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WAR NEWS.

A Hilton Head letter of the 27th ultimo states that all the troops there then were under orders to embark. It is supposed that the movement would be against Charleston.

The bombardment of Fort McAllister, at the mouth of the Ogeechee, was still continued at last accounts, but the Federal vessels have found it impossible to get nearer than within thirteen hundred yards of the fort, owing to obstructions in the channel.

A letter from Beaufort, S. C., dated Feb. 24, says that Gen. Hunter has decided to capture the fortifications upon the Great Ogeechee river, near Savannah, by regular siege approaches, and that in pursuance of this plan the 47th New York regiment has already left for that point and will be followed immediately by other troops.

Captain T. Brant Swearinger, Assistant Adjutant General on Gen. Jackson's staff, Federal army, who was wounded at the battle of Fredericksburg, and taken prisoner, having returned home, makes a statement of what he saw and heard in Richmond. He suffered much for sixteen days in Fredericksburg, before being taken to Richmond. While in Fredericksburg he was quartered in the house of Mr. Yerby, with a number of Confederate officers, where he received every attention bestowed on those with whom he lay; not even the slightest distinction could he observe between the care extended to him and that extended to the officers of the Confederate army. While in Richmond he also received the kindest treatment at the hands of nearly all with whom he came in contact. Many of the citizens there voluntarily proffered him their hearty sympathies, and even, in many instances, pecuniary assistance, while he was confined in the hospital. The Federal prisoners generally, in the hospitals in Richmond, are well cared for by the Surgeon in charge, Dr. John Wilkins. The many delicacies sent by the New York Sanitary Commission have all been received, and properly distributed among the sick and wounded.

The N. Y. Post says:—"In reviewing the past week the chief points claiming special comment are--first, the heavy transactions in gold, of which twelve millions are believed to have been sold, at prices ranging from 162 to 173; and, secondly, the augmented demand and advancing prices of Government securities."

The Secretaryship of legation at St. Petersburg, now filled by Bayard Taylor, who wishes to return in April, has been tendered to Richard C. McCormick, Acting Commissioner of Agriculture, and declined.

The Conscription bill, Banking bill, Suspension of the habeas corpus bill &c., are denounced in the strongest manner by the N. Y. World and the N. Y. Express—the latter is particularly warm.

CHANTILLY, FAIRFAX COUNTY.

[Correspondence of the Philada. Inquirer.]
HQ'R'S. EIGHTEENTH PA., DRAGOONS, }
CHANTILLY, Feb. 26, 1863. }

The spot upon which we are encamped teems with reminiscences of times both old and new. I mean the "Chantilly Manor." The "Hall," which was once a splendid mansion, is now in ruins, and all the beautiful shade trees, shrubbery, walks, arbors and fountains have been destroyed. There is a stereotype mistake going the rounds concerning this place, which I will try to correct. "Chantilly Hall" was not the property of General Stuart, but was and is owned by a widow, Mrs. Stuart, who is now at Warrenton, and by her son, T. T. Stuart, who is now a commissary in the Confederate army. Nor was the "Hall" destroyed by White's guerrillas, but by the Federal troops who, it is stated, became tired of "standing guard" around a set of bacchanalians.

The New York Times says:—"The Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune says that "it is the positive opinion of Senators, who judge from the great number of applications made to themselves, that an African army, 100,000 strong, could be officered with white men on a fortnight's notice." We do not doubt it. There has never been the slightest difficulty in getting any number of officers for that service. Unless we are misinformed, we have in the army now twice as many officers as are required, upon the usual basis, by the number of men under their commands. The high pay, the comparative comfort, and the general attractions of the position, combine to make it perfectly easy to get officers in any quantity. The real question to be answered is, can we get the men? Where can we recruit an "African army 100,000 strong?"

The Mayor of New York City in vetoing the resolutions of the City Councils offering the hospitalities of the city to Gen. Fitz John Porter, concludes his veto by saying:—"To confer honors of any kind on such a man would be a mockery of justice. It would put the cause of our country and all military discipline to open shame. To tender him municipal honors would place this loyal city in a false position, and could not fail, I am convinced, to shock the patriotic sentiments of a vast majority of its people. Instead of censuring the Government for its conduct in the case of Fitz John Porter, I think we should award it our highest praise, and ask it to mete out the same even-handed justice to all officers guilty of like offences."

At one of the late entertainments given by the Emperor and Empress of the French, in Paris, "in front of the throne upon which they were seated a number of gardeners arrived, bearing on litters four large straw beehives, from which, when opened, there sprung out a number of young women representing a swarm of bees, who went through a new dance composed expressly for the occasion by the leader of the ballet corps of the French opera."

FORT McALLISTER NOT TAKEN.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—The Richmond papers of the 2d inst., received, make no mention of Vicksburg.

Charleston dates of the 1st have been received. The Ruby and Douglas are said to have run the blockade, with Nassau dates of the 26th ult.

A dispatch from Savannah of the 1st states that the Confederate steamer Nashville ran aground before Fort McAllister and was destroyed by one of the Federal iron-clads. The fort is not yet taken.

The Committee of Ways and Means of the House of Representatives reported some amendments to the tariff, including a reduction to 20 per cent. of the duty on unsized printing paper. The bill was put through under the previous question, moved by Mr. Morrill, who has strenuously opposed any reduction, until he found he could only prevent an entire repeal of the duty by yielding something to the universal public demand.

A statement that the Government has decided to call out six or eight hundred thousand new troops is going the rounds of the papers. It is untrue. The Government has not yet come to any conclusion upon that point. The President, who of course will finally decide so important a question as that, has by no means come to the conclusion that it is wise to raise a new army of two-thirds of a million of men.

"To be at once elegant and exclusive, now, it is necessary for the newly-wedded pair to issue no cards at all. Their reception rooms are open to the whole world. However wide opened in its charity this arrangement may seem, it is certainly as exclusive as any that could be desired. It is a silent, yet absolute ignoring of all whom one wishes to ignore."

A writer in Notes and Queries says:—"The death of Lord Lansdowne within one day of the anniversary of that of Charles I, 214 years ago, reminds me of a fact which I think is well worth recording in your columns, because it shows over what a long number of years three lives often extend. Some years since Lord Lansdowne told my informant that he remembered when a boy, to have shaken hands with Gen. Godwin, whose father was page to Charles I."

The Lockport (N. Y.) Journal says that large quantities of straw are being sought in the western part of that country, and taken to Niagara Falls, to be manufactured into paper.—Five dollars per ton is paid for the straw, and \$1.50 per ton for drawing.

It is astonishing, says the Pittsburg Chronicle, the rise that has taken place in the value of steamboat stock within a few months.—Boats which a year ago went begging at \$7,000, now command \$12,000.

Nadar, the great photographer of Paris, who goes up in balloons and takes views from above, is preparing a monster air-vessel for the purpose of crossing the channel and making sketches in England. Afterward he will coast over the Mediterranean.