

are of a very formidable character, and can only be carried with great loss.

The impression is gaining ground that Lee will accept battle in his present position.

Our wounded, amounting to about 800, are being sent to Washington via Port Royal.

[Special Dispatch to the Boston Herald.]
WASHINGTON, May 25.—Your special messenger has arrived to-night from the Army, having left the front at one o'clock yesterday.

The entire Army of the Potomac is several miles south of the North Anna river. The rebel army had not crossed the South Anna, as published in guess-work Extras, and yesterday morning the opinion was strong that Lee intended to accept battle this side, or on the south bank of said river. At noon yesterday there was considerable picket firing on our centre, but the enemy had opened no artillery. Generals Warren and Wright, of the 5th and 6th Corps, respectively, were reconnoitering the enemy's lines to see if he intended to give or accept battle.

Intelligence from the extreme front, received just as your messenger left, was that the enemy was covering his retreat to the south bank of the South Anna, only three miles in his rear. It was probable Lee would make a stand there unless his abandonment of the line of the North Anna is sufficient evidence of weakness to necessitate his final retreat to the defences of Richmond. This contingency is a matter of speculation, as yet.

There has been no general engagement since our advance commenced from Spottsylvania on Monday. There has been severe skirmishing, and in crossing the North Anna we lost some five hundred in killed and wounded and took about four hundred prisoners. In taking some rebel entrenchments our casualties were very small, the men behaving splendidly and full of spirit at being so near Richmond.

Our extreme front was on a little river near Taylorsville Station, on the Richmond and Fredericksburg Railroad.

The rebels burned every railroad bridge in their retreat, including the long one across the North Anna.

The New Orleans True Delta of the 21st, has the following from Mexico:—"The steamer St. Mary's, arrived last night, brings 150 refugees, and reports that a heavy battle had taken place between the French and Mexicans, 7,000 strong, under Gen. Negrete, at San Luis, in which the French were thoroughly defeated." This intelligence, though of vast importance, is doubted by many intelligent Mexicans in our city, for several reasons. The Mexican Consul, we are told, has had no intelligence of the victory, though he usually receives the earliest intelligence of these movements.

A letter from Bermuda Hundred says: The enemy have made frequent attacks upon our intrenchments, and have been defeated at each. On one of these occasions the Gatling gun, which throws 200 shots per minute, was brought to bear on the enemy with terrible result. Some rebel prisoners, captured at the time, asked our men "What kind of a gun is that? Do you load it all night and fire it all day?"

The steamer Atlantic, from New Orleans 21st, has arrived at Cairo. The officer of the Atlantic reports that Banks, with a portion of his army, arrived at New Orleans on the 21st. In moving across the country during his retreat from Alexandria, Gen. Banks left the Red River at Fort De Russy, and struck for Semmesport, where crossed the Atchafalaya, and then marched to Morgauza, on the Mississippi. A. J. Smith's command also marched to Semmesport and there embarked on transports.

PROMOTIONS.—1st Sergeant Mark A. Knowlton, Co. E, 75th Ohio Vols., to be 1st Lieut. in same Regt.; Sergt. Henry A. Hawks, Co. E, 56th N. Y. Vols., to be 2d Lieut. in same Regt.; 1st Sergt. John Connell, Co. D, 56th N. Y. Vols., to be 2d Lieut. in same Regt.; 1st Sergt. Norman Perkins, Co. E, N. Y. Vols., to

be 2d Lieut. in same Regt.; Sergt. Jared Packard, Co. H, N. Y. Vols., to be 2d Lieut. in same Regt.

CONCERT—DRAMATIC.—A Concert will be given at the Union Theater, on Friday evening. The Post Band will perform and will be assisted by the best vocal talent procurable. The suspension of theatrical performances by the N. N. D. A. was not occasioned by any lack of ability, enterprise or harmony, but by the absence of quite a number of the members, who have gone to other points. During their occupation of the Theater, the Association deserve great credit for the character of their performances, given under most discouraging circumstances. We understand the theater will soon be again reopened for dramatic performances.

PROMOTIONS IN THE 56TH N. Y.—The following promotions have recently been made in the 56th New York:—Major Rockwell Tyler, to be Lieut. Colonel; Captain Eliphas Smith, to be Major; 1st Lieut. James H. Smith, to be Captain; 1st Lieutenant Norris Crossman, to be Captain; 2d Lieut. Solomon D. Wheat, to be 1st Lieutenant.

PERSONAL.—Mr. A. B. Day, agent of the Sanitary Commission at Jacksonville, went North on the Fulton for a brief absence.

Mr. J. H. Sears, proprietor of the New South, arrived here by the Fulton after a considerable absence North.

Mr. J. P. Gilson of the Port Royal House has returned from a visit to his friends in Charlestown, Mass.

SERENADE.—On Thursday night of last week the Post Band serenaded Colonel Peter Dunbar, at his quarters in Merchants' Row. They played several pieces very finely, and were then briefly addressed by Colonel Dunbar, from his balcony. He thanked them most heartily for the flattering compliment they had paid, and for the relief afforded by their sweet strains from the sadness occasioned by letters he had just received, announcing the death of friends in the Virginia armies.

He complimented the band for their skill, and hoped they would long continue to contribute to the pleasure of the inhabitants of Hilton Head by their presence here. He closed by inviting the band into his quarters, where they were entertained. The Band advertise a concert for to-morrow evening, where those who admire their street music can have an opportunity to judge of a classical instrumental concert, with a full orchestra and brass band.

REBEL PAPERS.—Rebel papers of the 27th have been received here, but they contain nothing later than our Northern advices by the Massachusetts. The rebels claim a series of victories for Lee; brilliant victories for Beauregard, and a masterly retreat for Johnston. They seem to admit, however, that this is the crisis of the whole conflict, and it is "neck-or-nothing" with them. Our space is too limited for extract.

CASUALTIES IN THE VIRGINIA BATTLES.—We hear of many casualties, among officers well known in this Department in the Virginia battles. Lieut. Col. J. I. Plympton, of the 3d N. H., it is said, has lost both legs; Lieut. Col. John Chambers, of the 23d Mass., is reported killed; Capt. Young, formerly at Spanish Wells, is reported killed; Brig.-Gen. Heckman is a prisoner; Major T. B. Brooks, of Gen. Gillmore's Staff, wounded in the arm; Capt. H. D. Eaton, 6th Conn. killed; Lieut. Ward, 24th Mass., killed; Major Randlett and Adjutant Clapp, 3d N. H.,

wounded; Lieut. E. A. Button, Captain H. H. Ayer and Captain Richard Ela, 3d N. H., killed; and many others.

PORT ROYAL SHIP NEWS.

ARRIVALS.—May 23d, schr. Tanta-mount, Davis, Wiscasset; brig David B. Doane, Knowlton, Bath; 26th, steamship Fulton, Wotton, New York; 37th, steamer Beaufort, Steel, Fortress Monroe; steamer N. P. Banks, Blaisdell, New Orleans; 30th, brig Samuel G. Adams, Holland, Phila.; schr. Gersh Banker, Ellis, New York; schr. Margaret Y. Davis, West, Stono, S. C.; brig Concord, Macloon, Stono, S. C.; schr. Western Star, Crowell, Phila.; schr. Constitution, Smith, New York; schr. Mable, Kennerly, Baltimore; steamer C, S. Wright, Weir, New York.

CLEARANCES.—May 24th, schr. John Gilpin, Ginity, Jacksonville; 25th, brig Dudley, Carter, Phila.; schr. Anna C. Leverett, Squires, New York; 27th, schr. Artic Garwood, Willetts, Phila.; schr. John Oliver, Johnson, New Bedford; schr. James R. Mitchell, Elbridge, New York; 28th, steamship Fulton, Wotton, New York; 30th, schr. Tanta-mount, David, Phila.; 31st, brig Concord, Macloon, Tybee, S. C.; schr. Lightfoot, Clark, Morris Island; schr. S. H. Pool, McFadden, Phila.; June 1st, Louisa Frazier, Steelman, Phila.; schr. Mary Stedman, Tucker, Phila.

[Official.]
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. FORCES,
HILTON HEAD, FORT PULASKI,
ST. HELENA AND TYBEE ISLANDS,
HILTON HEAD, S. C., May 27, 1864.

GENERAL ORDERS,
No. 17.
IN COMPLIANCE WITH GENERAL ORDERS, No. 76, Headquarters, Department of the South, the undersigned hereby assumes command of this District.
The following officers are announced on his staff:

Major E. L. Rogers, 104th P. V., A. A. General.
Capt. H. Y. Pickering, A. A. Inspector General.
1st Lieut. E. B. Van Winkle, 103d N. Y. Vols., A. D. C.
1st Lieut. Daniel G. McMartin, 21st U. S. C. T., A. D. C.

JNO. P. HATCH,
Brig.-Gen. Commanding District.

[Official.]
HEADQUARTERS, U. S. FORCES,
HILTON HEAD, FORT PULASKI,
ST. HELENA AND TYBEE ISLANDS,
HILTON HEAD, S. C., May 28, 1864.

GENERAL ORDERS,
No. 18.

1. CAPT. JOHN A. HENNESSY, 52d P. V., is announced as Provost Marshal of this District, and will be obeyed and respected accordingly. Capt. E. S. Babcock, upon being relieved, will report to his regiment for duty.

2. Surgeon A. P. Dalrymple is announced as Medical Director of this District. Medical Officers of Regiments, Posts, &c., will make to him the usual reports.

3. Lt.-Col. W. T. Bennett, 1st Regiment Michigan Colored Troops, is assigned to duty as Chief Police Officer of Hilton Head and its vicinity.

4. The Circular Order of May 5th, C. S., appointing a Board of Civilians, with certain powers for sanitary and police purposes, is hereby revoked.

5. Asst. Surg. John Flowers, 52d P. V., is appointed Health Officer of the town of Hilton Head and of Mitchellville, and will make his reports daily direct to these Headquarters.

6. As far as practicable, Commanders of Regiments, Battalions and Detachments, will make requisitions for Clothing, Camp and Garrison Equipages between the 10th and 20th of each month.

By Order of BRIG.-GEN. JNO. P. HATCH,
Commanding District,
EDWARD L. ROGERS,
Major 104th P. V.,
A. A. A. G.

[Official.]
HEADQUARTERS, DEPT. OF THE SOUTH,
HILTON HEAD, S. C., May 29, 1864.

GENERAL ORDERS,
No. 17.

ALL PERSONS HOLDING PERMITS TO introduce goods into this Department, and to trade therein, are required to have their permits renewed at these Headquarters. No shipments of goods, on present permits, will be allowed until the renewal of the permits. All permits to trade, will expire on the 20th of June, unless renewed.

Parties wishing their permits renewed, must make application in writing, to these Headquarters, stating the kind and quantities of goods to be brought into the Department for traffic. Said application must be accompanied by certificates of loyalty and citizenship of the United States, from persons well known in the Department, and be endorsed by the District and Post Commanders of the station where the applicant wishes to establish a trade.

District and Post Commanders are charged with a strict observance of this order.
By Com'd of MAJOR-GEN. J. G. FOSTER,
W. L. M. BURGER,
Capt. and Asst. Adjt. Gen.

OFFICIAL:
THOMAS J. ROBINSON,
1st Lieut. 21st U. S. C. T.,

[Official.]
HEADQUARTERS, DEPT. OF THE SOUTH,
HILTON HEAD, S. C., May 30, 1864.

GENERAL ORDERS,
No. 78.

THE FOLLOWING ORDER, FROM THE War Department, is hereby published for the information and guidance of all concerned, and will be strictly enforced in this Department:

WAR DEPARTMENT,
GENERAL ORDERS, ADM'T GEN'L'S OFFICE,
No. 177, Washington, April 23, 1864.

In relation to public horses, wagons, &c.

1. Every officer of the army, other than of the Quartermaster's Department, and the chief medical officer of the departments, armies and army corps, who has in his possession, or under his control, any horse, ambulance, spring wagon, or vehicle of any kind, belonging to the Government of the United States, whether used in the performance of his public or private duties, will immediately turn in the same to the Quartermaster's Department.

2. Hereafter no officer of the army will use any horse, ambulance, spring wagon or vehicle of any kind, which is the property of the Government of the United States, whether for the transaction of his official or private business, without an order in writing from the Adjutant General authorizing such use.

This order will not apply to officers entitled to be mounted under General Orders, No. 277, of August 8th, 1863.

3. The regulations of the Quartermaster's Department provide for the transportation of officers travelling under orders, and their baggage. When on proper requisition an officer has obtained transportation, the horse, or vehicle, so obtained, will be returned to the officer accountable therefor, or to some officer of the Quartermaster's Department, as soon as the journey is performed.

4. The Quartermaster General and Inspector General will cause this order to be enforced by the officers of their Departments throughout the armies of the United States; and for its violation, reported by the officers of these departments, the same penalty is attached as provided by Section 8, of an act of Congress, published in General Orders, War Department, No. 106, current series, in reference to the use of ambulances.

By order of the Secretary of War:

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Asst. Adjt. Gen'l.
By Com'd of MAJOR-GEN. J. G. FOSTER,
W. L. M. BURGER,
Capt. and Asst. Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL:
THOMAS J. ROBINSON,
1st Lieut. 21st U. S. C. T.,
Act. Asst. Adjt. General.

[Official.]
HEADQUARTERS, DEPT. OF THE SOUTH,
HILTON HEAD, S. C., June 1, 1864.

GENERAL ORDERS,
No. 79.

THE FOLLOWING EXTRACT FROM A Circular Order, issued by the President of the United States, respecting the proper observance of the Sabbath in the Army, is hereby re-published for the information and guidance of the officers and men of this command:

"The President, Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, desires and enjoins the orderly observance of the Sabbath, by the officers and men in the military and naval service. The importance for man and beast of the prescribed weekly rest, the sacred rights of Christian soldiers and sailors, a becoming deference to the best sentiment of a Christian people, and a due regard for the Divine will, demand that Sunday labor in the Army and Navy be reduced to the measure of strict necessity.

"The discipline and character of the national forces should not suffer, nor the cause they defend be imperilled, by the profanation of the day or name of the Most High. At this time of public distress—adopting the words of Washington in 1776—men may find enough to do in the service of God and their country without abandoning themselves to vice and immorality."

The Major-General Commanding, wishing to impress upon the minds of the officers and soldiers of his command the importance of a proper observance of the Sabbath, hereby orders: that District, Post and Regimental Commanders shall cause all fatigue duty and unnecessary labor to cease on that day, and that Divine Service be held every Sabbath in each Camp, and at Posts where suitable accommodations can be had.

It is recommended to commanding officers at detached Posts, or elsewhere, where there is no regularly appointed Chaplain, to cause Divine Service to be read by some suitable person, either officer or enlisted man.

By Order of MAJ.-GEN. J. G. FOSTER,
W. L. M. BURGER,
Capt. and Asst. Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL:
THOMAS J. ROBINSON,
Act. Asst. Adjt. General.

RARE CHANCE.—THE BEST DINING SALOON on the Island for sale cheap. Address Box 96 P. O.

CONCERT BY THE POST BAND.—BY REQUEST of many friends, the members of the POST BAND, including both brass band and orchestra, will give a Concert of Instrumental Music, under direction of G. W. INGALLS, Bandmaster, at

THE UNION THEATER,
FRIDAY EVENING, JUNE 3, 1864.

The bill will comprise overtures and selections from the best operas, interspersed with solos and duets.

Tickets—Orchestra Seats, 50 cents; Parquette Seats, 25 cents. For sale at the box-office on the day of the Concert, from 1 to 4 p. m., and at the door. Concert to commence at 7-1-2 o'clock.

NEW STORE—NEW GOODS! No. 1 BROADWAY, rear of 19 Merchants Row, by AMES, LUCAS AND PEABODY, wholesale and retail dealers in Army and Navy Stores, Groceries, Dry Goods, Boots and Shoes.