



ELIAS SMITH...EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Wednesday,.....April 22, 1863.

## TO THE PUBLIC.

I hereby inform the public that the DESERET NEWS is not and has not been an organ of mine, for, except matter accompanied with my name, I have only occasionally, and that too some time ago, known any more of the contents of the News until after it is published, than I have of the copy furnished to the compositors of the New York Ledger.

BRIGHAM YOUNG.

G. S. L. City, Jan. 28, 1863.

## DEMONSTRATION ON CHARLESTON.

For many months the attention of the American people and of the nations of Europe has been turned towards Charleston—the cradle of secession, and where the civil war which has assumed such gigantic proportions was inaugurated two years ago—for the reduction of which stronghold of the enemy such mighty and extended preparations have been made by the Federal government within the last six or eight months. That the capture of that renowned city with its naval and military defenses could not be effected except by means of a powerful naval force seconded by the co-operation of a large and well-appointed army, seems to have been well understood by President Lincoln and his constitutional advisers, and such measures have been taken as were deemed ample for that purpose, and its reduction by the forces provided when all things should be in readiness and the attack made, was not, by the rulers, considered a matter of doubt.

The delay which attended the expedition devised and organized for the capture of Charleston, since the troops and ships of war composing it rendezvoused at Port Royal, has not been satisfactorily accounted for, and the public had not, for a long time previous to the first of April, been advised in relation to the movements that were being made for the accomplishment of the much-desired object, and the number and strength of the army under Gen. Hunter which was to co-operate with Admiral Dupont's iron-clad fleet in the contemplated attack, is, as yet, to the people, unknown; that it was great, however, there can be no doubt.

During the month of March, rumors were in circulation from time to time that a combined attack on the doomed city would shortly be made in a way and manner to leave no doubt of its speedy capture. So confident of success were the authorities at Washington, that after it was announced that Admiral Dupont was off Charleston harbor with his fleet of Monitors, on his way to attack and annihilate its formidable defenses, the belief was unreservedly expressed by those advised of the movements that no power could prevent the occupation of the city by the forces moving against it by sea and land. The sequel, however, shows that the belief was not well founded, that the defenses of the city and harbor were far more formidable, and the iron-clads built expressly for that service were less powerful and had less resisting force than had been anticipated.

According to the most reliable reports, Admiral Dupont left Port Royal on the 3d of April, with nine iron-clads—the new Ironsides, the flag-ship and monitors Patapsco, Catskill, Montauk, Passaic, Wehawken, Keokuk, Nahant and Nantucket, with thirty guns and one thousand men, and arrived off Charleston on the morning of the 5th. He made an ineffectual attempt, on the morning of the 6th—the day on which the attack was to have been made—to cross the bar; but in the afternoon, aided by the tide, he succeeded in getting over with his fleet and anchored inside,

where he remained out of range of the enemy's forts and batteries till the next day. On the 7th, in the afternoon, the fleet weighed anchor and proceeded up the channel past the batteries on Morris island, which remained silent, and moved toward Fort Sumter. Fort Moultrie first opened fire, according to report, followed by Sumter and the batteries which were within range. When within about a mile of Sumter the Ironsides became unmanageable, and had to cast anchor to prevent going ashore; but the other boats continued their course, replying to the terrific fire of the enemy till some of them passed the north-east face of Sumter, when, finding it impossible to pass the obstructions, as there were three lines of torpedoes across the channel, they gave up the conflict and retired. The action was of short continuance, from all accounts less than an hour, but extremely disastrous in its results. It is represented as having been most terrific, the Confederates having three hundred rifled guns of large caliber, and according to the Federal report, "the best in the world."

The Keokuk was disabled early in the action, and soon sunk on the beach of Morris island. She is represented to have been completely riddled, having been struck some ninety times, nineteen penetrating her at water-mark. The Patapsco, carrying a hundred-pounder, was entirely disabled. The turrets of the Passaic, Nahant and Nantucket were so bent that they could not be revolved, and were thereby rendered useless till they could be repaired. The Ironsides received, as per report, one hundred and fifty shots, but was not seriously damaged. The enemy is said to have fired not less than three thousand five hundred shots, five hundred of which were aimed at the Nahant, which went within three hundred yards of Sumter.

The fleet, after the action, returned down the channel beyond range of the forts and batteries and subsequently anchored off Cummings' Point. The Federal report states that Admiral Dupont intended to renew the attack next day, but on ascertaining the crippled condition of the boats, he concluded not to make any further demonstration, in which he was unanimously sustained by all the commanders, and on the 10th, he returned with the fleet to Port Royal.

There have many ridiculous reports been put in circulation in relation to the disastrous affair, to make it appear as favorable as possible. One report states, that it was only a reconnaissance to ascertain the strength and position of the enemy's defenses, and that having been accomplished, the fleet returned. Another statement sets forth that the iron-clads fired only one hundred and fifty rounds.

The casualties on board the ships are represented as having been but few. The Confederates state that their casualties were, at Moultrie, one man killed by falling from a flag-staff; at Sumter, six wounded—one mortally, two severely, and three slightly, and at battery Magruder, six wounded. One gun in Sumter was dismounted, and according to their report, only four of the eighty shots fired at that fort struck it, doing comparatively no damage.

The statements in relation to the movements of the land forces under General Hunter, who was to attack Charleston by land at the same time the fleet entered the harbor, are so conflicting that it is impossible to determine where they were at the time of the engagement, but it is evident that no attack was made, and the probability is, that his conduct will be inquired into by a military commission. There are certainly many mysteries connected with the operations of the army and navy on the Carolina coast during the last six months, which cannot be easily solved. It is certain, however, that the vast preparations for the reduction of Charleston, which have cost millions upon millions, have resulted in a most disastrous defeat, disheartening and discouraging to the President, who is represented as being greatly displeased at the culmination of the gigantic expedition in a ruinous defeat after a short engagement, elucidating that iron-clad vessels of the most formidable kind are not sufficiently potent to deal a death blow to secession by mere force, without the aidance of science and brains.

DEPARTURE.—Mr. T. A. Lyne has left for the east, on business which requires his personal attention, and we are authorized to tender his grateful acknowledgments to the citizens of Salt Lake City for the general kindness and respect shown him during his sojourn in the city of the Saints.

## ITEMS OF WAR NEWS.

It is evident, from the meagre reports which have been made in relation to military movements, that the Confederates have, for some time past, been increasing their forces in the eastern part of North Carolina, and it is made to appear from recent announcements, that Gen. Foster, with a part of his army, was, on or about the 30th of March, surrounded by a superior Confederate force, under Generals Hill and Pettigrew, at Little Washington on Pamlico river, and his retreat to Newbern completely cut off. His situation was considered critical at latest reliable dates, as it was considered doubtful whether reinforcements and supplies could be sent to him, without which he would shortly be compelled to surrender. He was, however, strongly intrenched, and intended to hold out to the last extremity.

Four gunboats, followed by several transports with troops, which made an attempt to pass the enemy's obstructions at Hill's Point, to relieve Gen. Foster, were forced, according to the Confederate report, to abandon their object and retire, after having been severely damaged by the fire from the enemy's batteries. Subsequent accounts state, that the steamer Louisiana was sunk by the Confederate batteries, in attempting to pass up by them, that the gunboat Valley City succeeded in going up, but not without sustaining much damage, having been struck sixty times. On the 10th, seven thousand men, in attempting to reach Gen. Foster from Newbern, were driven back with considerable loss, and it was stated that Gen. Hill's force between Little Washington and Newbern was not less than twenty seven thousand men. The latest intelligence from Gen. Foster states that Hill had sent several flags of truce, summoning him to surrender, to which he returned for answer, that if Hill wanted the town to come and take it.

At latest dates, the Federal and Confederate armies on the Rappahannock were still occupying their respective positions at Falmouth and Fredericksburg, and looking each other in the face, the river intervening; neither having made any move, so far as known, towards crossing or making any flank movement indicative of aggressive operations, and why "fighting Joe Hooker" does not inaugurate some movement that would cause Gen. Lee to change position no one seems to know. If he does not make some move soon, indicating that his pledges will be redeemed, his popularity as a fighting General will begin to wane, and he may be superseded in command.

Gen. Longstreet is said to be in command of the Confederate forces on the Backwater, opposed to Gen. Peck. There are indications of lively times in the vicinity of Suffolk. Gen. Longstreet's force is estimated at thirty five thousand, with eighty pieces of artillery.

There has been some considerable fighting done, as per report, in the vicinity of Williamsburg since the 6th of April, and at latest dates, the Confederates under Gen. Wise were in force there, in close proximity to the Federal lines. Their number and movements were such, that Gen. Dix had considered them of sufficient importance to receive his special attention, and he had gone there to take such measures as might be deemed necessary to prevent the capture of Fort Magruder, which seems to be the object of movement on the part of the enemy.

Humphrey Marshall, with a large force, is reported to have defeated Gen. Quimby at Winchester on the 8th, who, in his inglorious retreat, left behind him all his stores and camp equipage, which the enemy captured.

So far as known, Gen. Rosencrans had not, up to the 12th inst., made any forward movement. The enemy were represented as being in great force in front and were making frequent demonstrations in his rear, between Murfreesboro and Nashville.

Southern accounts from Chattanooga state that on the 6th a Federal force marched towards Woodbury and McMinnville, but having been outflanked, was forced to fall back. Another force of fifteen thousand men was marching towards Columbia, and a battle was imminent.

On the 10th, Gen. Van Dorn, with a force of fifteen thousand men, attacked Gen. Granger at Franklin, Tenn., and a battle ensued, which continued nearly all day. Gen. Granger repulsed the enemy with great slaughter. The Federal cavalry, led by Gen. Granger in person, captured a battery from the enemy

and two hundred prisoners, but was subsequently compelled to abandon the battery, and only brought away twenty prisoners. On the retirement of the enemy from the field, pursuit was kept up till dark.

A passenger train from Nashville to Murfreesboro was attacked by the Confederates at Anioch, on the 10th, as reported, and nine cars were burned. The mail, one hundred and fifty passengers, including nearly twenty officers and some thirty soldiers and sutlers, were captured. A considerable amount of money was also taken—some belonging to government and some to private parties. The same company went to the Cumberland and fired into another freight train and destroyed the engine, through the boiler of which a cannon ball passed.

The steamers Lovell and Saxonia were captured and burned near Clarksville, Tenn., on April 9th, by twelve hundred Confederates, under Gen. Woodward. The captain of the Lovell was killed and the captain of the Saxonia severely wounded.

Concerning Gen. Grant's movements but little is known. The reduction of Vicksburg by digging canals and navigating bayous has evidently been abandoned, and what measures will next be instituted for the opening of the Mississippi no one has divined. The Tallahatchie fleet that tried so long to get into the Yazoo, above Hayne's Bluffs, after an absence of over forty days, arrived at Helena on the 8th. The expedition left Fort Greenwood on the 5th, after the reduction of that place had been given up as impracticable. The return of the fleet to the Mississippi was attended with considerable difficulty, as represented, as the boats were fired at by guerrillas, and many of the men were killed and wounded while passing up the Tallahatchie and down the Coldwater. It is alleged by the Confederates that one of the boats was sunk.

It was reported at Cairo, by a boat from Vicksburg on the 8th, that the iron-clads Carondelet, Mound City, Louisville, Benton and several others, were prepared with bulwarks of cotton and logs to run the blockade, which would probably be done on the night of the 10th or the 11th, and it was believed that the movement would be successful.

Late advices from New Orleans represent that Gen. Banks was fortifying all the approaches to the city, indicating that he had assumed the defensive. It was believed that the enemy had seventy-five thousand men, who could in one day be concentrated within a short distance of the city.

## PRESIDENT YOUNG'S TOUR SOUTH.

Pursuant to previous arrangements, President Young left the city on Monday morning the 20th inst., at nine o'clock, on a tour through the central and southern counties, expecting to be absent a month or more. He was accompanied by Pres. Kimball, most of his clerks and several other gentlemen from this city, and some few from Farmington, Ogden, Brigham city, and other towns north, who availed themselves of the general invitation extended to all who wished to take an excursion of the kind, and could leave their business for a few weeks without material inconvenience or disadvantage, on a pleasure trip to the cotton country, which is becoming so famed in the history of Deseret.

The company will unquestionably be materially increased in numbers as it progresses southward, through Utah, Juab, Sanpete, Millard, Beaver and Iron counties. The outward trip will, as we understand, be taken more leisurely than the return, as the President, we believe, intends to go through Sanpete county and other places not directly on the road as he goes out, and will not probably come back by the same route, as he intends to visit most, if not all the southern settlements, before his return. The cotton growing, manufacturing and other enterprises having particular reference to the prosperity, wealth, happiness and social independence of the people of Deseret, will be objects of his special attention during the tour, and if the people will heed the counsel and instructions which may be given them they will be greatly benefited. In common with tens of thousands, we wish President Young and those accompanying him a prosperous and pleasant journey, and a safe return to their respective families and homes, when the several objects for which the tour has been taken shall have been accomplished.