

CELEBRATION OF THE 89TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE AT ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA.

St. Augustine, Fla., July 6.

The natal day of our country was celebrated in a most fitting and spirited manner in this ancient city. The citizens and military, (the 17th Conn. Vol. Regt., now in garrison here,) united with commendable zeal, on the auspicious occasion. The day was ushered in by the display of the National Flag on the ramparts of Fort Marion (the oldest Fortress in the Union, the ancient Spanish "Castillo de San Marco,") and on the Plaza, by a Federal salute and the pealing of the bells of the churches. At 9 o'clock, A. M., the troops of the garrison paraded on the Plaza, and were reviewed by Lieut.-Col. A. H. Wilcoxson, Commandant of the post. At 10 o'clock the Declaration of the Independence was read to the assembled multitude by Lieut.-Col. Wilcoxson, and an appropriate, timely, and most eloquent oration, given by C. P. Chamberlin, Esq.

Precisely at noon the National Salute followed by the volleys of musketry, and a "feu de joie" were fired, and the troops dismissed for the day.

At 4 o'clock, P. M., a numerous company, consisting of citizens of St. Augustine and other parts of Florida, the officers of the 17th, several of the 75th Ohio Mounted Infantry, stationed at Picolata, on the river St. John's, and representatives of other corps at present in the city, sat down at the Magnolia House to a dinner,—such as "mine host" of that renowned "hostelry" knows how to prepare, comprising all the delicacies of the season, among them, green turtle, wild turkeys, stone crabs, &c., fresh from ocean and forrest, and which must be eaten in Florida, to be enjoyed in perfection at this season.

Judge D. R. Dunham presided, assisted by Captain Wilson French, Provost Marshal of the Post, and Charles D. Lincoln, Esq., of Valusia County.

After due consideration of the delicious viands, spread with profuse abundance, the cloth being removed, the following regular toasts were drunk with great enthusiasm, interspersed with music by the string-band of the 17th:

The day we celebrate—May it be hallowed, "to the last syllable of recorded time!"

Our Country—one and indivisible.

The President of the United States—"An honest man, is the noblest work of God."

The memory of Washington! first in war, first in peace, and first and last in the hearts of his countrymen.

The Heroes and Sages of the Revolution—"When shall we look upon their like again?"

The Army and Navy of the United States—always ready at their country's call, and never deterred in duty.

Our Militia and Yeomanry. The glory of Columbia! The flag of our Liberties! The bulwark of Republicanism! and the Sword and Spear of Democracy.

Lieut. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant—May that sun which illumined our arms at Vicksburg, just one year ago, this day, have shone with redoubled splendor over him and his glorious army, victorious in the capital of captured Richmond.

The Noble Army under Sherman, Thomas, McPherson, and other gallant leaders—we have full confidence in them, and trust that they are now in Atlanta.

Gen. Winfield Scott, dubbed by his detractors, "Old Fuss and Feathers"—truly he has kicked up more than one fuss among the enemies of his country, and often made their feathers fly.

The Rebel Leaders—like Lucifer, they'd rather rule in hell, than serve in heaven.

Valdingham, Fernando and Ben Wood, "et id omne genus" Copperheads—let them be consigned to that den, in Tartarus, yept Oblivion.

The "women of America"—transcendent in all the attributes of heroism, fortitude, delicacy and virtue.

After the regular toasts a number of

volunteer ones were offered, from which I have selected the following:

By the President of the day:

The Orator of the day—Well has he, in glowing language, depicted the glories, resources, and capabilities of our country united, of the bright anticipations of its future, and of the sad and melancholy reverse, if broken into fragments.

By the Orator of the day, C. P. Chamberlin, Esq.:

Our country, now and for ever—Let its birthday ever be heralded by the shouts of freemen and the thunders of artillery: with us Union for our watchword, and the brave arms of our volunteers, its blessings shall be transmitted to the remotest posterity.

By Captain S. H. Swetland, Chief C. S., District of Florida:

Our country—The mother of 55 daughters, she mourns the prodigality of 12. May she continue the call to return through the cannon's roar until obeyed. May they return freed from the black cause of their waywardness, and receive the full blessings proclaimed for them by their Father Abraham.

By Lieut.-Col. Wilcoxson, 17th Conn. Volunteers:

The loyal men of Florida—May their example continue to shine among their fellow-citizens until the little leaven shall have fermented the whole batch!

Responded to by Mr. Lincoln, of Valusia County.

By Major Henry Allen, 17th Conn. Volunteers:

Our Friends at Home—not forgotten!

Responded to by Capt. W. L. Hubbell.

At sunset a Federal salute was fired, with the ringing of the church bells, as in the morning and at noon.

During the evening a number of beautiful rockets were sent up from the steamer Alice Price.

THE DROWNED SOLDIERS OF THE U. S. C. TROOPS.

JAMES ISLAND, S. C., July 9, 1864.

Editor of the Palmetto Herald:

Sir: The most distressing casualty that has occurred during the present campaign against this island, is the drowning of twenty enlisted men of the 21st Regt. U. S. C. T., on the night of Saturday, the 2d instant. Nearly all these ill-fated men had families living at Mitchellville, or on the plantations on Hilton Head Island. The following is a complete list of the drowned: Orderly Sergeant Reuben Pope, Co. E; Sergeant James Singleton, Co. E; Corporal Thomas Pritchard, Co. E; Corporal Charles Miller, Co. E; Corporal John Williams, Co. E; Private Esan Fox, Co. E; Private Napoleon Harris, Co. E; Private Stephen Haymer, Co. E; Private Hector Middleton, Co. E; Private Ewd. Friday, Co. E; Private W. Hamilton, Co. E; Private Jacob Smith, Co. E; Private Mike Wall, Co. E; Private William Pinkney, Co. E; Private Paul Capers, Co. E; Private Jeffrey Jenkins, Co. E; Private Echo Ferguson, Co. C; Private Abraham Simmons, Co. C; Private John J. Jenkins, Co. B; Private Flando Mitchell, Co. A. A detachment of the 21st Regiment U. S. C. T., under command of Capt. Willoughby, of that Regiment, was crossing the Stono River, from Legareville to James Island, in two pontoon boats. When fairly under way, a steamboat met the detachment; some one hailed Capt. W., and told him that the captain of the steamer had orders to take the boats in tow. They were accordingly hitched on; the steamer started at full speed, and one of the boats instantly swamped and sunk with all on board. Col. Hosley, of the 54th N. Y. V., was rescued, also the oarsmen. Each soldier had his gun, and 80 rounds of ammunition, also one day's ration in his haversack. Five of the men in the boat had the presence of mind to cut the belts of their cartridge-boxes and throw off their haversacks in time to save their lives; all the others went down to rise no more alive. The small boats of the steamer were immediately lowered and manned, and thorough search made by Capt. Willoughby for any that might be left struggling for life. The five above mentioned,

and the Colonel were all that were saved. The bodies were nearly all recovered and buried on James Island.

J. M. H.

LATEST FROM THE NORTH.

NEWS TO THE 15th.

THE REBEL RAIDERS RETREATING.

By the arrival of Messrs. Ames, Lucas and Peabody's schooner, the Lizzie M. Stacy, on Monday, in 3 1-2 days, from New London, we had New York dates to the 13th, and by the schooner Emily, of Bixby's line, on Tuesday, New York news to the 15th.

The following are extracted from papers of the 13th:

BALTIMORE, July 12—3 P. M.—Rumors prevail of an attack by fifteen thousand rebels on the northern fortifications of Washington; but they cannot be traced to any definite source. There is much excitement in this city, and business is to a great extent suspended.

The Evening Telegraph of this city has the following: Fighting has been going on near Washington since morning. The rebels are approaching the defences on the northern side of the city in strong force.

BALTIMORE, July 12, 1864.—We have nothing from Washington but the idle street rumors. No despatches—no papers—no trains. The conductor of the nine o'clock Washington train reported there had been no fighting up to the time he left. At a quarter to one o'clock the telegraph was cut.

HAVRE DE GRACE, July 12, 1864.—Semi-official intelligence has been received here that yesterday afternoon a fight was going on seven miles from Washington, on the Seventh street road, near Silver Spring.

HAVRE DE GRACE, July 12—11:40 A. M. Parties from Belair, sixteen miles from here, report one thousand rebel cavalry at that point last evening. A farmer named Hall shot a rebel in retaliation for burning his house and destroying his farming utensils. There is doubt of an immediate necessity for heavy reinforcements in Washington.

BALTIMORE, July 12, 1864.—We have just received information from Frederick that yesterday the rebels were again driven out of that city, and the old flag again waves over it. About nine o'clock yesterday morning a division of Coles' cavalry came dashing in, and a fight took place in the streets between our troops and the small rebel guard left there of only one hundred men. The rebel captain was killed and the balance of the rebels were driven out and pursued in the direction of Monocacy. The rebels had demanded a contribution of twenty thousand dollars in greenbacks. A committee of citizens was appointed to negotiate with them for the safety of persons and property, and a pledge was finally given that, if the money was paid, none would be molested either in person or property, which pledge was kept and the money paid down. The only property destroyed was the government stables, which were fired on Sunday. During the time of the rebel possession their foraging parties sent out into the country to secure horses and cattle came in with large droves of cattle, pigs and sheep, and at times the main street of Frederick were literally filled with horses and cattle, all of which were driven down to the fords and sent across into Virginia.

Our informant states that he came to the city by the Baltimore pike, and the only rebels he met on the road were some fifteen cavalry near Carroll's Manor, 14 miles from Baltimore. He replied that he did not, but shortly after learned that Johnson had crossed the pike at Carroll's Manor at nine o'clock yesterday morning, with an immense train of captured horses, going towards the Potomac. As he had command of the raiders in this vicinity it may be presumed that they have all gone towards the Potomac. The rebels did very slight damage to the Monocacy bridge. It was too strong. I learn from Annapolis Junction that

the rebels obtained possession of the road at Beltsville and the Bladensburg about one o'clock, and up to the latest advices still held out, amusing themselves by destroying bridges and tearing up the track. They are said to be in considerable force.

HAVRE DE GRACE, July 12, 1864.—There is no doubt of the capture of Gen. Franklin, which is confirmed by Lieut.-Colonel Mitchell, inspector of the Ninth corps, who was present at the time and afterwards escaped.

The rebels have destroyed four hundred and fifty feet of Gunpowder bridge, including the draw, and five hundred feet more were partially destroyed, the string pieces and cross ties being burned. The repairs expect to finish their work within four days, but many require a week. The construction train, which started this morning for Gunpowder bridge and Magnolia, returned safely this evening, the railroad and telegraph men having accomplished their objects.

HAVRE DE GRACE, Md., July 12, 1864. A construction train left here this morning to repair the railroad and telegraph lines of the American Telegraph Company destroyed by the rebels. Communication with Baltimore will probably be fully re-established by this evening. A number of passengers consisting of ladies and children, arrived at Berryville this morning on the steamer, and departed by the train for the North.

(From the New York Herald, July 12.)

Our news from Washington was totally cut off last night.

We learned by a dispatch from Philadelphia last night that the rebels had again cut the wires between Baltimore and Washington, and therefore nothing was known of the condition of affairs at the capital after five o'clock in the afternoon. Wild rumors were afloat in Philadelphia that Washington was in the hands of the enemy, but it is evident that no news could have reached there, as all the wires are down.

It is now positively ascertained that four hundred and fifty feet of Gunpowder bridge, including the draw, have been demolished by the rebels.

Gen. Sullivan was to command at Martinsburg last evening. News had been received that Gen. Hunter's forces were then actively engaged. General A. P. Howe had formally assumed command of the troops at Harper's Ferry.

Governor Parker, of New Jersey, has issued a proclamation calling for the immediate organization of the people into companies and regiments for the defence of the capital. He implies that, as the government had no formal demand on him, they did not consider that troops were needed to meet the present emergency. He considers that the national capital is seriously threatened, and therefore asks for troops for thirty days service in Pennsylvania, Maryland and the District of Columbia. Governor Seymour has also issued an appeal to the citizens of this State to join the ranks of the National Guard.

We are indebted to Captain John H. Moore, Chief of Mr., for a copy of the New London Evening Times, of the 13th, from which we extract the following:

A messenger who got through from Washington last night says our troops with veterans from New Orleans can hold Washington. He thinks the rebels will not attempt to take it, having destroyed the Railroad.

BALTIMORE, July 13.—Telegraph to Annapolis is working.

The following particulars are reported respecting the escape of Gen. Franklin—though as yet no one has ascertained anything of his whereabouts.

Harry Gilmore, with a party of cavalry, numbering about 150, and having with them Gen. Franklin, three officers and his staff as prisoners, encamped at a late hour on Monday night on Oliver's farm between Randalltown and Raister-town.

Franklin was in custody of Captain Owen, of the Baltimore county, from whom he succeeded in making his escape at an early hour Tuesday morning.

Nothing is yet known in this city as to the whereabouts of Franklin, but hopes are entertained that he has really escaped. Such at least was the impression of those living in that vicinity.

During their stay in the neighborhood