

# THE DESERET NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

NO. 17.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1865.

VOL. XIV.

## The Deseret News:

IS PUBLISHED EVERY

Wednesday Morning.

ALBERT CARRINGTON, EDITOR.

OFFICE:

CORNER OF SOUTH & EAST TEMPLE STREETS.

### ADVERTISEMENTS

To insure insertion must be handed in by Monday Noon, and paid for in advance.

### By Telegraph.

Cincinnati, 16.

The *Herald's* special says: Admiral Porter has sent a communication to the Navy Department in which he responds to some of Butler's statements, in regard to the naval part of the expedition delaying the attack on Fort Fisher, and thus causing its failure. Butler started on the expedition before the naval fleet was ready to co-operate and thus, by exposing his transports to the view of the enemy, warned them of their danger. He also charges that the army portion of the enterprise was got up in a very unmilitary manner.

Gen. Butler states that he learned from deserters and prisoners, that the supposition when the expedition was planned that Wilmington was denuded of troops to oppose Sherman, was correct, so that at the time of the arrival of the army off Wilmington, there were less than 400 men in Fort Fisher, and less than 1,000 within 20 miles, but the delay of three days, in waiting the arrival of the navy and the further delay by the storm of the 21st, 22 and 23d, gave time for reinforcements to arrive from Richmond, and was the immediate cause of the failure of the expedition.

Gen. Grant endorses the report that it was never contemplated that Butler should accompany the expedition, Gen. Weitzel being specially named as commander.

Washington, 16.

The House concurred in the Senate resolution terminating the reciprocity treaty.

Refugees concur in the statement that Sherman will move on Branchville next week.

New York, 16.

The *Times* special says, the House committee on elections, after a protracted session over Louisiana, have decided not to admit the members, except from Orleans.

The *Tribune's* Washington letter says, the rebels have commenced arming the negroes, and that it certainly is known in Washington, that there are five black regiments in Richmond.

A correspondent of the *Philadelphia Press* says, since the first explosion in Dutch Gap canal two more explosions have occurred with good results. At the last explosion, much of the dirt was blown to the other side of the river. The freshet in the James is rushing through the canal with great rapidity and promises to accomplish the desired result. All of the bulk-head left by the explosion has been carried away.

Valley Station, Col., 16.

Two hundred Indians burned four hundred ranches and one mail station west of here yesterday, stealing a large number of horses and cattle destroying a large amount of property. The telegraph line was torn down some distance and the wire carried off. There was some fighting, but the number killed is not yet ascertained.

New York, 17.

The *Herald's* special says, Blair's sole business to Richmond was to recover a number of important private papers, title-deeds, &c., taken from his house by the rebels when near Washington. He was very kindly received and had frank and free conversations with Jeff. Davis and a number of others, but these resulted in nothing definite.

The *Herald's* correspondent in front of Richmond says, Maj. Gen. Gibbon, lately commanding the 2d division of the 2d corps, has succeeded Maj. Gen. Ord in command of the 24th corps, Gen.

Ord being placed in command of the James.

Advices from Hayti announce that Prest. Jefferard has proclaimed that the revolution is vanquished and peace restored. The death sentence passed on traitors has been commuted.

Belfast, Me., 16.

Two companies of the State Guards arrived here yesterday and to-day proceeded to the battery. In view of our recent Canadian difficulties, it is understood that the coast and frontier of Maine are to be prepared for emergencies; and companies have been sent to Castine and Machias.

Washington, 17.

The army bill, as reported from the committee of ways and means, appropriates \$511,280,000. The appropriation made last year for the army amounted to \$620,000,000.

Nashville, 17.

Gen. Meagher arrived last night from Chattanooga, with several thousand veteran troops. On the 15th, the 17th army corps, organized as a provisional division of the army of Tennessee, started enroute to join Sherman at Savannah, via New York.

Cairo 17.

The Louisiana Legislature has elected Gov. Hahn U. S. Senator for the term of six years after the fourth of March, when Smith's term expires.

New York, 18.

The *Tribune's* Washington special says, it is a well known fact, that the taking of Fisher does not stop the blockade running into Cape Fear river. Seikes Island commands the other entrance.

Cairo, 17.

A severe gale was reported off the mouth of the Rio Grande on the 31st ult. The British bark John Bull, with a cargo of cotton, was wrecked and is a total loss. Other vessels were considerably damaged.

Fortress Monroe, 17.

To the President: The rebel flag of Fort Fisher was delivered to me on board the steamer Spaulding, off that place, on yesterday morning, the 16th. (Signed,) TERRY.

An acknowledgment and thanks for their gallant achievement was given in your name to Porter and Terry, from whom the following particulars were obtained:

The troops arrived off Fort Fisher on the night of the 12th, and on the 13th were all landed, under cover of a heavy fire from the squadron, and a reconnaissance was made by Terry. On the 14th a strong defensive line against the enemy's forces coming from Wilmington was established, and held by 4,000 men, chiefly colored troops, and an assault was determined. An assault was made on the 15th, at 3.30 p. m. The sea front of the fort had been greatly damaged by the continuous and terrible fire of the fleet for three days. The front was assaulted at the hour named, by a column of seamen and marines, 1,800 strong, under command of Capt. Breeze. They reached the parapet, but after a short conflict were checked and driven back in disorder, and were afterwards placed in a defensive line, taking the place of the brigade brought up to reinforce the assaulting party of troops. Although the assault on the sea side failed, it performed a very useful part in diverting the attention of the enemy and weakening their resistance to attack the troops on the other side.

The assault on the other and most difficult side of the fort was made by a column of 3,000 of the old 10th corps led by Col. Curtis, under the immediate supervision of Gen. Terry. The enemy's force in the fort was over 2,200. The conflict lasted seven hours. The works were so constructed that traverses afforded the enemy a new defensive position, from whence they had to be driven. They were seven in number, and the fight was carried on from traverse to traverse for seven hours. By a skilfully directed fire thrown in the traverse, as one after another they were occupied by the enemy, Admiral Porter contributed to the success of the assaulting column. By signals between himself and Terry at brief intervals, the fire was so well managed as to damage the enemy without injury to our troops. At about ten at night the enemy were entirely driven from the fort and forced

down towards Federal Point, followed by a brigade of our troops. About 12 at night Gen. Whiting surrendered himself and command to Gen. Terry, unconditionally; as prisoners of war, over 1,800. The remainder of his force had been killed and wounded. Our loss is estimated at 7 or 800 killed and wounded, besides the naval loss, which was slight, not over 100 killed and wounded. Not a ship or transport was lost. Col. Curtis is severely but not mortally wounded; Col. Bell died of his wounds on Monday morning; Col. Moore and Lieut. Col. Lyman are killed; Col. Packer and Lieut. Col. Boddie are wounded. On Monday morning the magazine of Fort Fisher exploded, killing and wounding 2 or 300.

After the capture of the Fort all the troops were withdrawn, except one brigade in charge of the works. Gen. Hoke's division, reported at 5,000 was at Wilmington. A portion of it was thrown into the Fort not long before the assault, and while it was going on a demonstration was made by Hoke against our against our defensive line, but it was found too strong for anything more than a skirmish. At about 11 o'clock a. m., on the 9th a heavy cloud of smoke was discovered over Fort Smith, on the south side of the new inlet. A naval officer, commanding that station, reported the enemy had fired their barracks and evacuated that Fort. The armament of Fisher was 72 guns, some of large calibre rifled, and one Armstrong gun. The troops in the Fort had rations for 16 days.—Their loss in killed and wounded is from 4 to 500. Gen. Whiting had three wounds in his thigh; Col. Lamb, also, who had gone into the Fort with reinforcements and to relieve Whiting on the 15th, is wounded. On the 16th everything was quiet as a Sabbath day, the dead being buried and the wounded placed in transports and field hospitals. Sherman renewed the movement of his force from Savannah last week. The 15th and 17th went in transports to Beaufort. On Saturday, the 4th and 7th corps, under Maj. Gen. Blair, crossed the Port Royal ferry, and a portion of Foster's command moved on Pocotaligo. Gen. Howard, commanding that wing of the army, reported on Sunday, that the enemy had abandoned his strong works on our front, during Saturday night. Blair's corps now occupies a strong position across the railroad, covering all the approaches east of Pocotaligo. (Signed) STANTON.

New York, 18.

Maximilian has written a letter to his minister Escuderau, reaffirming his views as to the church, and announcing that though there is to be full and free toleration of religious opinion, yet, the State religion will be Catholic.

A Savannah letter says, the Union sentiment is increasing, in consequence of the mildness of Sherman's policy and Geary's administration of affairs in the city. No restrictions are placed upon trade, except cotton and articles contraband of war. Sherman's policy is having its effect in the interior. In south-western Georgia, five counties have issued calls for Union meetings. There are two daily papers published in Savannah—all Sherman will allow.

St. Louis, 19.

The bill of rights was before the Convention yesterday, and the following section was passed:

1st: We hold it to be self-evident that all men were created equally free, and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

2d: That there cannot be, in this State, either slavery or involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, wherein the party shall be duly convicted.

3: That no person can, on account of his color, be disqualified as a witness, or be disabled to contract, or be prevented from acquiring, holding and transmitting property, or be liable to any other punishment or any other offence than that imposed upon others for like offense, or to be restricted in the exercise of religious worship, or to be hindered in acquiring education, or to be subjected in law to any other restraints or qualifications.

New York, 19.

A Fort Monroe correspondent says,

the Raleigh *Whig* comes out openly for reconstruction. Owing to intestine troubles, the interior of the State is filled with deserters and outlaws. The State militia have thrown away their arms and gone home.

New York, 20.

The *Post's* special says, Blair left Washington for Richmond to-day taking the steamer for City Point. It is believed that he is to have an interview with a prominent member of the rebel Congress.

Boston, 20.

The Massachusetts Senate voted this p. m. for a U. S. Senator, with the following results:

Henry Wilson, 37; J. A. Andrew, 3.

The Maine House of Representatives have unanimously passed resolutions in favor of amending the Constitution of the United States and abolishing slavery.

In the House the Senate joint resolution, tendering the thanks of Congress to Gen. Terry and the officers and men of his command, has passed unanimously.

A resolution, tendering the thanks of Congress to Gen. Thomas and the officers and men of his command, for the skill and dauntless courage by which the rebel army was signally defeated and driven from Tennessee, has been unanimously adopted.

The Senate joint resolution of thanks to Rear Admiral Porter and the officers, seaman and marines of his command, for the recent attack on Fisher, has been unanimously passed.

New York, 20.

The monitor Patapsco was destroyed off Charleston on the 17th, while doing picket duty, by a rebel torpedo. Forty or fifty of her crew went down with her.

St. Louis, 20.

The *Democrat* learns that the 23rd corps, under Gen. Schofield, will soon join Sherman, via Tennessee and Ohio river, and, by rail to tide water, thence by sea.

Fortress Monroe, 19.

The steamer Blackstone arrived this a. m., from Fort Fisher. The latest news is that shortly after the surrender of the Fort, the rebels blew up Fort Caswell and other works, defending the entrance to Cape Fear river. At the time of sailing, the smaller gun boats had entered the river and were actively engaged in searching for torpedoes preparatory to an advance against Wilmington.

The rebels have destroyed the works on Smith's Island. The Admiral says he was at Fort Malakoff, a few days after its surrender to the French and English, and it would not compare, either in size or strength, with Fort Fisher.

New York, 21.

The *Herald's* correspondent says, Sherman had his preparations for a new movement nearly completed. The 17th corps under Blair, and Hatch's division of Foster's army were in secure possession of the important position of Pocotaligo Bridge, on the Charleston and Savannah railroad. The 15th corps would soon join them.

Sherman had issued an order, giving notice to farmers, that they may visit Savannah, Fernandina and Jacksonville, to exchange their produce for supplies needed by their families, and guaranteeing them protection. In case they or any Union citizens of Georgia are molested, severe retaliation is to be visited on the rebels. He also encourages the people to meet together and take measures for the restoration of the State and the national civil government.

Several vessels were already loaded with captured cotton. When a sufficient number were in readiness to sail, they would be dispatched northward, under a strong gunboat convoy. Two or three unsuccessful incendiary attempts to destroy portions of the immense stores of the valuable staple have been made.

The *Time's* Savannah correspondent of the 17th says, the left wing of Sherman's army is moving from Savannah on a line which the enemy may possibly ascertain for himself. It is thought that the rebels will make a stand at Asheps, 30 miles south of Charleston.

[ Continued on page 136. ]