the 15th of April, wherever the quotas have not been previously filled.

Gen. Neal Dow and Capts. Flynn and Sawyer, so long confined as hostages in the Libby Prison, with the threat of execution, have arrived at Fortress Monroe under a flag of truce.

The British emigrant ship Star of the West arrived here on Tuesday morning, and reported speaking an Italian man-of-war, at first supposed to be the *Re d'Italia*, but since decided to be the *Re Galantuomo* on the evening of the 7th, in latitude 40:40, longitude 64:20, in a sinking condition. During the following night the vessel disappeared, and it is feared that she was lost, with all on board.

Congress has passed the Gold Bill, authorizing the Treasurer to sell such gold as he may have on hand, from time to time, after satisfying all demands for the payment of current interest, and to form a sinking fund of one per cent. on the principal of the national debt. The Wall streeters were a good deal flurried and confounded by this action of Congress.

Gen. Banks is about to take the field. Only two towns of New York gave a majority against the Constitutional amendment allowing soldiers to vote. Maxi-

milian is to clear from France for Mexico and a throne on the 25th. At a meeting of twelve hundred of the Fenian Brotherhood in Williamsburg, a member declared it to be the intention of the organization to liberate Ireland by the aid of God and gunpowder. The Richmond papers forged the document purporting to have been found on Col. Dahlgren's person, directing him to assassinate Davis and sack Richmond. Fighting about Schleswig-Holstein has ceased, pending negotiations. Admiral Farragut has withdrawn his fleet from before Mobile. The weather is spring-like, with occasional rains and no snows. ASTOR.

EQUINOCTIAL STORM.—The sun crossed the line on the 20th, and the weather had a spree which lasted over three days. It got up sober Wednesday morning, trying to smile, but evidently a little headachy. Monday night and Tuesday it rained in torrents and blew a gale. Ships dragged their anchors, boats went ashore, tents were blown over, and the deuce generally was to pay. The steamer Boston went ashore Monday night, but was got off Tuesday, without any damage, by the Achilles. The United States came in from New York on Tuesday afternoon, and it was several hours before her forty-four bags of mail could be got ashore, so rough was it in the harbor.

SOLDIERS WHO DO NOT RE-ENLIST NOT TO BE TRANSFERRED TO OTHER REGIMENTS—IMPORTANT ORDER.—Gen. Gillmore has published in General Orders the following telegram order from the Secretary of War:—"So much of Paragraph five (5), of General Orders number three hundred and seventy-six (376), of eighteen hundred and sixty-three (1863), from this office, as orders the assignment of men not re-enlisted as veteran volunteers to duty in other companies or regiments until the expiration of their term of service, is revoked; and all enlisted men assigned or transferred to other companies or regiments under this provision will be returned to their original company or regiment at once, if in the field; or in case the regiment is on furlough, as soon as it returns."

SIDEWALKS.—A great source of discomfort, inconvenience and accidents, at Hilton Head, has been the lack of sidewalks. Several efforts have been made to remedy the difficulty, and the traders on Sutlers' Row have attempted several projects for a plank sidewalk, at the expense of the abutters. Arrangements are now being made for the construction of wooden sidewalks, on all the streets, by the occupants of lots, on a uniform grade, with external railings. This is a much needed improvement, and we hope the plan will be immediately put in execution.

JACKSONVILLE.—Owing to the gale there has been no steamer from Jacksonville for a number of days, and consequently we are without our usual letters from our special correspondents with the army there. Our latest dates contained no news additional to that given in our last issue.

PROMOTIONS SINCE MARCH 15.—1st Sergt. Thomas Fidler, 3d R. I. A., to be 2d Lt. in same regt.; 1st Sergt. William Fullerton, do., to be 2d Lt. in same regt.; 1st Sergt. Robert Slatterly, do., to be 2d Lt. in same regt.; Sergt. W. H. Bean, do., to be 2d Lt. in the same regt.; 1st Sergt. James M. Fox, 104th Penn. Vols., to be 2d Lt. in same regt.; 1st Sergt. Joe M. Waitt, do., to be 2d Lt. in same regt.; Sergt. Charles A. Heckler, do, 2d Lt. in

same regt.; Sergt. Ellwood Craven, do, to be 2d Lt. in same regt.; 1st Sergt. Henry A. Widdifield, do., to be 2d Lt. in same regt.; 1st Sergt. Chas. T. Michener, do., to be 2d Lt. in same regt.; Sergt. P. O'Connell, do., to be 2d Lt. in same regt.; Sergt. Benj. F. Manton, 3d R. I. A.; to be 2d Lt. in same regt.

RESIGNATIONS SINCE MARCH 14.—Capt. Edward Wheeler, 56th N. Y. Vols.; Lt. Martin Stattlar, 6th Conn. Vols.; Capt. Joseph Walter, 41st N. Y. Vols.; 1st Lt. S. W. Raynor, 127th N. Y. Vols.

DRAMATIC.—We are gratified to announce the continued success of the Barton Dramatic Association at the Union Theatre. They performed four nights, last week, to overflowing houses, and have given two performances, thus far, this week, all in a most satisfactory manner. The entertainments have been attended by numerous prominent officers of the Department, and by many ladies, all of whom speak of them in terms of praise, as exceeding in excellence what could reasonably be expected of an amateur company, composed of enlisted men from a regiment in active service, with their base of supplies nearly a thousand miles off, and only the facilities afforded by a military post on a sandy island. To the soldiers, the opportunity for amusement, and for a variation of the ordinary camp monotony, has been most acceptable. As a sanitary measure we believe the opening of the theater has been productive of much good, and we commend the proprietors for the enterprise and perseverance which have achieved so great success.

On Monday and Tuesday evenings, three new pieces, "Norah Creina," "Post of Honor," and "State Secrets," were produced. "St. Mary's Eve," and "The Secret," are announced for Friday and Saturday evenings, with good casts. We understand that the orchestra, under the leadership of Mr. Henry Murphy, in the absence of Prof. Ingalls, are to have a benefit, at an early time.

"THE BATTLE CRY OF THE NORTH."—We shall publish next week an original poem, with the above title, written for THE PALMETTO HERALD by Mrs. C. M. SAWYER.

NEW PIER.—It is in contemplation to construct a new pier opposite where the present Ordnance Yard is located, upon which it is proposed to have a street open, to communicate with the commissary buildings.

THANKS.—We are indebted to Mr. Chas. A. Van Zandt, and Capt. C. C. Ellis, of the fast schooner Gersh Banker, for files of papers, one day later, on Friday.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY was celebrated at Morris Island, in an informal manner, last Thursday.

PROVOST-MARSHAL AT MORRIS ISLAND.—Lieut. George H. Mower, of the 9th Maine, formerly Assistant-Provost-Marshal at this Post, has been appointed Provost-Marshal at Morris Island, and assumed the position on the 28th ult.

THE FIRST DRUM FISH of the season was served on the tables of the Saxton House, Beaufort, on the 20th.

FORT SUMTER.—The rebels are now reported to have five guns in position on Fort Sumter.

NEW OFFICE.—The present quarters of THE PALMETTO HERALD will shortly, we anticipate, be exchanged for more commodious ones. We have a large

building in process of construction, to be completed within a fortnight.

PORT ROYAL SHIP NEWS.

ARRIVALS.—March 16th, st'mship Arago, Gadsden, N. Y.; steamship Prometheus, Bates, do.; schr John Aumack, Pearce, do.; schr J. E. Simmons, Smith, Phila.; schr J. W. Ramsay, Cramer, N. Y.; brig T. D. Wagner, Bergman, do.; schr D. B. Warner, Kempton, do.; schr Sallie I. Acken, Godfrey, do.; 17th, schr. Martha Ann, Sargent, Boston; Caleb Stetson, Robinson, N. Y.; Lath Rich, Bunhoff, N. Y.; Maria Lunt, Tracy, N. Y.; Thomas Halcombe, Godfrey, Phila.; Edward T. Allen, Allen, do.; Wm. H. Debit, Cary, New York; Sallie B. Robinson, Phila.; 18th, schr Western Star, Crowell, do.; Joseph W. Webster, Blake, N. Y.; Gersh Banker, Ellis, do.; Trade Wind, Carson, Phila.; brig Delmont Locke, Wiswell, Bucksport; schr Sarah H. Sharp, Batchelor, Phila.; brig John H. Kennedy, Smith, do.; 19th, schr. Chas. P. Stickney, Garwood, do.; 22d, steamship United States, Gordon, N. Y.; brig Alfred, Hufnagel, Phila.; schr Constitution, Darling, New York; brig John P. Wetherell, Thompson, Phila.

CLEARANCES.—March 17th, schr Jessie L. Leach, Erdicott, Phila.; stmr George C. Collins, Lane, New York; sloop James Grubbs, Trull, Morris Island; 18th, stmr Prometheus, Bates, N. Y.; schr. T. P. Simpson, Ellis, Morris Island, stmr D. H. Mount, Pinckney, N. Y.; steamship Arago, Gadsden, do.; 19th, bark Harvey Booth, Chipman, Phila.; schr. Samuel Castner, Jr., Robinson, Jacksonville; brig Levi, Race, N. Y.; schr Electric Spark, Mendall, New Bedford; 21st Mary G. Farr, Malay, Phila.; Artie Garwood, Godfrey, do.; Lizzie Maul, Frambes, Ferdinandina; N. W. Smith, Tucker, N. Y.; 22d, schr Calvin S. Edwards, Garwood, Phila.; 23d, schr John W. Ramsay, Cramer, N. Y.

ICE! ICE! ICE! AND BIG THINGS ON ICE!

I take this method to inform the Officers and Civilians at the different Posts in the Department of the South, that I have been granted, by special permit from Maj.-Gen. Q. A. Gillmore, to supply his Department with Ice for one year. I have made such arrangements as will ensure a full supply constantly, at all the different Posts. I have now in port, on board the

SCHOONER GERSH BANKER,

Just arrived, 200 Tons of

ROCKLAND LAKE ICE,

Ready to deliver. Also, by request of Gen. Gillmore, and approved by A. G. Browne, Esq., Supervising Special Agent of the Treasury Dept., an assortment of Goods, consisting of Segars, domestic and imported, Ale, Porter, Cider, Champagne Wine, Sherry Wine, White Port and fine Dark Port, California Wine, Native Wine, Brier Wood and Merschaum Pipes, Paper Collars, Shaving Brushes, Cork-screws, Smoking and Chewing Tobacco—Turkish, Solace, Killikenick and Currency—Fancy Woolen Shirts, Combs, Brushes, Toilet Soap, White Cotton and Lisle Thread Shirts, Cotton Socks, Suspenders, Playing Cards, Choice Selection of Sterling Novels, City-Cured Hams, Corned Beef, 1-2 bbls., Figs, Prunes, Bent's Crackers, No 1 Mackerel in Kits, Green Corn, Peas, Tomatoes, Asparagus, Lemons and Apples. All of which we have for sale, by application on board schooner Gersh Banker, Capt. C. C. Ellis. CHARLES A. VAN ZANDT.

OFFICE OF CHIEF COMMISSARY,
DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
HILTON HEAD, PORT ROYAL, S. C.,
March 23, 1864.

SEALED PROPOSALS, (IN DUPLICATE), will be received at this Office, by the undersigned, until the 31st day of March, (instant), at 12 o'clock M., for purchasing from the U. S. Government all the Hides, Hoofs and Horns of Beef Cattle used by the Army in the Department of the South, during the months of April, May, June, July, August and September, 1864.

The contractor will receive all hides, &c., as soon as taken from the Beef, and will be held accountable for them, whether he gets them or not, and will remove them, at his own expense, as often as required by the commanding officer of the post or place where the cattle are slaughtered.

Each bid must have a copy of this advertisement posted at its head, and will be in the following form:—

I, A. B., do hereby propose to purchase from the U. S. Government all the Hides, Hoofs and Horns of Beef Cattle used by the Army in the Department of the South during the months of April, May, June, July, August and September, 1864, paying _____ dolrs. — cts. for the Hide, &c., of each animal slaughtered.

A.... B....
To be subscribed by two responsible sureties, as follows:—

We, the undersigned, do hereby agree, that should the above bid be accepted, we will give our bond in the sum of One Thousand Dollars that the contract shall be fulfilled.

A.... C....
J.... B....

No bid will be entertained unless the bidder is present to respond to his bid.

Payment to be made once per month.
Envelope containing bid to be marked "Proposal for Beef-hides, &c."

M. R. MORGAN, Lt.-Col. and C. S.,
Chief Commissary Dep't. South.

UNION THEATER, HILTON HEAD.

MONDAY AND TUESDAY, MARCH 28TH AND 29TH,
The domestic drama entitled
THE RENT LAY.

"AULD LANG SYNE", by Mr. R. Dickson and the company; COMIC SONG, by Mr. W. H. Owen; and the amusing farce entitled
THE ROUGH DIAMOND.

Doors open at 6:30; Performance commences at 7.

FOR CHARTER—THE SCHOONER DELPHINE.—Capacity 500 bbls. Draft 7 Feet when Loaded. Inquire of
DUNBARS & FRANZ.

SUGAR CRACKERS AT AUCTION.—A. I. STIMSON will sell, on Friday next, at noon, immediately after the sale of Flour, at the Commissary Building, 12 barrels of Sugar Crackers.