

The Palmetto Herald.

VOLUME I.
No. 43.

PORT ROYAL, S. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1864.

PRICE
Five Cents.

THE PALMETTO HERALD

IS PUBLISHED BY

S. W. MASON & CO.,

EVERY THURSDAY MORNING,
AT PORT ROYAL, S. C.

Office cor. Merchants' Row and Palmetto Avenue.

Terms:

Single Copy.....Five Cents.
One Hundred Copies.....\$3 50
Per Annum to any Address.....\$2 00
Payment invariably in Advance.

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THE SWISS MOTHER.

BY J. E. CARPENTER.

She took his rifle from the wall,
The same his father bore;
She gave the boy his alpenstock,
His father's long before;
She did not let him see her weep,
But kissed his rosy face,
She bade him boldly hasten forth
And take his father's place.
She thought but of her country's wrongs,
Yet pressed him to her heart.
Oh! well might that proud mother grieve
To see her boy depart.

A month before her husband joined
His brethren of the glen;
A week—his lifeless form they bore
In sorrow back again;
Those warrior-peasants laid it down
Within her Alpine cot,
Then hastened back to meet the foe,
For they might mourn him not,
But she must send another forth,
Her doubly stricken heart
Might well be proud and not to break
From her brave boy to part.

And so she took the rifle from
The chamber of the dead,
And filled the flask, and put it on,
Then forth her boy she led;
"Go," she said proudly, "o'er the hills
You'll find your father's foe,
Yet for his death-blow to avenge,
For freedom strike the blow."
It was her bleeding country's wrongs
That nerved that mother's heart,
Yet bitter were the tears she shed
To see her boy depart.

The New York Herald, in alluding to the most unostentatious manner in which Gen. Grant arrived in that city on Saturday and left on Monday, remarks that "a second lieutenant in a regiment not yet ordered to the field makes more sensation in the city with his new uniform, gilt buttons and loud swagger than did this greatest general in the world, with his simple dress and unpretentious manners.

JOHN BILLINGS, whose oracular utterances are being more and more brilliant every day, says: "Tew bring up a child in the way he should go—travel that way yourself." Solomon couldn't improve on that.

A writer of a modern book of travels, relating the particulars of his being cast away, thus concludes: "After having walked eleven hours without having tracked the print of a human foot, to my great comfort and delight I saw a man hanging on a gibbet, my pleasure at the cheering sight was inexpressible, for it convinced me that I was in a civilized country."

The rebel Major General Patrick R. Cleburne, who was killed in the recent fight in Tennessee, was born in Ireland in March, 1828, and was consequently nearly thirty-seven years of age. He came to this country at the age of twenty-one, and settled in Arkansas. He entered the war as a private, but soon rose to a Captaincy, then to a Colonelcy, in which capacity he participated in many of the battles of the Southwest. He was made a Major General in December, 1862, and since then has served with the rebel army of Georgia, where he won all the distinction he ever had.

"Tom, you seem to gain flesh every day; the grocery business must agree with you. What did you weigh last?"
"Well, Jim, I really forget now; but it strikes me it was a pound of lutter."

NORTHERN NEWS BY THE GENERAL SHERMAN.

[From the New York Herald, Dec. 11.]

Another expedition which went out from Vicksburg recently under Major-General Dana was very successful. The enemy was found in force; but this did not prevent General Dana's men from accomplishing the work they started out to do. They thoroughly destroyed the long bridge over black river, the Mississippi Central Railroad for thirty miles above that stream, two thousand five hundred bales of rebel cotton and about three hundred thousand dollars worth of other rebel government property, and returned to Vicksburg with the loss of only five killed and forty wounded and missing. The exchange of prisoners, recently stopped in the Savannah river, has been resumed in Charleston harbor, where the fleet of Col. Mulford, Union Exchange Commissioner, now lies. The steamer Victor, from off Charleston, arrived at Annapolis yesterday with a further consignment of exchanged Union soldiers. In late rebel papers we have the proceedings of the North Carolina and South Carolina Legislatures relative to negotiations for peace. In the former body resolutions have been introduced in both houses in favor of sending commissioners to Washington, and Jeff. Davis and the Legislatures of the other States are requested to co-operate. The resolutions offered in the South Carolina Legislature deprecate any overtures for a cessation of hostilities until a dissolution of the Union is conceded by the national government. Governor Bonham, of South Carolina, is in union with the legislature of his State, and is opposed to all negotiation at present except those of cold steel, iron and lead.

[From the New York Herald, Dec. 13.]

A Cairo despatch states that a detachment from the rebel army of Hood, estimated at four thousand, under Gen. Lyon, are now on their way towards Kentucky, if they have not already arrived there, having on Friday last crossed the Cumberland river, some twenty miles above Fort Donelson, on board the government transport Thomas E. Tutt, which they seized for the occasion. After the rebels had all got across they burned the steamer, which was loaded with government forage. We have interesting accounts of the fighting and skirmishing for several days in the vicinity of Murfreesboro, where Gen. Rousseau is in command of the Union troops. The fighting commenced on the 3d inst., and was continued on each successive day up to the 7th, when finally the rebels, under command of Forrest in person, were so vigorously charged that they fled in complete rout, and have not since made their appearance. On this occasion Rousseau's men captured two hundred and seven rebel prisoners, including eighteen officers, and fourteen cannon.

There was much excitement in Memphis on last Friday, caused by a report that Beauregard, with a strong force, was marching on Fort Pillow. About one hundred and fifty negro soldiers were recently drawn into ambush, on the Arkansas side of the Mississippi, opposite Memphis, and nearly all of them, it is said, were either killed by the rebels or drowned in the river. A despatch states that Osceola has been occupied by a small force of the enemy. There are several towns of the name of Osceola; but probably the one alluded to is Osceola, in Mississippi county, Arkansas, on the Mississippi river, eighty-seven miles above Memphis.

[From the New York World of Dec 13.]

The advance of Gen. Warren upon the line of the Weldon road, in the direction of Weldon, is invested with considerable importance, and its object is no little mystery. It is made in formidable strength, and is well supported. If Weldon is really the destination of this wing

of the army, the movement must have been made with a view to destroy Lee's line of communications, and thereby act indirectly upon Petersburg and Richmond; still it would seem that a movement upon Burksville junction would have been attended with more immediate and decisive results.

Since Gen. Grant's occupation of the upper portion of the Weldon road, the enemy has been confined to the Southside and Danville roads for direct means of communication with the South. He has also used the Weldon railroad below Stony creek station to a considerable extent, wagoning supplies from that station to a favorable point upon the Southside road, and thence to Petersburg. In order to facilitate transportation, he had caused to be constructed a branch leading from Stony creek station, over the turnpike in a southwesterly direction, to the Southside road. This was nearly completed when General Gregg made his reconnoissance on the 30th ult., and has now doubtless been fully destroyed by Gen. Warren's advance.

Weldon is an important point, and commands the seaboard and Roanoke road leading from Norfolk, and the Gaston and Roanoke valley, leading to Clarksville. The latter road is part of the grand chain of southern communication, and if held, can materially interfere with the movement of supplies for Lee's army, or the dispatch of troops to aid the armies in departments south of this point. Weldon is situated upon the Roanoke river, a stream which is navigable nearly its entire distance from Plymouth, which has recently been captured by our forces. It is also within fifteen miles of Weldon on the Chowan river, which is also navigable for quite a large class of gunboats.

Since General Warren's movement various theories have been advanced respecting his intentions. The Richmond and Petersburg papers assert that the movement is really toward Weldon. Some northern military critics have declared that the expedition intended to swing around upon the Southside road, and endeavor to sever that important line of communication. Others of this class have associated with the movement a co-operation on the part of the fleet in Albemarle Sound, which should penetrate the Roanoke and Chowan rivers sufficiently far to open communication with General Warren when he should reach Weldon. Others still look upon it as a grand reconnoissance made for the purpose of ascertaining the true position of Lee's army, and to aid in drawing off part of the rebel force, so that General Grant may make a demonstration upon the immediate defenses of Richmond. Whichever theory is correct will be shown very soon. In the meantime, it is believed that every portion of General Grant's command is prepared for active operations, which are intended to seriously disconcert Lee's plans, and materially change the position of his army. Lee cannot suffer General Warren to progress unopposed to his destination, whether it be Weldon or Brecksville Junction, and if he withdraws any large number of his troops from Petersburg or Richmond to operate against Warren, he will weaken his lines in General Grant's immediate front to such an extent as to certainly endanger the safety of Petersburg and, perhaps, Richmond.

An Irish painter declares in an advertisement, that, among other portraits, he has a representation of "Death, as large as life."

"Have you ever broken a horse?" inquired a horse jockey. "No, not, exactly," replied Simmons, "but I have broken three or four wagons."

A grave gentleman asked us the other day if a black leg sheep were more disposed to gambol than others. We have referred the matter to General Wool.

CONSCRIPTION IN FRANCE.

From an interesting article in Temple Bar Magazine, we copy the following:

In France, when a lad arrives at the age of twenty-one, he is liable to be drafted into the army. To the poor, fate is inexorable; to the wealthy she affords a loop-hole, a chance of escape, in the shape of a substitute. Within four and twenty hours after its birth, every infant is carried by its nurse and its father, or some other relation, to the Mairie, and there its name and sex are duly entered into a vast volume in the registry office. If it be a boy, it is followed about by the police all over the country. Jeannot's parents cannot move from one place to another without giving notice to the commissaire of his migration; and when, years after this civic persecution, he enters the threshold of manhood, the luckless lad finds himself invited by the Minister of War to present himself at a military bureau.

Too well he knows the meaning of that ominous invitation, and with beating heart and heavy step obeys the summons.

He knew that it must come; his brother knew that it must come; his sister knew that it must come; yet none the less sorrowful he goes, and they accompany him to the bureau, and none the less cheerful they behold him descending the steps, with gay colors pinned to his cap in mockery of his misfortunes. For a misfortune it is regarded.

Few, very few Frenchmen, however valiantly they fight in the field, however loudly they afterwards talk of the glory of arms, rejoice when they first draw the evil scrip which tears them from their homes, from their daily business, from their future career, to run the will-o'-the-wisp chase after the problematic marshal's baton, which every French soldier is told he carries in his knapsack. If anything could reconcile him to his lot, or soften the horrors of this forcible abstraction from his family, it would be the idea of promotion which characterizes the French army; but even this fails to cheer or to compensate him for the serious check which his prospects in life receive. A cloud has descended thick and dark upon his hopes, upon the delicate little projects of love and matrimony he had formed, and at twenty-one he is compelled to abandon himself to a barren, if not a vicious course of life he detests, abandoning the designs he had probably cherished from his youth.

Such is the social phase of the conscription. Yet one hundred thousand youths are thus annually torn from their homes; by an imperial decree of 1857, the number was fixed at this high figure. Previously it was left to the discretion or caprice of the war minister, who raised it. Substitution, however, is allowed in the French army. Up to the year 1855 private agencies existed, where substitutes could be procured for a stipulated sum; since then, however, these agencies have been abolished, and the Government has entirely monopolized the business, with the view of creating a domestic fund, wherewith to encourage enlistment when the original term has expired. The price of a substitute is fixed annually, and varies considerably; yet is at any time a large sum for a youth even of the middle-classes to pay. In 1855 the sum was \$112; in 1859, \$72; and 1862, \$92.

To show how poorly voluntary enlistment succeeds in France, and also how the true campaigning is declining, we may regard the fact that whereas in 1850 8000 presented themselves to the recruiting sergeant, not more than 1192 displayed their martial zeal in 1862; so little pugnacious is our real Frenchman if left to himself. No army in the world offers greater prizes; and it would not be fair to the military system of France not to state that rapid advancement is open to every soldier, and that no man with superior education ever remains long in the ranks.