

# The Palmetto Herald.

BY S. W. MASON AND CO.

PORT ROYAL, THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1864.

## LATEST FROM FLORIDA.

[From our Special Correspondent.]

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., March 25, 1864.

### ENROLLMENT OF THE CONTRABANDS.

To-day "all the colored persons of African descent," as the order queerly classifies them, within the limits of this command at Jacksonville, Pilatka, Fernandina, and St. Augustine are to present themselves before the Provost Marshals for enrollment. Boards of enrollment have been detailed for the purpose from Department Headquarters. The Post Surgeon, together with such assistants as may be deemed necessary, are to be present to examine as to the disqualifications of those enrolled, and certificates will be issued by the Surgeon, countersigned by the enrolling officers, to all who may be thus disqualified. These certificates will free their holders from any subsequent action in their case; but those who cannot hereafter produce them will be liable to punishment.

As I write, large numbers of contrabands, of both sexes, and of all ages, are patiently awaiting their turn at the office of Provost Marshal Sweet. Singularly the order, which apparently foreshadows a conscription, calls for a complete census of the colored people, instead of the mere enrollment of those liable to military duty.

### FROM THE FRONT.

In the military way there is nothing to report. Neither the enemy nor our own force shows any symptoms of a change of position. Deserters continue to reach us from the hostile lines, but they bring us no news.

### MAJOR BOGLE.

A note from Col. Sanderson, commanding the rebel force at Lake City, informs us that Major Bogle, of the 1st North Carolina colored troops, was not seriously wounded, and has been sent into the interior.

### OUR WOUNDED AT TALLAHASSEE.

The Savannah Republican has a paragraph to the effect that a large number of amputations had been performed among the Yankee wounded at Tallahassee, and that the majority of those operated upon had died.

### IRREGULARITY OF THE MAILS.

A liberal reward should be offered for the suppression of St. John's Bar. Since Saturday last we have had no advices from Hilton Head. Several steamers are lying outside, awaiting a smooth sea to come in. Inside the mouth of the river are others, which left here as long ago as Monday, blockaded by the breakers on the bar. The Pawnee, which has been ordered to Hilton Head for repairs, went down the river on Wednesday, but is still inside with the fleet of transports. This uncertainty of mail communication is one of the most unpleasant features of campaigning in Florida.

### PRIZES.

The steamers Hettie, of Jacksonville, and Sumter, caught by the Columbine and Pawnee's launch on the recent expedition, are here, the objects of much curiosity. The former vessel was built in this city just before the war, but has not been running since. She was laid up above Lake Harney, two hundred miles from here. She cost \$16,000. Her owner, Capt. Brock, of Enterprise, Fla., is said to be now in business in New York city. He was for a time, I learn,

a prisoner of state in Fort Lafayette. The steamer will probably be condemned here and turned over to the quartermaster as an army transport, in which capacity she will prove very useful.

### FATAL ACCIDENT.

A sad accident occurred at Yellow Bluff yesterday. A scouting party was out, and while one of the number was running, with his pistol in his hand, he fell, and the weapon was discharged. The ball passed through the heart of Lieut. D. H. Jones, Company I, 55th Massachusetts Colored Volunteers, killing him instantly. His body was brought hither on the transport Harriet A. Weed, last evening, and now awaits transportation North.

### A NEW PAPER AT JACKSONVILLE.

The proprietors of The Peninsula, hitherto published at Fernandina, have removed their establishment to this city. Yesterday they put forth the first number of the paper. I like its tone; but my advice to its owners is to get new material and better printers if they hope to succeed. There ought to be business enough here to sustain a first-class printing office, such as your own at Hilton Head.

### GEN. SEYMOUR TO HIS TROOPS.

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF FLORIDA, DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH, JACKSONVILLE, FLA., March 10, 1864. GENERAL ORDERS No. 13. The Brigadier General Commanding recurs with great satisfaction to the conduct of his troops in their late battle, and desires to convey to them, in the most public manner, his full appreciation of their steadfast courage on that well-contested field.

Against superior numbers, holding a position chosen by themselves, you were all but successful. For four hours you stood face to face with the enemy; and when the battle ended—and it ceased only with night—you sent him cheers of defiance.

In your repulse there was perhaps misfortune, but neither disaster nor disgrace; and every officer and soldier may forever remember with just pride that he fought at Olustee. By order of Brig.-Gen. T. Seymour.

R. M. HALL, A. A. A. G.

MARCH 26, 1864.

### ARRIVAL OF BOATS.

The hospital transport Cosmopolitan, with Medical Director Swift on board, is just in from St. Augustine, and leaves in an quarter of an hour for Hilton Head. The Delaware, General Meigs, and Sentinel are also in. They crossed the bar on this morning's tide, having been trying for four or five days to get into the river. The novelty of a mail and a few late papers engrosses the attention of the town.

### SCOUTING EXPEDITION.

The Harriet A. Weed, with a few troops on board, went on a scouting expedition yesterday in the neighborhood of Trout Creek. A beautiful club-boat was captured, but no enemy seen.

### SIGNAL TOWERS.

The building of the signal towers at this city and Yellow Bluff progresses favorably, and the line from this point to the bar will soon be opened. By this means we shall be able to communicate with vessels outside.

### ANOTHER FLAG OF TRUCE.

A flag of truce was sent up the river to Reed's Plantation this morning, on the Weed, with the object of gaining information as to the whereabouts of certain loyal Southerners. Nothing was learned.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES.—Rev. Mr. Hasson will hold Roman Catholic services in the hall over the Commissary building on Sunday next, at 9 1-2 o'clock, A. M. Father Hasson, we understand, also pro-

poses to deliver a lecture on some appropriate theme.

### MASONIC.

The members of the Masonic Fraternity in Jacksonville have organized a lodge, and meet regularly every Saturday evening in the room formerly occupied by King Solomon's Lodge, over the Post Commissary's office. The lodge is named Austin Military Lodge, and is working under a dispensation granted to the officers of the 13th Indiana Regiment, by the Grand Lodge of that State. It is in a flourishing condition, and furnishes a central point around which all the members of the Mystic Tie can assemble, and unite in carrying out the grand objects of the Order. Surgeon Craig, of the 13th Indiana, is the W. M. of the Lodge.

The members of King Solomon's Lodge propose to revive it, and meet regularly in future. The charter granted by the Grand Lodge of Florida is in the hands of one of the old members, now in Jacksonville, and the Lodge will of course be organized under it.

The Lodge at St. Augustine, which is doubtless the oldest in Florida, if not in the South, meets regularly, and is in a flourishing condition.

Why cannot a Lodge be organized at Hilton Head, and regular meetings held? This is the central point in the Department, and a Lodge would be of benefit to the Fraternity, which is strong in numbers, and capable of great usefulness. We commend the consideration of this suggestion to the Masons at this post.

BEFORE CHARLESTON.—Affairs before Charleston are unchanged. The enemy remain quiet, and engage our batteries on Morris Island from Sumter at rare intervals. The fire upon the city is still maintained from a 30pdr. Parrott gun, which has already been fired over 5,000 times, and even now shows no evidences of weakness. The grooves are as sharp and well defined as ever, and the accuracy of the fire but little impaired. We believe no rifled gun has ever before endured so severe a test for so long a time, and Col. Parrott may well congratulate himself upon this most surprising and favorable result. The gun will be fired until it has become useless, as a test of its strength and power of endurance.

LABORERS DISCHARGED.—About sixty discharged laborers went home on the Fulton last Sunday. A large proportion of them were British subjects. It seems that a few weeks since, one of the laborers, claiming to be a subject of Great Britain, wrote to Lord Lyons, demanding his interference in his behalf, and that of others claiming the same protection. Lord Lyons laid the matter before Secretary Seward, and in consequence of a letter from him, all the laborers here, who were British subjects, whose time had expired, and who desired to go North, were discharged and sent away. About forty additional laborers came down on the last steamer, and more are expected. All the laborers here were on Tuesday paid for the month of December.

PROVOST DISCIPLINE.—A few days since, a colored boy named Mitchell was caught by the Provost patrol taking a stolen ride on a horse from the government corral. He had been caught once before, and let off with a warning, after promising future good behavior. He was taken to the Provost Marshal's office, and after an investigation, a penalty was devised with especial reference to his case. A wooden horse, not particularly

distinguished for dorsal rotundity, was constructed, on which he was condemned to ride, saddleless, for three days. When he dismounted each night, or at meal time, he was compelled to carry down his horse in good shape, bring it a bucket of water, and hold it to his nose till the steed had been afforded a reasonable time to quench its thirst. When his sentence had been executed, being found of suitable age and able-bodied, he was sent to a recruiting office. The equestrian performance occurred in the Provost yard, and we doubt if any of the spectators will be guilty of stealing rides at this Post.

A TIMELY WARNING.—We desire to call the especial attention of our readers at this post to the important circular signed by Capt. Peck, Provost Marshal, and approved by Col. Durfee, Post Commandant, to be found on our fourth page, establishing certain Police Regulations during the coming summer. It treats of a subject of interest to every resident at the post, and it should receive the earnest consideration and strictest compliance to its requirements from every one who cares for his own health or that of his fellows. We would suggest that the practice of burying in the sand refuse matter, is detrimental to health, and ought to be given up for some better method of disposing of such offal. The summer heat and the moisture of the sand together, will hasten the decomposition of animal and vegetable matter, and the sand offers but little resistance to the escape of the mephitic gases, which they rapidly generate, and which, if not guarded against, will produce disease and death. All slops and refuse matter generally, should be carefully removed to a suitable distance outside of the intrenchments and buried, and chloride of lime, or some other disinfecting substance mingled with it. It will occasion some trouble, perhaps, but it will result in great good. There is no reason in the world why this post should not be as healthy as any on the Atlantic seaboard, if proper sanitary measures are adopted; and we again call upon our readers to give strict attention to the subject, and thereby ward off the very first approach of epidemic or climatic disease in any form.

RESIGNATION OF AN INSPECTOR OF CUSTOMS.—We regret to learn that R. C. Morris, Esq., the veteran Inspector of Customs at this port, has tendered his resignation, to take effect on the 1st of April, and will leave for the North on the next trip of the Arago. Mr. Morris has performed the arduous and varied duties of his important office in a faithful and skilful manner, during the past twenty months, earning the praise and good will of all who have come in contact with him officially or in a social way. In the future may his "lines fall in pleasant places," and may the best of luck attend him, in whatever path of life his duties may lead him. The name of his successor has not, as yet, been announced.

DIVISION COMMISSARIES.—The following is an extract from General Orders No. 44: "When the Regiments of a Division are together, there will be no Brigade Commissaries, but the Division Commissary will issue to the Regiments and Detachments of the Division on 'Consolidated Provision Returns,' signed by the subordinate commanders, and the issue ordered by the Division Commander. The Detachment and Regimental Commissaries will distribute the Subsistence Stores, so drawn, to the