

THE FREE SOUTH.



BEAUFORT, S. C., SEPT. 19, 1863.

Agents wanted in the different Regiments of this Department, for the FREE SOUTH.

TO OUR SOLDIER FRIENDS.

An excellent plan to secure a copy of the Free South every week is to subscribe for THREE MONTHS FOR 50 CENTS. Your paper will then be sent by mail and will follow your regiment wherever it may move. Soldiers should send the Free South to their friends at home. It would be almost as good as a

WEEKLY LETTER.

and will contain all the news of the department, and full lists of the killed and wounded and deaths in hospital. Sent by mail at \$2.00 per year in advance or

50 CENTS FOR THREE MONTHS.

The President's Letter.

The President's letter to Hon. James C. Conkling which will be found on our fourth page will be read by the soldiers of the republic with satisfaction and applause. In strong honest words he vindicates the course pursued by him since the war began. He shows plainly the fallacy of the idea that any terms of peace acceptable to rebels and honorable to the government can be agreed upon while they have armies in the field. He makes it clear that while their large armies are unsubdued there can be no compromise which the nation would tolerate. He shows that experience has vindicated the wisdom of the Emancipation proclamation and the employment of negroes as soldiers. Most of the important successes of the war have been won since that policy was inaugurated. None of the dreadful consequences predicted by its enemies have come to pass. There have been no bloody insurrections, no midnight massacres. The black soldiers have proved amenable to discipline, have fought bravely and have not shocked humanity by wild excesses. His tribute to the brave men who have won for us our victories and for themselves fame, is sincere and touching.

His concluding paragraph ought to bring the blush of shame to those who are denouncing the government of their country in a moment when she needs the steadfast sympathy of her sons. We are now proving in this struggle that "among freemen, there can be no successful appeal from the ballot to the bullet," and it would be idle and stultifying to stop before the proof is complete and convincing. The principles on which our fathers founded the nation must not be sacrificed because a few timid or unsound souls think that peace is to be preferred before national safety and honor. This rebellion once put down, there will never be another, and therefore it is that we are willing to make the sacrifices needed to put it down. When peace and union are fully re-established, "there will be some white men unable to forget that, with malignant heart and deceitful speech, they have striven to hinder it." This memory will haunt all copperheads and traitors to their graves; while loyal men will have the comforting remembrance that in the great war for the preservation of the Union, they stood by the brave and patriotic man who was fairly elected to the Presidential office, and who performed his duties with firmness and fidelity, undisturbed by the nervous fears of weak-hearted friends, or the abuse and clamor of vindictive enemies.

The Monument to Col. Shaw.

The Treasurer of the fund for the erection of a monument to Colonel Robert G. Shaw, reports the following sums as the result of collections made in the colored churches in this vicinity.

Beaufort Baptist Church	\$58 77
Beaufort Methodist Church	9 52
Brick Church, Ladies Island	107 10
Bluff Church	8 75
Paris Island	27 62
St. Helena Village	17 63
Port Royal Island	20 35
Total	\$239 74

Adj. Gen. Thomas has issued a special order dated Vicksburg, Aug. 18, announcing his purpose to continue the organization of all able bodied male negroes into the military service of the United States. He intends also to take such measures as may prove beneficial to the moral and physical condition of those unfit for military service. In view of the injurious effects of forming camps and settlements of negroes within the lines of our army, where large numbers are allowed to remain in idleness, he orders that hereafter women and children shall be allowed to remain on such plantations as may be within our lines. The same evil effects of bringing large numbers of idle negroes into camps has been severely felt in this department, and Gen. Saxton has ever been alive to the importance of finding a remedy. Had it not been for the demand for lumber by the military authorities he would have had hundreds of houses scattered over the plantations, to which families would have been removed and required to subsist themselves. This improvement is now going energetically forward under the supervision of Mr. D. C. Wilson. Before Christmas he expects to have four hundred houses completed on St. Helena, giving accommodations to 1200 persons.

Last Saturday the raising of a new garrison flag at the camp of the First Artillery, was made the occasion of quite a pleasant time. A bountiful lunch was prepared by the officers, for a few invited guests, and after some excellent music the party repaired to the parade ground, where the men were drawn up forming two sides of a square. The flag was raised to the top of the staff by the fair hands of Miss Trembly amidst the cheers of the assembled soldiers and spectators. A salute of thirteen guns was fired in honor of the event by the battery. Captain Langdon and his brother officers may well be proud of their command, and will, we are sure, when the opportunity offers, add new honors to the Star Spangled banner.

We learn that the President has received a letter from General Grant, in which he not only pledges himself to aid Adjutant-General Thomas in his labors, but also heartily endorses the emancipation proclamation and the raising of colored troops; and earnestly expresses the opinion, that with the latter, great results can be attained. For a distance of ten or fifteen miles on both sides of the Mississippi, nearly all the slaves have been run off in the interior by the rebel planters. Gen. Grant has sent out two expeditions for the purpose of liberating such slaves as could be found, and to spread the glad tidings amongst those still in bondage.

The official report of Gen. McClellan was received to the Adjutant-Generals office about a month ago. We understand it is very voluminous, comprising from 700 to 900 folios foolscap, and the accompanying documents cover nearly three times as much more paper. The pressure of more important business has thus far precluded the possibility, of its examination by the proper officials. Its publication, with accompaniments, will undoubtedly require a special appropriation by Congress, and its appearance in print at present is not to be thought of.

Our citizens will be glad to be assured that we are to have no "ice famine" in South Carolina, whatever may be the case in New York. Mr. Lloyd has had energy and capital enough to bring an abundant supply, and is about fitting up another large ice house on Bay street. He deserves the thanks of the community for rescuing us from the small pedlars who have heretofore conducted the ice business.

Remember the Ice House hours are from six to eight a. m., and from six to seven p. m.

The Exchange of Prisoners - Status of Officers of Negro Regiments.

The exchange of prisoners is delayed by the unwillingness of the rebels to eat their words about negro soldiers.

The first interview between Gen. Meredith, the recently appointed commissioner of exchange, and Mr. Ould, the rebel commissioner, took place at City Point on the 23d ult. Some points in dispute were arranged, but arrangements for the exchange of paroled prisoners were not completed, and negotiations are still in progress. The imprisonment of John Morgan and his officers in the Ohio penitentiary has brought the rebel authorities to terms, and it has been agreed that Col. Streight, and the officers of his command, who have been so long similarly imprisoned, shall be placed on the footing of other prisoners of war. This will probably be responded to by the restoration of Morgan and his officers to a similar status. Gen. Neal Dow has been turned over to the civil authorities. A rebel brigadier general will immediately be placed in close confinement as a hostage for him. The employees of the sanitary commission, who were captured in Maryland during Lee's last campaign are to be immediately released, they having been engaged on a mission of mercy which included the wounded and suffering of both armies. The negro prisoners are an embarrassment to the rebels. They object to exchanging them as equals for white prisoners, perhaps taking their market value into account, but they will be brought to terms, as we have a great excess of prisoners in our hands. Among these are some 1,800 confined on Johnson's Island, near Sandusky, Ohio. At Fort Delaware are 600 officers and 9,000 privates.

The President has been interrogated upon the subject of the exchange of prisoners, by the father of a New York officer of one of the colored regiments, who is a prisoner in Richmond. Mr. Lincoln said he would do all in his power to effect the release of these officers, and all others now prisoners, but he was not prepared, nor would he consent to make the release of officers of colored regiments an indispensable condition to a renewal of exchanges. The Government was prepared to exchange man for man with the rebels, even though they should refuse to release the officers of colored regiments. This would be done because the Government considered it unfair to make the case of a few officers a test question, when a much larger number would be benefitted by a resumption of exchanges, and the question of exchanging these officers left open for future consideration. He wished sincerely that they could be released speedily, but Jeff. Davis was a party to be consulted, and they could not be exchanged unless by some agreement with the rebel authorities. The question arising in regard to these officers was not covered by the cartel, and the officers of these regiments knew when they entered the service the peculiar risks incidental to their position, and for the present must endure the disagreeable consequences. The President, however, assured the gentleman that any unusual or barbarous treatment of such officers, or of colored soldiers, would cause retaliation.

THE LATE COM. RODGERS.—A Hartford paper says of Commander Rodgers, who fell before Fort Wagner: "His family on both sides have been connected to the U. S. Navy from the first. His father was Com. George W. Rodgers, who died in the service off the coast of Brazil some years ago, and his mother was a sister of Commodore O. H. Perry, of Lake Erie fame. His uncle was Commodore John Rodgers who surrendered his disabled ship, the frigate President, to the English fleet off New York, in the last war. His brother, C. R. P. Rodgers, is the fleet captain of the South Atlantic Squadron."

The Philadelphia Press says it is not desirous of instructing Gov. Seymour in arithmetic, but it must say that he does three bad sums at once. His little calculation in simple addition not only multiplies the number of rioters, but subtracts soldiers from the army.

We are indebted to Purser McManus of the *Fulton* for our files of Northern papers.

A lady complaining that her husband was dead to fashionable amusements, he replied, "But then, my dear, you make me alive to the expense."

The Anglo-Rebel Iron-Clads.

(From the Tribune of the 9th.)

From a passenger by the steamship *Scotia*, who enjoyed peculiarly favorable facilities for becoming familiar with the facts, we learn that the Anglo-rebel iron-clads are being pushed forward to completion with the utmost vigor. Two 2,000 ton iron-clads, combining the ram and monitor principles, are being built by Laird at Birkenhead. One of these is already launched. They are plated with four-inch iron; each carry two turrets, 12 inches thick, and have formidable rams projecting from their stems. Each turret will carry two 200-pounder rifled guns, and each vessel will be armed in addition with two 100-pounder stern chasers. The guns were ready at Preston, Lancashire, and would be shipped and put on board in the Irish Channel. The ram which was launched was expected to sail within four days after the *Scotia* left, and the second would be launched by the time the first sailed. The destination of these powerful vessels was reported to be the United States; but nothing definite was known on that subject.

In order to facilitate their speedy completion, work was kept up on them day and night, several gangs being employed to relieve each other throughout the twenty-four hours. We are inclined to doubt the statement that either of these rams will be ready to sail so soon as was expected. And for this reason, our informant, describing the progress on the first ram, states that when he last saw her, just before leaving Liverpool, her smoke stack was up, one turret was on deck ready to be put in place, and the other about to be begun. Now here, where we are supposed to understand these matters pretty thoroughly, it takes several weeks to set up the turrets, and then the work of boring the ports, fitting the shutters, and other operations consume a good deal of time. It is evident, however, that no effort nor expense was being spared to push forward the work. Sinclair and Maury, of the rebel navy were daily in Laird's yard, inspecting the progress of the vessels, and urging the builders forward.

Ram No. 1 was launched under the French flag, permission for that purpose being given by the French Consul at Liverpool. And what is more, the craft still flew the tri-color when our informant left. The destination of these vessels is well known to the British Government. Our agents have closely followed them from the beginning, and the evidence accumulated of their contraband character has all been laid before the ministry. Yet, thus far, no effort has been made to restrain them from sailing.

But these are not all the offensive preparations now in progress against us in "neutral" Great Britain. A large iron-clad sloop of war is well under way in the yard of a Liverpool ship builder, whose name our informant has forgotten, and five others of a very formidable character are in course of construction on the Clyde. One of these, now building by James & George Thompson, over 4,000 tons burden, will have four or five inches of iron plating upon 18 inches teak. She will not, however, be ready to sail for some months.

On the day before the *Scotia* sailed the captain of Ram No. 1 was heard to state at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, that he would command that vessel. He remarked, in conversation, that he was a Southerner and a rebel; but more discreet than Maury and Sinclair, he refrained from going near the iron-clads, so as to avoid bringing suspicion upon their destination. Public opinion in Liverpool appeared to have settled down to this point; that the neutrality laws of England had been evaded long enough, and it was time that the farce came to an end. The merchants and public men had come to the conclusion that unless the Government interfered to stop these pirates from sailing, very grave complications would arise between Great Britain and the United States, which, it was by no means improbable, would culminate in open hostilities. Whether their opinion is founded on facts, only the result can determine.

Horatio Ames, of Falls Village, proposes to make fifty 300-pounder wrought-iron rifled cannon of ten inch caliber, to weigh about 35,000 pounds, to carry 100 pounds of powder and a 300 pound ball to a charge; price \$1 per pound. The gun selected for trial shall stand one thousand rounds without bursting. The first gun to be delivered within eight months from date of contract, and one gun each eighteen days following.

In what case is it absolutely impossible to be slow and sure?—In the case of a watch.