

of Randalltown they robbed everybody indiscriminately, not only horses and cattle, but watches, money and clothing. Several rebel sympathizers pled for exemption, but it was of no avail.

They also had with them three officers from Franklin's staff. These they took away with them, they not having been able to escape.

The Emily did not bring much additional news, but it is important.

The rebels were reported to be retreating from Washington, and Gen. Hunter was making an effort to cut them off. Gen. Grant was bombarding Petersburg, and was about making an important movement, the nature of which was not disclosed.

The Emily left New York on the morning of the 15th, but brought no papers of that date.

The Florida off our Coast.

Numerous Depredations.

A U. S. STEAMER CAPTURED WITH A MAIL.

By the late arrivals we learn that the Florida is again off our coast, and has captured five or six sailing vessels, and the U. S. Steamer Electric Spark. The following, in regard to the latter capture is from the N. Y. Herald of the 15th:

Acting Master W. P. Gibbs, United States Navy, reported himself to Admiral Paulding, at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, yesterday morning, having been captured on board of the steamer Electric Spark on Sunday last, by the rebel privateer Florida, and paroled by Captain Morris. Acting Master Gibbs was returning to his vessel, the Panola, in the Gulf, having been North on a leave of absence. He says that he was treated with marked kindness while on board the Florida, everything being done to make his stay comfortable and agreeable. He makes several very important statements in reference to the vessel. In the first place she carries the following armament: Four rifled sixty-eight pounders—8 inch—in broadside about the mainmast, one hundred and twenty pounder rifle in pivot and four small rifles in broadside forward. In addition to this formidable battery she has one gun not mounted, lying on the starboard side of the engine room hatch. Mr. Gibbs could not ascertain its calibre, as it was covered with a tarpaulin. She has a crew of about two hundred men, who looked dirty and undisciplined, and Morris apologized for the appearance of the ship and crew, and said they had been very busy for the past few days. Her chief engineer is confined to his room on account of injuries received by falling down a hatchway, and she is short of assistant engineers, so much so that it would be difficult to run the Electric Spark; but he may run both vessels ever to Bermuda or Nassau, and leave his prize outside while he goes in with the Florida and procure some engineers for her. The Electric Spark steams, in present trim, but seven knots, which is owing to her being by the head. No doubt but Morris will use her as a tender, at least until her coal—one hundred and twenty tons—gives out, or he may attempt to run her into Wilmington with her cargo.

The following is a copy of the parole of Acting Master Gibbs:

Wm. P. Gibbs, acting master in the Navy of the United States of America, is hereby paroled upon his word of honor not to serve against the Confederate States or do garrison or other military duty until duly exchanged.

C. MARRINGTON MORRIS,
Com'g U. S. S. Florida.

July 10, 1864.

It is to be regretted that the Florida succeeded in capturing the mail bags on board of the Electric Spark as well as the official dispatch bag. We should have thought that a man of common sense would have known enough to sink his mail bags, especially the government despatches. Now the Florida can use them for her own purpose, as well as to send them in by the regular Anglo-rebel mail line of steamers which run to Wilmington, N. C.

Quite a number of vessels are in pursuit of the Florida. Those reported thus far are the

| Names. | No. of Guns. | Where From. |
|-------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Ticonderoga..... | 15 | Portland. |
| Circassian..... | 12 | Boston. |
| Ironclad..... | 9 | New York. |
| Monticelli..... | 9 | Hampton Roads. |
| Mount Vernon..... | 8 | Hampton Roads. |
| Iron Ship..... | 9 | Hampton Roads. |
| Pontiac..... | 9 | Philadelphia. |

The Ascutey, nine guns is preparing, and may possibly get away to-night from the Brooklyn Navy Yard. By this time, no doubt, the Connecticut, eleven guns, and several other fast and well-armed vessels are in pursuit of her.

The schooner Valeria is among the captures rumored, and it is also reported that the Fulton chased a suspicious craft soon after leaving this port.

FROM SAVANNAH.

ARRIVAL OF REBEL DESERTERS.

Sherman within four Miles of Atlanta.

On Monday last three deserters arrived here from Savannah. The papers they brought were only to the 15th, not as late as those obtained by flag of truce at Port Royal Ferry, but the information they communicate is quite important.

They report that Sherman has crossed the Chattahoochee River, at a point nine miles above that he had threatened, and that he is now advancing on Atlanta.

At latest accounts he was only about four miles distant, and Johnson had fallen back to the city. All the munitions of war and government property were being removed to Macon and Augusta, and the general expectation was that the city would be given up.

Gen. Foster's recent expedition created a great scare in Savannah. Its departure was known as soon as the transports sailed, but the destination was supposed to be Savannah. The rebels now have two rans there, the Savannah and the Georgia. On the night of the sailing of the expedition they got up steam, and came down to the obstructions on the Savannah River. Gen. Johnson also sent a brigade of Georgia troops from his army. They proceeded as far as Augusta, and their destination was then changed to John's Island, where they participated in the fight of Saturday, July 9th.

These reports may require the allowances for exaggeration usually necessary in receiving the statements of deserters; but their story is very straightforward, and is perfectly consistent with the admissions of the late rebel journals from which we have published extracts.

NAVAL MATTERS.

Admiral Dahlgren left for Charleston Harbor in the Philadelphia, on Monday afternoon.

The New Hampshire lies in the stream, between the Vermont and the Wabash. The Vermont will probably sail for the North within a week, and after being repaired will be sent, it is expected, to Norfolk, as a receiving ship. Commodore Thatcher is to take command of her and transfer his officers from the New Hampshire. Captain Reynolds and his officers will in a day or two be transferred to the latter.

The coast survey steamer Bibb is shortly expected here. The Vixen, which has replaced her white North, is now in the harbor.

Fort Sumter is undergoing another destructive bombardment, from our batteries on Morris Island, and from the fleet. The firing is very slow but accurate, and has already resulted in serious damage to some of the strongest portions of the work. It is evident that the rebels

have considerable infantry defences inside the work, and that various temporary expedients have been resorted to since our guns have produced such havoc with the main walls. The fire on Charleston is also kept up.

FLORIDA.—The rebels, with but a small force, are quite active on our front, but have had no successes. Torpedo attacks on the St. John's River are quite frequent, but no damage has been done since the destruction of the Harriet A. Weed. Elsewhere we publish a report of the Fourth-of-July celebration at St. Augustine, received too late for insertion last week. Gen. Birney started on an expedition on the 15th.

SURGEON ROBINSON, of the 104th Penn. Vols., who was captured on John's Island, has been heard from. He was at Macon, Ga., where he was in attendance on our wounded. He was in good health.

THE QUARTERS FOR REBEL OFFICERS ON MORRIS ISLAND.—While our workmen are engaged in the erection of residences for the rebel prisoners at our front on Morris Island, the rebels annoy them to the extent of their ability by shelling the buildings. Several shells have already struck them, but nobody was hurt, and the work is continued.

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