

The Alexandria Gazette

WEDNESDAY EVENING, JAN. 18.

CAPTURE OF FORT FISHER.

An official bulletin announces the capture of Fort Fisher, on Sunday evening last, by the combined forces of the U. S. army and navy, commanded by General Terry and Admiral Porter, respectively. After a heavy bombardment, which was continued for three days, the fort was carried by assault and the garrison captured. The assaulting column consisted of one division and one brigade of infantry, and two thousand seamen and marines. Gen. Terry states that the Federal loss was severe, especially in officers. He estimates the number of prisoners captured at not less than twelve hundred, including General Whiting and Colonel Lamb, both of whom were wounded. A later dispatch from Colonel Comstock, Chief of Engineers, puts the number of prisoners at quite a thousand. Commander Nichols reports the prisoners at twenty-five hundred. The new ironclad Dictator was brought into action for the first time. She carried two fifteen-inch guns, both of which burst during the bombardment, without doing any damage.

SECRETARY STANTON has written a letter, to President Lincoln, dated Fortress Monroe, January 17, in which he gives a full account of the capture of Fort Fisher. He says:

"At about ten o'clock at night the enemy were entirely driven from the fort, forced down towards Federal Point, followed by a brigade of our troops, and about twelve o'clock at night General Whiting surrendered himself and his command to General Terry, unconditionally, as prisoners of war, numbering over eighteen hundred, the remainder of his force being killed and wounded.

"Our loss was not accurately ascertained on Monday afternoon, but was estimated at between seven and eight hundred in killed and wounded, besides the naval loss, which was slight, not exceeding one hundred in killed and wounded. Not a vessel was lost.

"Colonel Curtis was severely, but not mortally wounded. Colonel Bell died of his wounds Monday morning. Colonel J. W. Moore and Lieutenant Colonel Lyman were killed. Colonel Pennypacker was badly wounded; also, Lieutenant Colonel Coan. A complete list of the killed and wounded will be forwarded as soon as it can be prepared.

"General Terry reported to Surgeon General Barnes that he had ample provisions of surgeons, nurses, and hospital supplies for the wounded. They will be sent North to their respective States as fast as they can be placed on transports, of which there was ample supply.

"On Monday morning, between six and seven o'clock, the magazine of Fort Fisher exploded, killing and wounding two or three hundred persons. After the capture of the fort, all the troops were withdrawn, except one brigade left in charge of the works. How the explosion occurred was not known, but Gen. Terry believed that it was occasioned by accident or negligence.

"General Hoke's division, reported as five thousand, was at Wilmington. A portion of it was thrown into the fort not long before the

assault, and while that was going on a demonstration was made by General Hoke against our defensive line, but it was found too strong for anything more than a skirmishing attack.

"About eleven o'clock Monday morning a heavy cloud of smoke was observed over Fort Smith, on the south side of New Inlet. The naval officer commanding that station reported that the enemy had fired their barracks and evacuated that fort."

Gen. Sherman's Movements; Savannah, &c.

In Secretary Stanton's Letter to President Lincoln, he says:

"Gen. Sherman renewed the movement of his forces from Savannah last week. The 15th and 17th corps went in transports to Beaufort, Saturday, January 14. The 17th corps, under Gen. Blair, crossed Port Royal ferry, and, with a portion of Gen. Foster's command, moved on Pocotaligo.

Gen. Howard, commanding that wing of the army, reported on Sunday that "the enemy abandoned his strong works in our front during Saturday night.

"Gen. Blair's corps now occupy a strong position across the railroad, and covering all the approaches eastward to Pocotaligo."

All the sick of Gen. Sherman's army are in good hospitals at Beaufort and Hilton Head, where the genial climate affords advantages for recovery superior to any other place.

The peace and order prevailing in Savannah since its occupation by General Sherman's army could not be surpassed. Few male inhabitants are to be seen in the streets. Ladies and children evince a sense of security. No instance of disorder, or personal injury, or insult has occurred. Laboring men and mechanics, white and black, are seeking employment. The troops are cheerful and respectful towards every one, and seem to feel themselves much at home and on good behavior, as if in their native towns. Trade is restricted for the present to actual military necessity.

Many ships with merchandise from the North are waiting at Hilton Head for permission to go to Savannah, but Gen. Sherman has admitted only a limited quantity of supplies required by his troops. A mistake prevails at the North as to the present inducement for commerce at Savannah. There is not yet any large population to be supplied; no credit or money; no commodities of exchange, and there can be no great amount for a considerable period. All the cotton and products now within Savannah belong to the Government as captured property. Stringent precautions against supplies that might go to the enemy have been made, and will be enforced by Gen. Sherman.

The cotton captured in Savannah, of which there is a good deal of Sea Island, has been turned over by the quartermaster to Mr. Draper, special agent of the Treasury."

Upon the receipt of the news of the fall of Fort Fisher, Secretary Wells immediately dispatched a letter to the commanding officers of the U. S. Military and Naval forces engaged, thanking them for their services and success.

The House Committee on Elections have agreed to report in favor of admitting the Louisiana claimants to seats in the U. S. House of Representatives.

Gold, in New York, to-day 216.

SOUTHERN NEWS.

The Northern papers, to-day, quote the following extracts from late Richmond papers:

Late papers from Richmond announce the capture of Fort Fisher and state that the news had created a profound sensation. It is regarded as equivalent to the close of the port of Wilmington.

The Confederate House of Representatives declared by resolution Tuesday in the case of ex-Governor Fiske that, under all the circumstances of the case, it is expedient that the military authorities discharge him from custody, and it is presumed that he has been placed at liberty.

The Richmond Whig of the 17th instant, states that Pierre Soule had arrived in Mexico on a mission for the Confederate States.

Street rumors in Richmond say that Seddon has been removed, and Breckinridge made Secretary of War. Other changes are talked about, but nothing official.

A telegram from Charlestown under date of the 14th states that the Federal force below Hardeeville had fallen back to the Savannah River. The recent meeting at Savannah, which was regarded at the North as expressing the sentiments of the Georgians, is now said to have been composed of three hundred persons, all or nearly all, of whom were of foreign extraction.

The Charleston Mercury has an article in opposition to Mr. Davis' administration of Southern affairs.

GENERAL NEWS.

A number of the radical republican Congressmen at Washington (including such prominent men as Geo. W. Julian of Indiana, Wm. D. Kelley of Philadelphia, and Schuyler Colfax of Indiana, favor negro suffrage in the seceded States, while not advocating it in the loyal portion of the country. Senator B. Gratz Brown and Representative Henry T. Blow of Missouri, favor universal suffrage throughout both North and South.

A movement is on foot among prominent Philadelphians of both political parties, to give a handsome dinner to those democratic Congressmen who shall vote in favor of the proposed constitutional amendment prohibiting slavery.

The New York Tribune of yesterday says: "Four of the persons who have been operating along the borders and on Lake Erie, including one of the principals in the attempt to burn this city, have been arrested and are now in Fort Lafayette."

The Committee on Propositions and Grievances of the House of Delegates, will take up the bill to amend the charter of Alexandria on Friday next, at 3 o'clock P. M., at the committee room in the Market Building, where they will be glad to hear all parties concerned.

WE call the particular attention of dealers to our stock of DRY GOODS, consisting of Cloths, Cassimeres, Dress Goods, Cottons, Irish Linens, Calicoes, Hoop Skirts, Flannels, Blankets, Balmoral Skirts, Table Linens, Towels, Oil Cloths, Lamb's Wool Shirts, Gloves, Hosiery, Handkerchiefs, Shirt Collars, and all Goods in our line, which we are offering at prices that cannot fail to please.

ROBERT L. WOOD

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Jan 13--1m

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Jan 2--1y