



THE NEW SOUTH.

PORT ROYAL, SAT., DEC. 6, 1862.

The unprecedented demand for the last number of THE NEW SOUTH at this post entirely exhausted the edition before Beaufort, Fort Pulaski and the other posts of the Department could be supplied. In compliance therefore, with a general request, the more important news is reprinted on the outside of this week's paper. Amends are thus made to our waiting readers for their unavoidable disappointment.

Sabbath in the Camps.

When we look back upon the gloomy period of threatened pestilence through which we have passed, we are moved to deep thankfulness to God for His great mercies in staying the ravages of the destroyer. It would seem, almost, that this disease had visited us as a warning to turn our hearts more to Him, and make us feel how vain are our plans and endeavors, how blind our foresight, how powerless our strength without His aid and comfort. It should serve to awaken us to a sense of our duty to God, and to remind us, who are too prone to place our reliance altogether upon man's feeble efforts, how dependent we are upon His Omnipotent will and all-pervading goodness alike to protect and to guide us. We were deeply impressed with these thoughts upon Thanksgiving day. Following so close upon the heels of the receding monster whose presence brought terror and dismay, all must have felt how appropriate was the occasion to render the thanks which were due to God for our safety. In this connection we are sorry to learn how little attention is paid to the proper observance of the Sabbath in the camps, both here and at Beaufort. In many, perhaps we may say the majority, of the camps no service marks God's holy day; no prayer ascends to His footstool; no note of praise is uttered to His name. Is it possible that such apathetic indifference can exist in a Christian army, battling in a Christian cause? Do men think that because they are away from home and free from the conventionalities and requirements of society, there is no longer necessity of attending divine service—no longer need of seeking His divine grace and mercy. The true soldier must be a Christian. The man who stands ready at all times to face death—to lay down his life in his country's cause—must have that contempt of death, that strength of heart, which is derived only from implicit reliance on his Creator.

The recent order of President Lincoln enjoining a proper observance of the Sabbath by the officers and men of the military and naval services, will be hailed with joy by every Christian and patriot. President Lincoln could go no further than to desire and enjoy an "orderly observance of the Sabbath,"—adopting the words of Washington that "at this time of public distress, men may find enough to do in the service of God and their country, without abandoning themselves to vice and immorality." It is to be hoped now that the Chaplains will do their duty and observe the Sabbath with regular morning services, so that on that day songs of praise and thanksgiving may be heard ascending from every camp.

Executions in Our Army.

A short time ago we took occasion to notice the frequency of desertions in our army, and urged the necessity of enforcing the penalties prescribed by the articles of war, as the only means of stopping the evil. The execution of Lunt last Monday indicates a determination of the Government to

no longer allow justice to be perverted by misguided mercy, but in the more aggravated cases such as Lunt's to make the offender's death the example which his life had not exhibited. The Richmond correspondent of the London Times, in a late letter, amid a labyrinth of falsehood, blunders into the following approach to truth:

"But in the South, in spite of its lawless population, a certain rough discipline is not impossible, and an incident which occurred two days ago in this city has never been attempted in the Northern posts—the execution by shooting of two deserters, and the administration of fifty lashes to a third. Such executions have already not been unfrequent in the South; whereas, in the North, after the defeat of Pope, hundreds of deserters crossed the Potomac every night, of whom it is not improbable that forty per cent. have again enlisted, accepting the enormous bounties proffered by the North."

The wording of the sentence leads to the inference that not one execution for desertion to the enemy has taken place in our army. Such is not the fact. Johnson, a cavalry soldier, belonging to the army of the Potomac, forfeited his life about this time last year for this crime. But his, like Lunt's, was an extreme case, and our Government—reluctant to violate that spirit of kindness and forbearance which is characteristic of its institutions—has heretofore been too lenient in its treatment of such offenders.

This veracious correspondent of the London Times, by the way, is said to be John Mitchel, the exiled Irish patriot, who sought this country as an asylum from oppression. This grateful Irishman is now engaged in villifying the Government which protected him—manufacturing lies to tickle the palates of his British persecutors. Perhaps it is the nature of the animal to resist all constituted forms of Government. He is a full-fledged rebel, owns a plantation stocked with fat negroes, and has two sons in the Southern army. He has stretched the truth so much that it will not be surprising if he should yet stretch a rope.

A HARD CHARACTER FROM THE GRANITE STATE.—Somebody, professing to be Orderly Sergeant George C. Harris, of Company H, Third New Hampshire Regiment of Volunteers, desires to get a reputation as a poet. The "divine afflatus" not having been breathed upon him at his birth, he does not hesitate to appropriate the inspirations of others, and foist them off as his own. Last week we published a beautiful little hymn sent us by Sergt. Harris, as the production of his genius, and a scintillation of his poetic nature. The gem flashed in our last issue, in a setting of Sergt. Harris' initials and THE NEW SOUTH'S announcement of its originality. Since then our attention has been called to the fact that the verses may be found on the 52d page of the small army hymn-book, and were first published in the *Atlantic Monthly* last year as written by Oliver Wendell Holmes. Purloining the product of another's brains is by no means rare, but such a bare-faced theft as this is seldom attempted. Harris' comrades had better watch him closely until he gives evidence of obedience to the Eighth Commandment.

LOCAL NEWS.

OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT.—In view of the combustible material composing the buildings and storehouses here, it was deemed prudent to take some precautions to guard against the total destruction of a large amount of valuable property, in event of any of these structures taking fire. As a guard against this danger, two Fire Engines and a quantity of hose were purchased in New York and brought here by Mr. John A. Smith, private of Co. I, 47th N. Y. Vols., who was selected for his knowledge of fire matters, gained during a long connection with the New York department. The engines are both side lever, piano build, and cost \$800. Besides these we have two engines found at Beaufort, which, though not in very good repair, are fit for service. A Hook-and-Ladder Truck is to be constructed from materials here. One engine will be placed at the Hospital—one at the Provost Marshal's quarters—one at the Post Bakery, and one in Union Square. General Terry has issued a general order organizing the brigade after the following manner: The Brigade consists of one Chief of Brigade, (John A. Smith), four Foremen of Engine Companies, one Foreman of Hook-and-Ladder Company and five men to each of the Fire Companies. The men comprising the Brigade are all detached from the 47th N. Y. Vols., and relieved from all other duty. In addition to the members of the Brigade, a detail of men will be made from each of the regiments at the Post, whose duty it will be to repair

and work the engines in case of fire. The men thus detailed will be relieved from no other duty, but will, unless upon guard at the time, repair to their respective engines whenever the alarm of fire shall be given.

The Chief of Brigade and the Foremen of the Engine and Hook-and-Ladder Companies will constitute a board of Fire Warden for the purpose of examining all the buildings of the Post, and the stoves and fire-places in them; they will report to the Commandant of the Post all such buildings, stoves and fireplaces as in their opinion are unsafe and will make suggestions in relation to the location and construction of buildings as in their judgment may be necessary.

Mr. Smith is at present superintending the construction of a small dock, to enable the engines to take suction from Mud Creek. Cisterns are also being made to contain a supply of water in case of necessity.

NEWS FROM CHARLESTON.—Early in the week a party of five negroes—four men and a woman—arrived here from the blockading fleet off Charleston. They are refugees, having escaped from the city on the night of the 22d ult., and made their way past the rebel batteries and Fort Sumter through the darkness to one of our vessels. The condition of affairs in the city they describe as being wretched. Provisions of every kind are scarce, and the prices above the reach of the poor, who mainly are dependent upon public charity for support. Anticipating an early attack by our iron-clads the people are flying from the city to Greenfield and Somerville where immense frame buildings have been constructed by the Charleston Municipal authorities for the temporary shelter of the poorer classes. Among the rulers there are dissensions and divided counsels respecting what shall be done in case our fleet run the gauntlet of the batteries and appear before the city. The "destruction before surrender" party, however, was fast losing prestige, and rather than lose all, there was a general willingness expressed that the Yankees should occupy the city even as New Orleans is occupied. The two rams which were built for the protection of the harbor have proved a partial failure, as the engines were not of sufficient power to drive the vessels through the water at the requisite speed.

THE COTTON CROP.—The *New York Journal of Commerce* in speaking of the cotton crop here, says: "Recent advices from Port Royal state that the new crop is beginning to come in, and promises well. The first cargo may be expected to arrive here within a fortnight. The entire cotton crop this fall, from the Carolina Sea Islands, is estimated at not less than 3500 bales. This has grown and will be gathered under the direction of the Government." This statement is very far from correct. The cotton found here and gathered last year is said to have amounted to 2000 bales and realized the sum of \$600,000. In this proportion 3500 bales would realize more than \$1,000,000. Now we learn from Gen'l. Saxton that the crop this year will not amount to more than one hundred thousand dollars. The small yield is accounted for by the fact that the seed was not put in the ground until six weeks after the usual time for planting, and the plant was therefore not sufficiently strong and hardy to resist the attacks of the cotton worm.

RECRUITS FOR THE NEGRO BRIGADE.—General Saxton returned last Tuesday, from an expedition to Fernandina, on the steamer *Ben Deford*, bringing with him one hundred recruits for the First South Carolina Volunteers. The *Ben Deford* has gone to Georgetown for more negroes who desire to enlist. The regiment is under command of the Rev. T. W. Higginson—a Unitarian minister, who arrived here a short time ago. Mr. Higginson is possessed of a large amount of literary talent, and his genius has enriched our literature with many beautiful gems of thought. We notice in the *Atlantic Monthly* for December, an article from his pen, entitled the "Procession of the Flowers," which abounds in elegant metaphor, and poetic thought. Mr. Higginson has laid down the pen to take up the sword. May he be able to wield the latter as well as he does the former.

SUPPLIES FOR MAN AND BEAST.—The Brig. *Benjamin Delano* and the Schooner *Edwin R. Bennett* have arrived, bringing 150 head of beef cattle. The *Benjamin Delano* comes from Hatteras Inlet, with cattle which were shipped from New York on the 9th ult., on the steamer *Geo. Peabody*, for this port. This steamer, for the safety of which we felt great apprehension put into Hatteras Inlet on the 19th ult., during the gale of that day, for a harbor, dragged her anchors and grounded. She was afterwards got off and has gone back New York. The cattle are all fat and in good condition, seeming to have suffered very little. Praise be to Allah!