

The Camden Confederate.

VOLUME II

CAMDEN, SO. CA., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1863.

NUMBER 15

The Camden Confederate,

TWO DOLLARS A YEAR,

PAYABLE VARIABLY HALF-YEARLY IN ADVANCE.

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No deduction made, except to our regular advertising patrons.

J. T. HERSHMAN, Editor.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1863.

Fine Potatoes.

We were the favored recipient, a few days since, of a bag of extra fine Spanish yams, grown on the plantation of Mrs. A. F. COUSAR, of Bishopville. The good lady will please accept our thanks for her kind consideration.

Personal.

During the past few days, Gen. J. B. KERSHAW, Capt. T. J. WARREN and A. E. DOBY, have arrived in Camden, and will remain for a short time, with a view of recuperating. Capt. WARREN has been laboring under a severe attack of neuralgia for some weeks.—The commands of each of the above named gentlemen are reported to be in a fine condition, with but little sickness in camp.

Rumors of Peace.

Our own newspapers, as well as some of the Yankee nation, are again filled with rumors and speculations as regards peace. We regret to say we have no settled opinion as to when this most desirable boon is to be granted us. We see nothing to base such an opinion upon. The radical Republican party of the United States are still in power, and seem not to have abated anything in their wicked and evil designs.—They have a mighty cordent of armies almost encircling our entire territory; and their leading journals are ferociously urging them on to deeds of blood and carnage. The Democratic party, who are in the ascendant in some of their States, and who are looked to for terms of accommodation between the two Confederacies, seem not to fully comprehend the nature of the crisis with which they have to deal, nor the manner of dealing with it. They still prate about "the Union as it was, and the Constitution as it is." They still complain more about the manner of conducting the war than of the fact that the war exists.

There can be no doubt but both the Republican and Democratic parties are deeply disappointed in their early expectations. They both thought the South would be an easy conquest; and if their purpose had been realized, it is not likely that we should soon have heard of any division of sentiment amongst them. The Democrats are foremost in being awakened to their error. They are the trading, cunning, crafty party of the North, and finding that the subjugation idea "will not pay," their attention is being directed now to bargain-making, in which they always have shown themselves our superiors. In the old Union they always found the South liberal and yielding, and in controversies involving the interests of the two sections, they managed to get up a compromise favorable to their own section. Their principles and policy was to divide the honors and take all the spoils. In view of these facts we would warn the people of the South, and most especially our diplomatists, to beware of the rising party at the North.

We must not deceive ourselves concerning these speculations about peace. It is not yet within our grasp. The Lincoln dynasty has not yet fulfilled its destiny. Kentucky has yet to be drawn out of the old Union, and be made to take her place among the Confederate States of the South, and then the Northern people has to be taught by the same tyranny, that their only security for the enjoyment of religious and civil liberty is in their State governments. That it is the State governments that gives the citizen protection to person, property, character and pursuits in life—and therefore the citizens first allegiance is due to the States—that confederations are, and can only be erected by independent sovereignties, and that each creation does not transfer the allegiance of the citizen to such confederation. When they have learned these important fundamental truths, and begin in earnest to act upon them, then we may look for peace, and not until then.

The State of Illinois, for instance, could at once give the country peace. If that State, in her sovereign capacity, would give notice to the Lincoln dynasty that she intended to withdraw her citizens from the army, and negotiate a treaty of peace and amity with the Confederate States, the war would at once be put an end to. That there are growing symptoms of this most desirable result, there can be no doubt, but when it is to be accomplished is still in the future.

Recruits Wanted.

By reference to our advertising columns it will be seen that our gallant young townsman, Capt. W. CLYBURN, is desirous of recruiting twenty-five or thirty good able-bodied men for the Moffat Rifles. He requests those desirous of enlisting to report to him at Wilmington, N. C., or to the editor of the Confederate, Camden, S. C., who will take pleasure in giving the necessary information. Fifty dollars bounty paid.

Situation of Affairs off the Bar—Highly Important News.

Yesterday forenoon passed in the city and harbor without any stirring news or incident of note. About one o'clock a telegram from Fort Sumter announced that a strange steamer, evidently an iron-clad, had just hove in sight. The number of the ordinary blockading vessels strung along the horizon was eleven. With a good glass the outline of the iron-clad could be plainly seen from the city wharves, and an endless variety of rumors and conjectures in relation to her identity and designs were soon afloat.

Meantime, another strange sail made her appearance in the offing. She proved to be the British steam frigate Cadmus, 21 guns, bringing despatches for the British Consul and for the Petral, now anchored in the harbor. At three o'clock one of the boats of the Cadmus brought the despatches to the city in charge of a Lieutenant.

We have learned from good authority, that the Cadmus brings intelligence that an expedition of a very formidable character has been prepared to operate against the City of Charleston, and that the enemy is now nearly ready for the attack. Mr. Robert Bunch, the British Consul, has orders to go aboard the Cadmus and to get to Havana with the least possible delay. We understand that he expects to leave on Saturday next.

From the Cadmus we have information that the mysterious steamer off North Channel is the Yankee iron-clad frigate New Ironsides. She can hardly cross the bar, as she is said to draw nineteen feet water. Her object, for the present, probably, is merely to protect the blockaders from another attack. The Ironsides, it is believed, came from Broad River. The transports plying southward from Beaufort, N. C., are probably bound for Port Royal, as the rendezvous of the land forces of the expedition.

In our naval success last week the enemy has had a foretaste of our strength upon the water. But the preparations for the attack on our city were matured previously, and it is not believed that our naval victory will either prevent or postpone it. It is well, however, that our defenses are now complete, and that we were able to strike the first blow in the struggle to hold our good old seaport. The blow, we trust, will encourage our defenders, on land and sea, to redouble their activity and vigilance, and to spare no pains to give a bloody welcome to the assailants.—*Mercury 3d inst.*

Impending Anarchy in the North.

A correspondent of the New York Herald, writing from Albany and speaking of the late disgraceful proceedings of the Legislature, says.

They prove clearly that we are to-day standing on a volcano, liable at any moment to break forth with all its fury. It proves also that the public mind is right for revolution, and is in that condition not to be trifled with, either by Jacobin abolition faction or any other. It is as liable to break out in one place as another; and when it once breaks loose, when the first blow is struck or the first pistol fired—which at one time was imminent here—the infection will spread, and no human power can stop it. That this is the true condition of the public mind at present, and that daily events are developing this sentiment and ripening for the future, no one who has carefully watched their progress in different localities of the North can help but admit. It proves that the perilous hour of the nation is now upon us, and that we are fast approaching a period when anarchy will be the order of the day unless our rulers take such steps as are necessary to stay the storm.

The administration at Washington have not communicated with Governor Seymour or any of his officials since he was placed in office; also, the movements of Gen. Wool, calling upon the militia to report to him instead of the Governor. They consider this as evidence that it is the determination of the authorities at Washington to force an issue upon the State. Well may it be asked whither we are drifting?

IMPORTANT IF TRUE.—We find the following paragraph in the Starksville (Miss.) Banner of the 17th ult. "We have just learned from a reliable and authentic source, and we accord full credence to the report, that Senator Bright's wife, of Indiana, crossed General Bragg's lines in possession of sealed despatches for President Davis: the contents of which, as announced, solicit our Government to receive into the Confederacy the States of Illinois and Indiana, and in fact all the States west of the Mississippi. We do not know the condition, but presume free navigation of the river the paramount one. This will meet with a cheerful and thrilling response in the hearts of our people."

Brilliant Naval Victory.

At about 11 o'clock on Friday night, the Palmetto State, in command of Capt. Rutledge, and with the Flag Officer, Commodore D. N. Ingraham, on board, together with the Chicora, commanded by Capt. John R. Tucker, cast off from the wharf, and with their prows turned seaward, steamed across the Cooper. The moon was shining brightly, there was not a cloud on the face of the blue sky, and the surface of the water was smooth and glassy as a mill-pond. Nature seemed to smile upon the enterprise, and water, sky and wind presented a most delightful manifestation of the divine favor towards our just and noble cause.

Having reached Fort Sumter, they came to anchor, and there awaited the going down of the moon.

At three o'clock the report of two guns echoed through the air. That was the signal for their departure, and once more the gunboats are in motion. Silently they move through the darkness, urging their course with all speed, so as to come upon the unsuspecting war vessels before the dawn of day.

But deep darkness is still on the deep, and they are near the enemy. Commodore Ingraham describes a black form just ahead, and the sharp bow of the Palmetto State is turned upon the object. Nearer and nearer with all steam on moves the iron vessel. A crash is heard, and the ram of the gunboat penetrates the wooden side of one of Lincoln's blockaders. And while the water was washing into the hole, the guns of the Palmetto State opened upon the hostile vessel.

The officer in command of the Mercedita, seeing it was folly to contend with such an antagonist, immediately struck his flag and surrendered. All this time Captain Tucker, of the Chicora, was laying about him vigorously right and left. The shell, from his guns set fire to a large ship-of-war, and she lowered her flag. He sunk, it is believed, another, and the two monsters threw shot and shell at the other vessels, that seeing the fate that had befallen their comrades, turned their bows to the sea and were making their best speed to get beyond the reach of danger. Not one of them showed any disposition to continue the fight, but careless of the honor of that flag they profess to adore, their cowardly hearts thoroughly possessed by fear, they fled with all the speed their sails and engines enabled them to command. But though they fled so precipitately, we have no doubt that many of the seventeen carried away with them some painful remembrance of that terrible surprise, while it is positively known that several who succeeded in making good their escape, were severely injured.

When the morning light broke, not one of the fleet was in sight. The gun-boats cruised many miles seaward from the bar, but the glasses revealed nothing within the range of vision.

OFFICIAL DESPATCH FROM COMMODORE INGRAHAM.—The following official despatch, brought by the steamer Chesterfield, was received in the city about 12 m., on Saturday:

"GUN-BOAT PALMETTO STATE,
January 31, 1863.

I went out last night. This vessel ran into and struck the United States steamer Mercedita, when she sent an officer with a boat's crew to the Palmetto State and surrendered. The officers and crew were paroled. Captain Tucker thinks he sunk one vessel, and set another on fire, when she struck her flag. The blockading fleet has gone to the Southward and Eastward out of sight.

(Signed) D. N. INGRAHAM,
Flag Officer board Palmetto State."

Proclamation.

HEADQUARTERS NAVAL AND LAND FORCES,
CHARLESTON, S. C., Jan. 31, 1863.

At about the hour of 5 o'clock this morning, the Confederate States naval forces on this station attacked the United States blockading force off the harbor of the city of Charleston, and sunk, dispersed or drove off, and out of sight for the time, the entire hostile fleet.

Therefore, we, the undersigned, commanders respectively of the Confederate States naval and land forces in this quarter, do hereby formally declare the blockade by the United States of the said city of Charleston, S. C., to be raised by a superior force of the Confederate States, from and after this 31st day of January, A. D. 1863.

(Signed) G. T. BEAUREGARD,
General Commanding.

(Signed) D. N. INGRAHAM,
Flag Officer Com'dg Naval Forces in S. C.

Official:
THOMAS JORDAN, Chief of Staff.

The War in Mexico.

There is a report of a reverse to the French arms in Mexico from Havana on the 18th ult. Three hundred Mexican cavalry surprised a French force of four thousand men near Rio Seco. In the darkness of the night, the French shot each other indiscriminately. Their loss is estimated at one thousand. General Negreote, with ten thousand Mexicans, made a sortie on the French from Puebla, and routed the division, fourteen thousand strong.

Battle near Suffolk Virginia—Confederates Victorious.

RICHMOND, February 1.—An official despatch to Gen. G. W. Smith, says Gen. Pryor was attacked on Saturday by a heavy force of the enemy, eight miles from Suffolk. After a hard fight of three hours the enemy was repulsed with heavy loss. Gen. Pryor at last accounts, held the entire battle field and the enemy were in full retreat. Our loss is considerable. Among the killed is the gallant Col. Podge.

Brilliant Exploit.

Our community were greatly elated, says the Charleston Courier of Monday last, Friday evening by the stirring news of the capture of the gunboat Isaac P. Smith, in Stono River, near Battery Island, between Legare's place and Grimball's plantation.

The news reached the city about seven o'clock, and the gratifying intelligence spread with great rapidity. Our troops were commended by Lieutenant Colonel Jos. A. Yates.

The engagement commenced at four o'clock and lasted one hour, when the Isaac P. Smith was unconditionally surrendered. Another gunboat was attacked by the forces under Major J. Welsman Brown but managed to escape, not, however, without being very badly crippled.

The Isaac P. Smith is a three masted steamer, carrying thirteen guns. The number of prisoners taken is represented at from one hundred and fifty to two hundred. They are expected to arrive in the city this morning.

Important from Vicksburg.

VICKSBURG, February 3.—A Yankee iron-clad ram succeeded in passing our batteries this morning. Several shots were fired at her, but only three struck.—She attempted, when opposite the steamer Vicksburg to grapple her, but was prevented by our sharpshooters. The shots which struck her seemed to make not the slightest impression. Our forces are all on the alert and ready for any more desiring to attempt the experiment.

Later.—The boat which ran past our batteries this morning is said to be the ram Queen of the West. She attempted to butt the steamer Vicksburg, striking her heavily on the larboard side, without doing any damage.

Ten deserters from the 31st Wisconsin Regiment arrived here last evening. They state that great dissatisfaction exists in the Yankee army, and they confirm the arrival of Grant's army, making an effective force of from 50,000 to 60,000 men. Grant superseded Mc. Clelland, and takes command of the whole expedition.

From the West.

MOBILE, Feb. 4.—There is a growing dissatisfaction among the Yankees. One brigade had been placed under guard in the fortifications at Memphis. Artillery had been placed at all the stations on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad.

JACKSON, Feb. 3.—New Orleans papers received at Pouchacoula, announce the raising of the blockade at Sabine Pass, and the capture of three Federal vessels by the Confederates. No particulars received.

From Savannah.

SAVANNAH, February 1.—At three o'clock this afternoon, an iron-clad and a gun-boat appeared within two miles of Thunderbolt Battery, dipped their flags, fired two shots and retired. Thunderbolt is four miles South of Savannah.

SAVANNAH, February 1.—Two of the Abolition gun-boats came up to St. Mary's on Monday last. One went up the river and set fire to several plantations. Capt. Harrison's company of cavalry fired on them, when it hauled off to a distance out of range of our small arms, and shelled the shore furiously. The other boat was landing men at St. Mary's last Tuesday.

BROWNLOW AND THE METHODISTS.—Parson Brownlow has issued an address to the people of Tennessee, in which he takes note of a recent conference of the Methodists, of which body he is a member, held at Athens, in that State. That conference, it seems, suspended all ministers from their office, who were Unionists, and Brownlow says, issued to the rest a commission to the effect: "Go ye into all the South, and preach Jeff Davis to every creature." He says he purposes to call the loyal preachers and members of the church together, at an early day for the purpose of declaring themselves the church and claiming the church property, and maintaining their title before the Courts. He also says: "We will expel the rebels from the church, in that chapter in the Wesleyan Discipline which requires obedience to the powers that be, and a ready and cheerful obedience to the laws of the land!"

VALLANDIGHAM, in his late speech in the Yankee Congress, said: "You can never subdue the seceded States. Two years of fearful experience have taught you that. Why carry on the war? If you persist the whole Northwest will go with the South. The day which divides the North from the South, the self same day decrees the eternal divorce between the West and the East."